



**MADE EASY**

India's Best Institute for IES, GATE & PSUs

**MADE EASY  
WEEKLY  
CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**WEEK-2**

**08<sup>th</sup> September - 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2021**

**TARGETED EXAMINATIONS**

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

8<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021

## Vidyanjali Portal

- The Prime Minister of India recently launched Vidyanjali Portal and several other initiatives in the education sector. Initiatives were launched while inaugurating the conclave of 'Shikshak Parv'.
- Vidyanjali portal was launched to enable community or volunteers to contribute by connecting with the government and government-aided schools of their choice directly.

### Key Points:

- Vidyanjali is an initiative taken by the Ministry of Education, Government of India with the aim to strengthen Schools through community and private sector involvement in schools across the country.
- This initiative would connect schools with varied volunteers from the Indian Diaspora namely, young professionals, school alumni, in service and retired teachers / Government officials / professionals and many others.
- Vidyanjali has two verticals: "Participate in school Service / Activity" and "Assets / Material / Equipment" in which volunteers can support and strengthen the government and government aided schools.
- Vidyanjali 2.0 is an amalgamation of the words Vidya meaning "correct knowledge" or "clarity" and Anjali meaning "an offering with both hands" in Sanskrit language.
- Vidyanjali 2.0 portal will facilitate donations, contributions from Corporate Social Responsibility funds, and volunteering, all aimed at developing and improving schools.

## Business Blasters Programme

- Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi, Manish Sisodia, recently launched the 'Business Blasters' programme.

## Key Facts

- This programme was launched with the aim of developing young entrepreneurs at school-level by providing students some seed money in order to start a business.
- The programme has been launched for Classes 11 and 12 with an aim to help youth acquire business skills. The Business Blasters program will serve as a milestone in the progress of the country. It has been launched for students of Delhi government schools of Classes 11-12.
- It will be implemented across all the Delhi government schools under the "Entrepreneurship Mindset Curriculum (EMC)".
- Under the programme, class 11 and 12 students will be provided seed money of Rs 2,000 to start their business.

## Significance:

- The Business Blasters programme will become a basis of India's progress. Through this programme, students will not run after jobs, but jobs will come to them. If this programme is implemented properly, it can take India from being a developing country to a developed one.

## Supreme Court's ruling on temple land

- A Supreme Court bench composed of Justices Hemant Gupta and A S Bopanna recently gave verdict that 'Deity is the owner of land attached to a temple'.

## Background:

- A PIL was filed by Madhya Pradesh against an order of the High Court that put down the two circulars issued by the state government under the MP Law Revenue Code, 1959.
- Both the circulars ordered the deletion of the names of priests from the revenue record in order to protect the temple properties from unauthorised sale by priests.

## Key Highlights:

- A juristic person, as opposed to a “natural person” (that is, a human being), is an entity whom the law vests with a personality.
- The Supreme Court has clarified this in the *Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee vs Som Nath Dass and Others* (2000) order.
- It states that the very words Juristic Person connote recognition of an entity to be in law a person which otherwise it is not.
- In other words, it is not an individual natural person but an artificially created person which is to be recognised to be in law as such.
- Gods, corporations, rivers, and animals, have all been treated as juristic persons by courts.

9<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021

## PRANA Portal

- The Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has launched ‘PRANA’ (prana.cpcb.gov.in) Portal.
- PRANA portal will help in tracking physical and financial status of city air action plan implementation. It will also disseminate information on air quality to the public.

## Key Points

- PRANA or the Portal for Regulation of Air-pollution in Non-Attainment cities under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) would support tracking of the physical and financial status of city air action plan implementation.
- It would also disseminate information on air quality to the public while also providing comprehensive information related to NCAP programme details, progress, city action plans, implementation updates

by city/state/ national level agencies, air quality data, and trends, etc.

- The portal (prana.cpcb.gov.in) has a national dashboard that has interactive points on 7 thematic areas of city air action plans, PM10 performance, ambient air monitoring network, public grievance redressal portal, graded response action plans, and more.
- It is intertwined with the Government's goal for sustainable utilization, protection, and conservation of public goods and the environment.

### ■ NOTE:

Environment ministry and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) seeks to achieve 20-30 percent reduction in particulate matter (PM10 as well as PM2.5) concentrations in India by 2024.

