

March 2021 Content**Polity****Appropriation Bill**

- It is a **money bill** allowing **Government to withdraw funds** from the **Consolidated Fund of India**.
- It comes under **Article 114**.
- The **approval of the Parliament** is must here.

Coercive Federalism (Centralized Federalism)

- A strong **national government** that **exerts strict control on states** through mandates.
- It focuses on the **national government's strong voice** in **shaping states' decisions**.

Right to counsel in custody

- Constitution says that **access to a lawyer is the right of an accused**.
- **Safeguards:**
 - **Article 20 (3):** No person accused of any offence shall be compelled to be a witness against himself.
 - **Article 22:** No-one can be denied the right to consult a lawyer.
 - **Section 41(D) of CrPC:** Accused can consult his advocate.
- An **arrestee may be permitted to meet his lawyer** during interrogation, though **not throughout the interrogation**" -D K Basu case, 1997.

Governance**North East Cane and Bamboo Development Council (NECBDC)**

- Its objective is to **manage and scientifically develop** in the cane and **bamboo sector**.

- NECBDCE comes under **National Bamboo Mission** launched in 2018.
- Bamboo mission comes under an Umbrella Scheme of **Krishonnati Yojna**, 2016.
- **News Context:** J&K will set up 3 Bamboo Clusters with NECBDC.

Sansad TV

- It will be the **merger of Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TV**.
- It is recommended by **Surya Prakash Committee**.
- **CEO of Sansad TV:** Ravi Capoor.

New Guidelines for OCI Cardholders

- These guidelines are issued under **Home affairs** with legal provisions.
- OCI cardholders **can claim to NRI quota seats in educational institutions**.
- OCIs are **not entitled** to undertake any **missionary, journalism** activities without **permission of the Government**.
- **Overseas Citizens of India:**
 - They are of Indian origin but with foreign passport and are not citizens of India.

OCI Cardholders and Passport

- **OCI cardholders will not have to carry old, expired passports to travel India now**.
- The **OCI card gives a visa free travel to India**.
- The OCI cards are issued to people of Indian origin globally.
- **It gives them almost all the privileges available to an Indian national, except:**
 - **Right to vote, employment in government service.**
 - **Buying agricultural land.**

Andhra Pradesh Disha Bill (Special Courts for Specified Offences against Women and Children), 2020

- It awards the **death penalty for rape cases**.
- It ensures the final **judgement in 21 days by exclusive Special Courts**.

- **News Context:** The **Bill is reserved by Andhra Pradesh Governor** for assent of the **President**.

National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2021

- **Delhi became a UT** through **69th Amendment, 1991** under Article **239AA**.
- **At present, the Legislative Assembly has the power to make laws in all matters except public order, police and land.**
- **Features of the Bill:**
 - The **“Government”** in NCR will mean **Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) of Delhi**.
 - **L-G** will have the **power in the subjects and laws** made by **Delhi Legislative Assembly**.
 - L-G will give **“necessarily granted” opinion** before any **decision** of Delhi COM.
 - L-G’s **opinion shall be must** before the government takes any **executive action**.
- **Issue with the Bill:** Dispute on power Distribution between the Government and LG.

Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) MMDR Amendment Bill, 2021

- It **amends** the **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957**.

Highlights of the Bill

- **No restriction on end-use:** No mine will be reserved for particular end-use.
- **Sale of minerals by captive mines:**
 - **Captive mines (other than atomic minerals)** may **sell up to 50%** of their annual mineral production in the **open market** after meeting their own needs.
 - It may be increased through a notification.
- **Auction by the central government in certain cases:**
 - **Government to specify a time period** to complete the auction in consultation with the state government.

- If the **state government could not complete the auction** within time, the auctions may be **conducted by the Central Government**.

Allocation of mines with expired leases:

- The **expired lease Mines** (other than coal, lignite, and atomic minerals), may be **allocated to a Government Company**.

Lokayukta Amendment Bill, 2021

- It is passed by **Bihar Legislative Assembly**.
- **Object:** To **punish people filing false cases** before **Anti-corruption body** to prevent any waste of time.

Insurance Amendment Bill, 2021

- To **increases** the maximum **FDI** in an insurance company from **49% to 74%**.

Places of Worship Act, 1991

- **Features of the Act:**
 - To **freeze the status of worship place** as it **existed on August 15, 1947**.
 - To **maintain the religious character** of worship place.
 - **Worship place cannot be converted as different status**.
- **Exceptions:** Places under, Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.

Cable Television Networks (CTN) Act, 1995

- It prescribes **imprisonment and fine**, if any **media violates Programme Code**.
- **Programme Code:**
 - It includes list of **do’s and don’ts** for **cable TV channels**.
 - **No programme** should be aired **containing anything obscene, defamatory, false etc**.
- **News Context:** Karnataka High Court issued notices to 70 media platforms under CTN act.

Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986

- It is to **prohibit indecent representation of women through** advertisement, publications, writings, paintings, figures etc.

National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second (Amendment) Bill, 2021

- It amends the 2011 Act.
- **Amended Provisions:** To regularise **unauthorised** colonies of NCR.
- It would include the region which is **50%** developed as on 1st January, 2015.

Gujarat Freedom of Religion Act, 2003

- It prohibits conversion from one religion to another by the use of force or allurements or by fraudulent means.

