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India's Best Institute for IES, GATE & PSUs

**MADE EASY  
WEEKLY  
CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**WEEK-3**

15<sup>th</sup> June - 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2021

**TARGETED EXAMINATIONS**

**CSE, ESE, PSUs, State Exams,  
SSC and Banking Exams**

15<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2021

## Jalgaon Banana

- A consignment of fibre and mineral-rich “Jalgaon Banana” was shipped to Dubai, boosting exports significantly.
- Jalgaon Banana got GI certification in 2016. It was registered with Nisargraja Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Jalgaon.

### Key Points:

- Jalgaon Banana is a recognised Geographical Indications (GI) agricultural product from Maharashtra's Jalgaon district.
- Twenty-two metric tonnes of Jalgaon bananas were acquired from Tandalwadi village's progressive growers. This hamlet is located in Maharashtra's Jalgaon district.
- Jalgaon District is an identified banana cluster under Agri Export Policy and is called as “Banana city” of Maharashtra. It contributes to two-third of total production of bananas in the state.

### NOTE:

India is the world's leading producer of bananas with its share of 25% in total output. Leading banana producing states are Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh.

## State of India's Environment Report 2021

- The State of India's Environment Report 2021 revealed that India's rank has slipped two places from last year to rank 117th on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted as a part of the 2030 agenda by 193 United Nations Member States in 2015. The index compares how countries implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## Key Points

- This year, Finland was ranked highest in the index.
- A Nordic country has ranked at the top of the SDG Index for the first time.
- Finland has topped even when COVID-19 has slowed down the sustainable development process across the world.
- As per the Government, Finland has topped the index based on its achievements with respect to the goals related to poverty reduction, health, education, energy, water, peace, reduction of inequality and rule of law.

## About Index:

- The NITI Aayog launched its index in 2018 to monitor the country's progress on the goals through data-driven assessment, and foster a competitive spirit among the States and Union Territories in achieving them.
- NITI Aayog has the twin mandate to oversee the adoption and monitoring of the SDGs in the country, and also promote competitive and cooperative federalism among States and UTs.
- The index represents the articulation of the comprehensive nature of the Global Goals under the 2030 Agenda while being attuned to the national priorities.

## Shenzhou-12

- China launched a spacecraft Shenzhou-12, carrying three astronauts to part of a space station still under construction for the longest stay in low Earth orbit by any Chinese national.
- China is the third country after the former Soviet Union and the United States to carry out a manned mission on its own.

## Key Highlights:

- Shenzhou-12 means Divine Vessel. It will be the third out of 11 missions that China needs to complete China's space station by 2022. Out of 11, four will be missions with people on board. Thus, a total of 12 Chinese astronauts will go into space.

### About Shenzhou-12 Mission:

- The Shenzhou-12 craft connected with the Tianhe space station module about six hours after takeoff from the Jiuquan launch center in Gobi Desert.
- The three-man crew will spend three months on the Tianhe module, which is orbiting at some 340km to 380km above the earth.
- This is the first of two manned space missions planned for this year, part of an intense schedule of launches aimed at completing the Chinese space station in 2022.

16<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2021

### Operation Olivia

- Recently, the Indian Coast Guard has pressed into service an aircraft for 'Operation Olivia' to protect Olive Ridley turtles.

### Key Points:

- Operation Olivia was started by the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), first in early 1980s. This operation helps in protecting Olive Ridley turtles every year when they start nesting along Odisha coast for breeding in months of November to December.
- Every year, the Indian Coast Guard's "Operation Olivia", initiated in the early 1980s, helps protect Olive Ridley turtles as they congregate along the Odisha coast for breeding and nesting from November to December. It also intercepts unlawful trawling activities.

### About Olive Ridley:

- Olive Ridley turtles are listed as vulnerable under International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List. Sea turtles found in India have been included in Schedule I of Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- They are also listed in Appendix I of Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) of Wild Fauna and Flora.

