



pravahini

Monthly Compendium

SUCCESS MANTRA (GTB Nagar)

PREFACE

It gives us great pleasure to release the monthly edition of the PRAVAHINI – Monthly e-Compendium & Weekly e-Periodicals of Current Affairs. The magazine's members have shown considerable cooperation as well as devotion. We at successmantra.in work tirelessly to create this magazine and bring it to you with a great sense of gratitude.

The PRAVAHINI May-2022 eBook covers the current events that happened in the month of May. Current Affairs is a crucial component of any competitive exams including CLAT, AILET, DU-LLB, HM, CAT, IAS, PCS, SSC, Banking, MBA and various other competitive examinations.

Current Affairs play the bigger role in many competitive and government exams. It holds the power of making or breaking your chance of success. Therefore, the candidates should cover the Current Affairs thoroughly and smartly.

The PRAVAHINI May-2022 eBook is divided into different sections keeping in mind the need of various exams. The sections covered namely International, National, Economy, Ecology and Environment, Science & Technology, Legal Affairs, Sports, States News Makers and few others.

We would also be pleased to receive any suggestion that could assist us with the upcoming editions.

Success Mantra (GTB Nagar, Delhi)

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Our Goal

Our goal at Success Mantra is to provide Quality education at rational price and thereby to create an environment that guides students towards the path of the success. Along with designing the curriculum and delivering the lectures, we work upon the ways the students think and approach problems asked.

B.S. Shanti



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MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS

MAY 2022



MISCELLANEOUS

#WORLD PRESS FREEDOM INDEX

- The **2022 edition of the World Press Freedom Index** has been published by the Reporters without Borders (RSF) assessing the state of journalism in 180 countries and territories.
- The World Press Freedom Index 2022 has highlighted the disastrous effects of news and information chaos and the effect of unregulated online information space that encourages fake news and propaganda.
- India on World Press Freedom Index 2022 has plummeted down to 150th rank with Pakistan at 157th.**
- The lack of press freedom in the Middle East countries has also continued to impact the conflict between Israel which is at 86th and Palestine at 170th.
- The situation has been classified as very bad in a **record number of 28 countries in World Press Freedom Index 2022.**
- On World Press Freedom Index 2022, the trio of Nordic countries has grabbed a top position with Norway at first place followed by Denmark and Sweden. On the other hand, the top 10 countries below the press freedom index include **nations such as China, North Korea, Iran, Cuba, and Myanmar.**



World Press Freedom Day 2022

- World Press Freedom Day is observed every year on May 3 as a reminder to the governments of the need to respect their commitments to press freedom. World Press Freedom Day 2022 is also a reflection among media professionals on the issues of press freedom and professional ethics.
- World Press Freedom Day** is a day of support for media that are targets for abolition, and restraint of press freedom and is a day of remembrance of those journalists who lost their lives in the pursuit of a story.

World Press Freedom Index 2022 India Rank

- India's rank on the World Press Freedom Index 2022 has plummeted to 150 from 142 on the index last year.**
- In 2021, India continued to be counted as among the countries which are classified as bad for journalism and were also termed as **one of the most dangerous countries for the journalists trying to do their jobs properly.**
- However, in 2022, **the country has gone down further in the press freedom index indicating the deteriorating situation of the press in the country.**

World Press Freedom Index 2022 List: Top 10 countries on press freedom index

Rank	Countries
1.	Norway
2.	Denmark
3.	Sweden
4.	Estonia

5.	Finland
6.	Ireland
7.	Portugal
8.	Costa Rica
9.	Lithuania
10.	Liechtenstein

World Press Freedom Index 2022: List of countries with lowest ranks on press freedom index

Rank	Countries
171	Syria
172	Iraq
173	Cuba
174	Vietnam
175	China
176	Myanmar
177	Turkmenistan
178	Iran
179	Eritrea
180	North Korea

What about the Performance of India?

- **About:** India has **fallen eight places from 142nd to 150th in the 2022** among the 180 countries.
- India's position **has been consistently falling in the index since 2016** when it was ranked 133.
- The reasons behind fall in ranking are the **increased "violence against journalists"** and a **"politically partisan media"**.

Reasons behind the Fall in Ranking of India:

- **Pressure from Government:** According to the index the **media in India, among nations reputed to be more democratic**, faces pressure from **"increasingly authoritarian and/or nationalist governments"**.
- **Faults in Policy Framework:** Although the **policy framework is protective in theory**, it resorts to using **defamation, sedition, contempt of court**, and endangering national security against journalists critical of the government, branding them as "anti-national."
- **India is World's Most Dangerous Countries for Mediapersons:** According to the report, **India is also one of the world's most dangerous countries for mediapersons**.
- Journalists are **exposed to all kinds of physical violence** including police violence, ambushes by political activists, and deadly reprisals by criminal groups or corrupt local officials.
- **On Kashmir Issue:** The situation in Kashmir remains "worrisome" and reporters are often harassed by police and paramilitaries.

What about the Freedom of Press in India?

- The Constitution, the supreme law of the land, guarantees **freedom of speech and expression under Article 19**, which deals with 'Protection of certain rights regarding freedom of speech, etc.
- Freedom of press is not expressly protected by the **Indian legal system** but it is impliedly protected under **article 19(1) (a) of the constitution**, which states - "All citizens shall have the right to freedom of speech and expression".

- In 1950, the Supreme Court in **Romesh Thappar v. State of Madras** observed that freedom of the press lay at the foundation of all democratic organisations.
- However, **Freedom of press is also not absolute**. It faces certain restrictions under **Article 19(2)**, which are as follows-
- Matters related to interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality or in relation to contempt of court, defamation or incitement to an offence.

#STATE OF THE WORLD'S FOREST REPORT

- The **2022 edition of The State of the World's Forests (SOFO)**, released on day one of the World Forestry Congress, 2022 (May 2, 2022).
- "The State of the World's Forests" (SOFO) is the flagship publication of the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**, published every two years.
- FAO is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) that leads international efforts to defeat hunger and improve nutrition and food security.



What is the report about?

