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Important

Current Affairs

For Competitive Exams

From January To December
2021

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Current Affairs (Jan, 2021)

State News

1. Arup Kumar Goswami sworn in as CJ of Andhra Pradesh High Court

- Justice Goswami was transferred from the Sikkim High Court a few days ago. He replaced J.K. Maheswari who has been posted as the Chief Justice of Sikkim High Court.
- Chief Justice Goswami began his career as an advocate with the Bar Council of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura in 1985.

2. Tamil Nadu CM inaugurates Jayalalithaa Memorial in Chennai

- Pics Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi Palanisamy inaugurated Jayalalithaa Memorial at Chennai.
- The 79 crore worth grand memorial is built on a nine acre land situated on the shores of the Marina Beach.
- The phoenix shaped memorial has a statue of Jayalalithaa and MGR with an artificial waterfall.

National News

3. Interest Rates on PPF, NSC and Other Small Savings Schemes Unchanged for Q4

- The government kept the interest rates on small savings schemes, including PPF and NSC, unchanged for the January-March quarter amid moderating bank deposit rates.
- Public Provident Fund (PPF) and National Savings Certificate (NSC) will continue to carry an annual interest rate of 7.1 per cent and 6.8 per cent, respectively.

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- The interest rate for the five-year Senior Citizens Savings Scheme has been retained at 7.4 per cent. Interest rate on savings deposits has been retained at 4 per cent annually. The girl child savings scheme Sukanya Samridhi Yojana will offer 7.6 per cent rate during the fourth quarter of the current fiscal.
- The annual interest rate on Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP) has been retained at 6.9 per cent. Term deposits of one-five years will fetch interest rate in the range of 5.5-6.7 per cent, to be paid quarterly, while the interest rate on five-year recurring deposit is pegged at 5.8 per cent.

4. Oakridge Energy to solarise 1,000 KVs, Delhi government schools

- Solar firm Oakridge Energy said it has signed agreements with the Delhi government and screw Vidyalaya Sangathan to solarise schools in Delhi.
- The company is aiming to solarise 1,000 institutions by 2022.
- The project is developed by the company and subsidised by the Government of India's capital subsidy scheme for government buildings, which the Delhi government has utilised for solarising its schools.

5. Suneet Sharma Appointed New Chairman and CEO of Railway Board

- Former Eastern Railway general manager Suneet Sharma was appointed the new Railway Board Chairman and CEO upon the completion of the term of incumbent V K Yadav. Yadav was given an extension in January this year.
- Suneet Sharma is a Special Class Railway Apprentice Officer of the 1978-batch. He has discharged responsibilities at various levels, including zonal railways, workshops and diesel loco sheds, in his over 34 years in the Indian Railways.

6. India's 1st Testbed TiHAN launched at IIT Hyderabad

- Union Minister of Education, Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has virtually laid the foundation stone of "TiHAN-IIT Hyderabad", India's first Testbed for Autonomous Navigation Systems (Terrestrial and Aerial) at IIT Hyderabad.
- The Technology Innovation Hub on Autonomous Navigation Systems (TiHAN) for Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and Remotely Operated Vehicles at IIT Hyderabad.

Current Affairs (Feb, 2021)

State News

308. Kerala to Open its First Human Milk Bank

- Kerala will open its first Human Milk Bank (HMB) on February 5, 2021.
- This is a state-of-the-art facility, and Kerala Health Minister KK Shailaja will open at Ernakulam General Hospital. A milk bank was established with the support of the Rotary Club of Cochin Global.
- After the State Health Department signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Rotary Club of Cochin Global in 2020, its cost was 3.5 million rupees.
- The Association of Pediatricians (IAP) will provide trained nursing staff to operate the milk bank.

309. UP Government announces unique 16-digit Unicode to identify landholdings

- Uttar Pradesh government has introduced a system of issuing a unique 16-digit Unicode to mark all kinds of landholdings in the state.
- The main purpose of the system is to check the cases of land disputes, put an end to fake registries of the disputed land and save people from falling into the trap of fraudsters.
- Every piece of land in the state will have its own unique identity.
- The Unicode would be issued by the state revenue department for marking all kinds of agricultural, residential and commercial land.