- Their mass nesting is called arribada. Gahirmatha, Astaranga coast, mouth of Devi river and Rushikulya are four arribadas sites off the Odisha Coast in India.

### Jivan Vayu: Power- free CPAP device

- Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar has developed a device 'Jivan Vayu' which can be used as a substitute for CPAP machines.
- This is Nation's first such device which functions even without electricity and is adapted to both kinds of oxygen generation units like O2 cylinders and oxygen pipelines in hospitals.

### About Jivan Vayu

- Jivan Vayu is a Continuous Positive Airway Pressure(CPAP) device. It can be used as a substitute for existing CPAP machines.
- It is India's first CPAP device that functions even without electricity.
- The device is adapted to both kinds of oxygen generation units like O2 cylinders and oxygen pipelines in hospitals.
- The device can deliver high flow oxygen up to 60 Litres Per Minute (LPM).
- The device has an inbuilt viral filter which ensures that the air does not bring in any pathogens from the environment.

### ■ NOTE: \_\_\_\_\_

Jivan Vayu has an inbuilt viral filter at air entertainment end, with viral efficacy of 99.99 per cent. This filter ensures that air does not bring in any pathogens from the environment.

### 'Extension of Hospitals' Project

- The Government of India invited private sector companies, donor organizations, and individuals to support various projects of national importance under the Project Extension Hospitals initiative.

**Key points:**

- As Covid-19 cases surged in different parts of the country, infrastructure in hospitals was under immense pressure. Keeping in view of the need, innovative modular hospitals came as a huge relief amidst the crisis.
- Project 'Extension Hospitals' is one such initiative for which Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) invited private sector companies, donor organizations, and individuals to support the initiative along with various other projects of national importance.
- The PSA office identified requirements of close to 50 hospitals in states where the highest number of Covid-19 cases were reported.

**NOTE:**

MediCAB hospitals have been developed by Modulus Housing which is a start-up incubated at IIT-M. This will enable building a 100-bedded extension facility within 3-weeks.

17<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2021

**Juneteenth in the US**

- US President Joe Biden is soon expected to sign a law making June 19, or "Juneteenth", a national holiday, commemorating the end of slavery after the American Civil War (1861-65).

**Key Points:**

- A bill to establish Juneteenth National Independence Day received bipartisan support in both houses of the US Congress, and now needs to be approved by the White House to become law.
- Juneteenth will be the first new federal holiday created in almost four decades.

**About Juneteenth:**

- Juneteenth, a combination of June and nineteenth, is observed on June 19 every year. It is the oldest

nationally celebrated commemoration of end of slavery in America.

- The day is recognized as a holiday in 47 US states and the District of Columbia. Juneteenth is also known as Emancipation Day or Juneteenth Independence Day.

**AY.1 variant of Coronavirus**

- WHO recently designated the B.1.617.2 coronavirus strain as a 'Delta' variation, which has now mutated. The "Delta Plus" or "AY.1" variation is a mutated version of the Delta variant.

**Key Points**

- One of the variables linked to the second wave of coronavirus infections in India has been identified as the delta variation.
- Initial evidence suggests that the Delta plus variation is resistant to the monoclonal antibody cocktail therapy for COVID-19 that was recently approved by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO).

**Delta plus variant:**

- The coronavirus variant B.1.617.2.1 is known as AY.1, and it is distinguished by the acquisition of the K417N mutation.
- As of now, the delta plus variation has been found in six Indian genomes. The presence of 63 Delta variant genomes with the novel K417N mutation has also been confirmed by the health department.

**Google Pay announced Cards Tokenization**

- Google has roped in more banks for card tokenization on the Google Pay app.

**About Card Tokenization:**

- Tokenization will replace card details with a code, called a "token," which will be specifically for the card, the token requestor and the device being used to pay.

- Instead of the card's details, the token will act as the card at point of sale (POS) terminals and quick response (QR) code payment systems. The goal of the process is to improve the safety and security of payments.
- This feature lets users with Near-field communication (NFC) capable devices or phones make contactless payments.
- Users would be able to pay their bills and recharge their numbers using credit cards. This feature also works with online merchants and provides seamless OTP experiences without redirecting to 3D Secure sites.

