



# CURRENT AFFAIRS



03 MAY, 2022



## NATIONAL

### 1. IOC Pilot Project of Methanol-blended Petrol

**Why in news** - Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) rolled out M15 petrol on a pilot basis in Assam's Tinsukia district.

#### **Key Points** –

- In Assam Methanol is produced by Assam Petrochemical Ltd in the vicinity of Digboi refinery.
- Blending 15% methanol in petrol would bring down GHG emissions by 20%.
- Blending 15% methanol in petrol can result in at least a 15% reduction in the import of crude oil.
- Methanol is produced from Coal, agricultural residue, Natural Gas, Biomass, Municipal Solid Waste and CO<sub>2</sub> from thermal power plants.
- NITI Aayog is running a program called 'Methanol Economy' to promote the use of methanol.

### 2. Jute Industry

**Why in news** - West Bengal is experiencing a crisis that has led to the closure of several Jute Mills.

#### **Key Points** –

- India is the largest producer of jute followed by Bangladesh and China.
- Major jute producing states include West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Meghalaya and Tripura.
- It is known as golden fibre.
- Temperature: Between 25-35°C
- Rainfall: Around 150-250 cm
- Soil Type : Well-drained alluvial soil.

### 3. Atal New India Challenge 2.0

**Why in news** - Atal Innovation Mission launched phase 1 of the 2nd edition of the Atal

New India Challenge (ANIC 2.0).

#### **Key Points** –

- ANIC 1.0 was launched in 2018 to bring innovations and technologies relevant to the people.
- Atal New India Challenge is a flagship program of Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog.
- The 1st phase of ANIC 2.0 will see 18 challenges being thrown open from 7 sectors.

## INTERNATIONAL

### 1. Japan-Thailand defence deal

**Why in news** - The leaders of Japan and Thailand announced a new defence agreement as well as plans to upgrade their economic relations.

#### **Key Points** –

- It would facilitate the transfer of defence hardware and technology from Japan to Thailand.
- Japan is Thailand's biggest investor.
- Japan would be extending a 50 billion yen (\$385 million) loan to support Thailand's COVID mitigation efforts.
- Among ASEAN nations, only Singapore has joined sanctions against Moscow.
- Thailand Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-Ocha.
- Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida.

### 2. Apple hit with EU antitrust charge

**Why in news** - The European Commission sent a 'statement of objections' to Apple, detailing how the company had abused its dominant position in markets for mobile wallets on iOS devices.

#### **Key Points** –

- Apple blocked rivals from its popular “tap-as-you-go” iPhone payment system.
- EU regulators last year accused the company of



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distorting competition in the music streaming market following a complaint from Spotify.

- Apple's anti-competitive practices dated back to 2015 when Apple Pay was launched.
- Apple was also the main target of the EU's Digital Markets Act which intends to ensure a higher degree of competition in the European Digital Markets.

### 3. Declaration for the Future of the Internet

**Why in news** – 60 countries join hands for the open, free and secure global internet.

**Key Points** –

- It includes the US, all the EU members and 32 non-EU countries that have signed the declaration.
- It calls for an "open, free, global, interoperable, reliable and secure" internet.
- Large countries that are not part of the declaration include India, China and Russia.

## ECONOMY

### 1. India among worst-hit in pandemic

**Why in news** – According to the “Currency and Finance Report” by RBI, it will take up to 13 years (by 2034-35) for the Indian economy to fully recover from pandemic scars.

**Key Points** –

- Theme of the report - “Revive and Reconstruct”.
- The pre-Covid growth rate from 2012 to 2020 was 6.6%.
- Taking a growth rate of 8.9% for 2021-22 and assuming a growth rate of 7.2% for 2022-23 and 7.5% beyond that, India is expected to overcome Covid losses by 2034-35.
- 6.5-8.5% is the feasible range for medium-term steady state GDP growth in India.
- Output losses - Rs 19.1 lakh crore, Rs 17.1 lakh crore and Rs 16.4 lakh crore for 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 respectively.

