

SSC BANKING MANTHAN

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Preface

Dear Readers,

The “Current Affairs” section is an integral part of any examination. This edition of Manthan has been developed by our team to help you cover all the important events of the month for the upcoming exams like Banking, Insurance, CLAT, MBA etc. This comprehensive bulletin will help you prepare the section in a vivid manner. We hope that our sincere efforts will serve you in a better way to fulfil aspirations.

Happy Reading!

Best Wishes

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POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

National



India-US joint military exercise ‘Yudh Abhyas’ concludes in Alaska

- The 17th edition of India-US joint exercise, Ex Yudh Abhyas 2021 has concluded at Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, Alaska. A total of 300 US Army soldiers belonging to First Squadron (Airborne) of the 40th Cavalry Regiment and 350 soldiers of the 7 Madras Infantry Battalion Group of Indian Army participated in the 14-day long exercise that ended, the ministry said in a statement.
- Indian army has said that the exercise has strengthened mutual confidence, inter-operability and enabled sharing of best practices between the two Armies. Exercise Yudh Abhyas is the largest running joint military training and defence cooperation endeavor between India and USA. It is hosted alternately between both countries.
- The joint training exercise was named ‘Ex Yudh Abhyas 2021’ The Indo-US defence ties have been on an upswing in the last few years. In June 2016, the US had designated India a ‘Major Defence Partner’. The two countries have also signed key defence and security pacts over the past few years, including the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) in 2016 that allows their militaries to use each other’s bases for repair and replenishment of supplies as well as provides for deeper cooperation.
- The two sides also signed COMCASA (Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement) in 2018 that provides for interoperability between the two militaries and provides for the sale of high-end technology from the US to India. In October last year, India and the US sealed the BECA (Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement) agreement to further boost bilateral defence ties. The pact provides for sharing of high-end military technology, logistics and geospatial maps between the two countries.

Exercise Yudh Abhyas is the largest running joint military training and defence cooperation endeavor between India and the US. The exercise was started in 2004 under the US Army Pacific Partnership Program. The exercise is hosted alternately between both countries. Other Exercises between India and the US: 1. Exercise Tiger Triumph (Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief exercise) 2. Exercise Vajra Prahar (Special Forces’ Exercise) 3. Cope India (Air Force). 4. Malabar Exercise (Quadrilateral naval exercise of India, USA, Japan and Australia). 5. Red Flag (US’ multilateral air exercise).

Tamil Nadu CM M.K.Stalin launches unique academic scheme, ‘Education at your doorstep’

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K.Stalin launched an unique academic scheme, Education at your doorstep at Villupuram. The novel and ambitious scheme is all set to give education to every child in the State, which was badly hit by the pandemic. The scheme will be operational from 15th November. The initiative will first begin in 12 districts.
- Students from government as well as private schools can attend these classes, which will be activity based and will give them an opportunity to enjoy and learn. The volunteer student ratio would be 1: 20 and over one lakh volunteers are expected to join the initiative. Persons who have studied upto class XII can teach students of Classes 1 to V and degree holders can teach middle school students. Around six hours of classes will be held throughout the week for every cohort of students.

Tamil Nadu lies in the southernmost part of the Indian subcontinent and is bordered by the union territory of Puducherry and the South Indian states of Kerala, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh. Its capital and largest city is Chennai. Its official language is Tamil, which is one of the longest-surviving classical languages in the world. Ravindra Narayana Ravi is the current Governor of Tamil Nadu. M.K. Stalin is the current Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

Chhattisgarh's launches India's first indigenous eco-friendly bicycle 'Bambooka'

- Chhattisgarh has developed its indigenous bicycle with the brand name "Bambooka". The special eco-friendly bi-cycle was developed in the land once known for bloodsheds and Naxalism, the tribal-dominated region of Bastar. Bambooka signifies its name and is made up of bamboo.
- "The highly tensile bicycle is shockproof and absorbs more exertion than any other bicycle made up of iron and steel," claimed the manufacturer and inventor of this project Asif Khan who is the founder and consultant at Naturescape. A unique bicycle 'Bambooka', made from bamboo, was launched at the 'National Tribal Dance Festival and Rajyotsava 2021'.
- "We have initiated a project of making cycles from bamboo, and the B1 prototype cycle has been prepared. It is also the first commercial line bicycle in Chhattisgarh and fourth in India," Khan said. The aim was to generate employment to the tribal youth of Bastar by reviving the extinct bamboo art and promoting it on a global platform, he said. Khan said the bicycle weighs just 8.2 kg. It is convenient for people to use. The bicycle can be modified and slight changes can be made in the design as per the demand of the buyer.

Chhattisgarh was formed on 1 November 2000 by partitioning 10 Chhattisgarhi and 6 Gondi speaking southeastern districts of Madhya Pradesh. Naya Raipur, officially known as Nava Raipur, (also known as Atal Nagar) is an upcoming planned and fully developed city in Indian state of Chhattisgarh. It is planned to replace Raipur as the capital city of Chhattisgarh. Anusuiya Uikey is present Governor of Chhattisgarh. Bhupesh Baghel is serving as the third and current Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh. In India, there are five landlocked states which do not have an international boundary are Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Telangana.

Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana emerge toppers in governance performance: PAC study

- Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana have taken the top three slots, emerging winners among the 18 large states in governance performance, Public Affairs Centre (PAC), a Bengaluru-based nonprofit think tank, announced. Gujarat ranks fifth, Karnataka seventh and Maharashtra 12th in the ranking.
- Public Affairs Index (PAI 2021), as the study is called, has prepared the list based on scores secured by the states in governance performance across the pillars of equity, growth and sustainability. The index is purely evidence-based assessment of the performance of states. It uses central government data sources for assessing the performance.
- In the index, Sikkim, Goa and Mizoram were emerged as winners among the small states. Puducherry, Jammu & Kashmir and Chandigarh emerged as toppers among the union territories.
- In the PAC 2021 study, Covid-19 response index is the main highlight. The index is an analysis of the governance response of states towards the covid-19 pandemic. It also highlights the degree of success achieved by states in mitigating its impact.
- PAC study is the annual assessment of adequacy & quality of governance in states. It assesses the states on the basis of their implementation of centrally sponsored-programmes of rural employment guarantee scheme, integrated child development service, national health mission, mid-day meal scheme and Samagra Siksha Abhiyan.

MoS IT inaugurates first internet exchange of NIXI in Uttarakhand

- Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Minister of State for Electronics & Information Technology and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship inaugurated the first Internet Exchange in the state of Uttarakhand, hosted at Dehradun, through a virtual inaugural ceremony from Delhi.

- The inauguration of the 10th internet exchange of NIXI in India will help in enhancing and improving the quality of Internet and Broadband services in Uttarakhand.
- The NIXI is a not for profit organization under section 8 of the Companies Act 2013, and was registered on 19 June 2003. NIXI was set up for peering of Internet Service Providers (ISPs) among themselves for the purpose of routing the domestic traffic within the country, instead of taking it all the way to US or abroad, thereby resulting in better quality of service (reduced latency) and reduced bandwidth charges for ISPs by saving on International Bandwidth. NIXI is managed and operated on a neutral basis, in line with the best practices for such initiatives globally.

