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Current Affairs 2021

Current Affairs Coverage *from*
July 2020 *to* August 2021

Highlights

- Uttar Pradesh Special Current Affairs
- Uttar Pradesh Budget 2021-22 Analysis
- Uttar Pradesh General Knowledge at a Glance
- Tabular and Point-wise Presentation of Important Facts & Figures

Includes 350+ Practice Questions

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

2021

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National Events

Drink-From-Tap

○ Odisha's Puri has become the first city in the State to have a drink-from-tap facility. This means that the city now has safe drinking water that can be used directly from tap for cooking and drinking, without requiring further filtration.

○ Odisha's Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the 'Sujal' or drink-from-tap mission on 26th July, 2021.

ODF Plus Manuals

○ ODF Plus Manuals under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase II were released on July 28, 2021.

○ The launched manuals pertain to key components of ODF Plus and provides detailed information on technologies, technical specifications of assets, estimated costs.

○ The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation has developed manuals to support states, districts, and rural local bodies to implement solid and liquid waste management initiatives.

○ Phase -II of the SBM (G) aiming at achieving ODF Plus goal was launched early last year, which focuses on ODF sustainability and solid and liquid waste management aiming at comprehensive cleanliness in villages.

Tripura Agarwood Policy 2021

○ The government of Tripura has launched the Tripura Agarwood Policy, 2021. Agar is an evergreen tree which grows in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Northeast India, Sumatra and Kalimantan of Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Myanmar, Luzon Philippines, Singapore and Southern Thailand.

○ It has been used for over 2000 years for medicinal, aromatic and religious purposes.

○ In northeast India, Agar is found mainly in two States viz. Assam and Tripura.

○ This species has a huge potential of creating another "Economic Revolution" in Tripura after rubber, bamboo and other major forestry crops of Tripura.

○ In order to promote Agar tree, its plantation, its sustainable harvesting and promoting Agarwood based industry, detailed policy for promotion of Agarwood has been presented.

97th Constitutional Amendment

○ The Supreme Court upheld a 2013 judgment of the Gujarat High Court and struck down certain provisions of the Constitution (97th Amendment) Act, 2011.

○ **Major Provisions of the 97th Amendment**

● The word "cooperatives" was added after "unions and associations" in Article 19(1)(c) under Part III of the Indian Constitution. This enables all the citizens to form cooperatives by giving it the status of fundamental right of citizens.

● A new Article 43B was added in the Directive Principles of State Policy (Part IV) regarding the "promotion of cooperative societies".

○ **Supreme Court's Ruling**

● It held that the 97th Constitutional Amendment required ratification by at least one-half of the state legislatures as per Article 368(2) of the Indian Constitution, since it dealt with an entry which was an exclusive state subject (co-operative societies).

● Under Article 368(2), Parliament can amend the Constitution by passing a Bill with a special majority.

● Since such ratification was not done in the case of the 97th amendment, it was liable to be struck down.

● It did not strike down the portions of Part IX B of the amendment concerning 'Multi State Co-operative Societies (MSCS)' due to the lack of ratification.

● When it comes to MSCS with objects not confined to one State, the legislative power would be that of the Union of India which is contained in Entry 44 List I (Union List).

● It is declared that Part IX B of the Constitution is operative only insofar as it concerns multi-State cooperative societies both within the various States and in the Union Territories.

National Research Foundation

○ On July 26, 2021, Central Government proposed to set up a National Research Foundation (NRF) to strengthen the research ecosystem in the country.

❍ NRF is being envisaged as an umbrella structure that will improve linkages between R&D, academia and industry. The total proposed outlay of NRF is ₹50,000 crore over a period of five years.

❍ It will also fund and support high-impact, large-scale, multi-investigator, multi- institution and, in some cases, interdisciplinary or multi-nation projects in collaboration with relevant Ministries, Departments, and other governmental and non-governmental entities, especially industry.

'Nadi ko Jano' App

❍ Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched the 'Nadi ko Jano' mobile application during an online webinar organised by the Bharatiya Shikshan Mandal on the occasion of Vyaas Pooja Mahotsav.

❍ The purpose of the app is to gather information about rivers across India. The initiative is a part of research for the Resurrection Foundation with the aim of creating a database on Indian rivers.

Map Services in UMANG App

❍ The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) has taken various initiatives in the recent past to ease the lives of citizens by facilitating online delivery of government services.

❍ To further enhance the initiatives of Digital India Programme, and keeping in view the theme of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', MeitY has enabled map services in "UMANG App " through an MoU with MapmyIndia.

❍ UMANG app has already started to provide map functionality through MapmyIndia in the following services:

● **Mera Ration:** Through UMANG, users can identify and navigate to the 'Nearest Fair Price Shops', as shops are visible in the form of pointers on MapmyIndia integrated map.

● **eNAM:** Through UMANG, 'Mandi Near Me' service will help users to identify and navigate to the nearby mandis pointed on the map.

● **Damini**: 'Damini Lightning Alerts' service is to provide lightning alerts to users by giving a visual of nearby areas where lightning has struck in the last few minutes. This alert mechanism provides the possibility of lightning strikes on map view.

Meghalaya Youth Policy 2021

❍ On July 19, 2021, Meghalaya State Cabinet approved the Meghalaya Youth Policy, 2021.

❍ It is a framework that envisages towards achieving the government's vision to create pathways for Meghalaya's youth in achieving their fullest potential and becoming engaged, skilled, creative, responsible and empowered members of the local and global community.

❍ The policy is in sync with the government's vision for the State to transform Meghalaya to be amongst the top 10 States in 10 years in GSDP per capita and SDG ranking.

One Block, One Product Scheme

❍ To encourage and promote small industries in the rural areas, the Haryana Government will introduce the 'One Block, One Product' scheme.

❍ Under the scheme, the State Government plans to connect every block of the State with some industrial vision and government is working expeditiously on this scheme.

Renewables Integration in India 2021

❍ A report on "Renewables Integration in India, 2021" was jointly launched by NITI Aayog and International Energy Agency on 22nd July, 2021.

❍ The report is based on the outcome of three State workshops held with the Governments of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Gujarat to understand the specific energy transition challenges faced by these renewable-rich states.

❍ The report highlights that India's power system can efficiently integrate renewables (175 GW by 2022 and 450 GW by 2030), but it would require identification of resources and proper planning, institutional support, energy storage and advance technology initiatives.

Harela Festival

❍ Harela, the festival commemorating the new harvest in the Kumaon region of Uttarakhand, was celebrated in several areas on 16th July, 2021. Harela is celebrated as the monsoon starts and is considered one of the most important festivals in the entire Kumaon region.

❍ This festival is dedicated to Hindu gods Shiva and Parvati.

Adarsh Smarak Scheme

❍ The Buddhist remains at Salihundam in Srikakulam, monuments at Nagarjunakonda in Guntur and Veerabhadra temple (Lepakshi) in Anantapur have been selected under the Adarsh Smarak Scheme.

❍ Under the scheme, these monument sites will be provided with additional benefits like cafeteria, Wi-Fi, Braille signages, interpretation centre, illumination etc.

❍ The Adarsh Smarak Scheme was launched in 2014 for providing improved visitor amenities, especially for the

physically challenged.The scheme comes under the Ministry of Culture.

Historic Urban Landscape Project

❍ In the State of Madhya Pradesh, the cities of Orchha and Gwalior have been selected by UNESCO under its 'Historic Urban Landscape Project.'

❍ The project was launched for the cities of Orchha and Gwalior by the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh on 21st July, 2021 through video conferencing.

❍ The development and management plan of these cities will now be prepared by UNESCO.

Kisan Sarathi

❍ On 16th July, 2021, a digital platform Kisan Sarathi was launched.

❍ It has been launched to facilitate farmers to get right information at right time in their desired language. This initiative will be highly valuable not only in addressing the location specific information needs of the farmers but also in agricultural extension, education and research activities of ICAR.

❍ Using the platform, the farmers can interact and avail personalised advisories on agriculture and allied areas directly from the respective scientists of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVKs).

Grain ATM

❍ The Haryana Government has set up India's first 'Grain ATM' as a pilot project in Gurugram. The advancement is adopted to avoid long queues in grain collection at ration shops.

❍ This machine has been installed under the 'World Food Programme' of the UN, and is called the 'Automated, Multi Commodity, Grain Dispensing Machine'.

❍ The beneficiary can collect grain after authenticating with the Aadhaar or ration card unique number. Three types of grains, wheat, rice and millet can be distributed through this machine. At present, the distribution of wheat has been started from the 'Grain ATM' machine installed at Farrukhnagar.

Darbar Move Tradition

❍ Jammu & Kashmir Governor Manoj Sinha put an end to a 149-year-old Darbar Move tradition of shuttling between the two capitals every six months.

❍ Darbar Move was a tradition of shifting the Union Territory's administrative capital biannually. The tradition was started during the reign of Dogra ruler Maharaja Ranbir Singh in 1872.

❍ The tradition involved transition of Raj Bhavan, Civil Secretariat, seats of J&K government and other administrative offices with season change.

❍ From May to October, governmental offices were housed in the summer capital of J&K, Srinagar and the other six months in the winter capital, Jammu.

Ministry of Cooperation

❍ Union Government announced the creation of a new "Ministry of Co-operation" on July 6, 2021. This ministry will provide a separate administrative, legal and policy framework for strengthening the cooperative movement in the country.

❍ The Ministry will work to streamline processes for 'Ease of Doing Business' for co-operatives and enable development of Multi-State Co-operatives.

❍ With the creation of this ministry, there will now be a total of 41 Central Government ministries.

Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)

❍ On 5th July, 2021, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry issued orders appointing an advisory council for its Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) Project that is aimed at curbing digital monopolies.

❍ ONDC aims at promoting open networks developed on open sourced methodology, using open specifications and open network protocols independent of any specific platform.

Portals on Ayush Sector

On July 5th, 2021 the Union minister of Ayush launched the five portals of Ayush:

❍ **Ayurveda Dataset on Clinical Trial Registry of India:** Creation of Ayurveda Dataset in CTRI facilitates the usage of Ayurveda terminologies to record clinical study based on Ayurveda interventions.

❍ **CCRAS- Research Management Information System:** A collaborative effort of ICMR and CCRAS, this portal will be a one stop solution for Research and Development in Ayurveda based studies.

❍ **E-Medha (Electronic Medical Heritage Accession) Portal:** Online public access catalog for more than 12000 Indian medical heritage books through NIC's e-granthalaya platform.

❍ **AMAR (Ayush Manuscripts Advanced Repository) Portal:** This Portal is of immense value and it has digitized information on rare and hard to find Manuscripts and

e-RUPI Digital Payment Solution

○ The PM launched e-RUPI Digital Payment Solution on 2nd August, 2021 through video conferencing.

○ e-RUPI is an e-voucher-based payment solution. It works on a QR code or SMS string, which is delivered to the mobile phones of the beneficiaries.

○ e-RUPI connects the sponsors of the services with the beneficiaries and service providers in a digital manner without any physical interface. It also ensures that the payment to the service provider is made only after the transaction is completed.

○ e-RUPI platform is developed by National Payments Corporation of India on its UPI platform.

○ It was launched in collaboration with the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and National Health Authority.

Green SEZ

Kandla Special Economic Zone, the oldest export zone in the country, has become the first green industrial city in India to receive a platinum rating under Indian Green Building Council's Green Cities Rating for existing cities in the industrial cities category.

Integrated Multi-purpose Infrastructure Development Corporation

○ On 22 July, 2021, the GoI approved the establishment of an Integrated Multi-purpose Infrastructure Development Corporation for the Union Territory of Ladakh.

○ Corporation will work for industry, tourism, transport and marketing of local products and handicraft. Corporation will also work as the main construction agency for infrastructure development in Ladakh.

Agriculture-Focused Commodity Indices

○ On July 5, 2021, the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX), launched two agriculture-focused commodity indices.These are India's first sectoral indices in the agri-commodities space namely Guarex and Soydex.

○ Guarex will track price movement in the futures contracts of its underlying Guar seed and Guar gum refined splits on a real-time basis. Similarly, Soydex will follow the price changes in futures contracts of Soybean and Refined Soy Oil.

○ Initially, both the indices will be launched on the NCDEX website that will gauge the performance of the Soy and Guar complex.

G20-OECD Tax Framework Deal

○ India has joined the G20–OECD inclusive framework deal that seeks to reform international tax rules. It also ensures that multinational enterprises pay their fair share wherever they operate.

○ India will have to roll back the equalisation levy that it imposes on companies such as Google, Amazon and Facebook when the global tax regime is implemented.

Fund for Industrial Research Engagement (FIRE)

○ On June 29, 2021, Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) launched the FIRE. SERB has launched it in collaboration with Intel India.

○ Through this facility, the Indian research community will soon be able to pursue industry- relevant research opportunities.

