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KARNATAKA ISSUES

- Forest minister of Karnataka recently announced in the Assembly that the government will reduce the original extent of **deemed forests** from 10 lakh hectares to 3.3 lakh hectares. Deemed Forests are Land Tracts that **appear to be a “forest”, but have not been notified so by the government** or in historical records
- **GRAMEENA SUMARGA Project** that aims to maintain the prioritised rural black-topped roads in motorable condition in Karnataka has achieved a low pace due to poor funding
- The Karnataka cabinet on Wednesday decided to create a **new Scheduled Tribes (ST) secretariat** to oversee the utilisation of funds and implementation of programmes meant for their welfare. Scheduled Tribes occupy 7.5% of Karnataka's population. **Article 366 (25)** defined scheduled tribes as “such tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within such tribes or tribal communities as are deemed under **Article 342** to be Scheduled Tribes for the purposes of this constitution”
- New Chief minister of Karnataka has inducted 29 **new council of ministers**. They are appointed as per **Article 164 by Governor on aid & advice of Chief Minister**
- Karnataka high court has opined **State Election Commission (SEC)** is not bound by the State Cabinet’s decision on election. **Article 243K(1)** speaks about appointment of SEC for conducting elections to local bodies in state
- The **BBMP** will soon be brought under the ambit of a act in line with **Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act** to ensure financial discipline. FRBM was enacted in August 2003, that aims to make the Central government responsible for ensuring inter-generational equity in fiscal management and long-term macro-economic stability.
- The State government of Karnataka is promoting construction of new generation **multiple arch buttress check dams** across natural streams, rivulets and other waterbodies under the **MGNREGA**
- Joining the country in celebrating the Platinum Jubilee of Indian Independence, **Chief Minister of Karnataka** announced the new projects named '**Amrith**' schemes. They aim at **improving infrastructure** and services at multiple levels ranging from village to urban centres in select areas
- The struggle for independence in **coastal Karnataka**, especially Peasant uprisings which was referred to as **KOOTS** by britishers was remembered in the eve of independence.
- Banks in Karnataka have reported a 26 per cent rise in **non-performing assets (NPA)** in priority sectors, including agriculture, a fallout of the economic distress caused by the



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Covid-19 pandemic and the drought-flood situation in the state. NPA is any asset of a bank which is not producing any income.

- **AROGYA NANDANA** is a initiative to **test all children for COVID-19** in Karnataka, taken up jointly by the Health and the Women & Child Development Departments.
- **Vietnam** will open its **first Indian consul office in Bengaluru**.
- The State Cabinet has approved the **Karnataka State Mental Healthcare Rules, 2021**, to implement the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017, of the Centre, to provide healthcare and services for persons with mental illness and to protect, promote, and fulfil the rights of such persons.
- Police stations in the **North division of the Bengaluru city** have embraced the **QR code-based Subahu e-beat system**. In police terminology, a beat is the territory that a police officer patrols
- The Karnataka government will take a decision on reducing the duration of the '**Nada Geethe**' (State anthem) before the State legislature. The poem '**Jaya Bharata Jananiya Tanujate**' which was composed by the Indian national poet **Kuvempu** was **officially declared** the state song of the Indian state of Karnataka on **6 January 2004**.
- **Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP)**, has proposed for a **decentralised system for solid waste management** through a act. A **Shuchi Mitra** at the block level and volunteers at the lane level will be put in place to maintain cleanliness across the city.
- In order to make **Karnataka the first State to double farmers' income by 2023-24**, the State government has set up a **farmer-centric committee** to prepare a report and implement farm policies. **Ashok Dalwai**, CEO of the National Rainfed Area Authority is the chairman of the committee, which would comprise farmers from the State, who would be in regular touch with Central government officials to prepare a comprehensive Karnataka-specific report on farmers' income.
- The State government of Karnataka has decided to establish a **Spices Park at Ambale in Chikkamagaluru** district. 40% of India's spices is exported and Karnataka is one of the big spice producing states in the country.
- The Covid-19 technical advisory committee (TAC) constituted by the Karnataka government has proposed the '**school bubble**' **concept** to mitigate the spread of the disease among children (aged below 18) attending offline classes at schools and pre-university colleges across the state. They are Physical classifications made between groups comprising a small number of students. Each such bubble will include students who tend to remain as a group during school hours throughout the term or an academic year