18<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2021

## Cross-Disability Early Intervention Centers for children

- The Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment inaugurated 14 Cross-Disability Early Intervention Centres located at 7 National Institutes and 7 Composite Regional Centres.

### Key points:

- The services provided at the centres will include screening of children and referral to appropriate rehabilitative care; speech therapy, occupational therapy and physiotherapy; parental counselling and training and peer counselling.
- These centers will also focus on school readiness.

### NOTE:

As per 2011 Census, there are 20 lakh children with disabilities in the age group of 0-6 years. They belong to the categories of visually impaired, hearing impaired, locomotor disability.

## Hebbal-Nagawara Valley Project

- Residents and environmental activists opposed a recent notification by the Karnataka forest

department, seeking public consultation to cut 6,316 trees on the outskirts of Bengaluru to rejuvenate the Singanayakanahalli lake.

### About Hebbal-Nagawara Valley Project

- This project was launched with the aim of filling 65 tanks in Bengaluru Urban, Rural and Chickballapur.
- Bagaluru lake was the first lake to receive treated water from this project.
- The project was meant to act as an impounded reservoir to supply water in 11 other lakes in this region.
- Direct use of treated water for drinking and agricultural purposes was prohibited but farmers were of the view that, project is increasing the water table.

### NOTE:

Hebbal lake is located in Bangalore at the mouth of National Highway 7, near the junction of Bellary Road and Outer Ring Road. These lakes were created in 1537 by Kempe Gowda.

## Cabinet approves Deep Ocean Mission

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) on "Deep Ocean Mission".
- This Mission works to explore the deep ocean for resources and develop deep sea technologies for sustainable use of ocean resources.

### Key Highlights

- The cost of the Mission has been estimated at Rs. 4,077 crore over a five-year period and will be implemented in phases. MoES will be the nodal ministry implementing this multi-institutional ambitious mission.
- It will be a mission mode project to support the Blue Economy Initiatives of the Government of India. Blue Economy is the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods and jobs, and ocean ecosystem health.

- The technology and expertise needed in such missions is now available with only five countries - US, Russia, France, Japan and China. India will now be the sixth country to have it.

### About Deep Ocean Mission

- It is an Indian initiative to undertake deep ocean exploration. It focuses on India's exclusive economic zones and continental shelf.
- Mission consists of various manned and unmanned submersibles to explore the sea bed. Main aim of this mission is to explore & extract polymetallic nodules which are composed of minerals such as nickel, manganese, copper, cobalt and iron hydroxide.
- These metals are useful in manufacturing electronic devices, smartphones, solar panels and batteries.

19<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2021

### Indian Navy – European Union Naval Force Joint Exercise

- Indian Navy and European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR) are conducting their first ever exercise in the Gulf of Aden. This two-day exercise will end on June 19, 2021.

#### Key Points

- Indian Naval Ship Trikanth participated in the exercise, which is currently deployed for anti-piracy operations.
- The exercise was based on the scenario of an anti-piracy operation. It included cross-deck helicopter landings, complex tactical evolutions at sea, live firing, a night-time joint patrol and a naval parade in the high seas off the coast of Somalia.
- The two-day exercise witnessed high tempo-naval operations at sea such as advanced air defence & anti-submarine exercises, cross deck helicopter operations, boarding operations, tactical manoeuvres, underway replenishment, search & rescue etc.

#### NOTE:

Indian Navy and EUNAVFOR navies conduct regular interaction through SHADE (Shared Awareness and Deconfliction) meetings which is held annually at Bahrain.

### Special Cancellation Stamp

- India Post will release a special pictorial cancellation stamp that will be an inked marking or impression with a graphical design with International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2021 written in both Hindi and English.