- "The **State of the World's Forests**" (SOFO) report presents an analysis of the interaction between forests and people, with a focus on a specific pertinent topic.
- It explains the importance of forests to the global economy and biodiversity. **The report is regarded as one of the most important stocktakes on forest ecosystems.**
- What are the observations of the report?
- The world has lost 420 million hectares (mha), approximately 10.34% of its total forest area in the last 30 years (between 1990 and 2020) due to deforestation.
- Though the rate of deforestation was declining, 10 mha of forests were lost every year between 2015 and 2020. This poses severe risks for the **68% of mammal species, 75% of bird species, and 80% of amphibian species that inhabit forests.**
- Forest biodiversity remains under threat from deforestation and forest degradation.
- **How much area is covered by the forests globally?**
- Forests cover 4.06 billion ha (31%) of the earth's geographical area.

What did the report say about infectious diseases?

- The report stated that 30% of new diseases, **reported since 1960, can be attributed to deforestation and land-use change.**
- Deforestation, particularly in the tropics, has been associated with an increase in infectious diseases such as dengue fever and malaria.
- More responsible **land-use planning to address the "underlying drivers of disease emergence"**.

What did the report say about India and China?

- India and China could emerge as the biggest hotspots for new zoonotic viral diseases over the next few decades if human pressure on forests continues to increase. Due to increasing human-wildlife interactions, infectious diseases can easily spread to humans.
- **What are zoonotic diseases?**
- A zoonosis is an infectious disease that can be transmitted naturally from a non-human animal to humans.
- Zoonotic diseases are caused by **harmful germs like viruses, bacteria, parasites, and fungi**.
- Examples of Zoonotic diseases **include anthrax (from sheep) rabies (from rodents and other mammals) West Nile virus (from birds).**

What are the suggestions given in the report?

- The report suggested three interrelated pathways to achieve green recovery and tackle environmental crises:
 - Halting deforestation and maintaining forests
 - Restoring degraded lands and expanding agroforestry
 - Sustainably using forests and building green value chains.
- **What is Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use?**
- It is the declaration pledged by **more than 140 countries to eliminate forest loss by 2030 and to support restoration and sustainable forestry.**
- To this end, an additional \$19 billion has been allocated to help developing countries achieve these objectives.

#2022 TEMPLETON PRIZE AWARDED TO FRANK WILCZEK

- The 2022 Templeton Prize was awarded to Frank Wilczek, a theoretical physicist who had won the Nobel Prize, author, and professor at the Arizona State University. His works on nature's fundamental laws have transformed the understanding of the forces that govern the universe.
- He has become the 6th Nobel laureate who has received the **Templeton Prize**.
- In the year 2004, he won the **Nobel Prize in Physics** along with H. David Politzer and David Gross. They won the prize for discovering asymptotic freedom in the strong interaction theory.
- **What are some important publications of Wilczek?**
 - 2021- "Fundamentals: Ten Keys to Reality Fundamentals"
 - 2008- "The Lightness of Being"



What is the Templeton Prize?

- This is an award given annually to a person who is living and whose meritorious achievements advance the

philanthropic vision of Sir John Templeton which is to harness the power of science with the aim of understanding the deepest questions regarding the universe and humankind.

- In the year 1972. This prize was **established, administered, and funded by John Templeton.**
- Currently, this prize is co-funded by the John Templeton Foundation, Templeton World Charity Foundation, and Templeton Religion Trust.
- This prize is currently administered by the John Templeton Foundation. This prize was originally awarded to the people who are working in the area of religion **but in the 1980s the field was expanded to include people working at the intersection of religion and science.**
- The first recipient of the **Templeton Prize was Mother Teresa in the year 1973.**

#RELATED: NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSICS 2021

The 2021 Nobel Prize in Physics is awarded with **one half jointly to Syukuro Manabe, Klaus Hasselmann and the other half to Giorgio Parisi** “for groundbreaking contributions to our understanding of complex physical systems.”

- This is the **first time climate scientists** (Manabe and Hasselmann) have been awarded the Physics Nobel. Last year, the award was given for the **research into black holes.**
- The **Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2021** has already been announced.

Manabe and Hasselmann:

- Awarded for work in **physical modelling of Earth's climate**, quantifying variability and reliably predicting **global warming.**
- Demonstrated how **increases in the amount of carbon dioxide** in the atmosphere would **increase global temperatures**, laying the foundations for current climate models.

Parisi:

- Awarded for “**the discovery of the interplay of disorder and fluctuations in physical systems** from atomic to planetary scales.”
- He “**built a deep physical and mathematical model**” that made it possible to understand complex systems in fields such as mathematics, biology, neuroscience and machine learning.

Climate Science and Nobel Prize Recognition:

- The **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) had won the Peace Nobel in 2007**, an acknowledgement of its efforts in creating awareness for the fight against climate change.
- A **Chemistry Nobel to Paul Crutzen in 1995, for his work on the ozone layer**, is considered the only other time someone from atmospheric sciences has won this honour.

#CONSERVATION OF ELEPHANT: PROJECT ELEPHANT

At the 16th Steering Committee meeting of **Project Elephant**, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change launched a **field manual named-Field Manual for Managing Human-Elephant Conflicts (HEC) in India** to guide forest staffers dealing with HEC in major elephant range states.



- The manual has been prepared by the ministry, along with the **Wildlife Institute of India (WWI)** and **World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF India)**.
- It contains the detailed best practices of **minimizing human-elephant conflict**.
- It is drafted with the **aim of providing forest officials/departments and other stakeholders with guidance towards interventions to help mitigate Human Elephant Conflict**, both in emergencies and when conflict poses a recurring challenge.

What are the Key Points Related to Elephants?

- **Current Data on Elephants in India:**
- India is home to approximately around **27,000 Asian Elephants**, which is the world's largest population of the species.
- As per Elephant Census (2017), **Karnataka has the highest number of elephants (6,049)**, followed by Assam (5,719) and Kerala (3,054).
- **Asian Elephants:**
- There are **three subspecies of Asian elephant** which are the **Indian, Sumatran and Sri Lankan**.
- The Indian subspecies has the widest range and accounts for most of the remaining elephants on the continent.
- The **elephant herd is led by the oldest and largest female member** (known as the matriarch). This herd includes the daughters of the matriarch and their offspring.
- Elephants have the **longest-known gestational (pregnancy) period** of all mammals, lasting up to **680 days (22 months)**.
- **Females between 14 - 45 years may give birth to calves** approximately every four years with the mean interbirth intervals increasing to five years by age 52 and six years by age 60.
- **African Elephants:**
- There are **two subspecies** of African elephants, the **Savanna (or bush) elephant and the Forest elephant**.
- Earlier in July 2020, **Botswana (Africa) witnessed the death of hundreds of elephants**.