NATIONAL ISSUES

- The **Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK)** has promised in its manifesto that maternity as well as **paternity leave** in Tamil Nadu would be extended to 12 months. The inclusion of husbands in this conversation is incumbent. Both the mother and newborn are vulnerable for the first 12 weeks. Getting used to breastfeeding takes at least 14 days. Therefore, assistance from the partner is indispensable during this time.
- This Union cabinet has recently approved a Reforms-based and Results-linked, **Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme**. It aims at providing conditional financial assistance to **DISCOMs** for strengthening of supply infrastructure
- Government of India has accorded sanction to **Team CLAW** to lead a team of people with disabilities to **scale Siachen Glacier** and create a new world record for the largest team of people with disabilities. This is the land world record expedition part of 'Operation Blue Freedom Triple World Records' being undertaken.
- Electronic voucher based digital payment system called "**E-RUPI**" which is developed by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) was launched by PM recently. It is a Cashless and contactless digital payments medium that connects the sponsors of the services with the beneficiaries and service providers in a digital manner without any physical interface
- The Ministry of Ayush has collaborated with the U.K.'s London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) to conduct a study on '**Ashwagandha**' for promoting recovery from COVID-19.
- **Telangana high court** has opined that threat to public order must also be a criterion under arrest for **preventive detention**. **Article 22** of Indian Constitution speaks about preventive detention
- **100th year of Madras legislative council** was recently celebrated. It was established in 1861 under Indian council acts and was abolished in 1986
- **112th annual celebrations of National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC)** was recently celebrated. NCDC Functions as the nodal agency in the country for disease surveillance facilitating prevention and control of communicable diseases.
- To solve the Assam- Mizoram border dispute and to arrive at a permanent solution, the Centre has asked the **North Eastern Space Application Centre (NESAC)** to map and demarcate the State boundaries using satellite imaging.





- **Delhi Cabinet** has approved its policy to promote medical oxygen production and provide incentives to private sector to invest in production plants, tankers and storage facilities for medical oxygen.
- The Supreme Court recently held that the **Governor of a State can pardon prisoners**, including those on death row, even before they have served a minimum 14 years of prison sentence. **Article 161** deals with the Pardoning Power of the Governor.
- **New Consumer Expenditure Survey (CES)** is likely to be conducted in 2021-22. It is conducted by NSSO and it collects information on the consumption spending patterns of households across the country, both urban and rural.
- The success of **Sabki Yojana Sabka Vikas scheme** was recently discussed in Parliament. Government launched 'Sabki Yojna Sabka Vikas' campaign for **inclusive and holistic preparation of Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP)**.
- Central government has set loans disbursement target under **PM Mudra Yojana (PMMY)** at Rs 3 trillion for financial year 2021-2022. Launched in April, 2015. The scheme's objective is to **refinance collateral-free loans** given by the lenders to small borrowers.
- **Power Grid Corporation** of India has commissioned a 40-kilometre transmission line successfully in **Aryan Valley (Kargil district) of Ladakh**. National Grid is high-voltage electric power transmission network in mainland India, connecting power stations and major substations.
- The Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed the Bill to **formalise the Commission for Air Quality Management For National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas**
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, has given its approval for continuation of the revised **Samagra Shiksha Scheme** for a period of **five years till 2026**. The vision of the Scheme is to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education from **pre-school to senior secondary stage** in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG-4) for Education
- Government has informed Parliament that 13 plants under **SATAT** have initiated supply of Compressed Bio Gas. The initiative aimed at setting up **Compressed Bio-Gas production plants** and makes them available in the market for use in automotive fuels by inviting Expression of Interest from potential entrepreneurs
- Sea trials of the country's **maiden indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC-1)**, built by the public sector Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL). It will be named as **INS-VIKRANT**
- The Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna stands renamed as the **"Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna"**.
- Year-long celebrations marking 150 years of **Abanindranath Tagore** was started recently.
- The final resting place of **Mughal prince Dara Shikoh** remains a mystery, with the Archaeological Survey of India saying it has not located the grave within the Humayun's Tomb complex. Dara Shikoh, the **eldest son of Shah Jahan** was killed after losing the war of succession against his brother Aurangzeb. He is described as a **"liberal Muslim"** who tried to find commonalities between Hindu and Islamic traditions.
- **Ladakh Administration** has removed the need of an Inner Line Permit (ILP) for all Indian nationals who seeks to visit protected areas of union territory. Document required by **non-natives to visit or stay in states** which are protected under ILP system.



