CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. FEB 2021
   1. China pressured Nepal to buy it’s vaccine : Leaked documents
      * China’s vaccine – CoronaVac by biopharmaceutical company Sinovac – 50.4% efficacy
   2. Bangladesh & Nepa to receive CovidShield vaccine on Jan 21 **(Vaccines given by India to countries?)**
   3. Brazil suspends Chinese COVID-19 vaccine at 50.4%
   4. TATA GROUP to make military aircraft in India
      * Tata Advanced Systems Ltd. (TASL) will show its twin engine aircraft for military use in a defence expo in Bengaluru. (Aero India 2021)
      * Will use help of Germany.
   5. Pornhub banned unverified uploaders, pulling down 10 million videos.
      * Cases of a 15 year old missing girl from Florida, whose mother found over 50 videos of her on Pornhub.
      * These videos were of exploitation & abuse.
   6. Tesla to set up Electric Car manufacturing unit in Southern India - Bangalore, Karnataka
      * Generate employment
      * Tesla has plants in very few places like USA, China, Germany, and France.
      * Will face challenge from Tata, Mahindra & Hyundai in terms of cost.
      * Tesla has a long experience in making EV.
      * Help India achieve India’s goal of only EV’s on road by 2030. India welcomes all companies offering EV plants in India.
      * India offering incentives to EV manufacturers, Maharashtra offering land to Tesla.
   7. MOBILE APP – “Satark Nagrik” 🡪 J&K, action against corrupt government official in 48 hrs
   8. Coastal Research Vessel “Sagar Anveshika” launched from CHENNAI PORT.
   9. State Govt providing free 2 GB data to students for online study 🡪 Tamil Nadu
   10. State Govt launched 25 pink buses under “Brahman Sarthi Scheme” 🡪 Assam (free travel for old people and women)
   11. International Day of Zero Tolerance – 6th Feb
       * THEME – “No time for Global Inaction, Unite Fund & Act to End Female Genital Mutilation”
       * Against female genital mutilation – to power down sex drive of girls, some part of vagina is cut. More than 30 lakh girls every year are victims to this.
       * Many girls die due to immense pain, extensive bleeding.
       * UN wants Zero Tolerance on this, to spread awareness and educate people about this problem.
       * The main aim is to end this practice in one decade.
   12. Donald Trump acquitted of 2nd Impeachment
       * Process of Impeachment
         1. 6 committees, decide on allegations
         2. Lower House pass a bill with 50% + 1 votes
         3. Federal Court decides on the case
         4. Senate votes on the bill, where Trump was acquitted (10 votes short)
         5. Impeached
       * Total Presidents faced Impeachment Trials (4) 🡪 Andrew Johnson, Richard Nixon, Bill Clinton, Donald Trump, all faced trials, but acquitted.
       * Reasons for Impeachment – Trump misused his powers in 2019, incident at Capitol Hall.
   13. UP Govt to keep an eye on Internet Search Data, surfing porn can land viewers in trouble.
       * Hired a company “Oomuph” to track search history.
       * New team called “UP Women Powerline 1090”, will reach out to people and help prevent crime.
   14. Women in Nepal : Voice against proposed restrictions
       * Proposed Restrictions – any woman below 40, travelling abroad needs to present a letter of consent from the guardian of her family.
       * Brought in response to high cases of rape & women trafficking to Middle East (for prostitution)
       * Many Nepali’s working outside of Nepal are exploited (employed in porn sector by Middle East)
       * Protesters say the restrictions are Anti-women.
   15. Pakistan Home Minister fires tear gas on govt. employees
       * Employees were protesting demanding salary hike in Rawalpindi.
       * Sheikh Rashid Ahmed fired tear gas stating that he was test firing an old tear gas canister as it had been unused for a long time.
   16. Vaccine Passport that Denmark going to launch
       * Vaccine Passport 🡪 Passport + Digital Certificate showing if holders are vaccinated.
       * Other country that has talked about it 🡪 Estonia
       * Airline Companies also support this
       * Issue – not every country can afford this technology.
   17. Six elephants die in 14 days : Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary, Kalahandi, Odisha Wildlife Sanctuary
       * Due to Hemorrhagic Septicemia (HS) [Bacteria – Pasturella Multocida]
       * Pathogens lead to severe pneumonia.
       * Cattles most infected, before and after monsoons.
       * Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary
         1. Odisha’s Kalahandi District
         2. Vegetation – Dry Deciduous Forest
         3. Fauna
            1. Mammals – Elephant, Leopard, Gaur, Sambhar, Malbar Giant Squirrel, Pangolin
            2. Birds – Peacock, Hornbill
            3. Reptilians – Magar, Crocodile, Monitor Lizard
            4. Plants – Sal, Bija, Bamboo, Medicinal Plants
            5. Purhlijharan Waterfalls is located
   18. Google’s Payment Deal with Australian Media Firms : De-escalation between Google & Australia
       * Australia’s news firm ‘Seven West Media’ signed a deal with Google where google will pay an amount for the news it shows from this firm.
       * Deal comes in light of new regulations by Australia in July 2020. (Australian Competition & Consumer Commission)
   19. Third Scorpene Class Submarine delivered to Navy 🡪 INS Karanj
       * Project 75 – Kalvari Class Submarines
         1. Based in French Scorpene Class diesel attack submarines
         2. Built by Mazagon Dock Limited
         3. Depth – 300m
         4. Ships
            1. INS Kalvari (S21) 🡪 Dec 2017
            2. INS Khanderi (S22) 🡪 Sept 2019
            3. INS Karanj (S23) 🡪 Mar 2021
            4. INS Vela (S24) 🡪 2022 expected
            5. INS Vagir (S25)
            6. INS Vagsheer (S26)
   20. First woman to head WTO – Ngozi Okonjo Iweala (Nigerian)
       * First woman & African to head World Trade Organization
       * WTO formerly known as GATT
       * Trump blocked this idea of her being the head.
       * She was twice the finance minister of Nigeria, also foreign affairs minister
       * Worked for over 20 years in World Bank, rose to Managing Director.
       * WTO – estd 1995, HQ Geneva, Switzerland
         1. FIFA – 1904, HQ Zurich Switzerland
   21. ???Pakistan PM Imran Khan was invited to address the Sri Lankan Parliament, cancelled at the last moment by Sri Lankans
   22. ???Canada is requesting CoviShield from India, instead of Moderna & Pfizer from her neighbor.
       * NAFTA – Signed between Canada, USA, Mexico
       * Rocky Mountains in all 3 countries
       * Great Lakes HOMES (Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie, Superior)
   23. Shabnam – First woman to be hanged in independent India
       * Killed 7 people with axe – Amorha Murder Case, UP
       * Link – Pardoning Powers
         1. A 72 – President
         2. A 161 – Governor
         3. Death sentence can only be pardoned by President
   24. South Africa asks Serum to take back 1 million vaccine doses
       * CoviShield not effective there because of a different mutated virus in SA.
       * India’s Initiative – Vaccine Maitri (to give vaccines to other countries)
         1. 60% of global vaccine production is from India
         2. Supplies 1.5 billion doses annually to over 150 countries
         3. Largest supplier of DPT, BCG & Measles vaccines
         4. WHO sources 70% of its essential immunization vaccines from India
       * NEW UPDATE
         1. South Africa did not return Astrazeneca Vaccine to India, says SA’s Health Minister, fake news was spread about return of vaccine.
         2. SA will offer those vaccines to Africa Union platform, as there is mutation in SA, so vaccines will be used somewhere else.
   25. Impact of Facebook switching off in Australia
       * News sources on Facebook were removed by Facebook, as FB denied to pay amount for news sources.
       * No Australians can see news now on Facebook
       * Australia - National Anthem changed, forest fires, new regulations to curb news on social media.
   26. Bank became world’s first central bank with 1 million Twitter followers – RBI
       * Estd 1935, Hilton & Young Commission, Nationalized 1949 (51% share by govt)
       * Ranking – RBI > Central Bank of Mexico > Bank of Indonesia > US Federal Reserve > European Central Bank
   27. G20 Summit in 2023 – India
       * 2020 – Saudi Arabia, 2021 – Italy, 2022 – Indonesia, 2024 – Brazil
       * Members
         1. Canada, USA, Mexico
         2. Brazil, Argentina
         3. UK, France, Germany, Italy, EU
         4. South Africa
         5. Russia, China, India, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Japan
         6. Australia
   28. Kiran Bedi removed as Lt. Gov of Puducherry
       * 8 UT’s 🡪 6 + 2 (Delhi & Puducherry, both have CM & Legislative Assembly)
       * A 74 🡪 on advise of Mantri Parishad, President can remove Lt. Gov
       * Pondicherry
         1. First ruled by Portuguese
         2. 1654 – France took over till 1954
         3. Joined India in 1956.
       * UT’s
         1. Headed by Lt. Governor
         2. UT’s are made for Central govt to have direct rule over these areas, as opposed to states.
   29. Mars Mission
       * NASA’s Mission Perseverance
         1. Operations lead by Dr. Swati Mohan
       * UAE’s Hope Mission
       * CHINA’s Tianwen 1
         1. Zhurong Rover
   30. #metoo campaign – MJ Akbar vs Priya Ramani
       * In an interview from 2017, she reveals that 20 years ago there was sexual misconduct in an interview by MJ Akbar
       * MJ Akbar (Right to Reputation) vs Ramani (Right to Live with Dignity)
       * Delhi Court acquitted Ramani in the case of defamation by MJ Akbar (former Union Minister)
   31. First time China acknowledges causalities in Galwan Valley clash.
       * China says 4 officer were killed in clashes with foreign countries (didn’t name India)
   32. India is not participating in IRAN-RUSSIA Maritime exercises
       * One of the possible reasons
         1. American CAATSA (Countering America’s Adversaries through Sanctions Act) – a US federal law that imposed sanctions on Iran, North Korea and Russia.