#### Key Points

- India Post will put a special cancellation marking on all mail booked on June 21 to commemorate seventh International Day of Yoga.
- The special cancellation will be issued with a pictorial design through 810 head post offices across India in one of the largest philatelic commemorations ever.
- All delivery and non-delivery head post offices will put this special cancellation on all mail booked in the office on June 21, 2021.
- The UN Postal Administration (UNPA) issued a set of stamps showing 10 yoga asanas to commemorate the day in New York in 2016.

#### NOTE:

International Day of Yoga has been celebrated annually on June 21 since 2015. It was accepted in the United Nations General Assembly in 2014.

### Global Peace Index 2021

- India is ranked 141 among 163 countries on the Global Peace Index 2019. The ranking of India in 2018 was 136th.
- Bhutan and Nepal are first and second most peaceful in this region. Bangladesh was 91th out of 163 countries across the world while being 3rd in South Asia.

- Pakistan witnessed the most improvement in peacefulness with 150th rank globally and 6th in the South Asia region.

### Key Points:

- 163 independent states and territories were ranked for their level of peacefulness. India climbed up 2 places to be ranked at 139 in GPI 2020. In 2019, it ranked 141.
- GPI is the world's leading measure of global peacefulness. Report provides a comprehensive data-driven analysis on trends in peace, its economic value and recommendations on how to develop peaceful societies.
- Iceland has been the most peaceful country worldwide since 2008 and other top countries like Denmark, New Zealand, Portugal and Slovenia.
- Afghanistan is the least peaceful country again for the fourth consecutive year followed by Yemen, Syria, South Sudan, and Iraq.

### NOTE:

The Global Peace Index (GPI) is published by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP). This index is developed in partnership with the Economist Intelligence Unit, which collates data collected from various think tanks and experts from peace institutes.

**20<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2021**

## Summit on Green Hydrogen initiatives

- India to host a two-day summit on Green Hydrogen initiatives starting June 22 involving the BRICS nations.
- The event will be anchored by NTPC Ltd, a Maharatna CPSU under the Ministry of Power.

### Key Points:

- The virtual summit will bring the best brains, policymakers and major stakeholders from the

BRICS nations deliberating and discussing at length the future of hydrogen in the energy mix.

- On the first day of the event, the representatives from each country would be sharing respective initiatives undertaken by their countries on utilisation of hydrogen and their future plans.

### About Hydrogen Energy:

- Hydrogen which is produced from fossil fuels is called grey hydrogen and those generated from fossil fuels with carbon capture & storage options is called blue hydrogen. On the other hand, Green Hydrogen is obtained entirely from renewable power sources.
- Green hydrogen is Environment friendly because its usage led to zero emissions. It is a clean burning molecule which can decarbonise sectors like iron & steel, chemicals, and transportation.

## Karnataka Coastal Zone Management Authority

- Karnataka State Coastal Zone Management Authority has been constituted by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate change, Government of India.

### Key Points:

- It constituted in exercise of the power conferred under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to regulate and perform the function as stipulated in CRZ Notification 2011.
- The Authority has the mandate to take measures for protection and improving the quality of the coastal environment.
- The mandate also includes preventing, abating and controlling environmental pollution in the coastal regulation zones of Karnataka State.
- The Authority is conferred with the powers to examine the proposals for change or modification in the classification of coastal regulation zone, enquire into cases of alleged violation of the provisions of the Environment Protection Act and to review the cases involving violations of the provisions of CRZ Notification 2011.

## About Authority

- Karnataka Coastal Zone Management Authority is a 15-member body which will be constituted to protect & improve the quality of coastal environment.
- Its primary work is to prevent, abate and control environmental pollution in the Coastal Regulation Zone of Karnataka.

## Draft national strategy for Rural Development

- The Tourism Ministry has formed a draft national strategy and roadmap for the development of rural tourism in India.
- Recognising the immense potential of rural tourism, the ministry decided to formulate the strategy. The Ministry has been actively working to promote and develop this niche area of tourism.

