

Global Gender Gap Report 2021: WEF:

- India has fallen 28 places in the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Gender Gap Report 2021.
- India is now one of the worst performers in South Asia, it is now ranked 140 among 156 countries.
- India had ranked 112th among 153 countries in the Global Gender Gap Index 2020.
- BetiBachaoBetiPadhao, One Stop Centre (OSC) Scheme, Ujjawala Scheme are some the initiatives launched by the government to address the issue of gender inequality.
- It was first published in 2006 by the WEF.
- It benchmarks 156 countries on their progress towards gender parity in four dimensions:
 - Economic Participation and Opportunity,
 - Educational Attainment,
 - Health and Survival and
 - Political Empowerment.

China-Iran Strategic Cooperation Pact:

- China and Iran have signed a 25-year "strategic cooperation pact" which includes "political economic and strategic components".
- The agreement comes amid a major push from China to back Iran to deal with the continuing weight of sanctions reinstated by the US after its withdrawal from the Iranian nuclear deal.
- It will deepen relations between Iran and China and would establish a blueprint for "reciprocal investments in the fields of transport, ports, energy, industry and services."
- It forms a part of China's trillion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a plan to fund infrastructure projects and increase its influence overseas.

4% Inflation Target Retained by Government:

- The Government of India has decided to retain the inflation target of 4%, with a tolerance band of +/- 2 percentage points for the Monetary Policy Committee of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the coming five years.
- Earlier, the RBI in its Currency and Finance (RCF) report for the year 2020-21 also recommended the inflation target to be kept same as 4% +/-2% for next 5 years.
- The Consumer Price Index (CPI) tracks the change in retail prices of goods and services which households purchase for their daily consumption.

Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2021: UNESCAP:

- A report 'Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2021: Towards post-Covid-19 resilient economies' has recently been released by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).
- According to the report, India is estimated to record an economic growth of 7% in 2021-22, over a contraction of 7.7% witnessed in the previous fiscal on account of the pandemic's impact on normal business activity.

- Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific report is produced annually since 1947, the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific is the oldest United Nations report on the region's progress.
- The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) is the regional development arm of the United Nations for the Asia-Pacific region.
- It has 53 Member States and 9 Associate Members from Asia-Pacific Region including India.
- Established: 1947
- Headquarters: Bangkok, Thailand

Article 244(A) of the Constitution:

- The demand for an autonomous state within Assam has been raised by some of the sections of the society in Assam under the provisions of Article 244A of the Constitution.
- In the 1950s, a demand for a separate hill state arose around certain sections of the tribal population of undivided Assam.
- After prolonged agitations, Meghalaya gained statehood in 1972.
- The leaders of the KarbiAnglong and North Cachar Hills were also part of this movement. They were given the option to stay in Assam or join Meghalaya.
- They stayed back as the centre promised them more powers, including Article 244 (A).
- Article 244(A) allows for creation of an 'autonomous state' within Assam in certain tribal areas.
- It also envisages creation of a local legislature or Council of Ministers or both to carry out local administration.
- It was Inserted into the Constitution by the Twenty-second Constitution Amendment Act, 1969.

Star Campaigners and Model Code of Conduct:

- Recently, the Election Commission of India (ECI) delisted Ex-Telecom Minister A. Raja from the list of star campaigners.
- He has also been reprimanded for violation of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) for making certain remarks during election times.
- A star campaigner is a celebrity vote seeker in an election for a party. This person can be anyone, a politician or even a film star.
- A 'recognised' National or State party declared as such by the ECI can nominate a maximum of 40 star campaigners.
- An unrecognised political party can nominate a maximum of 20 star campaigners.
- Model Code of Conduct (MCC) is a set of guidelines issued by the ECI to regulate political parties and candidates prior to elections.
- The MCC is operational from the date on which the election schedule is announced until the date of result announcement.

Unique Land Parcel Identification Number:

- The Centre plans to issue a 14-digit identification number to every plot of land in the country within a year's time.

- The Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) scheme has been launched in 10 States in the year 2021 and will be rolled out across the country by March 2022.
- Being described as “the Aadhaar for land”, it is a number that would uniquely identify every surveyed parcel of land and prevent land fraud, especially in the hinterlands of rural India, where land records are outdated and often disputed.
- Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme is a Central Sector scheme that has been extended up to 2020-21 at a total cost of Rs. 950 crores.

ACT-Accelerator:

- Carl Bildt has been appointed as WHO Special Envoy for the Access to Covid-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-Accelerator).
- The ACT-Accelerator is a groundbreaking global collaboration to accelerate development, production, and equitable access to Covid-19 tests, treatments and vaccines.
- ACT-Accelerator was launched in the month of April, 2020 at an event co-hosted by the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), the President of France, the President of the European Commission, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
- It brings together governments, scientists, businesses, civil society, and philanthropists and global health organizations.

ShivakumaraSwamigalu:

- Recently, the Prime Minister paid tribute to ShivakumaraSwamigalu (Swami ji) on his Jayanti.
- ShivakumaraSwamiji was a prominent Lingayat scholar, educator and a spiritual leader.
- He was born in the village of Veerapura, Ramanagara District, Karnataka on 1st April, 1907.

17th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting:

- Recently, the External Affairs Minister of India participated in the 17th Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Ministerial Meeting.
- Cohesion among the members has been difficult to achieve mainly because of the Rohingya refugee crisis which created bitterness between Myanmar and Bangladesh.
- The meeting, chaired by Sri Lanka, was held in virtual mode.
- The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a regional organization.
- It comprises seven countries. Five of these seven countries- India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Bangladesh- are from South Asia while the remaining two, Thailand and Myanmar, are from Southeast Asia.

Covid-19 Reinfection:

- A team of scientists from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) examined the cases of 1,300 individuals who had tested positive for the corona virus twice.
- It was found that 58 cases of the 1,300 individuals or 4.5% could be classified as possible reinfections.
- The first confirmed case was reported from Hong Kong.
- A couple of cases from the United States and Belgium also emerged.

- However, there have been several cases of people testing positive for the virus multiple times, even in India, but not all such cases are considered reinfections.
- Such cases are the result of what is called “persistent viral shedding”.
- Persistent Viral Shedding is When an individual gets infected by a respiratory virus like SARS-CoV-2, the virus particles bind to the various types of viral receptor.
- Thus, Recovered patients can sometimes continue to carry low levels of virus within their system for up to three months.

Increased Maternal Deaths Due to Covid: Lancet Report:

- According to a study published in The Lancet Global Health Journal, the failure of the health system to cope with Covid-19 pandemic resulted in an increase in maternal deaths and stillbirths.
- The report is an analysis of 40 studies across 17 countries including Brazil, Mexico, the US, Canada, the U.K., Denmark, Netherlands, Italy, India, China and Nepal.
- During the months of national lockdown in 2020 between April and June, compared to the same period in 2019, there was:
 - 27% drop in pregnant women receiving four or more ante-natal check-ups.
 - 28% decline in institutional deliveries.
 - 22% decline in prenatal services.

PM-KUSUM:

- Recently, the first farm-based solar power plant under the Prime Minister’s KisanUrja Suraksha EvamUtthanMahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) scheme has come up in Jaipur (Rajasthan) district’s Kotputli tehsil with a provision for production of 17 lakh units of electricity every year.
- The PM-KUSUM scheme was launched by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) to support installation of off-grid solar pumps in rural areas and reduce dependence on grid, in grid-connected areas.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) had in February 2019 approved the launch of the scheme with the objective of providing financial and water security.

World Cities Culture Forum:

- The Chief Minister of Delhi will represent Delhi and India at the World Cities Culture Forum (WCCF).
- The date for this year’s annual summit is yet to be announced on the forum’s website.
- WCCF was established in London in 2012 with eight cities.
- Member Cities: It has 43 participating member cities.
- Participating member cities include London, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, Edinburgh, Lisbon, San Francisco, Shanghai, etc.
- Delhi is invited this year but it is not a part of member cities.

National Rare Disease Policy 2021:

- Recently, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has approved the National Rare Disease Policy 2021.
- Earlier, the Delhi High Court had directed the Centre to set up a Rare Diseases Committee, a Rare Diseases Fund and to finalise and notify the National Health Policy for Rare Diseases on or before 31st March, 2021.
Its Aim us to increase focus on indigenous research and local production of medicines.
- To lower the cost of treatment of rare diseases.
- To screen and detect rare diseases early at early stages, which will in turn help in their prevention.
- The policy has categorised rare diseases in three groups:
 - Group 1: Disorders amenable to one-time curative treatment.
 - Group 2: Those requiring long term or lifelong treatment.
 - Group 3: Diseases for which definitive treatment is available but challenges are to make optimal patient selection for benefit, very high cost and lifelong therapy.

