

August 2nd Week Current Affairs

National News

PM Modi announces palm oil initiative

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has announced a **Rs 11,000 crore National Edible Oil Mission-Oil Palm (NMEO-OP)** to make India self-sufficient in cooking oils, including palm oil.
- The government will ensure that farmers get all the facilities, from quality seeds to technology under the mission. While India has become self-sufficient in rice, wheat and sugar, it was not enough as the country is hugely dependent on imported edible oils.
- The Centre has already been running a National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm to boost oilseeds and palm oil production in India for the last few years with an aim to lower imports.

Indian Olympics contingent to be Guests at Independence Day

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will invite India's Olympic contingent as special guests for Independence Day celebrations on **August 15**. Modi will also invite contingent to his residence for interaction.
- This year, India has been represented by a **228-strong contingent** that includes **120 athletes** at the **Tokyo Olympics**. PM Narendra Modi supported and encouraged the Olympians throughout the events. He also congratulated the winners and appreciated the ones who made India proud.

Union Cabinet approves continuation of 1,023 fast track special courts

- The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of **1,023 fast track special courts**, including 389 exclusive **POCSO courts**, as a centrally sponsored scheme for another two years.
- Union minister **Anurag Thakur** said out of **31 states and union territories**, **28** have started the scheme. West Bengal is one of the states which has not started the scheme.
- The scheme would continue from **April 1, 2021, to March 31, 2023**, with an outlay of **Rs 1572.86 crore — Rs 971.70 crore** as central share and Rs 601.16 crore as state share. The central share is to be funded from the '**Nirbhaya**' Fund. The scheme was launched on October 2, 2019.

BRO builds the world's highest road in Ladakh at 19,300 feet

- **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** has constructed and black-topped the highest road in the world at **Umlingla Pass in Eastern Ladakh**. The highest motorable road in the world is situated at an altitude of **19,300 feet**.
- This is higher than the base camps of Mount Everest. The road itself is a 52-km long tarmac stretch through **Umlingla Pass**, connecting important towns in the **Chumar sector of Eastern Ladakh**.

- The north base in Tibet is at **16,900 feet**, whereas the south base camp in **Nepal is 17,598 feet**. The summit of Mount Everest is a little over 29,000 feet. The road is constructed much above the altitude of Siachen Glacier which is at 17,700 feet.
- The Khardung La Pass in Leh is at an altitude of 17,582 feet. With this, India has bettered Bolivia's record of a road at 18,953 feet.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Director-General of BRO: Lt. Gen. Rajeev Chaudhary;
- BRO Headquarters: New Delhi;
- BRO Founded: 7 May 1960.

Governors can pardon prisoners: Supreme Court of India

- **Supreme Court of India** on August 3, 2021, held that the **Governor of state** can **pardon prisoners**, including in the **death sentence cases**. Governor can pardon the prisoners even before they have completed a minimum of **14 years** of prison sentence.
- Court also said that the Governor's power to pardon overrides a provision given under Section 433A of the Code of Criminal Procedure.
- Section 433A mandates that the sentence of the prisoner can be remitted only after 14 years of jail. The court observed that **Section 433-A** of the Code cannot and does not affect the constitutional power of the President or Governor to grant pardon under **Articles 72 or 161** of the Constitution.
- Such power is in the exercise of the power of the sovereign. However, Governor will have to act on the aid and advice of the State Government.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Supreme Court of India Established: 26 January 1950;
- Chief Justice of India Justice: NV Ramana.

Khel Ratna Award renamed as Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has announced that **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award** will be renamed as **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award**.
- The Prime Minister said the move was based on the numerous requests he received from across the nation. Dhyan Chand, whose birthday is celebrated as **National Sports Day**, won three Olympic golds for the country in Hockey.
- The award was inaugurated in **1991-92**, the award comprises a medallion, a certificate, and a cash prize of **₹ 25 lakh**.
- The first recipient of the Khel Ratna was chess legend, **Viswanathan Anand**. Some of the winners in recent years include cricketer **Rohit Sharma**, wrestler **Vinesh Phogat**, women's hockey team captain **Rani Rampal**, among others.

India nuclear power capacity is expected to reach 22,480 MW by 2031

- **India's nuclear power capacity** is expected to reach **22,480 Mega Watts** by **2031** from the current **6,780 MegaWatts**. There are presently 22 reactors with a total capacity of 6780 MW in operation and one reactor, **KAPP-3 (700 MW)** has been connected to the grid on January 10, 2021.
- Ten (10) nuclear power reactors with 8000 MW capacity (including 500 MW PFBR being implemented by **Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited {BHAVINI}**) are under construction.
- Additionally, the Government has accorded administrative approval and financial sanction of ten (10) indigenous **Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs)** of 700 MW each to be set up in fleet mode.

Power minister launches e-certification programme to provide regulatory training

- Power Minister **R K Singh** has launched an e-certification programme, '**reform and regulatory knowledge base for power sector**', to provide regulatory training.
- The Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy **R K Singh** launched '**reform and regulatory knowledge base for power sector**', an e-certification programme to provide regulatory training to the practitioners from diverse backgrounds through virtual mode.
- **R K Singh** also launched a **Regulatory Data Dashboard** which is an e-compendium of data containing state-wise details of tariff and power discoms (distribution companies) performance, developed by IIT Kanpur. The Dashboard would assist in benchmarking the sector performance, over time and across the power sector utilities.

State News

Maharashtra government announces Rajiv Gandhi award for IT sector

- **Maharashtra government** has announced a new award named after the former prime minister **Rajiv Gandhi** for outstanding performance in the **Information and Technology (IT) sector**.
- The Rajiv Gandhi Award in Maharashtra will be given to institutes doing remarkable work in the field of information technology.
- The decision to start an award in the state after former PM Rajiv Gandhi was taken in a meeting chaired by Maharashtra Minister of State for Information Technology and Home Satej Patil.
- Recently, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** had announced that the **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award** will be called the **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award**.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Maharashtra Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshyari;
- Maharashtra Capital: Mumbai;
- Maharashtra CM: Uddhav Thackeray.

Gujarat CM launches eNagar mobile application and portal

- **Gujarat** Chief Minister, **Vijay Rupani** has launched **eNagar mobile** application and portal. The eNagar covers 10 modules with 52 services including property tax, professional tax, water & drainage, Complaints and grievance redressal, building permission, fire and emergency services.
- **Gujarat Urban Development Mission** has been appointed as a nodal agency for eNagar project. Total 170 locations including 162 municipalities and 8 Municipal Corporations are covered under the eNagar project.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Gujarat Chief Minister: Vijay Rupani;
- Gujarat Governor: Acharya Devvrat.

