

FVF **RYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS - september** **STATES**

- **Pallathuruthy boat club - has won the 68th Nehru Trophy boat race held on Punnamada lake in Alappuzha district of Kerala**









- ✓ The winning snake boat, named 'Mahadevikad Kattil Thekkethil Chundan', crossed the finishing line first, closely followed by the 'Nadubhagam Chundan' paddled by the NCDC Boat Club.
- ✓ As many as 77 boats, including 20 snake boats had participated in the race under nine categories on September 4, 2022
- ✓ The snake boat dimensions and crew are typically about 40 metres long, 1.5 metres wide, with 130 oarsmen
- ✓ This is the hattrick title victory of Pallathuruthy in the Nehru trophy
- ✓ The boat race is named after Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to commemorate his visit to Kuttanad in the year 1952, during his first tour of Kerala after independence
- ✓ The race was inaugurated by Kerala Finance Minister KN Balagopal, in the absence of its Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan
- ✓ Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar, D K Joshy was the chief guest.
- ✓ The boat race was held this year after a break of two years due to Covid-19 pandemic

NATIONAL

- **On September 6, the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) - approved Bharat Biotech's intranasal Covid vaccine 'iNCOVACC' for restricted emergency use in those aged above 18.**
 - ✓ This is India's first intra-nasal vaccine against Covid-19
 - ✓ Earlier, Hyderabad based Bharat Biotech produced India's first indigenous Covid jab, Covaxin
 - ✓ According to Bharat Biotech, its technology for the intranasal vaccine was different from that of its Chinese competitor CanSino Biologics.
 - ✓ Convidecia Air of Cansino is a booster that converts liquid vaccine into aerosol for mouth inhalation while Bharat Biotech's iNCOVACC is a primary two-dose vaccine in the form of liquid drops administered into the nostrils.
 - ✓ The iNCOVACC vaccine uses a modified chimpanzee adenovirus, which cannot replicate in the body to carry the Covid spike protein and thereby produces better immunity.
 - ✓ This vaccine candidate was evaluated in phase I, II and III clinical trials with successful results.
 - ✓ Union Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya said the vaccine has been approved for primary immunisation of those above 18 years.
- **The government – has initiated discussions on expanding the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme to more sectors, including containers, toys and bicycles.**

SOP STORY SO FAR

| SECTORS WHERE PLI SCHEME HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED | |
|--|--|
| March 2020 | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Key starting materials (KSMs)/ drug intermediates (DIs) and active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Food products  ➤ White goods (ACs & LED)  ➤ High-efficiency solar PV modules |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Large scale electronics manufacturing  ➤ Medical devices | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Automobiles & auto components  ➤ Advance chemistry cell (ACC) battery |
| November 2020 | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Electronics/ technology products  ➤ Pharmaceuticals drugs ➤ Telecom & networking products | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Textiles– MMF segment and technical textiles ➤ Specialty steel |
| Sept 2021 | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Drones and drone components  |

- ✓ The proposal to include containers has come from shipping industry, which suggested the inclusion of containers in the incentive scheme meant to promote domestic manufacturing.

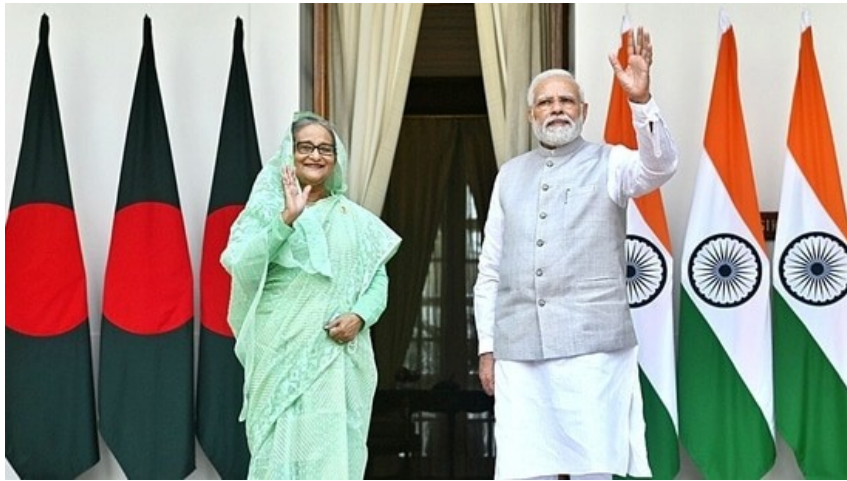
- ✓ The demand for inclusion of toys has come from industry as the government has identified it as a priority sector for reducing imports, a bulk of which are from China.
- ✓ Bicycles too are imported in large numbers from across the neighbouring countries
- ✓ The inclusion of bicycles will encourage domestic players as well as global companies to produce a better quality product for the large domestic market as well as for exports.
- ✓ While the government had discussed several sectors for PLI, it had chosen a dozen segments with an outlay of around Rs 2 lakh crore over five years.
- ✓ These include segments such as electronics, telecom, speciality steel, pharma, automobiles, drones, LED bulbs and air-conditioners.