         2. Any country supporting these countries will also face sanctions
       * Another reason 🡪 Iran had invited China in this exercise, India backed out.
   33. PM to initiate work on longest bridge in India
       * Longest bridge until now 🡪 Dhola – Sadiya Bridge (9.15 km), Assam
       * New Bridge
         1. 19.82 km 4 lane bridge over Brahmaputra will be completed by 2026-27
         2. Connect Phulbari (Meghalaya) to Dhubri (Poll bound Assam)
         3. Would reduce distance from 200 km to 19 km.
         4. Cost – 5000 Cr
         5. Japans JICA company would help India in building this bridge.
       * Idea of this bridge came when in an accident in 2012 of capsized boat in river killed 103 people
       * World’s Longest Bridge – Danyang–Kunshan Grand Bridge, China (165 km)
         1. 2nd longest – Langfang-Qingxian Viaduct (70.8)
         2. Both part of Beijing Shanghai High Speed Railway
   34. Crime reduced by 16% from 2019, while cybercrime had peaked.
   35. Too many IIT’s unrealistic expectation – Editorial (20th Feb 2021)
       * New IIT’s planned – Mandi(HP), Palakkad(Kerala), Dharwal (Karnataka)
   36. PM Modi addresses COVID-19 Management Workshop
       * Ideas appreciated by Pakistan, addressed to neighboring countries
       * Special visa scheme for doctors and nurses so they can travel quickly during health emergencies
       * Proper management of air ambulances
       * Create a regional platform for sharing of COVID – 19 vaccine production
       * Sharing of Ayushman Bharat schemes should be implemented in other countries
   37. India 3rd among vaccinated population
   38. Government to Monitor OTT content
       * Under the ambit of Information Technology Rules 2021
       * 3 ways to control
         1. All platforms should have a complaint officer, where action has to be taken in 15 days
         2. If problem is not resolved here, it will be raise to Self-Regulation Group, collectively established by the OTTs. This body headed by a retired SC judge or HC or imminent personality from media/broadcast/entertainment/human rights.
         3. All the above steps fail, govt will take action.
       * OTT platforms will have to self-classify contents in to categories
       * Platforms would be required to implement parental locks and reliable age verification.
   39. World Day of Social Justice – 20th Feb
       * Theme – “Closing the Inequalities Gap to Achieve Social Justice”
       * Highlights social injustice done throughout the world and solution/improvements.
   40. Presidents Rule imposed in Puducherry
       * CM – Narayan Swami, Lt Gov – Kiran Bedi
       * As govt fell, temporary governor was given to Telangana governor
       * Maximum President Rule – UP
       * Maximum President Rule during Indira Gandhi’s time – 35
   41. Nitini Gadkari launches “GO ELECTRIC” campaign
       * India’s target, 1/3rd vehicles on road should be EV
       * Spread awareness on benefits of e-mobility and EV Charging Infrastructure as well as electric cooking
       * Reduce oil import dependence
       * Brought by Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) under Ministry of Power
   42. Chinese Coast Guard vessels enter Japanese waters near the Senkakus
       * 3 countries claim these islands with their own names
         1. Japan – Senkaku
         2. China – Diaoyu
         3. Taiwan - Tiaoyutai
       * Japan supported by USA.
       * Senkaku Islands in Pacific Ocean
   43. FATF keeps Pakistan on Grey List until June
       * Estd 1989, 39 members, India also a part
       * Inter-governmental Body, found on the initiative of G7 (founding members)
       * HQ – Paris, India joined in 2006
       * Targets countries that are part of money laundering and terrorist funding.
       * Grey List – Members will not get loans from IMF, if they do at very high interest rates
         1. Other countries – Morocco, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Cayman Islands at present 12 countries in grey list.
       * Black list – North Korea & Iran (countries only get added here when all 39 members agree, reason why Pak is not black listed because of support from China)
   44. Motera Stadium renamed Narendra Modi Stadium (World’s Largest Cricket Stadium)
       * When small – Sardar Vallabhai Patel Stadium
       * Owned by Gujarat Cricket Association, seating 1,10,000
       * World’s largest stadium – Rungrado MayDay Stadium, Pyongyang, NK (1,14,000)
   45. Vice President says end low representation of women in Parliament & Legislature (Politics)
       * India ranks 153/190, in percentage of women representation in the lower houses of world parliaments
       * Acc to this list, Rawanda ranks first with 61% women representation.
       * Even Pakistan has 20% representation, compared to India’s 14% (in current 17th LS)
   46. Railway Bridge taller than Eiffel Tower over Chenab – Chenab Bridge
       * World’s highest railway bridge, Mouri area
       * Will connect J&K to India
   47. Hima Das – World Champion Sprinter appointed DSP of Assam
       * Called Dhing Express/Golden Girl
       * Arjuna Award in 2018
   48. Chairman of National Commission for Scheduled Casts (NCSC) – Vijay Sampla
       * NCSC is mentioned in A-338
   49. Pagdi Sambhal Jatta Movement
       * 23rd Feb – 140th birth anniversary of Bhagat Singh’s Uncle Ajit Singh
         1. He protested against farmer laws enacted by British in 1907.
       * Lines – Pagdi Sambhal Jatta given by Banke Dayal.
   50. Sri Lanka urges rejection of UNHRC Resolution
       * UNHRC
         1. 47 members, part of UN
         2. Takes action against countries violating human rights
       * Sinhala tribe (75%), Tamils (11%)
       * 1983 to 2009 🡪 Sinhala vs Tamils
       * Tamil group to counter Sinhala, formed a group LTTE.
       * Sri Lankan army ordered to kill Tamils, over 1 lakh Tamils killed.
       * India supported Sri Lanka and not Tamils and when UN raised voice against Sri Lanka, India sided with UN. (Rajeev Gandhi assassinated by LTTE)
       * UN has accused Sri Lanka of killing 1 lakh Tamils(violating Human Rights)
       * UNHRC passes a bill accusing Sri Lanka, to keep the majority votes from Sinhala, Sri Lanka rejected this bill.
       * UNHRC again passes new bill, if Sri Lanka rejects again, there will be serious actions.
       * India in a tough spot, if supports Sri Lanka, TB will be against us. If we support Tamils in Sri Lanka, we might lose Sri Lanka to China.
   51. Caracal/The Wild Cat – now critically endangered.
       * Favorite hunting animal in medieval India (Mentioned in Akbarnama) by royals.
       * Found in Rajasthan, Gujarat, MP.
       * Also found in Middle East, Africa.
       * Name derived from Karakulak (Turkish meaning black ears)
       * Known as Siyagosh in India.
   52. India Pakistan agree to stop cross border firing in Kashmir
   53. How India is building its own Footwear Sizing System
       * Initiative of Department for Promotion of Industry and International Trad (DPIIT) of the Union Ministry of Commerce.
       * CLRI (Central Leather Research Institute) – pan India feet scanning survey
       * Replacing UK/US sizes
       * Bad fits can cause injuries, more so in age above 40 cause diabetes.
       * Scanned using 3D scanner machines, imported from Italy
       * 11 crores total cost
       * India 2nd largest footwear production country after China
   54. Imran Khan pitches Economic corridor to Sri Lanka
       * Kashgar(China) to Gwadar (Pakistan) Road (CPEC) – to connect with Persian Gulf countries’
       * Imran khan want Sri Lanka to become part of this CPEC corridor
       * If this becomes reality, India will be surrounded by this corridor.
2. MARCH 2021
   1. Ethanol blended Petrol – help petrol in complete combustion, lower emissions (due to high amount of oxygen in ethanol). Will help in longer consumption of petrol (low imports).
   2. Iceberg larger than New York city breaks in Antarctica
      * Breaks off the Brunt Ice Shelf in Weddell Sea section of Antarctica
      * ??British Antarctic Survey (BAS) says the breakage is not due to climate change, it’s just a natural phenomenon where icebergs break and form over periods of time.
