



# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## August 2020

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## CURRENT AFFAIRS

### August 2020

#### 1. LOKMANYA TILAK'S 100TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY:

- Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak died on August 1, 1920 in Mumbai.
- Bal Gangadhar Tilak: Freedom Fighter Who Said, 'Swaraj Is My Birth Right'.
- He was the strongest proponent of 'purna swaraj' or 'total self-rule'.
- Part of the Lal-Bal-Pal (Lala Lajpat Rai, Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Bipin Chandra Pal) troika.
- Bal Gangadhar Tilak was called 'father of the Indian unrest' by Valentine Chirol..
- He was given the title, 'Lokmanya', which means 'beloved leader' by his followers.
- Lokmanya Tilak founded and edited two newspapers - Kesari in Marathi and The Mahratta in English with help and support of G G Agarkar.
- He was also associated with Poona Sarvajanik Sabha.
- With Vishnushastri Chiplunkar, he co-founded the New English school for secondary education in 1880 and Deccan Education Society in 1884
- Tilak helped found the All India Home Rule League in 1916–18, with G. S. Khaparde and Annie Besant.
- Tilak is only prominent congress leader who never became its President.
- Tilak is credited for political nationalism in India based on Indian culture. For this, he founded the Shivaji and Ganesh festivals.
- He wrote the famous books named **Gita Rahasya**, **The Arctic Home in the Vedas**, and **Orion**.
- While Jawaharlal Nehru called him the 'father of Indian revolution', Mahatma Gandhi described Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak as 'the maker of modern India'.

#### 2. KHARIF CROPS OF INDIA:

- Rice is the most important kharif crop of India. It is grown in rain fed areas with hot and humid climates, especially the eastern and southern parts of India. Rice requires a temperature of 16–20 °C (61–68 °F) during the growing season and 18–32 °C (64–90 °F) during ripening.
- It needs rainfall from 150–200 centimetres (59–79 in) and needs a flooded field during the growth period. Other crops are-

**Cereals:**

- Bajra, Jowar, Maize (corn), Millet, Soybean

**Fruits:**

- Muskmelon, Sugarcane, Watermelon, Orange

**Seed plants:**

- Arhar (tur), Black gram (urad), Cotton, Cowpea (chavala), Green gram (moong), Groundnut, Guar, Moth bean, Mung bean, Sesame (til), Urad bean

**3. PRODUCTION LINKED INCENTIVE SCHEME (PLI):**

- Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing was notified on 1st April, 2020.
- PLI Scheme extends an incentive of 4% to 6% on incremental sales (over base year) of goods under target segments that are manufactured in India to eligible companies, for a period of five years subsequent to the base year (FY2019-20).
- The scheme was open for filing applications till 31.07.2020. Incentives are applicable under the scheme from 01.08.2020.
- Production of Rs. 11.50 lakh crore and Exports of Rs. 7 lakh crore expected over next 5 years in mobile manufacturing generating more than three lakh employment.

**4. PAN INDIA 1000 GENOME SEQUENCING OF SARS- COV-2:**

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Minister for Science & Technology, Health & Family Welfare and Earth Sciences announced the successful completion of PAN-India 1000 Genome sequencing of SARS-CoV-2.
- Dr. Harsh Vardhan also launched and dedicated to the nation the largest network of five dedicated COVID-19 *Biorepositories* established by Department of Biotechnology in record time.

- These are at Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI) Faridabad, Institute of Life Science (ILS) Bhubaneswar, Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) New Delhi, National Centre for Cell Science (NCCS) Pune and Institute for Stem Cell Science and Regenerative Medicine (InStem) Bangalore.
- The sequenced data will soon be released in Global Initiative on Sharing All Influenza Data (GISAID) for use by researchers across the Globe”.

#### **5. KHADI AGARBATTI AATMANIRBHAR MISSION:**

- Union Minister for MSME, Shri Nitin Gadkari has approved a unique employment generation program proposed by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) to make India Aatmanirbhar in Agarbatti production.
- The program named as “Khadi Agarbatti Aatmanirbhar Mission” aims at creating employment for unemployed and migrant workers in different parts of the country while increasing domestic Agarbatti production substantially.
- Under the scheme, KVIC will provide Automatic Agarbatti making machines and powder mixing machines to the artisans through the successful private Agarbatti manufacturers who will sign the agreement as business partners.
- KVIC will provide 25% subsidy on the cost of the machines and will recover the remaining 75% of the cost from the artisans in easy instalments every month.

#### **6. CATARACT:**

- A cataract is an opacification of the lens of the eye which leads to a decrease in vision.
- Cataracts cause half of all cases of blindness and 33% of visual impairment worldwide.
- Cataracts are most commonly due to aging but may also occur due to trauma or radiation exposure, be present from birth, or occur following eye surgery for other problems.
- Risk factors include diabetes, smoking tobacco, prolonged exposure to sunlight, and alcohol.
- The underlying mechanism involves accumulation of clumps of protein or yellow-brown pigment in the lens that reduces transmission of light to the retina at the back of the eye.
- Prevention includes wearing sunglasses, a wide brimmed hat, eating leafy vegetables and fruits, and avoiding smoking.
- Early on the symptoms may be improved with glasses. If this does not help, surgery to remove the cloudy lens and replace it with an artificial lens is the only effective treatment.

### **7. DRAFT DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND EXPORT PROMOTION POLICY 2020:**

- The DPEPP 2020 is envisaged as overarching guiding document of MoD to provide a focused, structured and significant thrust to defence production capabilities of the country for self-reliance and exports. The policy has laid out following goals and objectives:
- To achieve a turnover of Rs 1,75,000 Crores (US\$ 25Bn) including export of Rs 35,000 Crore (US\$ 5 Billion) in Aerospace and Defence goods and services by 2025.
- To develop a dynamic, robust and competitive Defence industry, including Aerospace and Naval Shipbuilding industry to cater to the needs of Armed forces with quality products.
- To reduce dependence on imports and take forward "Make in India" initiatives through domestic design and development.
- To promote export of defence products and become part of the global defence value chains.
- To create an environment that encourages R&D, rewards innovation, creates Indian IP ownership and promotes a robust and self-reliant defence industry.

### **8. ELECTRONIC VACCINE INTELLIGENCE NETWORK (eVIN):**

- The Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN) is an innovative technological solution aimed at strengthening immunization supply chain systems across the country.
- This is being implemented under National Health Mission (NHM) by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- eVIN aims to provide real-time information on vaccine stocks and flows, and storage temperatures across all cold chain points in the country.
- This robust system has been used with the requisite customization during the COVID pandemic for ensuring continuation of the essential immunization services and protecting our children and pregnant mothers against vaccine preventable diseases.
- eVIN has reached 32 States and Union Territories (UTs) and will soon be rolled-out in the remaining States and UTs of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Ladakh and Sikkim.
- This strong platform has the potential to be leveraged for any new vaccine including COVID-19 vaccine, as and when available.