- Japan marks **76th anniversary of World's First Atomic Bombing**. United States dropped world's first nuclear bomb called "**Little Boy**" (Enriched uranium gun-type fission weapon) against southwestern city of **Hiroshima** and On August 9, US dropped second bomb called "**Fat Man**" (Plutonium implosion-type nuclear weapon) on **Nagasaki**.
- Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment launched **Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi** 'Portal and Mobile App' recently. Developed by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, in collaboration with NeGD. It aims to Make the skill development schemes accessible to the target groups
- **National handloom day** is celebrated every year on **August 7** to pay tribute to handloom weavers and artisan communities across India
- Recently, the Union Minister of State for Rural Development has informed in Rajya Sabha about the various steps taken by the government for implementation of **the Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana**. It was launched in 2014 for developing the **socio-economic and physical infrastructure of villages**.
- **Seekho aur Kamao** is a scheme of minority affairs ministry that aims at providing **employment and employment opportunities**, improving the employability of **existing workers, school dropouts etc.**
- Prime Minister is set to launch the **second edition** of the government's free LPG connection scheme called **Ujjwala**. Launched in May 2016 it aims to provide **LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) connections to poor households**.
- **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** predicts extreme weather events in **Indian ocean due to global warming**
- The **Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA)** issued an order to implement the **Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)** to effectively manage the COVID-19 in Delhi.
- **Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation** is getting weaker due to increase in global temperature
- Remembrance day of **Quit India** celebrated. The Quit India Movement (translated into several Indian languages as the Leave India Movement), also known as the **August Movement**, was a movement launched at the Bombay session of the All India Congress Committee by **Mahatma Gandhi** on **8 August 1942**, during **World War II**, demanding an end to British rule in India.



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- **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** has developed breeding and seed production technology of **Grey Mullet (Madavai)** under controlled conditions. It is under PM Matsya Sampada Yojana
- Union Government has informed Parliament that it has approved **Deep Ocean Mission (DOM)** for 5 years during the period 2021-2026
- Transportation of Milk through “**Doodh Duronto**” special trains from **Renigunta of Andhra Pradesh to the National Capital** has crossed ten crore litres mark. It is a **special series of trains launched during pandemic**
- **Indore**, India's cleanest city, has now been declared as the **country's first 'water plus' city** under the **Swachh Survekshan 2021** under water plus protocol that aims to provide a guideline for cities and towns to ensure that no untreated wastewater is released into the environment thereby enabling sustainability of the sanitation value chain.
- The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has released a report -- The "Impact of Exemption under Article 15 (5) with regards to Article 21A of the Constitution of India on Education of Children in Minority Communities"
- The **5th edition of the National Public Procurement Conclave (NPPC)** was recently organized by **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** (in association with the Confederation of Indian Industry [CII]) under the theme “Technology enabled Government Procurement – Towards Efficiency, Transparency, and Inclusiveness”
- India's total foodgrain production has hit a record high of 308.65 million tonnes (MT) for 2020-21 as the rabi foodgrain output exceeded the target, according to the fourth advance estimate of production released by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
- Recently, the Prime Minister has announced a **new national initiative on palm oil production** to help increase farm incomes. The scheme, called National Edible Oil Mission-Oil Palm (NMEO-OP), for self-reliance in edible oil involves investment of over Rs. 11,000 crore (over a five year period).
- **ISRO EOS 3 satellite** that was launched failed in third stage. It was a **earth observation satellite**
- The **Delhi** government is set to implement a world-class **Health Information Management System (HIMS)** soon in line with its bid to bring a transformation in the healthcare system of the Capital.
- From December, India will move to a system that will **count tigers and elephants as part of a common survey**. 90% of the area occupied by elephants and tigers is common, and once estimation methods are standardised, having a common survey can significantly save costs
- The **Odisha government** has directed engineers of its Water Resources Department to prepare an action plan for the coastal stretches of the State, which are highly vulnerable to storm surges, within a month along with a map.