Uttarakhand unveils India's first earthquake mobile app

- **Uttarakhand** Chief Minister, **Pushkar Singh Dhami** has launched the first-of-its-kind earthquake early warning mobile application, named '**Uttarakhand Bhookamp Alert**'.
- The app has been developed by IIT Roorkee, in association with **Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority (USDMA)**.
- Initially, this app was launched as a pilot project only by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India, for the Garhwal region of Uttarakhand, the project proposal was further extended by the Uttarakhand Government.
- The Uttarakhand Bhookamp Alert is India's first earthquake early warning' app for notifying people about earthquake alerts.
- **Earthquake Early Warning (EEW)** mobile app can detect the onset of the earthquake and issue warnings regarding an earthquake occurrence in the neighbourhood and the expected time of arrival and intensity at the location to prevent any loss of life.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Governor of Uttarakhand: Baby Rani Maurya;
- The chief minister of Uttarakhand: Pushkar Singh Dhami.

West Bengal receives four SKOCH awards

- The **government of West Bengal** has received **four SKOCH awards** for its schemes under the **Ease of Doing Business initiative**. The State scheme '**Silpasathi**'-the online single window portal won the **platinum award** while the Auto-Renewal of Certificate of Enlistment through the online system for urban areas has received the **gold award**.
- Online issuance of trade licences in rural areas and the **E-Nathikaran**: the online system for registration, preparation and submission of deeds have won **two silver awards**.
- The state government will ensure that the ease of doing business in West Bengal continues to be one of the foremost in the country.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Chief Minister of West Bengal: Mamata Banerjee; Governor: Jagdeep Dhankhar.

Labhanshu Sharma wins Bharat Kesari Wrestling Dangal for Uttarakhand

- Indian Wrestler **Labhanshu Sharma** won the **Bharat Kesari Wrestling Dangal 2021** organised in Tamil Nadu. 20 years since the formation of Uttarakhand, Labhanshu has broken the drought and won the title of Bharat Kesari for the state.
- With 15 gold medals at the state level and 10 medals at the national level and 2 gold medals and 1 silver medal in the International Wrestling competitions; Labhanshu is already set to bring glory to the nation.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Governor of Uttarakhand: Baby Rani Maurya;
- The chief minister of Uttarakhand: Pushkar Singh Dhami.

India's first Heart Failure Biobank starts at SCTIMST in Kerala

- **The first Heart Failure Biobank** in the country has come up at the **National Centre for Advanced Research and Excellence in HF (CARE-HF)** at the **Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST), Kerala**.
- The Biobank is open to study genetic, metabolomics and proteomic markers of health outcomes in heart-failure patients.
- Biobanks are an important resource of collections of high-quality biological human samples that can be used to understand molecular pathways and to improve the diagnosis, prognosis and treatment of heart failure.
- The biospecimens include blood, serum and tissue samples obtained during open-heart surgery and **peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs)** and genomic DNA collected from heart-failure patients.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Kerala CM: Pinarayi Vijayan;
- Kerala Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan.

Ladakh launches 'Pani Maah' to raise awareness about clean water

- **'Pani Maah' or water month** has been launched in Ladakh to inform villagers about the importance of clean water.
- The Ladakh government has also announced a reward of Rs 2.5 million for the first block in each district that achieves the status of **'Har Ghar Jal'**.
- **'Pani Maah'** campaign will adopt a three-pronged approach — focussing on water quality testing, planning and strategizing water supply, and seamless functioning of Pani Sabha in villages.
- **Only 11.75 per cent of rural households** in Ladakh have access to tap water connections. The Pani Maah campaign is expected to expedite the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission in the union territory.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh: Radha Krishna Mathur.

Ministry for Social Justice launches 'PM-DAKSH' Portal and Mobile App

- The Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment **Dr Virendra Kumar** has unveiled a portal and mobile application named '**PM-DAKSH**', which aims to make the skill development schemes accessible to the target groups.
- The '**PM-DAKSH**' stands for **Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi (PM-DAKSH) Yojana**. The portal can be accessed at: **<http://pmdaksh.dosje.gov.in>**.
- The platform has been developed by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, in collaboration with **National E-Governance Division (NeGD)**, under the Department Of Electronics And Information Technology.
- The training programs will be implemented through Government Training Institutes, Sector Skill Councils constituted by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and other credible institutions.

Indian Railways Launches Rail Madad: A Unified Customer Care Solution

- **Indian Railways** has launched an integrated one-stop solution "**Rail Madad**" in which the national transporter has merged a number of existing helplines that were used for various purposes into one.
- The Railway ministry toll-free number **139** can be used for all kinds of enquiries and making complaints and the helpline facility is available round-the-clock in **12 languages**.
- Rail Madad, the integrated and innovative one-stop solution for customer grievance, enquiry, suggestion and assistance, providing passengers with the choice to access RailMadad through multiple channels, namely, **Web, App, SMS, Social Media and Helpline number (139)** during the journey for expeditious resolution of their complaints.

Karnataka becomes first state to issue order implementing NEP-2020

- **Karnataka** has become the first state in the country to issue the order with regard to the implementation of the **National Education Policy-2020**.
- The state government has issued an order on the implementation of NEP-2020 with effect from the current academic year **2021-2022**.
- This policy seeks to entirely overhaul the system through various reforms: A single regulator to oversee higher education; no more MPhil courses before PhD; fixed fees for public and private institutions; students can choose between three and four-year undergraduate courses; multiple entries and exit points in degree courses.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Chief Minister of Karnataka: Basavaraj S Bommai;
- Karnataka Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot;

- Karnataka Capital: Bengaluru.

International News

Mohammad Mokhber named as first Vice President of Iran

- **Iran's** new President **Ebrahim Raisi** named the chairman of a powerful state-owned foundation sanctioned by the United States as his first vice-president.
- **Mohammad Mokhber** has for years headed the foundation known as **Setad** or the Execution of Imam Khomeini's order.
- Mokhber was appointed to the position by the supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in 2007. The Setad was originally founded in the late 1980s to manage confiscated properties following the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Iran Capital: Tehran;
- Iran Currency: Iranian toman.

Germany becomes 5th country to sign ISA Framework Agreement

- **Germany** became the **5th country** to sign the **International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement** after amendments to it entered into force on 8th January 2021, opening its Membership to all Member States of the United Nations.
- Ambassador of Germany to India **Walter J. Lindner** deposited signed copies of the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement with the Ministry of External Affairs, the depositary of the Agreement.
- Membership to the ISA was earlier limited to **121 countries**, which were partially or entirely located within the tropics. This didn't allow major solar energy economies such as **Germany to join the alliance** that is being increasingly seen as a foreign policy tool.
- The initiative was launched by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** at the **India Africa Summit** and a meeting of member countries ahead of the **2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris** in November 2015. The framework agreement of the International Solar Alliance opened for signatures in **Marrakech, Morocco in November 2016.**

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Germany Capital: Berlin;
- Germany Currency: Euro;
- Germany President: Frank-Walter Steinmeier.

