



## DAILY DOSE - DECEMBER COMPILATION

### 1. WORLD AIDS DAY:

- **December 1** every year - to highlight the work done to eliminate the epidemic and to raise awareness about HIV.
- **Theme** 2021 - "**End inequalities. End AIDS**".
- The first World AIDS day was observed in the year 1988.
- HIV attacks the immune system as well as reduced the resistance to other diseases.

### 2. NAMDA CRAFT:

- **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship** launched a pilot project to revive the Namda craft of **Kashmir**.
- **Namda** - a rug made of sheep wool. It uses felting technique. It is predominantly used to make floor pieces and also used to make mattresses and bed covers.
- Europe and Japan - most **attractive export destinations** of Namda.
- It is also made in **Tonk in Rajasthan**.

### 3. JOINT CYBER DRILL 2021:

- **International Telecommunication Union** and the **Department of Telecommunications** operating under the **Ministry of Communications** conducted a joint cyber drill 2021.
- Drill was conducted for the **Critical Network Infrastructure** operators of India.
- **Aim** - to improve the cyber security readiness of India.
- **Critical Network Infrastructure** - systems, assets and networks that are essential to ensure the security of a country.

### 4. PERIODIC LABOUR FORCE SURVEY:

- Released by **National Statistical Office**.
- **LFPR** - percentage of persons working or seeking or available for work. Labour Force Participation Rate in urban areas increased.
- **WPR** - percentage of employed persons in the population. The Worker Population Ration in urban dropped.

- **Unemployment Rate** - percentage of persons unemployed among the persons in labour force. The unemployment rate of people in the age of 15 years and above was 10.3%. Unemployment rate of urban male and female decreased comparing to previous year.
- **Labour Force** - part of population that supplies labour for the production of goods and services.

## 5. INFINITY FORUM:

- **Forum on FinTech** will be inaugurated by PM on 3rd December.
- **Theme** - "Beyond"
- Event is being hosted by **International Financial Service Centres Authority** under Government of India in collaboration with **GIFT city and Bloomberg**.
- **Partner countries** for first edition - Indonesia, South Africa, UK.
- IFSCA headquarters at GIFT city, **Gandhinagar, Gujarat** - established under the **IFSCA act, 2019**.

## 6. CYCLONE JAWAD :

- India Meteorological Department (IMD) informed that low pressure region in the Bay of Bengal is expected to intensify into **Cyclone Jawad** and is expected to reach coast of North Andhra Pradesh – Odisha around morning of Saturday 4th December 2021, with the wind speed ranging up to 100 kmph.
- It is likely to cause heavy rainfall in the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh, Odisha & W.Bengal
- Cyclone Jawad is the first cyclonic storm after the southwest monsoon ended
- The cyclone was named Jawad by **Saudi Arabia**, meaning generous or merciful in Arabic

## 7. KRISHI UDAN 2.0 :

- The scheme primarily focuses on transporting perishable food products from the hilly areas, northeastern states and tribal areas.
- The scheme aims to ensure seamless, cost-effective, time-bound air transportation and associated logistics for all Agri-produce originating especially from Northeast, hilly and tribal regions of the country.
- **Objective:** To increase the share of air in the modal mix for transportation of Agri-produce, which includes horticulture, fishery, livestock & processed products.
- Government has not sanctioned any budget for the Scheme so far.
- Primarily the scheme was focusing on 25 airports of NER, Hilly and Tribal region. Subsequently, other 28 Airports of Airports Authority of India(AAI) have been included in the Scheme.

## 8. TROIKA :

- Recently, India joined the **G20 'Troika'** and with this **India has started the procedure** for taking over the **G20** presidency next year.
- It refers to the **top grouping within the G20** that consists of the previous, current and the incoming presidencies — **Italy, Indonesia and India**
- India will **assume the G20 presidency** on **1<sup>st</sup> December 2022** from Indonesia, and will convene the **G20 Leaders' Summit for the first time** in India in **2023**.

### About G20 :

- It is an informal group of 19 countries and the **European Union (EU)**, with representatives of the **International Monetary Fund** and the **World Bank**.
- It does not have a **permanent secretariat or Headquarters**.

## 9. NATIONAL EXPORT INSURANCE ACCOUNT SCHEME :

- Government approves continuation of the National Export Insurance Account (NEIA) scheme and infusion of Rs. 1,650 crore Grant-in-Aid over 5 years.
- The NEIA Trust was set up in **2006** to promote project exports from India that could be of strategic and national importance.
- To **facilitate medium and long-term exports, which are commercially viable**, considering the limitations of the ECGC Limited in providing adequate cover on its own and non-availability of reinsurance cover to such exporters.
- NEIA aims to **ensure the availability of credit risk cover for projects and other high-value exports**, which are desirable from the point of view of national interest, but which ECGC is unable to underwrite at terms which will not affect the competitiveness of the exports.

## 10. INTENSIFIED MISSION INDRADANUSH 3.0 :

- Two rounds of **Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 3.0** of 15 days' duration were conducted recently, to reach out to the pregnant women and children who missed vaccination under routine immunisation programmes in 250 districts across 29 states/UTs.

### About IMI 3.0 :

- It is a campaign aimed **to reach those children and pregnant women** who have been missed out or been left out of the Routine Immunisation Programme.
- **AIM** : To accelerate the full immunization of children and pregnant women through a mission mode intervention.
- Beneficiaries from **migration areas and hard to reach areas will be targeted** as they may have missed their vaccine doses during the pandemic
- As per the guidelines released for IMI 3.0, the districts have been classified to reflect 313 low risk; 152 medium risk; and 250 high risk districts.

### **11. India and SriLanka - 4 pillar initiative:**

- Lines of credit for Food, medicines and fuel purchases granted by India.
- A currency swap agreement to deal with SriLanka's Balance of Payments issues.
- Early modernization project of Trinco oil farms.
- SriLankan commitment to facilitate Indian investments.

### **12. Facial recognition at airports by 2022:**

- Airports at **Varanasi, Pune, Kolkata and Vijayawada** will be the first to roll-out facial recognition technology based biometric boarding system.
- **Service will go live by March 2022.**
- As a part of DigiYatra .
- **DigiYatra** – seeks to promote paperless air travel, seamless journey from entry till boarding a plane.

### **13. Woman-of-the-year award:**

- **By World Athletics.**
- Awarded to **Anju Bobby george.**
- For grooming talent in country and advocating gender equality.

### **14. PMGDISHA – (Prime Minister Digital Saksharta Abhiyan):**

- Part of **Digital India Mission.**
- Aim – making one person in every family digitally literate by march 2020.
- Empower citizens in rural areas by training them to operate digital devices.

### **15. Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Bill–2020 – features:**

- End to illegal trafficking in embryos.
- Mistreatment of the poor coerced by their circumstances into donating eggs or sperm.
- LGBTQIA+ and single men excluded.

### 16. NATO – North Atlantic Treaty Organisation:

- Intergovernmental military treaty alliance.
- Established by Washington Treaty on 1949.
- Headquarters – Brussels, Belgium.
- Currently 30 members present (recent member– **North Macedonia**).

### 17. Places in News –Ukraine, Crimea, Donbas Region:



### 18. INDIAN NAVY DAY:

- Annually on **December 4** to recognize and acknowledge the role and achievements of the Indian Navy.
- This day is celebrated to mark the anniversary of **Operation Trident** which was launched during the **Indo-Pak war in 1971**.

### 19. COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT:

- It is an **economic deal** signed between **India and UAE** in 2017 - **free trade pact**.
- As of March 2021, **UAE is the 3rd largest investor in India**.
- **Major imports** to India from UAE - petroleum products, stones, jewellery, gems.
- **Major exports** - minerals, precious metals, gems.