- The Government of India announced the **Prime Minister's Shram Awards** (PMSA) for the year 2018. It was done by Ministry of Labour & Employment for workers employed in the Departmental Undertakings & Public Sector Undertakings of the Central and State Governments and Private Sector Units for distinguished performance, innovative abilities, outstanding contribution in the field of productivity and exhibition of exceptional courage and presence of mind

- **Maharashtra** government has announced for creation of a new award named "**Rajiv Gandhi Award for Excellence in Information Technology (IT)**"

- The **Skytrax World Airport Award ranking** 2021 was recently published in which **Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi** has emerged among world's top-50 best airports in the 2021.

- Prime minister formally launched the **national vehicle scrapping policy**. The new policy provides for fitness tests after the completion of **20 years in the case of privately**

owned vehicles and 15 years in the case of commercial vehicles. Any vehicle that fails the fitness test or does not manage renewal of its registration certificate may be declared as an End of Life Vehicle.

- Union Cabinet approved a proposal to amend the list of **Scheduled Tribes in Arunachal Pradesh**, Parliament last week passed the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill 2021. The Bill seeks to modify Part-XVIII of the Schedule to the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950. Part-XVIII lists 16 tribes of Arunachal.

- **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**, launched '**SonChiraiya**' – (A brand and logo)- for marketing of urban Self-Help Group (SHG) products.

- **Chandrayaan-2** orbiter of **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has detected **water molecules on Moon's surface.**

- Noted writer **Babasaheb Purandare** celebrates 100th birthday

- Four more wetlands from India have been added to the **Ramsar list** and have been recognized as wetlands of global importance in accordance with the Ramsar Convention. They are **Thol & Wadhvana from Gujarat, Sultanpur & Bhindawas from Haryana.** These sites are home to endangered Egyptian Vulture, Sociable Lapwing, Saker Falcon, and near threatened Dalmatian Pelican.