## India's first functional Smog Tower

- Delhi got the country's first functional smog tower recently amid widespread concern over pollution levels in the national capital.

### About Smog tower:

- A smog tower is a structure that is designed as a large or medium scale air purifier. It helps in reducing air pollution by forcing the air through filters.
- The smog tower at Anand Vihar has a height of over 20 metres.
- It is of downdraft type in which polluted air will come in from top of the tower and clean air will come out from bottom.

### ■ NOTE:

Smog tower has been built by Tata Projects Limited in collaboration with the NBCC (India) Ltd as project management consultant.

10<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021

## Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2021

- The Ministry of Jal Shakti launched Swachh Survekshan Grameen under the Swachh Bharat Mission Phase- 2.

### Key Highlights:

- Swachh Survekshan Gramin 2021 is organized by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase -II.
- Its aim is to support the acceleration of Open Defecation Free(ODF) plus interventions and increase momentum for improving ODF Sustainability as well as Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) activities across the villages in the country.
- An expert agency has been hired to conduct the Survekshan 2021. As part of the exercise, Villages, Districts and States would be ranked using key parameters.

### About Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase-II:

- SBM (G) Phase-II was approved in February 2020 by the Ministry of Jal Shakti and will be implemented from 2020-21 to 2024-25 with total outlay of Rs. 1,40,881 crores.
- It emphasizes the sustainability of achievements under phase I and to provide adequate facilities for Solid/Liquid & plastic Waste Management (SLWM) in rural India.

## National Institutional Ranking Framework 2021

- The Ministry of Education released the sixth edition of the India Rankings 2021 instituted by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF).

### Key Points

- NIRF India Ranking 2021 has been announced for eleven categories, namely, Overall, University, Management, Pharmacy, College, Architecture, Engineering, Medical, ARIIA (Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements), Law and Research Institutions.
- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Madras was ranked the best higher education institution in the country for the third year in a row.
- The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru ranked second, followed by IIT-Bombay, IIT-Delhi, IIT-Kanpur, IIT-Kharagpur, IIT-Roorkee and IIT-Guwahati. Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and Banaras Hindu University (BHU).
- Ranking of Universities: IISc was ranked one, followed by JNU, BHU, Calcutta University, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham in Coimbatore, Jamia Millia Islamia in New Delhi.
- Ranking of Engineering Institutions: IIT-Madras remained number one, followed by IIT-Delhi, IIT-Bombay, IIT-Kanpur, IIT-Kharagpur, IIT-Roorkee, IIT-Guwahati, IIT-Hyderabad.
- Ranking of Management Institutions: Indian Institute of Management (IIM)-Ahmedabad was ranked one, followed by IIM-Bangalore, IIM-Calcutta, IIM-Kozhikode, IIT-Delhi, IIM-Indore.
- Miranda House, Delhi topped the list in college category.
- Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi was ranked at first position in Pharmacy category.
- In Medical Category, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Delhi was ranked at first position.

## Thamirabarani civilisation

- **Context:** The Thamirabarani civilisation in Tamil Nadu is at least 3,200 years old, reveals carbon dating done on organic material retrieved from archeological excavations in Sivakalai, Thoothukudi district.

- The laboratory has conducted the carbon dating analysis of rice with soil found in a burial urn in Sivakalai in southern Tamil Nadu during an archaeological excavation.
- The analysis has revealed that the Porunai river [Thamirabarani] civilization belongs to 1155 BCE which is 3,200 years ago.

### About Thamirabarani River:

- The Thamirabarani or Tamraparni or Porunai is a perennial river that originates from the Agasthyarkoodam peak of the Pothigai hills of the Western Ghats.
- It flows through the Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi districts of the Tamil Nadu state of southern India into the Gulf of Mannar.
- It was called the Tamraparni River in the pre-classical period, a name it lent to the island of Sri Lanka.
- The old Tamil name of the river is Porunai.

11<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021

### Status of Coral Reefs of the World:2020

- Recently, Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network, along with the Australian government released the Status of Coral Reefs of the World 2020 report where it has described about the condition of coral reefs in the present-day world.