INTERNATIONAL

- **China - has become the first country to approve a needle-free, inhaled version of a Covid-19 vaccine**
- ✓ Chinese drug regulators have approved the world's first inhalable Covid-19 vaccine Ad5-nCoV, made by Tianjin-based manufacturer CanSino Biologics.
- ✓ The National Medical Products Administration gave the go-ahead for the non-invasive vaccine named 'Convidecia Air' for emergency use as a booster.
- ✓ Its initial one-shot was found to be 66% effective in preventing Covid-19 symptoms and 91% effective against severe disease.
- ✓ The needle-free vaccine will be given through a nebulizer, which converts liquid into aerosol that can be inhaled through the mouth.
- ✓ The vaccine, which had undergone human testing in March 2020, is a new version of CanSino's one-shot Covid drug
- ✓ It has been used in China, Mexico, Pakistan, Malaysia, and Hungary after being rolled out in February 2021.
- ✓ The vaccine uses a modified cold-causing virus to expose the immune system to the coronavirus and is similar to those developed by AstraZeneca Plc and Johnson & Johnson.
- ✓ China has so far approved eight other locally manufactured injectable vaccines since 2020.

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- **On September 6, India and Bangladesh - signed seven Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) for mutual cooperation in various fields, including water resources, railways, space technology, judiciary, scientific and technological cooperation, and TV broadcasting**
- ✓ The agreements were signed in New Delhi in the presence of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his visiting Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina, who is here on a four-day state visit.



- ✓ Union minister for external affairs S Jaishankar and NSA Ajit Doval were also present during the occasion
- ✓ The signed pacts include an MoU between Prasar Bharati and Bangladesh Television on cooperation in the field of broadcasting, training of Bangladesh Railway personnel and Bangladeshi judicial officers in India and withdrawal of water from the cross-border Kushiara river
- ✓ The sharing of Kushiara river water will benefit Southern Assam in India and Sylhet region in Bangladesh
 - ✓ It is the first bilateral water sharing agreement between India and Bangladesh, since the Ganges Treaty, which was signed on December 12, 1996
- ✓ Further, the two leaders unveiled Unit-I of the Maitree super thermal power project being built at Rampal, Khulna
 - ✓ The unit was synchronised with Bangladesh's power grid in August, and the coal-fired thermal power plant project will generate 1,320MW when it is completed
 - ✓ The plant was set up at an estimated cost of approximately \$2 billion with \$1.6 billion as Indian Development Assistance under the Concessional Financing Scheme.
- ✓ They also inaugurated the 5.13-km Rupsha rail bridge, a key part of the 64.7-km Khulna-Mongla port broad gauge railway project.
 - ✓ The bridge was also being constructed with an Indian line of credit
 - ✓ It will increase rail connectivity with Mongla, Bangladesh's second largest port.
 - ✓ The bridge was built by L&T at a cost of \$169million and the total cost of the project is \$389 million
- ✓ India has provided concessional loans worth \$9.5 billion for development projects in Bangladesh, especially connectivity initiatives
- ✓ In his remarks after the meeting, PM Modi said that the two countries will soon start discussions for a free trade agreement or CEPA to further speed up growth in bilateral trade

- ✓ On September 6, Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina announced the Mujib scholarship for the direct descendants of Indian soldiers killed or grievously injured in the 1971 Bangladesh liberation war.
- ✓ The scholarships will be conferred to 200 family members of Indian Army personnel on September 7

PERSONALITIES

- **Dr Erika Patel, a gynaecologist from Chennai – became the first woman from Tamil Nadu to complete ‘Comrades’ marathon in South Africa**
- ✓ ‘Comrades’ is one of the world’s longest and oldest marathons



- ✓ It connects the cities of Durban and Pietermaritzburg on an 89-kilometer stretch
- ✓ Erika, who used to play badminton for Gujarat, began running after she moved to Chennai.
- ✓ She started training for the Comrades marathon when she was pregnant in 2019

DEFENCE

- **Russia - is holding annual military exercises ‘Vostok – 2022’ in its eastern region from September 1 to 7, with the participation of about 13 countries**