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- Environment Ministry notified the **Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021**. It aims at **prohibiting specific single-use plastic items less than 100 microns** with “low utility and high littering potential by the year 2022.
- Recently, **Bihar** has decided to tag greater adjutant storks locally known as ‘**Garuda**’ with **GPS trackers** to monitor their movement as part of efforts to conserve them.
- Google Honours India’s **First Woman Satyagrahi, Subhadra Kumari Chauhan**, With A Doodle. She hailed from Punjab. Her evocative nationalist poem “Jhansi ki Rani” is widely regarded as one of the most recited poems in Hindi literature.
- **Assam** Assembly passed the “**Assam Cattle Preservation Bill, 2021**”. It prohibits the sale and purchase of beef in areas inhabited by non-beef-eating communities.
- **Odisha** government announced that his government will provide **smart health cards** under **Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana**.
- While addressing the nation on 75th Independence Day, Prime Minister announced to provide **fortified rice** to poor under various schemes. **Food fortification** or enrichment is the process of adding micronutrients (essential trace elements and vitamins) to food. It can be carried out by food manufacturers, or by governments as a public health policy which aims to reduce the number of people with dietary deficiencies within a population.
- The **Ministry of Power** has circulated the “**Draft Electricity (promoting renewable energy through Green Energy Open Access) Rules, 2021**”. It proposed for purchase and consumption of **green energy** including the energy from Waste-to-Energy plants.
- Prime Minister during his address on 75th Independence Day celebration, announced that **Sainik Schools** across India will now be open for **female students** as well.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** introduced the **financial inclusion index**. Financial Inclusion Index has been conceptualised as a comprehensive index comprising the details of banking, insurance, investments, postal and pension sector in consultation with government and sectoral regulators.
- Centre has notified **RoDTEP** Scheme Guidelines and Rates (**Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products**). The scheme was announced in 2020 as a replacement for the Merchandise Export from India Scheme (MEIS), which was not compliant with the rules of the World Trade Organisation.
- The **Odisha** Forest and Environment Department is all set to begin ‘Island Odyssey’ and ‘**Hirakud Cruise**’ ecotourism packages for tourists to islands inside the reservoir when COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. ‘Cattle island’, one of three islands in the Hirakud reservoir, has been selected as a sight-seeing destination. Hirakud Dam is built across the Mahanadi River, close to Sambalpur city in Odisha in India.
- **VRIKSHAROPAN ABHIYAN** has been launched by **Union Ministry of Coal & Mines**. In this year, coal PSUs of the Ministry of Coal have set an ambitious target to cover 2385 hectares of area under “**Go Greening**” drive. Areas will be covered under bio-reclamation or plantation.
- The **Supreme Court Collegium**, led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana, has recommended to the government nine names for appointment as judges in the court



- Recently launched initiative which commemorated the completion of two crore treatment under **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)**. It was organized to raise awareness about the program (AB-PMJAY) among poor households. **AYUSHMAN BHARATH** was launched as recommended by the National Health Policy 2017, to achieve the vision of **Universal Health Coverage (UHC)**.
- The Union Cabinet has given its approval for ratification of the **Kigali Amendment** to the **Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer** for phase down of **Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)** by India, adopted by the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on October, 2016 at 28th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol held at Kigali, Rwanda.
- Recently Prime Minister has inaugurated various projects in Somnath, Gujarat under **PRASHAD (Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive)** scheme. Launched in 2015, it aims at **integrated development of pilgrimage destinations** in planned, prioritised and sustainable manner to provide complete religious tourism experience.
- The **Geological Survey of India (GSI)** has identified certain geological sites across the Northeast for promotion of **geo-tourism** as some States in the region prepare to 'unlock' from September. Geotourism is tourism associated with geological attractions and destinations that deals with the abiotic natural and built environments.
- GSI launched upgraded **GSI Mobile App (Beta Version)**. Launched in 1851 primary objective of GSI is to investigate for and assess coal and other mineral resources of the country with regional level exploration.
- August 20, marks the centenary of the **Malabar rebellion**, which is also known as the **Moplah (Muslim) riots**. Also year 2021 will mark the **100th year anniversary** of the Malabar rebellion of 1921.
- The **Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS)**, a Union government initiative for skill development in rural areas, has brought high-speed internet to some of the remotest tribal hamlets deep inside the Nilambur jungle in Kerala.
- India's **highest herbal park**, at a height of 11,000 feet, was inaugurated near Indo-China border at **Mana village in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand**.
- **Sanskrit Week** is being celebrated from **August 19 to August 25, 2021** with a aim to promote and popularise this ancient language.