310. Vijayanagara officially declared as 31st District of Karnataka

- The Karnataka government issued an official gazette notification to declare Vijayanagara as the 31st district of the state.
- The new district has been carved out of Ballari and named after the Vijayanagara empire that ruled from this region.

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- The Vijayanagara district will have six taluks and its headquarter will be at Hosapete. The other taluks in the new district are Kudligi, Hagaribommana Halli, Kotturu, Hoovina Hadagali, and Harapanahalli.
- The iconic cluster of monuments at Hampi or Hampe, a UNESCO world heritage site, will be part of the Vijaynagara.

311. Mamata Banerjee launches 'Maa' scheme to provide meals at Rs 5

- West Bengal government launched "Maa" canteens for providing subsidised cooked meals for the poor and the destitute at a nominal cost of ₹5. The govt will give a subsidy of ₹15 and people have to pay ₹5.
- The kitchen will run by Self-Help Groups (SHG). The government allocated ₹ 100 crores for this project.
- About the canteens:
 - The canteens will be open from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. every day. People will get a plate of rice, dal, a vegetable and egg curry. This new initiative is for common people.
 - Though we give free rations there is still a huge demand for cooked food. Therefore, we are starting these community kitchens.

312. Karnataka to Host 2nd Khelo India University Games 2021

- The second edition of the Khelo India University Games (KIUG) 2021, is scheduled to be held in Karnataka.
- This announcement was made by the Karnataka Chief Minister, Shri BS Yediyurappa and Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Kiren Rijiju.
- The KIUG-2021 will be hosted by JAIN (Deemed-to-be University), Bengaluru, in partnership with the Association of Indian Universities (AIU).
- In 2021, Yogasana and Mallakhamb have been added to the University Games, in an effort to preserve and promote the century-old sporting disciplines of the country.
- About the Khelo India University Games:
 - The games will be conducted in the U-25 age category in accordance with the World University Games norms.

Current Affairs (Mar, 2021)

State News

590. International Yoga festival begins in Rishikesh

- The International Yoga Festival was inaugurated by the Agriculture Minister of Uttarakhand Subodh Uniyal, head of Akhil Bharatiya Akhada Parishad (ABAP) Narendra Giri and Patanjali Yogpeeth chairman Acharya Balakrishna in Rishikesh.
- The festival is being jointly organised by Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board (UTDB) and Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam (GMVN).
- About the Yoga:
- Yoga has played a very vital role in boosting immunity especially during the time of Covid.
- The regular practice of Yoga has helped in keeping the diseases away from the body. Yoga is also a cure for many diseases that are hard to treat using medical science.” The aim of Yoga is not only to keep us fit but also to end the negativity within human beings.

591. Digital platform ‘Jagrut Tripura’ launched by CM to boost e-governance

- The Tripura government has come up with a digital platform ‘Jagrut Tripura’ to help people get benefits from various schemes of the Centre and the state government.
- At least 102 schemes of various departments of both governments are available on the platform. The ‘Jagrut Tripura’ will empower citizens of the northeastern state. The digital platform is one of the many proactive initiatives undertaken by the state government to spur a technology-led innovation ecosystem to make ‘Atmanirbhar’ (self-reliant) Tripura.
- The project was developed by EasyGov, a Jio Group company, and it will be available to all the residents of Tripura.
- “With ‘Jagrut’, we want to empower people to get the benefits they deserve, and the focus is on building a family-centric, progressive model having ‘one data one source’ and privacy at the core.

592. Karnataka launches engineering research policy

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- The Karnataka government launched Engineering Research & Development (Engineering R&D) Policy to raise its contribution to the sector to 45% in the upcoming five years.
- The main objective of the government is to leverage the sector's potential, create jobs and improve the state's contribution in this field through strategic interventions and bridging the gap between academia and industry.
- The policy is developed in collaboration with the IT industry body National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM).