### Key Objectives:

- To identify strategies for the development of Rural Tourism and stimulate job creation.
- To bring synergy and convergence in the Central and State programs for development and promotion of Rural Tourism in the Country
- To facilitate coordination of rural tourism development initiatives amongst relevant stakeholders
- To create a platform to share knowledge of best practices, development opportunities and challenges in rural areas for tourism development
- To identify and recommend strategic areas/ clusters for tourism development in rural areas within the sector.

### ■ NOTE: \_\_\_\_\_

Draft to position India as a MICE destination was also put forward. MICE stands for "Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions".

21<sup>st</sup> JUNE 2021

## Chile to draft New Constitution

- Chilean President Sebastian Pinera has announced the assembly to draft a new constitution, as the South American country moves towards replacing its current conservative, dictatorship-era charter.

### Key Points

- The Constitution will be re-written following a broad political consensus which was agreed to, after violent social protests of 2019 against inequality in Chile. A Referendum was held which got the favour of 78% of Chileans, on October 25, 2020.
- The Convention represents a great opportunity to achieve a new constitution and it will be recognized & respected by all Chileans under the framework of unity & stability toward future democracy.
- Convention will comprise 155 delegates who were elected in May, 2021.

### ■ NOTE: \_\_\_\_\_

Chilly in western South America, occupies a long, narrow strip of land between the Andes in the east and Pacific Ocean in west. It is closest to Antarctica and the southernmost country worldwide. Chile is known as the copper country of the world.

## India-US launched Hydrogen Task Force

- US-India hydrogen taskforce has been launched under the aegis of Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP), according to a statement from US India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) which will boost India's energy security efforts.
- The US-India Hydrogen Task Force was constituted with the aim of serving as a forum to achieve affordable hydrogen solutions.



## Key Points:

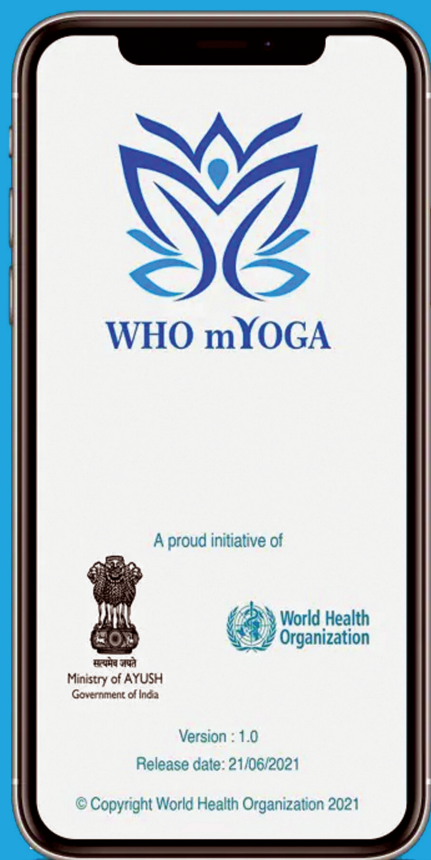
- The US-India Hydrogen Task Force was launched by the United States Department of Energy, Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and the USISPF.
- According to a draft proposal circulated by the Renewable Energy Ministry, leveraging India's green hydrogen is one of the steps for achieving energy sufficiency for the country.
- This task force will bridge government research with unique industry perspectives which will help in reaching the goals of decarbonizing, high-polluting industrial sectors and achieving a greener & cleaner planet.

## mYoga App

- The Prime Minister of India has announced the launch of the mYoga app that will provide many videos of yoga training based on common yoga protocol in many languages. This app is a great example of fusion of modern technology & ancient science.

## About mYoga App

- The mYoga app will provide users with a collection of videos and audio practice sessions. Users can practice these sessions in the comfort of their own homes, as and when they wish.
- The app is a recommendable companion for persons aged 12-65 years. As per the WHO website, the app was developed through a “review of scientific literature and extensive international expert consultation processes.”
- mYoga app is currently available in English, Hindi and French. It will further be available in other UN languages in the upcoming months. Android users can download the mYoga app from Google Play Store.



**mYoga App** was launched in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (**WHO**)