## 20. NATIONAL BLOCKCHAIN STRATEGY:

- Recently proposed by the **Ministry of Electronics and IT**.
- Adopted **multi institutional approach** and it involves National Informatics Centre, Centre for Development of Advanced Computing and National Informatics Centre Services Inc for offering blockchain as service.
- **Aim** - to provide trusted **digital platform** for providing **e-governance** services using **blockchain technology**.

## 21. AGRO - CLIMATIC ZONES:

- Agro - Climatic Zone is a **land that is suitable for growing particular type of crop**.
- It has two major variants - **climate and growing period**.
- There are **15 agro climatic zones in India**.
- The Indian Council of Agricultural Research launched **National Agricultural Research Project** to set up zonal research centres in each agro - climatic zone.

## 22. RE-HAB PROJECT:

- Buoyed by the success of innovative **RE-HAB project in Karnataka, KVIC has now replicated the project in Assam**.
- Reducing Elephant - Human Attacks using Bees(RE-HAB) - under this project, **Bee fences** are created by setting up bee boxes in the passage ways of elephants to block their entrance to human territories.
- It is a **cost effective way of reducing human wild conflicts without causing any harm to the animals**.
- **Project RE-HAB is a sub mission of KVIC's National Honey Mission**.

## 23. SANDHAYAK:

- The first of the four **survey vessels (large) project** being built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers, Kolkata for **Indian Navy**.
- These ships will replace the existing Sandhayak class survey ships.
- **Role** - to conduct full scale **coastal and deep water hydrographic survey of ports and harbours** and **determination of navigational channels/routes**. Also be deployed for **collecting oceanographic and geophysical data for sentence as well as civil applications**.

## 24. CULTURAL MAPPING:

- Cultural mapping of 80 villages - **pilot project under Ministry of Culture.**
- From **Serampore in Kashmir to Kanjirapally in Kerala** - connection to the **freedom movement** as well as those with their **own art practices** have been selected for the project.
- Project being conducted by **Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts.**
- **Aim** - to create a database related to our villages and the culture, customs and traditions there.

## 25. S-GENE DROPOUT:

- The **missing S-Gene** is one of the proxy indicators for **detection and diagnosis of Omicron COVID variant.** It is termed as **S gene dropout or S gene target failure**, which is a **marker to identify the Omicron variant.**
- **Three target genes** - S(spike), N2(nucleocapsid or inner area), E(envelope or outer shell).
- **S-gene** refers to the gene that codes for the **spike protein**, or the most distinctive part of the corona virus.

## 26. EKUVERIN:

- **11th edition** of joint **Indo-Maldives army** training exercise.
- Conducted at **Kadhoo island, Maldives.**
- The exercise will enhance **synergy and interoperability** between armed forces of both nations in terms of **understanding transnational terrorism both on land and at sea**, conducting **counter terrorism and counter insurgency operations** and sharing **best military practices and experiences.**

## 27. APEDA:

- **In news** - APEDA organized **Agri-Export Conference cum Buyer Seller Meet at Mirzapur.**
- The Agricultural and Processed Food Products and Export Development Authority(**APEDA**) - was established by the **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority act, 1985** - under **Ministry of Commerce and Industry.**
- It replaced the **Processed Food Export Promotion Council.**

## 28. Default Bail:

- Also known as **“Statutory Bail”.**

- **It is a right to bail that accrues when police fail to complete investigation within a specified period in respect of a person in judicial custody.**
- A magistrate cannot authorise a person's judicial remand beyond **60** days or **90** days (90 days only where offence attracts death sentence or life imprisonment or a jail term of not less than 10 years)
- At the end of this period if the investigation is not completed, the court shall release the person in bail.

### **29. The KONYAKS: (recent killing of 6 civilians in Nagaland – belong to konyak tribe)**

- They are present in Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and to some extent in Myanmar.
- Known to be the fiercest warrior tribes in Nagaland.
- MON – only district where insurgents have not set their base camp – due to resistance from konyaks.
- They were the last to give up practice of **HEAD hunting**.

### **30. Hypersonic Weapons:**

- Manoeuvrable weapons that can fly at speeds in excess of Mach 5 (5 times the speed of sound).
- Travel within the atmosphere and can manoeuvre midway, this along with its high speed makes its detection and interception extremely difficult.
- **India** – operates approx. 12 hypersonic wind tunnels and is capable of testing up to **MACH 13**.
- **India** – developing indigenous, dual-capable hypersonic cruise missile as a part of HSTDV program (Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle)

### **31. DHAWAN -I:**

- India's **first privately developed**, fully cryogenic rocket engine.
- Runs on 2 high performance rocket propellants – **Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) and Liquid Oxygen (LoX)**.
- By Hyderabad based **Skyroot Aerospace** which successfully test-fired it.
- The engine was developed using **3D printing technology with a superalloy**.
- **Vikram -2** – going to be the **first private space launch vehicle** using this cryogenic engine in 2 years.



### 32. HORNBILL FESTIVAL:

- It is called the '**Festivals of Festivals**' - 10 day annual cultural fest of **Nagaland**.
- It showcases the **rich and diverse Naga ethnicity** through folk dances, traditional music, local cuisine, handicraft, art workshops etc.,
- It is named after the **Indian Hornbill Bird**. It is common in tropical and subtropical Asia, Africa and Melanesia.
- **IUCN status - Near Threatened.**

### 33. PANEX-21:

- It is a **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Exercise** - multi national disaster relief exercise.
- The exercise is to be held among **BIMSTEC countries**.
- BIMSTEC countries - **Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, India and Thailand.**
- **Aim** - to build regional cooperation in responding to natural disasters.

### 34. BASTION SYSTEM:

- Recently, the Russian Military deployed its defence missile systems Bastion systems to the Matua island.
- **Bastion system - coastal defence missile system** are capable of hitting sea targets upto a range of 500 kilometres.
- **Matua - an uninhabited volcanic island** located in the **Kuril Islands** chain in the Sea of Okhotsk.
- It is in the northwest Pacific Ocean and are located on the **Ring of Fire**.

### 35. NAI MANZIL SCHEME:

- Launched by the **Ministry of Minority Affairs in 2015**.
- **Objective** - to equip the minority youth with employable skills.
- Mainly focuses on **minority youth** in the **age group of 17 to 35 years**.
- The scheme reserves **30% seat for minority girls**.

### 36. INDIA RUSSIA SUMMIT 2021:

- **21st India Russia summit**.
- Agreed to **extend the military and technical cooperation** by another ten years.
- Reserve Bank of India and Bank of Russia signed pact to **respond to cyberattacks**.

- **2+2 dialogue** - held between the external affairs and defence ministers of the countries - signed several military agreements.

### **37. SHE IS A CHANGE MAKER PROGRAMME:**

- Launched by **National Commission for Women** for **women politicians**.
- Pan India **capacity building programme for women representatives** at all levels, from gram panchayats to the parliament including political workers and office bearers of national and state level political parties.
- **NCW - Statutory body** - established on **1992** - advises the government on all policy matters affecting women.

### **38. BRAHMOS SUPERSONIC MISSILE:**

- India successfully test fired **air version of BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile**.
- Tested from the integrated test range of **Chandipur, off Odisha coast**.
- **BrahMos** - product of collaboration between **India and Russia**. The **offensive missile weapon system** has also been **inducted into the Indian Armed Forces**.

### **39. RBI MONETARY POLICY STATEMENT:**

- RBI Monetary Policy Committee has decided to keep the **policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility unchanged at 4%** based on the assessment of the evolving macroeconomic situation.
- **Monetary Policy Committee - statutory and institutionalised framework** under the **RBI Act, 1934** for maintaining price stability.
- The committee comprises **six members** and the **Governor of RBI is ex-officio chairman of the MPC**.