Uttarakhand ('Northern Land'), formerly known as Uttaranchal is a state in the northern part of India. It is often referred to as the "Devbhumi" (literally "Land of the Gods") due to its religious significance and numerous Hindu temples and pilgrimage centres found throughout the state. The winter capital of Uttarakhand is Dehradun, the largest city of the state, which is a rail head. Gairsain, a town in Chamoli district is the summer capital of Uttarakhand. The High Court of the state is located in Nainital. Pushkar Singh Dhami is serving as the current Chief Minister of Uttarakhand. Lieutenant General Gurmit Singh is a former Deputy Chief of Indian Army who is currently serving as the Governor of Uttarakhand.

Kalij Pheasant declared bird of J&K UT

- The Government has declared Kalij Pheasant as the bird of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The Hangul will continue to be the animal of Jammu and Kashmir. The bird is mainly found in Jammu parts besides Uri in Kashmir.
- The erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir had the black-necked crane and Kashmir stag as its State Bird and State Animal respectively. But the black-necked crane is found only in Eastern Ladakh and the Hangul in Kashmir Valley only.
- So following the bifurcation, new options for the bird and animal symbols were needed for the newly created union territory. Recently the Ladakh administration declared black necked crane as its state bird and Snow leopard as its new state animal.

Jammu and Kashmir is a region administered by India as a union territory and consists of the southern portion of the larger Kashmir region, which has been the subject of a dispute between India and Pakistan since 1947 and between India and China since 1962. The region of Jammu and Kashmir is separated by the Line of Control from the Pakistani-administered territories of Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan in the west and north, respectively. A resolution to repeal Article 370 was passed by both the houses of the Parliament of India in August 2019. All provisions of the Indian Constitution are now equally applicable to it. Provisions for the formation of the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir were contained within the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, which was passed by both houses of the Parliament of India in August 2019. The act re-constituted the former state of Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories, 'Jammu and Kashmir' and 'Ladakh', with effect from 31 October 2019. The union territory of Jammu and Kashmir is administered under the provisions of Article 239 of the Constitution of India. The Article 239A, originally formulated for the union territory of Puduchery, will also be applicable to Jammu and Kashmir. Manoj Sinha is the current Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir. Girish Chandra Murmu was the first Lieutenant Governor.

Manipur launches Go to Village 2.0 in Thoubal district

- In Manipur, the State Government revived its initiative to deliver governance at doorstep and bring inclusive development in the state with launching the Go to Village 2.0 in Thoubal.
- The launching programme was attended by the Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, his cabinet colleague, MLAs and top civil and police officials.
- During the programme, Shri Biren distributed assistances under various schemes including CM e-Support Scheme, Manipur Start Up Scheme, Cards under Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) and CMHT, Widows' Pension Scheme, assistances under Prime Minister Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) and Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY).

Manipur is a state in Northeast India, with the city of Imphal as its capital. It is bounded by the Indian states of Nagaland to the north, Mizoram to the south and Assam to the west. It also borders two regions of Myanmar, Sagaing Region to the east and Chin State to the south. The sangai is an endemic and endangered subspecies of Eld's deer found only in Manipur, India. It is also the state animal of Manipur. Its original natural habitat is the floating marshy grasslands of the Keibul Lamjao National Park, located in the southern parts of the Loktak Lake, which is the largest freshwater lake in eastern India.

PM Narendra Modi launches Infrastructure for Resilient Island States on sidelines of climate summit in Glasgow

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS) on sidelines of climate summit in Glasgow.** It is aimed at achieving sustainable development through a systematic approach to resilient, sustainable and inclusive infrastructure in Small Island Developing States (SIDS).
- The Prime Minister added that **Indian Space Research Organisation will build a special data window for Small Island Developing States to provide them timely information about cyclones, coral-reef monitoring and coast-line monitoring.** Co-hosted by Australia and UK, the IRIS launch event saw over 100 attendees. Leaders of SIDS including Fiji, Jamaica and Mauritius also participated in the event.
- **Prime Minister Modi was joined by his British counterpart Boris Johnson on the second day of the COP26 climate summit.** The launch event was also attended by Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.
- **“The last few decades have proved that no one is untouched by the wrath of climate change.** Whether they are developed countries or countries rich in natural resources, this is a big threat to everyone. In this too, **Small Island Developing States- SIDS is the biggest threat from climate change”**, Modi said.
- **The launch, which forms part of the India-UK Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), marks the start of day two of the World Leaders’ Summit.** PM Modi said, “CDRI or IRIS is not just an infrastructure thing but it is part of a very sensitive responsibility of human welfare. This is the collective responsibility of all of us towards mankind. This is a kind of common atonement for our sins.”

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are a group of developing countries that are small island countries which tend to share similar sustainable development challenges. These include small but growing populations, limited resources, remoteness, susceptibility to natural disasters, vulnerability to external shocks, excessive dependence on international trade, and fragile environments. **The SIDS were first recognized as a distinct group of developing countries at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in June 1992.** The Barbados Programme of Action was produced in 1994 to assist the SIDS in their sustainable development efforts. **As of 2020, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs lists 52 small island developing states.**

Centre constitutes 20-member EGoS to monitor development and implementation of PM Gati Shakti NMP

- **The Centre has constituted a 20-member Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGoS), which will be a monitoring mechanism for the development and implementation of the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan (NMP).** The Cabinet Secretary will be its Chairperson.
- **The Members of this Empowered Group** include Chairman, Railway Board, Secretaries of Road, Transport and Highways, Civil Aviation; Petroleum and Natural Gas, Power; Telecommunications; Coal, Mines, Chemicals and Fertilizers and Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- **The terms of reference of Empowered Group of Secretaries is to review and monitor implementation of the Plan to ascertain the logistics efficiency and adopt framework** and norms for undertaking any amendments in the Plan.
- **It will also coordinate for any changes in the projects already included in the Plan,** within the prescribed framework and norms and to set out a procedure and a definitive time frame for synchronisation of various activities for construction of roads, rail.

The government of India has launched the ambitious Gati Shakti scheme or National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity plan, with the aim of coordinated planning and execution of infrastructure projects to bring down logistics costs. It aims to ensure integrated planning and implementation of infrastructure projects in the next four years, with focus on expediting works on the ground, saving costs and creating jobs. The Gati Shakti scheme will subsume the Rs 110 lakh crore National Infrastructure Pipeline that was launched in 2019. Besides cutting logistics costs, the scheme is also aimed at increasing cargo handling capacity and reducing the turnaround time at ports to boost trade. It also aims to have 11 industrial corridors and two new defence corridors - one in Tamil Nadu and other in Uttar Pradesh. Extending 4G connectivity to all villages is another aim. Adding 17,000 kms to the gas pipeline network is being planned.