Decline in Forex Reserves:

- According to the recent data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), India's Foreign Exchange (Forex) reserves declined by USD 2.986 billion to reach USD 579.285 billion in the week ended 26th March 2021.
- Foreign exchange reserves are assets held on reserve by a central bank in foreign currencies, which can include bonds, treasury bills and other government securities.
- It needs to be noted that most foreign exchange reserves are held in US dollars.
- India's Forex Reserve include:
 - Foreign Currency Assets
 - Gold reserves
 - Special Drawing Rights
 - Reserve position with the IMF

PLI Scheme for Food Processing Industry:

- Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved the Central Sector Scheme - "Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI)" entailing an outlay of Rs. 10,900 crore.
- In order to boost domestic manufacturing and cut down on import bills, the central government in March 2020 introduced a PLI scheme that aims to give companies incentives on incremental sales from products manufactured in domestic units.
- PLI Scheme has also been approved for sectors such as automobiles, pharmaceuticals, IT hardware including laptops, mobile phones & telecom equipment, white goods, chemical cells and textiles, etc.
- "Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI)" Scheme will be implemented over a six year period from 2021-22 to 2026-27.

Poet Sarala Das:

- The Vice President addressed Odia Adikabi Sarala Das's 600th birth anniversary function in Cuttack.
- Sarala Das was one of the great scholars of Odia literature.
- He was the first scholar who wrote his works in Odia in 15th century A.D.

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination:

- Every year, 21st March, is observed as International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.
- The day calls for solidarity against racism and racial discrimination.
- The United Nation General Assembly in October 1966 proclaimed 21st March as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, to be commemorated annually.
- On that day, in 1960, police opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration in Sharpeville, South Africa, against the apartheid pass laws.
- Theme for 2021 is 'Youth standing up against racism'

Multilateral Maritime Exercise La Perouse:

- Indian Navy Ships INS Satpura and INS Kiltan alongwith P8I Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft are participating, for the first time in multilateral maritime exercise La Pérouse, being conducted in the Eastern Indian Ocean Region from 5th to 7th April 2021.
- Post conduct of La Perouse, the Indo-French Naval exercise "Varuna" is scheduled in the Western Indian Ocean, wherein UAE too shall be participating.

Sankalp Se Siddhi: TRIFED:

- The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED), under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, has launched "Sankalp se Siddhi" - Village and Digital Connect Drive.
- The main aim of this drive is to activate the Van DhanVikasKendras (VDVKs) in the villages.
- Van DhanVikasKendras have been provided by Van DhanVikasYojana.
- Van DhanVikas Kendra (VDVKs) are for providing skill upgradation and capacity building training to tribals and setting up of primary processing and value addition facilities.

National Maritime Day 2021:

- Recently, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways celebrated the 58th National Maritime Day (5th April).
- Maritime India Vision-2030, was also discussed at the occasion.
- National Maritime Day is celebrated every year on 5th April to commemorate the maiden voyage of the first Indian flag merchant vessel 'S.S LOYALTY' from Mumbai to London, on April 5th, 1919.
- Theme for the year 2021 is 'Sustainable Shipping beyond Covid-19'.
- Maritime India Vision 2030 is a ten-year blueprint for the maritime sector which was released by the Prime Minister of India at the Maritime India Summit 2021.

BabuJagjivan Ram:

- Recently, the Prime Minister paid tributes to freedom fighter and former Deputy Prime Minister BabuJagjivan Ram on his 113th birth anniversary.
- Jagjivan Ram, popularly known as Babuji, was a national leader, a freedom fighter, a crusader of social justice, a champion of depressed classes and an outstanding Parliamentarian.
- Jagjivan Ram was born on 5th April 1908 in Chandwa in Bihar to a Dalit family.

Interim Appointments for CBI Director:

- Recently, the Supreme Court told the government that interim appointments to the post of CBI (Central Bureau of Investigation) Director cannot go on.
- A petition was filed in the Court, objecting to the appointment of interim CBI Director following the retirement of the regular CBI director.
- The CBI was set up in 1963 by a resolution of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The establishment of the CBI was recommended by the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption (1962–1964).
- The CBI is not a statutory body. It derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.

World Economic Outlook: IMF

- The latest edition of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) World Economic Outlook has raised its Financial Year (FY) 2021 growth forecast for India to 12.5% from 11.5% estimated earlier in January 2021.
- Indian economy is expected to grow by 12.5% in 2021 and 6.9% in 2022. In 2020, India's economy witnessed an estimated contraction of 8%.
- Growth rate for India in 2021 is stronger than that of China.

AI Portal SUPACE:

- Recently, the Chief Justice of India (CJI) launched an Artificial Intelligence (AI) based portal 'SUPACE' in the judicial system aimed at assisting judges with legal research.
- SUPACE is short for Supreme Court Portal for Assistance in Court's Efficiency.
- Earlier, the E-Courts Project was conceptualised on the basis of "National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the Indian Judiciary - 2005" submitted by the e-Committee of the Supreme Court.
- SUPACE is a tool that collects relevant facts and laws and makes them available to a judge.
- It is not designed to take decisions, but only to process facts and to make them available to judges looking for an input for a decision.

Chenab Bridge:

- Recently, Indian Railways completed the arch closure of the iconic Chenab Bridge in Jammu & Kashmir.

- It is the world's highest railway bridge and is part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link project (USBRL).
The Project was declared as a Project of National Importance in March 2002.
- This bridge is 1,315-metre long and is the highest railway bridge in the world being 359 metres above the river bed level.
- The completion of the steel arch is a major leap towards the completion of the 111 km long winding stretch from Katra to Banihal.
- It is arguably the biggest civil-engineering challenge faced by any railway project in India in recent history.

India-Russia Foreign Ministers Meet:

- To build on the common “resilient” ground, Indian and Russian Foreign Ministers addressed each other’s concerns on a wide range of issues.
- The issues range from defence supplies to the S-400 air defence system, India’s role in Afghanistan and Taliban’s involvement in power-sharing to cooperation on Covid vaccines and India’s participation in the Quad grouping.
- Issues regarding the sale of the S-400 air defence system figured in the discussions.
The S-400 Triumf is a mobile, surface-to-air missile system (SAM) designed by Russia.
- It is the most dangerous operationally deployed modern long-range SAM (MLR SAM) in the world, considered much ahead of the US-developed Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system (THAAD).
- While India is keen on buying it, the USA has expressed reservations by threatening sanctions under Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA).

Opium Poppy Straw:

- The Central government has decided to rope in the private sector to commence production of concentrated poppy straw (CPS) from India’s opium crop to boost the yield of alkaloids, used for medical purposes and exported to several countries.
- Alkaloids are a huge group of naturally occurring organic compounds which contain nitrogen atom or atoms (amino or amido in some cases) in their structures.
- Well-known alkaloids include morphine, strychnine, quinine, ephedrine, and nicotine.
- Poppy straw is the husk left after the opium is extracted from pods.
- This poppy straw also contains a very small morphine content and if used in sufficient quantities, poppy straw can give a high.
- Poppy straw is one of the narcotic drugs under the Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances Act 1985 (NDPS Act).

India’s Life Expectancy on World Health Day 2021:

- According to the estimates from the Sample Registration System (SRS)-based Abridged Life Tables 2014-18 of the Census and Registrar General of India, the life expectancy of an Indian child born on World Health Day 2021 is below the world's average.
- Every year 7th April marks the celebration of World Health Day.

- India's life expectancy (for a child born in 2021) which is 69 years and 4 months is less than the world's average lifespan of 72.81 years.
- Theme for 2021 of World Health Day is "Building a fairer, healthier world for everyone".

Anamaya: Tribal Health Collaborative:

- Recently, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has launched Tribal Health Collaborative (THC) 'Anamaya' through a video conference.
- In 2018, an expert committee released a comprehensive report on tribal health in India which highlighted the issues and concerns of tribal health.
- It is an initiative bringing together governments, philanthropists, national and international foundations, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)/Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to end all preventable deaths among the tribal communities of India.

Indian Energy Exchange:

- The electricity market at Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) achieved an all-time high volume of 8,248.52 MU (million units) in the month of March 2021 surpassing all the previous milestones.
- It is the first and largest energy exchange in India providing a nationwide, automated trading platform for physical delivery of electricity, Renewable Energy Certificates and Energy Saving Certificates.

EUs Support to Southeast Asia: Climate Change:

- The European Union (EU) has earmarked millions of euros for supporting climate friendly development in Southeast Asia.
- After the EU became a "strategic partner" of the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) bloc in December 2020, both blocs pledged to make climate change policy a key area of cooperation.
- Five ASEAN states were among the fifteen countries most affected by climate change between 1999–2018, according to the Climate Risk Index 2020.
- Southeast Asia's energy demand is projected to grow 60% by 2040.
- Coal-fired energy will overtake natural gas as the main power source in the ASEAN region by 2030. And by 2040 it could account for almost 50% of the region's projected CO2 emissions.