### Key Points:

- Coral reefs have suffered terribly in the past three decades. Yet, they are resilient and would be able to withstand challenges posed by a warming world.
- Shocking aspects: There were many shocking aspects noted in the report as well.
- For instance, the 1998 coral bleaching event killed eight per cent of the world's coral.
- Subsequent events between 2009 and 2018 killed 14 percent of the world's coral.

- Since 2010, almost all regions have exhibited a decline in average coral cover.
- Most declines in global coral cover were associated with either rapid increase in sea surface temperature (SST) anomaly or sustained high SST anomaly.
- There were 20 per cent more algae on the world's coral reefs in 2019 than in 2010.
- The increase in the number of algae was associated with declines in the amount of hard coral.

### Significance of Corals:

- Coral Reefs provide an important ecosystem for life underwater, protect coastal areas by reducing the power of waves hitting the coast, and provide a crucial source of income for millions of people.
- Coral reefs have an estimated global value of £6 trillion each year, due in part to their contribution to the fishing and tourism industries and the coastal protection they provide.
- More than 500 million people worldwide depend on reefs for food, jobs and coastal defence.

### 'Centre of Excellence on Offshore Wind'

- The Centre of Excellence on Offshore Wind was jointly launched by the ministers of India and Denmark as part of the 'Green Strategic Partnership'.

### Key Highlights

- During the meeting, Union Minister R.K. Singh underlined to his Danish counterpart that the energy transition towards green is a significant part of India's policy.
- Under the partnership, Danish companies with niche technologies and expertise offered to help India to meet its air pollution control targets.
- Minister noted that, among G-20 countries, only India's actions are in consonance with the Paris Climate agreement with respect to global rise in temperature.

- India has set a target of 450 Megawatt of Renewable Energy capacity by 2030. Currently, India's whole renewable energy portfolio is at 146 GW.
- India is also looking towards making Ladakh, Andaman Nicobar Island and Lakshadweep Island green in energy and transport.

#### ■ NOTE:

Green growth is the path of economic growth which uses natural resources in a sustainable manner..

## Indian Railways Organisation for Alternative Fuels (IROAF)

- The Ministry of Railway has announced the closure of the Indian Railways Organization of Alternate Fuel (IROAF).

### Key Points

- IROAF is a separate enterprise that works in the field of green fuels for transport.
- It recently invited bids for hydrogen fuel cell-based technology to run the trains.
- This closure would not affect the ongoing projects or contracts of IROA. With some administrative change, projects will be executed as usual.
- Work of IROAF will be transferred to Northern Railways and Railway Board.
- Solar power rolling stock or Alternate Fuel Electrical Directorate of the IROAF will be transferred to the Railway Board, while the existing tenders will be handled by Northern Railway.

#### ■ NOTE:

- IROAF is the single window on Indian Railways that deals with work related to use of Alternate fuels, other than the conventional traction.
- It seeks to introduce Bio Diesel in Indian Railways, convert Diesel Powered Multiple Units (DEMU) to dual fuel using Compressed Natural Gas (CNG).

12<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021

## 100-day Plan for Civil Aviation Sector

- The Union Ministry of Civil Aviation recently announced a 100-day plan for India's civil aviation sector. On this occasion the policy measures and development of airports and heliports were also unveiled.

### Key Highlights:

- As per the plan, six heliports will be developed in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand under the regional air connectivity scheme called UDAN.
- A new policy for Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) activities was also announced.
- Under the 100-day target, three main foundations are infrastructure, policy targets and reforms initiative. Under it, four airports will be made operation or developed optimally.

### Related News

- The Union Government has already allocated Rs 255 crore for making Kushinagar airport in Uttar Pradesh.
- A new terminal will be constructed at Dehradun airport in Uttarakhand in order to facilitate enhanced passenger capacity.
- Upgradation work of Agartala airport would also be undertaken in order to increase the capacity.
- A new airport at Jewar in Uttar Pradesh will be constructed. It is expected to have a capacity of two crore passengers annually.

## 13th BRICS Summit

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently chaired the 13th BRICS Summit virtually under the theme "BRICS@15: Intra-BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus".

### Key Highlights

- The Summit was participated by all other BRICS Leaders namely, Jair Bolsonaro, the President of Brazil; Vladimir Putin, the President of Russia; Xi Jinping, the President of China and Cyril Ramaphosa, the President of South Africa.