593.Himachal Pradesh government inaugurates projects worth Rs. 34 crores in Solan

- The Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh Jai Ram Thakur on March 7, 2021, inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of projects worth Rs. 34 crores in Solan.
- While speaking at the occasion, the Chief Minister stated that the formation of the Municipal Corporation in Solan will ensure the proper planning and systematic development of the town so that it can maintain its fame and glory.
- He further added that Solan is one of the most centrally located and lively towns of Himachal which has been attracting people from all parts of the state to settle here because of its pleasant environment

National News

594.Mumbai will soon have India's 1st undersea tunnel

- By 2023, Mumbai will be home to India's first undersea tunnel, part of the city's Rs 12,000 crore Coastal Road project.
- The Coastal Road project is an under construction 22.2-kilometre freeway that would run along Mumbai's western coastline connecting Marine Lines in the south to Kandivali in the north.
- The 2.07 kilometre tunnel, which will have two lanes, will be 10 to 70 metres deep sub-surface. These lanes will be bored between Priyadarshini Park and Chhota Chowpatty at Marine Drive.

Current Affairs (Apr, 2021)

State News

899. Maharashtra: Amboli named as biodiversity heritage site

- The Maharashtra government has declared an area at Amboli in Western ghats in Sindhudurg district, where a rare freshwater fish species was discovered, as a biodiversity heritage site.
- Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's son Tejas Thackeray, who is a wildlife researcher, and his team had discovered the new freshwater fish species - Schistura Hiranyakeshi" near Amboli in Sawantwadi tehsil of Sindhudurg district.
- The State government issued a notification declaring the area at Amboli as a biodiversity heritage site. Schistura is a small and colourful fish that lives in water and streams in an abundance of oxygen.
- Earlier, the State government had declared the Glory of Allapalli in Gadchiroli district, Landor Khori Park in Jalgaon, Ganesh Khind in Pune, myristica swamp vegetation in Sindhudurg district as biodiversity heritage sites.
- The discoveries of the freshwater fish species were published in the International Journal of Ichthyology in the October 2020 edition by Tejas Thackeray and co-authors.

900. Maharashtra to appoint oxygen nurses to curb wastage of oxygen athospitals

- Maharashtra Health Minister Dr. Rajesh Tope has said that the state needs to appoint oxygen Nurses to curb wastage of oxygen and to maintain data of oxygen storage at hospitals.
- He gave the example of Nandurbar district which adopted the good practice of appointing oxygen nurses in the year 2020.
- The primary job of an oxygen nurse is to monitor the requirement of oxygen every 2-4 hours round the clock, its use among patients and to ensure minimum wastage.
- Instruction has been issued to all government medical colleges and hospitals to set up a dedicated team of nurses.

National News

901. Government announces Rs 14,500 crore capital infusion in 4 PSBs

- The Central Government has announced to infuse Rs 14,500 crore in four state-owned lenders namely Central Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank, Bank of India and UCO Bank in 2020-21, by issuing non-interest bearing bonds to these banks.
- This infusion will complete the government's total capital infusion of Rs 20,000 crore in public sector banks for the current financial year 2020-21. Earlier in December 2020, it infused Rs 5,500 crore in Punjab and Sind Bank.
- The Recapitalisation bonds will be issued with six different maturities, and the special securities would be "at par" for the amount as per the application made by the eligible banks.
- Banks require capital to meet the mandatory reserve requirements laid out by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), make provisions for bad loans and kick-start the lending cycle when demand revives in the economy.

902.PAN-Aadhaar linking deadline extended to June 30

- Subhash Kumar has assumed the additional charge as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) on April 01, 2021.
- He is serving as Director (Finance) at ONGC. Kumar succeeds incumbent CMD, Shashi Shanker, who superannuated on March 31, 2021.

903.Mukhmeet S. Bhatia takes over as Director General of ESIC.

- Senior IAS officer, Mukhmeet S. Bhatia took over the charge of Director General of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) on 01.April 2021.
- He is a 1990 IAS Officer of the Jharkhand cadre. Earlier, he has worked as the Additional Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance.
- ESIC is a Statutory and an Autonomous Body under the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

Current Affairs (May, 2021)

State News

1200. Punjab CM Amarinder Singh Declares Malerkotla as 23rd District

- Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh has declared Malerkotla as the 23rd district of the state on May 14, 2021, on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr.
- Malerkotla is a Muslim-dominated area and has been carved out of the Sangrur district of the state. The government had promised that Malerkotla will be declared a district soon in 2017.