      * Indian Research stations in Antarctica
        1. Darkshin Gangotri
        2. Maitri -
        3. Bharti – 2012
   3. PM to inaugurate Maritime India Summit 2021
      * Organized by Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways
      * March 2-4
      * Visualize a roadmap for India’s Maritime sector for next decade
      * Speakers from several countries to attend
      * Denmark – partner country for the summit
   4. Nigeria – mass abduction of girls from school (300)
      * School girls in Zamfara State
      * Previously done in 2018 by organization – Boko Haram (militant group)
      * Boko Haram means “Western Education is forbidden”, group founded in 2002
      * Boko Haram controls the whole of Northern Nigeria
   5. COVID 19 Vaccine Registration to open for public at CoWIN 2.0 portal.
   6. Lateral Entry into Bureaucracy
      * UPSC issued an adv seeking application “from talented and motivational Indian individuals willing to contribute towards nation building”
      * 30 posts 🡪 3 posts of Joint Secretary & 27 of Director in Central Govt. Departments
      * Would be contracted for 3 to 5 years
      * No reservation, experience matters.
      * Similar to Tour of Duty idea.
      * Advantages
        1. A break in pattern of old selection process (pre, mains, interview), now new people with new ideas with experience.
        2. A chance to people who face difficulties in exam process of IAS
      * Disadvantages
        1. Criticism from Opposition regarding the quality of UPSC officers
        2. Also backlash stating that this may be an official way for corruption, inducting people with less qualification who support government.
   7. Sri Lanka puts hold on Chinese vaccine, will use Indian vaccine.
      * Denies Chinese vaccine Sinopharm, will use Indian manufactures Astrazeneca
      * Will purchase 10 million doses from India
      * Chinese vaccine first rejected by Brazil, now Sri Lanka
   8. Whatsapp new policy being examined : Government
   9. Vinesh Phogat wins Gold in Ukraine Wrestling Event
      * Beats Bensa Kaladzinskaya(2017 world champion) in 53 kg category
   10. Mumbai Police bust porn racket selling porn on subscription basis.
       * Content from these apps were pushed on social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Telegram and Instagram with links to full shows.
   11. Vaccine by Johnson & Johnson, 3rd vaccine by USA
   12. India is ‘Partly Free’ says US Report – “Freedom in the World 2021”
       * Under Modi, India appears to have abandoned its potential to serve as a global democratic leader elevating narrow Hindu nationalist interest at the expense of its founding values of inclusion and equal rights for all.
       * Has accused Modi government with a “ham-fisted lockdown”, scapegoating of Muslims, crackdown on governments critics and thus degraded India’s status to ‘Partly Free’ in its annual report.
   13. India, 17 countries face US anti-dumping tax
       * Anti-dumping tax – a protectionist tariff that a domestic government imposes on foreign imports that it believes are priced below fair market value. ... While the intention of anti-dumping duties is to save domestic jobs, these tariffs can also lead to higher prices for domestic consumers.
       * Dumping:
         1. In international trade practice, dumping happens when a country or a firm exports an item at a price lower than the price of that product in its domestic market.
         2. Dumping impacts the price of that product in the importing country, hitting margins and profits of local manufacturing firms.
         3. Anti-dumping duty is imposed to rectify the situation arising out of the dumping of goods and its trade distortive effect
       * India with other 17 countries are selling aluminum sheets cheaper than American market prices, US Department of Commerce has imposed anti-dumping tax.
   14. In 2020, world added 3 billionaires every two days, India added one every week
       * As per the 10th edition of “Huron Global Rich List 2021” (HQ – Shanghai, China)
       * India added 55 billionaires in 2020, the world added 607.
       * World’s Richest 🡪 Elon Musk, Jeff Bezoz, Bernard Arnault, Bill Gates, Mark Zuckerberg
       * In India, highest number of Billionaires – Mumbai (60) > Delhi (40) > Bengaluru (22)
       * World’s highest number of Billionaires – China > USA > India > Germany > UK > Switzerland
       * Asia has 51% billionaires
       * Mukesh Ambani – 8th
   15. Pre-Booking for Elon Musk’s high speed Starlink Satellite Internet begins in India
   16. Branecraft – equipment to clear space debris.
   17. World Wildlife Day 2021 – 3rd March
       * THEME – Forests & Livelihood : Sustaining People & Planet
       * To raise awareness of the world’s wild animals & plants
   18. Swiss Muslims denounce “Burkha Ban” proposal as referendum nears
       * Direct Democracy – Govt. uses referendum to make decisions
       * Switzerland’s population will vote on whether to they want to ban full facial coverings in public on Mar 7. Full Burkha is allowed, only full facial coverings are problematic.
       * Muslims only 5%.
       * Burkha banned in European countries – Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, France (1st to do it in 2011), Austria, Denmark.
       * UPDATE – more than 51% people voted for ban with exception (namaz reading, mosques, covid measures etc)
       * UPDATE – Sri Lanka has decided to ban the Burkha/face veil
   19. Bharat Biotech’s Covaxin’s efficacy – 81 %
       * CoviShield – 80 %
       * Efficacy is not fixed and same everywhere, depends on population and regions.
       * Efficacy is the measure of how much the vaccine protects people against a virus compared to the situation in which they were not vaccinated.
       * Higher efficacy means higher chance of protection.
   20. World Hearing Day 2021 – 3rd March
       * THEME – Hearing Care for All, Screen, Rehabilitate, Communicate
       * Ageing the most common factor that leads to hearing loss.
       * To raise awareness on how to prevent deafness and hearing loss and to promote hearing care across the globe
       * WHO organizes the annual event at their HQ – Geneva, Switzerland
       * Acc to WHO, 5% world population (430 million) suffers from disabling hearing loss, it’s estimated that by 2050, 700 million will face this problem (one in 10 people will have hearing loss).
   21. Rape and Marriage – on the SC’s failure to protect the Rights of Women (Editorial 4th March 2021)
       * SC latest query to a Maharashtra government employee asking whether he would marry a girl he was accused of raping repeatedly while she was a minor 🡪 insensitive to the core!
       * Relationship between two individuals including marriage is built around trust, respect, love, consent. Within that civilized framework, violent and exploitative acts like rape has no place.
       * By offering Marriage as a solution to rape – Judiciary has failed to protect the rights of women.
       * Every year in India more than 4 lakhs women/girls are raped, 87 per day.
       * In another case of man promising the victim of marriage and sexually abusing her, the CJI asked the victim’s lawyer – “When two people living as husband wife, however brutal the husband is, can you call the sexual intercourse between them rape?”
       * European Commission of Human Rights – “A rapist remains a rapist regardless of his/her relationship with the victim”
       * Marital Rape a violation of Article 21 – Right to Life
   22. Haryana’s move to reserve 75% private jobs
       * Private jobs with salary under Rs 50,000 will have 75% reservation for locals.
       * Local candidates – domicile for 15 years.
       * Employers will be fined if they don’t follow this.
       * This law also provides training for eligible local candidates when qualified people are not available.
       * Jharkhand – 75% reservation in private sector jobs with salary up to Rs 30,000
   23. UNEP Report shows close to 931 million tons of food were wasted globally in 2019
       * FoodWaste Index Report 2021 published by UNEP (Nairobi Kenya)
       * It reveals 17% of all food available at consumer level was wasted (931 million tons), 690 million people had to go hungry in 2019.
       * Food waste generation is found equally relevant across all income countries.
       * Ways food goes waste – Retail (13%), Household (61%), Transportation (26%)
       * Austria (Developed) – 39 kg/capita/year
       * India (Developing) – 50 kg/capita/year
       * Nigeria – 189 kg/capita/year
       * This diverges from earlier narratives that food waste was observed in developed countries.
       * Sustainable development goals
       * Conclusion – Will reduce hunger
       * Globally top country in food wastage – Nigeria>Rwanda> Greece >
   24. Israel claims Iran dumped oil in sea in ‘Environment Attack’
       * Iran caused oil spill that coated country’s coastline
       * Impact – sunlight won’t reach inside water, death of marine plants and animals.
       * Recent oil spill in Israel
   25. Indian Army begins training Turkmenistan Special Forces in combat capabilities
       * Special Forces Training School (SFTS) – Nahan, HP
       * Indian Special Forces
         1. Military
            1. PARA SF
            2. MARCOS
            3. GARUD
         2. Others
            1. COBRA – Commando Battalion for Resolute Action Force

Specialized unit of CRPF, expert in Guerilla warfare

* + - * 1. NSG
        2. SPG
        3. Force One
  1. SC says new rules to regulate OTT platforms lack teeth
     + The new rules were more in nature of guidelines, no mechanism for screening or action against violators
  2. Modi inaugurates ‘Maitri Setu’ between India & Bangladesh
     + Over Feni river flows between Tripura and Bangladesh
     + 1.9km joining Sabroom in Tripura with Ramgarh in Bangladesh
     + National Hihgways and Infrastructure Development will take up the project
     + Will become Gateway of North East with Chittagong port in Bangladesh
  3. Sikh Fighter Pilot memorial in UK to honor Indians who fought in world wars
     + Hardit Singh Malik called as Flying Sikh.
     + New Memorial to be erected in the port city of Southampton
     + Memorial will be created by English sculptor Luke Perry
     + He was born in Rawalpindi in West Punjab
     + Fought in World War I from Royal Flying Corps
     + World War I (Great War)
       1. Allied powers – France Russia, Britain, USA  
          vs
       2. Central powers – Germany, Austria-Hungary, Ottoman Empire, Bulgaria
  4. China gives greenlight for first downstream dams on Brahmaputra
     + Other dams in Tsangpo – Dagu, Jeixu, Zangmu, Jiacha
     + Danger for India as new dam will control water flow to India before it enters India.