Unique land parcel Identification number (ULPIN) Scheme

- It is also known as **Aadhaar for land Scheme**.
- It is to issue a **14-digit geo-identification** number to every plot.
- It will **integrate land records database with revenue court records and bank records**.
- It will also use **Aadhaar numbers** on a **voluntary basis**.

Elections

Electoral Bond

- It is a **Financial Instrument to donate to political parties**.
- There is **no maximum limit** for this.
- **SBI will issue it in cash** with validation of **15 days**.
- **Donor's identification will not be disclosed** anywhere.

- **News Context:** Supreme Court agreed to hear a plea of an NGO related to this.

Bihar Special Armed Police Bill, 2021

- It converts **21 Bihar battalion Military police to Special Armed Police force**.
- It is to **maintain public order, combat extremism, protection**.
- **Special Armed Police officers:**
 - They can **arrest people** on suspicion even **without a warrant**.
 - An officer of notified rank can **search suspect's premises without a warrant**.
 - It **immunes the officer** from any **complaint** except, when the **government sanctions it**.

Airport Economic Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2021

- It **changes** the definition of **"major airport"**.
- It will **encourage development of smaller airports**.
- It **extends the scope to determine the tariff** for a group of airports.
- **Previous definition of 'major airport':** Any airport which has, or is designated to have, **annual passengers** of around **35 lakh**.

Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2021.

- It puts **7 castes under one nomenclature of "Devendrakula Vellalars"** as Schedule Caste.
- **Theses are:** Devendrakulathan, Kadaiyan, Kalladi, Kudumban, Pallan, Pannadi and Vathiriyar.
- **Devendrakula Velalar:** It is a **generic name** of these 7 sub-sects.

Index Monitoring Cell (IMC)

- It was **set up by Information and Broadcasting Ministry** in 2020.
- **Aim:** To improve **India's ranking in World Press Freedom Index**.
- **Key recommendations:**

- **Decriminalization of defamation.**
- There should be **consent of Press Council of India** before filing an **FIR against media.**

Building and Other Construction Workers Act, 1996

- It is to **regulate the employment and conditions of service of workers.**
- To provide **safety, health and welfare measures.**
- **State Governments** have to **frame and implement welfare schemes** for workers **through state boards.**
- **News Context:** The center has ordered state welfare boards not to distribute houses and other articles.
 - Just to use **Direct benefit Cash transfer.**

Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) Campaign, 2009

- It is a **flagship program** of Election Commission for **voters' education, awareness and voter literacy.**
- **Moto:** Greater Participation for a Stronger Democracy.
- **News Context:** A **pride parade** was organized in **Western Assam** under SVEEP Campaign for **LGBTQ community.**

Judiciary

Fast-track Courts for Cheque Bounce Cases

- A constitutional bench will be established for it. - Supreme Court.

District/ Local Medical Boards

- It shall be **established** with **Gynaecologists and Paediatricians** to help **rape survivors.** – **Supreme Court.**
- It could help the victim with **early medical intervention** and not be forced to go through more trauma.

Amicus Curiae

- It literally means '**Friend of the Court**'.
- It is a **neutral lawyer appointed by the court** to assist the cases **requiring specific expertise.**
- **News Context:** Solicitor General Tushar Mehta appealed to the Supreme Court to frame guidelines for this.

Independent Environment Regulator

- **Supreme court** had ordered to **set up this body in Lafarge Umiam Mining Pvt Ltd v. Union of India, 2011.**
- It had to be established **under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.**
- Aim: to ensure the **implementation of National Forest Policy.**
- **News Context:** Supreme Court asked the Government, why it has not been established yet.

New CJI

- **Justice NV Ramana** to replace CJI A Bobde as the **48th CJI.**

National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), 2016

- It is a **quasi-judicial body** that **adjudicates issues relating to Indian companies.**
- It was **established under the Companies Act 2013** on the **recommendation of the V. Balakrishna Eradi committee.**
- It includes **proceedings under the Companies Act, as:**
 - Arbitration, compromise, arrangements, reconstructions.
 - Winding up of companies.
- **NCLT Bench (Prinipal Bench in Delhi):**
 - **Chairman:** Retired or serving High Court Judge.
 - **Member:** From Indian Corporate Law Service.
- **No criminal court can entertain any proceeding, which NCLT or NCLAT is empowered to determine.**

- **News Context:** Tata Sons and Mistry case in NCLT.

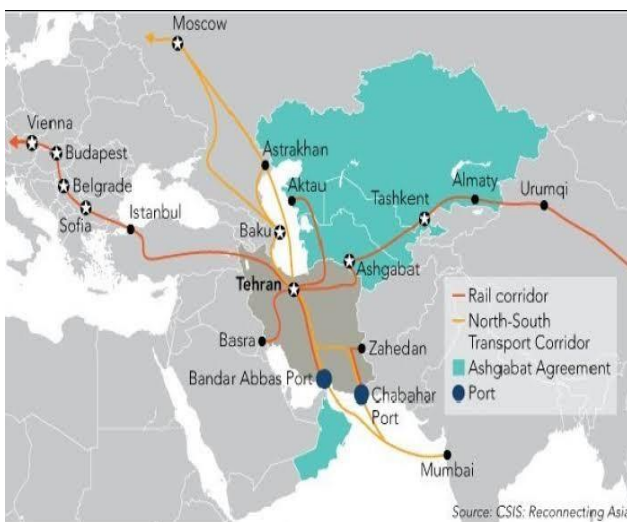
Supreme Court on FIR

- A **cryptic phone** call vaguely informing of a crime **cannot be treated as a FIR. - Supreme Court.**

International Relations

International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC)

- It is a **multi-mode network** of ship, rail, and road route for moving freight.
- It is extended between India, Iran, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Russia, Central Asia and Europe.
- **News Context:** India wants **Chabahar port** of Iran to be included in INSTC.
- **Benefits for India:**
 - It will help India to cut down on costs and time taken for transfer of goods from India to Russia and Europe via Iran.