What are the Steps Taken for Conservation?

- Plans and programmes to **arrest their poachers and killers**.
- Declaration and **establishment of various elephant reserves** across the states. For example, Mysuru and Dandeli elephant reserves in Karnataka.
- **Cleaning areas from lantana and eupatorium (invasive species)** as they prevent the growth of grass for elephants to feed on.

- **Barricades** to prevent man-elephant conflicts.
- Measures for **establishment of a cell to study forest fire** prevention.
- **Gaj Yatra** which is a **nationwide awareness campaign** to celebrate elephants and highlights the necessity of securing elephant corridors.
- The **Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) programme**, launched in 2003, is an international collaboration that tracks trends in information related to the illegal killing of elephants from across Africa and Asia, to monitor effectiveness of field conservation efforts.

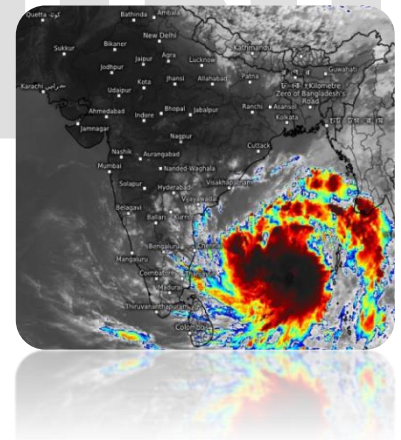
Project Elephant:

- **It is a centrally sponsored scheme and was launched in February 1992 for the protection of elephants, their habitats and corridors.**
- **The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** provides financial and technical support to major elephant range states **in the country through the project.**
- **Even mahouts (people who work with, ride and tend to elephants) and their families play an important part in the welfare of elephants.**
- **Recently, the Supreme Court (SC) upheld the 2011 order of the Madras High Court (HC) on the Nilgiris elephant corridor, affirming the right of passage of the animals and the closure of resorts in the area.**

#CYCLONE ASANI TO INTENSIFY OVER BAY OF BENGAL

The **India Meteorological Department** has predicted the **Cyclone Asani** to intensify into a '**severe cyclone**' over Southeast regions of Bay of Bengal.

- The name **Cyclone Asani** has been given by **Sri Lanka**. It means 'wrath' in Sinhalese.
- Cyclones that Hit India in 2020-21: **Tauktae, Yaas, Nisarga, Amphan.**



What is the Occurrence of Cyclones in India?

- **India has a bi-annual cyclone season that occurs between March to May and October to December.** But on rare occasions, cyclones do occur in June and September months.
- Cyclone Gulab became the third cyclone of the 21st century to make **landfall over the east coast in September, after tropical cyclone Daye in 2018 and Pyarr in 2005.**
- Typically, **tropical cyclones in the North Indian Ocean region** (Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea) develop during the **pre-monsoon** (April to June) and post-monsoon (October to December) periods.
- **May-June and October-November** is known to produce cyclones of severe intensity that affect the Indian coasts.

What are the Tropical Cyclones?

- A **tropical cyclone** is an intense circular storm that originates over warm tropical oceans and is characterized by low atmospheric pressure, high winds, and heavy rain. A **characteristic feature of tropical cyclones is the eye**, a central region of clear skies, warm temperatures, and low atmospheric pressure.
- Storms of this type are called **hurricanes in the North Atlantic and eastern Pacific** and **typhoons in SouthEast Asia and China.**

- They are called **tropical cyclones in the southwest Pacific and Indian Ocean region and Willy-willies in north-western Australia.**

#RELATED: WHAT ARE HEATWAVES

- Since March 2022, the consecutive **heatwaves over South Asia have continued the disturbing tradition of breaking historical temperature records.**
- A heatwave is a period of **abnormally high temperatures**, more than the normal maximum temperature that occurs during the summer season in the North-Western and South Central parts of India.
- Heatwaves typically occur between March and June, and in some rare cases even **extend till July.**
- **India Meteorological Department** classifies heatwaves according to regions and their temperature ranges.

What is the Criteria for Heatwaves?

- The heatwave is considered when the maximum temperature of a station reaches **at least 40°C for Plains and at least 30°C for Hilly regions.**
- If the normal maximum temperature of a station is less than or equal to 40°C, then an increase of 5°C to 6°C from the **normal temperature is considered to be heat wave condition.**
- Further, an increase of 7°C or more from the normal temperature is considered a **severe heat wave condition.**
- If the normal maximum temperature of a station is more than 40°C, then an increase of **4°C to 5°C from the normal temperature** is considered to be heat wave condition. Further, an increase of 6°C or more is considered a severe heat wave condition.
- Additionally, if the **actual maximum temperature remains 45°C or more** irrespective of normal maximum temperature, a heat wave is declared.

What is the Wet Bulb Temperature?

- Wet bulb temperature is the **lowest temperature to which air can be cooled** by the evaporation of water into the air at a constant pressure.
- WBT is a limit that **considers heat and humidity beyond which humans can not tolerate** high temperatures.
- The Wet Bulb temperature is the **temperature of adiabatic saturation.** This is the temperature indicated by a moistened thermometer bulb exposed to the air flow.
- An adiabatic process is one in which **no heat is gained or lost by the system.**
- Wet Bulb temperature can be **measured by using a thermometer with the bulb wrapped in wet muslin.**
- The adiabatic evaporation of water from the thermometer and the cooling effect is indicated by a **"wet bulb temperature" lower than the "dry bulb temperature"** in the air.
- The rate of evaporation from the wet bandage on the bulb, and the temperature difference between the dry bulb and wet bulb, **depending on the humidity of the air.**
- The evaporation is reduced when the air contains more **water vapour.**
- The wet bulb temperature is always lower than the dry bulb temperature but will be **identical with 100% relative humidity** (the air is at the saturation line).

#GLOBAL REPORT ON FOOD CRISES

Recently, an annual report named Global Report on Food Crises 2022 was launched by the **Global Network against Food Crises (GNAFC)**.

- The report is the **flagship publication of the GNAFC** and is facilitated by the **Food Security Information Network (FSIN)**.

What is Food Security Information Network?