     + Brahmaputra name in Tibet – Yarlung Zangbo river
     + New dam part of China’s new Five-year Plan (2021-25) to be approved on 11 March
     + Dam building is concern as there are no bilateral or multilateral treaties on water
     + China believes dam building over Brahmaputra will assert claim over Arunachal Pradesh.
     + These dams can turn into a political weapon to be wielded in war or during peace to signal annoyance with a neighboring state 🡪 implied devastating India’s northeastern plains and Bangladesh either with floods or reduced water.
  5. India will be fully Atmanirbhar in silk production in the next 2 years : Smriti Irani (Textile Minister)
     + Silk production has increased 35% in last six years, more than 9- lakh people have got employement in this industry
     + Govt. scheme ‘Silk Samagra Phase I’ – new machines to replace thigh reelers used in silk production
     + Five types of Silk in India
       1. Mulberry
       2. Oak Tasar
       3. Tropical Tasar
       4. Muga
       5. Eri
     + South India produces more silk than North India
     + Central Silk Board
       1. Statutory body estd in 1948 as an act of Parliament
       2. Under Ministry of Textiles
       3. HQ – Bangalore
       4. Promotes development of silk, encourages scientific and technological research
  6. International Womens Day – 8th March
     + Why?
       1. Celebration of women’s achievements
       2. Raising awareness about women’s quality
       3. Lobbying for accelerated gender parity
       4. Fundraising for female focused charities
     + Celebrated first in 1975
     + Theme – Women in leadership : achieving an equal future in a Covid-19 world
  7. 20 killed in huge blasts at barracks in Equatorial Guinea
     + In the city of Bata
     + Capital Malabo, interesting fact this capital is far on an island in the north west, away from mainland Africa
     + Country adjacent to Gulf of Guinea (point where Equator and Prime Meridian intersect)
  8. SMS scrubbing comes into effect
     + SMS Scrubbing – TRAI guidelines say that verification process of every SMS content will have to be done before it’s delivered.
     + Implemented after several delays as telecom companies did not take TRAI guideline seriously. (TRAI blocked all messages for 2 days, OTP fails)
     + As a result unverified and unregistered SMS were blocked by operators.
  9. 1st QUAD (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) Summit on 12th March
     + Virtual summit held between India, USA, Japan, Australia
     + Leaders
       1. USA – Joe Biden
       2. Japan – Yoshihide Suga
       3. India – Narendra Modi
       4. Australia – Scott Morrison
  10. HP is planning to legalize cannabis cultivation
      + Cultivation is being legalized, not consumption
      + HP’s Kullu district is known for Mallana cream (charas, harsh, hashish)
      + Reason – helps in warming body during cold, will be used in drugs (painkillers)
      + HP’s soil highly suitable for cannabis cultivation.
      + In 2018, UK became the first state for legalized cannabis cultivation of only those strains of cannabis plant having low concentration of Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).
      + UP also followed similar policy, MP and Manipur are considering.
  11. Only half of govt schools/ anganwadis have tap water supply
      + States with 100% tap water coverage in schools
        1. Andhra Pradesh, Goa, TN, Haryana, HP, Telangana, Punjab
      + Least coverage – UP, WB, Jharkhand
      + Info provided by Jal Shakti Ministry (Jal Jeevan Mission, 100 day campaign, started on 2nd Oct, 2020)
      + Campaign extended till March 2021.
      + JJM mission is to have tap water in every household by 2024
      + Ministry of Jal Shakti campaign separate from JJM “Catch the rain” to create Rain Water Harvesting Systems
  12. India-Uzbekistan Joint Military Exercise 2021 – DUSTLIK (2nd Edition)
      + 1st edition in 2019 (Tashkent)
      + Aim – Counter Insurgency & Counter terrorist ops in mountains
      + Current edition – Ranikhet, Uttarakhand
  13. Bengaluru Shimla ‘Most Liveable’ Cities in Govts Ease of Living Index
      + Released by Ministry of Housing Urban Affairs – “Ease of Living Index, 2020”
      + 111 cities covered bifurcating them in 2 categories (population more and less than 1 million)
        1. Million + 🡪 Bangalore > Pune > Ahmedabad > Chennai > Surat
        2. Million - 🡪 Shimla > Bhubaneswar > Silvasa
      + Assessed on
        1. Quality of Life (35%)
        2. Citizen Perception Survey (30%)
        3. Sustainability (20%)
        4. Economic Ability (15%)
  14. Standing Committee on Agriculture asked Centre to launch a scheme for procurement of cattle dung from farmers (11th Mar)
      + Goghan Nyay Yojana – Chhattisgarh Govt’s cow dung procurement scheme
        1. Started on Hareli Festival (20 July)
        2. Farmers worship farm equipment
      + Government will procure cattle dung at Rs 2/kg, govt will sell manure of that dung at Rs 8/kg
  15. France conducts first military exercise in Space
      + US Space Fore & German Space Agencies are taking part.
      + The French Space Forces Command or Commandment de l`Escape (CdE) was formed in 2019.
  16. First country to launch vaccine passport – Israel
      + Israel’s Vaccine Passport is meant for public facilities such as restaurants, gyms, hotels in the country
      + Such certification will allow full resumption of international air travel.
  17. Gender Discrimination alleged against NDA by SC
      + Petition filed by advocate Kush Kalra
      + Govt initial response says girls are physically weaker than boys.
      + A-16(Equal opportunity) is brought up, dishonor of the constitution.
  18. Parliament proceedings: Severe fund crunch likely to delay free breakfast schemes for children in school
      + Scheme was just like mid-day meal, free breakfast scheme.
      + Benefit – breakfast/food will make children regular in school, proper nutritional value food to children
      + 1-8th class students were getting mid-day meals, same section to get breakfast
  19. New Scrapping Policy : Mandatory fitness test for vehicles, incentives for owners
      + ‘Voluntary Vehicle Fleet Modernization Programme’ presented in LS
      + Old vehicles – Polluting, low mileage, high fuel consumption, unsafe
      + Presented by Union Minister for Road, Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari
      + Commercial vehicles over 15 years, Personal over 20 years will be marked for scrapping if they fail to pass the test.
      + Vehicle manufacturer to offer 5% discount while selling a new vehicle against a scrapping certificate.
  20. Deb Haaland : The First Native American cabinet secretary in US History
      + Representative of New Mexico
      + Senate voted her as Interior Secretary (Home Minister)
  21. Serious Issue if 3 crore Ration Cards were cancelled : SC
      + Right to food challenged here (A-21) – represented by RC cannot be curbed or cancelled because of lack of Aadhar.
      + 3 crore RC cancelled due to no linkage with Aadhar.
      + Govt. cancelled cards led to starvation deaths across the country.
      + National Food Security Act, 2013 – says if RC are cancelled, a Nodal Officer will be appointed to every state, people with cancelled RC can go to this officer for help.
        1. Fact – many state govts don’t have a Nodal Officer today.
  22. China overhauls Hong Kong poll system
      + Hong Kong’s Legislative Assembly had 70 members before (35 – elected, 35 – nominated), now China added 20 more in elected, total 90 ( 35 elected, 55 nominated).
      + Created an imbalance, where majority are Chinese nominated (patriots) in Hong Kong’s LA
  23. New Delhi – World’s most polluted capital for 3rd straight year in 2020
      + Acc. to IQAir, a Swiss Group (measures PM 2.5 in air, airborne particles less than 2.5 microns in diameter, human hair is 70 microns)
      + India home to 35 of world’s most polluted cities out of top 50.
      + Most polluted country : Bangladesh > Pakistan > India > Mongolia > Afghanistan
      + Least polluted : Puerto Rico > Sweden > Finland > Norway > NZ > Canada > Australia
      + Capital City rankings (Most polluted) – Delhi, Dhaka, Ulanbator, Kabul, Doha
      + According to the report, while Delhi’s air quality had improved by nearly 15 percent from 2019, it still ranked as the 10th most polluted city in the world, and the most polluted capital city.
      + Pollution levels in the city are almost six times above the prescribed WHO limits, and an estimated 1800 deaths per million are on account of PM2.5 air pollution.
  24. India quietly deploys Huge Spy ship to track nuclear missiles : INS Dhruv
      + Ocean Surveillance and Nuclear Tracking Vessel (Codename VC 11184)
      + Developed by DRDO, constructed at Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. Vizag (725 crore)
      + Became 5th country to possess such vessel : USA, France, Russia, China
  25. India ranks 139 in World Happiness Report 2020
      + Released by UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network
      + Topped by Finland (Land of Thousand Lakes)
      + India 140 in 2019, 139 in 2020 (due to better steps in handling Covid)
      + Rankings (out of 149)
        1. Finland, Iceland, Denmark, Switzerland, Netherlands, Sweden, Germany, Norway
        2. USA – 19th
        3. China – 84th
        4. Bangladesh – 101
        5. Pakistan – 105th
        6. Last – Afghanistan, Zimbabwe, Rwanda, Botswana, Lesotho
  26. Tesla Cars banned from China Military Complexes on security concerns
      + China raised concerns over high quality censors and cameras used, might use for spying.