Virus Passport, China

- It is a **digital health certificate** programme for **Chinese international travellers.**
- It shows **vaccination status** and **virus test results.**

Maitri Setu

- It is a **border bridge** connecting **Tripura** and **other North Eastern** states with the **port of Chattogram, Bangladesh.**

- It is built at **River Feni.**

1951 Refugee Convention or the Geneva Convention

- It is a **UN multilateral treaty.**
- It defines who a refugee is.
- It sets out the **rights of individuals** who are granted asylum, and the **responsibilities of nations** that grant asylum.
- It also sets out which people **do not qualify as refugees. Eg.** war criminals.
- It provides for some **visa-free travel for holders of refugee travel documents** issued **under the convention.**
- It builds on **Article 14 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights**, which recognizes the right of persons to seek asylum from persecution in other countries.
- **Need for reforms:** The complex nature of 21st century refugee crisis needs a new treaty, that recognizes the **evolving nature** of the nation-state, population displacement, environmental migrants, and modern warfare.

News Context:

- **Mizoram** has prepared a **standard operating procedure (SOP)** allowing the Myanmar refugees to enter, after Myanmar Coup.
- **India is not a signatory to UN Refugee convention 1951.**
- **State governments** have **no power to grant Refugee** status to any foreigner.

Note: **Tatmadaw** is the official name of the armed forces of Myanmar.

Principle of Non-refoulement

- It forbids a country receiving asylum seekers **from returning them to a country** in which they would be **in likely danger of persecution** based on "race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion".
- It is a **principle of customary international law:** It applies **even to states that are not parties to the**

1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees or its **1967 Protocol**.

Istanbul Convention, 2011

- It is also known as **Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence**.
- It is a **human rights treaty** of **European Council**.
- It aims at **prevention of violence**, victim protection and to end the impunity of perpetrators.
- It is signed by **45 countries** and the **European Union**.
- Turkey was the first country to ratify it. Recently **Turkey withdrew from it**.

Indus Water Treaty, 1960

- It was signed between **India and Pakistan** for **river water distribution**.
- It was **hosted by World Bank in Karachi**.

Key features:

- **India** to control over **Eastern Rivers**: Beas, Ravi and Sutlej.
- **Pakistan** to control over **Western Rivers**: Indus, Chenab and Jhelum.

News Context: **116th Meeting of Indus Water Panel or Commission** was held.

Promotion of Reconciliation Accountability and Human Rights in Sri Lanka

- It is a **resolution against Sri Lanka** adopted by **UNHRC**.
- It **addresses war crimes** against Tamil separatists during the **civil war**.
- **India abstained** itself from voting.

Hong Kong Electoral System Reform Bill

- **China reduced direct elected representative seats** of Hong Kong's Legislative Council (LegCo)
- **Major reforms:**

- **Elected representatives reduced to 20 from 35.**
- The size of the **legislature increases from 70 to 90 seats.**
- **Election committee:** It responsible for selecting **Hong Kong's Chief Executive** and many **members of the legislative council**.
 - The **election committee members** increase from **300 to 1,500**.

Teesta River Agreement, 2011

- It is an **Interim deal of India- Bangladesh** supposed to last for 15 years.
- **River water distribution:** India 42.5% and Bangladesh 37.5%.

Background

- **1972:** Joint River Commission (JRC) was established as **Indo-Bangla Friendship treaty**.
- **1983:** **Agreement on Teesta water sharing**, as: **India 39%, Bangladesh 36%, Unallocated 25%** (Valid until 1985).
- **1984:** **share increased**, as: **India 42.5%, Bangladesh 37.5%, Unallocated 20%**.
- **1998:** Bangladesh started **"Teesta Barrage" irrigation project** (3 cropping seasons per year).
- **News Context:** India-Bangladesh meet in Dhaka.

Teesta River:

- It originates from **Tso Lhamo lake** of **Northern Sikkim**.
- It joins **Jamuna (Brahmaputra)** in Bangladesh.

Indo-Bangla Treaty of Friendship (Dhaka Treaty), 1972

- It is also known as the **Indira-Mujib Treaty**.
- It was to **establish bilateral relations** between **India- Bangladesh**.
- **Main Provisions of the treaty:**
 - To respect the **independence, sovereignty** and **territorial integrity** and **internal affairs**.
 - To follow **non-alignment policy, international peace**.