Fall in International Crude Oil Prices:

- Recent fall in international crude oil prices has reversed a six-month trend of rising auto fuel prices which saw the prices of petrol and diesel hit all-time highs across the country.
- The price of Brent crude has fallen under USD 63 per barrel from a high of USD 70 per barrel in early March 2021.
- Two crude oils which are either traded themselves or whose prices are reflected in other types of crude oil include West Texas Intermediate (WTI) and Brent.

- Generally, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) used to work as a cartel and fix prices in a favourable band.
- OPEC is led by Saudi Arabia, which is the largest exporter of crude oil in the world (single-handedly exporting 10% of the global demand).
- OPEC has a total of 13 Member Countries viz. Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Libya, Nigeria, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Republic of Congo, Angola, and Venezuela.
- OPEC could bring down prices by increasing oil production and raise prices by cutting production.
- The global oil pricing mainly depends upon the partnership between the global oil exporters instead of a well-functioning competition.

US Restores Aid to Palestinians:

- The United States, in a significant reversal to the earlier policy, has announced the restoration of at least USD 235 million in financial assistance to the Palestinians.
- The US administration had already announced USD 15 million in coronavirus relief to the Palestinians.
- The Trump administration (former administration) had almost ended all funding to the organisation in 2018.
- The financial aid includes USD 75 million economic help for the West Bank & Gaza, USD 10 million for 'peacebuilding' programmes of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and USD 150 million in humanitarian assistance to the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). The UNRWA funds would include educational assistance for at least 5,00,000 Palestinian children living in West Asia.

Meeting of Education Ministers of E9 Countries:

- Recently, a consultation meeting of Education Ministers of E9 countries was held.
- The meeting was held on the theme 'E9 initiative: Scaling up digital learning to accelerate progress towards SDG4'.
- The United Nations (UN) is spearheading a global initiative on digital learning and skills for all, targeting marginalized children and youth and aiming to close the digital divide and drive rapid change in education systems.
- This initiative focuses on three of the five priorities of the 2020 Global Education Meeting (GEM) Declaration: supporting teachers; investing in skills; and narrowing the digital divide.
- E9 countries offer a starting gate to accelerate progress on digital learning and skills in the immediate term and ultimately on the SDG4 agenda in the longer term.
- E9 Partnership was first established in 1993, formed to achieve the goals of UNESCO's Education For All (EFA).
- A group of E9 countries (Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, and Pakistan) aims at strengthening political will and collective effort to ensure quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all.
- E9 Partnership is working for the achievement of SDG4 – Education 2030.

B.1.617: Indian Double Mutant Strain:

- The 'double mutant' virus that is having a bearing on the spread of the pandemic in India, has been formally classified as B.1.617.
- Mutation is an alteration in the genetic material (the genome) of a cell of a living organism or of a virus that is more or less permanent and that can be transmitted to the cell's or the virus's descendants.
- This double mutant from India has been scientifically named as B.1.167. However, it is yet to be classified as 'Variant of Concern'.
- Till now only three global 'Variants of Concern' have been identified: the U.K. variant (B.1.1.7), the South African (B.1.351) and the Brazilian (P.1) lineage.
- Spread of B.1.617: According to the INSACOG, sequencing a sample of genomes from coronavirus patients in India, B.1.617 was first detected in India in December, 2020.
- Today, nearly 70% of the genome sequences with the mutations characterising B.1.617 are from India.
- This is followed by the United Kingdom (23%), Singapore (2%) and Australia (1%).

People are free to choose religion : Supreme Court

- A petition was filed in the court claiming there is mass religious conversion happening "by hook or by crook".
- Reacting to the petition, SC held that people are free to choose observed their religion.
- Court observed that:-
 - People have a right under the constitution to profess, practice and propagate religion under Article 25.
 - Religion faith is a part of the Fundamental Right to Privacy.
 - Every person is the final judge of his/her choice of religion or who their life partner should be.

Vaccine Passports:

- It is an electronic record of vaccination, possibly in the form of a QR Code, that is easily accessible through a smartphone or possibly stored on the device, through it could also be printed out. It is mostly used International travel.
- In February 2021, Israel became the first country to introduce a certification system.

Dolphin Boom in Odisha's Chilka Lake:

- Odisha has released the final data on Dolphin census that shows the population of Dolphins along the Odisha coast has doubled this year, as compared with last year.
- These species were recorded during the census, with 544 Irrawaddy, Bottle-nose and Humped back Dolphins sighted this year, Compared with 233 last year.

Prelims Booster:**Irrawady Dolphins:**



- Found in coastal areas of South and SouthEast Asia , in three rivers, Irrawady(Myanmar) , the Mahakam (Indonesian Borneo) and the Mekong (China).
- IUCN Red List : Endangered.

Bottlenose Dolphins:

- Lives in waters around India. Northern Australia, South China the Red Sea, and the eastern coast of Africa.
- IUCN Status : Near Threatened.

Humped back Dolphins:

- Occurs within the Indian Oceans from South Africa to India.
- IUCN Status : Endangered.

Doomsday Glacier:

- Also called the Thwaites Glacier, located in Antarctica.
- It is 120 km wide at its broadest. Because of its size (1.9 lakh square km) , it contains enough water to raise the world sea level by more than half a metre.

Advanced Antiquities Management System:

- Introduced by the Goa Government recently.
- It is the first such System in the country for storage of antiquities.

Umngot :

- It is a river in Meghalaya.
- It is considered to be India's cleanest river.
- River is the natural boundary between Jaintia Hills with Khasi Hills.
- There is a stiff resistance from at least 12 villagers in Meghalaya on a 210 MW hydroelectric project on Umngot.

Chief Election Commissioner:

- President appointed Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra as the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC).
- Part xv, Article 324-329 of the Indian Consitution deals with election, and establishes a commission for these matters.
- Originally the commission had only one election commissioner by after the Election Commissioner Amendment Act, 1989 , it has been a multi-member body.

National Supercomputing Mission(NSM):

- Second Phase of the NSM will be completed by September 2021, taking India's total computational capacity to 16 petaflops.

- NSM was announced in 2015, with an aim to connect national academic and R&D institutional with a grid of more than 70 high performance computing facilities at an estimated cost of Rs. 4500 Crore over a period of Seven years by 2022.

Danube Sturgeon:

- According to a report released by the World Wildlife Fund(WWF), illegal sale of Danube Sturgeon, one of the most endangered species in the world, is rampant in the lower Danube (River) region.
- Sturgeons have existed since the time of dinosaurs, for about 200 Million years.
- They are called “Living Fossils” because their appearances has altered very little over the years.

Prilims Booster:**Exercise Shantir Ogroshena:**

- Troops from India, Bangladesh, Bhutan and SriLanka participated in the exercise, held in Bangladesh.
- “Shantir Ogroshena” means “Front runners of the Peace”.
- It was organized to commemorate the birth centenary of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Bangladesh’s father of nation.

Navegaon – Nagzira Tiger Reserve:

- Forest fire at the Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra has caused death of several labourers.
- It was notified as the 46th Tiger Reserve of India in 2013.
- Navegaon – Nagzira Tiger Reserve comprises of :-
 - Nawegaon National Park.
 - Nagzira Wildlife Sanctuary.
 - Koka Wildlife Sanctuary.

Li-ion Batteries:

- Researchers from IIT Guwahati have developed a technology to enhance the performance of rechargeable lithium-ion batteries.
- Li-ion is kind of rechargeable batteries.
- Noble Prize in chemistry 2019 was jointly awarded to Stanley Whittingham, Jhon Good enough and Akira Yoshino for their work which led to the development of Lithium-ion.

United Nations Interim force in Lebanon(UNIFIL):

- UNIFIL was established by the UN Security Council in 1978 to confirm Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, restore international peace and security and assist the Lebanon Govt. in restoring its effective authority in the area.
- India is one of the 46 troop-contributing countries in UNIFIL.

Appointment of ad hoc judges:

- The Supreme Court has agreed that a plan to appoint retired judges on an ad hoc basis to reduce pendency in the High Courts should not become an excuse to stop or further delay the appointment process of regular judges.
- As on April 1, the High Courts have a total vacancy of 411 regular judges against the sanctioned judicial strength of 1,080. The working strength in the High Courts is 669.
- The appointment of ad-hoc judges was provided for in the Constitution under Article 224A.

Darbar Move

- It is a century-old practice in which the government functioned for six months each in the two capitals of the erstwhile State, Srinagar and Jammu.
- Last year, the Jammu & Kashmir High Court observed that there was no legal justification or constitutional basis for the Darbar Move tradition.

SARTHAQ

- Recently, the education minister released an indicative and suggestive implementation plan for school education called SARTHAQ.
- Students' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement through Quality Education or SARTHAQ
- Launched in pursuance of the goals of NEP2020 and to assist States/UTs in this task.
- The programme aims at providing an all-around development for the students at the primary and secondary level.