      + Tesla rivaled by Chinese EV companies like Nio Inc. and Geely
  27. South Africa has world’s most dangerous roads : Study
      + Research study by International Driver Education Company – Zutobi
      + Out of 56 countries
        1. Most Dangerous 🡪 SA (1st), Thailand, USA, India, Argentina
        2. Most Safe 🡪 Norway (1st), Japan, Sweden, Estonia, Iceland
  28. India’s Uranium exploration Arunachal Pradesh irks China
      + Uranium Mining in India
        1. Deposits occur in Dharwar Rocks
        2. Singhbum copper belt – Jharkhand
        3. Udaipur, Alwar, Jhunjhunu – Rajasthan
        4. Drug – Chhattisgarh
        5. Bhandara – Maharashtra
        6. Kullu – HP
      + World’s richest country in Uranium deposits – Australia
      + Maximum production in world – Kazakhstan
  29. Nitin Gadkari : Will remove all toll booths within a year, collections via GPS
      + 93% pay using FastTag, remaining still pay regardless of double toll amount
      + FastTag uses RFID (Radio Frequency Identification Technology) to scan.
  30. Lok Sabha passes Appropriation Bill
      + Budget presented – 1 Feb, 2021, declared 500 crore for Education Dept
      + After Appropriation Bill, education Dept can withdraw 500 crores from Consolidated Fund of India (A – 266 (1))
      + A – 114 🡪 To withdraw from CFI, you need permission of the Parliament
      + LS has power on this Bill
  31. Right to Repair – Law to be introduced in United Kingdom
      + Consumers will have a right to repair on goods they buy under warranty
      + Earlier people in UK practiced buying new appliances if they had issues with the old one instead of repairing it, causing damage to environment by throwing out old devices (even if they are 1 month old).
      + Manufacturers will have to make spare parts for devices
      + Aim of these rules is to extend the life of products up to 10 years, higher energy efficiency.
      + New rules will reduce 1.5 million tons of electrical waste, reducing carbon emissions.
  32. Spain passes law legalizing Euthanasia, assisted suicide : 18th Mar
      + Becomes the 4th European country to decriminalize assisted suicide
        1. Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg
      + Allow terminally ill patients to end their own suffering.
  33. Diatom Test : Used for leads in the alleged Mansukh Hiran death case by Maha ATS (forensic team)
      + Diatom test – reveals findings if there are diatoms in the body being tested 🡪 Helps in diagnosing death by drowning in forensic pathology
  34. 2021 Pritzker Award Winners (Nobel Prize of Architecture) : 16th Mar, 21
      + Anne Lacaton & Jean-Philippe Vassal (both French)
      + Award announced by Tom Pritzker (Chairman of the Hyatt Foundation)
      + Anne was 1st French woman and 6th woman all over the world to win this
      + Prize estd in 1979
      + First French person to win – Christian de Portzamparc, 1994
      + Last French to receive this – Jean Nouvel, 2008
      + Prize – 1 lakh USD, a bronze medallion
      + Balkrishna Doshi from India won in 2018, first Indian.
  35. India to take up with UK the Racial Issue of Rashmi Samant at Oxford
      + Rashmi Samant had to quit from Oxford Student Union President-elect post over her social media posts.
      + Stepped down from post following accusation and cyberbullying regarding her racist remarks when she wasn’t even a teenager.
      + Alumnus of MIT (Karnataka)
  36. India’s first indigenously developed Appstore : Mobile Seva App Store, targets Google & Apple
      + Minister for electronics & IT : Ravi Shankar Prasad announced
      + App store hosts 965 live apps
      + Owned by GoI
  37. India ranks 4th in world’s strongest military (Army only) : Military Direct Website
      + Strongest Military 🡪 China, USA, Russia, India, France, UK(9th)
      + USA despite enormous military budget, comes in second place.
      + In terms of expenditure 🡪 USA ($732 billion) > China ($261 Billion) > India ($71 Billion) > Russia
  38. Turkey quits Istanbul convention on violence against women
      + Istanbul Treaty/Convention (Council of Europe Convention
        1. To combat violence against women & domestic violence, world’s first binding instrument to prevent and tackle violence against women.
        2. Joined by 45 countries + EU,
        3. Participants vowed that they will make harsh laws for criminals against women.
        4. India has not signed this (our country believes we don’t need any treaty to force us to make strict laws, we are sovereign, we can decide for ourselves)
        5. Some time back Poland also left.
      + Turkey’s explanation – Since Turkey joined, men in their country feared relationships with women and started leaning towards homosexuality (same reason by Poland)
      + Turkey President Tayyip Erdogan released statement
  39. India seals Myanmar border amid strains over refugee crisis
      + India – Myanmar border (4)🡪 AR, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram (1643 km)
      + Free Movement Regime (FMR) (signed with Myanmar)
        1. Both countries allow each other to go 16 km inside border for 14 days.
      + FMR has been suspended since March 2020 due to ongoing pandemic.
      + Myanmar shares border with 5 countries 🡪 Bangladesh, India, China, Laos, Thailand
  40. Operation Sankalp : Indian Navy undertakes passage exercise with Royal Bahrain Naval Force
      + Indian Navy & Royal Bahrain Naval Force joint naval exercise – PASSEX
      + Conducted in Persian Gulf with Bahrain Ship ‘Al Muharraq’ under Op Sankalp
      + INS Talwar & RBNF Al Muharraq
      + Op Sankalp – started in 2019, after attacks on merchant ships in Persian Gulf & Gulf of Oman.
      + PASSEX exercises are held near Straits (here Strait of Hormuz)
  41. PM launches Jal Shakti Abhiyan : ‘Catch the Rain’ campaign on World Water Day : 22nd March
      + MNREGA funds to be spent for Rain Water Harvesting Systems
      + Jal Shakti Abhiyan from 22nd Mar to Nov, we have to conserve rain water.
      + Theme – Catch the rain, where it falls, when it falls
  42. Nagar Van scheme will help in creation of Urban Forests : Environment Minister (Prakash Javedkar)
      + World Environment Day : 5th Jun 2020
        1. Last year this scheme was started on this day
      + International Day of Forests : 21st Mar
        1. Celebrated by UN from 2012
        2. Hence again in news as environment minister spoke about last year’s scheme.
      + Aim – to develop 200 urban forests across the country in next 5 years
      + Funds will be from CAMPA Funds
  43. Delhi reduces legal drinking age to 21 from 25
      + Main purpose – prevent evasion of tax and duties (said by govt)
      + But the real purpose is to increase sale of liquor.
      + Govt liquor shops will be privatized
  44. China-Taiwan clash kicked off #freedompineapple movement
      + Huge trade b/w both of Pineapples (Taiwan sells to China)
      + China claims too many chemicals (pesticide) in Pineapple sold by Taiwan to China, and stopped trade.
      + Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen request Taiwanese people to buy pineapple and support farmers – after this 99% pineapple were sold inside Pineapples.
  45. 3rd Aircraft Carrier absolutely necessary, airpower required at sea : Karambir Singh
  46. Haryana passes bill to recover damages to govt property from protesters
      + The Haryana Recovery of damages to property during disturbance to public Bill, 2021
      + Already passed by UP, inspiration
      + UP first state, Haryana next.
  47. Pakistan team arrives for Meeting of Permanent Indus Commission
      + Led by Pakistans Indus Water Commissioner Mehr Ali Shah
      + Indian team led by Pradeep Kumar Saxena
      + Indus Water Treaty (IWT)
        1. Indus tributaries – Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas, Sutlej
        2. 19 Sep 1960, signed (Pt. Nehru, Ayub Khan, with world bank in presence)
           1. Water of Indus, Jhelum, Chenab 🡪 Pakistan (IJC)
           2. Water of Ravi, Beas, Sutlej 🡪 India (RBS)
           3. Also 80% of Indus water will be used by India.
      + Last meeting was in Lahore, 2019. Now in 2021 (116th meeting)
      + Issues presented by Pakistan to India
        1. Construction of two dams
           1. Pakal Dul on river Marusudar, tributary of Chenab
           2. Lower Kalnai on river Chenab (proposed dam)
        2. Indians using water of Indus
  48. International Federation of Film Archives
      + Amitabh Bachhan to be give fiaf award (first Indian)
      + Fiaf HQ – Brussels, Belgium
  49. 67th National Film Awards (67th edition for the year 2019)
      + Under Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
      + Best Feature Film – Marakkar: Lion of the Arabian Sea
      + Best Children’s Film – Kastoori (hindi)
      + Best Actor – Manoj Bajpayee in Bhonsle (Hindi) & Dhanush in Asuran (Tamil)
      + Best Actress – Kangana Ranaut (Manikarnika & Panga)
      + Best Hindi film – Chhichhore
      + Dada Saheb Phalke Award – Rajinikanth
  50. 5 policeman killed as naxals blew up bus in Chhattisgarh
      + Naxalism in India
        1. Term naxalism comes from village Naxalbari of West Bengal
        2. In 1967, a local rebellion against local landlords who bashed a peasant over land dispute
        3. Naxals – against government when they feel govt is not working for them, they take up arms against govt.
  51. Interval b/w 1st and 2nd dose of CoviShield vaccine increase to 8 weeks from 4 weeks
      + 2nd dose after 4 weeks – 56 % efficacy, 8 weeks – 65% efficacy, 12 weeks – 86% efficacy
  52. CBSE launches new assessment framework for classes 6 to 10th
      + To improve overall learning outcomes of students covering 3 subject – English, Science, Maths
      + Using help from Britain (British Council & Alphaplus)
      + Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank – Union Minister of Education
      + Will replace the existing rote learning method
      + Implemented in a phased manner over 3 to 4 years by 2024
  53. Traffic Jam in Suez Canal as MV Ever Given stuck, just above Great Bitter Lake
      + Suez Canal
        1. Napoléon had the idea of Suez Canal first.
        2. Constructed in 1869 (1859 – 1869)
        3. Connects Mediterranean Sea to Red Sea
        4. Owned by Egypt (huge source of income), %5.61 Billion / year
        5. 10-12% of the world’s trade occurs in here.