- To take joint action for **flood control, river basin, hydro electric power and irrigation development etc.**

25-year strategic Pact of China-Iran

- It covers **political and economic components to deepen cooperation.**
- It includes **5-point initiative on:**
 - Achieving **security and stability** in the **Middle East.**
 - **Mutual respect, upholding equity and justice, development cooperation.**
 - To **invest** in the fields of **transport, ports, energy, industry and services.**
 - To deepen its **Belt and Road Initiative** in the region.
 - To establish **free trade agreement with the Gulf Cooperation Council.**

Tiau River (Ciau or Ciau Guun)

- It originates from Champhai district of Mizoram, and **merges with Tuipui River.**
- It forms part of **international boundary of India-Myanmar.**

Economy

Technical Recession

- It is when a country faces 2 consecutive quarters of negative growth in real GDP.

Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme

- Under this, the Government provides **100% guarantee coverage** to Banks and NBFCs.
- It is to enable the Banks to provide **emergency credit facilities.**
- It helps in the credit growth for small businesses.

Universal Basic Income

- It is a **programme to provide citizens a sum of money**, regardless of their income, resources, employment.

- **Aim:** To **reduce poverty and increase equality.**
Shyamala Gopinath Committee
- It is set up to **evaluate applications for Universal Banks, Small Finance Banks.**
- The process of **RBI permitting licenses** to banks is known as **On Tap Licensing.**
- **Universal banking:**
 - It includes **investment, commercial, development banking, insurance, mutual funds, housing finance etc.**

Remission of Duties and Taxes on Export Products (RODTEP) scheme, 2020

- It replaces Merchandise Export from India Scheme (MEIS), which was **not following WTO rules** completely.
- It would **refund to exporters the duties or taxes**, that are **not covered under other any scheme.**
- **Certification** will be provided to **exporters in India and not depending on international organizations.**
- **Tax assessment** will be **fully automatic** for exporters.

AT1 Bonds

- These are **unsecured bonds without any maturity date** or perpetual time.
- These bonds can be **bought by the banks back from the investors.**
- It is **subordinate to all other debt** and only senior to common equity.
- **Relaxation from SEBI** for AT1 bonds:
 - The **maturity dates** of AT1 bonds will be **increased by 20 years** and later by **30 years.**

Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Rules, 2020

- It provides a **framework to regulate the marketing, sale and purchase of goods and services online.**
- It **defines the terms** like: 'Consumers', 'Commercial use', 'B2B Platform' etc.
- **B2B (Business-to-business) platform:**

- A form of **transaction between businesses** or between **companies** rather than individual customer.
- Eg: **manufacturer and wholesaler** or wholesaler and a retailer.
- **B2C (Business to Customer) Platform:**
 - When a **company sells a service or product directly to a consumer.**
 - **Eg:** Amazon, Walmart etc.
- **News Context:** Parliamentary panel recommended define 'unfair trade practice' more clearly.

LIC Amendment Act, 2021

- It amends **LIC Act, 1956.**

Key features:

- Centre will hold at least **75% stake** in **state controlled LIC** for next **5 years.**
- Later on, it will **continue to be 51%.**
- An **executive committee** will be set for **annual general meeting.**
- Proper **utilization of surplus** from LIC, under which it pays **5%** of surplus to government.

Innovators Growth Platform (IGP)

- It is for **companies to list and gain visibility** and **increase its brand presence.**
- It is **driven by funding, consolidation activities, evolving technology** etc.
- This **platform helps** to reach out to **potential investors** and **raise funds.**
- **News Context:** SEBI relaxed the norms for companies listed in IGP to attract entrepreneurs.

Development Financial Institutions (DFIs)

- It provides funds to **low-capital projects** or where **borrowers don't get funds from commercial lenders.**
- **Objectives:**
 - Economic development, financial and technical support to various sectors.
 - To provide **guarantee to banks** on behalf of companies.

- DFIs do not accept deposits from people.
- It raises funds by borrowing from governments and by selling their bonds to public.
- **Some Important DFIs:**
 - **Industrial Finance Corporation of India, 1948:** 1st DFI in India.
 - **ICICI, 1955:** It established its subsidiary company ICICI Bank limited in 1994.
 - **IDBI, 1964:** Granted autonomy in 1976.
- **News Context:** **National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NBFID)** will be set up as the **principal DFI** for **infrastructure financing.**

Cryptocurrency and Regulation of official Digital Currency bill, 2021

- It is to regulate the crypto assets to bring in **transparency in reporting/filing of crypto investments.**
- **Companies will have to disclose all holding and dealings in cryptocurrencies** in their financial statements.

Recurring Payment Modes (Auto Payment Modes)

- It is **automatically charged** on a **customer for goods or services** on a **prearranged schedule.**
- **Eg:** cable, cell phone bills, gym membership fees, magazine subscriptions etc.
- **News Context:** Any standing instruction for **recurring transactions will not be approved** by the bank beginning April 1.

Health

Alzheimer

- **Alzheimer:** It is a **progressive and irreversible disorder** of the brain, which affects memory and **thinking skills.**
- **Amyloid Plaques:**

- These are aggregates of **misfolded proteins** that form in the **spaces between nerve cells**.
- These abnormal proteins **play a central role in Alzheimer**.