○ SERB-FIRE is a novel initiative to bring together industry and academia on a common platform to exchange ground-breaking ideas and co-promote innovative research.

○ The FIRE program is a joint government and industry initiative with a co-funding mechanism to promote innovative technology solutions.

NFT Marketplace

○ WazirX has launched the first NFT marketplace in India. It is notable that WazirX is one of the largest crypto exchanges in India.

○ The platform, which will be used to trade Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs), is run on the Binance Smart Chain, a blockchain platform created by Binance, one of the largest crypto exchanges in the world, which acquired WazirX.

○ WazirX will be open to everyone who wants to buy or sell the NFT and will use WazirX's own WRX token for trading.

Cash is King, but Digital is Divine

The RBI launched a new slogan, Cash is King, but Digital is Divine, to promote digital transactions in the country.

'Medicines from the Sky' Project

❍ E-commerce giant Flipkart will lead a consortium tasked with development and execution of drone deliveries to remote areas under the 'Medicines from the Sky' project in Telangana.

❍ Flipkart will use its learning from its tech-enabled supply chains to use drones to deliver medicines and vaccines in remote areas of Telangana.

Forensic Audits of Listed Companies

❍ SEBI will compile an auditor list to do forensic audits of listed companies.

❍ The applying firm should have at least ten years of experience in the field of forensic audit.

❍ Applicant firm should have at least 20 full-time employees

❍ The applicant should have had experience of undertaking at least 15 forensic audits in the past three years and at least three such audits should have been undertaken upon assignment by the regulatory body or government agency or public sector enterprise.

❍ In addition, total revenue of the firm from forensic audit assignments in the last three financial years must be at least ₹1 crore.

Customs (Import of Goods at Concessional Rate of Duty) Amendment Rules, 2021

❍ The GoI brought changes to the Customs (Imports of Goods at Concessional Rate of Duty) rules (IGCR), 2017 to boost trade facilitation. This was done through the Customs (Import of Goods at Concessional Rate of Duty) Amendment Rules, 2021.

❍ The IGCR, 2017 lay down the procedures and manner in which an importer can avail the benefit of a concessional customs duty on import of goods required for domestic production of goods or providing services.

❍ Earlier, the concessional customs duty on imports was not provided to those who did not have an in-house manufacturing facility. Now, under the new rules they can now import goods at concessional rates, get the job done in other manufacturing units.

❍ However, some sectors such as gold, jewellery, precious stones and metals have been excluded.

Second-Fastest Growing Retailer in the World

❍ Reliance Retail has been ranked second fastest growing retailer in the world in 2021. This ranking has been done by Deloitte.

❍ The list is topped by US giant Walmart Inc, which retains its position as the world's top retailer. Amazon improved its position to rank second.

Zebpay Lending Platform

❍ ZebPay announced the launch of ZebPay lending platform, the first crypto lending model of its kind in India.Now any investor can invest in Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies and like FDs, earn profits on that investment.

❍ The fixed term allows investors to lend their crypto for seven-day, 30-day, 60-day and 90-day periods, with the rate of return varying for each.

Inclusion of Climate, Digital Tech into Economic Assessments

❍ The IMF has unveiled plans to include climate, digital technology into economic assessments.

❍ It aims to revamp the way it conducts economic assessments to better account for risks related to climate change, inequality and demographics, as well as evolving digital technologies.

Highest Ever FDI Inflow

❍ India attracted the highest ever total FDI inflow of US$ 81.72 billion during the financial year 2020-21.

❍ It is 10% higher as compared to the last financial year 2019-20 (US$ 74.39 billion).

❍ In terms of top investor countries, Singapore is at the apex with 29%, followed by the USA (23%) and Mauritius (9%) for the FY 2020-21.

❍ Computer Software & Hardware has emerged as the top sector during FY 2020-21 with around 44% share of the total FDI equity inflow followed by Construction (Infrastructure) activities (13%) and Services Sector (8%) respectively.

National Digital Financial Infrastructure (NADI)

❍ The Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT),an arm of the RBI, is building a next-generation digital financial infrastructure named NADI.

❍ NADI will consists of modern network infrastructure which includes 5G/Edge Cloud with SDNs (software-defined networking) for connecting to the critical data centre infrastructure at the back-end.

India's First FPI Licence

❍ Kotak Mahindra Bank has issued India's first FPI licence to GIFTAIF.

❍ This is the first-ever foreign portfolio investor (FPI) licence to the GIFT IFSC alternative investment fund (AIF) of True Beacon Global.

❍ This is the first FPI licence issued to an AIF incorporated in GIFT IFSC by any custodian bank or designated depository participant in the country.

○ AIF is an important business vertical at GIFT IFSC and offers huge benefits and a competitive edge for setting up funds in IFSC at GIFT City.

IDBI Bank Strategic Disinvestment

○ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave in-principle approval for strategic disinvestment along with transfer of management control in IDBI Bank Limited.

○ LIC is currently the promoter of IDBI Bank with management control and GoI is the co-promoter.

Tenure for MD, CEO of Private Banks

○ RBI has fixed the tenure of Managing Director (MD), Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and whole-time director (WTD) in a private sector bank at 15 years and prescribed the maximum age of 70 years for such functionaries.

○ The maximum age limit for chairman and non-executive directors has been fixed at 75 years. The banks' boards, however, will be free to prescribe a lower retirement age for the WTDs, including the MD & CEO.

Startup India Seed Fund Scheme

○ Union Minister for Commerce and Industry launched the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme.

○ The Fund aims to provide financial assistance to startups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market-entry, and commercialization.

○ It will provide seed funding to eligible startups through eligible incubators across India.

Mega Food Park

○ Italy launched its first-ever mega food park project in India, at Fanidhar in the Mehsana district of Gujarat.

○ This is the first Italian-Indian food park project.

Subhash Chandra Garg Committee

○ Inter-Ministerial Committee on Virtual Currencies headed by finance secretary Subhash Chandra Garg has submitted its report to the government. The committee suggested a ban on private digital currencies, but it favors RBI backed National Digital Currency or central bank digital currency.

○ The committee set up by the Centre has also proposed a draft bill 'Banning of Cryptocurrency & Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2019'.

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)

○ Singapore became the first country to ratify the RCEP agreement, led by China.

○ Once implemented, RCEP would be the world's largest free trade agreement, covering around one-third of the world's population and about 30% of the world's economy.

Non-Fungible Tokens (NFT)

○ WazirX which is a Binance owned cryptocurrency exchange has launched a marketplace for Non-Fungible Tokens (NFT) for Indian market.

○ This move will enable Indian creators to auction their digital assets over the Blockchain-based platform and earn royalty.

○ NFTs are one-of-a-kind assets in the digital world that can be bought and sold like any other piece of property, but they have no tangible form of their own.

○ NFT marketplace enables the exchange of digital assets and intellectual properties such as art pieces, audio files, videos and even tweets apart from other digital goods and services when they are uploaded on this marketplace.

SAAMAR Campaign

○ The Jharkhand government launched the SAAMAR campaign to tackle malnutrition in the state.

○ SAAMAR stands for Strategic Action for Alleviation of Malnutrition and Anemia Reduction.

○ The campaign has been launched with a 1000 days target, where annual surveys will be conducted to track the progress.

○ The campaign aims to identify anemic women and malnourished children and converge various departments to effectively deal with the problem in a state where malnutrition has been a major problem. It also tries to target PVTG.

Sahi Disha Campaign

○ The UNDP has launched Sahi Disha campaign to celebrate women's livelihoods and entrepreneurship in rural India.

○ The campaign focuses on hurdles in job seeking of rural women and makes them able to earn a job and livelihood by skill development.

○ The Sahi Disha initiative is a five-year collaboration between UNDP and the IKEA Foundation.

○ The initiative enables one million women access to job and livelihood opportunities across five states – Delhi NCR, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Telangana.

PRANIT

○ Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a central PSU under Ministry of Power has established an e-tendering portal-PRANIT, which will lead to less paperwork and ease of operation, making the tendering process more transparent.

○ It has been certified by Standardisation, Testing and Quality Certification Directorate (STQC)-Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India.

6th Meeting of BRICS Culture Ministers

○ On 2nd July 2021, the Minister of State for Culture and Tourism hosted the 6th BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting through video conference.

○ The meeting was attended by delegates from Culture Ministries of the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Russian Federation, the Republic of India, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of South Africa.

Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) 2020

○ The International Telecommunication Union has released the GCI 2020. The index measures 194 countries towards their commitment to cybersecurity at a global level.

○ India is ranked at 10th position with aggregate score of 97.5.

○ The USA topped (1st), followed by the UK and Saudi Arabia tied on the second position together.

○ Estonia was ranked third in the index.

UN Resolution on Vision

○ The UN General Assembly approved its first- ever resolution on vision, calling on its 193 member nations to ensure access to eye care for everyone in their countries which would contribute to a global effort to help at least 1.1 billion people with vision impairment (who currently lack eye services) by 2030.

○ The "Vision for Everyone" resolution, sponsored by Bangladesh, Antigua and Ireland, and co-sponsored by over 100 countries, was adopted on July 23rd, 2021 by consensus of the world body. It encourages countries to institute a whole government approach to eye care.

G20 Environment Ministers' Meeting 2021

○ The G20 Environment and Energy Ministers Meeting was held on 22-23 July 2021 at Naples in Italy.

○ This meeting is one of the ministerial meetings organized as part of the G20 Leaders Summit 2021, which will be hosted by Italy in October 2021.

○ The meeting was focused on three main themes: biodiversity and protection of oceans; promoting circular economies, particularly in the fashion and textile sectors; and realigning the financial system to promote sustainable development.

○ India was represented by a delegation led by Union Environment Minister, Bhupender Yadav.

Four New Sports in Tokyo Olympics

○ Four new sports were introduced in the Tokyo Olympics, 2020. They are karate, skateboarding, surfing and sport climbing.

○ Martial art, since the 1970s, has been a candidate for Olympic inclusion but the organizers never agreed to accept this sport until the Tokyo Games presented the perfect opportunity to showcase this sport from its homeland.

○ Skateboard's debut was done by the organizers to attract the young audiences.

Sweden Joins International Solar Alliance (ISA)

○ On 17th July, 2021 leading european nation Sweden ratified the framework agreement for the ISA and its membership.

○ ISA is an initiative of India aimed at promoting renewable energy and sustainable development.

11th Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) Meeting

○ On 21st July 2021, foreign minister of the Kingdom of Combodia, co-chaired the 11th MGC foreign ministers' meeting along with foreign minister of India.

○ While addressing the MGC meeting, S Jaishankar India's External Affairs Minister has called for a "collective and collaborative" response to effectively deal with the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, saying that national boundaries are not respected by this virus.

Global Startup Ecosystem Index 2021

○ Global Startup Ecosystem Index 2021 has been released by Startup Blink. India stands at the 20th spot among the top 100 countries.

○ India currently has 43 of its cities in the top 1000 globally. Bengaluru is at 10th rank. New Delhi is at 14th rank. Mumbai is at 16th rank.

Exercise Cutlass Express 2021

○ Indian Naval Ship (INS) Talwar participated in a multinational training exercise Cutlass Express 2021, conducted on July 26 ,2021 along the East Coast of Africa.

○ The 2021 edition of the exercise involved the participation of 12 Eastern African countries, USA, UK, India and various

international organisations, like International Maritime Organisation, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Interpol, European Union Naval Force, Critical Maritime Routes Indian Ocean and EUCAP Somalia.

Jogajog

○ Bangladesh is going to develop a social media platform, 'Jogajog'. This platform will play a role as an alternative to Facebook.

○ The main purpose of this platform is to help the local entrepreneurs to create their own marketplace. They can share information and data without depending on any foreign platform.

Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation

○ India has scored 90.32% in UN's Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific's (UNESCAP) latest Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation.

○ After evaluation of 143 economies, the 2021 Survey has highlighted India's significant improvement in the scores on all 5 key indicators, which are as follows:

- **Transparency**: 100% in 2021 (from 93.33% in 2019)
- **Formalities:** 95.83% in 2021 (from 87.5% in 2019)
- **Institutional Arrangement and Cooperation:** 88.89% in 2021 (from 66.67% in 2019)
- **Paperless Trade:** 96.3% in 2021 (from 81.48% in 2019)
- **Cross-Border Paperless Trade:** 66.67% in 2021 (from 55.56% in 2019)

○ India has achieved a 100% score for the Transparency index and 66% in the "Women in trade".

SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting

○ The defence minister of India visited Dushanbe, Tajikistan to attend the annual meeting of the Defence Ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states.

○ Tajikistan is chairing the SCO this year and hosting a series of ministerial and official-level meetings.

○ The SCO, seen as a counterweight to NATO, is an eight-member economic and security bloc and has emerged as one of the largest trans-regional international organisations.

○ India and Pakistan became its permanent members in 2017.