### **9. PHASE II+III TRIALS OF OXFORD UNIVERSITY VACCINE:**

- The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has given approval to Serum Institute of India, Pune to conduct Phase II+III clinical trials of Oxford University-Astra Zeneca COVID-19 vaccine (COVISHIELD) in India.
- India continues to improve the Case Fatality Rate (CFR), and maintain its global position of having one of the lowest COVID fatalities rates.
- With a further fall, the current CFR touched less than 2%. This is the outcome of the well-conceived and effectively implemented strategy of "Test, Track and Treat" which has guided the COVID management in the country.

#### **10. TYPES OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN INDIA:**

- Any investment that is made in India with the source of funding that is from outside of India is a foreign investment.
- By this definition, the investments that are made by Foreign Corporates, Foreign Nationals, as well as Non-Resident Indians would fall into the category of Foreign Investment.
- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)- FDI is an investment made by a company or individual who us an entity in one country, in the form of controlling ownership in business interests in another country. FDI could be in the form of either establishing business operations or by entering into joint ventures by mergers and acquisitions, building new facilities etc.
- Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI)- Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) is an investment by foreign entities and non-residents in Indian securities including shares, government bonds, corporate bonds, convertible securities, infrastructure securities etc. The intention is to ensure a controlling interest in India at an investment that is lower than FDI, with flexibility for entry and exit.
- Foreign Institutional Investment (FII)- Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) is an investment by foreign entities in securities, real property and other investment assets. The differences in FPI and FII are mostly in the type of investors and hence the terms FPI and FII are used interchangeably.

#### **11. DEKHO APNA DESH SCHEME 2020:**

- It is a Free Travel Government Scheme, Dekho Apna Desh Scheme 2020
- The tourism ministry will fund the travel expenses of tourists who visit 15 destinations in the country in a year and submit the photos on website
- The travellers have to visit [pledge.mygov.in](https://pledge.mygov.in), and then upload photos on the website after visiting any 15 tourist locations in a year.



- However, the tourists will have to travel outside their home states to stand eligible for the incentive.
- The travellers will receive a certificate via mobile text or e-mail later.

## **12. BASIS FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT:**

- When the Constitution was adopted, contempt of court was made one of the restrictions on freedom of speech and expression.
- Separately, Article 129 of the Constitution conferred on the Supreme Court the power to punish contempt of itself.
- Article 215 conferred a corresponding power on the High Courts. The Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, gives statutory backing to the idea.
- The law codifying contempt classifies it as civil and criminal. Civil contempt is fairly simple. It is committed when someone wilfully disobeys a court order, or wilfully breaches an undertaking given to court.
- Criminal contempt is more complex. It consists of three forms: (a) words, written or spoken, signs and actions that “scandalise” or “tend to scandalise” or “lower” or “tends to lower” the authority of any court (b) prejudices or interferes with any judicial proceeding and (c) interferes with or obstructs the administration of justice.
- Prashant Bhushan case has now become a milestone judgement on this matter.

## **13. PMGKAY-2:**

- As per the Food Corporation of India report, FCI currently has 242.87 LMT rice and 516.54 LMT wheat. Hence, a total of 759.41 LMT food grain stock is available.
- About 95 LMT food grains is required for a month under NFSA, PMGKAY and other welfare schemes.
- Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana-1, Under the PMGKAY-1, for the 3 months April, May and June 2020, a total of 119.5 LMT food grains (104.3 LMT rice and 15.2 LMT wheat) was required.
- As regards Pulses, the total requirement for the three months was 5.87 LMT.
- Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana-2, Since 01 July 2020, the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana 2 has been started, which will continue till November 2020. During this period, a total of 201 LMT food grains will be distributed among 81 crore beneficiaries, as well as a total of 12 LMT whole chana will be distributed among 19.4 crore families.

- A total of 201.08 LMT food grains have been allocated for PMGKAY-2 to States and UTs for the 5 months period from July to November 2020.

#### **14. NATIONAL CYBER COORDINATION CENTRE (NCCC):**

- The National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCCC) is an operational cybersecurity and e-surveillance agency in India. It is intended to screen communication metadata and co-ordinate the intelligence gathering activities of other agencies.
- Components of the NCCC include a cybercrime prevention strategy, cybercrime investigation training and review of outdated laws.
- Indian and U.S. intelligence agencies are also working together to curb misuse of social media platforms in the virtual world by terror groups.
- The National Cyber Coordination Centre received an in principle approval in May 2013 and started functioning from November, 2014.

#### **15. NETRA (NETwork TRaffic Analysis):**

- NETRA (NETwork TRaffic Analysis) is a software network developed by India's Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (CAIR), a Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) laboratory, and is used by the Intelligence Bureau, and the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), to intercept and analyse internet traffic using pre-defined filters.
- The program was tested at smaller scales by various national security agencies, and is reported to be deployed nationwide, in 2014.
- Two such systems were designed, one by DRDO's Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics, and the other by the National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO), which is India's technical intelligence agency.

#### **16. 2020 BEIRUT EXPLOSION:**

- On 4 August 2020, a large amount of ammonium nitrate stored at the port of the city of Beirut, the capital of Lebanon, exploded, causing at least 190 deaths, 6,500 injuries, US\$10–15 billion in property damage, and leaving an estimated 300,000 people homeless.
- Around 2,750 tonnes of the substance (equivalent to around 1.1 kilotons of TNT) had been stored in a warehouse without proper safety measures for the previous six years.
- The explosion was felt in Turkey, Syria, Israel, Palestine and parts of Europe, and was heard in Cyprus, more than 250 km (160 mi) away.

- It was detected by the United States Geological Survey as a seismic event of magnitude 3.3, and is considered one of the most powerful non-nuclear explosions in history.

### **17. INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE (ICH):**

The National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of India is an attempt to recognize the diversity of Indian culture embedded in its intangible heritage.

Following UNESCO's 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, this list has been classified into five broad domains in which intangible cultural heritage is manifested:

- Oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage
- Performing arts
- Social practices, rituals and festive events
- Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe
- Traditional craftsmanship

#### **Kalamkari:**

- The element is practised mainly at Sri Kalahasti situated on the bank of the river Swarnamukhi is a picturesque town located in the Chittoor district of the state of Andhra Pradesh.
- The tradition of Kalahasti Paintings was originally practised by the Balija community residing in the Kalahasti region, located in the southern corner of Andhra Pradesh.

#### **Oggukatha:**

- Oggukatha is a traditional folk theatre form which is an ancient narrative form of Telugu speaking regions.