Rare Disease or Orphan Disease

- It affects a small percentage of the population.
- An orphan disease is a rare disease whose rarity means there is a **lack of a market large enough to attract investors and researchers** for discovering treatments for it.
 - Mostly the **government grants economically advantageous conditions** to creating and selling such treatments.
- **News Context:** Delhi **High Court has set up a committee** to find time-bound solution of rare diseases such as **Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) and Hunter's syndromes**.
- **DMD:** It is a condition causing **muscle degeneration and weakness**.
- **Hunter's Syndromes:**
 - It is passed on in **families**, which mostly affects **boys**.
 - The **body cannot break** down a kind of sugar that **builds bones, skin and tissues**.

Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP), 2015

- It is launched by the **Department of Pharmaceuticals**.
- It provides **quality generic medicines** at **affordable prices** through **Janaushadhi Kendra**.

National Consortium for Research, Development and Therapeutics (NCRDT)

- Centre has to **notify Health Policy on rare disease** and to establish **NCRDT – Delhi High Court**.
- **The patients** will be **financed** as **one-time curative treatment** under **Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi** scheme.
- The **treatment will be limited** to the **beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana**.
- **NCRDT would include:**

- Department of Biotechnology.
- Indian Council of Medical Research.
- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.
- Drugs Controller General of India and related Ministries and Departments.

National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professionals Bill, 2021

- It will shift the **treatment of patients** from **being doctor centric to team centric**.
- A **commission or statutory body** will be set up with the **functions** like:
 - To **regulate allied healthcare** sector.
 - To **frames policies, standards, training and qualifications**.
 - To set up a **regulatory structure for 50 categories** of allied healthcare.
- The **chairman and vice-chairman** of the body will be selected for **2 years**.
- They would be eligible for renomination for **further 2 more terms**.
- **State governments** will be **represented** in the commission.
- **State-level commissions** are also to be set up under the Bill.

Art and Culture

Monuments of National Importance

- It is defined under **'Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958'**.
- It means any **structure** etc. having any **historical, archaeological or artistic** interest which should be existing for **not less than 100 years**.
- **News Context:** St. George's Orthodox Church in Kerala to become monument of national importance.

Tomar King Anangpal II

- He ruled in **Delhi** and **Haryana** between **8th-12th** centuries.
- He was **succeeded by his grandson Prithviraj Chauhan**.
- In the 11th century, he populated Indraprastha and gave it its present name, Delhi.
- He built **Lalkot fort** and **Anangtal Baoli**.
- **News Context:**
 - The government has recently formed a committee to popularise his legacy.
 - This project is included under **Project ‘Correct History’**.
 - It is executed by **National Monument authority**, which comes under **Ministry of Culture**.

Tulip Festival, J&K

- It is held at the **beginning of spring in Srinagar**.
- Major tulip gardens are located at the **foothills of Zabarwan range in J&K**.

Lachit Borphukan

- **Ahom general:** Defeating the Mughals in the **Battle of Saraighat (1671)**.
- **Lachit Divas** has been celebrated on **November 24** (his birth anniversary) in **Assam** since the **1930s**.

Galaliya Haat (Bhagoria or Bhangoria Festival)

- It is celebrated by the tribes (**Bhil, Bhilala, Pateliya**) of **Madhya Pradesh & Maharashtra**.
- It is celebrated with the end of harvesting of crops, a week before holi while beating **Mandaal (drums)**.

Saraswati River

- It had originated from **Kapal Tirth, west of Kailash**.
- It used to flow **southward to Mansarovar**, taking west turn.
- It flowed in **Haryana, Rajasthan and North Gujarat, Pakistan**.

- It was known as **‘Nadistuti Sukta’ in Rigveda**.
- **Panel on Sarasvati River: Chaired by the Culture Minister**.

Society

Blood Donation and Transgenders

- There is **ban** in India on **LGBTQ community for Blood Donation**.
- The Supreme Court has asked the government for clarification on this.

Orunudo Scheme, Assam

- It offers **monthly assistance marginalized women Assam**.
- It is executed under **Direct Benefit Transfer scheme**.
- The scheme gives **“Choice to needy households on how they want to spend money”**.

Juvenile Justice (JJ) (care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill, 2021

- It amends the **JJ (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015**.
- The **maximum punishment for serious offences** will be of **more than 7 years**.
- The **imprisonment of between 3-7 years** will be **non-cognizable**.
- **The adoption order** of the child will be **provided by District Magistrate** (including additional district magistrate) **instead of the court**.
- **Additional functions** of the **District Magistrate:**
 - To **supervise the District Child Protection Unit**.
 - To conduct a **quarterly review of the functioning of the Child Welfare Committee**.
- The **members of Child Welfare Committees (CWCs)** should be:
 - **Involved in health, education, or welfare of children** for at least **seven years**, or

- **Practicing professional** with a degree in child psychology, psychiatry, law, or social work.

National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), 1995

- It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** under **Rural Development Ministry**.
- Aim:
 - To **provide financial assistance** to the **elderly, widows** and persons with **disabilities** in the form of **social pensions**.
 - It follows the philosophy of **Article 41 of DPSP**.
- **News Context:** Rural Development Committee suggested to **increase the pension** under NSAP.

Permanent Commission for Women in Army

- In **1992**, **Government** made **women eligible for appointment as officers in select non-combat branches**.
- In **2008**, Government extended the **permanent commission to women in 2 branches**:
 - Judge Advocate General (JAG).
 - Army Educational Corps (AEC).
- In **2020**, government granted **permanent commission to women officers in all streams** in which they are presently serving. **Such as**:
 - Army Air Defence (AAD), Army Aviation, Electronics.
 - Mechanical Engineers (EME), Army Service Corps (ASC) etc.