- ✓ The Indian Army contingent from 7/8 Gorkha Rifles will take part in the multilateral strategic and command exercise in the Eastern Military District of Russia, which includes part of Siberia.
- ✓ Vostok-2022 seeks to enhance interaction and coordination among participating contingents and observers.
- ✓ During the exercise, soldiers will engage in joint manoeuvres including combined field training exercises and combat discussions, as well as firepower drills that will take place at seven different locations.
- ✓ The exercise has been organized under the auspices of Russia's Eastern Military District (Theater Command) and Pacific-Fleet in Vladivostok
- ✓ The one-week-long drills have land, air and sea components.
- ✓ However, India has decided to stay away from the maritime component, as it will hurt the sensitivities of Japan
 - ✓ Japan has objected to the maritime drills as they were conducted close to its territory
 - ✓ Both India and Japan are part of the QUAD and the drills are taking place ahead of the India-Japan 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue later this month.
- ✓ The warships of the Russian Navy's Pacific Fleet and the Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) will however be participating in the maritime drill that will take place in the Sea of Japan and Sea of Okhotsk.
- ✓ It is the first time the PLA (People's Liberation Army) has sent its Army, Navy and Air Force at the same time to a joint drill with Russia
- ✓ Apart from India, China and Russia, Algeria, Laos, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Syria, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan are the other nations participating in the exercise
- ✓ A total of 50,000 troops of different militaries, 140 aircraft, 60 warships, and around 5,000 military equipment are participating in the drills.
- ✓ The US has raised concerns on the participation of other countries in the exercise.
- ✓ As many as 300,000 troops reportedly took part in the previous Exercise Vostok that took place in 2018
- ✓ Last year, India attended Exercise ZAPAD 2021 drills in Russia in which 17 countries including China and Pakistan took part.

AWARDS

- **The 64th edition of Ramon Magsaysay Awards - were announced recently.**
- ✓ The winners of the 2022 awards include Cambodian psychiatrist Sotheara Chim, Filipino child rights activist Bernadette J. Madrid, Japanese ophthalmologist Tadashi Hattori, and Indonesia-based French filmmaker and environmentalist Gary Benchehib.
- ✓ The awards will be conferred at a ceremony which will be held in Manila on 30th November 2022



- ✓ Earlier, K K Shailaja, former health minister of Kerala state, has declined the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award for 2022 based on party diktat.
- ✓ Shailaja was considered for the award for her performance as state health minister from 2016 to 2021, a period during which Kerala fought the Nipah virus and Covid-19.
- ✓ If Shailaja had accepted the award, she would have become the first woman from Kerala to receive Magsaysay
- ✓ Shailaja was selected for her commitment and service towards ensuring an accessible public health system and effectively managing the Nipah and Covid-19 outbreaks in the state.
- ✓ Another reason for Shailaja refusing the award was that it was named after Magsaysay, who was known for putting down Communist guerrillas
- ✓ Ramon Magsaysay Awards were instituted to honour “greatness of spirit in selfless service to the peoples of Asia.”
- ✓ The award, a prestigious international honor, is regarded as the Asian equivalent of the Nobel Prize.
- ✓ It is named after Ramon Magsaysay, the third president of Philippines, who died in a plane crash in March 1957
- ✓ The prize was established in April 1957 by the trustees of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund based in New York City with the concurrence of the Philippine government.
- ✓ The awards were initially given in six categories, five of which were discontinued in 2009 and the awards were given now only in ‘uncategorized’ category
- ✓ The award is given out every year on August 31, on Magsaysay’s birth anniversary.
- ✓ The first Ramon Magsaysay Awards ceremony was held on 31st August 1958.

- ✓ Prominent Indians who have won the award include Vinoba Bhave in 1958, Mother Teresa in 1962, Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay in 1966, Satyajit Ray in 1967 and Mahasweta Devi in 1997.
- ✓ In recent years, Arvind Kejriwal (2006), Anshu Gupta of Goonj (2015), human rights activist Bezwada Wilson (2016), and journalist Ravish Kumar (2019) have won the award

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies - September 7



- ✓ The day is observed every year to raise public awareness about the causes behind poor air quality and efforts needed to take action against them.
- ✓ Women, children, the elderly and poor people are substantially affected by air pollution, especially in developing countries.
- ✓ The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) hosts the day every year to raise awareness about the importance of good air quality
- ✓ In this regard, a resolution declaring September 7 as the 'International Day of Clean Air for blue skies' was approved by the Second Committee of the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on November 26, 2019.
- ✓ In the lead-up to the passing of the resolution, the Climate and Clean Air Coalition collaborated with UNEP and the Republic of Korea to advocate for the day
- ✓ The International Day of Clean Air for blue skies was observed for the first time in 2020.
- ✓ The theme for International Day of Clean Air for blue skies 2022 is 'Air We Share'