### **40. FLATBILL FLYCATCHER:**

- New species of **bird** named Flatbill flycatcher have been **discovered in South America**.
- The newly discovered species has been named as **cryptic flatbill** after it's remarkable **morphological cryptic nature**, it strongly contrasts with its **high levels of vocal and genetic differentiation**.

#### 41. WORLD MALARIA REPORT:

- Released by **World Health Organisation**.
- WHO updates the **WHO Global Technical Strategy for Malaria 2016-2030**.
- **India** is responsible for **83% of cases in WHO South-East Asia Region**.

#### 42. CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF:

- **India's first CDS General Bipin Rawat** died in Indian Air Force chopper crashed near Coonoor, Tamil Nadu.
- **CDS - Single point military advisor** to the government as suggested by **Kargil Review Committee in 1999**.
- CDS acts as the **permanent chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee**.

#### 43. GURU TEJ BAHADUR (1621-1675) :

- The **ninth Sikh Guru**, often venerated as the '**Protector of Humanity**' (**Srisht-di-Chadar**) by the Sikhs
- His writings are housed in the sacred text, '**Guru Granth Sahib**,' in the form of 116 poetic hymns
- He founded the **town of Chak-Nanki** in Punjab, which **later became a part of Punjab's Anandpur Sahib**
- In the year 1675, Guru Tegh Bahadur was executed in Delhi under the **orders of the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb**

#### 44. SHAYAMA PRASAD MUKHERJI RURBAN MISSION :

- It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)**, launched in 2016 by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)
- To **deliver integrated project based infrastructure in the rural areas**, which also include development of economic activities and skill development
- Main objective of the scheme is **bridging the rural-urban divide**-viz: economic, technological and those related to facilities and services

#### 45. WORLD INEQUALITY REPORT , 2022 :

- Released by **the World Inequality Lab**, a research center at the Paris School of Economics.
- The WIR studies different kinds of financial data to find out how a country's (and the world's) income and wealth are distributed

#### Key findings of the report :

- The richest 10% of the global population takes home 52% of the global income, whereas the poorest 50% got only 8.5% of it
- Inequality between countries was narrowing while inequality within countries was increasing
- **India is one of the world's most unequal countries**, with the top 1% getting 21.7% of the national income.
- Top 10% of Indians capture 57% of the national income, while the share of the bottom 50% is only 13%.
- While the average national income of the bottom 50% stood at ₹53,610, the top 10% earned more than 20 times more, ₹11,66,520

#### 46. KEN – BETWA LINK PROJECT :

- The project involves transferring of water from the Ken river to the Betwa river through the construction of Daudhan dam and a canal linking the two rivers, **the Lower Orr Project, Kotha Barrage and the Bina Complex Multipurpose Project**

#### 47. Ambergis – “Floating Gold”:

- Means **Gray amber** in French.
- A waxy substance that originates from the digestive system of the protected **sperm whales**.
- Incorrectly referred to as **whale vomit**.
- Used to make perfumes, also used to flavor food, alcoholic beverages and tobacco.

#### 48. Ken-Betwa interlinking river project:

- Transfer of water from Ken to Betwa through construction of “Daudhan Dam” and a canal, the lower Orr project Kotha Barrage and Bina complex Multipurpose project.
- Benefits water starved **Bundelkhand region** Spread across Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.
- R.Betwa and R.Ken – tributaries of R.Yamuna.

#### 49. Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer (IXPE):

- X-ray telescope launched by Nasa through Space X Falcon 9 rocket.
- Joint collaboration of NASA and Italian Space Agency.
- Explore black holes and Pulsars and the X-rays emitted by them.
- 1<sup>st</sup> mission that will map polarisation of space objects.
- It will determine the radiation processes of specific cosmic X-ray sources.

### 50. SPONGE City:

- New urban construction mode for flood management and to strengthen ecological infrastructure and drainage systems.
- Proposed by Chinese researchers in 2000.
- Helps alleviate Urban flooding, Urban Heat Island and water resources shortage.

### 51. Saryu Canal Project:

- Biggest in Uttar Pradesh.
- Under this 5 rivers – Ghagra, Rapti, Banganga, Saryu and Rohini have been connected.
- R.Saryu – Origin – Nandakot mountain in Bageshwar District of Uttarakhand.
- This project will provide assured water for **irrigation purposes** and will **benefit nine districts in Eastern Uttar Pradesh**.

### 52. Lakshadweep – Declared an Organic Union territory:

- Entire group of islands declared ORGANIC under the **Participatory Guarantee System (PGS)** of India.
- First UT to become 100% organic as all farming carried out without synthetic fertilizers and pesticides.
- PGS – implemented by Min. Of Agriculture and Farmer's welfare.
- PGS is a process of certifying organic products and applicable only to farm activities such as crop production, processing, livestock rearing and off-farm processing.

### 53. WORLD TALENT RANKING REPORT:

- **Annual** publication by the **IMD World Competitive Centre**.
- In the report, **Europe** has **dominated** the ranking in 2021. **Switzerland** has retained its **top slot**.
- **IMD** - International Institute for Management and Development - **independent academic institution**.

### 54. ZERO COVID POLICY:

- Recently, **Hong Kong** implemented its new '**Zero Covid Policy**'.
- It has **followed China's lead** in adopting zero covid strategy.
- The strategy has led to **toughest quarantine** and **testing measures** worldwide and has **kept infections low**.

### 55. e-SAWARI INDIA ELECTRIC BUS COALITION:

- **NITI Aayog** in association with **Convergence Energy Service Limited** and **World Resource Institute, India** launched the '**e-Sawari India e-Bus Coalition**'.
- This is also supported by **Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative**.
- With the launch of this coalition, central government agencies, city level government agencies, original equipment manufacturers, transit service providers, financing institutions, and ancillary service providers would be **able to share their learnings and knowledge on e-Bus adoption in India**.

#### **56. UNGA GRANTED OBSERVER STATUS TO ISA:**

- United Nation General Assembly has **granted observer status** to International Solar Alliance.
- **ISA** - treaty based **inter governmental organization** - with the objective of working for **efficient consumption of solar energy** in a bid to **reduce dependence on fossil fuels**.
- **UNGA** - one among the six principal organs of the UN. It serves as the main **policy making, deliberative and representative organ of the UN**.

#### **57. STAND-OFF ANTI-TANK (SANT) MISSILE:**

- **DRDO** and **IAF** flight tested the **indigenously designed and developed Helicopter launched SANT Missile** from **Pokhran ranges**.
- It has been designed and developed by **Research Centre Imarat, Hyderabad** in coordination with DRDO labs and participation from industries.
- Other indigenous stand-off weapons tested recently - **long range bomb, smart anti airfield weapon**.

#### **58. JYOTIRLINGAM TEMPLES:**

- **Ministry of Tourism** under its **Dekho Apna Desh Initiative** organised a **webinar** on Jyotirlingam Temples of Maharashtra.
- **Jyotirlingas** - shrines **enshrining Shiva** in the form of a Jyotirlingas.
- **Dekho Apna Desh** - webinar that caters in-depth information about tourist destinations in the country and also provides details about culture and heritage of India.

#### **59. PINAKA - ER:**

- **Upgraded version** of the earlier version of Pinaka.

- **Extended Range Pinaka Multi Barrel Rocket Launcher System** has been successfully tested at **Rajasthan's Pokhran Range**.
- It has been designed by **DRDO Laboratory Armament Research and Development Establishment** with the **High Energy Materials Research Laboratory in Pune**.
- **Objective** - longer range performance. The enhanced range of Pinaka rockets is capable of destroying targets at distances up to 45 km.

#### **60. SWARNIM VIJAY PARV:**

- It will be celebrated at **India Gate, New Delhi** on December 12-13, 2021.
- **To commemorate 50 years of India's historic victory in the 1971 war and the Indo-Bangladesh friendship.**
- Major weapons and equipments used during the 1971 war will be displayed along with the snippets of major battles.