- During the summit, India appreciated the cooperation received from BRICS partners, in which BRICS took several new initiatives, including:
  - First BRICS Digital Health Summit.
  - First BRICS Ministerial Joint Statement on multilateral reforms.
  - BRICS Counter-Terrorism Action Plan.
  - Agreement on cooperation in field of remote-sensing satellites.
  - Virtual BRICS vaccine Research & Development Centre.
  - BRICS Alliance on Green Tourism etc.
- India called for an enhanced BRICS cooperation with the motto of 'Build-back Resiliently, Innovatively, Credibly & Sustainably'.
- Summit was concluded with the adoption of the 'New Delhi Declaration'.

## South-South Cooperation

- **Context:** The International Day for South-South Cooperation is observed on September 12, every year by the United Nations.

### Key Highlights

- The day highlights the efforts made by United Nations for cooperation among the developing countries.
- It is an initiative for the economic, social and political developments of the countries located in Southern region.

### About South-South Cooperation

- The South-South Cooperation refers to technical cooperation between developing countries in the Global South, i.e. a pioneering effort to strengthen diplomatic and international negotiating power among the nations, with the help of political dialogue.
- South-South collaboration helps the developing nations to share knowledge, expertise, skills, and resources in order to meet their development goals by concerted efforts.

### Objectives of South-South Cooperation

- Enhancing self-reliance among developing countries and finding out creative solutions for their development problems.
- Promoting self-reliance by exchanging experiences.
- Recognising and responding to the problems and requirements of the least developed countries in order to enable them to achieve a greater degree of participation in international economic activities.

### NOTE:

The day also commemorates the adoption of "Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA). BAPA was adopted in 1978 to promote and implement technical cooperation among developing countries by 138 member states.

13<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021

## India-Japan Maritime Affairs Dialogue

- India and Japan recently held their sixth Maritime Affairs Dialogue in a virtual format.
- The dialogue involved exchanges on developments in the areas of regional cooperation activities, maritime security environment as well as the opportunities for cooperation between both the countries in the Indo-Pacific region.

### India-Japan Cooperation

- Both the countries are having convergent interests in maritime security. They depend on sea-borne trade in order to sustain their economies. Thus, it becomes essential to work together for the security of trade in light of the South-China Sea
- India and Japan had upgraded their relationship to 'Special Strategic and Global Partnership' in 2014.
- Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Railway (MAHSR) is an important area of cooperation in Railway sector between both the countries.

- In 2018, India-Japan Digital Partnership was launched to deepen the existing areas of cooperation and initiatives within the scope of cooperation in science & technology.
- India and Japan are the member nations of G-4 grouping.

### Background of India-Japan Maritime Dialogue

- First round of India-Japan Maritime dialogue was held in 2013 in New Delhi.
- During the first round of dialogue, both the countries signed the Acquisition and Cross Servicing Agreement. This agreement allows access to military bases of each other. Through this agreement, India has access to the Japan base in Djibouti and the Japanese Navy has access to the Indian Naval base in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

#### ■ NOTE:

India and Japan also held a bilateral Maritime Exercise called JIMEX, which stands for Japan-India Maritime Exercise. It is held annually.

### India-US Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP)

- India and US recently co-chaired a virtual Ministerial meeting and launched the revamped U.S.-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP).

#### Key Highlights

- In the meeting, both the sides reviewed progress & major accomplishments and prioritized new areas for cooperation across several pillars.
- They also announced the addition of a fifth Pillar on Emerging Fuels as both the countries seek to promote clean energy fuels.
- On the occasion, a new India-US Task Force on Biofuels was also announced in order to build the scope of work on cooperation in the biofuels sector.

- They also announced renaming the Gas Task Force to India-US Low Emissions Gas Task Force. This task force will continue to forge collaboration between Indian and US companies on innovative projects to provide support to India's vision of a gas-based economy.

### About Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP)

- Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP) was launched in line with U.S.-India Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 Partnership that was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Joe Biden in April 2021 at the Leaders' Summit on Climate.
- It organizes inter-governmental engagement on the basis of five pillars of cooperation: Power and Energy Efficiency, Responsible Oil and Gas, Renewable Energy, Sustainable Growth and Emerging Fuels.