○ The SCO was founded at a summit in Shanghai in 2001 by the Presidents of Russia, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

C5+1

○ USA and Central Asian foreign ministers hold a C5+1 summit in Uzbekistan.

○ The meeting was attended by Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan, Deputy National Security Advisor to the President of the United States and Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan to Uzbekistan.

World Giving Index (WGI) 2021

○ WGI 2021 has been released by the UK based Charities Aid Foundation (CAF). In this survey, 114 countries have been ranked.

○ This year's survey of CAF mentions the effects of the lockdown on charity and philanthropic activities.

○ Ranking has been provided on the basis of total 3 pillars, these three pillars are:

- Helped a Stranger, or someone you didn't know who needed help.
- Donated Money to a Charity.
- Volunteered your time to an organisation

○ Indonesia got the credit of being the top charitable country in this index, followed by Kenya, Nigeria, Myanmar and Australia.

○ India has been ranked 14th in this index. USA and UK are ranked 19th and 22nd respectively.

○ Among India's neighboring countries, Nepal was ranked 27th, Sri Lanka 63rd, Bangladesh 69th, China 95th and Pakistan 107th.

The Sustainable Development Report 2021

○ The report was prepared and released by experts from the UN Sustainable Development Solution Network. The index compares how countries implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

○ The SDG Index is an assessment of each country's overall performance on the 17 SDGs, giving equal weight to each Goal. The score signifies a country's position between the worst possible outcome (0) and the best, or target outcome (100).

○ Three Nordic countries top the 2021 SDG Index: Finland (1st), Sweden (2nd), and Denmark (3rd).

○ India ranked 120th in SDR report 2021.

Namaste Yoga' Mobile App

○ During the curtain raiser event for the 7th International Day of Yoga, a mobile application called "Namaste Yoga" was launched.

○ Event was organised by the Ministry of Ayush in association with Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga.

UNDP Report on Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP)

❍ A report 'Aspirational Districts Programme: An Appraisal', was presented by UNDP India Resident Representative Shoko Noda to NITI Aayog Vice- Chairman Rajiv Kumar and CEO Amitabh Kant.

❍ The report is an appraisal of India's ADP, which was launched in 2018.

❍ Through the report UNDP has lauded the Indian government's ADP as a very successful model of local area development which is aligned to the principle of leave no one behind – the vital core of the SDGs.

❍ Report has analysed 5 key sectors of the ADP—health and nutrition; education; agriculture and water resources; basic infrastructure; and skill development and financial inclusion.

India Elected to UN ECOSOC

❍ India is elected to the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for 2022-2024 term in the elections held in the United Nations. India is elected in the Asia-Pacific states category along with Afghanistan, Kazakhstan and Oman.

❍ Elected African countries are Cote d'Ivoire, Eswatini, Mauritius, Tunisia, and the United Republic of Tanzania.

❍ UN ECOSOC is the principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on economic, social and environmental issues, as well as implementation of internationally agreed development goals.

❍ It has 54 members, elected by the General Assembly for overlapping three-year terms.

China Certified as Malaria Free

❍ China is certified Malaria free by WHO in June, 2021.

❍ The end goal for all malaria-endemic countries is certification of malaria elimination, the official recognition by WHO of a country's malaria-free status.

❍ WHO grants the certification when a country has proven that the chain of indigenous malaria transmission has been interrupted nationwide for at least the past three consecutive years.

❍ As per World Malaria Report, 2020 India is the only high endemic country which has reported a decline of 17.6% in 2019 as compared to 2018.

Mobile World Congress 2021

❍ Mobile World Congress, the world's biggest mobile event of the year, was organised in Barcelona, Spain. It is an annual event focused on innovations in the telecom industry.

❍ Hosted by Global System for Mobile Communications (GSMA), the flagship event was attended by the major telecom operators, smartphone companies, component manufacturers, trade insiders, media, and representatives from telecom ministries around the world.

❍ GSMA is an industry organisation representing the interests of mobile network operators across the world.

Green Rating System for High Speed Rail

❍ The world's first exclusive green rating system for high-speed rail has been launched, with the Indian Green Building Council undertaking its formulation in collaboration with the National High Speed Rail Corporation Ltd.

❍ This rating system will be a tool to enable new high-speed rail stations to apply energy efficient concepts during design and construction, so as to further reduce adverse environmental impacts that are measurable.

❍ This is a system developed to meet requirements of UN SDGs.

Bullet Train in Tibet

China on June 25 operationalised its first fully electrified bullet train in the remote Himalayan region of Tibet, connecting the provincial capital Lhasa and Nyingchi, a strategically located Tibetan border town close to Arunachal Pradesh.

International Vaccine Institute

❍ Bangladesh will set up an international institute for vaccine production including for COVID 19.

❍ Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina stated that the government will sign an agreement with South Korea to set up the vaccine institute in Bangladesh.

Reuters Digital News Report 2021

❍ The 10th edition of Digital News Report, based on data from six continents and 46 markets was published. Report is published by Reuters Institute for Study of Journalism (RISJ).

❍ The aim of the report is to cast light on the key issues that industry face at a time of deep uncertainty and rapid change.

❍ India was ranked at 31st position in the category of "trust in news" out of 46 media markets that were surveyed by Reuters.

❍ Asian College of Journalism provided logistical support to survey the Indian market.

India and USA Hydrogen Task Force

❍ The United States Department of Energy, India's Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and the USA India Strategic Partnership Forum have jointly launched a USA-India Hydrogen Task Force.

4 Science & Technology

Khadi Prakritik Paint

❍ Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways & MSME launched an innovative new paint which is India's first cow dung paint developed by Khadi and Village Industries Commission.

❍ The eco-friendly, non-toxic paint, called Khadi Prakritik Paint is a first-of-its-kind product, with anti-fungal, anti-bacterial properties. Based on cow dung as its main ingredient, the paint is cost-effective and odourless, and has been certified by the Bureau of Indian Standards.

Pegasus Spyware

❍ Pegasus is a spyware tool developed by an Israeli firm.

❍ As the name suggests, spyware spies on people through their phones. Once Pegasus is installed, the attacker has complete access to the target user's phone.

Pod Taxi

❍ Indian Port Rail and Ropeway Corporation Ltd has prepared a detailed project report for India's first pod taxi service between Noida Airport at Jewar and Film City.

❍ The project stretch is 14 km between which the first driverless taxi will be operated. Pod taxis can accommodate four to six passengers per car.

Healthcare Innovation Challenge (HIC) 2.0

❍ NASSCOM Centre of Excellence has launched HIC 2.0. The initiative aims to address the challenges faced by healthcare providers in digital technology adoption.

❍ The key objectives of the HIC include driving operational excellence by enabling automation of administrative processes and digitisation of clinical workflows through the adoption of digital technology solutions.

India's Largest Energy Park

❍ The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy approved setting up of a 4750 MW renewable energy park at Rann of Kutch in Khavada, Gujarat.

❍ This will be India's largest solar park to be built by NTPC.

❍ As a part of its green energy portfolio augmentation, NTPC Ltd. aims to build 60 GW Renewable Energy Capacity by 2032. Currently, the state owned power major has an installed capacity of 66 GW across 70 power projects with an additional 18 GW under construction.

Cryptogenic Garden

❍ On July 11th, 2021, the country's first cryptogenic garden (non-seed plant) started in Devvan in Chakrata area of Uttarakhand.

❍ Cryptograms are plants that have been present on Earth since the Jurassic era. These plants are also good bioindicators, as species such as lichens do not inhabit areas affected by pollution.

❍ These species also have tremendous economic value. They are used as condiments in foods also. Many fern species are used for filtering heavy metals.

Land Bank

❍ The India Industrial Land Bank is a GIS-based portal, a one-stop repository of all industrial infrastructure-related information.

❍ The system has been integrated with industry-based GIS systems of 17 states to have details on the portal updated on a real-time basis and will achieve pan-India integration by December 2021.

Blackfrog Technologies

❍ Department of Biotechnology (DBT)-Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) supported startup Blackfrog Technologies has developed Emvolio.

❍ Emvolio is a portable, battery-powered medical-grade refrigeration device that improves the efficiency of the immunization by strictly maintaining preset temperature for up to 12 hours, thus enabling the safe and efficient transportation of vaccines to the last mile.

❍ Due to ability of the device to strictly maintain the temperature between 2°C and 8°C for up to 12 hours in the field, the device is being used as a platform for delivery of vaccines and other biologicals like blood, serums, viral culture.

Short Span Bridging System

❍ The first production lot of 12 Short Span Bridging System (SSBS)-10 m, designed and developed by DRDO, was inducted into the Indian Army.

❍ The SSBS-10 m plays a crucial role of bridging the gaps up to 9.5 m as a single span providing a 4 m wide, fully decked roadway, ensuring faster movement of the troops.

- The Project Short Span Bridging System involved the development of two prototypes of 5 m SSBS on Tatra 6×6 chassis and another two prototypes of 10 m SSBS on Tatra 8×8 re-engineered chassis.

Atmanirbhar Krishi App

- Atmanirbhar Krishi App was launched by the Office of Principal Scientific Adviser on June 29, 2021.
- The app has been created to equip farmers with actionable agricultural insights and early weather alerts.
- Data related to soil type, soil health, moisture, weather, and water table will be aggregated and analysed to generate personalized insights related to crop selection, fertilizers requirements, and water needs for each farmer at the farm- holding level.

Clean Commercial Nuclear Reactor

- Chinese scientists have unveiled plans for a first-of-its- kind, experimental nuclear reactor that does not need water for cooling.
- The molten-salt nuclear reactor, which runs on liquid thorium rather than uranium, is expected to be safer than traditional reactors because the molten salt cools and solidifies quickly when exposed to the air, insulating the thorium.
- This will pave the way for the building of the first commercial reactor, slated for construction by 2030.
- As this type of reactor does not require water, it will be able to operate in desert regions. The location of the first commercial reactor will be in the desert city of Wuwei.

3D-Printed Steel Bridge

- The world's first 3D-printed steel bridge has been opened to the public in Amsterdam, Netherland. It was developed by MX3D, a Dutch robotics company, in collaboration with a consortium of experts.
- The 12-metre-long steel structure will be a 'living laboratory' as it will capture and transmit data on its health in real-time.

Checkmate

- Russia has unveiled a new fighter aircraft named 'Checkmate'. The aircraft will compete against US' F- 35 in the international market.
- The Checkmate has an internal weapons bay designed to preserve its anti-radar shaping and is capable of carrying both air-to-air and air-to-ground ordnance.
- This includes both infrared and radar-guided air-to-air missiles, air-to-ground and anti-ship missiles, guided and unguided bombs, and unguided rockets.

SPARSH System

- The Ministry of Defence has implemented the System for Pension Administration Raksha (SPARSH). It is an integrated system for automation of sanction and disbursement of defence pension.
- This web-based system processes pension claims and credits pension directly into the bank accounts of defence pensioners.
- Under this system defence pensioners are independent from relying on any external intermediary.
- The two largest banks dealing with defence pensioners – State Bank of India and Punjab National Bank have been co-opted as service centres.

Sea Breaker

- On 30 June 2021, Israel unveiled a fifth generation long range, autonomous, precision- guided missile system 'Sea Breaker'.
- Sea Breaker missile system is built by the Israeli defence manufacturing company Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Ltd.
- It is a naval and artillery unit force-multiplier, designed to overcome the modern warfare arena challenges, using Rafael's legacy of high-end precision guided solutions.
- It can be launched from naval platforms, varying in size, from fast attack missile boats, to corvettes and frigates.

Indrajaal

- Hyderabad-based technology R&D firm Grene Robotics has designed and developed India's first indigenous drone defence dome called "Indrajaal". The drone defence dome has the capability to autonomously protect an area of 1000-2000 sq km.
- It works against aerial threats by assessing and acting on aerial threats such as unmanned aerial vehicles, loitering munitions, and low-radar cross section targets.
- **Features of Indrajaal**
  - Real-time situational awareness.
  - Integrated and Intelligent meshed network.
  - Integrated all current weapons suite and infrastructure.
  - Honeycombed cell structure.
  - Synergic combination of 9-10 technologies.
  - 24×7 persistent and autonomous monitoring, action and tracking.

INS Vikrant

- India's first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC-I) named INS Vikrant, is being planned to be commissioned by 2022. It is being developed at Kochi, Kerala.

- The carrier is being built by M/s Cochin Shipyard Ltd under a public-private partnership.

- It comprises nearly 75% of indigenous content and shall operate MiG-29K fighter aircraft, Kamov-31 Air Early Warning Helicopters, the soon to be inducted MH-60R multi-role helicopter and the indigenously manufactured Advanced Light Helicopters.

- Currently, the Indian Navy is operating an aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya purchased from Russia.

Genetically Modified (GM) Rubber

- The world's first GM rubber plant has been planted on the outskirts of Guwahati, Assam.