Ebrahim Raisi sworn in as new President of Iran

- **Ebrahim Raisi** was officially sworn in as the new president of **Iran** on August 05, 2021. He won the **2021 Iranian presidential election** in June, with **62 per cent** of the vote.

The 60-year-old Raisi succeeds **Hassan Rouhani** to begin his four-year term. He is also been the Chief Justice of Iran since March 2019.

- Raisi's inauguration comes at a pivotal time, with Iran currently in indirect negotiations with the **United States** over how to revive the **2015 nuclear agreement**.
- Raisi will also face the task of reviving his country's economy, which has been battered in recent years by the previous US administration's "maximum pressure" campaign of sanctions. Tensions in the region are also high following a string of maritime provocations blamed by the West on Tehran.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Iran Capital: Tehran;
- Iran Currency: Iranian toman.

Appointments News

RBI appoints Neeraj Chopra for banking fraud awareness campaign

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has started a **public awareness campaign** to warn people against digital banking frauds. For the new campaign, RBI has roped in Olympic Gold medalist **Neeraj Chopra**.
- The central bank has asked people to be a little cautious as doing so can protect them from a lot of troubles. A little caution takes care of a lot of trouble. The campaign sees Chopra urging users to not divulge details like OTP, CVV number and ATM PIN in front of anyone.
- The users should keep changing their online banking passwords and PIN numbers frequently and immediately block ATM card, credit card, debit card and/or prepaid card if one loses it. Block your card if stolen, lost or compromised.

GoI Approves 3-year extension for Rekha Sharma as Chairperson of NCW

- The **Government of India** has given a three-year extension to **Rekha Sharma** as Chairperson of the **National Commission for Women (NCW)**. She will serve for another three years term with effect from August 07, 2021, or till the age of **65 years** or until further orders whichever is the earliest.
- The 57-year-old Sharma first assumed the charge as Chairperson of NCW on August 7, **2018**.
- Rekha Sharma has been associated with the Commission as a member since August 2015 and held the additional charge as the chairperson from September 29, 2017, before becoming its regular chief. She has been a vocal advocate of gender sensitisation of police personnel since they are the first point of contact for victims.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- National Commission for Women Formed: 1992;
- National Commission for Women Headquarters: New Delhi.

Kumar Mangalam Birla steps down as Non-Executive Chairman of Vi

- **Aditya Birla Group** Chairman **Kumar Mangalam Birla** has stepped down as the Non-Executive Director and Non-Executive Chairman of the **Vodafone Idea (now Vi) Board**.
- The Vi Board of Directors have unanimously elected **Himanshu Kapania**, currently a Non-Executive Director, as the Non-Executive Chairman with effect.
- Kapania, a nominee of the Aditya Birla Group, is a telecom industry veteran with 25 years of experience. He has also served on the Global GSMA Board for two years and was also the Chairman of the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) for two years.
- He is presently the Chairman of the FICCI Council on Telecom, Electronics and Digital Economy.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Aditya Birla Group Founder: Seth Shiv Narayan Birla;
- Aditya Birla Group Founded: 1857;
- Aditya Birla Group Headquarters: Mumbai.

Retired Justice V M Kanade appointed Lokayukta in Mumbai

- **Maharashtra** Governor, **Bhagat Singh Koshyari** has approved the appointment of retired Bombay high court judge **Justice V M Kanade** as the new **Lokayukta of Maharashtra**, on the advice of the chief minister **Uddhav Thackeray**.
- Maharashtra was without a full-time Lokayukta for almost a year. The previous Lokayukta, (retd) Justice **M L Tahaliyani** had completed his tenure in August 2020.
- The Lokayukta is an anti-corruption ombudsman. Citizens can make complaints of corruption against any government official or elected representative directly to the Lokayukta, who is tasked with speedy redressal.
- The Lokayukta acts like a watchdog and plays a key role in fighting against corruption and bringing transparency. It's been almost a year since there is no Lokayukta and this shows that the government is not keen on encouraging transparency.
- The Lokayukta post is important to keep a check on the government and has become a recourse for the man between 2015 and 2020.

Zoological Survey of India gets 1st female director in 100 years

- The **Indian government** approved the appointment of **Dr Dhriti Banerjee** as the director of the **Zoological Survey of India**. She is a prolific scientist, conducting research in zoogeography, taxonomy, morphology and molecular systematics.
- On the occasion of its centenary celebrations in 2016, Banerjee had co-authored the “**The Glorious 100 Women’s Scientific Contribution in ZSI**”, which chronicled the contributions of women scientists in the domain of animal-related groups.
- Founded in July 1916, the ZSI has its headquarters in Kolkata. It has 16 regional centres under the ministry of environment and forest and climate change. ZSI started hiring women scientists as late as 1949, nearly three decades since its inception.

RBI announces its bi-monthly monetary policy

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has announced its bi-monthly monetary policy. This is the seventh time in a row that the **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** headed by RBI Governor **Shaktikanta Das** has maintained the status quo.
- RBI had last revised its policy rate on May 22, 2020, in an off-policy cycle to perk up demand by cutting the interest rate to a historic low. The meeting was held between **August 4 and 6**. The remaining will take place in **October (6 to 8); December (6 to 8) and February (7 to 9, 2022)**.

Sebi allows payments banks to act as investment bankers

- **Sebi** has allowed **payments banks** to carry out the activities of investment bankers to provide easy access to investors to participate in public and rights issues by using various payment avenues, markets regulator.
- Non-scheduled payments banks, which have prior approval from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, will be eligible to act as a **banker to an issue (BTI)**.
- This is subject to fulfilment of the conditions stipulated in the BTI rules. Further, payments banks registered as a BTI will also be permitted to act as self-certified syndicate banks, subject to the fulfilment of the criteria laid down by the Sebi in this regard from time to time.”The blocking/movement of funds from the investor to the issuer shall only be made through the savings account of the investor held with the payments bank.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Securities and Exchange Board of India Founded: 12 April 1992.
- Securities and Exchange Board of India Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Securities and Exchange Board of India Agency executive: Ajay Tyagi.

Eurosport India appoints John Abraham as the MotoGP Brand Ambassador

- **Eurosport India** has appointed Bollywood superstar and MotoGP enthusiast, **John Abraham**, as the India Ambassador for their flagship Motorsport property, MotoGP™.
- John will be seen promoting MotoGP to a wider audience base in India as its face through Eurosport’s campaign – “**MotoGP, Race Lagate Hai**”.

GoI approves 1-year extension to Rajiv Gauba’s term as Cabinet Secretary

- The Appointments **Committee of the Cabinet** has extended the term of service of **Rajiv Gauba**, as the Cabinet Secretary of India, for a further period of one year.
- Gauba, a 1982-batch IAS officer of Jharkhand cadre, was appointed to the top bureaucratic post of the country in August 2019 for two years.
- His term of service was to end on **August 30, 2021**. Prior to this, Mr Gauba was **Union Home Secretary** from August 2017 to August 2019.