      + Lake Monazala, north of Suez Canal
      + Ship stuck due to fast winds, causing huge jam.
      + MV Ever Given – owned by China
        1. 400m long was going from China to Netherlands.
  54. Parliament panel calls for clear-cut definition of Unfair Trade Practice for e-commerce
      + Lucrative offers to fool customers, fake reviews etc need to be defined.
      + Penalty for misinformation, cap on delivery charges in peak hours services must be introduced
  55. ICJ Vajra commissioned to enhance coastal security
      + 6th in series of 7 offshore patrol vessel constructed by Larsen & Tourbo
      + At Kattupalli, Chennai
      + Will be used to do surveillance in EEZ zones
      + EEZ zone – 12 nautical mile (22 km approx.) from the coast of a country, falls under that country. No country can bring ships in this zone with weapons without permission (said in UNCLOS)
      + 200 nm – Exclusive Economic Zone
      + ??????????
  56. France sets 15 as age of consent
      + New bill characterizes sex between adults & minors under 15 as rape
      + Penalty for rape set at 20 years of imprisonment
      + New law includes a Romeo & Juliet clause
        1. To avoid criminalizing sex between teenagers and adults
        2. That punishment should only apply is the difference in age between adult and the person under 15 is at least 5 years (eg 🡪 girl age 14 years, she can have relationship with opposite gender of age till 19 years and not more than that)
        3. Clause not applicable in rape or assault cases.
  57. Coronavirus 🡪 India reports ‘Double Mutant’ Coronavirus
      + Double Mutation – 2 changes in the virus as it mutates
  58. Safe City Project
      + Strengthening safety and seciroty of women in public spaces.
      + MHA is planning to implement in 8 cities – Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad & Lucknow
      + In 2018, Lucknow became the 1st city to be cleared for this project.
      + Fund – Nirbhaya Fund Scheme
      + Measures
        1. Safety measures in buses,
        2. Improving street lighting in hotspot areas
        3. Emergency number 112
        4. Pink patrol of women police
        5. Setting up women help desk in all police stations with Counsellors
        6. Setting up pink toilets
  59. Pakistan to receive 45 million dose of India’s CoviShield.
      + CoviShield – India made Oxford’s Astrazeneca
      + Covax – international initiative to help poor countries.
        1. Co-led by GAVI, CEPI (Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations) & WHO working with developed & developing country manufacturers.
        2. Global Alliance for vaccines & immunization (GAVI) – a public private global health partnership to increase immunization in poor countries
        3. Covax mission cover 20% population
      + Pakistan receiving vaccines through Covax mission
      + India is supplying covid-19 vaccine to 65 countries – Afghanistan, Maldives, Nepal, Bangladesh
  60. Denmark extends suspension of the Astrazeneca vaccine for 3 weeks : 25 Mar
      + Reports that it causes blood clots
  61. POTUS Joe Biden is renewing gun-control pledge following shootings in Georgia & Colorado
      + Guns allowed in USA for self defence.
      + The right to bear arms is protected by the 2nd Amendment of the US
      + Approx. 43,000 people died from gun violence in 2020, driven by increase in suicides & homicides
      + Govt to bring new strict rule in arms bearing.
  62. New CJI – Justice NV Ramana (48th CJI, replacing SA Bobde)
      + High cases of nepotism in Indian judiciary
      + SA Bobde decided himself before leaving that NV Ramana will become the next CJI
        1. 5000-6000 eligible judges, so many people eligible for SC judge,
        2. SC has themselves decided who will be the next CJI/or SC judges.
        3. No process of selection of SC Judge mentioned in constitution.
      + Ist Judge Case, 1981 🡪 Executive will decide the new judges
      + IInd Judge Case, 1993 🡪 Citing A-50, Executice cannot interfere with Judiciary. Hence 2 judges from SC & CJI will choose new judges of SC. (andar ke log hi lenge)
      + IIrd Judge Case, 1998 🡪 CJI & 4 Senior most judges will choose next judges (Collegium System)
      + But the selection of CJI is done by the previous CJI (his choice)
      + SC Judge Qualification (A-124)
        1. 10 years as advocate in HC or 5 years as Judge in HC
        2. Distinguished Jurist in view of the President.
      + Total judges in SC – 34
  63. Special Welcome in Dhaka for PM Modi, first foreign visit since Pandemic.
      + 50 years of Bangladesh Independence (1971 Bangladesh Liberation War)
  64. SC backs Tata Sons , cancels NCLAT Order to reinstate Cyrus Mistry as Chairman
      + Ratan Tata was chairman from 1991 – 2012
      + Cyrus Mistry was chairman form 2012 – 2017
      + From 2017 onwards N Chandrashekaran
      + NCLAT – National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (Court for Businessmen)
        1. Cyrus Mistry went to court in 2017, decision in his favor.
      + Ratan Tata went to SC, where decision was in his favor, Cyrus Mistry removed.
  65. Congress slams action against Bihar MLA’s in Assembly
      + Chaotic scenes over the Bihar Armed Police Bill, 2021
      + Nitin Kumar Government in Bihar targeted after opposition lawmakers dragged out of assembly.
      + Bihar is a bicameral state, bill was passed by both houses, governor’s sign was remaining.
      + New bill allowed Bihar’s police to arrest & search anyone without warrant.
      + Opposition were dragged out of the house by Police.
  66. First Interstate Tiger Relocation Project Failed
      + 5 year old Tigress Sundari spent 28 months in captivity at Satkosia Tiger Reserve, Odisha and was sent back to MP.
      + MP has the highest number of Tigers (526)
      + National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) launched first Tiger Relocation Project in 2018
        1. A male ‘Mahavir’ from Kanha TR, MP
        2. A female ‘Sundari’ from Bhandhavgarh TR, MP
        3. Both were relocated to Satkosia TR, Odisha in 2018
      + Satkosia TR had very low tiger count, only 2 in 2018.
      + Odisha people protested against this relocation (against name Mahavir)
      + 2019, Mahavir was killed by poachers from Odisha, in revenge Sundari killed 2 people.
      + After all this controversy, Sundari was shifted back to MP.
  67. ‘Mass Murder’ in Myanmar: 114 protester killed in crackdown by security forces.
      + People took to streets to protest against military takeover in defiance of a warning that they could be shot in the head and back.
      + Children and Women also shot
      + Newly elected govt had plans to remove the 25% reservation of defence personnel in government. The military responded and took over the government in a coup.
      + UK & US has put sanctions on Myanmar military personnel
      + Australia cuts Myanmar military ties amid rising death toll, Australia had plans to invest in Myanmar.
  68. Army Evaluation Process effects women seeking PC
      + SC held army selective evaluation process discriminatory
        1. Evaluation process after completion in Short Service done to promote to PC
      + Equality is a constitutional guarantee
      + USA, Israel, North Korea, France, Germany, Netherlands, Australia & Canada – Global militaries that employ women.
  69. What North Korean missile tests mean for US relations
      + Country fired 4 short range missiles into sea (2 cruise, 2 ballistic)
      + Message to US forces present in Japan.
  70. PM Modi hands over Gandhi Peace Prize to Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to his daughter
      + Father of Bangladesh/First PM – Sheikh Mujibar Rahman, 2020
      + 2019 winner – Sultan of Oman – Qaboos Bin Said Al Said
      + Award started in 1995, during the 125th birth anniversary of MG
      + Given to those who solve social economic, political issues through non violence
      + Rewards – Rs 1 crore, citation, plaque, handicraft item
      + Can be given to person, institute
      + No discrimination, country, sex, gender, race etc
      + A jury/selection committee decides – PM, CJI, leader of largest opposition party, LS Speaker, founder of Sulabh international.
  71. Suez Canal Open for Business (30th Mar)
      + 1hr – 400 Cr loss to Suez Canal
      + 6 days the ship was stuck, cost of oil went up all over the world.