#### **61. V.V. GIRI NATIONAL LABOUR INSTITUTE:**

- **50th meeting** of the General Council of the institute was held under the **chairmanship of Union Labour and Employment Minister**.
- Institute under the **Ministry of Labour** - an **autonomous civil service training institute** - established in **1974** - headquartered at **Noida, Uttar Pradesh**.
- It is dedicated to the research in the field of labour and training of civil servants which includes labour administrators, trade unions, public sector managers and other government functionaries concerned with labour.

#### **62. IUCN RED LIST:**

- Number of species at risk of extinction in the IUCN red list has exceeded 40,000 for the first time.
- **Red list of IUCN**(International Union for Conservation of Nature) - founded in **1964**.
- It is the **most comprehensive inventory** of conservation status of biological species of the world.
- **Primary goal** - to provide scientific information on the status of species and subspecies at international level.

#### **63. NATIONAL HELPLINE AGAINST ATROCITIES:**

- Launched by **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**.

- **Aim** - to ensure proper implementation of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes(Prevention of Atrocities) act, 1989.
- National helpline against atrocities will be round the clock on toll-free number **14566** across the country.

#### **64. PAPERLESS DUBAI:**

- **Dubai** has become the **very first government in the world** to turn **100% paperless**.
- **Paperless Strategy** - 100% of the internal processes and customer facing services were to be digitized. Dubai's Strategy means that the government will **no longer be issuing or asking for paper documents** across all of its operations.

#### **65. KASHI VISHWANATH DHAM:**

- Kashi Vishwanath Corridor Project connects the **Kashi Vishwanath Temple to the banks of River Ganga in Varanasi**.
- It was conceptualised as a project to create an accessible pathway to connect Temple to the banks of the River.
- **Significance of temple** - the Jyotirling of Kashi Vishwanath Temple is considered to be most important among other twelve Jyotirlingas.
- **12 Jyotirlingas** - Somnath, Nageshwar, Bhimashankar, Trimbakeshwar, Grishneshwar, Vaidyanath, Mahakaleshwar, Omkareshwar, Kashi Vishwanath, Kedarnath, Rameshwaram and Mallikarjuna.

#### **66. CELEBRATING INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM:**

- Event hosted by **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade**.
- **Objective** - bring together the country's key startups, entrepreneurs, investors, policy makers and other national and international stakeholders for a specially curated event on innovation and entrepreneurship.
- **Partnering agencies** - NITI Aayog, department of science and technology, department of bio technology, MeitY, DPIIT, Invest India and more.

#### **67. MISS UNIVERSE:**

- **Harnaaz Sandhu** from **India** has become the **new Miss Universe after 21 years**.
- The **70th Miss Universe 2021** was held in **Eilat, Israel**.



- Indians who won this title before - **Sushmita Sen** in 1994 and **Lara Dutta** in 2000.

#### **68. SMART:**

- India successfully launched **Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo System** from **Abdul Kalam Island, off the Odisha coast**.
- It is a **next generation, missile based stand off torpedo delivery system**.
- **DRDO** has developed the weapon for Indian Navy.
- It has been designed to **enhance** the **anti-submarine warfare capability**.

#### **69. NATIONAL SUMMIT ON AGRO AND FOOD PROCESSING:**

- This summit is being organised as part of '**Vibrant Gujarat Summit**' - scheduled to be held in **Anand, Gujarat** from December 14 to 16.
- During the event, farmers will get to **know** and **learn** about **practice and benefits of Natural Farming**.
- **Zero Budget Natural Farming** - promising tool for minimising the dependence of farmers on purchased inputs and reducing the cost of agriculture by using traditional field based technologies.

#### **70. ASIAN DEVELOPMENT OUTLOOK:**

- **Asian Development Outlook 2021** released by **Asian Development Bank**. It is an **annual** publication. It offers **economic analysis and forecasts**.
- For 2022, it forecasted the growth of 5.3%. ADB has reduced its 2021 growth forecast to 9.7% for India as opposed to the 10% estimate of September 2021.
- **ADB** - Regional Development Bank. Established on **1966**. It is headquartered in **Philippines**. Currently, it has **68 members**.

#### **71. ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT ROJGAR YOJANA:**

- **Maharashtra** has topped the list of states with highest number of beneficiaries.
- This scheme was launched in October 2020 during pandemic for generating jobs - as **part of Atmanirbhar Bharat package 3.0**.
- It was **launched to incentivise employers** and **provide them social security benefits** and **restore the loss of employment amid the pandemic**.

#### **72. UMIYA MATA TEMPLE:**

- Temple of **Goddess Umiya**.
- Location - **Gujarat**.
- Worshipped as the **clan deity of Kadava Patidars community**.
- **An Umiya Mata temple** was **also commissioned** by the Kadava Patidar Samaj in **Macon, Georgia** in 2013.

### **73. Prompt Corrective Action(PCA):**

- RBI brought in **NBFCs** (Non-Banking Financial Companies) under PCA and will be implemented from oct 2022.
- Under PCA, the NBFCs will face restrictions when parameters such as Capital Adequacy Ratio, Non-Performing Assets and Tier-1 capital requirements are not met.
- **Already Banks are under PCA of RBI.**
- It is applicable for all **Deposit taking NBFCs**.
- **Exclusion** : Govt. NBFCs, Housing Finance Companies, Primary dealers and **Non-Deposit taking NBFCs**.

### **74. Chabahar Port:**

- Located in **IRAN**, 10 Kms from Gwadar port, Pakistan
- It is the only oceanic port of Iran.
- Provides alternate route for trade between India and Afghanistan.
- It comprises of 2 separate ports – **Shahid Behesti** and **Shahid Kalantari**.
- 2017 – first shipment of wheat sent to Afghanistan from India.

### **75. SOLAR HAMAM:**

- Locally designed and branded **Heating system**.
- Provide clean energy solutions to Households across mountainous regions.
- Provides an anti-freezing outlet, 15-18 litres of hot water within first solar illumination at max. 90 degrees Celsius.
- Awarded "Himachal Pradesh Innovation Award" 2016-17.

### **76. Chardham Project:**

- By Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
- To provide an all weather connectivity to 4 holy towns of Uttarakhand .
- Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri.
- Strategic 900 Kms project.
- Supreme court has allowed widening of roads for : Rishikesh to Gangotri, Rishikesh to Mana and Tanakpur to Pithoragarh – considering security reasons.

### 77. Co-Lending (or Co-Origination) model:

- 2018, introduced by RBI.
- It is a set up where Banks and NBFCs enter into an arrangement for joint contribution of credit for **Priority Sector Lending**.
- Both share risks and rewards.
- This is to improve credit flow to unserved and underserved public.

### 78. PARKER SOLAR PROBE:

- **NASA's Parker Solar Probe** successfully entered the Sun's Corona.
- Parker Solar Probe was launched with the **objective** of making **observations of outer corona of the sun**.
- It is the **first spacecraft by NASA, named after a living person, Eugene Newman Parker**.
- **Corona** - outermost layer of sun's atmosphere.

### 79. CHIEF OF STAFF COMMITTEE:

- **Indian Army Chief Gen MM Naravane** has taken charge as the chairman of Chief of Staff Committee.
- **Chairman of the chief of staff committee** was the head of the Indian Armed Forces.
- After the creation of Chief of Defence Staff, **CDS became the permanent chairman of the Chief of Staff Committee**.
- The chief of staff committee consists of the head of each branch of the armed forces.
- They advice on the operational military matters as well as on the preparation and conduct of the military operations.