- FSIN is a **global initiative co-sponsored by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP) and International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)** to strengthen food and nutrition security information systems for producing reliable and accurate data to guide analysis and decision-making
- **What is GNAFC?**
- It was Founded by the **European Union, FAO and WFP** in 2016.
- It is an **alliance of humanitarian and development actors** working together to prevent, prepare for and respond to food crises and support the **Sustainable Development Goal to End Hunger (SDG 2)**.

State of Food Insecurity in India?

- According to the **State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) report, 2021** India, the **country with the largest stock of grain in the world**, 120 million tonnes (as of 1st July 2021) accounts for a **quarter of the world's food-insecure population**. Estimates show that, in 2020, over 237 crore people were grappling with food insecurity globally, an increase of about 32 crores from 2019.
- **South Asia alone accounts for 36%** of global food insecurity.

Government Interventions

- **Eat Right India Movement:** An outreach activity organised by the **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** for citizens to nudge them towards eating right.
- **POSHAN Abhiyan:** Launched by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development** in 2018, it targets to reduce stunting, undernutrition, anaemia (among young children, women and adolescent girls).
- **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana:** A **centrally sponsored scheme** executed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, is a maternity benefit programme being implemented in all districts of the country with effect from 1st January, 2017.
- **Food Fortification:** Food Fortification or Food Enrichment is the addition of key vitamins and minerals such as iron, iodine, zinc, Vitamin A & D to staple foods such as rice, milk and salt to improve their nutritional content.
- **National Food Security Act, 2013:** It legally entitled up to 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population to receive subsidised food grains under the **Targeted Public Distribution System**.
- **Mission Indradhanush:** It targets children under 2 years of age and pregnant women for immunisation against 12 Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (VPD).
- **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme:** Launched in 1975, the ICDS Scheme offers a package of six services to children in the age group of 0-6 years, pregnant women and lactating mothers.

RELATED: GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX 2021

- India has **slipped to 101st position in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2021** of 116 countries, from its **2020 position of 94th**.
- Annual Report:** Jointly published by Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe.
- It was first produced in 2006. It is published every October. The 2021 edition marks the 16th edition of the GHI.
- Aim:** To comprehensively measure and track hunger at the global, regional, and country levels.
- Calculation:** It is calculated on the basis of four indicators:
 - Undernourishment**
 - Child Wasting**
 - Child Stunting**
 - Child Mortality**

Food and Agriculture Organization

- FAO is a **specialized agency of the United Nations** that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.
- World Food Day** is celebrated every year on **16th October** to mark the anniversary of the founding of the FAO in 1945.
- It is one of the UN food aid organisations **based in Rome (Italy)**. Its sister bodies are the **World Food Programme** and the **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)**.

#WORLD HEALTH DAY: 7TH APRIL

Every year 7th April marks the celebration of **World Health Day**.

- World Mental Health Day** is observed on **10th October** every year

What are the Key Highlights about World Health Day?

- Its idea was conceived at the **First Health Assembly in 1948** and it came into effect in **1950**.
- It is being celebrated today to mark the foundation of the **World Health Organization (WHO)** on 7th April 1948.
- Over the years, it has **brought to light important health issues** such as **mental health**, maternal and child care and **climate change**.
- Theme for 2022:** Our Planet, Our Health



What are Related Initiatives for the Health Sector?

- National Medical Commission (NMC) Act, 2019**
- Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana**
- Pradhan Mantri - Jan Arogya Yojana.**
- India's Health Index**
- SAMRIDH Initiative**

World Health Organization (WHO)

- World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations' specialized agency for Health was founded in 1948.

- Its **headquarters** are situated in **Geneva, Switzerland**.
- There are 194 Member States, 150 country offices, six regional offices.
- It is an inter-governmental organization and works in collaboration with its member states usually through the Ministries of Health.
- The WHO provides leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical support to countries and monitoring and assessing health trends.
- It began functioning on **April 7, 1948** – a date now being celebrated every year as **World Health Day**.

#WORLD FOOD PRIZE 2022

- The **World Food Prize** is an **award** that is given with the aim of recognizing the achievements of individuals from across the world that have helped in advancing the development of humans by improving the quantity, quality, or availability of food across the world.



Who was awarded the 2022 World Food Prize?

- **Cynthia Rosenzweig**, NASA's head of the Climate Impacts Group and a senior research scientist at **Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS)** received this year's prize from the World Food Prize Foundation on 5th May 2022.
- She received USD 250,000 along with a commemorative sculpture and a diploma.

Why was Cynthia Rosenzweig awarded?

- She received the award for her research that helped understand the relationship between food systems and climate and the forecast of how both will be changing in the future.
- Her work has provided policymakers across the globe to come up with strategies that **will help mitigate climate change and help the food systems adapt to the changing planet**.

What does this prize envision?

- This **award was conceived by Norman Borlaug, a recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize**. In the year 1986, this prize was established with the support of General Foods. The first prize was given in the year 1987.
- The prize has been envisioned as the Nobel prize in the field of agriculture and food. **The World Food Prize Foundation now awards this prize with the support from numerous sponsors.**
- In the year 1987, **the first recipient of this award was M.S. Swaminathan**.
- He was given this award for contributing to the introduction of high-yield rice and wheat varieties in India and also for starting the country's green revolution.

#WORLD FOOD PRICE INDEX BY FAO

According to the **UN Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO)**, the **World food price index** averaged 159.3 points in March, breaking an earlier record of 137.6 points scaled **11 years ago in February 2011**.

What is FAOs Food Price Index?

- It was **introduced in 1996** as a public good to help in monitoring developments in the global agricultural commodity markets.
- The **FAO Food Price Index (FFPI)** is a **measure of the monthly change** in international prices of a basket of food commodities.
- It measures changes for a basket of cereals, oilseeds, dairy products, meat and sugar.
- **Base Period:** 2014-16.

What is the Food and Agriculture Organization?

- FAO is a specialised agency of the **United Nations** that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.
- **World Food Day** is celebrated every year around the world on 16th October. The day is celebrated to mark the anniversary of the founding of the FAO in 1945.
- It is one of the UN food aid organisations based in Rome (Italy). Its sister bodies are the **World Food Programme** and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

Initiatives Taken:

- **Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS).**
- Monitors the **Desert Locust** situation throughout the world.
- The **Codex Alimentarius Commission or CAC** is the body responsible for all matters regarding the implementation of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme.
- The **International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture** was adopted by the Thirty-First Session of the Conference of the FAO in 2001.