India, UK launched solar Green Grids Initiative at COP26

- On, 2nd November 2021, the Green Grids Initiative One Sun One World One Grid (GGI-OSOWOG) was launched by the Prime Ministers of India and the UK at the World Leaders' Summit at COP26 in Glasgow. The project is the brainchild of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), presided by India, supported by the UK's COP26 core team. The idea for the initiative was first introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during ISA's first assembly in October 2018 where he asked for connecting solar power supply across borders.
- The new Global Green Grids Initiative - One Sun One World One Grid (GGI-OSOWOG) is an evolution of ISA's OSOWOG multilateral drive to foster interconnected solar energy infrastructure at a global scale.
- The new GGI-OSOWOG is another development in ISA's trajectory of multilateral efforts that foster solar energy infrastructure globally. It also represents a flagship coalition between strengthening the bilateral relationship between India and the UK. This has also been asserted by Dr. Ajay Mathur, the Director General of ISA, who said that, "the Green Grids Initiative aims to start with a coalition of the willing, such as two countries that would mutually benefit from the transfer of solar electricity and in time, lower costs of solar around the world."
- With deregulated power markets, cross-border electricity trade offers the potential to maximize renewable energy installations and lower electricity costs. Long-term planning and dedication to the creation of a global grid will encourage investment, mitigate country-specific hazards, create jobs, and promote technological advancement. In this direction, ISA and Bloomberg Philanthropies have recently partnered to raise \$ 1 trillion in worldwide solar energy investments across ISA's member countries. The two organisations have also collaborated with the World Resources Institute (WRI) to design a Solar Investment Action Agenda and Roadmap, also unveiled at COP26.

The International Solar Alliance (ISA), launched at COP21 in Paris and recently expanded to include all UN member states, aims to help mobilize USD 1 trillion of funding by 2030 to assist developing countries in expanding their solar power grids. The initiative is widely seen as a big and bold move in ISA's ongoing efforts to realize a global solar transition. The global grid concept was first announced by Prime Minister Modi in October 2018 during the first assembly of the ISA. In May 2021, the UK pledged technical, financial, and research support for the OSOWOG project.

India, Bhutan to have 7 additional entry and exit points for trade

- India and Bhutan will have seven additional entry and exit points for trade as part of measures to increase trade connectivity, the government said. The additional entry/exit points also include Asian Highway 48 connecting Torsha Tea Garden in India and Ahllay in Bhutan as an additional route corresponding to the Land Customs Station at Jaigaon; Kamardwisa, and Birpara.
- The trade between India and Bhutan has more than doubled since 2014. It has reached one thousand 83 million dollar in 2020-21 from 484 million dollar in 2014-15.
- The two sides held extensive discussions on the current trade and transit issues including measures to further strengthen bilateral trade relations and issues of mutual interest, on ways to increase trade connectivity between the two countries. Through Letters of Exchange, seven additional entry and exit points for trade between India and Bhutan were formalized.

Bhutan is a landlocked country in the Eastern Himalayas. Bhutan is known, has been heavily influenced by Tibetan culture and Tibetan Buddhism and is located between Tibet and India. Nepal and Bangladesh are located in close proximity to Bhutan but do not share a land border. **The largest city in Bhutan is the capital Thimphu. Lotay Tshering is the current Prime Minister of Bhutan. Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck is Druk Gyalpo or “Dragon King” of the Kingdom of Bhutan. The ngultrum is the currency of the Kingdom of Bhutan. Gross National Happiness (GNH), sometimes called Gross Domestic Happiness (GDH), is a philosophy that guides the government of Bhutan.**

Ministry of Rural Development signs MoU with Flipkart to help empower local businesses and SHGs

- **The Ministry of Rural Development has signed an MoU with Flipkart to help empower local businesses and self-help groups (SHGs) especially those that are led by women by bringing them into the e-commerce fold.**
- **The partnership is aligned with Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihood Mission- DAY-NRLM’s goal of strengthening the capabilities of rural communities for self-employment and entrepreneurship.** Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister Giriraj Singh said that SHGs are the backbone of the rural economy and the government is targeting to enhance their annual income to at least one lakh rupees.
- **The government is identifying and collaborating with all possible partners who can contribute to this cause and partnership between DAY NRLM and Flipkart will help in the process.** The Union Minister said that **rural products from SHGs have huge potential of acceptance among the masses in India and abroad and e-commerce platform will prove to be an effective tool to harness it. MoU will enable rural women to sell their products to more than 10 crore Flipkart’s customers.** Minister of State for Rural Development Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti was also present on the occasion.

Flipkart is an Indian e-commerce company, headquartered in Bangalore, Karnataka, India, and incorporated in Singapore as a private limited company. Flipkart was founded in October 2007 by Sachin Bansal and Binny Bansal, alumni of the IIT, Delhi and former Amazon employees. The company initially focused on online book sales before expanding into other product categories such as consumer electronics, fashion, home essentials, groceries, and lifestyle products. **In August 2018, U.S.-based retail chain Walmart acquired a 77% controlling stake in Flipkart for US\$16 billion, valuing Flipkart at around \$20 billion.**

Mission Ganga enters Guinness Book of World Records

- **The National Mission for Clean Ganga set a Guinness World Record on the first day of the Ganga Utsav for the highest number of photos of handwritten notes uploaded on Facebook in an hour. The event was held to raise awareness on Ganga rejuvenation and to expand the reach of the festival.**
- **Namami Gange Programme is an Integrated Conservation Mission, approved as a ‘Flagship Programme’ by the Union Government in June 2014 to accomplish the twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution and conservation and rejuvenation of National River Ganga.**
- **It is being operated under the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti. The program is being implemented by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), and its state counterpart organizations i.e., State Program Management Groups (SPMGs). NMCG is the implementation wing of National Ganga Council.**

The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) was implemented by the National Council for Rejuvenation, Protection and Management of River Ganga also known as the National Ganga Council. This mission was established in 12th August 2011 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 as a registered society. The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) under National Ganga Council is supported by the State level Programme Management Groups (SPMGs) in the state of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal. It is an initiative taken by the Government of India to address the pollution of the river Ganga by providing financial and technical assistance. It has a Rs. 20,000-crore, centrally-funded, non-lapsable corpus and consists of nearly 288 projects. The main pillars of the programme are: Sewerage Treatment Infrastructure & Industrial Effluent Monitoring, River-Front Development & River-Surface Cleaning, Bio-Diversity & Afforestation, Public Awareness.

Uttar Pradesh to transfer money to bank accounts of students' parents for school uniform, bags

- **Uttar Pradesh government initiated the process to transfer Rs.1100 each in the bank accounts of parents of 1.80 crore students of the state, for purchasing school uniforms, sweaters, bags, shoes and socks..**
- **“Government transfers Rs 1100 to bank accounts of parents of around 1 crore 80 lakh students studying in schools under Basic Shiksha Parishad through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), to buy school uniform, sweater, shoes, socks and bags. UP CM Yogi Adityanath launched this scheme. Yogi said more than 1.3 lakh government schools were refurbished under Operation Kayakalp and the process to improve the infrastructure in remaining schools would be completed shortly.**

Uttar Pradesh is the most populous state in India as well as the most populous country subdivision in the world. It was created on 1 April 1937 as the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh during British rule, and was renamed Uttar Pradesh in 1950, giving the acronym UP. The state is divided into 18 divisions and 75 districts with the capital being Lucknow. On 9 November 2000, a new state, Uttarakhand, was carved out from the state's Himalayan hill region. The two major rivers of the state, the Ganges and Yamuna, join at Allahabad and flow further east as Ganges. The state contributes 80 seats to the lower house of the Indian Parliament, Lok Sabha and 31 seats to the upper house of the Indian Parliament, Rajya Sabha. Anandiben Mafatbhai Patel is serving as the current Governor of Uttar Pradesh. She also served as Governor of Madhya Pradesh. She has served as the first female Chief Minister of Gujarat. Yogi Adityanath is serving as the current Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh.