### Qeqertaq Avannarleq

**LOCATION OF MOST NORTHERN ISLAND**  
The northernmost island in the world has been discovered by accident, according to scientists who were collecting samples off coast of Greenland



- Qeqertaq Avannarleq is a tiny, uninhabited and previously unknown island discovered recently off the coast of Greenland.



- Measuring 60×30 metres and with a peak of three metres above sea level, it has now become the new northernmost piece of land on Earth.
- Before this, Oodaaq was marked as the Earth's northernmost terrain.
- The discovery comes at the time when Arctic nations, viz. the US, Russia, Canada, Denmark and Norway tries to take control of the North Pole and of the surrounding seabed, fishing rights and shipping routes exposed by melting ice due to climate change.
- Under this scheme, technical resource support is provided by the "National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR)" at the national level.
- In order to be declared as Adarsh village, village should have achieved minimum of three targets below, within three years:
  - 100% enrolment and retention of children at elementary stage.
  - 100% allotment of Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awaas Yojana houses.
  - 100% institutional deliveries for pregnant women
  - 100% registration of deaths and births
  - Elimination of poverty and reduction in its incidence by 50% within three years.
  - Villages should be 100 % open defecation free.
  - Full immunisation of children
  - All-weather road connectivity to the village
  - No child marriages and child labour
  - No public consumption of liquor & intoxicating substances
  - Reduction of infant mortality rate and maternal mortality rate
  - Access to safe drinking water facility on sustainable basis

14<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021

## Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana

- **Context:** According to the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana will be started in 36000 villages of India.

### Key Highlights

- Under the scheme, villages having 50 percent tribal population would be given priority.
- Around 1700 tribal villages in Assam will be converted into model village under the scheme.
- Apart from model villages, 184 new Van Dhan Kendra will also be set up in Assam in order to benefit 60 thousand people.
- This scheme would be started by Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

### About Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY)

- Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY) was launched with the aim of overall development of selected SC majority villages.
- The scheme seeks to provide the villages with all the necessary facilities in order to ensure that the disparity between SC and non-SC population is eliminated in terms of common socio-economic indicators.
- Performance of the PMAGY is being monitored in terms of achievement of the targets that are listed in Village Development Plan (VDP) prepared for each village.

## Colection

- **Context:** Colection, the largest licenced NFT (non-fungible tokens) platform, recently announced the formal public launch.

### Key Details

- NFTs are the next billion-dollar evolution, that clearly states that digital ecosystem of sport, entertainment & art is perhaps the biggest thing to happen in upcoming years.
- Collectors and investors worldwide own collections of varied set of memorabilia which have been appreciated much over decades.
- This platform will soon enable the users to buy, sell and trade NFTs of their favourite superstars. It has also started a user pre-registration program.

## About Colexion

- Colexion is an NFT trading and community platform for Sports, Entertainment & Art. It provides users with trade, purchase, and interactive activities. It will feature NFT collections of global stars.
- Through this platform, users would be able to buy different tiers of blind boxes and own celebrity's limited NFT collections.
- Each NFT collectible comprise of a unique record on the blockchain. Users will obtain ownership of this unique NFT collectible by purchasing it on the platform or trading on the Colexion marketplace.

## Orca: World's largest plant to suck CO2 from air

- Orca, the world's largest plant that has been designed to suck carbon dioxide (CO2) from air and turn it into rock was started recently in Iceland.
- This plant has been named as Orca, after the Icelandic word "orka", meaning energy.
- Working: In order to collect the CO2, the Orca plant uses fans to draw air into the collector consisting of filter material inside. Once the filter material is filled with carbon dioxide, the collector is closed and temperature is raised to release the carbon dioxide from the material.
- Following this process, highly concentrated gas can be collected. Collected CO2 is mixed with water and is injected at a depth of 1,000 metres into nearby basalt rock where it is petrified.
- When the plant will operate at its full capacity, it will draw 4,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO2) from air every year.
- As per US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), this amount is equal to the emissions from about 870 cars.
- The Orca plant has been constructed by Switzerland's Clime works and Iceland's Carbfix.

## Key Highlights

- The plant comprises four units. Each of the units are made up of two metal boxes. They are similar to the containers used for maritime transport, in appearance.