#### **Tolu Bommalatta:**

- In Andhra Pradesh it is practiced by the Killekyata/Are Kapu community.
- There are six shadow puppet theatre traditions across different regions in India, which are locally known as: Chamadyacha Bahulya in Maharashtra, Tolu Bommalatta in Andhra Pradesh, Togonalu Gombeyatta in Karnataka, Tolu Bommalattam in Tamil Nadu, Tolpava Kuthu in Kerala and Ravanchhaya in Orissa.

#### **Funerals of Idu Mishimi Tribe:**

- Idu Mishimi tribe of Arunachal Pradesh

#### **Songs of Shaman:**

- Shamanism is prevalent among different tribes in Arunachal Pradesh.

**Sowa-Rigpa:**

- It is an ancient Indian medical system conceived and propounded by Lord Buddha in India and later was enriched in the entire Trans- Himalayan region.

**Lores and Rituals of Nocte:**

- The Noctes are one of the major tribes of Arunachal Pradesh.

**Khol:**

- The Satriya culture has been practiced and developed according to the rules of the three Satriya schools – Bordowa, Barpeta and Kamalabari in Assam.

**Jun Beel Mela:**

- The Jun Beel Mela is a centuries-old traditional fair which seems to be a virtual wonder in its own right. The most striking feature of this historic fair is that it has been keeping alive the age-old barter system as a means procuring goods in Marigaon district of Assam.

**Ankiya Nat:**

- The tradition of Vaishnava theatre popularly known as Ankiya Nat was introduced by Sankaradeva as a medium to propagate Bhakti among the people in Assam.

**Pachoti:**

- Pachoti is a traditional folk festival celebrated in the month of Bhada (August-September as per the Assamese calendar) in Assam. It is celebrated on the fifth day of the birth of a baby, especially a baby boy since the tradition relates to the birth of Krishna. The main part of the ceremony is deciding the name of the baby.

**The Festival of Salhes:**

- Salhesh is the chief deity of the socially marginalized and downtrodden Dusadh dalit community of Mithila region of Bihar.

**Rawat Nach Mahotsav:**

- Each year after Diwali, the Yadavas celebrate their folk dance festival of Rawat Nach Mahotsav with great merriment in Chattisgarh.

**Dashavatar:**

- It is a folk theatre form practised by agriculturists or farmers in the Sindhudurg district of the South Konkan region of Maharashtra and the North Goa district of Goa.

**Patola:**

- Patola silk textiles are produced by resist dyeing of warp and weft threads before weaving, a complex process known as double ikat which is also practised in other parts of India and abroad. Prevalent in Patan and Vadodara districts respectively, in the state of Gujarat.

**Alibakshi khayal:**

- Thakur of Mandawara (Alwar) a muslim sub-state of Alwar, gave birth to Alibux, a born saint cum-poet and dramatist, who chose the pursuit of the art as a form of devotion. His association with Hindu saints and Bhaktas imbibed in him the practice of Bhakti through bhajan, kirtan, dancing and singing. His first khyal production was "Krishnaleela".

#### **18. 150<sup>TH</sup> BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF ABANINDRANATH TAGORE:**

- Abanindranath Tagore was the principal artist and creator of the "Indian Society of Oriental Art".
- He was also the first major exponent of Swadeshi values in Indian art, thereby founding the influential Bengal school of art, which led to the development of modern Indian painting.
- He was also a noted writer, particularly for children. His books Rajkahini, Budo Angla, Nalak, and Khirer Putul were landmarks in Bengali language children's literature and art.
- Tagore sought to modernise Mughal and Rajput styles to counter the influence of Western models of art, as taught in art schools under the British Raj.
- Along with other artists from the Bengal school of art, Tagore advocated in favour of a nationalistic Indian art derived from Indian art history, drawing inspiration from the Ajanta Caves.
- Tagore's work was so successful that it was eventually accepted and promoted as a national Indian style within British art institutions.
- A list of prominent paintings by Abanindranath Tagore are- Ashoka's Queen (1910), Bharat Mata (1905), Ganesh Janani (1908), Baba Ganesh (1937), Banished Yaksha (1904), Buddha and Sujata (1901), Chaitanya (1915), Moonlight Music Party (1906), Pushpa-Radha (1912), Sri Radha by the River Jamuna (1913), Veena Player (1911).

#### **19. LIST OF DEFENCE PUBLIC SECTOR UNDERTAKINGS IN INDIA:**

- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)- It was founded in 1940; 77 years ago (As Hindustan Aircraft) 1964; 53 years ago (Renamed Hindustan Aeronautics). It is an Indian state-owned aerospace and Defence Company based in Bangalore, Karnataka which is governed under the management of the Indian Ministry of Defence.
- Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)- It was founded on Bangalore, Karnataka, India in 1954. It is owned by the Government of India and primarily manufactures advanced electronic products for the Indian Armed Forces.
- Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)- It was founded in 1970 in Hyderabad, Telangana as a manufacturing base for guided weapon systems. It is now involved in manufacturing ATGMs of new generation, Surface-to-air weapon systems, strategic weapons, launchers, underwater weapons, decoys and test equipment.

- Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML)- It was founded on May 1964 at Bengaluru, Karnataka. It manufactures a variety of heavy equipment, such as that used for earth moving, transport and mining.
- Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited (MIDHANI)- It was founded in 1973 and its headquarter is in Hyderabad, Telangana. It is a specialized metals and metal alloys manufacturing company.
- Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)- It was founded in 1934 and its headquarter is in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It manufactures warships and submarines for the Indian Navy and offshore platforms and associated support vessels for offshore oil drilling.
- Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE)- It was founded in 1884 as a small private company and was renamed as Garden Reach Workshop in 1916. Finally, in 1960 awarded as Miniratnas status. It is equipped with buildings and repairing of commercial and naval vessels. Currently, it is working on 14 warships, including two Antisubmarine Warfare Corvettes (ASWC), eight Landing Craft Utility (LCU) ships and four Water Jet Fast Attack Crafts (WJFAC).
- Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)- It was established in 1957 as Estaleiros Navais de Goa. It is one of the best shipyards in India and is Mini-Ratna Group-I status company. It is well-known for designing indigenously and building sophisticated high technology ships for Indian Defence Forces and other varied clients including export markets.
- Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL)- It was established on June 22, 1941. Jal Usha was the first India's ship to be constructed fully in India was built here in 1948. It has very equipment of the plasma cutting machines, steel processing and welding facilities, material handling equipment, cranes, logistics and storage facilities.

#### **20. DIAT WINS FIRST PRIZE IN SMART INDIA HACKATHON-2020:**

- Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT) Pune, an autonomous organization under the Department of Defence Research & Development, DRDO, won 1st prize in Smart India Hackathon (SIH)-2020.
- The DIAT student team "Age of Ultron" which comprised of six members under the guidance of Dr. Sunita Dhavale, won the 1st Prize of
- Rupees 1 Lakh for solving problem statement MS331 in the category of software posed by the Madhya Pradesh Government.
- The team provided the solution titled "DRISHTI" for the face, expression and gesture recognition using Artificial Intelligence.