Environment and Geography

Catch the Rain

- It is initiative by the **Jal Shakti Ministry**.
- It is a 100-day campaign for **'Rainwater Conservation.'**

Himalayan serow (Goat-Antelope)

- **Protection Status:**
 - IUCN Status: Vulnerable.

- Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972.

- **Habitat:** Himalayas.
- **News Context:** Seen in Manas Tiger Reserve, Assam.

Other Species found at Manas in Assam

- **The Buddhists Revere Bird:**
 - It Nests in the Tawang region.
- **Black-Necked Crane:**
 - It is the state bird of J&K.
 - **IUCN Status:** Nearly Threatened.
 - **Habitat:** Endemic to Tibetan Plateau.

Mullaperiyar Dam

- It is situated in Kerala on **Periyar River**.
- **News Context:** Supreme Court hearing on Safety Issues as its 126 years old.

Simlipal Biosphere Reserve

- It is in Mayurbhanj district of **Odisha**.
- **News Context:** Massive fire Brokeout.

First Downstream Dam on Brahmaputra

- China proposed to build it on the lower reaches of **Yarlung Zangbo river (Brahmaputra)**.
- **Other major project:** The construction of coastal nuclear power plants and power transmission channels.

Benzene Emission at Fuel Outlets

- **Petrol refuelling stations** are **major source of Benzene Emissions**.
- **Recommendations of NGT** after the study of Kerala air Pollution:
 - Installation of **vapour recovery system at fuelling stations**.
 - **Retrofitting** of diesel vehicles with particulate filters.
 - Action must be taken against **industrial units violating emission norms**.
 - To Promote **battery-operated vehicles**.

- To creation **Green Buffers** along Traffic Corridors.
- **Sources of Benzene:**
 - Automobile and petroleum industry.
 - Incomplete combustion of coal oil, petrol and wood.
 - Cigarette smoke, fiberglass, paints.

- **Reason: Habitat loss:** They are unable to distinguish voice of birds of own species or others.

Gregarious Bamboo as Invasive Plant Species

- It is spreading inside the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary, Mudumalai Tiger Reserve and Nilgiri Biosphere.
- It may adversely affect migration of Elephants, Wild Gaur etc.
- **Thorny bamboo** (*Bamboosa bambos*):
 - It is a **monocarpic** (flowering only once) plant.
 - It belongs to the **Poaceae family** (grass family).

Project Jumbo/Rehab

- It's a **Pilot Project** launched in **South Karnataka**.
- **Aim:** To stop **Elephant-Man Conflict**.
- It includes **installation of bee boxes** to reduce elephants' ventures.

Great Indian Bustard

- **Protection Status:**
 - **IUCN Status:** Critically Endangered.
 - Schedule I of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972.
- **Habitat:** Rajasthan and Gujrat (Same as **Blackbuck**).
- **News Context:** Great Indian Bustards falling dead after colliding with power lines.

Honeyeater

- A **critically-endangered** bird **endemic** to southeastern Australia.
- A **songbird** that has **forgotten** its song.
- They are **not singing their own songs** but are **imitating songs of other** species such as friarbirds and cuckooshrikes.

Whitsun reef or Julian Felipe Reef

- Located at the northeast extreme limit of the **Union Banks in the Spratly Islands of the South China Sea**.



Cheetah reintroduction programme

- Cheetah was **disappeared from the country** when **Maharaja Ramanuj Pratap Singh Deo of Koriya** hunted the **last 3 recorded Asiatic cheetahs in India** in 1947.
- It was **declared extinct** by the government in **1952**.
- **India will receive its first batch** of the large cats from Africa (Namibia and South Africa) soon.
- **Namibia and South Africa** have the **highest cheetah populations in the world**.
- This is the **first time** in the world that a **large carnivore will be relocated from one continent to another**.
- **Dr M K Ranjitsinh committee** has completed an assessment of the **sites for relocation**.

Six Sites

- **Mukundara Hills Tiger Reserve** and **Shergarh Wildlife Sanctuary** in **Rajasthan**.
- **Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary**, **Kuno National Park**, **Madhav National Park** and **Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary** in **Madhya Pradesh**.
- **Kuno National Park** is being ready for the relocation. The site has also been identified for relocating the **Asiatic Lion**.

- **Issues: Both animals share the same habitat** — semi-arid grasslands that stretch across Gujarat-Rajasthan-Madhya Pradesh.
- Both of them are top carnivorous.

International Forests Day, March 21

- It is **observed** by UN General Assembly since 2012.
- **Theme for 2021:** ‘Forest restoration: a path to recovery and well-being’.
- UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration: **2021-2030**.
- **Water Day:** March 22.
- **Earth Day:** April 22.

Kalpsar Project

- To build a **30-km dam** across the **Gulf of Khambhat** in Gujarat.
- It will **create world's largest freshwater lake** in marine environment.
- It will **reduce the distance between Saurashtra and South Gujarat**.