1201. PM Kisan Samman Nidhi: Eighth Instalment released

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently released the eighth instalment of Prime Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi.
- The Government of India transfers Rs 6,000 to the account of small and marginal farmers. These funds are transferred in three instalments.
- The first instalment of Rs 2,000 is made between April and June. The second Instalment is made between August and November. The third instalment is made between December and March.

1202. Uttarakhand Police Launches Mission Hausla

- The Uttarakhand Police has launched a drive called “Mission Hausla” to help people get oxygen, beds, ventilators, and plasma for Covid-19 patients.
- Besides these, police will also help the public to get medicines meant for Covid-19 management as part of the mission and rations.
- Delivering medicines, oxygen and ration at the doorsteps of families battling the coronavirus and coordinating between plasma donors and those in need of it will also be some of the activities to be taken up by the police as part of the mission.

- Police stations will serve as nodal centres for managing crowds in market areas and ensuring COVID- appropriate behaviour by people like wearing masks and social distancing in public places, he said. Stern action will be taken against those who violate the norms.

1203. Himachal Government launches Ayush Ghar-Dwar program

- Himachal Government has launched the ‘Ayush Ghar-Dwar’ program 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. Yoga Bharti’s instructors would provide their services in the program. During the launch, about 80 home isolated Covid positive patients from all over the state were also connected virtually.
- Under the program, approximately 1000 virtual groups on social media platforms like zoom, WhatsApp and Google meet will be formed to connect with COVID positive patients in home isolation.
- The initiative intends to provide a holistic healthcare approach through AYUSH to ensure not only physical but also mental, social and spiritual wellbeing.

1204. Haryana Declares Black Fungus A Notified Disease

- Black Fungus has been categorised as a notified disease in Haryana, making it imperative that government authorities be informed about each case.
- This will allow in the tracking and management of an outbreak. The COVID-19 pandemic in India has catalysed the spread of black fungus or mucormycosis, which can disfigure people even when it is not fatal.
- Declaring a disease notifiable helps collate information and lets authorities monitor the disease and set off early warnings.

1205. Manipur CM launches MOMA Market for vegetable

- Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh has launched a smartphone application “Manipur Organic Mission Agency (MOMA) Market” for home delivery of fresh vegetables to ensure that people get fresh vegetables at their doorsteps during the COVID-19 induced curfew.

Current Affairs (Jun, 2021)

State News

1511. Raja Parba- Odisha's Famous Festival celebrated

- Raja Parba festival celebrated in Odisha. It is a 3-days unique festival in which the onset of monsoon and the earth's womanhood is celebrated by the state.
- It is believed that during this time the Mother Earth or Bhudevi undergoes menstruation. The fourth day is the day of the 'purification bath'. During 3 days, women don't work.
- This festival is synonymous with varieties of cakes (pithas). Thus, Odisha Tourism Development Corporation (OTDC) has also launched a special programme named 'Pitha on Wheels'.
- Different kinds of pithas such as 'Poda Pitha', 'Manda', 'Kakara', 'Arisha', 'Chakuli' and 'Chandrakala' have been made available on 'Pitha on Wheels' (kiosks on wheels). These vehicles selling traditional cakes have been stationed in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Sambalpur.

1512. MP Govt launches Yuva Shakti Corona Mukti Abhiyan

- The Government of Madhya Pradesh has launched 'Yuva Shakti Corona Mukti Abhiyan' to make the people of the state aware of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- It translates to free from Corona with the help of the youth power campaign. Students in colleges in small groups will be given information and details about the significance of COVID-friendly behaviour and vaccination.
- On the instructions of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the campaign has been launched by the higher education and the technical education department of the state in collaboration with the public healthcare and family welfare department.

1513. Rajasthan govt will set Vedic Education and Sanskar Board

- The Rajasthan government will soon set up a Vedic Education and Sanskar Board to revive the knowledge of Sanskrit scriptures and Vedas. The board is likely to be formed in the next four to five months.

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- A committee, formed to define aims, objectives and functioning of the board, has submitted its report to the state government, Minister of State (MoS) for Sanskrit Education Subhash Garg mentioned, adding modules will be presented before the board based on the report.
- He stated the Vedic board would come into function after approval from Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot.