QS Asia University Rankings 2022: IIT Bombay bags first position in India

- **Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT) Bombay has been billed the top Indian institute in the QS Asia University Rankings 2022 and ranked 42 worldwide. The National University of Singapore has come up as Asia's best university for the fourth consecutive year.**
- **The top-10 list doesn't feature any Indian university. This year, 117 Indian universities were considered in the QS Asia University Rankings 2022 Indian welcomed 10 new entrants. Of them, 7 bagged a spot in the top 100.**
- **The top three Indian universities to feature on the Asia Rankings are IIT Bombay (Rank 42), IIT Delhi (Rank 45), and IIT Madras (Rank 54). The top central universities to feature on the rankings are Delhi University at Rank 77 and JNU at Rank 107. Among state-run universities, Calcutta University ranked the highest at Rank 154.**
- **The overall top 10 universities in the QS Asia University Rankings 2022 remain unchanged from last year even though a few of their ranks have changed. Two are from Singapore, one from Malaysia, and the rest are from Hong Kong and China.**
- **The QS World University Rankings 2022 for higher education institutes across the world were released early June and no Indian institute had secured a position among the top 100 universities of the world. Three Indian institutes made it to the top 200 list – Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB) (Rank 117), Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD) (Rank 185), and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) (Rank 186).**

Power Minister R K Singh inaugurates diversion of Marusudar River of Pakal Dul Hydro Electric Project in J-K's Kishtwar

- **Union Power Minister R K Singh virtually inaugurated the diversion of Marusudar River of Pakal Dul Hydro Electric Project in Kishtwar.**
- **Pakal Dul HE Project (1,000 MW) is being constructed by Chenab Valley Power Projects Pvt Limited (CVPPPPL), a joint venture company of National Hydro Electric Power Corporation (NHPC) and Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation (JKSPDC). CVPPPPL has been entrusted with 3,094 MW hydro power projects for construction in Jammu and Kashmir.**
- **Marusudar River is a major tributary of the Chenab River. Diversion of the River will pave the way for acceleration in construction activities of the Project.**

India hosted Delhi Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan

- **Delhi Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan** was hosted by India on 10th November. The NSA level meeting was chaired by NSA Ajit Doval. According to sources there has been an overwhelming response to India's invitation. Central Asian countries as well as Russia and Iran have confirmed their participation.
- This is the first time all Central Asian countries, not just Afghanistan's immediate land neighbours, are participating in this format. Top security officials of eight countries, including India, Iran and Russia, called for closer coordination and collective efforts to tackle threats such as terrorism emanating from Afghanistan and to address a looming humanitarian crisis.
- The NSAs and Security Council secretaries of Iran, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, in their brief opening statements, pushed for collective efforts to cope with threats such as terrorism and drug trafficking emanating from Afghanistan and to provide humanitarian aid to the Afghan people before the onset of winter.
- Though this is the first such meeting on Afghanistan to be convened by India, the dialogue is the continuation of a mechanism whereby Iran hosted two meets in 2018 and 2019. Pakistan and China were invited to Wednesday's meeting but opted not to participate.

The National Security Advisor (NSA) is the senior official on the National Security Council of India, and the chief adviser to the Prime Minister of India on national security policy and international affairs. Ajit Kumar Doval is the fifth and current National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister of India, with the precedence of a Cabinet Minister. He previously served as the Director of the Intelligence Bureau in 2004–05, after spending a decade as the head of its operation wing. He is a retired member of the Indian Police Service.

Ganga Atlas developed by IIT Kanpur launched during Ganga Utsav

- Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launched the “Ganga Atlas: River of the Past” that documents the changes that the national river has gone over last half century.
- The Ganga Atlas, developed by Professor Rajiv Sinha from IIT Kanpur, documents the changes in the Ganga over the past 5-6 decades in terms of channel morphology, land use and land cover, river dynamics and associated issues.
- As part of this research project, funded by National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), IIT Kanpur has also developed a workflow that allows users to process and analyse declassified imagery of riverine environments at minimal cost and using open source software.

The Ganga river system is the largest in India having a number of perennial and non-perennial rivers originating in the Himalayas in the north and the Peninsula in the south, respectively. It accounts for 26.3% of the geographical area of the country and is shared by ten states. Ambala is located on the water divide between Indus and Ganga. It rises in the Gangotri glacier near Gaumukh in the Uttarkashi district of Uttaranchal. Here, it is known as the Bhagirathi. At Devprayag, the Bhagirathi meets the Alaknanda; hereafter, it is known as the Ganga. The total length of the Ganga is about 2,510 km. The important tributaries of Ganga are the Ramganga, the Gomati, the Ghaghara, the Gandak, the Kosi and the Mahanada. The Yamuna, the western most and the longest tributary of the Ganga, has its source in the Yamunotri glacier on the western slopes of Banderpunch range (6,316 km). It joins the Ganga at Prayag (Allahabad).

NE India's first private varsity gets NAAC accreditation

- The University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya (USTM), the first private varsity in the northeastern region, has been awarded the accreditation rating of “A Grade” by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC).
- The varsity's associate body Education Research and Development Foundation, headed by Hoque, has been running two CBSE affiliated schools, one AICTE approved engineering college, one law school, one B.Ed. college, one AICTE approved business school, one women's college, Pharmacy Council of India approved two pharmacy colleges in addition to one unit for coaching and guidance centre, and one educational rehabilitation centre.

UK's Wellington College to open its first school in Pune

- **The UK's Wellington College International will open its first school in Pune.** "Wellington College International Pune will provide an **alternative to the current schools in Pune.**
- Wellington College International (WCI) Pune will be a **coeducational day and boarding school for ages 2-18 years with student strength of around 800.**
- **WCI is an international schools' group. It is a subsidiary of the Wellington College, founded under the British Royal Charter in 1853, and a leading UK day and boarding school.**

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, commonly known as the United Kingdom (UK or U.K.), or Britain, is a sovereign country in north-western Europe, off the north-western coast of the European mainland. The United Kingdom includes the island of Great Britain, the north-eastern part of the island of Ireland, and many smaller islands within the British Isles. The United Kingdom's capital is London. Boris Johnson has been Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and Leader of the Conservative Party since July 2019. Elizabeth II (Elizabeth Alexandra Mary) is Queen of the United Kingdom and 15 other Commonwealth realms. Pound sterling is the official currency of the United Kingdom.