**21. FERTILIZER MONITORING SYSTEMS:**

- The mandate of the Department of Fertilizers is to make available fertilizers to the farmers at affordable prices. The affordable prices part of the mandate gets translated into subsidised fertilisers. The subsidy portion of fertilizers which ranges from 30% to 70% of the cost of the fertilizers is given to the companies, so as to make available fertilizers for the farmers at subsidized MRPs.
- Fertilizer Management System (FMS)- The department of Fertilizers implemented the FMS in May 2007 with an aim to track movement of fertilizers in the country. It monitors the production, dispatches, receipts and sales of DAP, MOP, SSP, NPK and Urea (Indigenous and Imported) fertilizers from point of production to district warehouses. The system at present is being used for: tracking movement from plant/port till district level with relevant documentary evidence.
- Mobile Fertilizer Management System (mFMS)- To achieve more visibility and transparency in the fertilizer supply chain from production to receipt at the last point sale (retail point), the mFMS was introduced in the year 2012. The subsidised fertilizers namely Urea and 21 grades of Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers like DAP, MAP, TSP, MOP, Ammonium Sulphate, SSP and 15 grades of NPKS complex fertilizers are covered under the mFMS.
- Integrated Fertilizer Management System (iFMS)- Integrated Fertilizer Management System (iFMS) is fully operational w.e.f. 1st September, 2016 which is more comprehensive, all-inclusive system which integrated, incorporates and enhances the features of both earlier systems i.e. FMS and mFMS.

**22. HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY FOR ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS:**

- Undersea cable of nearly 2300 KM length between Chennai-Port Blair and Port Blair and 7 Islands
- The submarine cable will also connect Port Blair to Swaraj Dweep (Havelock), Little Andaman, Car Nicobar, Kamorta, Great Nicobar, Long Island, and Rangat.
- Once inaugurated, the submarine OFC link will deliver bandwidth of 2 x 200 Gigabits per second (Gbps) between Chennai and Port Blair, and 2 x 100 Gbps between Port Blair and the other islands.
- Enhanced telecom and Broadband connectivity will boost tourism and employment generation in the Islands, give an impetus to the economy and raise standards of living.
- The project is funded by the Government of India through the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) under the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications.

### **23. TRIFED:**

- TRIFED is a national level cooperative body under the administrative control of Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India.
- It was established under the Multi-state co-operative societies act 1984 under the former Ministry of Welfare. Later it came under the control of Ministry of Tribal affairs.
- In order to empower the downtrodden tribal community it started the procurement of tribal art and craft items firstly in 1999 through its retail outlet called TRIBES INDIA.
- The Tribal Co-operative Marketing Federation of India (TRIFED) was formed with the main objective of institutionalising the trade of Minor forest products (MFP) and to provide the tribals of India a fair price for the surplus agricultural products produced by them.
- Van Dhan Yojna- Van Dhan Yojna was launched on 14 April 2018, initially as a pilot project in Bijapur; Chhattisgarh under which a Van Dhan Vikas Kendra was set up to cater ten Self Help Groups of thirty tribal gatherers each.

### **24. ODF PLUS:**

- ODF plus as an area where along with regular availability and usage of toilets, management of solid and liquid waste, cleanliness of water resources, maintenance of public and household toilets and awareness on personal hygiene are at their highest.
- ODF plus is not just a label, but a sustained campaign to achieve all-round cleanliness in an area. Improved step in Swaccha Bharat Abhiyan.
- For transition into ODF plus stage, the ODF villages will need to focus dedicatedly on waste management, cleanliness of toilets and developing a culture of cleanliness.

### **25. SHRI G C MURMU: C&AG OF INDIA:**

- Shri Girish Chandra Murmu assumed office as the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.
- He belongs to Indian Administrative Service of Gujrat cadre (1985 batch).
- Shri Murmu succeeds Shri Rajiv Mehrishi.
- Prior to this, Shri Murmu was the first Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.
- Honorable President Shri Ram Nath Kovind administered the oath of office and secrecy to Shri Murmu at a function in the Rashtrapati Bhavan this morning.



## **26. LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITIES ACT, 1987:**

- The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 was brought into force on 19 November 1995 for effective implementation of Art-39A.
- The object of the Act was to provide free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen.
- The concept of legal services which includes Lok Adalat is a revolutionary evolution of resolution of disputes.
- Under the new Act, a settlement arrived at in the Lok Adalats has been given the force of a decree which can be executed through Court as if it is passed by it.
- Sections 19, 20, 21 and 22 of the Act deal with Lok Adalat.
- Section 20 provides for different situations where cases can be referred for consideration of Lok Adalat.
- Honorable Delhi High court has given a landmark decision highlighting the significance of Lok Adalat movement in the case of Abdul Hasan and National Legal Services Authority v. Delhi Vidyut Board and Others. The court passed the order giving directions for setting up of permanent Lok Adalats.

## **27. AGRICULTURE INFRASTRUCTURE FUND:**

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched a new Central Sector Scheme of financing facility under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund of Rs. 1 Lakh Crore.
- The scheme will support farmers, PACS, FPOs, Agri-entrepreneurs, etc. in building community farming assets and post-harvest agriculture infrastructure.
- The Agriculture Infrastructure Fund is a medium - long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets through interest subvention and credit guarantee.
- The duration of the scheme shall be from FY2020 to FY2029 (10 years).
- Under the scheme, Rs. 1 Lakh Crore will be provided by banks and financial institutions as loans with interest subvention of 3% per annum and credit guarantee coverage under CGTMSE scheme for loans up to Rs. 2 Crore.
- The beneficiaries will include farmers, PACS, Marketing Cooperative Societies, FPOs, SHGs, Joint Liability Groups (JLG), Multipurpose Cooperative Societies, Agri-entrepreneurs, Startups, and Central/State agency or Local Body sponsored Public-Private Partnership Projects.

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**28. eSANJEEVANI:**

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, presided over a review meeting with States/UTs on the “eSanjeevani” and “eSanjeevaniOPD” platforms as 1.5 lakh tele-consultations were completed on the tele-medicine service platforms of the Health Ministry.
- In a short span of time since November 2019, tele-consultation by eSanjeevani and eSanjeevaniOPD have been implemented by 23 States (which covers 75% of the population) and other States are in the process of rolling it out.
- This eSanjeevani platform has enabled two types of telemedicine services viz. Doctor-to-Doctor (eSanjeevani) and Patient-to-Doctor (eSanjeevani OPD) Tele-consultations.
- The former is being implemented under the Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centre (AB-HWCs) programme.
- It is planned to implement tele-consultation in all the 1.5 lakh Health and Wellness Centres (as spokes) in a ‘Hub and Spoke’ model, by December 2022.
- States have identified and set up dedicated ‘Hubs’ in Medical Colleges and District hospitals to provide tele-consultation services to ‘Spokes’, i.e SHCs and PHCs.