      + Israel New Canal Plan
        1. Wants to connect Jerusalem in Mediterranean to Aqaba (Gulf of Aqaba, east of Sinai Peninsula).
        2. Wants permission to detonate 520 nuclear bombs to make canal.
      + Iran proposes alternative shipping line to Suez Canal
        1. From Bandar Abas near Strait of Hormuz (Persian Gulf) 🡪 through Iran to Caspian Sea 🡪 Azerbaijan 🡪 Astrakhan 🡪 Moscow 🡪 Saint Petersburg 🡪 Baltic Sea 🡪 Europe!
  72. Myanmar Airstrikes cause thousands to flee across to Thailand Border
      + More than 500 killed, 3000 villagers have fled across the Salween River to Thailand.
      + Airstrike in South Myanmar – in areas populated predominantly by ethnic Karen people
      + Thailand has closed its border to Myanmar, India also closed it border some time back.
      + Other major border for Myanmar is China 🡪 Myanmar could fall in hands of China.
  73. US to stop trading with Myanmar until return of Democratic Government
  74. Almost 40% of RTI rejections last year did not invoked valid reasons
      + RTI : Right to Information Act, 2005
      + 2019-20 🡪 Govt rejected 4.3% RTI’s, lowest rate ever acc. to Central Information Commission’ annual report.
        1. Out of 13.7 lakh requests, 58,634 rejected.
        2. 40% of the 4.3 rejected RTI’s did not have any valid reason.
        3. This includes 90% rejections by PM Modi’s office.
      + People can complain to Chief Information Commissioner if they do not get the data they want.
  75. SC for posting retired judges for clearing Backlogs in HC
      + More than 3.5 crore cases pending
      + Appointment of retired judges 🡪 A-224(A)
      + Highest High Court vacancy – Patna, Calcutta, Rajasthan, MP, Andhra Pradesh
      + Lowest – Manipur, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Kerala, Guwahati
  76. Global Home Price Index : India slips to 56th rank
      + Published by Knight Frank’s Globa House Price Index
      + Records 3.6% drop in home prices
      + Out of 56 countries, India last (fell 13 spots lower)
      + In India, people ask for property more than its value, leading to less sales of homes.
      + Turkey continues to lead the annual ranking, New Zealand, Slovakia.
  77. World Leaders call for new International Treaty to improve Pandemic Response : 31st Mar
      + Need for Treaty
        1. Information Sharing is need of the hour
        2. Vaccine Capitalism/Imperialism – countries saving extra vaccine for themselves
        3. Africa is only helped by India
        4. High poverty rates due to unemployment
      + Treaty to be implemented in 2022, if any country declines there will be penalty
  78. How and why COVID 19 disrupted production of automobiles?
      + Due to lockdown, people bought more computers, phones and gaming devices, as car factories shut down, automakers cut supply on semiconductor chips purchases, this reshaped supply and demand towards electronic items, leaving now automakers with shortage of chips for cars.
      + Mercedes Benz India recently announced customers to bear with delay. “Wait for your car, its Covid”
  79. China cuts taxes to spur semiconductor development in their country
      + Offering lucrative deals to semiconductor manufacturer, offering them to manufacture in China with no taxes to pay.
  80. Japan extends aid for Andaman Infrastructure project to bolster Indo-Pacific partnership
      + Japan has approved aid worth Rs 265 Cr, to improve power supply in the islands
      + India Japan
        1. Bilateral Exercises – JIMEX, Shinyuu Maitri & Sharma Guardian, Malabar Ex
        2. Mumbai – Ahmedabad High Speed Railways (MAHSR) – Bulled train
  81. OCI Card Holders no longer required to carry old passports for India Travel
  82. African Elephants face growing risk of extinction : IUCN Red List
      + IUCN – International Union for Conservation of Nature
        1. Estd – 1948, HQ – Switzerland
        2. 8 lists – Collapsed, Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable, Near Threatened, Least Concern, Data Deficient, Not Evaluated
      + Africa has 2 types – African Forest Elephant, African Bush Elephant (African Savana Elephant)
  83. Army disbands military farms : 31st Mar
      + Farm were occupying around 20,000 acres of defence land and the Army was spending around Rs 300 crore annually for maintenance.
      + First military farm on 1st Feb, 1889 at Allahabad
      + After 132 years of glorious service, now army decides to end them.
      + The farms were setup by the British to ensure the supply of milk to Army
      + Army said it has farms in Leh & Kargil also.
  84. Bangladesh Nuclear Power Project : L&T, others awarded construction contract
      + Bangladesh signed a deal with Russia for the supply for uranium for its 2400 MW Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant. (On river Padma)
      + In 2018, an agreement between India, Russia, Bangladesh about this Nuclear Power Plant
      + India not a part of NSG (Nuclear Suppliers Group), not allowed to build plants.
      + Since Russia is a part of NSG, India can use Russia’s license to build nuclear power plants.
      + This plant can also power the North Eastern States, improve relations.
      + 2 nuclear plants each of 1200 MW.
      + Bangladesh’s first nuclear power plant.
      + To be built by the Russian Rosatom State Atomic Energy Corporation with help of India’s Hindustan Construction Ltd (HCC)
  85. WEF’s Global Gender Gap Report : India ranked 140 out of 156
      + Released by World Economic Forum
      + South Asia worst, Middle East, then Africa.
      + India slips 28 points, worst performer in South Asia.
        1. Bangladesh – 65, Nepal – 106, Pakistan – 153, Afghanistan – 156, Bhutan – 130, Sri Lanka – 116
      + In 2020, India was 112/153, now 140/156
      + Report highlights the gap between the two genders.
      + Factors/ 4 dimensions
        1. Economic Participation and opportunity
        2. Educational Attainment
        3. Health & Survival
        4. Political Empowerment
      + Ranking – Iceland-1, Finland-2, Norway-3, NZ-4, France, Britain, Canada, USA, Australia, Russia, China, Japan, India, Pakistan-153, Iraq-154, Yemen-155, Afghanistan-156
      + 2019 – 23% women minister’s, 2021 – 9.1% women ministers
      + Income of females in India is 1/5th of all males in India.
      + Bangladesh only country where women have been head of the state more than men.
  86. Move Health to Concurrent List
      + NK Singh, head of Finance Commission (A-280)
      + Union List – Defence, Banking, Currency, Foreign Affairs, Communication
      + State List – Police, Trade, Agriculture, Irrigation
      + Concurrent List – Education, Forest, Trade, Marriage, Adoption, Succession
      + Currently health in state list
  87. Pakistan to start importing Cotton & Sugar from India

1. APRIL
2. MCQ Practice
   1. Bio-Bubble 🡪 Tightly controlled environment field off from the outside world and can only be accessed by limited number of people.
   2. Used to control prevention of spread of animal diseases
      * Vaccination
      * Bio-security (Preventive Measures)
      * Blood and Urine examination of animals
   3. Worlds AIDS Day – 1st Dec
      * Founded in 1988 by WHO.
      * 2020 Theme – Global Solidarity, Resilient HIV Services
   4. Indian Boxer banned for 4 years by National Anti-Doping Agency(NADA) on Dec, 2020 🡪 Nishu
      * WADA HQ – Montreal, Canada.
   5. Current DG of ICG – Krishnaswamy Natarajan (replaced Rajendra Singh)
   6. Vaccination Guidelines by govt
      * Shots only to those above 18 and above only
      * Pregnant and lactating women should not be given vaccine.
      * CoviShield & Covaxin only approved for now.
   7. Youngest Pilot in India, at age 16 – Ayesha Aziz (Kashmir), GoAir. In 2018 given First Ladies Award by the PoI
   8. UN’s International Day of Women & Girls in Science 🡪 11th Feb
      * Theme – Women Scientist at the forefront of the fight against Covid-19
   9. Hindi word of the year 2020 by Oxford Languages – Atmanirbharta
   10. Death Penalty
       * Hanging & Shooting are two methods of penalty in India (India meaning Constitution & Military)
       * Death Penalty is mandatory not mentioned in Constitution.
   11. Exercise Desert Flag(6th Edition) hosted by UAE (3rd Mar – 27 Mar, 2021)
       * AirBase – Al-Dhafra Base
       * Participants – India, UAE, USA, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, France, South Korea
       * Indian Airforce 1st time.
   12. India & Japan developing port facility in Sri Lanka – West Container Terminal at the Colombo Port.
   13. Better Than Cash Alliance
       * India is a member
       * Works toward accelerating the transition from cash to responsible digital payments.
       * Hosted by an alliance of many countries.