PM Narendra Modi emerges as top global leader with over 70 pct approval ratings

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emerged at the top of the global leader approval ratings.** He sits at the **top of the list with a 70 per cent approval rating.** Mr Modi received the maximum approval among adults across the world. **He remains at over 60 per cent in approval ratings since Morning Consult started collecting data in 2019.**
- **Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador stood at the second place with 66 per cent, followed by Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi (58 per cent), Germany Chancellor Angela Merkel (54 per cent) and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison (47 per cent). US President Joe Biden lies at the sixth spot with 44 per cent,** Canada's Justin Trudeau at seventh with 43 per cent while United Kingdom's Boris Johnson rounded the top 10 with 40 per cent.
- **Morning Consult Political Intelligence tracks the approval rating for governmental leaders in Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, South Korea, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Morning Consult Political Intelligence was founded in 2014 and has built a data collection technology platform. It accesses to upwards of 100 million people globally to collect more than 15 million interviews in over 100 countries annually.**

France to help India in advanced military technologies

- **France has emphasized partnership with India as a major pillar of its Indo Pacific strategy.** It has stressed upon its continuing commitment to the Indo Pacific region as a resident power. This was highlighted during **National Security Advisor Ajit Doval's visit to Paris for the annual India-France Strategic Dialogue.** India and France agreed to strengthen bilateral defence and security partnership.
- **New initiatives in maritime, space and cyber domains will also be pursued.** France reiterated its commitment to **fully support Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat and defence industrialisation, joint research and technology development in India.**
- Both the countries also agreed that **emerging trends in global affairs reinforce the need for closer partnership between the two countries, including in the UN Security Council and other UN forums. Building on the successful India-France initiative on International Solar Alliance,** the two sides also stressed the need to accelerate cooperation in clean energy, including civil nuclear energy and green hydrogen.

France is a transcontinental country spanning Western Europe and overseas regions and territories in the Americas and the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans. Emmanuel Macron is serving as the President of France. Paris is the capital city and Euro is its official currency along with CFP franc for its overseas collectivities.

Manipur: ‘Black Rice’ of Kakching Gets GI Tag

- The **Black Rice of Kakching** has recently been granted the **Geographical Indication (GI)** tag under agricultural products of the **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act of 1999**.
- **Black Rice** is famous for its **high nutrient value and gluten-free nature** along with its use in **traditional medicinal purposes**. It is pertinent to note that **‘Black Rice of Kakching’** is the **fifth agricultural product** from the **Northeastern state** which attained the feat.
- The other four crops include – **“Sirarakhong Hathei Chilly”, or “Tamenglong Orange”, “Black Aromatic Rice”, “Kachai Lemon”**. A **geographical indication (GI)** is a sign used on products that have a **specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation** that are due to that origin. Therefore, in order to function as a GI, a sign must identify a product as originating in a given place.

Manipur is a state in Northeast India, with the city of Imphal as its capital. It is bounded by the Indian states of Nagaland to the north, Mizoram to the south and Assam to the west. It also borders two regions of Myanmar, Sagaing Region to the east and Chin State to the south. The sangai is an endemic and endangered subspecies of Eld’s deer found only in Manipur, India. It is also the state animal of Manipur. Its original natural habitat is the floating marshy grasslands of the Keibul Lamjao National Park, located in the southern parts of the Loktak Lake, which is the largest freshwater lake in eastern India.

A geographical indication (GI) is a name or sign used on certain products which corresponds to a specific geographical location or origin (e.g., a town, region, or country). India, as a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), enacted the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 has come into force with effect from 15 September 2003. GIs have been defined under Article 22 (1) of the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement as: “Indications which identify a good as originating in the territory of a member, or a region or a locality in that territory, where a given quality, reputation or characteristic of the good is essentially attributable to its geographic origin.” The GI tag ensures that none other than those registered as authorised users (or at least those residing inside the geographic territory) are allowed to use the popular product name. Darjeeling tea became the first GI tagged product in India, in 2004–2005. The registration of a geographical indication is valid for a period of 10 years. It can be renewed from time to time for further period of 10 years each.

Centre declares Srinagar airport as ‘Major Airport’

- The Ministry of Civil Aviation declared the Srinagar International airport as a “Major Airport”.
- The Gazette notification issued by the ministry read, “In exercise of the powers conferred by Sub-Section (i) of Section 2 of the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India Act, 2008 (No.27 of 2008), the Central Government hereby declares the airport at Srinagar as Major Airport.”

The Ministry of Civil Aviation of Government of India is the nodal Ministry responsible for the formulation of national policies and programmes for development and regulation of Civil Aviation and for devising and implementing schemes for the orderly growth and expansion of civil air transport. Jyotiraditya Madhavrao Scindia serves as the Minister of Civil Aviation. He is a Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha representing the State of Madhya Pradesh.

Srinagar joins UNESCO Creative Cities Network 2021 under crafts, folk arts category

- In a major recognition of the crafts and arts of Jammu and Kashmir, Srinagar has joined the UNESCO Creative Cities Network 2021, under the crafts and folk arts category.
- The inclusion of Srinagar in the creative city network for the arts and crafts has paved a way for the city to represent its handicrafts on the global stage through UNESCO.
- The UNESCO creative city network involves seven creative fields- arts and folk art, media, film, literature, design, gastronomy and media arts. Only two cities Hyderabad for Gastronomy and Mumbai for Film were chosen during that year.

- Prior to year 2019 only three Indian cities have been recognised as members of UCCN for creative cities namely - Jaipur (Crafts and Folk Arts) in 2015, Varanasi (Creative city of Music) in 2015 and Chennai (Creative city of Music) in 2017. For the year 2020 UNESCO did not call for applications for creative city network.

UNESCO is the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and is a specialised agency of the United Nations (UN). It seeks to build peace through international cooperation in Education, the Sciences and Culture. UNESCO's programmes contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals defined in Agenda 2030, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015. Political and economic arrangements of governments are not enough to secure the lasting and sincere support of the peoples. Peace must be founded upon dialogue and mutual understanding. Peace must be built upon the intellectual and moral solidarity of humanity. It is headquartered at the World Heritage Centre in Paris, France. Audrey Azoulay is a French civil servant and politician who has been serving as the Director-General of the UNESCO since 2017, becoming the second female leader of the organization.

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated India's First 'World-class' Rly Station with Airport-like Amenities at MP's Habibganj

- Billed as India's first "world-class" railway station, which will offer amenities to passengers at par with those at airports, Habibganj railway station in Bhopal was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 15. The state-of-the-art railway station has been revamped in the PPP mode at the cost of Rs 450 crore.
- The railway station in the Madhya Pradesh capital is the first to have been prepared under private and public sector partnership in the country. In 2018, Indian Railways chalked out a plan to revamp around 400 A1 and A class stations across 100 cities at the cost of Rs 1 lakh crore, into "world-class" facilities.
- Habibganj railway station was the first in line with the station being developed on the model of Germany's Heidelberg railway station. Initially, the redevelopment project deadline was fixed for December 31, 2020, but due to Covid-19 pandemic and restrictions thereafter, the project got delayed, said railway officials.