**29. IMPORTANT PARLIAMENTARY TERMS:**

- "Ad hoc Committee"- A Committee constituted by the House or by the Chairman or by the presiding officers of both the Houses jointly to consider and report on specific matter and becomes functus officio as soon as the task is completed.
- "Adjournment of Debate"--Adjournment on a motion adopted by the House, of the debate on a Motion/Resolution/Bill on which the House is then engaged until a future day or sine die as specified in the motion.
- "Adjournment sine die"-Termination of a sitting of the House without any definite date being fixed for the next sitting.
- "Calling Attention" – A procedure whereby a Member calls the attention of a Minister to a matter of urgent public importance , the Minister makes a brief statement thereon and thereafter the Members seek clarifications.
- "Crossing the floor"--Passing between the member addressing the House and the Chair which is considered breach of Parliamentary etiquette.

- "Draw of lot" - A method applied to determine the relative precedence of private members' Bills and Resolutions, notices of questions, half-an-hour discussions or any other notice given by more than one member simultaneously for being taken up on the same day.
- "Expunction"-Deletion of words, phrases or expressions from the proceedings or records of Rajya Sabha by an order of the Chairman for being defamatory or indecent or unparliamentary or undignified.
- "Half-an-Hour Discussion"-A Member with the permission of the Chairman may raise a discussion on a matter of sufficient public importance which has been the subject of a recent oral or written question and the answer to which needs elucidation on a matter of fact.
- "Leader of the Council"-The Prime Minister, if he is a member of the Council or a Minister who is a member of the Council and is nominated by the Prime Minister to function as the Leader of the Council.
- "Matters raised with permission"- Immediately after the Question Hour and laying of papers, a Member may raise an issue of urgent public importance with the prior permission of the Chairman.
- "Motion"-A formal proposal made to the House by a Minister or a member that the House do something, order something to be done or express an opinion with regard to some matter, and is so phrased that, if adopted, it will purport to express the judgment or will of the House.
- "Motion of Thanks"-A formal motion moved in the House, expressing its gratitude to the President for the Address delivered by him/her under article 87(1) of the Constitution to both Houses of Parliament assembled together.
- "Naming a Member"-The drawing of attention of the House by the Chairman to the conduct of a member who disregards the authority of the Chair or abuses the Rules of the House by persistently and willfully obstructing the business thereof, with a view to action being taken to suspend him from the service of the House for a period not exceeding the remainder of the session.
- "Point of Order"- A point relating to the interpretation or enforcement of the Rules of Procedure or such articles of the Constitution as regulate the business of the House raised in the House and submitted for the decision of the Chair.
- "Putting the Question"-When debate on a question is closed, the Chairman, rising from the Chair, states or reads the question to the House, beginning with "The question is, that".
- "Short Duration Discussion"-For raising a discussion on a matter of urgent public importance for which a notice has to be given by a Member supported by two other Members specifying clearly and precisely the matter to be raised.

- "Short Notice Question"-A question relating to a matter of urgent public importance asked for oral answer by a Member with shorter notice than fifteen clear days by giving the reasons for asking the question with short notice.
- "Table of the House"--The Table just in front of the desk of the Secretary-General below the Chairman's Chair, on which papers which are required to be laid on the Table of the House, are deemed to be placed.
- "Whips" – Members drawn from the party in power and the parties/groups in opposition to perform specified functions and form vital links in the internal organization of a party inside Parliament.

### **30. NORMALIZED DIFFERENCE VEGETATION INDEX:**

- The normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI) is a simple graphical indicator that can be used to analyze remote sensing measurements, often from a space platform, assessing whether or not the target being observed contains live green vegetation.
- The Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI), which is a proven indicator for vegetable/crop health or vigour, clearly shows better crop conditions during the month of July this year than what it was during the same month in the last year. The index is released by ISRO in India.

### **31. REMOTE VOTING**

- Election commission of India is contemplating developing technology and processes to enable remote voting for those who are not in their constituencies can significantly help improve voter participation. Despite all efforts, voter participation had remained only around 67% in general elections.
- A key factor contributing to this was the inability of the people, who had migrated from their native constituencies for various reasons, to vote. Unless structural changes in the election processes were made, it would be difficult to increase participation.

### **32: KRISHI MEGH:**

- Government launched the Krishi Megh (National Agricultural Research & Education System - Cloud Infrastructure and Services) along with the KVC ALUNET (Krishi Vishwavidyalaya Chhatr Alumni Network) and Online Accreditation System for Higher Agricultural Educational Institutions (HEI).
- Krishi Megh as a step forward towards digital agriculture of New India.

**33. PM SVANidhi SCHEME:**

- PM SVANidhi or Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor’s Atmanirbhar Nidhi scheme was launched on June 1, 2020, by the Central Government to help the street vendors resume their livelihood activities who were impacted by COVID-19.
- The scheme aims at facilitating working capital loan up to Rs. 10,000 at a subsidized rate of interest, incentivizing regular repayment of the loan and to reward digital transactions.
- The scheme aims at providing benefits to street vendors or hawkers in urban, pre-urban and rural areas on March 24, 2020, or before.

**34. PARAMPARAGAT KRISHI VIKAS YOJANA:**

- “Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana” is an elaborated component of Soil Health Management (SHM) of major project National Mission of Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA).
- Under PKVY Organic farming is promoted through adoption of organic village by cluster approach and PGS certification.
- Fifty or more farmers will form a cluster having 50 acre land to take up the organic farming under the scheme. In this way during three years 10,000 clusters will be formed covering 5.0 lakh acre area under organic farming.
- There will be no liability on the farmers for expenditure on certification.
- Every farmer will be provided Rs. 20,000 per acre in three years for seed to harvesting of crops and to transport produce to the market.
- Organic farming will be promoted by using traditional resources and the organic products will be linked with the market.

**35. ORGANIC FARMING:**

- With the aim of assisting farmers to adopt organic farming and improve remunerations due to premium prices, two dedicated programs namely Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North East Region (MOVCD) and Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) were launched in 2015 to encourage chemical free farming.
- With the simultaneous thrust given by the Agri-export Policy 2018, India can emerge as a major player in global organic markets.

- The major organic exports from India have been flax seeds, sesame, soybean, tea, medicinal plants, rice and pulses, which were instrumental in driving an increase of nearly 50% in organic exports in 2018-19, touching Rs 5151 crore.
- Modest commencement of exports from Assam, Mizoram, Manipur and Nagaland to UK, USA, Swaziland and Italy have proved the potential by increasing volumes and expanding to new destinations as the demand for health foods increases.