- It is developed at the Kerala-based Rubber Research Institute of India and planted at the board's farm in Sarutari near Guwahati.

- The GM rubber plant, the first of its kind developed exclusively for the north-east, is expected to thrive in the climatic conditions of the region.

Operation Olivia

- Indian Coast Guard has enforced laws and started operation Olivia to protect Olive Ridley turtles in Odisha which was started in early 1980s. Olive Ridley turtles are listed as vulnerable under the IUCN Red List.

- Sea turtles found in India have been included in Schedule I of Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. They are also listed in Appendix I of Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

- Their mass nesting is called Arribada.

CAR-T Cell Therapy

- The Department of Biotechnology supported the first Chimeric antigen receptor cell therapy (CAR-T) conducted at ACTREC, Tata Hospital in Mumbai. CAR-T cell therapy carried out for the first time in India.

- This therapy is very effective on last stage blood cancer.

- Under the Ministry of Science and Technology, the DBT supports and accelerates the development of biotechnology in India, including its growth and use in agriculture, healthcare, animal sciences, environment, and industry.

Indian Certification of Medical Devices (ICMED) Plus Scheme

- The Quality Council of India and the Association of Indian Manufacturers of Medical Devices have added further features to the ICMED, the scheme that was launched for certification of medical devices in 2016.

- ICMED 13485 Plus has been designed to integrate the quality management system components and product-related quality validation processes through witness testing of products with reference to the defined product standards and specifications.

- This scheme will be an end-to-end quality assurance scheme for the medical devices sector in India.

PASIPHAE

- Polar-Areas Stellar-Imaging in Polarisation High-Accuracy Experiment (PASIPHAE) is an international collaborative sky surveying project.

- The project aims to study the polarisation in the light coming from millions of stars.

- The survey will use two high-tech optical polarimeters to observe the northern and southern skies, simultaneously.

- It will focus on capturing starlight polarisation of very faint stars that are so far away that polarisation signals from there have not been systematically studied. The distances to these stars will be obtained from measurements of the GAIA satellite.

Jivan Vayu

- The IIT Ropar has developed a device known as Jivan Vayu, which can be used in place of Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) machines.

- CPAP machine is used for patients suffering from breathing problems and sleep apnea.

- Traditionally, CPAP machines use mild air pressure to keep airways open.

- The therapy is also used to treat infants whose lungs have not fully developed.

- The new device is the first to be designed in India that functions even without electricity.

- Jivan Vayu is adapted to both kinds of oxygen generation units like CO_2 cylinders and oxygen pipelines.

Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST)

- EAST reactor, which is also known as the Chinese artificial sun, sets a new world record of achieving a plasma temperature of 120 million degrees Celsius for 101 seconds.

- This successful experiment is being considered as a key step towards the test running of a fusion reactor.

- EAST reactor is an advanced nuclear fusion experimental research device.

- EAST is located at the Institute of Plasma Physics of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Hefei, China.

Environment & Ecology

Global CA/TS Recognition

❍ India's 14 Tiger Reserves have recently (July, 2021) got Global CA/TS recognition for good tiger conservation. CA/TS stands for – Conservation Assured|Tiger Standards.

❍ CA|TS has been agreed upon as an accreditation tool by the global coalition of Tiger Range Countries and has been developed by tiger and protected area experts.

❍ The 14 tiger reserves which have been accredited are Manas, Kaziranga and Orang in Assam, Satpura, Kanha and Panna in Madhya Pradesh, Pench in Maharashtra, Valmiki in Bihar, Dudhwa in UP, Sunderbans in West Bengal, Parambikulam in Kerala, Bandipur in Karnataka and Mudumalai and Anamalai Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu.

Alison

❍ A black squirrel is rarely found in India. Alison, the black squirrel is named after a U.K. based scientist who helped identify the animal.

❍ Following up on the preliminary investigations that confirmed the black animal to be a variant of the Indian three-striped palm squirrel *(Funambulus palmarum)*, the scientists went on to decipher the genetic causes of the colour change.

❍ Finally, after 13 years of research, the team came up with the finding that the phenomenon was caused by gene mutation.

India's Biggest Man-made Forest

❍ According to an announcement made in July, 2021 India's biggest man-made forest will come up on 885 acres of land in Chhattisgarh state.

❍ The project will come up over the next three years at an estimated cost of ₹3 crore in Durg District (Nandini limestone site).

❍ The project will come up under the supervision of the district administration and will present an example to the world as to how mined out areas can be converted into natural habitats.

Lemru Elephant Reserve

❍ Lemru Elephant Reserve is in Chhattisgarh. In a letter on June 26, 2021 the State Forest and Environment Department asked the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) to make a presentation for decreasing the area of the proposed reserve from 1,995sq km to 450sq km.

❍ Lemru is one of two elephant reserves planned to prevent human-animal conflict in the region, with elephants moving into Chhattisgarh from Odisha and Jharkhand.

❍ A letter from the then PCCF described the reserve as part of an elephant corridor that connects Lemru (Korba), Badalkhol (Jashpur), Tamorpingla (Surguja).

National Dolphin Research Centre (NDRC)

❍ The process to set up the NDRC in Patna has begun by the GoI. It is a big step for the conservation of the endangered Gangetic river dolphin.

❍ The Bihar Urban Development department has recently cleared the construction of NDRC's building from about 200 metres from the Ganga.

Valmiki Tiger Reserve

❍ Authorities in Bihar's Valmiki Tiger Reserve have started planning for conservation of vultures after 150 birds were sighted recently in the protected area.

❍ A proposed plan for vulture conservation has been sent to the Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats.

❍ Valmiki National Park, Tiger Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary is located at the India-Nepal border in the West Champaran district of Bihar on the bank of river Gandak.

❍ It is the only National Park and Tiger Reserve of Bihar.

Glacial Lake Atlas

❍ On 29th June 2021, the Glacial Lake Atlas of Ganga Basin was released by the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.

❍ The present glacial lake atlas is based on the inventoried glacial lakes in part of Ganga river basin from its origin to foothills of Himalayas covering a catchment area of 2,47,109 sq. km. The study portion of Ganga river basin covers part of India and transboundary region.

❍ Ganga basin is the biggest river basin in the country, draining an area of 8,61,452 sq. km.

Last Ice Area

❍ On 1st July, 2021 a paper was published in the journal "Communication Earth Environment". Researchers noted

that in August, 2020 the area where the Last Ice Area is located, experienced record low concentration of sea ice.

❍ A part of the Arctic's ice called "Last Ice Area", located north of Greenland, has melted before expected. Scientists had believed this area was strong enough to withstand global warming.

Eye of Fire

❍ A fire on the ocean surface termed, 'Eye of Fire' erupted in the Gulf of Mexico, west of Mexico's Yucatan peninsula. The fire broke out after a gas leak in an undersea pipeline of the state-owned oil company Petroleos Mexicanos or Pemex.

❍ Bright orange flames jumping out of water resembling molten lava was dubbed as an "eye of fire" on social media due to the blaze's circular shape.

Subglacial Lakes in Antarctica

❍ Scientists have discovered the two new subglacial lakes below the thick ice surface in Antarctica using NASA's Ice, Cloud and Land Elevation Satellite-2 (ICESat-2).

❍ The satellite measures the height of the ice surface, which, despite its enormous thickness, rises or falls as lakes fill or empty under the ice sheet.

Fourth Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan

❍ The Rajasthan government has approached the National Tiger Conservation Authority to develop Ramgarh Vishdhari sanctuary in Bundi as the 4th tiger reserve.

❍ Rajasthan has three tiger reserves; Ranthambore Tiger Reserve in Sawai Madhopur, Sariska Tiger Reserve in Alwar, and Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve (MHTR) in Kota.

❍ To strengthen the prey base, the state had already approved shifting of chital (spotted deer) from Ghana Bird Sanctuary (Karauli) to MHTR, Keoladeo National Park and Ramgarh Vishdhari.

Crocodile Species of Odisha

❍ Odisha has emerged as the only state to have all three species of crocodiles.

❍ The freshwater Gharials are found at Satakosiya in Mahanadi and the muggers and saltwater crocodiles are found at BhitarKanika National park.

❍ Gharials, being different from muggers, do not harm humans. Gharials are listed in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Racer Snake

❍ An international team of researchers have discovered a new species of racer snake from Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu.

❍ The new species is named *Platyceps josephi* (after late herpetologist Naveen Joseph).

❍ It is a non-venomous terrestrial snake, so far only known from Tamil Nadu.

❍ The species' ability to adapt and its reproductive success is not known.

❍ The team writes that *Platyceps josephi* should be considered a species in the vulnerable category according to the IUCN criteria.

Xylophis Deepaki

❍ In the beginning of 2021, a tiny wood snake in the family Pareidae of species Xylophis was discovered.

❍ This small genus of snakes has been named as Xylophis Deepaki. It was first found on a coconut plantation in Kanyakumari.

❍ This snake has been named so to honour Indian herpetologist Deepak Veerappan.

❍ It is now reported to be an endemic species of Tamil Nadu. It has also been sighted in some parts of the Southern Western Ghats.

Corpse Flower

❍ Corpse Flower (*Amorphophallus titanum*) has bloomed in San Francisco, America. It is native to the rainforests of Sumatra in Indonesia.

❍ It is an ultra-rare plant that blooms only once every seven to ten years. It is called corpse flower because of its pungent rotten smell which is like rotting corpse.

❍ It was listed as an endangered plant in 2018 by the IUCN.

World's Largest Iceberg

❍ The world's largest iceberg broke off from an ice shelf in Antarctica, named as A-76. It was spotted by European Space Agency satellite Copernicus Sentinel.

❍ Hydrofracturing is considered as the cause of this and some other breakways.

❍ Hydrofracturing occurs when water, which is heavier than ice, pours through cracks in the surface of ice shelves caused by surface warming. It violently forces the fractures to zip open, causing an iceberg to break off.

Leaders' Summit on Climate

❍ PM Narendra Modi participated in the "Leaders' Summit on Climate", hosted by the President of the U.S.A.

❍ Theme of the summit was 'Our Collective Sprint to 2030'.

❍ The summit was being held in the run-up to the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP-26) that will take place in November, 2021 in Glasglow.

Odisha's Second Biosphere Reserve

❍ The Odisha State government has proposed a second biosphere reserve in the southern part of the State at

Mahendragiri. Mahendragiri is also the second-highest peak in the State.

○ The area of the proposed Mahendragiri Biosphere Reserve is spread over Gajapati and Ganjam districts in the Eastern Ghats.

Blue Nature Alliance

○ The Blue Nature Alliance is an ambitious global partnership to advance effective large-scale ocean conservation.

○ It is a collaboration led by Conservation International, the Pew Charitable Trusts, the Global Environment Facility, Minderoo Foundation and the Rob and Melani Walton Foundation.

○ The alliance has a target to:

- Conserve 18 million square kilometers of ocean in five years.
- Protect 5% of the world's ocean in five years.
- Help the world achieve 30% ocean conservation by 2030.

Forest Healing Centre

○ On 7th March, 2021, India's first forest healing centre was inaugurated at Kalika near Ranikhet, Uttarakhand.

○ The forest healing centre has been developed by the research wing of the Uttarakhand Forest Department. It is spread over an area of around 13 acres.

○ The centre will revitalize the human health and well being by providing platforms to the meditation and exercises in a prosperous forest ambience.

○ The healing centre is inspired by the Japanese technique of forest bathing (shinrin – yoku).

○ Uttarakhand is home of biodiversity rich Corbett National Park, Gangotri National Park, Govind PashuVihar National Park, Nanda Devi National Park, Rajaji National Park and Valley of Flowers National Park.

Olive Ridley Turtles

○ Olive Ridley turtles are best known for their unique mass nesting called Arribada, where thousands of females come together on the same beach to lay eggs.

○ These are the most abundant of all sea turtles found in the world.

○ Gahirmatha, located in Kendrapara district of Odisha is the biggest breeding home of the sea turtles that come from the Pacific Ocean.

○ Olive Ridley turtles are listed as vulnerable in the IUCN Red List, Appendix I in CITES, and Schedule I in Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management

○ On the occasion of World Wetlands Day on 2nd February, Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change announced the establishment of a Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management as a part of the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management. The National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management is an institution under the ministry, and is situated at Chennai.

○ India has nearly 4.6% of its land as wetlands, covering an area of 15.26 million hectares.

○ India has 46 sites designated as Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites), with a surface area of 1.08 million hectares.

○ The Ramsar Convention is an international agreement promoting the conservation of wetlands. The Convention was adopted at Ramsar in Iran in 1971 and came into force in 1975.

○ The year 2021 also commemorates the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands on 2nd February, 1971 in Ramsar, Iran.

Dino Adventure Park and Fossils Museum

○ On 13th February, 2021, the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Spirituality of Madhya Pradesh, inaugurated the newly constructed Dino Adventure Park and Fossils Museum in Mandu.