MS Dhoni becomes first brand ambassador of HomeLane

- Home interiors brand **HomeLane** has entered into a three-year strategic partnership with **Mahendra Singh Dhoni** as an equity partner and brand ambassador. As part of the partnership, Dhoni will own equity in HomeLane and will be the company's **first brand ambassador**.
- With the upcoming cricket and festive season, HomeLane and MS Dhoni are jointly working on a brand new campaign that will be released during the **new IPL season**. The partnership will last for the next three years. Dhoni will not only become an equity partner but also a brand ambassador for the company.

Banking News

RBI hikes collateral-free loans to Self Help Groups

- The **Reserve Bank of India** has raised the limit for collateral-free loans to **Self-Help Groups (SHG)** under the **DAY-NRLM (Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission)** from **Rs. 10 lakhs to Rs. 20 Lakhs**.
- The DAY-NRLM is the flagship program of Govt. of India for promoting poverty reduction through building strong institutions for the poor, particularly women, and enabling these institutions to access a range of financial services and livelihoods.
- The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India launched the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) by restructuring **Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY)**. NRLM was renamed as DAY-NRLM (Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission) w.e.f. **March 29, 2016**.

RBI to penalise banks if ATMs run out of cash from October 1

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has announced the launch of the '**Scheme of Penalty for non-replenishment of ATMs**', as per which it will impose monetary penalties on **ATMs/WLAs** that run out of cash.
- The Scheme shall be effective from **October 01, 2021**. Therefore, banks/ **WLAOs** should put in place a robust system for monitoring the availability of cash in ATMs and ensure timely replenishment to avoid cash-outs.
- Cash-out at any ATM of more than ten hours in a month will attract a flat penalty of **₹ 10,000/-** per ATM. In the case of **White Label ATMs (WLAs)**, the penalty would be charged to the bank which is meeting the cash requirement of that particular WLA. The bank, may, at its discretion, recover the penalty from the WLA operator.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- RBI 25th Governor: Shaktikant Das; Headquarters: Mumbai; Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata.

SIDBI unveils “Digital Prayaas” lending platform

- **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** has unveiled ‘**Digital Prayaas**’ an app-based digital-lending platform to facilitate loans to entrepreneurs from low-income groups.
- The objective is to sanction a loan by the end of the day. The platform has engaged in the promotion, financing and development of **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**.
- To cater to those from the urban area, SIDBI has tied up with BigBasket to provide loans to its delivery partners for the purchase of e-bikes and e-vans. the SIDBI-BigBasket initiative would create digital footprints that would further facilitate loans to the borrower’s family members for their own micro-enterprises.
- SIDBI should enter into similar arrangements with more partner institutions to increase its outreach.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- CMD of SIDBI: S Ramann;
- SIDBI founded: 2nd April 1990;
- SIDBI Headquarters: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

Finance Ministry: over 5.82 crore Jan Dhan accounts inoperative

- The **Finance Ministry** has informed **Rajya Sabha** that over **5.82 crore Jan Dhan (PMJDY)** accounts are inoperative. This is **14 per cent** of the total number of accounts. It means at least one out of 10 Jan Dhan accounts is **inoperative**.
- According to guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India, “savings, as well as current account, should be treated as inoperative/dormant if there are no transactions in the account for over a period of two years.
- According to the website of PMJDY, the total number of Jan Dhan accounts is **42.83 crore** with a balance of nearly **₹1.43 lakh crore**.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Finance Minister of India: Nirmala Sitharaman.

RBI imposes Rs 6 lakh penalty on Hewlett-Packard Financial Services

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a monetary penalty of **Rs 6 lakh** on Bengaluru-based **Hewlett-Packard Financial Services (India) Private Ltd.**
- RBI said the statutory inspection of the company, concerning its financial position as of March 31, 2019, revealed, inter alia, non-compliance with the statutory directions on **(i) submission of credit information to Central Repository of Information on Large Credits and (ii) submission of credit data to Credit Information Companies.**
- The penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in it under the provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 and the **Credit Information Companies**

(Regulation) Act, 2005, taking into account the failure of the company to adhere to the aforesaid directions issued by RBI.

Axis Bank crosses one million customers on WhatsApp banking

- **Axis Bank** has crossed the milestone of over **one million customers** on its **WhatsApp banking channel** with a total request count of 6 million till now.
- Axis Bank had launched banking services on **WhatsApp in January 2021** and has since witnessed robust organic growth in its customer base for WhatsApp banking.
- After signing up for the service, customers can inquire and get details of products across savings account, credit and debit cards, deposits and personal loans.
- Non-financial service requests can also be initiated, such as locating ATMs or getting updates on third-party deals available on credit and debit cards.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Axis Bank CEO: Amitabh Chaudhry;
- Axis Bank Headquarters: Mumbai;
- Axis Bank Founded: 3 December 1993, Ahmedabad.

Suryoday Small Finance Bank opens 'Health and Wellness Savings account

- **Suryoday Small Finance Bank (SSFB)** has launched a '**Suryoday Health and Wellness Savings Account**' to help customers grow their wealth and also take care of their family's health amid the **covid-19 pandemic**.
- The account offers an attractive interest rate and comes with three major benefits for a family of four — top-up health insurance of **₹25 lakh**, annual healthcare package and on-call emergency ambulance medical care services.
- Complimentary top-up health insurance plan of **₹25 lakh** with a deductible amount of **₹5 lakh**.
- The top-up health insurance plan covers self and family (**self, spouse, and up to 2 children**) for hospitalisation/medical emergencies.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Suryoday Small Finance Bank MD and CEO: Baskar Babu Ramachandran;

SBI General partners with SahiPay to offer general insurance products

- **SBI General Insurance**, one of India's leading General Insurance companies, announced a tie-up with **Manipal Business Solutions** to increase insurance penetration in the rural markets.
- **SahiPay**, the fastest growing tech-enabled financial inclusion platform of Manipal Business Solutions, provides digital and financial services to customers in semi-urban and rural India.

- This partnership will bring in a perfect blend for rural customers, with SBI General's non-life product offerings and Manipl Business Solutions, along with the right understanding of the rural segment by both partners.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- SBI General Insurance Headquarters: Mumbai;
- SBI General Insurance Founded: 2009;
- SBI General Insurance CEO: Prakash Chandra Kandpal.