Double mutant' strain named B.1.617

- The "double mutant" virus that scientists had flagged last month as having a bearing on the spread of the pandemic in India, has a formal scientific classification: B.1.617.
- The variant is common in India — how much in every State is unclear though — and has a couple of defining mutations, E484Q and L425R, that enable it to become more infectious and evade antibodies.
- Some studies show that these mutations could even make the coronavirus resistant to T cells, a class of cells necessary to target and destroy virus-infected cells.

Rhino in Assam

- At least 22 one-horned rhinos have been translocated within Assam since 2008 under the Indian Rhino Vision (IRV) 2020 program but the exercise could have slightly missed its target to increase rhino population to 3,000 in the state's seven protected.
- Orang National Park, another habitat of the rhinos in Assam was found to have 101 rhinos in 2018. IRV 2020 was designed by Rhino Task Force 2005 with a target to achieve rhino population to 3,000 in seven protected areas in Assam.

Skymet forecasts a 'healthy normal' monsoon:

- Skymet (a private weather forecast company) Weather report:
- The monsoon is likely to be 103% of the long period average (LPA) this year. The LPA refers to the average all-India monsoon rainfall of 88 cm, which is a 50-year mean.
- The odds of an El Nino, characterised by a heating of the equatorial central Pacific over half a degree, are low this year. Currently, the Pacific is in a [converse] La Nina mode.
- The Indian Ocean Dipole, characterised by a temperature gradient in the western and eastern Indian Ocean, is expected to be slightly on the negative. A positive dipole usually aids the monsoon.
- What is Indian Ocean Dipole?
- It is an atmosphere-ocean coupled phenomenon in the tropical Indian Ocean (like the El Nino is in the tropical Pacific), characterised by a difference in sea-surface temperatures.

Chandigarh drafts cycling policy:

- Chandigarh's recently released first-of-its-kind draft cycling policy.
- It is for the first time that a city has drafted a cycling policy in India. The policy has been drafted by the Chandigarh Smart City Limited.

Register of Indigenous Inhabitants of Nagaland (RIIN):

- The Nagaland government has reportedly been trying to revive the RIIN exercise.
- Launched in July 2019.
- The objective is to prevent outsiders from obtaining fake indigenous certificates for seeking jobs and benefits of government schemes.
- The RIIN will be the master list of all indigenous inhabitants of the state.

Uruka

- Uruka" marks the beginning of the Magh Bihu.
- 'Uruka' rituals are performed on the occasion of Rongali Bihu, marking the beginning of the Assamese New Year.

EVR PeriyarSalai as Grand Western Trunk (GWT) Road:

- A controversy recently erupted after EVR PeriyarSalai was mentioned as Grand Western Trunk (GWT) Road on signboards.
- Following this, Chennai Highways Department has clarified that it is the name of the road as per their records.
- The GWT, whose old number is NH4 and also called as Poonamallee High Road, was formed and named so in the 1850s by the British.

Seroja:

- It is a tropical cyclone formed recently near western Australian coast.
- The name Seroja means lotus in Indonesian.

AahaarKranti:

- AahaarKranti is a movement to raise awareness of the importance of a nutritionally balanced diet in India.
- The mission is run by VijnanaBharati (Vibha) and Global Indian Scientists' and Technocrats' Forum (GIST).
- The AahaarKranti movement is designed to address the peculiar problem being faced by India and the world called "hunger and diseases in abundance".

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) pact:

- Singapore's Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan recently said that he hoped India would "reassess" its stand on regional trading agreements such as the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) pact that India withdrew from in 2019.
- The RCEP came into force in November 2020 without India. The signatories of the agreement include 10 ASEAN countries – Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei, Laos, Myanmar and the Philippines and 5 key partners (China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand).
- To lower tariffs, open up trade in services and promote investment to help emerging economies catch up with the rest of the world.

India, Russia committed to S-400 deal:

- Russian Ambassador to India Nikolai Kudashev recently confirmed that both India and Russia are "committed" to completing their contract for the S-400 missile system, due to be delivered to India at the end of the year. He said both countries opposed U.S. sanctions on the issue.
- The S-400 deal could attract sanctions under US' CAATSA law. The US has already sanctioned China and Turkey over similar purchases.
- The S-400 Triumf is a mobile, surface-to-air missile system (SAM) designed by Russia.
- It is the most dangerous operationally deployed modern long-range SAM (MLR SAM) in the world, considered much ahead of the US-developed Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system (THAAD).

NATO to exit Afghanistan along with U.S:

- NATO has announced that Foreign troops under NATO command will withdraw from Afghanistan in coordination with a U.S. pull-out by September 11.
- September 11 is a highly symbolic date as it will be 20 years since al-Qaeda attacked the U.S. with hijacked airliners, triggering military intervention in Afghanistan.
- About North Atlantic Treaty Organization:
 - It is an intergovernmental military alliance.
 - Established by Washington treaty.
 - Treaty that was signed on 4 April 1949.
 - Headquarters — Brussels, Belgium.
 - Headquarters of Allied Command Operations — Mons, Belgium.

India's public debt level among highest in emerging economies:

- As per Moody's Investors Service, India's public debt level is among the highest in emerging economies with a quantitative easing programme underway, while its debt affordability is among the weakest.
- Public debt is the total amount borrowed by the government of a country.
- The debt-to-GDP ratio indicates how likely the country can pay off its debt. Investors often look at the debt-to-GDP metric to assess the government's ability of finance its debt. Higher debt-to-GDP ratios have fuelled economic crises worldwide.

Mettur-Sarabanga lift irrigation project:

- National Green Tribunal has allowed the Tamil Nadu government to proceed with the Mettur-Sarabanga lift irrigation project and has dismissed an application seeking a stay on the project.
- Project is being implemented by Tamil Nadu Government.

UNFPA's population Report:

- Recently, The United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA) Flagship State of World Population Report 2021 titled 'My Body is My Own' was launched.
- This is the first time a United Nations report has focused on bodily autonomy.
- The report defined 'Bodily autonomy' as the power and agency to make choices about your body without fear of violence or having someone else decide for you.
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).
 - It is the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency.
 - The organization was created in 1969, the same year the United Nations General Assembly declared "parents have the exclusive right to determine freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children."

Overseas Citizens of India (OCI):

- Union Home Ministry has clarified that the Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) will not be required to register for a fresh OCI card every time a new passport is issued in their name.
- Government of India launched the 'Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) Scheme' by making amendments to Citizenship Act, 1955 in 2005.
- On 09 January 2015, the Government of India discontinued the PIO card and merged it with OCI card.

National Startup Advisory Council:

- The first meeting of the National Startup Advisory Council (NSAC) was held recently.
- What is the NSAC?
- Constituted by the 'Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- Its role is to advise the Government on measures needed to build a strong ecosystem for nurturing innovation and startups in the country to drive sustainable economic growth and generate large scale employment opportunities.

- The National Startup Advisory Council will be chaired by the Minister for Commerce & Industry.
- The Council will consist of the non-official members, to be nominated by the Central Government.
- The nominees of the concerned Ministries/Departments/Organisations, not below the rank of Joint Secretary to the Government of India, will be ex-officio members of the Council.

EatSmart Cities Challenge Transport 4 All Challenge:

- Recently, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launched the EatSmart Cities Challenge and Transport 4 All Challenge.
- The challenges aim at creating an environment of right food practices and habits and to make public transport safe, affordable, comfortable, and reliable.
- EatSmart Cities Challenge:

The EatSmart Cities Challenge is envisioned as a competition among cities to recognize their efforts in adopting and scaling up various initiatives under Eat Right India.

- The challenge is open to all Smart Cities, capital cities of States /UTs, and cities with a population of more than 5 lakh.

Monkeydactyl:

- The new pterosaur fossil was discovered in the Tiaojishan Formation of Liaoning, China, and is thought to be 160 million years old.
- It has been named *Kunpengopterus antipollicatus*, also dubbed “Monkeydactyl”
- The pterosaur species were reptiles, close cousins of dinosaurs and the first animals after insects to evolve powered flight.

Currency Manipulators Watch List

- Recently, the United States (US) placed 11 countries, including India in the Currency Practices Monitoring List (Currency Manipulators Watch List).
- India was on the list in the December 2020 report as well. In 2019, the US Treasury Department had removed India from its currency manipulator watch list of major trading partners.
- Currency Manipulators: This is a label given by the US government to countries it feels are engaging in “unfair currency practices” by deliberately devaluing their currency against the dollar.
- This is because the devaluation would reduce the cost of exports from that country and artificially show a reduction in trade deficits as a result.
- Currency Manipulator Watch List: The US Department of Treasury releases the semi-annual report where it has to track developments in international economies and inspect foreign exchange rates. It reviews currency practices of the US’ 20 biggest trading partners.