### 80. VIJAY DIWAS 2021:

- Vijay Diwas on **December 16, 2021** - marks the **50th anniversary** celebrations of India's glorified victory over Pakistan in the **1971 Bangladesh Liberation war**.
- Bangladesh Liberation in 1971 was an armed conflict that was sparked by the rise of Bengali Nationalists in then East Pakistan.
- **Operation Searchlight** - West Pakistan launched - to pursue the systematic elimination of nationalist Bengali civilians in East Pakistan.
- India played a crucial role in Bangladesh Liberation war.

### 81. PRADHAN MANTRI KRISHI SINCHAYEE YOJANA:

- Cabinet committee **approved** implementation of **PMKSY for 2021-26**.

- As a part of the scheme, Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme, Watershed Development and Har Khet Ko Paani **components** have been **extended**.
- **PMKSY** - launched in **2015** - **umbrella scheme** that provides central grants to the state government for specific activities.
- **AIBP** - providing financial support to irrigation projects.
- **Har Khet Ko Paani** - enhance the physical access on farm and expansion of cultivable area under assured irrigation.

## **82. INDIAN OCEAN DIALOGUE:**

- **8th dialogue** held recently. It was **jointly hosted by External Affairs Ministry and Indian Council of World Affairs**.
- **Theme** - "Leveraging Digital Technologies for Health, Education, Development, and Trade in Indian Ocean Rim Association member states".
- **IORA** - Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation and Indian Ocean Rim Initiative. It is an **international organisation** comprising of **23 states** which share borders with the Indian Ocean.

## **83. SSLV – Small Satellite Launch Vehicle:**

- 3 stage **all solid** vehicle.
- Has capability to launch upto **500 Kg** satellite mass into **500 Km** Low Earth Orbit.
- It is being developed with **private partnership**.
- First developmental flight is planned in 2022.
- Flexibility in accommodating **multiple satellites**.
- Developed mainly to cater the emerging global small satellite launch service market.

## **84. Green Hydrogen Microgrid Project:**

- First to be set up at **Simhadri** near Vishakaptnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- A precursor to large-scale Hydrogen energy storage.
- Hydrogen produced during sunshine hours will be stored at high pressure and electrified.

## **85. Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana:**

- **Launched in 2020 to boost employment in the formal sector**.
- Provides subsidy for provident fund contribution for adding new employees to establishments registered with EPFO.
- **Maharashtra** topped the list of states with maximum beneficiaries under the scheme.

- The organization of upto **1000 employees** would receive Employee's contribution (12% of wages) and Employer's contribution (12% of wages) totaling **24% for 2 years**.
- The scheme is to incentivize creation of new employment opportunities during COVID 19 recovery phase under Atmanirbhar Bharat-3.0.

### 86. Durga Puja:

- Festival in **KOLKATA**.
- Added to the UNESCO's list of Intangible Culture.
- This is the **first festival in Asia** to achieve recognition as UNESCO **ICH of Humanity**.
- UNESCO's list of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) – it is an **annual list** which focuses on form of performing art which are of outstanding value but are vulnerable due lack of support.
- Convention for the safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage was adopted in 2003, India ratified it in 2007.
- Total – **14 Intangible cultural elements from India** – is in the list.

### 87. Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty-MLAT:(Cabinet approved MLAT - between **India and Poland**):

- MLATs in **criminal matters** are the **bilateral** treaties for providing international co-operation and assistance.
- They allow for exchange of evidence and information in criminal and related matters between the signing countries.
- India so far has entered into MLATs with 42 countries.

### 88. AGNI P:

- **DRDO** successfully tested **the new generation nuclear capable ballistic missile Agni P**.
- Launched from **Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island** off the coast of **Odisha**.
- **Agni P** - two stage canisterised solid propellant, **medium range ballistic missile** developed by DRDO.
- **Sixth missile** in the **Agni series** of ballistic missile.
- It is the **smallest and lightest missile** among entire Agni series of ballistic missiles.

### 89. ALGO TRADING:

- **SEBI's proposal** on Algo Trading.

- **Algorithmic Trading** is a method to **execute orders** using **automated pre-programmed trading instructions** accounting for variables like price, time, and volume.
- **SEBI - Regulatory body** for **securities and commodity market** in India. Works under the **Ministry of Finance**. It is a **statutory body** by the **SEBI Act, 1992**.

#### **90. NGADAG PEL GI KHORLO:**

- **Bhutan's highest civilian award.**
- **Conferred to Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.**
- It was conferred on the occasion of **Bhutan's National day** which was observed on **December 17**.
- This day **marks the crowing of Ugyen Wangchuck** as **first Druk Gyalpo of modern Bhutan.**
- **Druk Gyalpo** - the head of state of Bhutan. **Bhutan** is also known as **Drukylu**, in the **Dzongkha language.**

#### **91. COVOVAX VACCINE:**

- **WHO** has given its **approval for the emergency use** of **COVOVAX** Corona virus vaccine.
- Manufactured by the **Serum Institute of India** under the license of the US company Novavax.
- Nine covid 19 vaccines, including Covovax have been given the emergency or full use approval by WHO.
- **Nine vaccines** - Pfizer, Covishield, Vaxzevria, Sinopharm, Moderna, Janssen, CoronaVac, Covaxin, Covovax.

#### **92. INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY:**

- International Migrants day observed every year on **December 18**.
- To focus on the issues faced by the migrants and their contribution towards developing an inclusive society.
- **Theme 2021 - 'Harnessing the potential of human mobility'.**
- **UNGA - 1999** - created the international **convention on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and members of their families.**

#### **93. MORMUGAO:**

- Indian Navy's **second indigenous stealth destroyer** of the **Project 15B** class.
- Planned to be **commissioned in mid 2022**. And it will add significantly to the Indian Navy's combat capabilities.
- It is being built at **Mazgaon Dock Shipbuilders Limited.**

#### 94. CONTROLLED AERIAL DELIVERY SYSTEM:

- Aerial Delivery Research Development Establishment(**ADRDE**), an **R and D laboratory of DRDO** conducted flight demonstration of **CADS**.
- CADS capacity - **500 kg**.
- It is used for **precise delivery of payload** upto 500 kg at **predetermined location**.
- ADRDE located at **Agra**.

#### 95. PARVOVIRUS:

- **Highly contagious viral disease** among **dogs**.
- It **affects** the **intestinal tract** of canines with puppies.
- **Symptoms** - bloody diarrhoea, vomiting, drastic weight loss, lethargy.
- It reported **90% mortality rate**. It has **no cure** and can be **prevented through vaccination of puppies** within 6 to 8 weeks.

#### 96. PRASHASHAN GAON KI AUR:

- **Good Governance week** celebration on **20th to 25th December** as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebration.
- **Theme** of Good Governance Week - **Prashasan Gaon Ki Aur**.
- It is a **nation wide campaign** for redressal of public grievances and improving service delivery. It will be **held in all Districts, States and Union Territories**.

#### 97. INDIA - CENTRAL ASIA DIALOGUE:

- The **3rd meeting** of the **India-Central Asia dialogue** was held in **New Delhi**.
- Under the **chairmanship of the External Affairs Minister of India**.
- **Participants** - Foreign Affairs Ministers of **Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan**.
- This will help the nations in further strengthening of relations with India focusing on **trade, connectivity and development cooperation** and also **exchange views on regional and international issues or mutual interest**.

#### 98. Poshan Tracker:

- App - Launched in 2018 - by Ministry of Women and Child Development
- To help make India malnutrition free.
- Available in 22 languages.

- Records real-time data on malnourished and severe-acute malnourished children in each Anganwadi.

### 99. Pegasus:

#### Spyware.

- By Israeli cyberarms firm NSO group.
- Helps spies to hack into mobile phones.

#### Netwire:

- It is a Remote Access Trojan (RAT).
- First surfaced in 2012.
- Gives control of infected system to an attacker.
- Can log keystrokes and compromises Passwords.