Indian Railways (IR) is the fourth-largest railway network in the world by size. There are a total of 18 Railway zones. South Coast Railway Zone is the newest and 18th railway zone, headquartered at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. Ashwini Vaishnaw is currently serving as the Minister of Railways in the Government of India. He was elected as the BJP candidate from Maharashtra for the Rajya Sabha on 3 June 2016. The practice of a separate Railway Budget was started by the British in 1924 under the recommendation of a 10-member Acworth Committee headed by British economist William Mitchell Acworth in 1920-21. On 21 September 2016, Government of India approved the merger of the Railway Budget with the Union budget of India, and thus came to end — a 92-year-old practice of separate rail and general budgets.

Centre amends Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules 2011 for enhanced protection of Consumer Rights

- Centre has amended the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules 2011 for enhanced protection of Consumer Rights. The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has omitted the Rule 5 defining the Schedule II prescribing the pack sizes of various types of commodities.
- A new provision has been introduced to indicate the unit sale price on pre-packed commodities, which will allow easier comparison of the prices of the commodities at the time of purchase. The amendments will come into effect from 1st April next year.
- The declaration of date of manufacture on the pre-packed commodities is made mandatory for pre packed commodities under the revised rules. The provisions of declarations of MRP has been simplified by removing illustration and providing for making the mandatory declaration of MRP in Indian currency inclusive of all taxes. This has allowed the manufacturer to declare the MRP on the pre-packed commodities in a simplified manner.

- **Pre-packed commodity** means any commodity which is placed in a package without the purchaser being present and the product contained therein has a predetermined quantity.
- Companies will be required to print ‘unit sale price’ on the packaged commodities. For example, a packaged wheat flour of 2.5 kg should have a unit sale price per kg along with the total MRP. This will make it easier for the consumers to ascertain the cost in unit terms.
- The Ministry has scrapped the Schedule 2 of the rules under which 19 types of commodities were to be packed in quantities by weight, measure or number in a specified manner. Now the companies can sell the commodities in any quantity.

Metrology is the science of measurement. Legal metrology provides regulations for the control of measurements and measuring instruments. It also provides rules for protection of public safety, the environment, consumers, traders and is critical to fair trade.

Calcutta University ranks first among all Indian state-run universities in QS Asia University Rankings

- **Calcutta University has ranked on top above all state-run universities in the country** in the QS Asia University Rankings 2022. Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University Prof Sonali Chakraborty Banerjee said that while CU is ranked first among all state-run universities in India, it occupies the third rank among all the universities in India - first being Delhi University and second being JNU, both of them being Central universities. Calcutta University is ranked 154th in Asia.
- In the QS Asia University Rankings 2022, the universities are ranked across 11 parameters including academics and employer reputation, the number of staff having PhD, proportion of students from abroad.

Cochin airport, first to run fully on solar power, to launch hydro project

- **The Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL), which is the world’s first fully solar-powered airport, will commission its own hydroelectric project,** now taking pioneering strides in the production of sustainable energy. With the hydro plant commissioned, CIAL aims to provide power to the KSEB grid from its plant at Arippara near Kozhikode
- According to CIAL, the hydroelectric plant is a “run-of-river” project, which uses the natural downward flow of rivers and microturbine generators to capture the kinetic energy carried by water. CIAL constructed a weir dam across the Iruvazhinji River and hydro-mechanical and electro-mechanical systems at Arippara, near Kodencheri in Kozhikode district.
- Being a run-of-river project, the CIAL small hydro project (SHP) works on limited storage of water causing no adverse effect on the environment. The scheme envisages the construction of an overflow type weir across the river, which diverts the water to an intake pool from where the intake structure and connected water conductor system (WCS) start.

Hydroelectric energy, also called hydroelectric power or hydroelectricity, is a form of energy that harnesses the power of water in motion—such as water flowing over a waterfall—to generate electricity. People have used this force for millennia. Over two thousand years ago, people in Greece used flowing water to turn the wheel of their mill to ground wheat into flour.

Third Goa Maritime Conclave hosted heads of 12 Navies from Indian Ocean Region

- **The third Edition of Goa Maritime Conclave (GMC) – 2021 is being held from November 7 to 9 under the aegis of Naval War College, Goa. The GMC is the Indian Navy’s outreach initiative** providing a multinational platform to harness the collective wisdom of practitioners of maritime security and the academia towards garnering outcome oriented maritime thought.
- **Chiefs of navies or heads of maritime forces from 12 Indian Ocean littorals - Bangladesh, Comoros, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Myanmar, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand - were participated** in the event.

- The theme for this year's edition of the GMC is “Maritime Security and Emerging Non-Traditional Threats: A Case for Proactive Role for Indian Ocean Navies”.

The Indian Navy is the naval branch of the Indian Armed Forces. The President of India is the Supreme Commander of the Indian Navy. The Chief of Naval Staff, a four-star admiral, commands the navy. It is one of the largest and most powerful navies in the world. As a blue-water navy, it operates significantly in Persian Gulf Region and the Horn of Africa to the Strait of Malacca, and routinely conducts anti-piracy operations and partnership building with other navies in the region. It also conducts routine two to three month-long deployments in the South and East China seas as well as the western Mediterranean simultaneously. The navy has a listening post in Madagascar. The Chief of the Naval Staff is the head of the military staff of the Indian Navy. The current CNS is Admiral Karambir Singh.

NITI Aayog announces five top aspirational districts in education sector

- NITI Aayog has announced the top five most improved aspirational districts in the education sector for the month of September. Bhoopalpalli in Telangana tops the ranking.
- It is followed by Chatra and Sahibganj in Jharkhand, Nuapada in Odisha and Jaisalmer in Rajasthan. This is as per NITI Aayog's delta rankings.
- In the Delta ranking 2021 for September month, Baramulla district in north Kashmir has secured 3rd rank among aspirational districts, in a significant development. Ranchi and Chatra districts in Jharkhand were ranked at 1st and 2nd position respectively. Wayanad in Kerala secured 4th and Shrawasti district in UP secured 5th spot.
- Delta ranking is released by NITI Aayog. It shows incremental progress in aspirational districts of India across developmental areas like health & nutrition, education, financial inclusion, agriculture & water resources, skill development and basic infrastructure. These rankings are a yardstick of incremental progress in developmental indices like health & nutrition, agriculture & financial inclusion and water resource.

Aspirational District Programme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in January 2018. The programme is implemented by NITI Aayog with the help of several stakeholders for improving the living standards of people in aspirational districts. This programme was launched with the aim of bringing rapid transformation in districts that have made comparative progress across key social sectors.

Union Cabinet approves restoration and continuation of MPLADS

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the restoration and continuation of Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) during the remaining part of Financial Year 2021-22 and up to Financial Year 2025-26 co-terminus with the period of 15th Finance Commission.
- The annual MPLADS fund entitlement per Member of Parliament (MP) constituency is Rs.5 crore, released in two instalments of Rs.2.5 crore each, subject to the fulfilment of conditions as per the MPLADS Guidelines.
- The MPLADS is a Central Sector Scheme fully funded by Government of India. The objective of the scheme is to enable MPs to recommend works of developmental nature with emphasis on the creation of durable community assets in the areas of drinking water, primary education, public health, sanitation and roads, etc. primarily in their Constituencies.

Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) is a scheme formulated by Government of India on 23 December 1993 that enables the members of parliaments (MP) to recommend developmental work in their constituencies with an emphasis on creating durable community assets based on locally felt needs. Initially, this scheme was administered by Ministry of Rural Development. Later, in October 1994, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) has been looking into its working. Elected Members of Rajya Sabha representing the whole of the State as they do, may select works for implementation in one or more district(s) as they may choose. Nominated Members of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha may also select works for implementation in one or more districts, anywhere in the country.

Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare and Chemical and Fertilizers Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated 32nd edition of “Hunar Haat” in Lucknow

- Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare and Chemical and Fertilizers Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya will inaugurate the 32nd edition of “Hunar Haat”, “Perfect Platform” to “promote and preserve” traditional art and craft of the country, in Lucknow.
- In his address after inauguration of the “Hunar Haat”, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya said that it is very necessary to promote, encourage and respect the art and craft of the indigenous artisans and craftsmen of the country. The hidden art and craft across the country are being recognised through “Hunar Haat”.
- Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya said that India has been trading in handicrafts all over the world for several centuries. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given the slogan of “Vocal for Local” to fulfil the vision of “Aatmanirbhar Bharat” (Self-reliant India) which is being carried forward by the “Hunar Haat”.

Hunar Haat is an exhibition of handicrafts and traditional products made by artisans from the minority communities. The theme is Vocal for Local. These are organised by the Ministry of Minority Affairs under USTTAD (Upgrading the Skills & Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development) scheme. The USTTAD scheme aims to promote and preserve the rich heritage of the traditional arts & crafts of the minority communities. These Haat aims to provide market exposure and employment opportunities to artisans, craftsmen and traditional culinary experts.

India launches its first centre for research on drone tech in IIT-Guwahati

- Union Minister of State Civil Aviation General V K Singh (retd.) launched India’s first Centre for Excellence in Research on Drone/UAV Technology and Artificial Intelligence at Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati.
- The minister also inaugurated Skill development Centre for Drone/UAV operation and maintenance, Nodal Centre for overall administrative Drone Data management for northeastern region and “AXOM Droneports”, which will be used to support cargo drones delivering urgent medical and emergency supplies to remote areas of the region.

Defence Minister inaugurates first operationalised Private Sector Defence Manufacturing facility in Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the first operationalised Private Sector Defence Manufacturing facility in Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor in Lucknow. The facility, run by Aerolloy Technologies, a wholly owned subsidiary of PTC industries, will manufacture parts for Aircraft Engines, Helicopter Engines, Structural parts for aircrafts, Drones and UAV, Submarines, Ultra-Light Artillery Guns, Space Launch Vehicles and Strategy Systems.
- The Minister also laid the foundation stone for an Integrated Metal Manufacturing Facility under PTC industries that will produce key Raw Materials in Titanium and other Exotic Alloys for aerospace applications.
- This plant will significantly reduce the country’s dependence on imports for all platforms which require Titanium and Nickel Super Alloys and help in building a strong and Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
- The Defence Minister expressed confidence of increased investments by private companies in the near future and hoped that city of Lucknow and the state will make a mark in the manufacturing domain of defence and aerospace sector.

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) is charged with coordinating and supervising all agencies and functions of the government relating directly to national security and the Indian armed forces. The President of India is the ceremonial commander-in-chief of the armed forces of the country. The Indian Armed Forces (including Indian Army, Indian Air Force, and Indian Navy) and Indian Coast Guard under the Ministry of Defences are primarily responsible for ensuring the territorial integrity of the nation. A military department was created by the supreme government of the British East India Company at Kolkata in the year 1776. Rajnath Singh is currently serving as the Defence Minister of India. He has been Member of parliament, Lok Sabha two times from Lucknow (Lok Sabha constituency) and once from Ghaziabad (Lok Sabha constituency).

US becomes part of India-led International Solar Alliance

- The US became the 101st member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), an inter-governmental organisation formed by India and France to accelerate the global adoption of solar power.
- The ISA's framework, which was first circulated in 2016 to obtain backing from other countries, emphasises on delivering local benefits to all countries through collaborations. The ISA's key interventions focus on enabling activities, risk mitigation and innovative financing instruments to facilitate the deployment of solar technologies.
- ISA is building a solar project pipeline of nearly 5 GW installed capacity in order to achieve a vision of interconnected global grids, which was jointly launched as the "Green Grids Initiative – One Sun One World One Grid" during the world leaders' summit of COP26 in Glasgow.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson have launched a 'green grids' initiative—the One Sun One World One Grid (OSOWOG) project—on the sidelines of the COP26 summit. The project aims to connect energy grids across borders to facilitate a faster transition to the use of renewable energy. The proposal is aimed at addressing the issue of reliability of supply from solar power plants, which do not generate electricity after the sun has set. A transnational grid would allow countries to source solar power from regions where it is daytime to meet their green energy needs even when their own installed solar capacity is not generating energy. OSOWOG is also aimed at addressing the issue of high cost of energy storage.

India's first state-based education technology forum created in Maharashtra

- Maharashtra has become the first state to create an education technology forum designed to tackle ways to improve school education using EdTech. Maharashtra School Education Minister Varsha Gaikwad tweeted to announce the same where she said, "It gives me immense pride to announce that #Maharashtra is among the first in India to form an Education Technology Forum that will serve as an open platform for free exchange of ideas on the use of technology to enhance learning, assessment, planning & administration of schools."
- The Maharashtra Education Technology Forum-comprising technology experts & IT sector giants- will serve as a policy think tank and an independent evidence-based advisory framework on technology-based interventions in school education.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurates Centre for Bioresources and Sustainable Development in Arunachal Pradesh

- Union Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office and MoS for Earth Sciences, Science & Technology as well as Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated DBT - APSCS&T Centre of Excellence for Bioresources and Sustainable Development and Rural Technology Demonstration Centre at Kimin in Papum Pare District of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The Union Government brought an amendment in the North East Council Act that the deprived and neglected section of the society will get special attention and special grants. With this motive for development, the Centre for Excellence has been established in this territorial and north-eastern-most State of Arunachal Pradesh so that the benefits reach the tribal areas.

Jitendra Singh is an Indian physician and politician. He is the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for the Ministry of Science and Technology and Minister of state (independent charge) ministry of earth science and Minister of State for Prime Minister's Office; Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space. He won the Udampur seat in the Indian general election, 2014 and 2019 for the 16th Lok Sabha and 17th Lok Sabha.

6th Edition of Indo France Joint Military Exercise "EX SHAKTI 2021" commenced

- The 6th Edition of Indo France Joint Military Exercise- EX SHAKTI 2021 is being conducted from 15 to 26 November 2021 in Frejus, France. A platoon strength of a Gorkha Rifles Infantry Battalion is representing the Indian Army in this bilateral exercise. The French side is being represented by troops of 21st Marine Infantry Regiment of 6th Light Armoured Brigade.