○ It is noteworthy that Dinosaur Adventure Park is the first modern Fossils Park in the country.

○ Dinosaur eggs and large stones are also placed in Fossil Park, also known as Bajna stone.

The Malayan Giant Squirrel

○ In a recently conducted study by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), it has been found that Malayan Giant Squirrel (*Ratufa bicolor*) is on the verge of extinction.

○ ZSI has informed that its study speculated that Malayan Giant Squirrel (*Ratufa bicolor*) could decline by 90% in India by 2050.

○ The Malayan Giant Squirrel, one of the world's largest squirrel species that has a dark upper body, pale under parts, and a long, bushy tail.

○ It is currently found in parts of West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Nagaland.

○ India is home to three giant squirrel species; the other two – Indian Giant Squirrel and Grizzled Giant Squirrel – are found in peninsular India.

Havana Syndrome

○ A report by the National Academies of Sciences (NAS), USA has found "directed" microwave radiation to be "plausible"

UP State Institute of Forensic Science (UPSIFS)

- ❍ UPSIFS is set up under the Ministry of Home Affairs in Lucknow.
- ❍ It will be governed by Gujarat-based National Forensic Sciences University.
- ❍ It will provide expertise in discourses such as civil and criminal law, police science, behavioural science, criminology and forensics.

Kakori Train Action

- ❍ The Government of UP has renamed 'Kakori Kand', an important movement in the history of India's freedom struggle, to 'Kakori Train Action'.
- ❍ The Kakori Train Action was a train robbery, committed by the revolutionaries of the Indian independence movement against the British Raj on August 9, 1925, in a village called Kakori near Lucknow.
- ❍ This robbery was carried out by 10 revolutionaries including Hindustan Republican Association's revolutionaries Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqullah Khan, Rajendra Lahiri, Keshav Chakraborty, Mukundi Lal, Banwari Lal.
- ❍ Significantly, freedom fighters Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqullah Khan and Roshan Singh were hanged on December 19, 1927 for their involvement in the Kakori Conspiracy.

UP New Population Policy 2021-30

- ❍ UP unveiled its New Population Policy 2021-30, on the occasion of World Population Day (11th July).
- ❍ The policy proposes five key targets: population control; ending curable maternal mortality and illnesses; ending curable infant mortality and ensuring betterment in their nutrition status; betterment of sexual and reproductive health-related information and facilities among the youth; and care of elders.
- ❍ The UP government's law commission has also prepared a population control bill, under which a two-child norm will be implemented and promoted.

Indian Institute of Heritage

- ❍ The Union Government has decided to set up the Indian Institute of Heritage in Noida.

- ❍ It will be an umbrella body under which all heritage institutes in the country will operate.
- ❍ The institute will offer masters and PhD courses in history of arts, conservation, archaeology, epigraphy, archival studies and manuscriptology.

Panchayat Secretariat

- ❍ UP cabinet has decided to set up a panchayat secretariat in all panchayats of the state.
- ❍ The move is aimed at strengthening the rural democracy and providing employment to the rural youth. Panchayat secretariat will be established in all gram panchayats for the first time in the state. There are around 58,189 gram panchayats in UP.

Chaurasi Koshi Parikrama Marg

- ❍ Chaurasi Koshi Parikrama Marg in UP has been declared as National Highway.
- ❍ It spreads around 275.35 km in five districts, including Ayodhya, Ambedkar Nagar, Barabanki, Basti and Gonda district.

Rudraksh

- ❍ On 15th July 2021, Prime Minister inaugurated the International Cooperation and Convention Centre – Rudraksh in Varanasi.
- ❍ The centre has been built to provide opportunities for social and cultural conferences which would strengthen the city's competitiveness by developing its tourism sector.
- ❍ The centre named "Rudraksh" has as many as 108 Rudraksha installed at the centre. Its roof is shaped like a 'Shiva Linga'.

New Afforestation Record

- ❍ UP has set a new record by planting 25.75 crore saplings in a single day on 4th July 2021. Saplings were planted during the week long Van Mahotsav that ended on 4th July 2021 and it took 4 days of plantation to achieve the target on 4th July.
- ❍ CM Yogi Adityanath planted the sapling at the newly constructed Purvanchal expressway in Sultanpur district.
- ❍ The target for the year 2021 has been set at planting 30 crore saplings under Van Mahotsava.

Corteva Agriscience

- On 22 July 2021 Corteva Agriscience, a global agricultural company, announced its plan for sustainable rice farming in UP.
- Corteva Agriscience, for this purpose has inked a three-year project with the World Bank Group's 2030 Water Resources Group.
- The project has been conceived to build the capacity of farmers on the Direct Seeded Rice (DSR) technique.
- This project, called 'Enhancing Landscape level Sustainability for Rice Production in UP provides a framework for transforming 40,000 acres of land from traditional methods of transplanting rice to the DSR technique.

Ambedkar Cultural Centre

The UP Government has decided to set up an Ambedkar Cultural Centre at Aishbagh (Eidgah) in Lucknow. It has decided to provide land free of cost for the Ambedkar Centre.

New Hub of Fruit and Vegetable Export

- The UP Government has decided to turn Varanasi and Amroha into the new hub of vegetable and fruit exports which is a part of a larger goal to increase farmers' income.
- Later, similar pack houses will be set up in Pratapgarh, Bareilly, Gorakhpur, Prayagraj, Lakhimpur Kheri, Shahjahanpur, Ayodhya, Jhansi and Aligarh.

One Nation, One Standard

- Lucknow-based Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO), which sets standards for the railway sector, has become the first standards body in the country to join the central government's 'One Nation, One Standard' scheme that aims to ensure quality products to Indian consumers.
- The RDSO has now been recognised as a 'Standard Developing Organisation' by the Bureau of Indian Standards, which is implementing the scheme.

India Smart Cities Awards 2020

- The awards were given across the themes of Social Aspects, Governance, Culture, Urban Environment, Sanitation, Economy, Built Environment, Water, Urban Mobility.
- Themes such as Sustainable Business model of ICCC and Innovation award especially in Covid-19 management have also been added.
- Indore and Surat won the city award jointly for their overall development and UP won the state award. Chandigarh won the award for the Union Territories.

Centers of Department of Science and Technology

- Several centers are being set up by the Department of Science and Technology to house major analytical instruments to provide common services of high-end analytical testing, thus avoiding duplication and reduced dependency on foreign sources.
- Three such centers set up at IIT Kharagpur, IIT Delhi and IIT BHU Varanasi, are being operated with a transparent, open access policy.
- These centers initiated under the 'Sophisticated Analytical & Technical Help Institutes (SATHI)' scheme of Department of Science and Technology, will address the need for building shared, professionally managed, and strong science and technology infrastructure in the country.

UP Covid Emergency Financing Scheme

- On 15th May 2021, UP Government approved Covid Emergency Financing Scheme to provide a subsidy of 25% or ₹10 cr, whichever is lower, of the total expenditure.
- Under this scheme, a minimum investment requirement of ₹20 lakh has been fixed to set up the unit. A revolving fund will be established for providing the financial aid.
- It covers production of items like liquid medical oxygen, regulators, ventilators and cryogenic tankers will be allowed to avail the subsidy.
- The scheme will be available for a year.

Essential Services Maintenance Act (ESMA)

- ESMA was invoked in UP that prohibited strikes in all state government departments and corporations for six months.
- This act simply gives state police power to arrest anyone without any warrant if they violate its provision.
- ESMA is an act that any government can invoke in their respective states to prohibit striking employees from refusing to work on certain essential services which are necessary and important for maintaining normal life in the country.

UP CM Bal Sewa Yojana

- The UP Government has launched the UP CM Bal Sewa Yojana, aimed at rehabilitation of children who have lost either or both their parents to Covid.
- **Features**
  - Under the scheme, children who have lost either or both their parents, or legal guardians, will get ₹4,000 each per month.
  - Those children from classes 9 and above as well as those up till age 18 who are involved in business education, will also be given laptops and tablets.

- For girls who have attained a marriageable age, a provision of ₹1.01 lakh has been made for their wedding.
- Children from the age of 11 to 18 will also be eligible for free education in the Atal Residential schools being started by the state government for children of registered labourers at each of the 18 divisional headquarters, as well as in Kasturba Gandhi Vidyalayas.

BSE Listing of Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam

- Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam listed itself at Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and raised ₹150 Crores by issuing Municipal Bond on Private Placement Basis using BSE bond.
- This is the first-ever green bond issuance by any municipal corporation in the country.
- The money will be used for the construction of a tertiary sewage treatment plant at Indirapuram in Ghaziabad.

Delhi-Meerut Expressway

- The 96 km-long 14-lane Delhi-Meerut Expressway has been opened from 1st April 2021.
- The Delhi- Meerut Expressway comprises four phases:
  - Phase 1 (Akshardham to UP Gate)
  - Phase 2 (UP Gate to Dasna)
  - Phase 3 (Dasna to Hapur)
  - Phase 4 (Dasna to Meerut).

Happiness Kits

- Newgen Software and Akshaya Patra Foundation have joined hands to offer mid-day meals and happiness kits.
- Newgen has been supporting Akshaya Patra under their CSR Initiative (Health and Education) for Mid-Day Meal Programs in Vrindavan, Jhalawar and Guwahati.

Ramayana Museum

- An international level 'Ramayana Museum and Cultural Center' will be established on 10 acres of land at Ramasnehi Ghat between Ayodhya and Lucknow.
- The museum will have performances of the Ramayana through puppets from Russia, Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and others including from India.

Oxygen Monitoring System

- The UP Government has launched a digital platform "Oxygen Monitoring System for UP" in Lucknow to monitor the oxygen supply across the state.
- The platform has been created by Rodic Consultants Pvt Ltd in collaboration with the Food and Drug Administration, Department of Medical Education, Department of Medical Health and Family Welfare, and Department of Transport and Home Affairs.

Ayodhya Airport

- A provision of ₹101 crore has been made for the Ayodhya airport in the budget presented in the UP Assembly.
- The under-construction airport in Ayodhya will be named Maryada Purushottam Sriram Airport after Lord Ram.
- It is also proposed that the airport will subsequently be converted into an international airport.

Arjuna Sahayak Irrigation Project

- The UP CM informed that Arjuna Sahayak Irrigation Project worth ₹2,600 crores will bring positive changes in the lives of the farmers of Hamirpur, Mahoba, and Banda in the Bundelkhand region which was denied to them by the previous governments.
- It is an irrigation project which envisages use of surplus water of river Dhasan during monsoon to fill existing Arjun, Chandrawal and Kabrai Dam, through feeder channel from Lahchura Dam.

Desikan Bhawan

- The Union Minister had inaugurated the new research building 'Desikan Bhawan' at ICMR's institute in Agra.
- The building is dedicated for research facilities like animal experimentation, COVID-19 diagnosis, whole genome sequencing of different mycobacterial species and phytochemical extraction from medicinal plants for anti-TB drug development.

Gur Mahotsav (Jaggery Festival)

- Two-day Rajya Gur Mahotsav 2021, was organised at Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, Lucknow.
- The main aim of this event was to motivate the jaggery producers to make high-quality jaggery & its products and create awareness about health benefits of jaggery.

2nd Phase of Mission Shakti

- On the occasion of International Women's Day on 8 March 2021, UP Government launched the 2nd phase of Mission Shakti.
- The CM had also inaugurated women's special Police stations in 18 districts along with pink toilets and pink booths.
- The 'First Adarsh Mahila Barrack' was also inaugurated in Mahila Thana, Muzaffarnagar.

First Flight to Bareilly

- Civil Aviation Minister, flagged off the first flight from Delhi to the newly upgraded Trishul Military Airbase, Bareilly Airport, UP.

State Symbols	
State Emblem	Two fish and one bow in a circle, adopted in 1938.
State Tree	Ashoka *(Saraca asoca)*
State Flower	Palash *(Butea monosperma)*
State Language	1st-Hindi (1947), 2nd-Urdu (1989)
State Foundation Day	January 24, 1950
State Animal	Swamp Deer (Barasingha) *(Rucervus duvaucelii)*
State Bird	Sarus Crane *(Grus antigone)*
State Sport	Field Hockey

Important Historical Facts

Palaeolithic Age

❍ Stone tools found in Singhrauli valley in Sonbhadra, Chakia in Chandauli, Parisdhia, Mahuagarh etc., in Belan valley (Prayagraj).

❍ Materials built from bones in region of the Belan valley.

Mesolithic Age

❍ Evidences are found from Pratapgarh, Sonbhadra and Mirzapur.

❍ Huts and pottery found from Chopani Mando (Prayagraj).

Neolithic Age

❍ Paddy farming from Koldihwa.

❍ Evidences of this period also found from Sonbhadra and Mirzapur.

Indus Valley Civilization

❍ Urban settlement found in the regions of Meerut (Alamgirpur), Baghpat (Badagaon) and Saharanpur (Hulas).