### 100. Islamic Development Bank:

- **International financial institution by Finance Ministers at the 1<sup>st</sup> OIC (Organisation of Islamic Cooperation) in 1973.**
- Formally opened in 1975.
- To foster economic development and social progress of member countries and muslim communities in accordance with Sharia Law.
- Present members - 56.
- First Branch of India – in 2016 at Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- **India – not a member.**

### 101. Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative:

- Worldwide program of WHO and UNICEF.
- Launched in 1992 in India following the adoption of the **INNOCENTI Declaration** on Breastfeeding promotion in **1990**.
- An accreditation program called “Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative” – initiated **only for private hospitals** by Breastfeeding Program Network of India (BPNI) and Association of Healthcare Providers in India (AHPI).
- This accreditation initiative is based on MAA program of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Helps Hospital to get a **Breast feeding-friendly tag**.
- **MAA program (Mother’s Absolute Affection)** – a nationwide program – launched in 2016 to support Breastfeeding practices through health systems. This is **for Government Hospitals**.

### 102. First Jumbos for Gadchiroli district, Maharashtra:



- **Chanda Hathni** herd of 22 elephants reached new habitat of Gadchiroli from Chattisgarh.
- Gadchiroli – tribal dominated village, 76% of its area is covered by forests.
- Main river basin –Godavari while vainganga, Pranhita and Dina are other rivers flowing through the district.
- The district **doesnothaveanyrecords** of regular or resident elephants.

### 103. T-SETU:

- **Odisha's** longest bridge.
- Constructed over **Mahanadi river** in Cuttack district.
- It is 3.4 km long and 7.5 m wide bridge.
- It has been built in the **shape of english alphabet 'T'**.
- Bridge connects **Gopinathpur in Badamba, Baideswar in Banki to Singhanath Pitha**, which is located in middle of Mahanadi river.

### 104. JUNO MISSION:

- **Juno** - NASA's space probe, covering **planet Jupiter**. It is **operated by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory**.
- It is the **second spacecraft to orbit Jupiter**. First space craft was nuclear powered **Galileo orbiter**.
- Recently, NASA released the noises captured by the Juno Mission, near **Jupiter's moon Ganymede**.
- **Ganymede** is the **largest and most massive moon** as well as **ninth largest object** of the solar system.

### 105. INTERNATIONAL HUMAN SOLIDARITY DAY:

- The day is observed every year on **December 20 by United Nations**.
- It is celebrated to **promote the culture of cooperation, equality and social justice**.
- It acts as a reminder for governments across the world to respect their commitments towards international agreements.

### 106. ARMoured ENGINEER RECONNAISSANCE VEHICLE:

- The first set of **indigenously developed next generation Armoured Engineer Reconnaissance Vehicle** was inducted into **Indian Army**.
- It has been **designed by DRDO** and manufactured by Ordnance Factory Medak and Bharat Electronics Limited, Pune.

- The system will enhance existing engineer reconnaissance capabilities of Indian Army and would be a major game changer in support of mechanised operations in future conflicts.

#### **107. UAE TO END CENSORSHIP:**

- **UAE administration** decided to **end censorship in cinematic releases**, in a bid to attract foreigners.
- Introduced a new '**above 21 years of age**' category for viewers.
- Apart from that, UAE also came up with some social or secular leaning reforms. Country had **decriminalised the consumption of alcohol and allowed out of marriage cohabitation**.

#### **108. Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP):**

- To bring more are under exploration, increase domestic production and reduction in imports.
- Launched under **Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP) in 2017**.
- Under OALP companies are allowed to select the areas they want to explore **oil and gas**.
- It provides uniform licenses for exploration and production of all hydrocarbons (conventional and non-conventional).

#### **109. APRETUDE:**

- FDA approved **World's first injectable drug** for HIV.
- **Generic name** : Cabotegravir extended-release injectable suspension.
- Provides alternative to daily pills for HIV prevention.
- Effective in preventing sexual transmission of HIV.
- **Oral** Formulation of Cabotegravir is known as "**VOCABRIA**".

#### **110. James Webb Space Telescope (JWST):**

- **To be launched by NASA**, a joint development by **NASA, Canadian Space Agency and European Space Agency**.
- Provides subsidy for provident fund contribution for adding new employees to establishments registered with EPFO.
- JWST mission is to provide improved **Infrared** resolution and sensitivity.
- It will enable broad range of investigations in Astronomy and Cosmology.

### 111. Delhi Teacher's University:

- It will be a public university dedicated to prepare excellent quality teachers for Delhi.
- University will offer **4-year** integrated teacher education program after class 12..
- It will act as a centre for Excellence in preparing teachers at pre-service and in-service in the areas of – **Education, Studies, Leadership** and **Policy**.
- Admission will start from 2022-2023.

### 112. KISAN DIWAS:

- **National Farmer's Day** is observed in India on **December 23** to commemorate the **birth anniversary of Chaudary Charan Singh**.
- It was **announced** by the Government of India in **2001** in the recognition of Charan Singh's birth anniversary and his contribution towards the upliftment of the farmers and development of agriculture in the country.

### 113. PAXLOVID:

- **US health regulators** authorized the **first pill against Covid-19**.
- **Paxlovid** is a **fast and cheap** way to treat early Covid - 19 infections. **Nirmatrelvir drug** is sold under the brand name Paxlovid.
- This **antiviral medication** has been **developed by Pfizer**.
- The drug was granted **emergency use authorization by US Food and Drug Administration**.
- It has **proven effective**, when provided within five days of symptoms appearing.

### 114. PROJECT ELEPHANT:

- According to recent study, **Karnataka** have been reporting **most** of the **unnatural elephant deaths** in the last few years.
- **Project Elephant** - launched in **1992** - for the protection of **wild Asian Elephants**. It is a **centrally sponsored scheme**.
- **IUCN Status** - Endangered.
- **CITES** Category - Appendix I.
- **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972** - Schedule I.

### 115. INTERNET EXCHANGE NODES:

- NIXI inaugurated **7 new internet exchange nodes** in multiple cities of **Uttar Pradesh**.

- The nodes will boost **internet connectivity and digital economy** in the state.
- 7 nodes will be located at Lucknow, Agra, Meerut, Kanpur, Prayagraj, Gorakhpur, Varanasi.
- **Internet exchanges nodes** - common grounds of IP networking that allow participant Internet Service Providers to exchange data destined for their respective networks.
- **NIXI - National Internet Exchange of India** is a **not-for-profit** organization working since **2003** for spreading internet technology to the citizens of India.

#### **116. PRALAY:**

- Surface to Surface missile - has a range of **150-500 km**.
- **Indigenously** developed missile. **DRDO** successfully conducted flight test from **Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha**.
- This missile is powered with **solid propellant rocket motor** and many new technologies.

#### **117. NATIONAL CONSUMER DAY:**

- It is observed on **December 24**, every year in India. On this day, president has given his assent to the **Consumer Protection Act, 1986**.
- **Theme 2021 - Tackling Plastic Pollution**.
- Recent - **Consumer Protection Act, 2019** - came into force in 2020 **replacing** the **Consumer Protection Act, 1986**.
- **Central Consumer Protection Authority** - constituted under the act with the aim of promoting, protecting, and enforcing the rights of consumers.

#### **118. INSOLVENCY AND BANKRUPTCY CODE:**

- Recently, **Ministry of Corporate Affairs** proposed amendments to Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code **to speed up the rescue of distressed companies** which are **ending up in bankruptcy tribunals**.
- **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016** was enacted to reorganise and insolvency resolution of corporate persons, individuals and partnership firms in timely manner to maximize the value of assets to such persons.