Agreements News

UNICEF India, Facebook collaborate to make a safer online world for children

- **UNICEF India and Facebook** have launched a one-year joint initiative on ending violence against children with a special focus on online safety. The partnership seeks to create a safe environment for children online and offline.
- It aims to improve children's resilience and capacity to access the digital world safely, increase awareness on violence against children and its impact on children, families, and communities, and increase the skills of communities and frontline workers to better prevent and respond to violence.
- The partnership includes a nationwide social media campaign and capacity building for 100,000 school children on online safety, digital literacy, and psychosocial support. Well-known actor and UNICEF India's celebrity advocate on ending violence against children, **Ayushmann Khurrana**, gave his keynote message during the virtual event.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- UNICEF Headquarters: New York, United States of America;
- UNICEF Executive Director: Henrietta H. Fore;
- UNICEF Founded: 11 December 1946.
- Facebook Founded: February 2004;
- Facebook CEO: Mark Zuckerberg;
- Facebook Headquarters: California, United States.

ADB approves USD 300 million additional loan for Maharashtra

- The Manila-based **Asian Development Bank** has approved a **USD 300 million loans** as additional financing for the ongoing **Maharashtra Rural Connectivity Improvement Project** for upgrading rural roads and connecting remote areas with markets.
- The additional financing will be used for improving an additional 1,100 rural roads and 230 bridges for a total length of 2,900 km in 34 districts of the state.
- The project was approved in **August 2019**, for improving and maintaining the condition and safety of **2,100 kilometres (km) of rural roads across Maharashtra**.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Maharashtra Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshyari.
- Maharashtra Capital: Mumbai.

PM Modi becomes first Indian PM to Chair a UNSC Debate

- Prime Minister of India, **Narendra Modi** has chaired the **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** open debate, via video conferencing. With this, PM Modi has become the first Prime Minister of India to chair a UNSC open debate.
- It must be remembered that India has assumed the Presidency of the UNSC for August 2021, taking over from France.
- The theme of the high-level open debate was **‘Enhancing Maritime Security – A Case for International Cooperation’**. India will organize two more meetings during its presidency, on peacekeeping and counterterrorism.

Kiren Rijju attends 8th SCO Meeting of Ministers of Justice

- The Union Law Minister **Kiren Rijju** has virtually attended the eighth meeting of Ministers of Justice of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)**.
- The Minister of State for Law & Justice, Prof **SP Singh Baghel** also attended the meeting. During the virtual event, Rijju highlighted the initiatives taken by the Government of India for providing affordable and easy access to justice for all.
- The three days’ meeting was hosted by **Tajikistan**, and chaired by Tajikistan’s Justice Minister, **MK Ashuriyon**. The Ministers of (Law and) Justice and senior officials and experts from the Ministries of Law & Justice of **‘India, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan’** participated in the meeting.

India & World Bank sign \$250 million project to safe dams and resilient

- The **World Bank** has approved a **USD 250 million** projects in India for a long-term dam safety program and improving the safety and performance of existing dams across various states of India.
- The Second **Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP-2) agreement** was inked on between the World Bank, the Government of India, the Central Water Commission, and government representatives from 10 participating states.
- The project will be implemented at the national level through the **Central Water Commission (CWC)**.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- World Bank Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States.
- World Bank Formation: July 1944.
- World Bank President: David Malpass.

ICICI Prudential Life ties up with NPCI for UPI Autopay

- **ICICI Prudential Life Insurance** has tied up with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** to provide a **Unified Payments Interface Autopay facility** to its customers.
- This tie-up is another step in the company's digitalisation journey, which provides customers with a hassle-free and seamless experience across the policy lifecycle.
- While purchasing a life insurance policy, customers can link their bank accounts with UPI Autopay for payment of premium.
- The UPI Autopay e-mandate can be activated by customers by using their smartphones to make regular renewal premium payments in a **paperless format**.
- The UPI payment mode is fast becoming a preferred route of payment due to the contactless and frictionless experience it provides.
- Customers can set up the e-mandate facility to make their regular renewal premium payments and ensure financial security for self and their families.
- Customers can enable the UPI Autopay feature on their UPI apps. Alternatively, it can be enabled for banks through an e-mandate.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- ICICI Prudential Life Insurance CEO: N. S. Kannan;
- ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Founded: 2000.

India for implementing MoU with Bangladesh in disaster management

- **India** has emphasized the implementation of the recently-signed **memorandum of understanding (MoU)** with **Bangladesh** over disaster management, resilience and mitigation on a priority basis. Bangladesh has decided to accept the invitation to join the **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)**.
- CDRI is a coalition of national governments, UN agencies, multilateral development banks and the private sector which aims to promote resilience of new and existing infrastructure to climate and disaster risks.

2nd IEEE International Conference on Range Technology by DRDO

- The **2nd Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) International Conference on Range Technology (ICORT-2021)** is being held virtually.
- The conference has been organised by **Integrated Test Range (ITR) Chandipur**, a laboratory of **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.
- It was inaugurated by Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO **Dr G Sathesh Reddy**. The event will host speakers from across the globe, who will present their technological achievements in multiple subjects related to Tests and Evaluation of defence systems.
- The conference will be a very effective platform for all the Range Technology enthusiasts to interact with each other and stay updated with recent developments in relevant fields.

Haryana govt signs MoU with Walmart Vriddhi to help MSMEs

- The **Haryana government** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **‘Walmart Vriddhi’** and **‘Haqdarshak’** to create a pathway for Indian MSMEs’ products to move to the international markets.
- The MoU was signed in the presence of Haryana Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala, Vikas Gupta, MSME Department Director-General, the Indian government, Nitin Dutt from Walmart Vriddhi, and Aniket Doegar (CEO of Haqdarshak).
- To promote MSMEs apart from large industries, many important concessions have been given to investors in **‘Haryana Enterprises and Employment Policy-2020’**. This move will bring a big opportunity for the MSME sector, as their products will be displayed in 24 countries and will be available in 10,500 stores under 48 banners.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Haryana Capital: Chandigarh;
- Haryana Governor: Bandaru Dattatraya;
- Haryana Chief Minister: Manohar Lal Khattar.

Defence News

Indian Army contingent to participate in International Army Games 2021 in Russia

- The 7th edition of the **International Army Games, 2021**, will be held from **22 August to 04 September 2021** in **Russia**. The competition will be hosted in eleven countries in the 2021 Games. Over 280 teams from 42 countries will compete in the game to show their combat skills, professionalism and determination to win.
- The International Army Games also referred to as **‘War Olympics’**, is an international military sports event, which aims to strengthen military-to-military cooperation between countries and trust between the participating nations.
- From India, 101 members of the Indian Army will participate in the **International Army Games**, which is organised each year by the **Russian Ministry of Defence**, since 2015.