Ken-Betwa Project

- It is the **1st project under National perspective Plan** for interlinking rivers.
- It would **transfer Ken river water to Betwa river**.
- **This project has 2 phases:**
 - **Phase1:** Daudhan Dam, Canal and Power house.
 - **Phase 2:** Orr Dam, Bina complex Project, Kotha Barrage.
- It would solve the drought problem of Bundelkhand region.

Pandaram land

- It is **fertile land** located in the **central part** of all of the **Lakshadweep Islands**.
- It is used for **coconut plantation**.
- **Demands for ownership titles:** Britishers had taken away this land from the locals.

Candida Auri

- **Drug resistant fungus** in **Andaman Salt marshes**.
- The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) describes it as “an **emerging fungus** that presents a **serious global health threat**”.

Reykjanes Peninsula volcano

- In Iceland

Nacaduba Sinhala Ramaswamii Sadasivan

- It is a **new butterfly species** found in **Agasthyamalai, Western Ghats**.
- It belongs to **Lycaenid family, which is the 2nd largest butterfly family**.
- **Lepidopterists:** Who studies or collects **butterflies** and moths.

Food and Nutrition

Millets

- They are **drought-resistant crops**, with **short growing season (70-100 days)** and **lower water requirement (350-500 mm)**.
- These are **high-nutrient cereals** as:
 - **Bajra** (pearl millet), **Jowar** (sorghum), **Ragi** (finger millet) etc.
- **In 2018**, millets were declared as **Nutri-Cereals** for their **high nutritive value** and anti-diabetic properties.
- **2018** was observed as: ‘**National Year of Millets**’.
- **UN declared 2023** as: “**International Year of Millets**”.
- **Issue: Wheat has gluten proteins that swell and form networks on adding water to the flour, making the dough more cohesive and elastic.**
 - The resultant **chapattis come out soft**, which is **not possible with millets that are gluten-free**.
- **News Context:** An initiative to revive **kodo and kutki millet cultivation in Madhya Pradesh**, supported by International Fund for agriculture and development (IFAD).

Science and Technology

ISRO Launches Brazil's Amazonia and PSLV-C51

- It was ~~53rd~~ flight of ISRO's launch vehicle.
- It was under 1st dedicated mission of its **commercial arm NewSpace India Ltd.**
- **Launched Satellites:**
 - It carried **19 satellites**, including Brazil's Amazonia-1, 5 from India and 13 from USA.
- **Amazonia-1:** It is Brazilian-made satellite to monitor the Amazon forests.

National Science Day

- It is celebrated on **28th February** to commemorate discovery of the '**Raman Effect**'.
- It led to Sir C.V. Raman winning the Noble Prize.
- **Theme:** 'Future of STI: Impacts on Education, Skills, and Work'.

Synthetic Aperture Radar

- It is an **Earth Observation satellite**.
- It generates **high resolution remote sensing imagery**.
- It is a joint mission of **ISRO and NASA**.

Genetics of eye colour

- **Eye colour** is primarily determined by **Melanin** within the **Iris pigment**.
- **There are two forms of melanin:** Eumelanin and Pheomelanin.
- **Melanin:**
 - It is a **skin pigment**, present in both **humans and animals**.
 - It makes **hair, skin, and eyes** appear **darker**.
 - It may help **protect** the skin from **UV rays** and **skin cancer**.

Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API)

- It is a **chemical compound or raw material** to produce a medicine.

- **API produces the intended effects** to cure the disease.
- **Eg:** Paracetamol is API for Crocin.
- It can be used in **multiple drugs combination** or **single drug combination**.
- **Katoch Committee** recommended to establish **mega API parks** to reduce imports.
- **News Context:** The government approved 33 applications for API production.

Aluminum Air Battery

- It **utilizes oxygen** in the air.
- It **reacts with an aluminum hydroxide solution** to **oxidize the aluminum** and **produce electricity**.
- **Benefits:**
 - **Lower cost** and more **energy-dense alternative to lithium-ion batteries**.
 - It has a **greater range** if used in **E-Vehicles**.
- **News Context:** IOC and Phinergy (Israel) to develop Aluminum Air Technology based E-Vehicles.

Diatom test

- It is a **test for diagnosis of death** by drowning in forensic pathology.
- A **body recovered from a water body** does **not necessarily imply** that the **death was due to drowning**.
- If the **person is alive** when he **enters the water**, the **diatoms will enter the lungs** when the **person inhales water while drowning**.
- **Diatoms:** These are **photosynthesizing algae** which are found in **almost every aquatic environment** including fresh and marine waters, soils, in fact, almost anywhere moist.

Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) (Regulation) Bill, 2020

- The **Bill provides** for the **regulation of Assisted Reproductive Technology services** in the country.
- **ART clinics** and **ART banks** will be established for this.

- It defines **ART** as **all techniques** that seek to **obtain a pregnancy**.
- **Assisted Reproductive Technology:**
 - It is a **medical procedures** to address **infertility**.
 - It involves **In-Vitro-Fertilization, intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI), cryopreservation** of gametes or embryos etc.
- **News Context:**
 - **Parliamentary Standing Committee** on Health and Family Welfare submitted a **report** on this bill.
 - **Live-in couples** and **same sex couples** will **not be allowed** to use this technology.

- **Synthetic aperture radar (SAR):** For producing **high-resolution images**.
 - It can **penetrate clouds and darkness** and can **collect data** in any weather.
 - It will be **used to measure changes in the surface of the Earth**.