### **36. PM MATSYA SAMPADA YOJANA:**

- Government announced the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and e-Gopala App, a comprehensive breed improvement marketplace and information portal for direct use of farmers.
- The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) is a flagship scheme for focused and sustainable development of fisheries sector in the country with an estimated investment of Rs. 20,050 crores for its implementation during a period of 5 years from FY 2020-21 to FY 2024-25 in all States/Union Territories, as a part of AatmaNirbhar Bharat Package.
- PMMSY aims at enhancing fish production by an additional 70 lakh tonne by 2024-25, increasing fisheries export earnings to Rs.1,00,000 crore by 2024-25, doubling of incomes of fishers and fish farmers, reducing post-harvest losses from 20-25% to about 10% and generation of additional 55 lakhs direct and indirect gainful employment opportunities in fisheries sector and allied activities.

### **37. e-GOPALA APP:**

- e-Gopala App is a comprehensive breed improvement marketplace and information portal for direct use of farmers.
- At present no digital platform is available in the country for farmers managing livestock including buying and selling of disease free germplasm in all forms (semen, embryos, etc); availability of quality breeding services (Artificial Insemination, veterinary first aid, vaccination, treatment etc) and guiding farmers for animal nutrition, treatment of animals using appropriate ayurvedic medicine/ethno veterinary medicine.
- There is no mechanism to send alerts (on due date for vaccination, pregnancy diagnosis, calving etc) and inform farmers about various government schemes and campaigns in the area. The e-Gopala App will provide solutions to farmers on all these aspects.

### **38. NATIONAL MISSION ON AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION & TECHNOLOGY:**

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- Agricultural Technology, including the adoption/ promotion of critical inputs, and improved agronomic practices were being disseminated under 17 different schemes of the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture during the 11th Plan period.
- The Modified Extension Reforms Scheme was introduced in 2010 with the objective of strengthening extension machinery and utilizing it for synergizing interventions under these schemes under the umbrella of the Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA).
- The National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET) has been envisaged as the next step towards this objective through the amalgamation of these schemes.
- This is envisaged to be achieved by a judicious mix of extensive physical outreach and interactive methods of information dissemination, use of ICT, popularisation of modern and appropriate technologies, capacity building and institution strengthening to promote mechanisation, availability of quality seeds, plant protection etc. and encourage aggregation of Farmers into Interest Groups (FIGs) to form Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs).

#### **39. NAVAL INNOVATION AND INDIGENISATION ORGANISATION (NIIO):**

- Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh launched the Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO) through an online webinar.
- The NIIO puts in place dedicated structures for the end users to interact with academia and industry towards fostering innovation and indigenisation for self-reliance in defence in keeping with the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- The NIIO is a three-tiered organisation. Naval Technology Acceleration Council (N-TAC) will bring together the twin aspects of innovation and indigenisation and provide apex level directives. A working group under the N-TAC will implement the projects. A Technology Development Acceleration Cell (TDAC) has also been created for induction of emerging disruptive technology in an accelerated time frame.

#### **40. FIT INDIA YOUTH CLUBS:**

- Union Minister of Youth and Sports Shri. Kiren Rijiju launched yet another nation-wide initiative, the Fit India Youth Club.
- The Fit India Youth Club, a part of the Fit India Movement envisioned by Prime Minister, endeavours to harness the power of youth to create mass awareness about the importance of fitness, across the country.
- The Fit India Youth Clubs bring together fitness and voluntarism in a unique way in which 75 lakh volunteers of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan and National Service Scheme, along with Scouts

and Guides, NCC and other youth organisations will come together to register as Fit India Youth Clubs in every block in the country, under the aegis of a district unit and each member of the club will motivate people from the community to take up fitness activities of 30 to 60 minutes in his or her daily routine.

#### **41. BHARATNET:**

- BharatNet is a project of national importance to establish, by 2017, a highly scalable network infrastructure accessible on a non-discriminatory basis, to provide on demand, affordable broadband connectivity of 2 Mbps to 20 Mbps for all households and on demand capacity to all institutions, to realise the vision of Digital India, in partnership with States and the private sector.
- The entire project is being funded by Universal service Obligation Fund (USOF), which was set up for improving telecom services in rural and remote areas of the country.
- The objective is to facilitate the delivery of e-governance, e-health, e-education, e-banking, Internet and other services to the rural India.
- In the third phase from 2019 to 2023, state-of-the-art, future-proof network, including fiber between districts and blocks, with ring topology to provide redundancy would be created.

#### **42. PRADHAN MANTRI GRAMIN DIGITAL SAKSHARTA ABHIYAN:**

- As per the 71st NSSO Survey on Education 2014, only 6% of rural households have a computer. This highlights that more than 15 crore rural households (@ 94% of 16.85 crore households) do not have computers and a significant number of these households are likely to be digitally illiterate.
- The Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) being initiated under Digital India Programme would cover 6 crore households in rural areas to make them digitally literate.
- Earlier, the Government had implemented the National Digital Literacy Mission or the Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (DISHA) or National Digital Literacy Mission (NDLM) to impart IT training to 52.5 lakh persons, including Anganwadi and ASHA workers and authorised ration dealers in all the States/UTs across the country so that the non-IT literate citizens are trained to become IT literate so as to enable them to actively and effectively participate in the democratic and developmental process and also enhance their livelihood.
- MGDISHA is expected to be one of the largest digital literacy programmes in the world.

- **43. AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT ARISE-ANIC INITIATIVE:**

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- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, launched one of its most awaited programmes, the Aatmanirbhar Bharat ARISE-Atal New India Challenges, to spur applied research and innovation in Indian MSMEs and startups.
- The programme will be driven by Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), four ministries— Ministry of Defence; Ministry of Food Processing Industries; Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs—and associated industries to facilitate innovative solutions to sectoral problems.
- The Aatmanirbhar Bharat ARISE–ANIC programme will support deserving applied research–based innovations by providing funding support of up to Rs 50 lakh for speedy development of the proposed technology solution and/or product.

#### **44. PANDIT JASRAJ:**

- Pandit Jasraj was an Indian classical vocalist, belonging to the Mewati gharana (musical apprenticeship lineage).
- His musical career spanned 75 years resulting in national and international fame, respect and numerous major awards and accolades.
- His legacy includes memorable performances of classical and semi-classical vocal music, classical and devotional music, albums and film soundtracks, innovations in various genres including Haveli Sangeeth and popularizing the Mewati Gharana - a school of thought in Hindustani classical music.
- Pandit Jasraj taught music to amateur and professional students in India, Europe, Canada and the United States.
- Although Jasraj belonged to the Mewati gharana, a school of music known for its traditional performances of khayals, Jasraj had sung khayals with some flexibility, adding elements of lighter styles, including the thumri.
- Jasraj created a novel form of jugalbandi called Jasrangi that is styled on the ancient system of moorchhana, between a male and a female vocalist, who each sing different ragas at the same time.