ITBP inducts its first women officers in combat

- For the first time, India-China LAC guarding the **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) force** has commissioned its **first two women** officers in combat.
- The two women officers, **Prakriti and Diksha** will be posted as company commanders in ITBP battalions. Heretofore, women officers in the ITBP were serving in the medical branch or were on deputation from the Indian Police Service at top echelons.
- Uttarakhand Chief Minister **Pushkar Singh Dhami** and Deswal put the ranks of Assistant Commandant, the entry-level officer rank in the paramilitary, on the shoulders of Prakriti and Diksha after the passing out parade and attestation ceremony where they took an oath to serve the country.
- The ITBP started recruiting women combat officers in its cadre in **2016** through an all-India examination conducted by the **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)**.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- ITBP Founded: 24 October 1962.
- ITBP Headquarters: New Delhi, India.
- ITBP DG: S S Deswal.

INS Khanjar becomes the first INS to call at heritage coastal port

- Indian Naval Ship **Khanjar** becomes the **first Indian Navy ship** to call at the **heritage coastal port of Gopalpur in Odisha**. The two-day visit was organised as part of **Aazadi ka Amrit Mahotsav** as well as Swarnim Vijay Varsh celebrations to commemorate the **75th anniversary of Independence and the 50th anniversary of the 1971 War**.
- The visit of the ship was aimed at enhancing ties and spreading awareness with the local populace on aspects of coastal security and maritime operations. During the visit, ship's officers interacted with Port Officials and discussed aspects related to berthing facilities for OTR of Naval ships and security overview of port infrastructure.
- The ship's team also undertook a cleanup drive at Gopalpur beach and tree plantation in the port premises. In addition, books and dry provisions were distributed to **Samarth Orthopedically Handicapped Welfare Association, at Chatrapur in Ganjam district**.

Indigenously designed INS Vikrant leaves port for maiden sea trials

- India's first indigenous aircraft carrier, **Vikrant** set sail to begin its first sea trial. INS Vikrant was designed by the **Indian Navy's Directorate of Naval Design (DND)** and built at **Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)**.
- This advanced warship is the first attempt by the two entities to build an aircraft carrier from the ground up.
- INS Vikrant has **75 per cent indigenous content** and will be commissioned into the **Eastern Naval Command**. It will be commissioned into the Indian Navy by **August 2022**.

India-UAE Navy undertakes bilateral exercise 'Zayed Talwar 2021'

- The **Indian Navy and UAE Navy** conducted the bilateral naval exercise '**Zayed Talwar 2021**' on August 07, 2021, off the coast of **Abu Dhabi**.
- The main objective of the '**Zayed Talwar 2021**' naval exercise was to enhance interoperability and synergy between the two navies. Indian Navy participated with **INS Kochi**, with two integral **Sea King MK 42B helicopters**, deployed in the Persian Gulf.
- From **UAE, UAES AL – Dhafra**, a Baynunah class guided missile corvette and one **AS – 565B Panther helicopter** took part in the exercise.

Awards News

Nagaland wins 7 National Awards under Van Dhan Yojana Scheme

- **Nagaland** has been conferred with **seven national awards** on the first **Van Dhan Annual Awards 2020-21**, during the celebration of the **34th** foundation day of the

Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED).

- The awards were presented by Union tribal minister, **Arjun Munda** through a Zoom webinar.
- Meanwhile, the state has received seven national awards, such, as 1st positions in – ‘Best Survey State’, ‘Best Training’, and ‘Most number of VDVKC’s established’.
- It has attained 3rd position for ‘Best Sales Generated’, and ‘Best Innovation & Creativity’.
- The state has also received Awards for Innovative & Creative Product Ideas for commodities like – Gooseberry Wine (Supplier: Toka Multipurpose Society Ltd.); Mushroom Cultivation (Supplier: NBHM).

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Chief Minister of Nagaland: Neiphiu Rio; Governor of Nagaland: R. N. Ravi.

C.R. Rao Gold Medal award winners announced

- The **Indian Econometric Society (TIES) Trust** has selected two renowned economic scholars for the **Prof. C.R. Rao Centenary Gold Medal award**. Renowned economists **Jagdish Bhagwati** and **C Rangarajan** have been conferred with the inaugural Prof CR Rao Centenary Gold Medal (CGM).
- Bhagwati is a professor of economics, law and international relations at Columbia University while C Rangarajan is the former chairman of the Economic Advisory Council of the Prime Minister and former governor of the Reserve Bank of India.
- TIES Trust had constituted a jury to shortlist the awardees. Based on the jury’s recommendations, it announced that inaugural award to two distinguished scholars. The medal is presented once in two years to an Indian or Indian-origin scholar for lifetime contributions to the fields of theoretical and applied aspects of quantitative economics and official statistics.

Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project in Bhutan gets Brunel Medal

- Bhutan’s India-assisted **Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project** was conferred with the **Brunel Medal awarded** by the London-based **Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE)**.
- The award was given as a mark of excellence in civil engineering within the industry and was handed over by the Indian envoy to **Bhutan Ruchira Kamboj** to the Chairman of Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project Authority, **Lyonpo Loknath Sharma**.
- One of the reasons the Mangdechhu project was awarded was because of its social and environmental credentials.
- The project will reduce **2.4 million tonnes** of greenhouse gas emissions each year.
- Bhutan and India in the past have collectively resolved to increase the hydropower energy capacity of Bhutan to **12000 MW**.
- The Brunel Medal is historically given to major projects and organisations across the world.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Bhutan Capital: Thimphu;
- Bhutan Prime minister: Lotay Tshering;
- Bhutan Currency: Bhutanese ngultrum.

Science and Technology News

India to launch advanced geo imaging satellite “Gisat-1”

- **India** will finally launch its most advanced **geo-imaging satellite (GiSAT-1)**, which will allow better monitoring of the subcontinent, including its borders with **Pakistan and China**, by imaging the country 4-5 times a day.
- The satellite will be launched on August 12 from Sriharikota. Isro’s GSLV-F10 rocket will finally put the **2,268-kg Gisat-1**, codenamed **EOS-3**, into the geo-orbit. This will be India’s first launch of a primary satellite this year.
- Once placed **36,000 km** above the earth in the geostationary orbit after space manoeuvres, the advanced ‘**eye in the sky**’ can constantly monitor areas of interest (the satellite will move in sync with the rotation of the Earth and hence would look stationary) and will give real-time information about a large area unlike other remote sensing satellites placed in lower orbits that come to a spot only at regular intervals.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- ISRO Chairman: K.Sivan.
- ISRO Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ISRO established: 15 August 1969.

South Africa grants patent to an artificial intelligence system

- **South Africa** grants a patent relating to a “**food container based on fractal geometry**” to an artificial intelligence (AI) system called **DABUS**. DABUS (which stands for “**Device for the autonomous bootstrapping of unified sentience**”) is an AI system created by **Stephen Thaler**, a pioneer in the field of AI and programming.
- The system simulates human brainstorming and creates new inventions.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- South Africa Capitals: Cape Town, Pretoria, Bloemfontein;
- South Africa Currency: South African rand;
- South Africa President: Cyril Ramaphosa.