### 2. India accounts for the largest number of real-time transactions in the world

**Why in news** - According to a report by ACI Worldwide, at 48 billion, India accounted for the largest number of real-time transactions in the world in 2021.

**Key Points** –

- It is nearly three times that of China (18 billion transactions) and 6.5 times that of the US, Canada, the UK, France and Germany combined.
- Real-time payments accounted for 31.3% of the overall payments transaction volume in India in 2021.
- India's real-time payments share of total global payments volume is expected to exceed 70% by 2026.

## SCI TECH

### 1. ICICI Bank launched 'open-for-all' for MSMEs

**Why in news** - ICICI Bank has launched a digital ecosystem for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

**Key Points** –

- Anyone can use the benefits of digital solutions on the InstaBIZ app.
- It provides sanctions of instant and paperless overdraft facility up to Rs 25 lakh through 'InstaOD Plus'.
- The bank partnered with IndiaFilings, IndiaMART, Airtel, ClearTax, Zoho Books, Global Linker, Sherlock etc.

## SPORTS

### 1. Asian Badminton Championships 2022

**Why in news** - In Asia Badminton Championships, India's P.V. Sindhu won her second Asian bronze medal.

**Key Points** –

- She lost to world No. 2 Akane Yamaguchi of Japan in the women's singles semi-finals.
- Sindhu had also clinched the bronze in 2014.
- Dinesh Khanna is the only Indian to win gold at the Asian Championships in 1965.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### 1. Ayushman Bharat Diwas 2022

**Why in news** - Ayushman Bharat Diwas was observed on April 30 as a part of gram Swaraj Abhiyan.

**Key Points** –

- Ayushman Bharat-Jan Arogya Yojna (PM-JAY) was launched by PM Modi in Ranchi, Jharkhand on September 23, 2018.

- It provides affordable healthcare facilities in the country's remotest area.
- Beneficiaries are identified on the basis of the Socio-Economic Caste Census database.
- It provides health cover of Rs 5 lakh per family every year.
- The beneficiaries of PM-JAY belong to the bottom 40 percent of the Indian population.
- It also covers the expenses of three days of pre-hospitalisation and 15 days post-hospitalisation which include costs of tests and medicines.

## SUMMITS & CONFERENCES

### 1. Semicon India conference

**Why in news** - PM Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated India's first Semicon conference in Bengaluru.

#### **Key Points** –

- It aims to make India a worldwide semiconductor hub and to nurture the chip design and manufacturing ecosystem.
- Theme - "Catalyzing India's Semiconductor Ecosystem"
- Last year government authorised a Rs 76,000-crore to expand semiconductor manufacturing in the country.

#### **About semiconductors** –

- It conducts electricity more than an insulator, such as glass, but less than a pure conductor, such as copper or aluminum.
- The bulk of semiconductor manufacturing is concentrated in Taiwan, South Korea, U.S., Japan and China.

## INDEX AND RANKING

### 1. Official Airline Guide (OAG) report

**Why in news** - According to OAG report Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport (36.11 lakh seats) emerged as the world's second busiest in March 2022.

#### **Key Points** –

- Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport (ATL) (44.22 lakh seats) retained the top position.
- Dubai International Airport (35.54 lakh seats) ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> and London's Heathrow ranked 4<sup>th</sup>.
- The top 10 busiest airport rankings by the OAG

are based on the total domestic and international seat capacity and the frequency of flights.

- In February 2022, Delhi was ranked third, behind Atlanta and Dubai.

## STATES/UTs

### 1. Maharashtra Gene Bank Project

**Why in news** - Maharashtra cabinet has approved the 'Maharashtra Gene Bank', a first-of-its-kind project in India.

#### **Key Points** –

- It aims to document native natural resources and conserve them with the help of the local community.
- The 'Maharashtra Gene Bank Project' will work on seven themes.
- An amount of ₹172.39 crores will be spent in the next five years.
- The project will be implemented by the Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board (MSBB).
- Madhav Gadgil had conceptualised the project.