Global Diabetes Compact:

- The World Health Organization (WHO) launched a Global Diabetes Compact to better fight the disease while marking the centenary of the discovery of insulin.
- The programme was launched at the Global Diabetes Summit co-hosted by the Government of Canada.

- Global Diabetes Compact: The Global Diabetes Compact has the vision of reducing the risk of diabetes, and ensuring that all people who are diagnosed with diabetes have access to equitable, comprehensive, affordable and quality treatment and care.
- It will also support the prevention of type 2 diabetes from obesity, unhealthy diet and physical inactivity.
- Type 2 diabetes is the most common type of diabetes. In this condition the body does not use insulin properly. This is called insulin resistance. The main reason for the occurrence of type 2 diabetes is due to obesity and lack of exercise.
- Today, approximately 6% of the world's population – more than 420 million people – live with either type 1 or type 2 diabetes.

Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C):

- Recently, doctors in the United States have reported neurological symptoms in children with Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C).
- MIS-C is a rare but severe hyperinflammatory condition in children and adolescents that typically occurs 2-6 weeks after a Covid-19 infection.
- It is a potentially deadly condition where different body parts can become inflamed, including the heart, lungs, kidneys, brain, skin, eyes, or gastrointestinal organs.

Disk-footed Bat

- India's first bamboo-dwelling bat with sticky disks, has been found near Nongkhylllem Wildlife Sanctuary in Meghalaya.
- This species is known to thrive in a few localities in Southern China, Vietnam, Thailand and Myanmar.
- Nongkhylllem Wildlife Sanctuary is Situated in the Ri-Bhoi district near Lailad village and spread over an area of 29 sq. kms, Nongkhylllem Wildlife Sanctuary is one of the famous attractions of Meghalaya.
- The Sanctuary falls in the Eastern Himalayan Global biodiversity hotspot.

Transition from IPv4 to IPv6

- IP: 'IP' stands for 'Internet Protocol'. It is a set of rules that dictate how data should be delivered over the public network (Internet).
- IPv4 was the first major version of IP. It was deployed for production in the ARPANET in 1983.
- The IPv4 uses a 32-bit address scheme. Till date, it is considered the primary Internet Protocol and carries 94% of Internet traffic.
- IPv6 is the most recent version of the Internet Protocol. The Internet Engineer Task Force initiated it in early 1994. The design and development of that suite is now called IPv6.
- With 128-bit address space, it allows 340 undecillion unique address space. It can easily accommodate the growing number of networks worldwide and help solve the IP address exhaustion problem.

Dhruv MK III: Advanced Light Helicopter

- Recently, Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 323, the first unit of the indigenously built ALH (Advanced Light Helicopter) Dhruv Mk III aircraft, was commissioned into the Indian Navy.

- It is a multi-role chopper with the Shakti engine manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

Sri Ramanujacharya:

- 1004th birth anniversary of Sri Ramanujacharya was observed on April 18, 2021.
- About Sri Ramanujacharya:
 - Born in 1017 CE in Tamil Nadu.
 - He is the most respected Acharya in the philosophy of Sri Vaishnavism.
 - He was also referred to as IlayaPerumal which means the radiant one.
 - He is famous as the chief proponent of Vishishtadvaita subschool of Vedānta.
- Vishishtadvaita is a non-dualistic school of Vedanta philosophy. It is non-dualism of the qualified whole, in which Brahman alone exists, but is characterized by multiplicity.

International Day for Monuments and Sites:

- Every year, the United Nations marks April 18 as the International Day for Monuments and Sites.
- In many countries the day is also celebrated as World Heritage Day.
- The theme for this year is “Complex Pasts: Diverse Futures”.
- Globally, the day is promoted by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS).

National Climate Vulnerability Assessment:

- National climate vulnerability assessment released. The report is titled ‘Climate Vulnerability Assessment for Adaptation Planning in India Using a Common Framework’.
- It identifies the most vulnerable states and districts in India with respect to current climate risk and key drivers of vulnerability.
- Report has found that Jharkhand, Mizoram, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, and West Bengal as states highly vulnerable to climate change.
- These states, mostly in the eastern part of the country, require prioritization of adaptation interventions.

Sulphur dioxide from Caribbean volcano reaches India, WMO confirms:

- The sulphur dioxide (SO₂) emissions from a volcanic eruption in the Caribbean (from La Soufriere volcano eruption) reached India on April 16, 2021 sparking fear of increased pollution levels in the northern parts of the country and acid rain.
- The largest source of SO₂ in the atmosphere is the burning of fossil fuels by power plants and other industrial facilities.

Cholistan desert:

- Located in Pakistan.
- The place was in news because of recent shooting of two Great Indian Bustards (GIBs) here.
- The GIB, which is the State bird of Rajasthan, is considered India’s most critically endangered bird

- The GIB's population of less than 100 in Rajasthan accounts for 95% of its total world population.
- Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) status: Critically Endangered.

Tiki Formation:

- The Tiki Formation is a Late Triassic geologic formation in Madhya Pradesh. It is a treasure trove of vertebrate fossils.
- Dinosaur remains are among the fossils that have been recovered from the formation, although none have yet been referred to a specific genus.

RBI sets up committee to review working of ARCs:

- The RBI has set up a committee headed by Sudarshan Sen to undertake a comprehensive review of the working of asset reconstruction companies (ARCs) in the financial sector ecosystem and recommend suitable measures for enabling them to meet the growing requirements.
- Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC) is a specialized financial institution that buys the Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) from banks and financial institutions so that they can clean up their balance sheets. This helps banks to concentrate in normal banking activities. Banks rather than going after the defaulters by wasting their time and effort, can sell the bad assets to the ARCs at a mutually agreed value.
- Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 provides the legal basis for the setting up of ARCs in India.

Startup India Seed Fund Scheme:

- The Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS) has been launched.
- The Fund aims to provide financial assistance to startups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry, and commercialization.
- 945 Crore corpus will be divided over the next 4 years for providing seed funding to eligible startups through eligible incubators across India.
- Nodal Department: Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.

NASA Mars helicopter makes first flight on another planet:

- NASA successfully flew its tiny helicopter Ingenuity on Mars on 19th April, the first powered flight on another planet.
- Ingenuity's goal is to demonstrate its technology works, and it won't contribute to Perseverance's science goals.
- NASA Perseverance Mission:
 - It was Launched on July of 2020.
 - A key objective for Perseverance's mission on Mars is astrobiology, including the search for signs of ancient microbial life.
 - The rover will characterize the planet's geology and past climate, pave the way for human exploration of the Red Planet, and be the first mission to collect and cache Martian rock and regolith (broken rock and dust).

India and Germany sign agreement on 'Cities combating plastic entering the marine environment':

- India and Germany have signed an agreement on Technical Cooperation titled 'Cities Combating Plastic Entering the Marine Environment' at a virtual ceremony.
- This project is envisaged under the contours of the Joint Declaration of Intent regarding cooperation in the field of 'Prevention of Marine Litter' signed between Republic of India and Federal Republic of Germany in 2019.

Vande Bharat mission:

- The Vande Bharat Mission (VBM), which started repatriating Indians stranded abroad due to COVID-19 and the resultant lockdowns since May 7 last, has turned out to be one of the largest evacuations of civilians by a country.
- Till now, the Air India (AI) Group has operated 11,523 inbound flights to carry 18,19,734 passengers and 11,528 outbound flights with 13,68,457 passengers. The national carrier, which carried out the bulk of air transfers under the mission, was supported by its budget carrier Air India Express.

Travel bubble:

- Sri Lanka has decided to postpone launching the proposed "travel bubble" with India, in the wake of the recent surge in COVID-19 cases in India.
- Creating a travel bubble involves reconnecting countries or states that have shown a good level of success in containing the novel coronavirus pandemic domestically.
- Such a bubble would allow the members of the group to rekindle trade ties with each other, and kickstart sectors such as travel and tourism.

South China Sea dispute:

- Philippine is planning to deploy military ships to the South China Sea to assert the country's claim over oil deposits in a contested part of the waterway.
- Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has been facing growing domestic criticism for his reluctance to confront China over its activities in Philippine-claimed waters.
- South China Sea is an arm of western Pacific Ocean in Southeast Asia.
- It is south of China, east & south of Vietnam, west of the Philippines and north of the island of Borneo.
- It is connected by Taiwan Strait with the East China Sea and by Luzon Strait with the Philippine Sea.
- Bordering states & territories: the People's Republic of China, the Republic of China (Taiwan), the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei, Indonesia, Singapore and Vietnam.
- Contesting Claims Over Islands:
 - The Paracel Islands are claimed by China, Taiwan and Vietnam.
 - The Spratly Islands are claimed by China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Brunei and Philippines.
 - The Scarborough Shoal is claimed by Philippines, China and Taiwan.
- Since 2010, China has been converting uninhabited islets into artificial islets to bring it under UNCLOS (For example, Haven Reef, Johnson South Reef and Fiery Cross Reef).