❍ Alamgirpur was discovered on the banks of river Hindon, under the direction of Yag Dutt Sharma.

❍ Remains were also found from Muzaffarnagar and Bulandshahar.

Vedic Period

❍ Uttar Pradesh was recognized in the later Vedic Age as Brahmarshi Desha or Madhya Desha.

❍ States like Kuru-Panchal, which was the land of great sages, finds mention included in Madhya Desha. The epic Mahabharata is centered on Kuru kingdom with capital at Hastinapur.

❍ Kashi and Kosal find mention in late-Vedic texts as prominent centers of Vedic culture.

Post-Vedic Period

❍ Gautam Buddha, Mahavir, Makkhaliputta Goshal and great thinkers brought about a revolution in Uttar Pradesh in 6th century B.C.

❍ Out of these, Makkhaliputta Goshal, who was born at Shravan near Shravasti, was the founder of Ajivika sect.

Jainism

❍ Parshwanath, 23rd Tirthankara was born in Varanasi. Mahavir, the 24th Tirthankara said to have lived twice during the rainy season in UP-once in Shravasti and the second time in Padrauna, near Deoria. Pawa proved to be his last resting place.

❍ Several Tirthankars such as Parshwanath, Sambharnath and Chandraprabha were born in different cities of the State and attained 'Kaivalya' here.

❍ Mathura was an important centre for Jains. The remains of a Jain Stupa have been dug out near Kankali Tila in Mathura, while Jain shrines built in the early Middle Age are still preserved in Deogarh, Chanderi and other places.

Buddhism

❍ The founder of Buddhism, Gautam Buddha, was born in Lumbini in Nepal. His father, King Shuddodhan, was the ruler of a small State, Kapilvastu (now in Siddharthnagar district). His mother, Maya, belonged to the ruling family of another small kingdom, Deodah (now in Deoria district).

❍ Buddha attained enlightenment at Bodh Gaya in Bihar but it was in Isipattan or Mrigdav in Sarnath in UP where he preached his first sermon, and laid the foundation of his Order. In Kushinagar, he attained Mahaparinirvana.

❍ Besides Buddhism and Jainism, Pauranic Brahmanism also had deep roots in the State. Ancient images of Gods and Goddesses of Brahmanical order, a temple of the Kushan period have been found. Mathura can be said to be the birthplace of Indian sculpture. Other temples of this faith built in different periods are in Varanasi, Prayagraj, Ballia, Ghazipur, Jhansi and Kanpur.

Period of Mahajanpadas

❍ The 16 Mahajanapadas find mention in the literature such as Anguttara Nikaya, Maha Vastu (Buddhist literatures) and Bhagwati Sutra (Jain literature).

❍ Eight Mahajanpadas located in UP are:

● Kuru (Delhi, Meerut and Thaneshwar) with capital Indraprastha.

● Chedi (Bundelkhand) with capital Suktimati.

● Kashi (Varanasi) with capital Varanasi.

● Vatsa (Prayagraj) with capital Kausambi.

● Shrusena (Mathura) with capital Mathura.

● Panchal (Farrukhabad, Budaun, Bareilly) with capital Ahichhatra and Kampilya.

● Malla (Kushinagar) with capital Kushinagar and Pava.

● Kosala (Awadh) with capital Ayodhaya and Shravasti.

Mauryan Period

❍ The Pillars of Ashoka, are typically erected at Buddhist monasteries or other pilgrimage sites.

❍ These pillars were free standing in nature, highly polished and made up of sandstone brought from Chunar in UP.

❍ Ashoka's Lion Pillar from Sarnath has been adopted as the national emblem of India.

❍ The inscriptions of Ashoka from Topa and Meerut were shifted to Delhi during the reign of Firoz Shah Tuglaq, and of Kaushambi, was established in Prayag fort by Akbar.

❍ **Ashokan Pillars and Major Rock Edicts in UP**

● **Sarnath:** Lion Capital

● **Sankisa**: Elephant Captial

● **Topra:** Inscription

● **Kaushambi and Ahraura**: Minor Rock Edicts

● **Meerut**: Inscription

● **Prayagraj (Allahabad)**: Pillar edicts I-VI

Gupta Period

❍ Chandragupta I of Gupta empire set his authority over Awadh, and Prayagraj (Allahabad) in UP.

❍ Further the records of Samudragupta's reign is inscribed in Prayag Prahasti or Prayagraj Pillar inscription.

Sultanate Period

❍ UP was a part Delhi Sultanate.

❍ Firoj Shah Tughlaq founded Jaunpur which was known as Siraj-e-Hind.

❍ Bahlol Lodi merged Jaunpur with Delhi Sultanate.

❍ Sultan Sikandar Lodi laid the foundation of Agra city in 1504.

Mughal Period

❍ Babur after defeating Ibrahim Lodi made Agra his capital.

❍ Sher Shah of Sur dynasty overtook UP after defeating Humayun in 1540.

❍ Akbar founded Fatehpur Sikri in 1572 and constructed forts in Prayagraj (earlier Allahabad) and in Agra.

❍ Jahangir established Chain of Justice (Zanjir-i-Adal) in Agra Fort.

❍ Shahjahan shifted his capital from Agra to Delhi. He built Taj Mahal in Agra along with the Moti Masjid in Agra Fort.

Rule of Nawabs

❍ Saadat Ali Khan laid the foundation of autonoumous kingdom of Awadh in 1722, which was a province of Mughal Empire.

❍ Sadar Jang became the Nawab of Awadh in 1739 and was appointed as Wazir of Mughal empire in 1748. Prayagraj (Allahabad) was given to him.

❍ Shuja-ud-Daula who became the Nawab of Awadh in 1754, participated in the Battle of Buxar in 1764 against British East India Company.

❍ Asaf-ud Daula who became Nawab of Awadh after the death of Shuja-ud-Daula, shifted his capital from Faizabad to Lucknow.

❍ Wajid Ali Shah was the last Nawab of Awadh, he was sent to Calcutta on a monthly pension, as Lord Dalhousie in 1856 annexed Awadh on account of misrule.

Revolt of 1857

❍ Revolt of 1857 was started from Merrut on 10th May, 1857, when sepoys (3rd Cavarlry) of Meerut Cantonment broke out in mutiny.

❍ After the Revolt of 1857, Delhi division was separated from North-west states in 1858, and the capital was shifted to Prayagraj (Allahabad) from Agra.

Centre of Revolt	Indian Leader
Meerut	Kadam Singh
Kanpur	Nana Saheb, Tantia Tope, Azimullah
Jhansi	Rani Laxmibai
Barelly	Khan Bahadur Khan
Faizabad	Maulvi Ahmadullah
Prayagraj (Allahabad)	Maulvi Liyaqat Ali
Mathura	Devi Singh
Kalpi	Tantia Tope
Lucknow	Begum Hazrat Mahal

Modern History and Freedom Struggle in UP

Session of Indian National Congress in UP	President
Allahabad (Prayagraj), 1888	George Yule
Allahabad (Prayagraj), 1892	Womesh Chandra Bonnerjee
Lucknow, 1899	Ramesh Chandra Dutt
Varanasi, 1905	Gopal Krishna Gokhale
Allahabad (Prayagraj), 1910	William Wedderburn
Lucknow, 1916	Ambica Charan Mazumdar
Kanpur, 1925	Sarojni Naidu
Lucknow, 1936	Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru
Meerut, 1946	JB Kripalani

Peasant Movement in UP	
Peasant Movement	Persons Involved
Uttar Pradesh Kisan Sabha, 1918	Indra Narayan Dwivedi, Madan Mohan Malviya and Gauri Shankar Mishra
Awadh Kisan Sabha, 1920	Baba Ramchandra
Eka Movement, 1921	Madari Pasi
All India Kisan Sabha, 1936	Indul Yagnik, NG Ranga and Swami Sahajanad

○ The Lucknow Pact of 1916 was concluded between Congress and Muslim League. It resulted in unity between two factions-Moderates and Extremists of Congress and built a political consensus between Congress and Muslim League.

○ The proposal of Khilafat movement was passed in Khilafat Committee meeting, held under the leadership of Gandhiji, on 20th June, 1920.

○ The Chauri Chaura incident occurred at Chauri Chaura in the Gorakhpur district of Uttar Pradesh on 4th February, 1922, when a large group of protesters, participating in the Non-Cooperation movement, clashed with police, who open-fired. In retaliation, the demonstrators attacked and set fire to a police station, killing all of its occupants. The incident resulted in withdrawal of Non-Cooperation Movement by Mahatma Gandhi.

○ Hindustan Republican Association (HRA) which was a revolutionary organization of India, established in 1924 in East Bengal by Sachindra Nath Sanyal, Narendra Mohan Sen and Pratul Ganguly was involved in Kakori Train Robbery case in 1925, near Kakori, Lucknow. The plan was executed by Chandra Shekhar Azad, Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqulla Khan, Rajendra Lahiri and Manmathnath Gupta.

○ Tax refusal movement was started by Jawaharlal Nehru along with Jay Prakash Narayan and Lal Bahadur Shastri in Prayagraj (earlier Allahabad).

○ During Quit India movement, a provisional government was constituted in Ballia under the leadership of Chittu Pandey.

○ After independence, the United Province was recognized as Uttar Pradesh.

Cultural Aspects

Painting

○ The main style of painting in the medieval period was the Mughal style, of which the foundation was laid by Humayun. Jahangir's period is known as the Golden Era of Painting.

○ Modern painting started with the establishment of Art and Craft College in Lucknow in the 20th Century. Asit Kumar Haldar became the first Indian principal of this college.

○ Two new styles of painting named Wash and Tempera were developed in Lucknow.

○ Lalit Mohan Sen, principal of Art and Craft College gave a new direction to painting. He started graphic science and emphasized the depiction of figures of natural beauty.

○ Ramlila is a well-known portrait of "Bhavani Charan Gayu".

○ Jahangir constructed a painting department in Agra under the leadership of Aga Reza.

○ Chaman Singh 'Chaman' from Meerut has got special fame by organizing most international painting exhibitions and by writing more than 50 books on painting and Bundi art.

○ Jagannath Murlidhar Ahivasi has the distinction of making murals in the State Assembly.

Painter	Composition
Ranbir Singh Bisht	Gupshup, Pahadi Ghasiyare
Shivnandan Nautiyal	Satyam-Shivam-Sundaram
Vishwanath Mehta	Pyasa oont, Sohag Bindi, Srishti
Nand Kishor Sharma	Kaleen, Tray
Ranbir Saxena	Buddh ka Grihtyag, Pratiksha, Jhoola

Music

○ Amir Khusro was born in Patiali village of Kasganj district. He developed the Khayal style of singing and invented Sitar and Tabla.

○ Swami Haridas was born in Aligarh, but he spent his life in Vrindavan. Tansen was his disciple. He is considered as the originator of Dhrupad-Dhamar style. Dhrupad Mela is organized every year in Mathura.

Krishi Siksha

- Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Unnat Krishi Shiksha Yojana was launched to develop human resources in organic farming, natural farming and cow based economy for environmental sustenance and soil health.

- It was started with the establishment of 100 centres. Under this scheme, 108 training programmes were organized for the awareness of the farmers during the period of operation.

- This has brought awareness about organic and natural farming. As organic and naturally raised commodities/produce fetch more price, therefore, it is a step towards doubling their earnings.

Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan

- The restructured Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan is being implemented with effect from 2018-19 across all States/UTs.

- Its primary aim is strengthening of Panchayati Raj Institutions for achieving SDGs. It is an effort in the direction of achieving "Sabka Sath, Sabka Gaon, Sabka Vikas".

- The objective is to establish the institutional structure for capacity building of PRIs at the national, state and district level with adequate human resources and infrastructure.

Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana

- The GoI has been promoting Organic farming in the country through a dedicated scheme namely Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) since 2015-16.

- The scheme stresses on end to end support to organic farmers i.e from production to certification and marketing.

- Under PKVY, farmers are provided financial assistance of ₹50,000 per hectare/ 3 years, out of which ₹31,000 (62%) is provided directly through DBT for inputs (bio fertilizers, bio-pesticides, organic manure, compost, vermi-compost, botanical extracts etc).

Stand Up India Scheme

- The GoI extended the duration of 'Stand Up India Scheme' up to the year 2025.

- The Stand Up India Scheme was launched on 05th April, 2016.

- The objective of the Scheme is to facilitate loans from Scheduled Commercial Banks of value between ₹10 lakh and ₹1 Crore to at least one SC/ST borrower and one woman borrower per bank branch for setting up a green field enterprise in manufacturing, services or trading sector.

- The margin money requirement for loans under the Scheme has been reduced from 'upto 25%' to 'upto 15%' and activities allied to agriculture have been included in the Scheme.

- Government does not allocate funds for loans under the Stand Up India Scheme.