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- The **National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)** Limited on August 21, 2021, commissioned **India's largest floating solar PV project** of 25MW on the reservoir of its **Simhadri thermal station in Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.**
- Chief Minister of Delhi, will inaugurate **India's first smog tower** at Baba Kharak Singh Marg in **Connaught Place (CP), Delhi.** They are structures that are designed as **large-scale air purifiers** in order to reduce air pollution particles.
- The first of two additional **Krivak class stealth frigates** being built by **Russia** is expected to be delivered to India in the middle of 2023. In October 2016, India and Russia signed an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) for four Krivak or Talwar class stealth frigates — two to be procured directly from Russia and two to be built by Goa Shipyard Ltd. (GSL).
- **Reserve Bank of India** had appointed **committee** headed by N. S. Vishwanathan to make suggestions on structure for the **urban cooperative banks (UCBs)**. Panel was set up to suggest structure on the basis of deposits, prescribed different capital adequacy as well as regulatory norms for them with respect to their sizes.
- The **S-400 air defence systems** deal, for which deliveries are scheduled to begin in a few months, was on schedule said **Russia.** The S-400 Triumf is a mobile, surface-to-air missile system (SAM).
- Prime minister paid tributes to **social reformer of Kerala Sri Narayana guru.**
- Finance Minister, unveiled a four-year **National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) scheme.** Under the scheme, roads, railways and power sector assets would be comprising of more than 66 per cent of the total estimated value of the assets to be monetised.
- The government launched a new **geospatial planning portal** called '**Yuktdhara**' under **Bhuvan.** This new portal will help in facilitating new **MGNREGA assets** with the help of remote sensing as well as geographic information system-based data.
- The **labour ministry** is set to launch a National Database for Unorganised Workers (NDUW) or **e-Sharm portal.** It will act as single-point reference that will help authorities to reach out to and track workers across informal sector.
- The Union government has increased the **minimum price** that **sugar mills** must pay to sugar cane farmers by ₹5 a quintal, setting the fair and remunerative price (FRP) at ₹290 a quintal for the 2021-22 sugar season, which runs from October to September. **Fair and remunerative price (FRP)** is the minimum price at which rate sugarcane is to be purchased by sugar mills from farmers.
- The **Ministry of Jal Shakti** began '**SUJALAM**', a '100 days campaign' to create more and more **ODF Plus villages** by undertaking waste water management at village level particularly through creation of 1 million Soak-pits and also other Grey water management activities.
- According to the Textiles Ministry, that more than 1,500 artisans have been benefitted by training in 63 **Samarth Training Centres.** It seeks to Provide demand driven, placement oriented National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF) compliant skilling programmes.
- Union ministry of civil aviation released **LIBERALIZED DRONE RULES 2021.** It seeks to **simplify present rules.**



- In the wake of present afghan crisis, the legendary **HARI SINGH NALWA** is being remembered. He was legendary **Sikh commander of Ranjith Singh**, tamed the turbulent forces at play in Afghanistan and earned the reputation of the most feared Sikh warrior.
- The **NITI Aayog** and US-based tech giant, **Cisco** launched the next phase of the **Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)**, which is a first of its kind unified access portal. It brings women from different parts of India together and help them to realise their **entrepreneurial aspirations**.
- Fourth edition of **Public Sector Bank (PSB) Reforms Agenda Ease 4** was recently launched.
- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change notified the **eco-sensitive zone of Deepar Beel Wildlife Sanctuary**, located in south-west of **Guwahati city**, in Kamrup district of **Assam**, India.
- **NITI Aayog** and **World Resources Institute (WRI)** of India together launched the '**Forum for Decarbonizing Transport**' in India with a aim to decrease the peak level of Greenhouse Gas emissions (transport sector) in Asia which is rising because of problems like air pollution and congestion.
- **Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare**, took charge as the **Chairperson of Stop TB Partnership Board**. It is a partnership established in the year 2000 in a bid to eliminate tuberculosis (TB) as a public health problem. It is located in Geneva, Switzerland, operated by WHO.
- **NITI Aayog** has recommended various measures to **boost monetization**. It includes **Income Tax breaks** to attract retail investors into instruments such as Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) and bringing such trusts within the ambit of the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)** to provide greater comfort to investors.
- According to finance ministry, Under the **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)**, number of bank accounts have increased to 43 crores with total deposits of Rs 1.46 lakh crore. Announced on **15th August 2014**, PMJDY is National Mission for Financial Inclusion to ensure access to **financial services**, namely, Banking/ Savings & Deposit Accounts, Remittance, Credit, Insurance, Pension in an affordable manner.
- The Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has announced the operationalization of the **BRICS Agricultural Research Platform**. It is a global platform that has been set up for strengthening the cooperation in the field of agricultural research & innovations amongst the BRICS member States.
- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has launched the India's first '**Quantum Computer Simulator (QSim) Toolkit**'. Government of India has introduced a new registration mark under the Bharat Series (BH-Series) for new vehicles
- Union **AYUSH Ministry** launched a **Y-Break App** to boost its activities.