IT Ministry to host the first Internet Governance Forum in the country

- **India** will host the first **Internet Governance Forum** in the country, starting from **October 20**, this year. The theme of this year’s meeting is **Inclusive Internet for Digital India**.
- With this announcement, the Indian chapter of the United Nations-based forum namely the Internet Governance Forum has begun. It’s an Internet Governance policy discussion

platform to bring representatives together from various groups, considering all at par to discuss public policy issues related to the Internet.

- National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI), Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) and the Chairman of the Coordination Committee, India Internet Governance Forum 2021 (IGF), announced the launch of India Internet Governance Forum (IIGF) -2021.

Books and Authors News

A book title “The Earthspinner” authored by Anuradha Roy

- A book titled “**The Earthspinner**” authored by award-winning novelist **Anuradha Roy**. In the book, Roy delves into the “life and mind of Elango the potter, who must navigate complicated and impossible love, the dedication of a beloved pet, his own passion for creativity and a world turned upside down by the petty violence that characterises the present day”.
- This novel is about two people struggling to free themselves of such shackles to create a happier world. Roy’s earlier works include “**An Atlas of Impossible Longing**” and “**The Folded Earth**”.

A book title “How the Earth Got Its Beauty” authored by Sudha Murty

- A book titled “**How the Earth Got Its Beauty**” authored by **Sudha Murty**. The book was published by Penguin Random House imprint Puffin, has illustrations by **Priyanka Pachpande**.
- Sudha Murty is a prolific writer in English and Kannada, she has written novels, technical books, travelogues, collections of short stories and non-fictional pieces, and four books for children. Her books have been translated into all the major Indian languages.
- Sudha Murty was the recipient of the **R.K. Narayan Award for Literature** and the **Padma Shri in 2006**, and the **Attimabbe Award** from the government of Karnataka for excellence in Kannada literature in 2011.

A new book on Balakot air strikes 2019 authored by Manan Bhatt

- A new book titled “**Balakot Air Strike: How India Avenged Pulwama**”, published by **Garuda Prakashan**, is written by Navy veteran **Manan Bhatt**.
- According to the publisher, the book, “a racy thriller” with “adrenalin-pushing action”, would make readers’ patriotism brim over, while filling them with a sense of gratitude and pride towards the armed forces.
- The book, in its detailed account of the “two epochal events”, claims to capture everything “from moments before the ill-fated CRPF bus was hit, to the cockpits from where precision bombs were triggered and what transpired in those 12 momentous, expectation-filled days.

A book titled “The Year That Wasn’t – The Diary of a 14-Year-Old” released

- Veteran actor **Shabana Azmi** has launched the book titled “**The Year That Wasn’t – The Diary of a 14-Year-Old**”, which is penned by Kolkata girl **Brisha Jain**.
- The book was written by a 14-year-old girl, which chronicles the lockdown days seen through her eyes as the Covid-19 pandemic spreading last year.
- The book handholds readers through a journey – the hopeful beginning of a new decade, the confusion triggered by a pandemic, lockdown travails, coping with the whole new world of online schooling, a new digital divide, the vaccine race, the waning of the pandemic’s severity and it’s a resurgence.

Ranks and Reports News

India ranks 122nd on “New Global Youth Development Index”

- **India** is ranked **122nd** on a new **Global Youth Development Index 2020** measuring the condition of young people across 181 countries, released by the **Commonwealth Secretariat in London**.
- Singapore ranked topmost followed by Slovenia, Norway, Malta and Denmark. Chad, the Central African Republic, South Sudan, Afghanistan and Niger came last respectively.
- The triennial rankings of youth development found India among the top five risers on the index **between 2010 and 2018**, alongside Afghanistan and Russia, advancing their score on average by **15.74 per cent** across areas such as education and employment.

7th August to be named “Javelin Throw Day” to honour Neeraj Chopra

- The **Athletics Federation of India** has decided that **javelin throw day** will be on **7th August** every year in honour of Olympic gold medalist **Neeraj Chopra**. The 23-year-old Neeraj is India’s second individual Olympic gold medallist after **Abhinav Bindra**.
- Neeraj bagged the gold medal in men’s javelin throw at the **2020 Tokyo Olympics on 7th August 2021**.
- Neeraj has scripted the history at the Olympic Stadium in Tokyo when he threw the javelin to a distance of **87.58m** to end India’s medal drought in athletics at the Olympics. This is India’s first-ever gold medal in athletics in the history of the Olympics. AFI’s bid to name August 7 as Javelin Throw Day is an attempt to attract more youth towards the sport.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Athletics Federation of India President: Adille J Sumariwalla;
- Athletics Federation of India Founded: 1946;
- Athletics Federation of India Headquarters location: New Delhi.

Neeraj Chopra wins Olympic gold medal in Javelin throw

- **Neeraj Chopra** has won a **Gold medal** for India in the **javelin throw** event at **Tokyo Olympics**. With a throw of **87.03 metres** in his first attempt, Neeraj killed the competition.
- In his second he improved it to **87.58m** and that turned out to be the golden throw. Except for **Vitezslav Veslay** of the Czech Republic who threw **86.67m** none of his **rivals** including world champion **Johannas Vetter** fell by wayside.
- This is India's 7th medal at Tokyo 2020, the best ever medal haul for India at a single edition of the Games. Neeraj Chopra's Gold is also India's second-ever individual Gold medal at the Olympics, after Abhinav Bindra in Shooting.

Tokyo Olympics 2020: Bajrang Punia wins Olympic wrestling bronze medal

- Indian wrestler **Bajrang Punia** has won the Olympic wrestling **bronze medal** match after 8-0 win over **Daulet Niyazbekov** of Kazakhstan in the men's freestyle **65kg category**.
- Punia became the sixth Indian wrestler to finish on the Olympic podium after **KD Jadhav, Sushil Kumar, Yogeshwar Dutt, Sakshi Malik and Ravi Kumar Dahiya**. This became the second instance after the 2012 London Olympics when two Indian wrestlers won medals in the same Games.

Tokyo Olympics 2020 Closing Ceremony Highlights

- The **Tokyo Olympics 2020** came to an end on **August 08, 2021**. The international multi-sport event was held from July 23 to August 08, 2021, in **Tokyo, Japan**.
- This was for the fourth time that Japan hosted the Olympic Games, after previously hosting the **Tokyo 1964 (Summer), Sapporo 1972 (Winter), and Nagano 1998 (Winter) games**. Apart from this, Tokyo is the first Asian city to hold the Summer Games twice.

James Anderson becomes 3rd highest wicket-taker in Test cricket

- **James Anderson** overtook **Anil Kumble's** tally of **619 Test wickets** to become the **third-highest** wicket-taker in Test cricket. He achieved this huge feat after **KL Rahul** knocked one to wicket-keeper Jos Buttler.
- His current wickets tally stands at **621 from 163 Tests**. Anderson is currently the highest wicket-taker among the fast bowlers and is the only pacer in the 600 club. He achieved the milestone on the 3rd day of the **Nottingham Test against India**.