Mukhaya Mantri Udyami Yojana

- Bihar Chief Minister has launched two ambitious schemes 'Mukhya Mantri Yuva Udyaymi Yojna' and the 'Mukhya Mantri Mahila Udyami Yojana'.

- The schemes aim to promote entrepreneurship among youth and women of all sections.

- Youth and Women-irrespective of caste and creed, wishing to start entrepreneurship, will get a loan of ₹10 lakh, in which ₹5 lakh would be a grant from the state government and the rest ₹5 lakh will come as a loan, refundable in 84 instalments.

New Green Tariff Policy

- The GoI is planning to introduce a new green tariff policy for greener power sector. It will improve India's green credentials at the global stage.

- This new policy will help electricity distribution companies (discoms) supply electricity generated from clean energy projects at a cheaper rates as compared to power from conventional fuel sources such as coal.

- Large corporations who are looking to procure only green power, can contract such power from a clean energy developer as it is done in the commercial and industrial segment.

- Presently, discoms purchase renewable energy as part of the renewable purchase obligations.

- Once the mechanism is in place, discoms can exclusively buy green electricity and supply it at 'green tariff'.

'WeShare' Drive/Campaign

○ Odisha government launched a campaign, 'Weshare' in a virtually- held event.

○ Weshare, is a vocal for local initiative of the Indian Chamber of Commerce's Women Entrepreneurship Committee.

○ WeShare is a complete digital initiative that is reaching out to business owners and small enterprises, facing challenges of decreasing revenues and mounting liabilities during Covid-19 pandemic.

○ The noble initiative provides support in terms of design, promotion, reach, and awareness.

○ Noted actress Varsha Priyadarshini has been appointed as official brand ambassador for the campaign.

Surakshit Hum Surakshit Tum Abhiyaan

○ NITI Aayog and Piramal Foundation launched 'Surakshit Hum Surakshit Tum Abhiyaan' in 112 aspirational districts of the country to provide home care support to asymptomatic Covid-19 patients .

○ The abhiyaan is part of a special initiative in which local leaders, civil societies and volunteers work with district administrations to address emerging problems across key focus areas of the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP).

○ The District Magistrate will lead the campaign in partnership with local NGOs.

○ Campaign aims to create awareness about correct uses of oxygen concentrators provided to families by district authorities.

Senior Care Ageing Growth Engine (SAGE) Initiative

○ The Ministry of Social Justice has launched the SAGE initiative and SAGE portal for elderly persons on 4th June, 2021.

○ As per a United Nations report, the percentage of people above age 60 will reach 20% of total population by 2050. India will also become home to the largest number of elderly after 2050 in the world.

○ SAGE programme and SAGE portal aims to help such persons who are interested in entrepreneurship in the field of providing services for elderly care.

○ A committee will be set up to choose the start-up and allocate upto ₹1 crore to start up for creative elderly care solution.

○ Government has also allocated an amount of ₹100 crore for the promotion of the silver economy.

● Silver economy is the system of production, distribution and consumption of goods and services aimed at using the purchasing potential of older and ageing people and satisfying their consumption, living and health needs.

'Amrit Vahini' Website, App and Chatbot

○ Amrit Vahini website, app and chatbot has been launched by Jharkhand Government to provide better treatment and necessary medical resources to the Covid infected patients online.

○ One can get all information about the availability of ICUs with oxygen beds and ventilators in the hospitals and even booking of a bed can be done online.

Seed Minikit Programme

○ The Union Agriculture Minister launched Seed Minikit Programme on 2nd June, 2021.

○ The programme is launched to provide a high yielding variety of seeds of oilseed and pulses to farmers to increase the production of oilseeds and pulses in the country.

○ The mini kits are being provided by the Central Agencies National Seeds Corporation, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India and Gujarat State Seeds Corporation.

Mukhyamantri Kisan Mitra Urja Yojana

○ On June 9, 2021, Rajasthan Government approved the draft of Mukhyamantri Kisan Mitra Urja Yojana.

○ Under this scheme, a subsidy of ₹1000 per month and a maximum of ₹12000 per annum will be given to metered agricultural consumers by the state government on electricity bills.

○ Central and state government employees and income tax payers will not be eligible for this scheme.

Phoolo-Jhano Ashirwad Abhiyan

The Phoolo Jhano Ashirwad scheme has been launched by the Jharkhand government to identify women involved in the manufacture and sale of Hadiya-Daru and connect them with the means of respectable livelihood.

Project 'Extension of Hospitals'

○ Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser, GoI has invited private sector companies, donor organizations, and individuals to support various projects of national importance. Project Extension Hospitals is one such initiative.

○ Under the initiative Modular hospitals will be established adjacent to existing hospitals to help in the fight against Covid-19.

Chief Minister Plantation Promotion Scheme

- ❍ The Government of Chhattisgarh has approved the launch of the 'Chief Minister Plantation Promotion Scheme' to promote plantation in the state.
- ❍ Under the Scheme, in private land and village panchayat land, commercial and non-commercial species of tree plantation will be promoted.
- ❍ Those opting for the scheme will be given ₹10,000 per acre for next three years as incentive.
- ❍ Joint forest management committees will be given ₹10,000 per acre as incentive after one year if plantation is done in revenue land.
- ❍ The right to cut the trees and its sales will be with the Committee.

Chhattisgarh Mahtari Dular Scheme

- ❍ Chhattisgarh Mahtari Dular is a scheme approved in May, 2021.
- ❍ Children who lost their parents to Covid-19 and to those who lost key earning members of the family are the beneficiaries of the Scheme.
- ❍ Under the Scheme, the Government will take total responsibility for their education and all their future needs.
- ❍ From Class 1 to 8, they will be given a monthly scholarship of ₹500 and from Class 9 to 12 ₹1,000 a month.

Scheme 'Rakshak'

- ❍ Rourkela Steel Plant has introduced a unique incentivizing scheme 'Rakshak' based on reporting of the near-miss incidents inside the plant by the employees themselves.
- ❍ The Scheme provides a scope on the part of the employees to report about the incident within 24 hours of the incident.

Vatsalya Yojana

- ❍ Uttarakhand government announced Mukhyamantri Vatsalya Yojana for orphaned children who have lost their parents due to Covid-19.
- ❍ Under the scheme, the state government will make arrangements for the maintenance, education and training for employment of children up to the age of 21 years.
- ❍ The children will be given 5 per cent horizontal reservation in government jobs of the state government.

MOMA Market

- ❍ The Manipur government launched a smartphone application "Manipur Organic Mission Agency (MOMA) Market" for home delivery of fresh vegetables amid Covid 19 curfew.
- ❍ MOMA, a unit of the state horticulture and soil conservation department, launched the app.

Mission Oxygen Self-Reliance

Maharashtra government launched the Mission Oxygen Self-Reliance scheme to meet the state's oxygen needs. Target has been set up to produce 3000 MT of oxygen per day.

Medicine from the Sky Project

The Telangana government selected 16 primary healthcare centres for pilot testing the ambitious 'Medicine from the sky', the first-of-its-kind project involving delivery of medicines through multiple drones.

COVI Van Helpline

Delhi Police has launched a COVI Van Helpline number for senior citizens in need amid Covid-19.

Ayush Ghar-Dwar Program

- ❍ The Himachal Pradesh Government launched a state-wide wellness programme AYUSH Ghar Dwar, in Solan district. It has been launched to keep the home isolated Covid-19 positive patients healthy by practising Yoga.
- ❍ This program has been started by the Department of AYUSH in collaboration with the Art of Living organisation.

Sanjeevani Pariyojana

The Government of Haryana launched Sanjeevani Pariyojana- a supervised home care initiative to help people with mild to moderate symptoms in rural areas to access medical care without leaving their homes and traveling to a hospital.

SAMVEDNA

- ❍ National Commission for Protection of Child Rights has launched a Tele-Counselling facility for children called SAMVEDNA (Sensitizing Action on Mental Health Vulnerability through Emotional Development and Necessary Acceptance).
- ❍ It is a Toll-Free Helpline launched to provide psycho-social mental support for children affected during Covid 19 Pandemic.

YUVA- Prime Minister's Scheme for Mentoring Young Authors

- ❍ The Ministry of Education, Department of Higher Education launched YUVA- an Author Mentorship programme to train young and budding authors (below 30 years of age) in order to promote reading, writing and book culture in the country, and project India and Indian writings globally.
- ❍ YUVA is a part of India@75 Project (Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav) to bring to the fore the perspectives of the young generation of writers on themes like Unsung Heroes,

Reports & Indices

Report/Index	Issuing Organisation	Issuing Date	Countries/ Description	Top Positions	India's Rank
Global Energy Transition Index, 2021	World Economic Forum	21st April, 2021	115	1. Sweden 2. Norway 3. Denmark	87
World Happiness Report, 2021	UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network	26th March, 2021	149	1. Finland 2. Denmark 3. Switzerland	139
International Intellectual Property Index, 2021	US Chamber of Commerce Global Innovation Policy Centre	23rd March, 2021	53	1. United States 2. United Kingdom 3. Germany	40
Global Democracy Index, 2020	Economist Intelligence Unit	03rd February, 2021	167	1. Norway 2. Iceland 3. Sweden	53
Environmental Performance Index, 2020	Yale and Columbia Universities in collaboration with WEF	4th June, 2020	180	1. Denmark 2. Luxembourg 3. Switzerland	168
Inclusive Development Index, 2018	World Economic Forum	22nd January, 2018	103 (29 Advanced Economies and 74 Emerging Economies)	1. Norway (A) 2. Iceland(A) 3. Luxembourg(A) 1. Lithuania (E) 2. Hungary (E) 3. Azerbaijan (E)	62
Global Talent Competitiveness Index, 2020	INSEAD in Partnership with Adecco Group & Tata Communication	22nd January, 2020	132	1. Switzerland 2. USA 3. Singapore	72
Corruption Perception Index, 2020	Transparency International	28th January, 2021	180	1. New Zealand 2. Denmark 3. Finland	86
Global Manufacturing Index, 2020	World Economic Forum	—	100	1. Japan 2. South Korea 3. Germany	30

(Contd...)

Name of Exercise	Remarks	Participants
Exercise SHAKTI	The edition was conducted from October 31, 2019, to November 13, 2019, in Rajasthan, India.	India and France
Dustlik	It was the first-ever joint military exercise between India and Uzbekistan. The 2nd edition of "DUSTLIK II" was conducted on 9th March, 2021 in Foreign Training Node Chaubatia, Ranikhet, Uttarakhand. The first edition of the exercise was held at Uzbekistan in Nov 2019.	India and Uzbekistan
Exercise Indradhanush - V	The 5th edition of the exercise was held at Air Force Station, Hindan (Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh) on February 24, 2020.	India and UK

Books & Authors

Name of the Book	Author's Name
Yearbook	Seth Rogen
The Last Light of Glory Days: Stories from Nagaland	Dr. Avinuo Kire
India: A Scamster Born Every Minute	Snigdha Poonam
Yes Man: The Untold Story of Rana Kapoor	Pavan C. Lall
Life in the Clock Tower Valley	Shakoor Rather
Suparipalana	Dr. Shailendra Joshi
Elephant in the Womb	Kalki Koechlin
Names of the Women	Jeet Thayil
The Bench	Meghan Markle
Platform Scale: For A Post-Pandemic World	Sangeet Paul Choudhary
Beautiful Things: A Memoir	Hunter Biden
Parliamentary Messenger in Rajasthan	Dr. K N Bhandari
1857- The Sword of Mastann	Vineet Bajpai
My Experiments with Silence	Samir Soni
Whereabouts	Jhumpa Lahiri
Dawn Under the Dome	Swati Pandey in Collaboration with Orchida Mukherjee
The Living Mountain	Amitav Ghosh
Dynasty to Democracy: The Untold Story of Smriti Irani's Triumph	Anant Vijay
Climate Change Explained – For One and All	Aakash Ranison
The Frontier Gandhi: My Life and Struggle (Translation from Pashto to English)	Imitiaz Ahmad Sahibzada
The Christmas Pig	JK Rowling
Advantage India: The Story of Indian Tennis	Anindya Dutta
Starstruck: Confessions of a TV Executive	Peter Mukerjea
Turn Around India: 2020- Surmounting Past Legacy	R.P. Gupta
Believe – What Life and Cricket Taught Me	Bharat Sundaresan, co-author Suresh Raina
Stories I Must Tell: An Actor's Emotional Journey	Kabir Bedi

(Contd...)