Non-Fungible Token (NFT)

- It is a **unit of data on a digital ledger** called a **blockchain**, where each **NFT represents a unique digital item**.
- It is a kind of **crypto token connected to digital assets** such as **song files, digital art** etc.
- It can be used to **commodify digital creations**.
- It **helps artists to sell their art directly to art lovers**.

Helium

- It is **colourless, odourless, tasteless, inert** and a **noble gas**.
- It is mainly used in **magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans, rockets, nuclear reactors**.
- **USA** is the **biggest exporter** and **store house** of Helium.

Squids Colour Tuning and Brightness of Skin

- **Light-reflecting cells (iridocytes)** in the skin can take on **virtually every colour of the rainbow**.
- The **grooves are formed by a cell membrane that folds into nanoscale accordion-like structures** called **lamellae**.
- The **reflectin proteins can tune the colour** and also tune the **brightness of the skin**.

Thallium poison

- It was **used by** former Iraqi president **Saddam Hussein to kill his political opponent**.

Trojan

- It is a type of **malware** that is often disguised as **legitimate software**.
- Trojans can be employed by **hackers to gain access to users' systems**.

Double Mutant virus

- Every **major change in a virus** is called a **mutation**.
- Virus keeps **changing its genetic makeup** for more efficient **survival**.
- Two mutations of COVID found in India together: **E484Q and L452R**.

Bird Flu (Avian Influenza)

- It is **caused by strains of influenza virus** that **primarily affects birds**.
- There are **3 main types of influenza: A, B, and C**.
- The **Bird Flu Virus** is **influenza A type with 8 RNA strands**.
- **Influenza viruses:**
 - They are **Classified by analyzing 2 proteins on the surface of the virus**.
 - **Hemagglutinin (H)** and **Neuraminidase (N)**.

NISAR (NASA-ISRO-SAR)

- It is a **joint Earth-Observing satellite mission** of **NASA and ISRO**.
- It will be **equipped with the largest reflector antenna ever** launched by **NASA**.

- There are many types of Hemagglutinin and Neuraminidase proteins.
- The recent pathogenic bird flu virus has type 5 Hemagglutinin and type 1 Neuraminidase.
- That's why it is named "H5N1" influenza A virus.
- India has declared itself free from Bird Flu.
- News Context: 27 migratory birds reported dead due to avian influenza in the Pong Dam Wildlife Sanctuary of Himachal.

CD8+T Cells (T cells)

- It is a type of white blood cell and key importance to the immune system that kills infected cells when activated.
- Its immunity works against COVID too.
- Both antibodies and T cells are required for an effective immune response.

Security

Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) Technology

- This technology utilises a solid fuelled air Breathing Ramjet Engine.
- It provides greater range and speed.
- It uses atmospheric oxygen rather than an oxidizer as part of the solid motor.
- It can carry a bigger warhead as they do not carry an oxidizer.
- News Context: DRDO launched air-to-air missile SFDR technology from Chandipur, Odisha.

INS Karanj (S21)

- It is the 3rd Scorpene class conventional diesel-electric submarine.
- Known as Kalvari-class in India.
- It is developed by: France, Spain, and India.
- News Context: It is inducted into Indian Navy recently.

Marine Aids to Navigation Bill 2021

- It replaces old lighthouses law 1927.

Key Features:

- To provide a framework for the development, maintenance and management of aids of navigation in India.
- To empower the Directorate General of Lighthouses with additional power and functions.
- To provide training and certification in navigation.
 - To develop historical, educational, cultural value of lighthouses.

Miscellaneous

City Innovation Exchange (CIX)

- It is launched by The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- It will connect cities to innovators across the nation to design innovative solutions for challenges.

Freedom in the World 2021: Democracy under Siege

- It is a report Released by US thinktank Freedom House.
- It classifies India as Partially Free.
- Measuring method of the report:
 - The Universal declaration of human rights, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1948.

Ease of Living Index 2020

- The Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry releases it.
- This report evaluates the quality of life and the impact of various initiatives for urban development.

QS World University Rankings by Subject 2021

- 2 Indian Institutions have secured positions in top 100 List.
- Quacquarelli Symonds (QS):

- It is a British company specialised in the analysis of higher education institutions around the world.

Annual Democracy Report

- It is released by **Sweden's organisation Varieties of Democracy Institute**.

World Air Quality Report 2020

- It is released by **Swiss organisation, IQAir**.
- It is a **global cities ranking** report based on PM2.5 data.
 - **Delhi** is the world's most polluted capital.

Gandhi Peace Prize

- It is **awarded by Culture Ministry** since **1995**.
- **2019:** Sheikh Mujibur Rahman (Father of Bangladesh)
- **2020:** Late Qaboos Bin Said Al (Former Sultan of Oman).

Uyyalawada Narasimha Reddy

- He was a **freedom fighter** born in **Kurnool**, Andhra Pradesh.
- He **protested** against **commercialization of agriculture** including **ryotwari system** and killed 3,000 Britishers.
- **News Context:** 6th functional Airport of Andhra Pradesh at Kurnool named after him.
- **Ryotwari System:** Introduced by **Thomas Munro in 1820**.
 - British collected taxes directly from the peasants.

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