#### **45. PARTIAL CREDIT GUARANTEE SCHEME (PCGS):**

- As part of Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, announced by the Government, Partial Credit Guarantee Scheme (PCGS) 2.0 was launched on 20.05.2020 to provide Portfolio Guarantee for purchase of Bonds or Commercial Papers (CPs) with a rating of AA and below issued by NBFCs/HFCs/ MFIs by Public Sector Banks (PSBs).

- It was envisaged to purchase Bonds/ CPs of Rs. 45,000 crore under PCGS 2.0 of which the maximum headroom permissible for purchase of Bonds/ CPs rated AA/AA- was 25% of the total portfolio i.e. Rs. 11,250 crore.
- In addition, the Government had separately announced the Special Liquidity Scheme for purchase of Commercial Papers (CPs) and Non-Convertible Debentures (NCDs) issued by NBFCs/HFCs with a residual maturity of upto 3 months, which could be extended for a further period of upto 3 months, of a total value not exceeding Rs. 30,000 crore to be extended by the amount required as per need.

#### **46. THALASSEMIA:**

- Thalassemias are inherited blood disorders characterized by decreased hemoglobin production.
- Symptoms depend on the type and can vary from none to severe.
- Often there is mild to severe anemia (low red blood cells or hemoglobin).
- There may also be bone problems, an enlarged spleen, yellowish skin, and dark urine. Slow growth may occur in children.
- Thalassemias are genetic disorders inherited from a person's parents.
- There are two main types, alpha thalassemia and beta thalassemia.
- The severity of alpha and beta thalassemia depends on how many of the four genes for alpha globin or two genes for beta globin are missing.
- Diagnosis is typically by blood tests including a complete blood count, special hemoglobin tests, and genetic tests.
- Diagnosis may occur before birth through prenatal testing.

#### **47. COMMON RATES AND RATIOS IN DEMOGRAPHY:**

- The crude birth rate, the annual number of live births per 1,000 people.
- The general fertility rate, the annual number of live births per 1,000 women of childbearing age (often taken to be from 15 to 49 years old, but sometimes from 15 to 44).
- The age-specific fertility rates, the annual number of live births per 1,000 women in particular age groups (usually age 15–19, 20-24 etc.)
- The crude death rate, the annual number of deaths per 1,000 people.

- The infant mortality rate, the annual number of deaths of children less than 1 year old per 1,000 live births.
- The life expectancy, the number of years that an individual at a given age could expect to live at present mortality levels.
- The total fertility rate, the number of live births per woman completing her reproductive life, if her childbearing at each age reflected current age-specific fertility rates.
- The replacement level fertility, the average number of children women must have in order to replace the population for the next generation. For example, the replacement level fertility in the US is 2.11.[17]
- The gross reproduction rate, the number of daughters who would be born to a woman completing her reproductive life at current age-specific fertility rates.
- The net reproduction ratio is the expected number of daughters, per newborn prospective mother, who may or may not survive to and through the ages of childbearing.
- A stable population, one that has had constant crude birth and death rates for such a long period of time that the percentage of people in every age class remains constant, or equivalently, the population pyramid has an unchanging structure.
- A stationary population, one that is both stable and unchanging in size (the difference between crude birth rate and crude death rate is zero).

#### **48. INDORE: CLEANEST CITY FOURTH TIME IN A ROW:**

- Awards for Swachh Survekshan 2020.
- Surat And Navi Mumbai Secure Second and Third Position Respectively
- Chhattisgarh Declared Cleanest State In >100 ULB Category
- Jharkhand Declared Cleanest State In <100 ULB Category State

#### **49. SRISAILAM DAM:**

- The Srisailam Dam is constructed across the Krishna River in Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh near Srisailam temple town and is the 2nd largest capacity working hydroelectric station in the country.
- Srisailam right main canal (SRMC) is constructed with 44,000 cusecs capacity at Srisailam reservoir level to feed Veligodu reservoir, Brahmamsagar Reservoir, Alaganoor reservoir,

Gorakallu reservoir, Owk reservoir, Gandikota Reservoir, Mylavaram reservoir, Somasila reservoir and Kanderu reservoir.

- This canal also supplies water to Telugu Ganga project which supplies Krishna river water to Chennai city for its drinking purpose.
- Handri-Neeva lift canal by drawing water from the Srisailem reservoir, supplies drinking water in all the districts of Rayalaseema

#### **50. SERVICE VOTER:**

- Service voter is a voter having service qualification. They have an option to get himself enrolled as general elector at the place of his posting where he factually, at the point of time, is residing ordinarily with his family for a sufficient span of time.
- According to the provisions of sub – section (8) of Section 20 of Representation of People Act, 1950, service qualification means –
  - a. Being a member of the armed Forces of the Union ;
  - b. Being a member of a force to which provisions of the Army Act, 1950 (46 of 1950), have been made applicable whether with or without modification ;
  - c. Being a member of an Armed Police Force of a State, and serving outside that state; or
  - d. Being a person who is employed under the Government of India, in a post outside India.

#### **51. PROXY VOTER:**

- A service voter may appoint (by applying to Returning Officer in Form 13 F of Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961) any person as his / her proxy to give vote on his / her behalf and in his / her name at the polling station.
- The proxy shall have to be ordinary resident of that constituency. He need not be a registered voter but he / she must not be disqualified to be registered as a voter.

#### **52. NUAKHAI:**

- Nuakhai or Navakhai is an agricultural festival mainly observed by people of Western Odisha and Southern Chhattisgarh in India.
- Nuakhai is observed to welcome the new rice of the season.

- According to the calendar it is observed on panchami tithi (the fifth day) of the lunar fortnight of the month of Bhadrapada or Bhadraba (August–September), the day after the Ganesh Chaturthi festival.
- This is the most important social festival of Western Odisha and adjoining areas of Simdega in Jharkhand, where Odia culture is much predominant.

#### **53. ARIES:**

- Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) is a leading research institute in Nainital, Uttarakhand which specializes in Astronomy, Astrophysics and Atmospheric Sciences.
- It is an autonomous body under the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, the institute is situated at Manora Peak (1,951 m (6,401 ft)), about 9 km from Nainital, a popular hill station.
- The astronomical observatory is open to the public during working days on afternoons. For night viewing however, three - four days on moonlight nights are fixed and prior permission is needed.

#### **54. BIODIESEL FROM MICROALGAE:**

- While fossil fuels deplete, the fuel potential of algae residing in the vast marine environment surrounding India remains unexplored.
- Low-cost biodiesel from microalgae of marine origin may soon turn a reality, thanks to the efforts of a scientist who is working on biotechnological studies and tools for increasing the lipid accumulation in microalgae for biodiesel production.
- While different types of biofuels that have been explored recently, the use of microalgae has been strongly considered for the production of biofuels since they present a series of advantages over other biofuel feedstock, and this route to sustainable fuels.
- Research is being done under "Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) faculty fellowship instituted by the Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India.