1514. Delhi CM Launches Jahan Vote, Wahan Vaccination Campaign

- Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal launched the ‘ Jahan Vote, Wahan Vaccination’ campaign, with the aim to vaccinate all people above 45 years against COVID-19 in Delhi within the next four weeks.
- There are around 57 lakhs people above 45 years in Delhi. Among them, 27 lakhs have been administered the first dose. The rest 30 lakh people still remain to be vaccinated with the first dose.
- The booth level officers (BLO) are being trained for this purpose. The BLOs will reach every home and enquire about people above 45 years.
- These officials will inform about the slots for vaccination at the nearest booth. If a person refuses to go to the vaccination centres, the BLOs will request him and try to convince him in this regard.

1515. Bihar government launches Mukhya Mantri Udyaymi Yojana

- Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has launched two ambitious schemes christened as the ‘Mukhya Mantri Yuva Udyaymi Yojna’ and the ‘Mukhya Mantri Mahila Udyami Yojana.
- Both the schemes launched to promote entrepreneurship among youth and women of all sections under the state’s ‘Mukhaya Mantri Udyami Yojana scheme. The schemes were promised by the chief minister during the 2020 Bihar elections.
- Youth and Women-irrespective of caste and creed, wishing to start entrepreneurship, will get a loan of Rs 10 lakh, in which Rs 5 lakh would be a grant from the state government and the rest Rs 5 lakh will come as a loan, refundable in 84 instalments. He also launched a portal on which youth and women from all sections can register themselves for availing of the loan from the government.

1516. Delhi Govt launched Mukhyamantri Covid-19 Pariwar Aarthik Sahayata Yojana

Current Affairs (May, 2021)

State News

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Current Affairs (Aug, 2021)

State News

2122. Rajasthan Government launches Mission Niryatak Bano

- The Rajasthan government's industries department and the Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation (RIICO) have launched the 'Mission Niryatak Bano' campaign to promote aspiring exporters in the state.
- The campaign is aimed at registering and handholding the local traders willing to expand their business to foreign countries, in six steps.
- This shall cover assistance from training, securing necessary documentation, registration in Rajasthan Export Promotion Council and even support in exports and trade operations.

2123. 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.

2124. 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.

2125. 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.

2126. Kakori Train Conspiracy now renamed to Kakori Train Action

- The Uttar Pradesh government has renamed a landmark freedom movement event as Kakori Train Action while paying tributes to the revolutionaries who were hanged for robbing a train at Kakori to buy weapons in 1925.
- The new name was used in official communications to refer to the event, usually described as the 'Kakori train robbery' or the 'Kakori train conspiracy'.
- UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Governor Anandiben Patel attended a programme held on the anniversary of the event at Kakori-based Kakori Shaheed Smarak on the outskirts of Lucknow.
- Family members of the freedom fighters were honoured on this occasion, and an art exhibition was also held. A government official stated it was derogatory to describe the robbery that was a part of the freedom movement as "conspiracy".

2127. Hockey star Vandana Katariya made U'khand Women & Child Development ambassador

- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has announced that Indian women's hockey team player Vandana Katariya will be the brand ambassador of the state's Department of Women Empowerment and Child Development.
- The announcement came at a program organized to felicitate the recipients of awardees of the Tilu Rauteli Award and the Anganwadi Workers Award.
- Earlier, Dhami had announced a cash reward of Rs 25 lakh to Indian women's hockey team player Vandana Katariya for her brilliant performance at the Tokyo Olympics.

2128. UP govt to set up Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) training centre

- The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to set up a training centre for Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) commandos in Saharanpur's Deoband.

Monthly Current Affairs (Sep, 2021)

State News

2432. Maharashtra govt launches Mission Vatsalya for women's

- Maharashtra government launched a special mission called "Mission Vatsalya" in order to help women who lost their husbands to COVID-19.
- Mission Vatsalya will provide several services and some 18 benefits under one roof to those women. It been designed for widows, with a special focus on widows coming from rural areas, poor backgrounds and deprived sections.
- Under this mission, schemes like Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana and Gharkul Yojana will benefit those for women.