Boao Forum:

- The opening ceremony of the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2021 was held in Boao, south China's Hainan Province.
- This year's conference was attended by more than 2,600 guests from over 60 countries and regions.
- Theme: "A World in Change: Join Hands to Strengthen Global Governance and Advance Belt and Road Cooperation."
- The Boao Forum for Asia was initiated in 2001 by 25 Asian countries and Australia (increased to 28 in 2006).

Russia to launch its own space station in 2025:

- Russia's space agency is planning to launch its own orbital station in 2025.
- Russia is considering withdrawing from the International Space Station programme to go it alone.
- International Space Station:
- Launched in 1998 and involving Russia, the United States, Canada, Japan, and the European Space Agency, the ISS is one of the most ambitious international collaborations in human history.

Human Cells grown in Monkey Embryo:

- Researchers from US have for the first time grown human cells in monkey embryos.
- By integrating human cells into the embryos of macaque monkeys, researchers have created what is called a chimeric tool.
- Chimeras are organisms that are made up of the cells of two distinct species, in this case humans and monkeys.

USCIRF report:

- The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), an independent bi-partisan commission, has released its 2021 annual report.
- Highlights of the report:
- The report designated 14 countries as "countries of particular concern (CPCs)" as "their governments are engaged in or tolerate "systematic, ongoing, and egregious violations of religious freedom." This includes India.
- This year, USCIRF said that religious freedom conditions in India "continued their negative trajectory".
- The government promoted Hindu nationalist policies resulting in systematic, ongoing, and egregious violations of religious freedom.

Article 311(2)(C) of the Constitution:

- The J&K government has constituted a Special Task Force (STF) for identifying and scrutinising the government employees who are involved in any cases related to posing threat to the security or anti-national activities.
- STF will scrutinise cases of employees suspected of activities requiring action under Article 311(2)(C) of the Constitution.

- The move comes as a number of government employees in the past were found expressing their political opinion in public space on the Kashmir conflict.

World Press Freedom index:

- The World Press Freedom Index 2021 has been released by the media watchdog group Reporters Without Borders.
- Norway topped the index for the fifth year in a row.
- It stated that the pandemic was used as means to deny journalists this access and promote government sponsored propaganda regarding the Covid-19 outbreak.
- India remained at the 142nd position among 180 countries.
- India was ranked in the “bad” category, along with Brazil, Mexico and Russia.
- The report says India is one of the world’s most dangerous countries for journalists trying to do their job properly.
- In 2016, India’s rank was 133, which has steadily climbed down to 142 in 2020.

M Narsimham Passes away:

- Narasimham was known for being the chair of two high-powered committees on banking and financial sector reforms.
- Such is the importance of the two Narasimham Committees that some of their aspects are referred to and employed to this date. For instance, the idea of bank mergers and creating strong megabanks was first mooted by the Narasimham Committee.
- First Narasimham Committee Report:
- Presented in 1991.
- It recommended the creation of a four-tier banking structure with three large banks on top.
- It also introduced the concept of rural-focused banks such as local area banks.
- Narasimham Committee Report II – 1998:
- In 1998 the government appointed yet another committee under the chairmanship of Mr Narsimham. It is better known as the Banking Sector Committee. It was told to review the banking reform progress and design a programme for further strengthening the financial system of India. The committee focused on various areas such as capital adequacy, bank mergers, bank legislation, etc.

Civil Services Day:

- Every year, 21st April is celebrated as the Civil Services Day by the Government of India.
- It is celebrated as an occasion for the civil servants to rededicate themselves to the causes of citizens and renew their commitments to public service and excellence in work.
- The date is chosen to commemorate the day when the first Home Minister of Independent India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel addressed the probationers of Administrative Services Officers in 1947 at Metcalf House, Delhi.

Rising prevalence of U.K. strain in Delhi:

- The proportion of the U.K. variant (B.1.1.7) in genome samples sequenced from COVID-19 cases in Delhi has risen from 28% in the second week of March to 50% last week.
- The U.K. variant has a mutation N501Y that is reported to increase the transmission of the virus, leading to more numbers and a knock-on consequence of increasing disease severity and mortality.
- A virus mutation just means a difference; a letter change in the genome.
- Mutations in viruses are a natural part of evolution.
- The pressure on the virus to evolve is increased by the fact that so many millions of people have now been infected.

External auditor for Hague-based OPCW:

- India's Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has been chosen as the external auditor by the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) for a three-year term starting 2021.
- The appointment was made through an election process at the OPCW conference recently.
- India was also selected as the member of the executive council of the OPCW representing Asia group for another two-year term during the OPCW conference.
- Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) is an international organization established by the Chemical Weapons Convention, 1997 to implement and enforce the terms of the non-proliferation treaty, which prohibits the use, stockpiling, or transfer of chemical weapons by signatory states.

SWAMITVA scheme:

- The scheme has been extended to all states. Earlier, it was launched only for 9 states.
- Scheme was Launched on Panchayati Raj Diwas (April 24th, 2020).
- The scheme seeks to map residential land ownership in the rural sector using modern technology like the use of drones.
- The scheme aims to revolutionise property record maintenance in India.
- The scheme is piloted by the Panchayati Raj ministry.

Crew-2 mission:

- Four astronauts were launched to the International Space Station (ISS) from Florida as part of a collaboration between NASA and SpaceX under the Commercial Crew Program.
- The mission is called Crew-2 and is the second crew rotation of the SpaceX Crew Dragon and the first with international partners.
- Members of the mission conduct microgravity studies, investigate food physiology meant to study the effects of dietary improvements on immune function and the gut microbiome and how those improvements can help crews adapt to spaceflight.

Leaders' Summit on Climate 2021:

- US President Joe Biden hosted a virtual meeting of world leaders titled 'Leaders' Summit on Climate' on the occasion of Earth Day (22nd April).
- It is a two-day conference and is touted by some as a precursor to the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) that will take place later this year in Glasgow.

- Objectives of the summit is to get the world's major economies to reduce emission in this decade while also getting the public and private sector involvement.
- Show how climate action can have economic and social benefits. Build new businesses and industries.

National Panchayati Raj Day:

- The Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act came into effect on 24 April 1993 marking the formalisation of the Panchayati Raj system in India.
- Hence, the day is commemorated as the National Panchayati Raj Day annually in the country.

Impact of climate change on children

- A recent analysis, based on Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative (ND-GAIN) index, has shown the impact of climate change on children across the world.
- The analysis was done by Save the Children International, a child rights non-profit organisation.
- Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative
- ND-GAIN is part of the Climate Change Adaptation Program of the University of Notre Dame's Environmental Change initiative (ND-ECI).
- ND-GAIN's Country Index shows which countries are best prepared to deal with global changes brought about by overcrowding, resource-constraints and climate disruption.
- **Impact of Climate Change on Children:**
Floods, droughts, hurricanes and other extreme weather events will have a deep impact on vulnerable children and their families.
Malaria and dengue fever already plague children in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- Increasing extreme weather events can lead to new health risks while the health system is already limited.
- Around 9.8 million people were displaced due to the disasters caused by climate change during the first half of 2020.

Microfinance Institutes (MFIs):

- Microfinance institutions (MFIs) have urged the Centre to consider prioritising vaccinations for their employees and self-help group workers.
- This request is in order to ensure that lines of credit remain open for the poor amidst the rising second wave of Covid-19 infections.
- MFI is an organization that offers financial services to low income populations. These services include microloans, micro savings and micro insurance.
- MFIs are financial companies that provide small loans to people who do not have any access to banking facilities.
- Microfinance sector has grown rapidly over the past few decades and currently it is serving around 102 million accounts (including banks and small finance banks) of the poor population of India.

- Major Business Models of MFIs includes:
Joint Liability Group
Self Help Group
- Grameen Model Bank: It was the brainchild of Nobel Laureate Prof. Muhammad Yunus in Bangladesh in the 1970s.

World Malaria Day 2021:

- The report, titled 'Zeroing in on malaria elimination', was released by the World Health Organization (WHO) ahead of World Malaria Day 2021.
- World Malaria Day is observed on 25th April every year. The 2021 theme is "Reaching the Zero Malaria target".
- The WHO has also identified 25 countries with the potential to eradicate malaria by 2025 under its 'E-2025 Initiative'.
- Malaria is a life threatening mosquito borne blood disease caused by plasmodium parasites. It is predominantly found in the tropical and subtropical areas of Africa, South America as well as Asia.
- The parasites spread through the bites of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes.
- E-2025 Initiative In 2017, WHO launched the E-2020 initiative to support a group of countries to achieve zero indigenous cases of malaria by 2020.