#### **55. NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR TRANSGENDER PERSONS:**

- In exercise of the powers conferred by section 16 of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 (40 of 2019), the Central Government has constituted a National Council for Transgender Persons.

- The Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment will be Chairperson (ex-officio) and Union Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment will be Vice-Chairperson (ex-officio).
- The other members of the Council include representatives of various Ministries/Departments, five representatives of transgender community, representatives of NHRC and NCW, representatives of State Governments and UTs and experts representing NGOs.
- The National Council shall perform the following functions, namely:
  - a. to advise the Central Government on the formulation of policies, programmes, legislation and projects with respect to transgender persons;
  - b. to monitor and evaluate the impact of policies and programmes designed for achieving equality and full participation of transgender persons;
  - c. to review and coordinate the activities of all the departments of Government and other Governmental and non-Governmental Organisations which are dealing with matters relating to transgender persons;
  - d. to redress the grievances of transgender persons; and
  - e. to perform such other functions as may be prescribed by the Central Government.

#### **56. WARLI PAINTING:**

- Warli painting is a style of tribal art mostly created by the tribal people from the North Sahyadri Range in Maharashtra, India.
- This range encompasses cities such as Dahanu, Talasari, Jawhar, Palghar, Mokhada, and Vikramgad of Palghar district. This tribal art was originated in Maharashtra, where it is still practiced today.
- Warli Painting is traditional knowledge and cultural intellectual property preserved across generations. Understanding the urgent need for intellectual property rights with a geographical indication under the intellectual property rights act.

#### **57. EXPORT PREPAREDNESS INDEX (EPI) 2020:**

- NITI Aayog in partnership with the Institute of Competitiveness released the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2020.
- The first report to examine export preparedness and performance of Indian states, EPI intends to identify challenges and opportunities; enhance the effectiveness of government policies; and encourage a facilitative regulatory framework.

- What this edition of the EPI has shown is that most Indian states performed well on average across the sub-pillars of Exports Diversification, Transport Connectivity, and Infrastructure.
- Overall, most of the Coastal States are the best performers. Gujarat, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu occupy the top three ranks, respectively.
- Six of eight coastal states feature in the top ten rankings, indicating the presence of strong enabling and facilitating factors to promote exports.
- In the landlocked states, Rajasthan has performed the best, followed by Telangana and Haryana.
- Among the Himalayan states, Uttarakhand is the highest, followed by Tripura and Himachal Pradesh. Across the Union Territories, Delhi has performed the best, followed by Goa and Chandigarh.

#### **58. CHUNAUTI:**

- Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad launched “Chunauti”- Next Generation Startup Challenge Contest to further boost startups and software products with special focus on Tier-II towns of India.
- The government has earmarked a budget of Rs. 95.03 Crore over a period of three years for this programme.
- It aims to identify around 300 startups working in identified areas and provide them seed fund of upto Rs. 25 Lakh and other facilities.

#### **59. POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF ATTORNEY GENERAL OF INDIA (Article 76):**

- As a Chief Legal adviser of the government Attorney General of India has to give the advice to the government of India upon such legal matters which assigned to him by the President.
- As lawyer from the government side Attorney general is required to appear on behalf of the government of India in Supreme Court in which the government of India is concerned.
- He may also be required to appear in any High Court on behalf of the government of India which the Government of India is concerned.
- In the performance of his duties, the Attorney general of India has right to audience in any Court in the territory of India.
- The Attorney General of India has right to speak and take a part in the proceeding of any house of Parliament, without the right to give vote (Article 88).

- The Attorney General of India is entitled to get all the immunities and privileges as a Member of Parliament.

#### **60. EAT OUT TO HELP OUT:**

- A scheme by government of Britain who is paying for 50% of food and non-alcoholic drinks, up to £10 a head, on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays until August 31.
- The Eat Out to Help Out incentive aims to get Brits back out and spending to help boost the economy and save jobs in the hospitality sector.
- It's part of a wider £30billion package to help the country's finances recover as businesses navigate new Covid-19 challenges.

#### **61. CONTINGENCY FUND OF INDIA:**

- The Contingency Fund of India established under Article 267 (1) of the Constitution is in the nature of an imprest (money maintained for a specific purpose) which is placed at the disposal of the President to enable him/her to make advances to meet urgent unforeseen expenditure, pending authorization by the Parliament.
- Approval of the legislature for such expenditure and for withdrawal of an equivalent amount from the Consolidated Fund is subsequently obtained to ensure that the corpus of the Contingency Fund remains intact.
- The corpus for Union Government at present is Rs 500 crore (Rs 5 billion) and is enhanced from time to time by the Union Legislature.
- The Ministry of Finance operates this Fund on behalf of the President of India.
- Similarly, Contingency Fund of each State Government is established under Article 267(2) of the Constitution – this is in the nature of an imprest placed at the disposal of the Governor.

#### **62. MAHATMA AYYANKALI:**

- Ayyankali (28 August 1863 – 1941) was a social reformer who worked for the advancement of deprived untouchable people in the princely state of Travancore, British India.
- His efforts influenced many changes that improved the social well-being of those people, who are today often referred to as Dalits.



- Due to his radical efforts by 1900 the Pulayars, the lowest caste of the time, had gained the right to use most roads in the state, although they were still barred from those that led to Hindu temples.
- Brahma Nishta Matam organisation was established by him to remove untouchability.

### **63. DELIMITATION COMMISSION OF INDIA:**

- The Delimitation commission or Boundary commission of India is a commission established by the Government of India under the provisions of the Constitution article-82 and the Delimitation Commission Act.  
The main task of the commission is redrawing the boundaries of the various assembly and Lok Sabha constituencies based on a recent census.
- The present delimitation of constituencies has been done on the basis of 2001 census under the provisions of Delimitation Act, 2002.
- The present delimitation of parliamentary constituencies has been done on the basis of 2001 census figures under the provisions of Delimitation Act, 2002.
- However, the Constitution of India was specifically amended in 2002 not to have delimitation of constituencies till the first census after 2026.
- Thus, the present constituencies carved out on the basis of 2001 census shall continue to be in operation till the first census after 2026.
- The assembly election in Karnataka, conducted in three phases in May 2008, was the first to use the new boundaries as drawn by the 2002 delimitation commission.
- The delimitation of four north-eastern states was deferred due to security risks- Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Manipur.
- Subsequently, the Government of India has reconstituted the Delimitation Commission for these four states as well as the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir under the chairpersonship of former Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai in 2020.

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