- Web version of **e-GOPALA application** was launched recently. It is Comprehensive breed improvement marketplace and information portal, directly used by farmers.
- A new initiative to revive **pashmina shawls** has been revived. Pashmina Shawls are a fine variant of shawls spun from cashmere wools.

INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

- India assumes **presidency of UNSC** for month of August. It is held by each of the members in turn for one month, following the English alphabetical order of the Member States names- Delegation representing a state will be named President
- India, China establish hotline in **north Sikkim**.
- China's anti-sanctions law will be implemented in some form in Hong Kong
- **World lion day** is celebrated every year on **August 10th** to raise awareness on lions
- **Pakistan** successfully test-fired a nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile which can strike targets up to 290 kilometres
- **Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California** announced that an experiment carried out in its **National Ignition Facility** has made a breakthrough in nuclear fusion research. **Nuclear fusion** is defined as the combining of several small nuclei into one large nucleus with the subsequent release of huge amounts of energy.
- **SpiceJet** to start trials of **IATA's travel pass**. The travel pass will be a mobile app that will help passengers manage their travel in line with government requirements for Covid-19 tests or vaccines. The IATA Travel Pass will also enable authorised labs and test centres to securely send test results or vaccination certificates to passengers.
- Recently, it was announced that the second **United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC)** will be held in Hyderabad, India, in 2022. It is organized by United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM). First UNWGIC was organized by China in October 2018. The objective is to enhance international collaboration among the Member States and relevant stakeholders in Geospatial information management and capacities.
- **Hurricane Ida** struck the coast of **Louisiana, South USA** as a powerful **Category 4 storm**. A hurricane is a large rotating storm with high speeds of wind that gust at least 74 mph that forms over warm waters in tropical areas.
- Recently, during BRICS meet, India proposed that **New Development Bank's** scope be expanded to strengthen Social Infrastructure besides promoting industry. New Development bank is a multilateral development bank operated by the BRICS states (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa).
- India, in collaboration with the United Nations (UN), has launched a technology platform to ensure the safety and security of peacekeepers who are operating across the world.
- For the first time on record, the **summit of Greenland** received rain and not snow, just as temperatures at the spot went above freezing for the third time in less than ten years.
- According to the **UN food agency, World Food Programme (WFP)**, out of 39 million people, 14 million people are facing severe hunger in Afghanistan.



- The **Kanal Istanbul**, an under-construction shipping route running parallel to the strategically critical **Bosphorus Strait**, is fast gaining prominence as a major divisive issue in Turkey before election.
- **Egypt** closed its main border crossing point with **Gaza Strip** on August 23, 2021 because of tensions with **Hamas rulers**. Gaza Strip is a self-governing **Palestinian territory** located on the eastern coast of **Mediterranean Sea**
- US Vice president has reached out to people suffering from **Havana syndrome**. It was Series of **unexplained medical symptoms**, First experienced by U.S. State Department personnel who were based in Cuba in 2016. Symptoms associated with the syndrome includes headache, dizziness, fatigue, anxiety, nausea, cognitive difficulties and memory loss of varying severity.
- **Ain Dubai** is **world's largest and tallest observation** wheel which will take visitors to the height of 250 metres in order for them to enjoy the majestic view of Dubai's picturesque skyline.
- Indian construction giant **AFCONS** has been tasked with completing the **Greater Male Connectivity project**. The Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP) will consist of a 6.74-km-long bridge and causeway link between Male and the nearby islands of Villingli, Gulhifalhu and Thilafushi.

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