2433. J&K LG Manoj Sinha inaugurates Saath initiative for women

- In Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has launched a Rural Enterprises Acceleration Programme titled 'Saath' for Self Help Group (SHG) women.
- The programme aims to transform the lives of women and make them independent and strong in social and financial aspects, by mentoring the women associated with SHGs and create market linkages of products created by these women.
- Jammu and Kashmir already has 48000 SHGs, with around four lakh women connected to these SHGs. The J&K administration further aims to create 11000 more SHGs in the coming year.
- This will transform the lives of these women and make them independent and strong in social and financial aspects.

2434. Maharashtra to set up science city named after Rajiv Gandhi in Pune

- The Maharashtra Government has decided to set up a world-class science city at Pimpri-Chinchwad near Pune to develop a scientific outlook among the students and prepare them to become students in future.

- To be named as 'Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi Science Innovation City', a science Centre will be developed on one acre area in an eight-acre complex in the PCMC area. The Centre has granted an assistance of Rs 191 crore to build the Science city in the PCMC area.

2435. India's first dugong conservation reserve to come up in Tamil Nadu

- Tamil Nadu state government has announced to set up India's first dugong conservation reserve at the northern part of the Palk Bay.
- Dugong are commonly known as sea cows. According to Wildlife Institute of India (WII) estimates, only 200-250 Dugongs are left in the wild, of which 150 are found in the Palk Bay and Gulf of Mannar in Tamil Nadu.

2436. Chandigarh Railway Station certified five-star Eat Right Station

- The Chandigarh Railway Station(CRS) was awarded a 5 star 'Eat Right Station' certification for providing high-quality, nutritious food to passengers.
- The certification was awarded by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) upon the conclusion of the FSSAI-empanelled third-party audit agency.
- CRS was selected to upgrade on the pattern of the World Class Railway Station.

2437. Gujarat govt launches Vatan Prem Yojana

- The Government of Gujarat announced, that it plans on undertaking public welfare projects worth Rs. 1,000 crores jointly with non-resident Gujaratis by December 2022.
- The projects will be under the state government's 'Vatan Prem Yojana'.
- The Yojana was launched in Gujarat focusing on rural development through public and state contributions.

2438. ADB approves \$112 million loan to improve water supply in Jharkhand

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India have signed a USD 112 million loan to develop water supply infrastructure and strengthen capacities of urban local bodies (ULBs) for improved service delivery in four towns in the state of Jharkhand. This is the first project of ADB in the state of Jharkhand.

Monthly Current Affairs (Oct, 2021)

State News

2742. Odisha's initiatives to prevent Elephant electrocution

- Odisha government has allocated Rs 445.75 crore to the distribution companies in order to increase ground clearance of electrical networks with the objective of preventing Elephant electrocution.
- With the help of allocated funds, distribution companies would also replace bare conductors across elephant corridors and movement areas.
- This initiative is aimed at preventing elephant deaths because of electrocution. As per Energy department, 79000 interposing poles have been erected and about 2,300 circuit bare conductors have been replaced by covered ones.
- In the recent development, companies and Forest Department have been asked to interact on regular basis in a bid to achieve zero casualty of elephants.
- Officials have also been directed to involve with the local community in elephant protection and bring in scheme for rewarding the villagers, who would provide information regarding illegal hooking for poaching wild animals.
- As per the Wildlife Society of Orissa (WSO), an environment pressure group working on elephant conservation, about 862 elephants have lost their lives in between April 2010 August 2021. Out of this, about 16 % accounting for 135 elephants died due to electrocution.

2743. Himachal Pradesh becomes 1st state to begin organised cultivation of dalchini

- The CSIR's Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (IHBT) has introduced cinnamon cultivation in Himachal Pradesh on a pilot basis.
- True cinnamon or *Cinnamomum verum* is grown mainly in Sri Lanka, while minor producing countries include Seychelles, Madagascar, and India.
- India imports 45,318 tonnes of cinnamon annually from China, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Indonesia and Nepal. With the cultivation of *Cinnamomum Verum*, HP has become the first state of India to have organized cultivation of cinnamon.