Flagship Publications:

- The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA).
- The State of the World's Forests (SOFO).
- **The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI).**
- The State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA).
- The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets (SOCO)

#RELATED: WORLD FOOD DAY: 16TH OCTOBER

- **World Food Day** is celebrated to commemorate the establishment of the United Nation's **Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)** on **16th October 1945**.
- FAO is a **specialised agency of the United Nations** that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.

About World Food Day:

- It is observed **annually on 16th October** to address the problem of global hunger.
- It emphasises on the **Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG 2)** i.e. **Zero Hunger**.

- There has been a renewed focus on food, **nutrition**, health, immunity and sustainability due to the unprecedented challenges posed by the **Covid-19 pandemic**.

75th Anniversary of FAO:

- Over the years, FAO has **helped to increase agricultural production and eradicate hunger all over the world**, including India and has played an important role in increasing nutrition.
- **2020's Nobel Peace Prize** to the **World Food Programme** is also a major achievement for the FAO as the programme was started by FAO.
- Highlighted Indian Initiatives
- **Eat Right India** and **Fit India Movement** along with **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan**, **Jal Jeevan Mission** and other efforts will improve the health of Indians and heal the environment.
- **Introduction of 17 new biofortified varieties of crops** to overcome the shortcomings of the common variety of crops which lacks important micronutrients.
- Example: **MACS 4028 Wheat**, **MadhubanGajar**, etc.

#INDIA'S 52ND TIGER RESERVE

- The Ramgarh Vishdhari Sanctuary in Rajasthan was notified as **India's 52nd tiger reserve**.
- This has become the fourth tiger reserve in Rajasthan after Ranthambore, Sariska and Mukundra.
- The **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** had on July 5, 2021 given its in-principle approval to notify Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary and adjoining areas as a Tiger reserve.

Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve

- The **Ramgarh Vishdhari Sanctuary includes** the tiger habitat between **Ranthambore Tiger Reserve** in the northeast and Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve on the southern side.



- The reserve has been called 'critical' by wildlife experts and conservationists for the **movement of Tigers**

between Ranthambore and Mukundra reserves.

- Apart from Tigers, the reserve is also home to other animals including **leopard, nilgai, Indian wolf, striped hyena, sloth bear, golden jackal, chinkara and fox.**
- The **Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve** will span across an area of 1,501.89 sq km.
- **Ramgarh Vishadhri reserve** is located mostly in the Bundi district and in part in Bhilwara and Kota districts.

Tigers in India

- As per the "**Status of Tigers in India**" report released in 2019, there are around 2,967 tigers in 20 states across the country.
- **What happens when an area gets notified as a wildlife reserve?**
- When an area gets notified as a **wildlife reserve, it is protected by law.**

Background

- The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) had given in-principle' approval for marking Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary and adjoining areas as a tiger reserve on July 5, 2021 under Section 38 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- Following the approval, an expert committee was constituted by the **State Government for the identification of Critical Tiger Habitat (Core) and Buffer Area of Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve.**
- The committee submitted its report to the state government on January 24, 2022 for the determination of the core and buffer area of Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve.

National Tiger Conservation Authority

- National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) is a **statutory body** under the **Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.**
- It was established in **2005** following the recommendations of the Tiger Task Force.
- It was constituted under enabling provisions of the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**, as amended in 2006, for strengthening tiger conservation, as per powers and functions assigned to it.

Project Tiger

- **Project Tiger** is an ongoing **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change providing **central assistance to the tiger States for tiger conservation** in designated tiger reserves.
- India now has as many as **2,967 tigers** in the wild, with more than half of them in **Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka**, according to the latest tiger estimation report for 2018.
- The population of tigers has **increased by 33%** since the last census in 2014 when the total estimate was 2,226.
- World Wildlife Day has been **celebrated every year** on the **3rd of March since 2013.**
- The date chosen coincides with the day of the **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)** which was signed in 1973.
- The **UNGA (General Assembly) resolution** also designated the **CITES Secretariat** as the facilitator for the global observance of this special day for wildlife on the **UN (United Nations)** calendar.

What is the theme of 2022?

- Theme: **Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration.**
- This theme is chosen as a way to draw attention to the conservation status of some of the most critically endangered species of wild fauna and flora.
- **Constitutional Provisions for Wildlife:**
- The **42nd Amendment Act**, 1976, Forests and Protection of Wild Animals and Birds was transferred from State to Concurrent List.
- **Article 51 A (g)** of the Constitution states that it shall be the **fundamental duty** of every citizen to protect and improve the natural environment including forests and Wildlife.
- **Article 48 A** in the **Directive Principles of State policy**, mandates that the State shall endeavor to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country.
- **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:** The Act was enacted for the protection of plants and animal species.
- It extends to the whole of India except the State of Jammu and Kashmir.
- Prior to this legislation, India had only five designated national parks.
- At present, there are 101 National Parks in India.

#INDIAN MEN'S BADMINTON TEAM CREATED HISTORY

Recently, India's men's badminton team won the Thomas Cup title for the **first time ever**.

- India has **defeated the 14-time champions Indonesia**.
- The tournament was **held in Bangkok (Thailand)**.



What is Thomas Cup?

- **Related Field:** Thomas Cup, trophy signifies the **world supremacy in the sport of badminton**.
- It is a **16-nation** team event.
- **Background & Managed By:** The cup was donated in 1939 by Sir George Thomas for a series of men's international team competitions to be managed by the **International Badminton Federation (IBF)**, of which Thomas was then president.
- **First Tournament:** The first tournament was held in **1948-49 and won by Malaya**.
- **Thomas and Uber Cup is the biennial international badminton** championship contested by the men and women's national teams.
- **India's Win:** In the tournament's seven-decade-long history, the championship title has changed hands only among five nations - China, Malaysia, Indonesia, Japan and Denmark.
- With its win, India became only the sixth country ever to break into this elite club.

#INTERNATIONAL BOOKER PRIZE 2022

'**Tomb of Sand**', has become **the first book written in an Indian language to be awarded the International Booker Prize**.

- Originally published in Hindi as Ret Samadhi, the book is written by Author Geetanjali Shree and translated into English by Daisy Rockwell.
- The book narrates the story of an 80-year-old woman who experiences a deep depression after the death of her husband.
- Eventually, she overcomes her depression and decides to visit Pakistan to finally confront the past that she left behind during the Partition.