CSF and Sheep Pox Vaccine:

- The ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) has transferred the technology for Classical Swine Fever (CSF) & Sheep Pox Vaccines to an animal healthcare company Hester Biosciences.
- The technology was transferred through state-owned Agrinnovate India (AgIn), which aims to work on the strengths of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
- Classical Swine Fever (CSF), also known as hog cholera, is an important disease of pigs.
- It is one of the most economically-damaging pandemic viral diseases of pigs in the world.
- Sheep Pox is a severe viral disease in Sheep and its virus is closely related to the Goat (Capri poxviruses).
- The virus is also related to the virus of lumpy skin disease.

Harlequin Ichthyosis: Rare Genetic Disorder:

- Recently, Odisha reported its first-ever case of a baby born with Harlequin Ichthyosis, a rare genetic skin condition.
- India's first recorded case of a baby born with harlequin ichthyosis was in 2016, at a private hospital in Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- Harlequin Ichthyosis is a rare genetic skin disorder to a new-born infant.
- It's a type of ichthyosis, which refers to a group of disorders that cause persistently dry, scaly skin all over the body.
- It is inherited in an autosomal recessive pattern.

- It can be caused by changes (mutations) in the ABCA12 gene.
- ABCA12 Gene gives instructions for making a protein that is necessary for skin cells to develop normally.

Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC):

- Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) of 1973 has been imposed in Gurugram, owing to the rising number of Covid-19 cases.
- Section 144 has often been used to clamp down on telecommunication services and order Internet shutdowns.
- This law empowers the magistrate of any state or union territory in India to pass an order prohibiting the gathering of four or more people in a specified area.
- According to the order under this section, there shall be no movement of public and all educational institutions shall also remain closed.
- No order under this section can remain in force for a period of more than 2 months.
- Section 144 prohibits gathering of four or more people in the concerned area, while during curfew people are instructed to stay indoors for a particular period of time. The government puts a complete restriction on traffic as well.

Ways and Means Advance (WMA):

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to continue with the existing interim Ways and Means Advances (WMA) scheme limit of Rs. 51,560 crore for all States/UTs upto September 2021, given the prevalence of Covid-19.
- WMA scheme was introduced in 1997.
- Its Purpose is to meet mismatches in the receipts and payments of the government.
- The government can avail immediate cash from the RBI, if required. But it has to return the amount within 90 days. Interest is charged at the existing repo rate.
- Repo Rate is basically the rate at which RBI lends short-term money to banks.

Ground Water Depletion and Cropping Intensity:

- In a recent study, it has been found that groundwater depletion in India could reduce winter cropped acreage significantly in years ahead.
- The researchers studied India's three main irrigation types on winter cropped areas: dug wells, tube wells and canals.
- The researchers also analysed the groundwater data from the Central Ground Water Board.
- Wheat, barley, peas, gram and mustard are grown in winter.
- Groundwater depletion in India could result in a reduction in food crops by up to 20% across the country and up to 68% in regions projected to have low future groundwater availability in 2025.
- Cropping Intensity refers to raising of a number of crops from the same field during one agricultural year; it can be expressed through a formula.

Ongoing Second Wave of Covid-19 infections:

- The ongoing second wave of Covid-19 infections has shaken the country and is more devastating than the first wave.
- The rise in case numbers has been exponential in the second wave.
- Key Reasons includes Protocol Fatigue , Mixed Signal from Government , Urban Mobility ,80-85% of the population are asymptomatic, marking of the containment zone has been less strict and evolution of coronavirus is among the major reasons for the second wave.
- The L452R mutation found in the variant B1.671, first detected in India, too has been associated with increased infectivity.

MahavirJayanti:

- The Prime Minister of India greeted the people on occasion of 'MahavirJayanti' (25th April 2021).
- MahavirJayanti is one of the most auspicious festivals in the Jain community.
- This day marks the birth of VardhamanaMahavira, who was the 24th and the last Tirthankara and who succeeded the 23rd Tirthankara, Parshvanatha.
- According to Jain texts, Lord Mahavira was born on the 13th day of the bright half of the moon in the month of Chaitra.
- Mahavira was born to King Siddhartha of Kundagrama and Queen Trishala, a Lichchhavi princess in the year 540 BC in the Vajji kingdom, identical with modern day Vaishali in Bihar.
- Mahavira belonged to the Ikshvaku dynasty.
- Lord Mahavir was named Vardhamana, which means "one who grows".
- He abandoned worldly life at the age of 30 and attained 'kaivalya' or omniscience at the age of 42.
- Mahavira taught ahimsa (non-violence), Satya (truth), asteya (non-stealing), brahmacharya (chastity) and aparigraha (non-attachment) to his disciples and his teachings were called Jain Agamas.
- Ordinary people were able to understand the teachings of Mahavira and his followers because they used Prakrit.

National Commission for Minorities(NCM):

- Recently, the Delhi High Court has directed the Centre to fill up the vacant posts of chairperson and five other members of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) by 31st July 2021.
- NCM consists of a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and five members and all of them shall be from amongst the minority communities.
- Total of 7 persons to be nominated by the Central Government should be from amongst persons of eminence, ability and integrity.
- Tenure: Each Member holds office for a period of three years from the date of assumption of office.
- Functions is to evaluation of the progress of the development of minorities under the Union and States.
- Observes the Minorities Rights Day every year on 18th December which marks the adoption of the "Declaration on the Rights of Persons belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities" by the United Nations in 1992.

- Article 30 of the Indian Constitution provides that All minorities shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.

Project Dantak:

- Recently, Project DANTAK which is one of the oldest Projects of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) commemorated its Diamond Jubilee in Bhutan.
- Over 1,200 DANTAK personnel laid down their lives while constructing important infrastructure in Bhutan.
- Project DANTAK was established on 24th April 1961.
- It was a result of the visionary leadership of the third King of Bhutan and then Prime Minister of India Jawahar Lal Nehru.
- DANTAK was tasked to construct the pioneering motorable roads.

Chandler Good Government Index (CGGI):

- Recently, India has been ranked 49th in the Chandler Good Government Index (CGGI).
- Finland has topped the list.
- The CGGI is released by the Chandler Institute of Governance which is a private nonprofit organization headquartered in Singapore.
- The Index classifies 104 countries in terms of government capabilities and outcomes.
- Each country is measured across over 50 open data points. The index focuses on seven pillars:
 1. Leadership and foresight.
 2. Robust laws and policies.
 3. Strong institutions.
 4. Financial stewardship.
 5. Attractive marketplace.
 6. Global influence and reputation.
 7. Helping people rise.
- Performance of South Asian Countries are that India ranked 49th, Sri Lanka 74th, Pakistan 90th and Nepal 92nd.

PowerGrid Infrastructure Investment Trust:

- The Power Grid Corporation of India (PGCIL) launched its Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) - PowerGrid Infrastructure Investment Trust (PGInvIT).
- This is the first time a state-owned entity (PGCIL) is monetizing its infrastructure assets through the InvIT route.
- This will be only the third InvIT to be listed in the Indian markets, after IRB InvIT and India Grid Trust, both of which went public in 2017.
- Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) is a collective investment scheme similar to a mutual fund, which enables direct investment of money from individual and institutional investors in infrastructure projects to earn a small portion of the income as return.

Exercise VARUNA 2021:

- The 19th edition of the Indian and French Navy bilateral exercise 'VARUNA-2021' is being conducted in the Arabian Sea.
- Earlier this year, the Indian Navy took part for the first time in the France-led naval exercise "La Pérouse" with the navies of the US, Australia and Japan.
- Other Indo-French Joint Exercises:
 - Desert Knight-21 and Garuda (Air exercise)
 - Varuna (Naval exercise)
 - Shakti (Army exercise)

UK's Indo-Pacific Tilt:

- Recently, the British Government said that the UK Carrier Strike Group's "globe-spanning maiden deployment will feature visits to India, Japan, Republic of Korea and Singapore".
- Earlier, the European Union had announced that it will reinforce its strategic focus, presence and actions in the Indo-Pacific with the aim of contributing to the stability, security, prosperity and sustainable development of the region.
- UK Carrier Strike Group (CSG): Carrier strike groups are often formed for a specific mission rather than by platform.
- Defence Exercises between India and UK:
 - Air Force Exercise 'Indradhanush'.
 - Navy Exercise Konkan.
 - Army Exercise: Ajeya Warrior.

Green Initiatives: Saudi Arabia

- Recently, Saudi Arabia launched Saudi Green Initiative and the Middle East Green Initiative to combat the threat of climate change.
- One of the main pillars of the Saudi G20 presidency was to safeguard the planet.
- In 2020, G20 introduced initiatives like establishing a Global Coral Reef Research and Development Accelerator Platform and the Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) Platform.
- Saudi Green Initiative: Aims to raise the vegetation cover, reduce carbon emissions, combat pollution and land degradation, and preserve marine life.
- 10 billion trees will be planted in the Kingdom.
- To reduce carbon emissions by more than 4% of global contributions, through a renewable energy programme that will generate 50% of Saudi's energy from renewables by 2030.