2744. Maharashtra Government launches Mission Kavach Kundal

- The state government of Maharashtra has launched a special Covid-19 vaccination drive named as Mission Kavach Kundal, with the target of inoculating 15 lakh people everyday.
- The week-long drive has been organised from October 08 to October 14, 2021. The drive is in line with Centre's target of reaching 100 crore vaccination mark till 15 October 2021.
- Meanwhile, the country reported 22,431 new cases in the last 24 hours. The active caseload is presently 2,44,198, which is the lowest in 204 days. Maharashtra reported 2,876 new Coronavirus positive cases, 90 fatalities and 2,763 discharges, a state health department bulletin.

2745. Jyotiraditya M. Scindia flags off the Doon Drone Mela

- Union Minister of Civil Aviation, Jyotiraditya M. Scindia has flagged off the Doon Drone Mela 2021 in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
- Minister flagged off the event with a paragliding demonstration and also interacted with the drone companies exhibiting their prototypes at the Doon Drone Mela.
- The day marked the demonstration of the Drone & Aerosports Demonstrations that included a paragliding demonstration by the Border Security Force, a Paramotor demonstration by Harsh Sachan, and an agriculture spraying drone demonstration by IoTechWorld Aviation & Dhaksha.
- Furthermore, the event also included an emergency search & response drone demonstration with an indigenously 3D-printed drone by the Drone Application and Research Centre (DARC) & State Disaster Response Force (SDRF).
- It was followed by a brief survey drone demonstration by the Aarav Unmanned Systems (AUS) under the SVAMITVA Scheme along with a training drone demonstration by Sqn Ldr Varsha Kukreti (Retd).

2746. Tamil Nadu's Kannyakumari Clove gets GI Tag

- The unique clove spice grown in the hills of Kanyakumari district in Tamil Nadu has been awarded a geographical indication (GI) as 'Kanyakumari clove'.
- In India, the total production of cloves is 1,100 metric tons and of this, 1,000 metric tons is produced in Tamil Nadu every year while 750 metric tons of cloves are produced in the Kanyakumari district alone.

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3054. Maharashtra became 1st state to pass its own Wildlife Action Plan 2021-30

- During the 17th meeting of the State Board for Wildlife (SBWL), the government of Maharashtra approved its own Wildlife Action Plan (2021-2030), which will be implemented over the next 10 years. Maharashtra became India's first state to pass its own Wildlife Action Plan.
- The board has also approved the extension of the boundary of Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve, in the Chandrapur district of the Vidarbha region, by around 79 sq km.
- The plan has suggested integrating climate change adaption in wildlife conservation.
- "To develop a Climate Action Plan for the Coastal Region of the state in sync with the 'State Climate Change Action Plan' with special emphasis on 'Climate Change Adaptation' (CCA) and 'Disaster Risk Reduction (DDR)'," the plan states.

3055. Uttarakhand gets country's largest aromatic garden

- Uttarakhand gets India's largest aromatic garden in the Nainital district.
- The research wing of the Uttarakhand forest department inaugurated the biggest aromatic garden of India in Lalkuan of Nainital district.
- Established in an area of over 3 acres, the garden has 140 different species of aromatic species from across India. The project was initiated in the year 2018-19 after approval of the Research Advisory Committee in June 2018.

3056. Public Affairs Index 2021: Kerala topped in governance performance

- According to the 6th edition of the Public Affairs Index (PAI 2021) report by the Public Affairs Centre (PAC), a Bengaluru-based non-profit think tank, the top three slots have been taken by Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana among 18 large states.

- PAI 2021 highlights the state government's quality governance and especially the state's government involvement over the curb of Covid-19.

3057. Haryana Govt launched Uttam Beej portal

- Chief Minister (CM) of Haryana, Manohar Lal Khattar has launched the 'Uttam Beej portal' which will benefit the farmers of Haryana by providing quality seeds with transparency.
- The portal will provide transparency in the seed production programme arranged by both the Government and private seed producing agencies and ensure the quality of certified seeds.

3058. National Tribal Dance Festival 2021 held in Chhattisgarh

- Chhattisgarh has observed the annual 2nd National Tribal Dance Festival 2021 at Raipur's Science College ground as a part of the tourism development plan of the state.
- It was inaugurated by the Chief Minister (CM) of Jharkhand Hemant Soren and CM of Chhattisgarh Bhupesh Baghel.
- This year's event was clubbed with Chattisgarh's Rajyotsava (state foundation day- November 1, 2021).