Important Days

World Lion Day observed on 10th August

- **World Lion Day** is observed globally on **August 10** every year. World Lion Day is marked to raise awareness about the king of beasts and the efforts undertaken for their conservation.
- Owing to their courage, intelligence, strength, and magnificence, lions often feature on national flags, and royal symbols and emblems to represent command, power or authority across cultures. World Lion Day was launched in **2013**.
- There is only one species of the lion in the world whose scientific name is *Panthera leo*. As per the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN)'s Red List of Threatened Species (**2016**), the *Panthera leo* has two subspecies: **Panthera Leo and Panthera leo persica**, found in Africa and Asia.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- International Union for Conservation of Nature Headquarters: Gland, Switzerland;
- International Union for Conservation of Nature CEO: Bruno Oberle;
- International Union for Conservation of Nature Founder: Julian Huxley;
- International Union for Conservation of Nature Founded: 5 October 1948.

World Biofuel Day celebrated on 10th August

- **World Biofuel Day** is observed on **August 10** every year. The day is celebrated to raise awareness about the importance of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels and highlight the various efforts made by Government in the biofuel sector.
- The development of biofuels is in sync with schemes such as **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan** and **Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**. World Biofuel Day was first observed by the **Ministry of Petroleum and Gas** in August **2015**.

National Handloom Day observed on 7th August

- **India** has marked the **7th National Handloom Day** to showcase the legacy of the **Indian handloom industry**.
- The day is to commemorate the Swadeshi Movement and to celebrate our country's rich fabrics and colourful weaves.
- The whole nation will mark the day to showcase the legacy of the **Indian handloom industry** and to honour the weavers across the country. It was first observed in **2015** by **the Govt of India**.
- **National Handloom Day** seeks to **focus on the contribution of handloom** to the **socio-economic development** of the country and also **increase the income of weavers**.

Nation observes 79th anniversary of Quit India movement

- The **79th anniversary** of the **August Kranti Din or Quit India Movement**, which is considered as one of the important milestones in the history of the freedom struggle of our country, is being observed on **8 August 2021**.
- On 8 Aug **1942**, **Mahatma Gandhi** gave a clarion call to end British rule and launched the **Quit India Movement** at the session of the All-India Congress Committee in Mumbai.
- After the failure of Cripps Mission, Gandhiji gave the call to “Do or Die” in his Quit India speech delivered at the Gowalia Tank Maidan in Mumbai.
- The grateful country is paying homage to the freedom fighters and remembering the supreme sacrifices of the martyrs during the freedom struggle.

Nagasaki Day: 9th August

- **Japan** commemorates the **9th of August** every year as **Nagasaki day**. On August 9, **1945**, the United States dropped an atomic bomb on **Nagasaki, Japan**.
- It was code-named “**Fat Man**” due to the design of the bomb as it had a wide, round shape. This happened 3 days after dropping an atomic bomb on Hiroshima.
- An area of about 5 square miles was completely obliterated and around **65,000 people** were killed in the bombing. Nagasaki and Hiroshima continue to feel the impact of the destructive bombing even today.

International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples: 9 August

- United Nations observes the **International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples** on **09th August** every year. The day is being observed to protect the rights of the world’s indigenous population and recognize the achievements and contributions that indigenous people make to improve world issues such as environmental protection.
- The theme for 2021 is “**Leaving no one behind: Indigenous peoples and the call for a new social contract.**”
- The day was recognised by the General Assembly of the **United Nations in December 1994**. The date marks the day of the inaugural session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations at the **United Nations in 1982**.

Obituaries News

Malayalam actor Saranya Sasi passes away

- Popular Malayalam film and television actor, **Saranya Sasi** passed away due to Covid-19 complications. She had also battled cancer for nearly a decade, earning praise for showing remarkable grit and determination in battling the disease. She had been diagnosed with a form of brain tumour in 2012.
- The actress’ body of work includes films like Chhota Mumbai, Thalappavu, Bombay March 12 and TV soaps like Kootukari, Avakashikal, Harichandanam, Malakhamar and Rahasyam.

Renowned Ayurvedacharya Balaji Tambe passes away

- A well-known spiritual leader who was also an Ayurveda doctor and proponent of Yoga, **Dr Balaji Tambe**, passed away.
- The founder of '**Atmasantulana Village**', a holistic healing centre near Lonavala, Dr Tambe had written several books on spirituality, Yoga and Ayurveda. He dedicated his entire life to promote and popularize Ayurveda and Yoga.

War hero Commodore Kasargod Patnashetti Gopal Rao passes away

- Commodore **Kasargod Patnashetti Gopal Rao**, a **1971** war hero and recipient of the Mahavir Chakra, passed away. Rao was a recipient of the **Veer Seva Medal** also. He played a key role in the war with Pakistan to liberate East Pakistan that is now **Bangladesh**.
- Rao led a small task group of the Western Fleet and launched an offensive off the coast of Karachi as part of **Operation Cactus Lily**.
- Notwithstanding the threat of air, surface and submarine attack, he led the group into enemy waters on the night of **December 4, 1971**.

Padma Shri awardee Padma Sachdev passes away

- Padma Shri awardee and noted author **Padma Sachdev**, the first modern woman poet of **Dogri language**, passed away. She received the **Padma Shri**, the country's fourth-highest civilian award, in 2001 and was awarded the **Kabir Samman** for poetry for 2007-08 by the Madhya Pradesh government.
- She authored many books in Dogri and Hindi, and her poetry collections, including '**Meri Kavita Mere Geet**', won her the **Sahitya Akademi Award in 1971**.

Veteran actor Anupam Shyam passes away

- Veteran actor **Anupam Shyam** has passed away. The actor was best known for his work on the TV show **Mann Kee Awaaz: Pratigya** and appearances in films like **Slumdog Millionaire** and **Bandit Queen**.
- In his nearly three-decade-long career, Shyam featured in films like **Satya, Dil Se, Lagaan, Hazaron Khwaishein Aisi** and received critical acclaim for his role as Thakur Sajjan Singh on **Mann Kee Awaaz: Pratigya** which aired in 2009 on Star Plus.

Noted Kerala sculptor, cartoonist P.S. Banarji passes away

- Noted Kerala Cartoonist, sculptor and folk singer, **P.S. Banarji** has passed away. A recipient of the Lalithakala Akademi Fellowship, Banarji was noted for his Ayyankali and Buddha sculptures at Venganur and Koduman.
- Known for his rendition of a string of folk songs, including the popular '**Tharaka Pennale**', he was working as a graphic designer in an IT firm.