## PLACES IN NEWS

### 1. Transnistria

**Why in news** - Transnistria, the tiny breakaway region of Moldova, risks being dragged into the Russia-Ukraine War.

#### **Key Points** –

- It lies between Moldova to its west and Ukraine towards its east.
- Moldovan troops attempted to take over the territory in 1990-1992 but Transnistria was able to resist them.
- It has remained free of Moldovan control. However, most countries see Transnistria as part of Moldova.



## **BIHAR**

### **1. ISKCON Temple Patna**

**Why in news** - The largest Shri Radha Banke Bihari ISKCON temple in the state has been completed in 12 years.

**Key Points** –

- This temple is located on Buddha Marg, Patna.
- It is the 60th ISKCON temple in the country.
- This temple has been built on 84 pillars on the lines of the famous and historical Dwarkadhish temple.
- The marble used in the temple is from the world famous Markana, from which the Taj Mahal has been made.
- 108 feet high temple has 84 pillars whose length and width are also 84 feet.

### **2. 'Virat Ramayana Mandir' in Bihar**

**Why in news** - Majestic Ramayana temple being built in Bihar on the lines of Rameshwaram would be completed in two and a half years.

**Key Points** –

- The concept of 'Tower of Temples' in Kaithwalia located East Champaran would be built as 'Virat Ramayana Mandir' on the lines of Rameshwar temple.
- It will have 15 shikhara (towers) with the highest being 270 feet.
- The construction of this temple is being done by Shri Mahavir Sthan Trust Committee Patna.

### **3. New flight service started from Patna Airport**

**Why in news** - The flight of the new airline 'Flybig Airlines' has started operations from Patna Airport.

**Key Points** –

- First flight by 'Flybig Airlines' have been started from Guwahati to Patna.

- This is the third direct flight service between Patna and Guwahati after Indigo and SpiceJet.
- At present, more than 50 pairs of aircraft are being operated from Patna Airport daily.

### **4. Tap water reaches 98.11% homes in Bihar**

**Why in news** - The data of the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti showed that 98.11% of the households in the state are getting drinking water supply through taps.

**Key Points** –

- Public health engineering minister Dr.Rampreet Paswan said that we have achieved 100% target.
- At present the Ministry of Jal Shakti has given the credit of achieving 100% target to the UT of Dadra and Nagar Haveli.
- Karnataka has achieved 99.47% and Meghalaya has achieved 98%.
- In Uttar Pradesh this figure is 85.46%.
- The national average for 'Har Ghar Jal' is 86.3%.

### **5. 'Navbharat Literacy Program'**

**Why in news** - New literacy scheme would be started in Bihar, Internet media will be used.

**Key Points** –

- This scheme named 'Nav Bharat Literacy Program' is centrally sponsored.60% would be spent by the central government and 40% by the state government.
- The target is to make 9 lakh 40 thousand literate of 15 years and above in the current financial year.
- Under the scheme, students of classes V and above will teach illiterate members of their families.
- The entire scheme will be implemented in online mode.



## CURRENT AFFAIRS ONE LINERS

03 MAY, 2022



**PERFECTION  
IAS**

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- What is the new name of Mian Ka Bada Railway Station of Rajasthan - **Mahesh Nagar Railway Station.**
- Who topped the Asia Pacific Head Office Rent Index - **Hong Kong.**
- Which became the first public sector bank to go live on Account Aggregator Framework - **Union Bank.**
- In which city the ambulance service for sick and injured cows was inaugurated – **Dibrugarh.**
- In which city 12 national highway projects worth Rs 8000 crore were inaugurated – **Hyderabad.**
- Which organization launched Mandate document for National Curriculum Framework - **Union Ministry of Education.**
- Which former chairman of SBI has been appointed as the new advisor to EDP Technology recently - **Rajnish Kumar.**
- Which state education board has banned 3 books of Sikh history - **Punjab School Education Board.**
- Where will the Women's T20 Challenge 2022 be organized – **Lucknow.**
- In which city the national level workshop on innovative agriculture was organized - **New Delhi.**

**NEW BATCHES FOR BPSC IS SCHEDULED ON 11<sup>th</sup> MAY 2022.**

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