### 119. US - TYPES OF VISAS:

- The **US** has temporarily dropped the in-person interview requirement for **certain visa categories** including **H-1B, L-1, O01** amid **rising concerns** over the spread of the **Omicron variant**.
- **H-1B visa** - it allows US employers to temporarily employ foreign workers in specialty occupations.
- **L visas** - for temporary intracompany transferees.
- **O-1 visas** - non immigrant visa for individuals who possess extraordinary ability in certain areas.
- **H-2 visa** - temporary agricultural and non agricultural workers.
- **F and M visa** - students and **Academic J visas** - for student exchange visitors.

### 120. HEAT ABHYAS:

- **DRDO** successfully **tested indigenously developed HEAT Abhyas** from Integrated Test Range at **Chandipur off the coast, Odisha**.
- **Abhyas - High speed Expendable Aerial Target** - being built by the **Aeronautic Development Establishment of DRDO**.
- It **demonstrated a high subsonic speed trajectory** at a **very low altitude with high endurance** during the flight test.

### 121. CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE ON WATER REUSE:

- National Mission for Clean Ganga and The Energy and Resources Institute launched the **NMCG-TERI's Centre of Excellence on water reuse** at the **TERI headquarters in New Delhi**.
- It is **first of its kind** to be established.
- It is a **quadripartite alliance** between NMCG, TERI, industry partners, and industry representative bodies.

### 122. INS KHUKRI:

- India's **first indigenously built missile corvettes**, INS Khukri was **decommissioned** after 32 years of service at **Visakhapatnam**.
- It was **built by Mazgaon Dock shipbuilders**.
- It had the distinction of being part of western as well as eastern fleets.
- It was the **lead vessel of her class of corvettes**, giving service to the Indian Navy.

### 123. RARE PINK HANDFISH:

- Spotted near **Tasmanian coast** after 22 years.

- **Handfish** - belonging to the **family Brachionichthyidae**. Named handfish because of their **little hand like structure**.
- **Unique feature** - **benthic** marine fish known for the way they propel themselves by **walking on sea floor rather than swimming**.(using their hand like structures).

#### **124. VANDHAN CHRONICLE:**

- It was launched by **Minister of Tribal Affairs**.
- It is an **in-depth resource** on the **Van Dhan Yojana and TRIFED's activities**.
- The chronicle gives an **in-depth illustration of the activities undertaken by TRIFED** such as Minimum Support Price for select forest produces, Mechanism for marketing of Minor Forest Produce.
- The **Van Dhan tribal start-ups** has emerged as a **source of employment generation** for tribal gatherers and forest dwellers and the home bound tribal artisans.

#### **125. GOOD GOVERNANCE INDEX 2021:**

- Launched on **Good Governance day(December 25)**.
- **Prepared by Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances**.
- This framework covered **10 sectors and 58 indicators**.
- **Sectors** - agriculture and allied sectors, commerce and industry, human resource development, public health, public infrastructure and utilities, economic governance, social welfare and development, judicial and public security, environment and citizen centric governance.
- **Gujarat, Maharashtra and Goa** - tops the composite ranking in the 58 indicator index.

#### **126. COVAXIN:**

- **Bharat Biotech's Covaxin** gets **Drug Controller General of India** approval for **emergency use on children above 12 years**.
- It has become the **second covid 19 vaccine** to receive emergency use approval.
- **First vaccine** got **approval** - **Zydus Carola's 3 dose DNA vaccine**.

#### **127. SHYAMA PRASAD MUKHERJI RURBAN MISSION:**

- **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** - launched by the **Ministry of Rural Development** in **2016** - to deliver integrated project based infrastructure in the rural areas.

- **Objective - bridging the rural urban divide.**
- **Recent - Telengana** stood first in the implementation of the mission and followed by **Tamil Nadu and Gujarat.**

### 128. MAGNETAR:

- **Rare compact type of neutron star** - which possess **intense magnetic field.**
- They are **relatively rare objects**, with only about 30 have been spotted within the Milky Way so far.
- It emit **violent flares.** It can be observed only during they emit such flares. But, the **flares** are **so short lived.**
- **Neutron stars** - formed when a massive star runs out of fuel and collapses.

### 129. TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT BOARD:

- **Technology Development Board** constituted by Government of India in **1996** under the **Technology Development Board Act, 1995.**
- **Statutory body of Department of Science and Technology.**
- **Recent** - approved the financial support to design next generation computing architectures for high performance computing for manufacturing of receiver modules in bulk which will be essential for the NavIC app.

### 130. PM YUVA SCHEME:

- **Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors scheme** - a mentorship programme to train young authors.
- **Aim** - To bring reading and authorship as a preferred profession at par with other job options.
- **Implementing agency - National Book Trust under Ministry of Education.**
- **Recent** - National Book Trust announces names of 75 selected authors under PM YUVA Mentorship Scheme.

### 131. Flex Fuel Vehicles (FFVs):

- A modified version of vehicles that could run on both **Gasoline** and **doped petrol** with different Ethanol blends.
- FFV run on blended as well as unblended fuel.
- It has compatible engines to run on **more than 84%** ethanol blended petrol.
- It can increase fuel efficiency and reduce pollution.
- Currently being used successfully in Brazil.

### 132. Olive Ridley Turtles:

- Tagging of Olive ridley by Zoological Survey of India – carried out in 3 sites – **Gahirmatha, Devi river mouth and Rushikulya.**
- Tagging is done to identify migration path and places after congregation and nesting.
- Olive ridleys – **smallest** and most abundant in world.
- IUCN status - **VULNERABLE.**
- **Operation OLIVIA** – every years by Indian coast guard to protect Olive Ridleys.

### 133. ABHYAS:

- **Indigenously developed High –speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT)**
- Design and developed by DRDO
- The vehicle can be used as an aerial target for evaluation of various missile systems.
- Powered by Gas turbine engine, programmed for fully autonomous flight.

### 134. BrahMos Missile – (PJ- 10)

- Medium range ramjet (Fastest) supersonic cruise missile.
- Speed 2 – 2.8 Mach
- Can be launched from land , aircraft, submarine and ships
- Joint venture between India and Russia
- Hyper sonic version of missile called BrahMos –II is under development ( Speed Mach 7-8)

### 135. Mission SAGAR:

- **SAGAR - Security and Growth for All in the Region.**
- Launched in 2015, as India's strategic vision for Indian Ocean Region.
- INS KESARI – delivered food aid under SAGAR to Mozambique.
- India also supported Mozambique with 2 Fast Interceptor Aircraft and self defence Equipment to counter terror threats.
- India already provided humanitarian assistance to Maldives, Mauritius, Madagascar, Comoros and Seychelles.
- Mission helps in deepening economic and security cooperation in the littoral.

### 136. WORLD SANGEET TANSEN FESTIVAL:

- **97th edition** of festival - started in **Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.**



- The stage of the festival has been constructed on the theme of '**Siddhanath temple**' which is situated in Omkareshwar.
- **Tansen** - also known as **Miyan Tansen or Ramtanu Pande** - prominent figure of **Hindustani classical music**. In 1562, **Tansen joined Akbar's court**.

### 137. ZIYUAN-1 02E:

- **Chinese earth observation satellite.**
- It was launched with the objective of **mapping the earth's surface in high resolution to explore the natural resources.**
- Data from satellite will be **used to alert for environmental disasters** and **monitoring water quality.**

### 138. UNSC COUNTER TERRORISM COMMITTEE:

- **India** will **chair the counter terrorism committee** of the United Nation Security Council in January 2022.
- The UNSC Counter terrorism committee was **formed in september 2001** soon after the tragic 9/11 terrorist attack to chart the way forward to fight against terrorism.
- The **committee comprises all the 15 UNSC members.** The main task of the committee is to monitor the implementation of the provisions of resolution 1373.
- **Resolution 1373** - it requested countries to implement several measures intended to enhance their legal and institutional ability to counter terrorist activities at home, in their regions and around the world and other resolutions.