3059. Tripura develops country's first-ever bamboo made cricket bat, stumps

- Bamboo and Cane Development Institute (BCDI) of Tripura along with the North East Centre of Technology Application and Reach (NECTAR) claimed to have developed the country's first-ever bamboo made cricket bat maintaining all the standard protocols used for manufacturing cricket bats. These bats could be used in all forms of cricket.
- The most preferred wood for the production of cricket bats is willow. The company's CEO recently gave Biplab Kumar Deb a demonstration of the product.

3060. PM Modi dedicates to nation multiple National Highway and Road projects

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone and dedicated various National Highway and Road projects to the nation in the temple town of Pandharpur in Maharashtra, through video conference.

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3355. Hornbill Festival celebrated in Naga Heritage village Kisama

- The biggest cultural extravaganza of Nagaland, the Hornbill Festival has kicked off with colorful renditions of traditional music, dances, and contemporary in one roof at Naga Heritage village Kisama.
- It is the 22nd edition of the Hornbill festival and will be celebrated in 6 districts of Nagaland. More than 282,800 people visited the festival during the 20th edition in 2019, including over 3,000 foreign tourists and at least 55,500 domestic visitors.
- This year's edition of Nagaland's iconic Hornbill Festival, widely hailed as the "festival of festivals", will be held in its traditional format, starting on December 1 after it was held virtually last year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The opening ceremony culminated with the flight of the Hornbill- A musical presentation by Task Force for Music and Arts Nagaland.

3356. India Skills Report 2022 : Maharashtra Retains Top Position

- The 9th edition of India Skills Report (ISR) 2022, released by Wheebox, Maharashtra has retained the top position in the list of states with the highest poll of employable talent followed by Uttar Pradesh and Kerala. The theme of ISR 2022 – 'Rebuilding and Reengineering the Future of Work'.
- India Skills Report is a full-fledged report about the future of work, education, and skilling to match the talent demand and supply in a growing India. States with Maximum Hiring Activity:
- Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu are the 3 states that have a higher job demand.
- Pune is the city with the most highly employable resources with 78% of the test takers scoring above 60 per cent.

3357. Andhra Pradesh tie-up with UN-FAO & ICAR for sustainable agriculture

- The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations has signed an agreement with the Andhra Pradesh Government to train the farmers in good farm management practices and sustainable agricultural methods.
- The FAO apart, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research is collaborating on the project.
- FAO will provide training to farmers, Rythu Bharosa Kendram (RBK) staff, officials, and scientists on new technologies in agricultural allied sectors and training to farmers on best cultivation management practices.
- In 2020, Rythu Bharosa Kendram (RBK) or farmer support centres were set up in AP as part of an effort to weed away fake seeds, pesticides and fertilisers from the markets.

3358. Tamil Nadu announced 'Tamil Thaaai Vaazhthu' as state song

- Tamil Nadu government has announced 'Tamil Thaaai Vaazhthu' as the state anthem. It should be sung before the start of any functions in all educational institutions, universities, government offices, and public sector undertakings.
- The decision comes in the wake of the Madras High Court recently ruling that 'Tamil Thai Vaazhthu' is a prayer song and not an anthem.
- Government Order to this effect has been issued, mandating that all barring the differently-abled persons should remain standing when the 55-second long song is sung.
- The 'Tamil Thai Vaazhthu' enjoy official status since 1970. It is the official song of the union territory of Puducherry as well. Jaya Bharata Jananiya Tanujate is the official state anthem of Karnataka and Bande Utkal Janani is the official state anthem of Odisha.

3359. International Arbitration and Mediation Centre inaugurated in Telangana

- Chief Justice of India (CJI) Justice NV Ramana, and Chief Minister of Telangana K Chandrasekhar Rao has inaugurated India's First International Arbitration and Mediation Centre (IAMC) at Phoenix VK Tower at Nanakramguda, Hyderabad, Telangana.
- Those who empanel the centre include internationally acclaimed arbitrators and mediators from countries such as Singapore and the UK.