Oxygen Crisis: Covid-19:

- The Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) crisis during the second wave of Covid surge has been precipitated by a shortage of tankers and the daunting logistics of transportation from distant locations.
- Liquid Medical Oxygen is high purity oxygen suitable for use in the human body. So, it is used for medical treatments.
- The World Health Organisation includes this on their List of Essential Medicines.

- According to the Drug Prices Control Order, 2013, LMO is placed under the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM).
- India has a daily production capacity of at least 7,100 Metric Tonnes (MT) of oxygen, including for industrial use.
- Due to the crisis, the production has been increased to 8,922 MT. And approximately daily sale is 7,017 MT.

Joint Logistics Node:

- The Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat has operationalised the third Joint Logistics Node (JLN) in Mumbai.
- Other operationalised JLN are in Guwahati and Port Blair.
- These JLN will provide integrated logistics cover to the Armed Forces for their small arms ammunition, rations, fuel, general stores, civil hired transport, aviation clothing, spares and also engineering support in an effort to synergise their operational efforts.
- It would accrue advantages in terms of saving of manpower, economical utilisation of resources, besides financial savings.
- An integrated theatre command envisages a unified command of the three Services, under a single commander, for geographical theatres (areas) that are of strategic and security concern.
- The Shekatkar committee has recommended the creation of 3 integrated theatre commands—northern for the China border, western for the Pakistan border, and southern for the maritime role.

Ct Value: Covid-19 Test:

- The ICMR (Indian Council of medical Research) has decided a single Ct value cut-off for determining whether a patient is positive for Covid-19.
- Ct is a value that emerges during RT-PCR tests. All patients with a Ct value less than 35 may be considered as positive while those with a Ct value above 35 may be considered as negative.
- In an RT-PCR (Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction) test, RNA (Ribonucleic acid) is extracted from the swab collected from the patient. It is then converted into DNA (Deoxyribonucleic acid), which is then amplified.
- Amplification refers to the process of creating multiple copies of the genetic material - in this case, DNA.
- Ct is short for 'Cycle Threshold'.
- The Ct value refers to the number of cycles after which the virus can be detected.
- The lower the Ct value, the higher the viral load—because the virus has been spotted after fewer cycles.

Launch of Supply Chain Resilience Initiative:

- The Trade Ministers of India, Japan and Australia have formally launched the Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI).
- The SCRI aims to create a virtuous cycle of enhancing supply chain resilience with a view to eventually attaining strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth in the Indo-Pacific region.
- The trio (India, Japan and Australia) along with the US makes Quad grouping.

- Supply Chain Resilience is in the context of international trade, supply chain resilience is an approach that helps a country to ensure that it has diversified its supply risk across a clutch of supplying nations instead of being dependent on just one or a few.
- Its objectives is to attract foreign direct investment to turn the Indo-Pacific into an “economic powerhouse”.
- To build a mutually complementary relationship among partner countries.

Government of NCT of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2021:

- The Government of National Capital Territory (GNCT) of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2021, which gives primacy to the Lieutenant Governor (L-G) over the elected government in the city, has come into force.
- Amendment States that the “government” in the National Capital Territory of Delhi meant the Lieutenant-Governor of Delhi.
- It gives discretionary powers to the L-G even in matters where the Legislative Assembly of Delhi is empowered to make laws.
- Its Criticism is that the latest amendment will greatly reduce the efficiency and timeliness of the Delhi government by making it imperative for it to hold consultations with the L-G even when a situation demands urgent action.
- However, over the years, there was friction between the Chief Minister and the Lieutenant Governor (L-G) over power-sharing.
- The focal point of these conflicts was that in case of a difference between the L-G and the Council of Ministers on any matter.

Assam Earthquake:

- Recently, a powerful earthquake measuring 6.4 on the Richter Scale jolted Assam and other parts of Northeast.
- According to the National Centre for Seismology (NCS) report, the tremors have been attributed to Kopili Fault zone closer to Himalayan Frontal Thrust (HFT).
- NCS is the nodal agency of the Government of India for monitoring earthquake activity in the country. It comes under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- Himalayan Frontal Thrust (HFT) also known as the Main Frontal Thrust (MFT), is a geological fault along the boundary of the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates.

Antimicrobial Resistance: Threat to Global Health Security:

- Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a growing global problem to which the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic may further contribute.
- With resources deployed away from antimicrobial stewardship, evidence of substantial preemptive antibiotic use in Covid-19 patients and indirectly, with deteriorating economic conditions fuelling poverty potentially impacting on levels of resistance, AMR threat remains significant.

- Antimicrobial resistance is the resistance acquired by any microorganism (bacteria, viruses, fungi, parasite, etc.) against antimicrobial drugs (such as antibiotics, antifungals, antivirals, antimalarials, and anthelmintics) that are used to treat infections.
- AMR is already responsible for up to 7,00,000 deaths a year.
- A threat to prevention and treatment of infections - medical procedures such as organ transplantation, cancer chemotherapy, diabetes management and major surgery (for example, caesarean sections or hip replacements) become very risky.
- India, with its combination of large population, rising incomes that facilitate purchase of antibiotics, high burden of infectious diseases and easy over-the-counter access to antibiotics, is an important locus for the generation of resistance genes.
- The multi-drug resistance determinant, New Delhi Metallo-beta-lactamase-1 (NDM-1), emerged from India region to spread globally.

Agriculture Infrastructure Fund:

- Agriculture Infrastructure Fund has crossed the eight thousand crore mark. The investment will give a boost to several agricultural projects which will unlock value for farmers across the country.
- It is a central sector scheme
- Its aim is to provide medium - long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management Infrastructure and community farming assets.
- Duration: Financial Year 2020 to 2029.

The Global Forest Goals Report 2021: UN Report:

- According to the United Nations' Global Forest Goals Report 2021, Covid-19 pandemic has aggravated the challenges faced by countries in managing their forests.
- The Report has been prepared by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations. It provides an initial overview of progress of Goals and targets contained within the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2030.
- It is estimated that world gross product fell by an estimated 4.3% in 2020. It is the sharpest contraction of global output since the Great Depression.
- An estimated 1.6 billion people, or 25% of the global population, rely on forests for their subsistence needs, livelihoods, employment, and income.
- The United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 was created with a mission to promote sustainable forest management and enhance the contribution of forests and trees to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Immunisation Agenda 2030:

- Recently, the United Nations and other agencies have launched the Immunisation Agenda 2030 (IA2030) during the World Immunisation Week.
- It will contribute to achieving the UN-mandated Sustainable Development Goals specifically SDG 3 i.e. Good Health and Well being.
- Covid-19 pandemic has affected routine immunization globally.

- Immunisation Agenda 2030 (IA2030) sets an ambitious, overarching global vision and strategy for vaccines and immunization for the decade 2021–2030.
- Immunisation describes the process whereby people are protected against illness caused by infection with microorganisms (formally called pathogens). The term vaccine refers to the material used for immunisation.
- The theme for 2021 is “Vaccines bring us closer”.

Differential Pricing for Covid-19 Vaccines:

- Recently, the Supreme Court has asked the government to clarify in its affidavit the basis and rationale for pricing of Covid-19 Vaccines.
- The court noted that “different manufacturers are quoting different prices”. There are powers under the Drugs Control Act and Patents Act, and this is the time to invoke such powers.
- Pricing Regulation for Drugs in India is regulated centrally through The Essential Commodities Act, 1955.
- The DPCO lists over 800 drugs as “essential” in its schedule, and has capped their prices.

China’s Permanent Space Station:

- Recently, China launched an unmanned module of its permanent space station that it plans to complete by the end of 2022.
- The module, named "Tianhe", or "Harmony of the Heavens", was launched on the Long March 5B, China's largest carrier rocket.
- India has also set its eye on building its own space station in low earth orbit to conduct microgravity experiments in space in 5 to 7 years.
- The only space station currently in orbit is the International Space Station (ISS), from which China is excluded.
- China’s Space Station is 66-tonne, multi-module Tiangong station is set to be operational for at least 10 years.
- Tianhe is one of three main components of what would be China’s first self-developed space station, rivalling the only other station in service – the ISS.

MACS 1407: Variety of Soybean:

- Recently, Indian Scientists have developed a high-yielding and pest-resistant variety of soybean, called MACS 1407.
- Scientists from MACS- Agharkar Research Institute, Pune, in collaboration with Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi have developed it.
- MACS 1407 is made using the conventional cross breeding technique, scientists developed MACS 1407 which gives 39 quintals per hectare making it a high yielding variety.
- It requires an average 43 days for 50% flowering and takes 104 days to mature from the date of sowing.
- It has white coloured flowers, yellow seeds and black hilum. Its seeds have 19.81% oil content, 41% protein content and show good germinability.