What is the International Booker Prize?

- The International Booker Prize is **awarded annually for a single book, translated into English and published in the UK or Ireland.**
- The International Booker Prize **began life in 2005 as the Man Booker International Prize.**
- This prize aims to encourage more reading of quality fiction from all over the world and has already had an impact on those statistics in the UK.
- The vital work of translators is celebrated, with the **£50,000 prize money divided equally between the author and translator.**
- Each shortlisted author and translator also receives £2,500.
- Novels and collections of short stories are both eligible.

#PRESIDENT CONFERRED GALLANTRY AWARDS

Recently, President conferred **thirteen Shaurya Chakras**, including six posthumous, to the personnel of Armed Forces during Defence Investiture Ceremony (Phase-1).

- The President also conferred Param Vishisht Seva Medals, Uttam Yudh Seva Medals and Ati Vishisht Seva Medals for distinguished service of exceptional order.



What are the Gallantry Awards in India?

- Post-Independence, **first three gallantry awards namely Param Vir Chakra**, Maha Vir Chakra and Vir Chakra were instituted by the government of India on 26th January, 1950 which were deemed to have effect from 15th August, 1947.
- Thereafter, other **three gallantry awards** — the Ashoka Chakra Class-I, the Ashoka Chakra Class-II and the Ashoka Chakra Class-III — were instituted in 1952, which were deemed to have effect from 15th August, 1947.
- These awards were renamed as **Ashoka Chakra**, **Kirti Chakra** and **Shaurya Chakra** respectively in January 1967.
- Order of precedence of these awards is the Param Vir Chakra, the Ashoka Chakra, the Mahavir Chakra, the Kirti Chakra, the Vir Chakra and the Shaurya Chakra.

Who is Eligible for the Awards?

- All officers of all ranks of the **Army, Navy and the Air Force** or of any of the reserve forces, territorial army and any other lawfully constituted armed forces.
- In addition to the above-mentioned personnel, matrons, sisters, nurses, alongside the staff of the nursing services and other services pertaining to hospitals and nursing and civilians, both male and females,

serving regularly or temporarily under the orders, directions or supervision of any of the above-mentioned forces.

What is Wartime Highest Gallantry Awards?

- **Param Vir Chakra:** It is **India's highest military decoration** awarded for displaying distinguished acts of valor during wartime whether on land, at sea or in the air.
- **Maha Vir Chakra:** It is the **second highest gallantry award** for acts of conspicuous gallantry in the presence of the enemy whether on land, at sea or in the air.
- **Vir Chakra:** It is the **country's third-highest wartime gallantry award** after Param Vir Chakra and Maha Vir Chakra.

What are Peacetime Highest Gallantry Awards?

- **Ashoka Chakra:** It is the **highest military award** during peacetime for valor, courageous action or sacrifice.
- It is **awarded for most conspicuous bravery** or some act of daring or pre-eminent act of valor or self-sacrifice otherwise than in the face of the enemy.
- **Kirti Chakra:** It is the **second highest peacetime gallantry award** and is awarded for valor, courageous action or self-sacrifice away from the field of battle.
- **Shaurya Chakra:** It is **awarded to the personnel of the armed forces** for instances of extraordinary gallantry.

#RELATED: CDS GENERAL BIPIN RAWAT PASSED AWAY

- **CDS General Bipin Rawat** and his wife Madhulika Rawat passed away in a tragic crash of the Indian Airforce Helicopter Mi-17V5 in Coonoor, Tamil Nadu on December 8, 2021.
- There were a total of 14 people on board the ill-fated military chopper among whom 13 have been confirmed dead. CDS General Bipin Rawat was scheduled to address the faculty and students of the **Defence Services Staff College, Wellington**.
- **General Bipin Rawat had taken charge as India's first-ever Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) on January 1, 2020.** He served as the **principal military advisor** to the Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
- He had assumed the office of CDS after he retired as Army Chief on December 31, 2019. The Chief of Defence Staff is an important post that was created for the first time.
- **The Chief of Defence Staff**, a four-star General, is also the head of the new Department of Military Affairs, whose responsibility is to ensure unity in training, logistics and procurement of the three armed services. With the tragic demise of serving CDS General Bipin Rawat, the government will be forced to name the next Chief of Defence Staff in these most unfortunate circumstances.



Chief of Defence Staff Post -Objective

- The **Chief of Defence Staff post** was created to ensure jointness and synergy between the three defence services of India and optimum utilisation of the allocated budget.

Chief of Defence Staff post: Key Details

- **Term:** The tenure of the Chief of Defence Staff will be maximum up to the **age of 65 years**. The defence ministry amended the army, air force and navy rules to bring in the new clause that relaxes the age limit.
- As per the existing rules, the maximum term of the **Army Chief is three years or the retirement age of 62 years**, whichever is earlier. General Bipin Rawat, who is yet to reach 62 years of age, is retiring as he has completed his three years as Army Chief.

Role of Chief of Defence Staff

- The Chief of Defence Staff will be responsible for the administration of all three armed services including the **army, navy and the air force**. The main command of the services will be, however, with the respective Chief of the service.
- The CDS will be the **principal military adviser to the Union Defence Minister** but the chiefs of all three services will also continue to advise the minister on matters exclusively concerning their services.
- The **Chief of Defence Staff** will be senior to the three services' chiefs but he will not have the authority to exercise any military command, including over the three service chiefs. The key role of the CDS will be to ensure optimum utilisation of allocated budget, synergy in the procurement of weapons, training and operation of the three services through joint planning.
- The CDS will form the **overall defence acquisition plan for the tri-services**.
- The **Chief of Defence Staff** will also serve as the head of the newly formed cyber and space agencies and the tri-service agency of Special Forces. The deployment of the Special Forces will, however, be decided by the ground commanders.
- The CDS will also head the headquarters of the Integrated Defence Staff, which comprises representatives from the three services. The Chief of the Integrated Defence Staff, who currently **heads the tri-services organization, will now be known as Deputy CDS and come under the authority of the CDS**
- All tri-services institutions will also come under the authority of the Chief of Defence Staff. The main role of the CDS will be to ensure coordination in joint operations. He will not have any operational role and military command.
- Further, the Chief of Defence Staff will also hold the post of **permanent chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee**.
- The CDS will also not be eligible to hold a government office after retiring from the post.