Name of the Book	Author's Name
Mr. Prime Minister, We Shrank the Drago	Pradeep Goorha
Night of the Restless Spirits: Stories from 1984	Sarbpreet Singh
His Holiness the Fourteenth Dalai Lama: An Illustrated Biography	Tenzin Geyche Tethong
Fiercely Female: The Dutee Chand Story	Sundeep Mishra
It's a Wonderful Life	Ruskin Bond
My Joys and Sorrows – as a Mother of a Special Child	Krishna Saksena
The Nutmeg's Curse: Parables for a Planet in Crisis	Amitav Ghosh
Home in the World	Amartya Sen
Stargazing: The Players in My Life	Ravi Shastri
Languages of Truth: Essays 2003-2020	Salman Rushdie
Savarkar: A Contested Legacy (1924-1966)	Vikram Sampath
Anomalies in Law and Justice	Justice N.V. Ramana

List of Important Days

Date	Day	Theme
4th January	World Braille Day	NA
9th January	NRI Day	Contributing to Aatmanirbhar Bharat (2021)
10th January	World Hindi Day	New World, New India, New Hindi (2021)
12th January	National Youth Day	YUVAAH – Utsah Naye Bharat Ka (2021)
15th January	Army Day	NA
24th January	National Girl Child Day	Transforming Education for Girls (2021)
25th January	National Voters Day	Making Our Voters Empowered, Vigilant, Safe and Informed (2021)
	National Tourism Day	Dekho Apna Desh (2021)
26th January	Republic day	NA
30th January	Martyr's Day	NA
Last Sunday of January	World Leprosy Eradication Day	Beat Leprosy End Stigma Advocate for Mental Well being (2021)
2nd February	World Wetlands Day	Wetlands and Water (2021)
4th February	World Cancer Day	I Am and I Will (2021)
10th February	National Deworming Day (NDD)	Make Every Child Worm Free on NDD (2021)
	World Pulses Day	Love Pulses for a Healthy Diet and Planet (2021)
11th February	International Day of Women and Girls in Science	Women scientists at the forefront of the fight against Covid-19 (2021)
15th February	World Pangolin Day	NA
20th February	World Day of Social Justice	A Call for Social Justice in the Digital Economy (2021)
21st February	International Mother Language Day	Fostering Multilingualism for Inclusion in Education and Society (2021)
27th February	World NGO Day	Celebrate, Commemorate, Collaborate, Donate (2021)

(Contd...)

Practice Questions Based on Uttar Pradesh Budget and Economic Survey

1. Consider the following statements:

1. The per capita income of Uttar Pradesh at Current Price and Constant Price (2019-20) is ₹65704 and ₹44618.

2. Constant prices enable us to measure the actual change in output and adjusts for the effects of inflation.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only   (b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2   (d) Neither 1 nor 2

2. Where was the Eleventh Defense Expo organized?

(a) Lucknow   (b) Kanpur

(c) Meerut   (d) Prayagraj

3. By when is the government of Uttar Pradesh committed to meet the goal of one trillion-dollar economy?

(a) 2022   (b) 2024

(c) 2030   (d) 2035

4. What is the number of criminal courts at present in Uttar Pradesh for women?

(a) 61   (b) 68

(c) 81   (d) 71

5. Which campaign has been started by Uttar Pradesh with the objective of safety, respect and self-reliance of women and girls?

(a) Mission Durga

(b) Mission Nari

(c) Mission Shakti

(d) Mission Janani

6. Consider the following statements:

1. Uttar Pradesh stands first in the construction of toilets under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM (G)).

2. SBM (G) Phase-II will be implemented from 2020-21 to 2024-25.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only   (b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2   (d) Neither 1 nor 2

7. Uttar Pradesh has been ranked at which placein the country to declare Man-Animal Conflict as a state disaster?

(a) First   (b) Second

(c) Third   (d) Fourth

8. Consider the following statements:

1. The Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor is being set up by the Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA).

2. The Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor consists of six nodal points, namely Agra, Aligarh, Chitrakoot, Jhansi, Kanpur and Lucknow.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only   (b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2   (d) Neither 1 nor 2

9. Which department has been formed by the MSME sector of the country to redress the complaints of micro, small and medium enterprises?

(a) Revival and Facilitation Cell

(b) Champions Cell

(c) Enterprise Friend

(d) Bandhu Udhyog

10. Which state ranked first in Stand-up India Scheme?

(a) Andhra Pradesh   (b) Uttar Pradesh

(c) Madhya Pradesh   (d) Maharashtra

11. 'UP Sub-transparent mobile app' is operated by which department of Uttar Pradesh?

(a) Agriculture Department

(b) Finance Department

(c) Administrative Department

(d) Mineral Department

Practice Questions Based on Current Affairs

1. Which among the following national park is located on the estuary of Brahmani, Baitarani, Dhamra, and Mahanadi River systems?
   (a) Neora Valley National Park
   (b) Bhitarkanika National Park
   (c) Gorumara National Park
   (d) Simlipal National Park

2. Consider the following statements with regard to the 'Blue Straggler Stars':
   1. They are unusually hot and bright stars.
   2. Allan Sandage discovered the blue stragglers in 1952-53.
   Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?
   (a) 1 only
   (b) 2 only
   (c) Both 1 and 2
   (d) Neither 1 nor 2

3. With reference to Olive Ridley turtles, consider the following statements:
   1. Olive Ridley turtles are the most abundant sea turtles found in the world.
   2. They are best known for their unique mass nesting called Arribada.
   Which of the statement(s) given above is/are *not* correct?
   (a) 1 only
   (b) 2 only
   (c) Both 1 and 2
   (d) Neither 1 nor 2

4. Which committee proposed the creation of Financial Stability and Development Council?
   (a) Raghuram Rajan committee
   (b) Ajit Kumar Committee
   (c) P. J. Nayak Committee
   (d) R V. Gupta Committee

5. Consider the following statements:
   1. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification entered into force in 1996.
   2. Bonn Challenge is a global effort to restore deforested and degraded land.
   Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?
   (a) 1 only
   (b) 2 only
   (c) Both 1 and 2
   (d) Neither 1 nor 2

6. Justice Rohini Commission is related to:
   (a) Sub-categorisation of Other Backward Classes
   (b) Police Reforms
   (c) Uniform Civil Code
   (d) Labour Reforms

7. 'Exercise INDRA' is a joint military exercise between:
   (a) India and Russia
   (b) India and France
   (c) India and Bangladesh
   (d) India and Nepal

8. Consider the following statements regarding Shanghai Cooperation Organization:
   1. It was created in 2001.
   2. Pakistan and India are the permanent members of SCO.
   Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?
   (a) 1 only
   (b) 2 only
   (c) Both 1 and 2
   (d) Neither 1 nor 2

9. A large space laboratory named Nauka has been launched by which of the following countries?
   (a) Japan
   (b) Russia
   (c) Canada
   (d) USA

10. GI certified Gadwal Saree belongs to which of the following states of India?
    (a) Tamil Nadu
    (b) Kerala
    (c) Andhra Pradesh
    (d) Telangana

11. Consider the following pairs:

GI Tagged Product	State
1. Telia Rumal	Telangana
2. Kandangi Saree	Tamil Nadu
3. Sohrai Khovar painting	Jharkhand

    Which of the pair(s) given above is/are correctly matched?
    (a) 1 and 2 only
    (b) 2 only
    (c) 2 and 3 only
    (d) 1, 2 and 3

12. Kalbeliya Dance is associated with which state of India?
    (a) Rajasthan
    (b) Bihar
    (c) Madhya Pradesh
    (d) Uttar Pradesh

13. Consider the following statements:
    1. Project BOLD is launched by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).
    2. KVIC functions under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
    Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?
    (a) 1 only
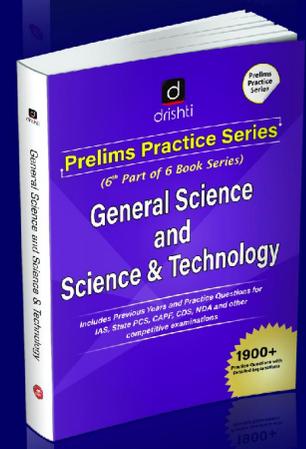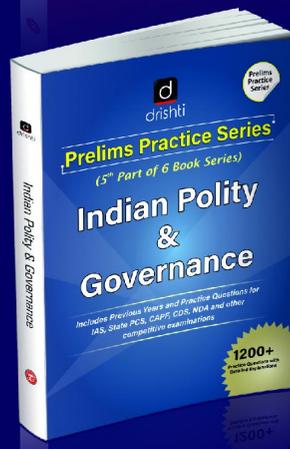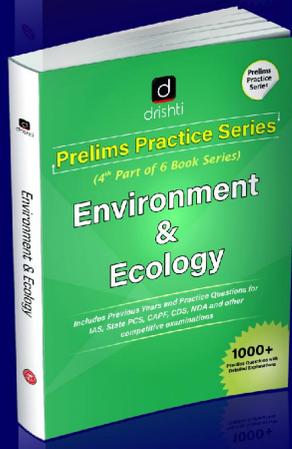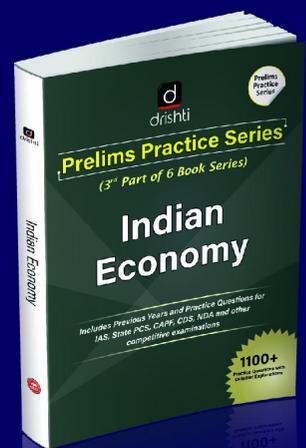   (b) 2 only
    (c) Both 1 and 2
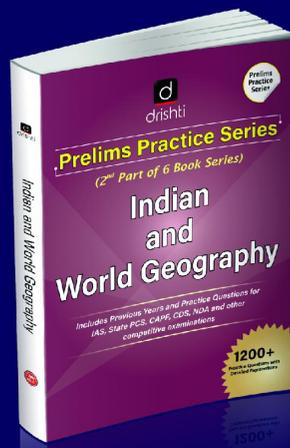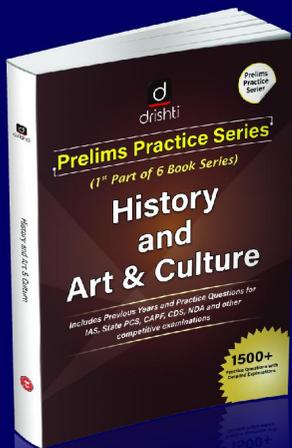   (d) Neither 1 nor 2

14. Basel Convention is related to:
(a) Restricting use of chemical weapons
(b) Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes
(c) Restricting use of Mercury
(d) Controlling Persistent Organic Pollutants

15. The 'Basel III norms' is related to which of the following?
(a) Administration of Criminal Justice
(b) Banking Sector
(c) Cybercrime
(d) Transfer of Hazardous Waste

16. Nathu La Pass and Jelep La Pass are located at:
(a) Ladakh   (b) Sikkim
(c) Himachal Pradesh   (d) Uttrakhand

17. With reference to 73rd Constitutional Amendment, consider the following statements:
1. It added Part IX titled "The Panchayats" to the Indian Constitution.
2. It mandates both the Central and State governments to help Panchayati Raj Institutions.
Which of the statement(s) given above is/are *not* correct?
(a) 1 only   (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2   (d) Neither 1 nor 2

18. Consider the following statements:
1. Additional Tier 1 (AT1) bonds are regulated by the RBI.
2. Banks issuing AT-1 bonds cannot skip interest payouts for a particular year.
Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only   (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2   (d) Neither 1 nor 2

19. Consider the following statements:
1. Inner Line Permit System is an official travel document that allows inward travel of an Indian citizen into a protected/restricted area for an unlimited period.
2. It is issued by the concerned State Government.
Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only   (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2   (d) Neither 1 nor 2

20. Consider the following statements with regard to Geographical Indication Tag Certification:
1. It is used to identify goods having special features originating from a definite geographical territory.

2. It is used for agricultural, natural and manufactured goods.
Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only   (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2   (d) Neither 1 nor 2

21. The 'World Social Protection Report' is released by which of the following organization?
(a) United Nations Development Programme
(b) World Bank
(c) World Economic Forum
(d) International Labour Organisation

22. Consider the following statements:
1. Algeria is a part of the Maghreb region.
2. The Maghreb region borders the Red Sea.
Which of the statement(s) given above is/are *not* correct?
(a) 1 only   (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2   (d) Neither 1 nor 2

23. With reference to the Special Drawing Rights (SDR), consider the following statements:
1. The SDR is allocated to the members of the International Monetary fund in proportion to their existing quotas.
2. The SDR basket of currencies includes the U.S. dollar, Euro, Japanese yen, pound sterling and the Chinese renminbi.
Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only   (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2   (d) Neither 1 nor 2

24. Which of the following components is *not* used to measure Gross Domestic Product (GDP)?
(a) Personal consumption
(b) Government spending
(c) Business investment
(d) None of the above

25. Which site of Indus Valley Civilisation (IVC) in India is declared world heritage site?
(a) Dholavira   (b) Surkotada
(c) Banawali   (d) Kalibangan

26. Recently, the Fukutoku-Okanoba Submarine Volcano exploded in which ocean?
(a) Pacific Ocean   (b) North Atlantic Ocean
(c) South Atlantic Ocean   (d) Indian Ocean