   14. Surya Prakash Committee – Merger of LSTV & RSTV
       * Surya Prakash – Former Head of Prasad Bharti
   15. Largest exported of Sugar in the world for the last 5 years – Brazil
   16. Bank enabled its customers to access information via WhatsApp (3rd Mar 2021) – Axis Bank
   17. Countries with borders touching Persian/Arabian Gulf (8) – Iraq, Iran, Oman, UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait
   18. Feni River flows through Tripura (Maitri Setu, 1.9km)
   19. 3rd Batsman in the history of International Cricket to hit six 6’s in an over – Kieron Pollard (WI)
       * Yuvraj Singh (India) against England (Broad Stuart)
       * Herschelle Gibbs (SA) against Netherlands (Daan van Bunge, spinner)
       * Kieron Pollard (WI) against Sri Lanka (Akila Dananjaya)
   20. 2021 Swiss Open Super 300
       * Women’s Single (Carolina Marin, Spain (won) vs PV Sindhu)
       * Men’s Single ( (won) vs )
   21. Longest border shared with
       * India with Bangladesh (4096 km)
       * China with Mongolia (4630 km)
   22. Zoonotic Diseases 🡪 Covid, Ebola, Lyme, Salmonellosis
   23. Ex-Officio members of NITI Aayog at present 🡪 Minister of Defence, Finance, Home Affairs (Amit Shah), Agriculture & Farmer Welfare (Narendra Singh)
       * NITI Aayog headed by PM, nominates 4 Ex-Officio memberse
   24. PORTS (N 🡪 S)
       * Gwadhar Port – South Pakistan
       * Kyaukpyu Port – Myanmar (Rakhine State)
       * Sabang Port – Indonesia
   25. First country in Europe to conduct military exercise in space (AsterX) in Mar 21🡪 France with USA & Germany – destroyed each other’s satellites.
   26. New 9th Uttarakhand CM – Tirath Singh Rawat, replaced Trivendra Singh Rawat
   27. Acc to “World Malaria Report 2020” which state in India has topped the list reducing malaria cases by 59% - Meghalaya
   28. Trade conditions with China & USA
       * 2015 – 2019 🡪 India USA trade increased continously
       * 2015 – 2019 🡪 India China trade increased continuously
       * In 2020, India’s trade with China > USA.
   29. PM Narendra Modi launched India’s first driverless operated train – Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (Dec)
   30. Won Sir Garfield Sobers award
       * ICC Male Cricketer of the Decade (2011-20) 🡪 Virat Kohli
   31. Author of book – ‘The Light of Asia – the poem that defined the Buddha’ 🡪 Jairam Ramesh
   32. Major producers of pulses in India 🡪 Madhya Pradesh (top)
       * States that produce pulses – MP, Maharashtra, UP, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Assam
   33. Tiger Reserve with no tigers 🡪 Dampa TR (Mizoram), Palamau TR (Jharkhand), Buxa TR (WB)
   34. Nepal
       * 5 states – UK, UP, Bihar, WB, Sikkim
       * Sharda river demarcates Nepal Western border with India
   35. International Corruption Day – 9th Dec 2020
       * Theme – Recover with Integrity
       * Celebrated by UN
   36. International
   37. SpaceX launched satellites in one single rocket – 143
   38. First country to receive vaccine from India – Maldives
   39. India’s first Air Taxi Service – Chandigarh
   40. Glaciers
       * Bandarpunch, Nanda Devi – UK
       * Zemu – Sikkim
       * Nubra – Ladakh
   41. TrueNat machines used to test 🡪 Covid 19, TB, HIV
   42. Lithium triangle – Argentina, Bolivia, Chile (ABC), 54% of world’s lithium reserves.
       * India imported lithium from Australia, wants to buy from this triangle
   43. Global Risks Report 2021 : World Economic Forum
       * Lists dangers to our planet earth
   44. Term “One Country Two Systems” – Hong Kong/China
   45. Nirbhaya Fund
       * Dedicated fund to improve the safety & security of women
       * Administered by Ministry of Finance (Nirmala Sitharaman)
   46. Pench National Park
       * Spread across 2 states – Maha, MP
       * Park under Project Tiger, hence also a Tiger Reserve
   47. TB situation in country
       * India has committed to eliminate TB in the country by 2025
       * Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare (Dr. Harsh Vardhan) – Chairman for the Stop TB Partnership Board
       * WHO committed to eliminate TB by 2030.
   48. First Indian TT player to qualify for the Tokyo Olympics – Achanta Sharath Kamal
   49. Worlds Consumer Rights Day 🡪 15th March
       * Theme – Tackling Plastic Pollution
   50. KRL Stadium (renamed as Shoaib Akhtar Stadium) – Rawalpindi Pakistan
   51. India ranked at 8th in Global Terrorism Index (GTI, 8th Edition) 2020
       * Afghanistan most affected, rank 1, Iraq, Nigeria
       * 7th – Pakistan, 20th – Sri Lanka, 135 - Bhutan
       * Released by Institute for Economics & Peace
       * Most cases in J&K, Chattissgarh
   52. Cannabis – removed from most dangerous drug category on 63rd UN Commissions on Narcotic Drugs
   53. Bangladesh tri-service member contingent in RDC 2021 – 122 members
       * Col Santosh Babu – Maha Vir Chakra
       * Rudra & Dhruv helicopters
   54. Chairman of ISRO, 1 year extension – Kailasavadivoo Sivan
       * ISRO – estd 1969, HQ - Bangalore
   55. FAUG game – Made by Ncore company in Bangalore, launched by Akshay Kumar
       * Fearless & United Guard Game
   56. DCGI of India who approved the 2 vaccines for emergency use – V.G Somani
       * DCGI – Ministry of Health Affairs
   57. National Tourism Day – 25th January
       * Theme – Dekho Apna Desh
   58. New Chairperson of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) – Soma Mondal (previously head of NALCO)
       * Estd 1954, Ministry of Steel, HQ - Delhi
   59. Indian Army, Navy, Air Force joint exercise – AMPHEX 2021 in Port Blair
       * Exercise Kavach is also a part of AMPHEX.
   60. First woman PM of Estonia – Kaja Kallas
   61. International Day of Education 2021 🡪 24th January
       * Theme – Recover & Revitalize Education for the Covid-19 generation
   62. Khelo India Ice Hockey Tournament 2021 organized at Chiktan, Kargil, Ladakh
   63. CEO of WhatsApp – Will Cathcart
       * WhatsApp started in 2009
   64. India’s first fire park – Odisha
   65. Pravasi Bhartiya Divas/NRI Day 2020 – 9th Jan
       * 9th Jan 1915 – MG returned to India
       * Theme – Contributing to Atmanirbhar Bharat
   66. Country recently changes its national anthem – Australia
   67. International Day of Zero Tolerance for female genital mutilation – 6th Feb
   68. World Cancer Day – 4th Feb
       * Theme 2021– I am & I will
   69. Men’s World Handball Championship Title 2021 – Denmark (beat Sweden) in Cairo, Egypt
   70. Indo-US Joint Military Exercise 2021 (8th to 21st Feb) – Yudh Abhyas
       * Tiger Triumph – Indo US
   71. New President of Asian Cricket Council (ACC) – Jay Shah
       * Estd 1983, HQ – Columbo, Sri Lanka
       * Comes under ICC
   72. Acc. to WHO, country with highest number of new cases of leprosy annually – India
   73. Shanghai Cooperation Organization members –
       * BRICS, ASEAN<, BIMSTEC, G-20, GCC, OPEC
   74. Gandhi Peace Prize
       * 2020 to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman
       * The jury for Gandhi Peace Prize is shared by PM Modi
   75. 67th National Film Awards
       * Sikkim best film friendly state
   76. West to East
       * Gulf of Aden
       * Laccadive Sea
       * Gulf of Thailand
       * South China Sea
   77. Srivilliputhir Megamalai Tiger Reserve (SMTR) – Tamil Nadu, 5th TR in TN. (max TR in MP)
   78. First country to receive shipment of COVID vaccines under the COVAX program
       * Ghana
   79. Chairperson of Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) – Defence Minister
   80. Reports
       * Global Risk Report – World Economic Forum
       * Global Financial Stability Report – IMF
       * World Economic Outlook – IMF
   81. 2nd largest arms importer after Saudi Arabia acc. to Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) 🡪 India
   82. Recently became the Brand Ambassador of Unacademy – Sachin Tendulkar (21st Feb)
   83. Scientist of the Year Award, 2018 by DRDO – Hemant Kumar Pandey (Dec, 2020)
       * Contribution towards Herbal Medicines, drug Lukosin
       * DRDO
         1. HQ – New Delhi
         2. Head – G Satesh Reddy
         3. Ministry of Defence
   84. INS Karanj – 3rd Kalvari Class submarine (Scorpene Submarine), Project 75 (10th Mar, 21)
   85. India’s first conjugate vaccine to treat pneumonia
       * Recently launched by Health Minister Harsh Vardhan on Dec 2020
       * Pneumosil by SII and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
       * Every year 1.4 Billion children less than 5 years die from this
       * World Pneumonia Day – 12th Nov (since 2009)
       * Acc. to WHO, this disease is the reason for maximum deaths of small children.
   86. Men’s Hockey World Cup 2023 – Rourkela, Odisha, India
       * International Hockey Federation
         1. Estd 1924
         2. HQ (Laussanne, Switzerland)
         3. Head – Dr. Narendra Dhruv Batra
   87. 2021 IPL
       * 13th Edition
       * Sponsor – VIVO
       * Location – UAE
       * MI(20 Cr) won from Delhi (12.5 Cr)
       * MI has won 5 times
   88. India’s largest kidney dialysis hospital has been inaugurated in 🡪 Delhi
   89. Highest number of airports – Uttar Pradesh
       * 8th most recent – Khushinagar (Buddha’s death)
       * Lucknow, Varanasi