#NATIONAL DENGUE DAY OBSERVED ON 16TH MAY

- **National Dengue Day** is observed in India every year on May 16 to create awareness about Dengue as well as to intensify the preventive measures and preparedness for the control of viral disease before the transmission season starts in India.
- Dengue Day 2022 is also significant in making people aware about the facts of the viral disease which is caused by the **Dengue virus (DENV, 1-4 serotypes)**.
- National Dengue Day 2022 in India is an initiative by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** that has been working towards the prevention and control of viral fever in various states in the country.



- Maximum number of dengue cases in 2017 was reported from **Tamil Nadu** followed by **Kerala, Karnataka, Punjab, West Bengal and other states**.

Dengue Day 2022

- Dengue Day is observed in India every year on **May 16** to spread awareness about the **vector-borne disease and its preventive methods**.
- **Dengue fever has continued to be a worldwide** and regional danger which further imposes public health burden on all the communities despite the advancement in medical and scientific field.

Dengue:

- Dengue is a **mosquito-borne tropical disease** caused by the **dengue virus (Genus Flavivirus)**, transmitted by several species of mosquito within the **genus Aedes**, principally **Aedes aegypti**.
- This mosquito also transmits **chikungunya, yellow fever** and **Zika infection**.
- There are 4 distinct, but closely related, serotypes (separate groups within a species of microorganisms that all share a similar characteristic) of the virus that cause dengue (**DEN-1, DEN-2, DEN-3 and DEN-4**).

Other Mosquito borne – diseases

Zika Virus

- Zika virus is a **mosquito-borne flavivirus** that was **first identified in Uganda in 1947** in **monkeys**.
- It was later **identified in humans in 1952 in Uganda** and the United Republic of Tanzania. Outbreaks of Zika virus disease have been recorded in Africa, the Americas, Asia, and the Pacific.
- Zika virus disease is caused by a **virus transmitted primarily by Aedes mosquitoes** and can be passed from a pregnant woman to her foetus.
- **Sexual transmission of Zika virus** is also possible.
- There is **no vaccine** or medicine for Zika. Instead, the focus is on relieving symptoms and includes rest, rehydration and acetaminophen for fever and pain.

Chikungunya

- Chikungunya is caused by a **mosquito-borne virus**.
- It is **transmitted by Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus mosquitoes**.
- Its symptoms are characterized by abrupt fever and severe joint pain, often in hands and feet, and may include headache, muscle pain, joint swelling or rash.
- There is **no specific antiviral drug treatment** for chikungunya.
- There is **no commercial chikungunya vaccine**.

#RELATED: WORLD MALARIA DAY

World Malaria Day is observed on 25th April every year to spread awareness of the global effort to control and ultimately eradicate malaria.

- World Malaria Day was first held in 2008. It was **developed from Africa Malaria Day**, which was an event that had been observed since 2001 by African governments.
- The theme 2022 is "**Harness innovation to reduce the malaria disease burden and save lives.**"

What are the Initiatives to Curb Malaria?

- The **WHO** has also identified 25 countries with the potential to eradicate malaria by 2025 under its '**E-2025 Initiative**'.
- **In India, malaria elimination efforts were initiated in 2015** and were intensified after the launch of the National Framework for Malaria Elimination (NFME) in 2016 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- NFME is in line with WHO's Global Technical Strategy for Malaria, 2016-2030, which guides the **WHO Global Malaria Programme (GMP)**, responsible for coordinating WHO's global efforts to control and eliminate malaria.
- The **National Strategic Plan for Malaria Elimination (2017-22)** was launched in July 2017 which laid down strategies for the following five years.
- It gives year-wise elimination targets in various parts of the country depending upon the endemicity of malaria. Implementation of the **High Burden to High Impact (HBHI) initiative** was started in four states (West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh) in July 2019.

- **Distribution of Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLINs)** to high burden areas has led to a reduction in endemicity in these otherwise very high endemic states.
- **The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** has established Malaria Elimination Research Alliance-India (MERA-India) which is a conglomeration of partners working on malaria control.

#WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY: 31ST MAY

- **World No Tobacco Day is observed every year on May 31** to raise awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco usage.
- World No Tobacco Day 2022 highlights the negative impacts of tobacco and its industry on human health and the environment. It also alerts **people about the steps that can be taken to keep themselves and their surroundings safe from tobacco.**
- World No Tobacco Day 2022 promoted by the **World Health Organization** also promotes the governments around the world to put policies into action that can help reduce smoking as well as the use of other tobacco products.
- As per the global health body, tobacco kills more than **8 million people around the world every year.**



World No Tobacco Day 2022

- **World No Tobacco Day** was created by the member states of the World Health Organisation in 1987.
- The same year, a resolution was also passed by the **World Health Assembly for the creation of a World No Smoking Day.**
- Each year, No Tobacco Day focuses on a key impact of tobacco use and tobacco day, with the objective of dissuading people from their dependence on the product. **World No Tobacco day 2022 theme is "Tobacco: Threat to Our Environment".**

What is COTPA Act in India?

- The **Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply, and Distribution) Act, 2003** or COTPA Act was enacted by the Parliament of India in 2003 to prohibit the advertisement and to provide the regulation of production, distribution, supply of cigarettes, and other tobacco products in India.
- **COTPA Act, 2003** was enacted to give effect to the resolution passed by the 39th World Health Assembly urging the member states to implement measures for providing non-smokers protection from involuntary exposure to tobacco smoke.
- Some of the provisions under the COTPA Act, 2003 include the prohibiting advertisement of tobacco products including cigarettes, the act prohibits **tobacco smoking in public places, and prohibiting selling tobacco products to a person below the age of 18 years, among others.**

5 Initiatives by Indian Government to control tobacco use

- **Cigarettes Act in 1975** in India mandated the display of health warnings in advertisements and on cartons and cigarette packages.
- COTPA Act, 2003 was enacted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in India.

- Regulation issued by the Government of India under the **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006** that **tobacco, nicotine cannot be used as ingredients in food products.**
- A 'Quit Line' toll free number introduced in 2016. **It is now available in 16 languages.**
- Government imposed 28% GST on the tobacco products.

#WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations' specialized agency for Health was founded in 1948.