### 139. 5G in India:

- **India** is all set to roll out the **5G telecom services in the 13 selected cities in 2022.**
- 5G is the **latest upgrade** in the **long term evolution of mobile broadband networks.**
- It has been designed to connect many forms of devices than smartphones, while also offering far **higher speed and capacity.**
- **Indigenous 5G test bed project** - visionary technology development project - will enable the development, testing and proliferation of 5G technology components.

### 140. HEALTHY STATES, PROGRESSIVE INDIA:

- **NITI Aayog** releases **fourth edition** of State Health Index. The report titled "Healthy States, Progressive India".

- It ranks states and union territories on their year on year incremental performance in health outcomes as well as their overall status.
- **Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Telangana** - shown maximum annual incremental performance among **larger states**.
- **Mizoram, Meghalaya** - shown incremental performance among **smaller states**.
- **Delhi and Jammu & Kashmir** - shown improvement **among UT's**.

#### **141. NATIONAL BREED CONSERVATION AWARD 2021:**

- The National Breed Conservation Award for 2021 has been bagged by "**All India Co-ordinated Research Project**".
- It received the award for the cause of conservation and research activities on **Tellicherry breed**. It is the **only registered native chicken breed in the state of Kerala**.
- This award was **established by ICAR - the National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources**.
- It was established for centres or projects which contribute towards conservation and improvement of registered Indian breeds of domestic poultry and livestock.

#### **142. BORDER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS:**

- Indian Defence Minister virtually inaugurated 24 bridges and three roads, which have been constructed by the **Border Roads Organisation**.
- **Significant** - India's first indigenous class 70 140-deet **double lane modular bridge**. It has been built at 11,000 feet at Flag hill, Dokala in Sikkim.
- **Other** - **Chisumle-Demchok road at Umling La pass in Ladakh**, at over 19,000 feet is also significant. It holds the Guinness world record of **world's highest motorable road**.

#### **143. GRAM UJALA SCHEME:**

- **Gram Ujala Programme** - an ambitious scheme offering the **world's cheapest LED bulbs in rural areas** at a mere Rs. 10.
- **Recent** - **Convergence Energy Services Limited**, a wholly owned subsidiary of Energy Efficiency Services Limited, has **achieved a remarkable milestone** of distributing 50 lakhs LED bulbs.
- Gram Ujala Scheme is **being implemented in rural households in Bihar, Utta Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Telangana**.

#### **144. NORTHEASTERN REGION DISTRICT SDG INDEX:**

- **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region** in collaboration with **NITI Aayog** releases **North Eastern Region District SDG Index and Dashboard 2021-22**.
- Technical support from **UNDP**.
- The index measures the **performance** of the **districts of the eight NE states**.
- This is the **first time, a district wise index is being prepared in the country**.
- This will be used as a base for planning of development and welfare activities, education, health care.

#### **145. BINA - PANKI MULTIPRODUCT PIPELINE PROJECT:**

- The PM also inaugurated the 356 km long **Bina(Madhya Pradesh) - Panki(Kanpur, UP)** multiproduct pipeline project.
- Extending from Bina Refinery in MP to POL(Petroleum, Oils and Lubricants) terminal at Panki in Kanpur. It will be **operated by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited**.
- This pipeline will **reduce carbon emission by around 68% in product transportation** and will **improve availability of petroleum products** in Eastern UP, Central UP, Northern Bihar and Southern Uttarkhand.

#### **146. NEW DEVELOPMENT BANK:**

- **Egypt** is the **fourth new member** admitted into **NDB**, following **Bangladesh, UAE and Uruguay**.
- NDB is a **multilateral** development bank. It was **jointly founded** by the **BRICS countries in 2014**.
- **Headquarters** of NDB is at **Shanghai, China**.
- The bank was set to support the **infrastructure** and **sustainable development efforts** in BRICS grouping and other underserved and emerging economies for a faster development through cutting-edge technology and innovation.

#### **147. QUANTUM COMPUTING LABORATORY:**

- The **Indian Army** has set up a **quantum computing laboratory and a centre for artificial intelligence** at military engineering institute in **Mhow, Madhya Pradesh**.
- It will carry out **extensive research** in developing the transformative technologies for use by the armed forces.
- It will also **facilitate the research and training** in the developing field of quantum and artificial intelligence.

#### **148. FINANCIAL STABILITY REPORT:**

- Released by **Reserve Bank of India**.
- It is published **biannually**.
- It reflects the **collective assessment** of sub committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council, on risks to financial stability.
- It also discusses the issues related to **development and regulation of financial sector**.

#### **149. ARIIA 2021:**

- Government released the **Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievement 2021** award list.
- It is a **joint initiative** of **Ministry of Education and AICTE**, that systematically **rank higher educational institutions across India** on indicators like **start-up, innovation and entrepreneurship development amongst students and faculty**.
- **Top position** was achieved by **IIT Madras**. It topped the ranking as the most innovative educational institute in India in **technical category**. It won this **recognition** for the **third consecutive time**.

#### **150. AIR TRAVEL BUBBLE AGREEMENT:**

- The **Indian government** and **Saudi Arabian government** have finalised an **air travel bubble agreement**, to allow all eligible travellers to travel between both the countries.
- Air travel bubble agreement - **temporary arrangements** between two countries. Such arrangements **aim to restarting commercial passenger services, in case regular international flights are suspended**.
- Amid the covid 19 pandemic, **India has signed an air bubble agreement with 35 countries**.

#### **151. MAJOR DHYAN CHAND SPORTS UNIVERSITY:**

- PM will lay the foundation stone of **Major Dhyan Chand Sports University in Meerut**.
- **Key focus** of the university would be to inculcate a sporting culture and establish world class sporting infrastructure across the country.
- It will be the **first-of-its kind sports university** that will offer training to sports persons in all possible ways, in all sporting disciplines.

### **152. WHITE RHINOCEROS:**

- Recently, 30 **white rhinos were transferred** from South Africa to Rwanda. It was the **largest single transfer of white rhinos ever**.
- White Rhinoceros are also known as **square-lipped rhinoceros**.
- **Scientific name** - Ceratotherium Simum.
- **IUCN status of White Rhinoceros - Near Threatened**.
- **Two subspecies** - Southern White Rhinoceros, Northern White Rhinoceros.
- **IUCN Status of Northern White Rhinoceros** - considered as **Critically Endangered**.

### **153. INDIA SEMICONDUCTOR MISSION:**

- This scheme was notified by **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**.
- ISM is a **specialised and independent business division** of **Digital India Corporation**.
- The mission has been set up with the **objective** of building a vibrant semiconductor besides displaying ecosystem in order for India to emergence as a global hub in electronics manufacturing and design.

### **154. PADHE BHARAT:**

- **Union Minister of Education and Skill Development** will be launching a **100 days Reading Campaign**.
- It marks an **important step to improve learning levels of students** as it develops creativity, critical thinking, vocabulary and the ability to express both verbally and in writing.
- The reading campaign **aims** to have participation of all stakeholders at national and state level including children, teachers, parents, community, educational administrators etc.,
- It helps children to relate to their surroundings and real life situation.

### **155. TIGER DEATHS IN INDIA:**

- According to **National Tiger Conservation Authority**, in 2021 India reported the death of around 126 tigers.
- **Major reasons for declining tiger population** - habitat destruction, poaching and habitat fragmentation, human wildlife conflict.
- **IUCN status - Endangered**.
- **NTCA** - Established in **2005** to **manage the Project Tiger and many Tiger Reserves in India**.

**Project Tiger** - launched in **1973** - **Tiger conservation programme**.

PRABHA IAS ACADEMY