- Its **headquarters** are situated in **Geneva, Switzerland.**
- There are 194 Member States, 150 country offices, six regional offices.
- It is an inter-governmental organization and works in collaboration with its member states usually through the Ministries of Health.
- It began functioning on **April 7, 1948** – a date now being celebrated every year as **World Health Day.**

Governance

- **World Health Assembly**
 - The **Health Assembly** is composed of delegates representing Members.
 - Each Member is represented by not more than three delegates, one of whom is designated by the Member as chief delegate.
 - These delegates are chosen from among persons most qualified by their technical competence in the field of health, preferably representing the **national health administration of the Member.**
 - The Health Assembly meets in **regular annual session** and sometimes in special sessions as well.

#WEF'S TRAVEL & DEVELOPMENT INDEX 2021

- In the **WEF Travel and Tourism Development Index 2021**, India has been ranked at 54th place. In 2019, India had ranked at 46th position. However, the country still topped within the South Asia region.
- This index is the **Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index's direct evolution**, having been published biennially for the last 15 years.
- In the 2021 index, **the top place has been grabbed by Japan.** The country is followed by the United States, Spain, France, and Germany respectively. The score of India in this list is 4.2.



Which are the top 10 countries on the list?

- Japan (5.2)
- United States (5.2)
- Spain (5.2)
- France (5.1)
- Germany (5.1)
- Switzerland (5.0)
- Australia (5.0)
- United Kingdom (5.0)

- Singapore (5.0)
- Italy (4.9)

What does this index highlight?

- The Travel and Tourism Development Index 2021 of the World Economic Forum comprises of 117 countries.
- This index has shown that despite various positive trends, **the tourism and travel industry is still facing hurdles and are yet to recover properly.**
- 117 countries have been assessed by this index and it has identified certain key factors for enabling resilient and sustainable growth of tourism and travel economies.
- **Due to the COVID-19 shutdowns**, this sector has faced significant hurdles, thus, their contribution to a country's economy has been limited.
- However, as the world is slowly recovering from the **effects of the pandemic**, **the countries must invest in this sector to build a resilient and strong environment for tourism and travel.**

Related Initiatives:

- Swadesh Darshan Scheme: **Under it, the Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for infrastructure development of 13 identified theme based circuits.**
- Iconic Tourist Sites: **Buddhist Sites at Bodhgaya, Ajanta & Ellora have been identified to be developed as Iconic Tourist Sites (aimed at enhancing India's soft power).**
- Buddhist Conclave: **Buddhist Conclave is organised every alternate year with the objective of promoting India as a Buddhist Destination and major markets around the globe.**
- Dekho Apna Desh' Initiative: **It was launched by the Ministry of Tourism in 2020 to encourage the citizens to travel widely within the country thus enabling the development of Domestic Tourism tourist facilities and infrastructure.**

PRASHAD Scheme:

- **Launch:** The 'National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD)' was **launched by the Ministry of Tourism in the year 2014-15** with the objective of holistic development of identified pilgrimage destinations.
- The **name of the scheme was changed** from PRASAD to "National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)" in October 2017.
- **Implementing Agency:** The projects identified under this scheme shall be implemented through the identified agencies by the respective State/ Union Territory Government.

Objective:

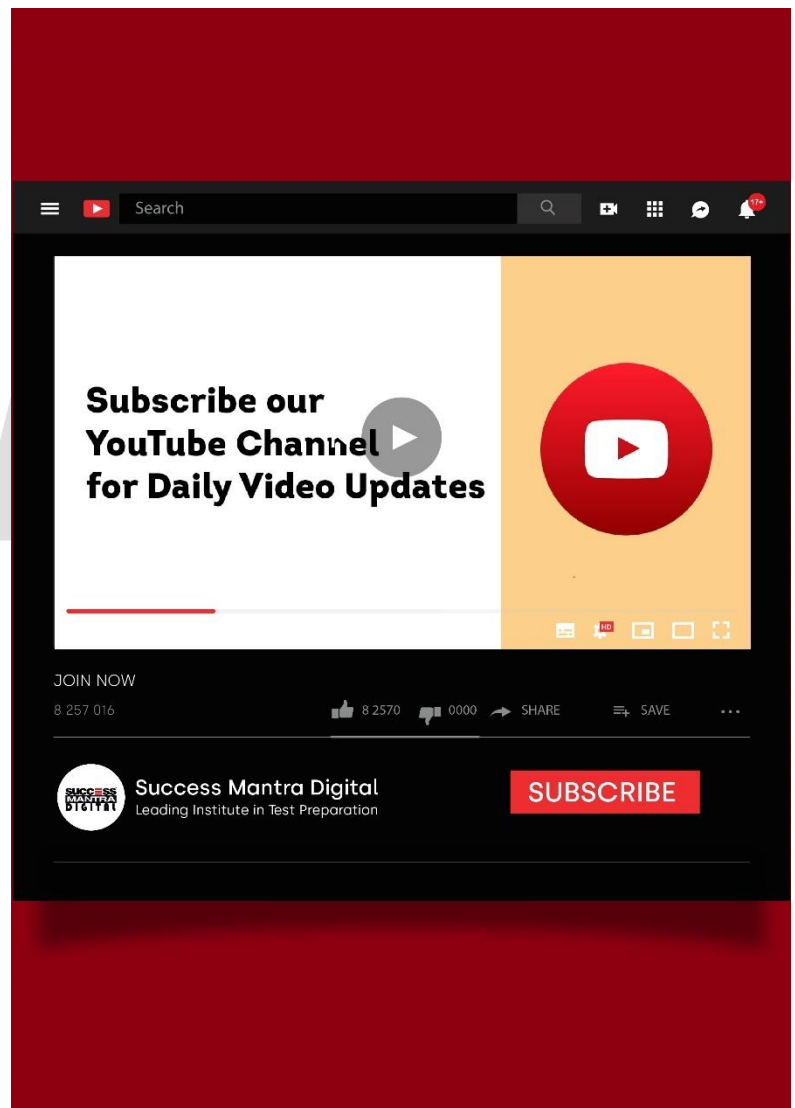
- Rejuvenation and spiritual augmentation of important national/ global pilgrimage and heritage sites.
- Follow community-based development and create awareness among the local communities.
- Integrated tourism development of heritage city, local arts, culture, handicrafts, cuisine, etc., to generate livelihood.
- Strengthen the mechanism for bridging the infrastructural gaps.

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