- Exercise SHAKTI will focus on Counter-Terrorism operations in backdrop of semi-urban terrain under United Nations Mandate with an aim to enhance military cooperation and inter-operability between the two Armies. India and France carry out three biennial training exercises namely, Exercise GARUDA with Indian Airforce, Exercise VARUNA with Indian Navy and Exercise SHAKTI with Indian Army.

Law Minister Kiren Rijiju launches Citizens' Tele-Law Mobile App

- As part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju launched Citizens' Tele Law Mobile App and felicitated frontline functionaries at a function in New Delhi. This App would connect the beneficiaries directly with Panel Lawyers offering legal advice and consultation. He said, this App will go a long way in serving the people of the country in terms of legal aspects.
- Mr. Rijiju said that there is a need to bring changes in our working system with a view to empower the citizens and to give a boost to the development of the country. He said, it is the responsibility of the government to ensure justice to the poorest of the poor through whatever services they need.

President Ram Nath Kovind promulgates two Ordinances to extend tenure of CBI Directors and ED Chief up to 5 years

- President Ram Nath Kovind promulgated two Ordinances to extend the tenure of Directors of probe agencies Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED) up to five years.
- The Ordinances are, the Central Vigilance Commission (Amendment) Ordinance 2021 and the Delhi Special Police Establishment (Amendment) Ordinance 2021. As per the ordinances, the Chiefs of the top agencies can be given extensions, every year for up to three years after they complete the two-year term.
- The ordinances said, no such extension will be granted after the completion of a period of five years in total including the period mentioned in the initial appointment. The present tenure of the Chiefs of the Central Agencies is two years.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is the premier investigating agency of India. Operating under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Government of India. Originally set up to investigate bribery and governmental corruption, in 1965 it received expanded jurisdiction to investigate breaches of central laws enforceable by the Government of India, multi-state organised crime, multi-agency or international cases. The agency has been known to investigate several economic crimes, special crimes, cases of corruption and other cases. CBI is exempted from the provisions of the Right to Information Act. CBI is India's officially designated single point of contact for liaison with the Interpol. The CBI headquarter is located in CGO Complex, near Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi.

Swachh 2021 rankings: Surat still in 2nd spot, Vijayawada follows

- Gujarat's Surat maintained its position as the second cleanest city in India with a population over 10 lakh after Madhya Pradesh's Indore in the Swachh Survekshan 2021, the Centre's annual cleanliness survey to promote sanitation in urban centres under the Swachh Bharat Mission. Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh, swapped places with Navi Mumbai to move to the third spot from last year's fourth.
- Among states, Karnataka and Mizoram were the 'fastest mover states' in the rankings in the big (more than 100 Urban Local Bodies) and small (less than 100 ULBs) state category, respectively.
- "Hoshangabad (Madhya Pradesh) emerged as the 'Fastest Mover City' (in the 'more than 1 lakh population' category) with a jump of 274 ranks from 361st position in the 2020 rankings to the 87th position this year, thus securing a place among the top 100 cities,".
- In the state awards, Chhattisgarh emerged as the 'Cleanest State' for the third consecutive year in the category of "more than 100 Urban Local Bodies" while Jharkhand, for the second time, won the cleanest state award in the 'less than 100 ULBs category'.
- The findings were released by President Ram Nath Kovind. The second session of the event focused on commemorating World Toilet Day (November 19) and saw the top performers in the first-ever Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge being recognised.

- **Indore, Navi Mumbai, Nellore and Dewas emerged as the top performers**, across different population categories among 246 participating cities in the Challenge, launched last year by the Ministry to eradicate human fatalities from hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks. **Chhattisgarh and Chandigarh bagged the award for best performing State and Union Territory respectively under the Challenge.**

Swachh Survekshan (Cleanliness survey) is an annual survey of cleanliness, hygiene and sanitation in villages, cities and towns across India. It was launched as part of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, which aimed to make India clean and free of open defecation by 2 October 2019. The first survey was undertaken in 2016 and covered 73 cities (53 cities with a population of over a million, and all state capitals); by 2020 the survey had grown to cover 4242 cities and was said to be the largest cleanliness survey in the world. The surveys are carried out by Quality Council of India.

India's first Assembly Session for children held in Rajasthan to mark Bal Diwas

- **To commemorate Bal Diwas, India's first Assembly Session for Children was held in Rajasthan.** The children asked questions, sought answers, were assertive and aggressive all at the same time, and took the responsibility of donning the mantle of young netas seriously.
- Their eyes sparkling with hope, 200 children from 15 Indian states were in for a treat when they got the opportunity to be part of a 'Children's Session' of the Rajasthan Assembly in Jaipur to commemorate Children's day, the birthday of Jawaharlal Nehru.

Rajasthan ('Land of Kings') is a state in northern India. It is the largest Indian state by area and the seventh largest by population. It is on India's northwestern side, where it comprises most of the wide and inhospitable Thar Desert (also known as the Great Indian Desert). Its major features include the ruins of the Indus Valley Civilisation at Kalibangan and Balathal, the Dilwara Temples, a Jain pilgrimage site at Rajasthan's only hill station, Mount Abu, in the ancient Aravalli mountain range and in eastern Rajasthan. Jaipur is the capital city of the Indian state of Rajasthan. On 6 July 2019, UNESCO World Heritage Committee inscribed Jaipur the "Pink City of India" among its World Heritage Sites. Kalraj Mishra is serving as the Governor of Rajasthan. Ashok Gehlot is serving as the current Chief Minister of Rajasthan.

India's first grass conservatory developed in Ranikhet

- **India's first 'grass conservatory' or 'germplasm conservation centre'** spread over an area of 2 acres was inaugurated at Ranikhet in Almora district of Uttarakhand. Around 90 different grass species of significant scientific, ecological, medicinal, and cultural import have been grown in the conservation area.
- This conservatory is funded under the Central Government's CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority) scheme and is developed by the research wing of the Uttarakhand Forest Department. To create awareness about the importance of grass species, promote their conservation, and facilitate research in the field.

Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act was passed by the centre in 2016 and the related rules were notified in 2018. The CAF Act was enacted to manage the funds collected for compensatory afforestation which till then was managed by ad hoc Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA). Compensatory afforestation means that every time forest land is diverted for non-forest purposes such as mining or industry, the user agency pays for planting forests over an equal area of non-forest land, or when such land is not available, twice the area of degraded forest land. As per the rules, 90% of the CAF money is to be given to the states while 10% is to be retained by the Centre.

Union minister Piyush Goyal launches India's first Food Museum in Tamil Nadu's Thanjavur

- Union Minister for Commerce, Industry, Food and Public Distribution **Piyush Goyal** virtually launched India's first Food Museum and said measures were on to make the country go up the ladder from currently being the fifth-largest agricultural exporter in the world.
- It is a 1,860-sqft museum co-developed by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museums, Bengaluru (Karnataka) with an estimated outlay of Rs 1.1 crore. **The museum is**

the first one-of-its-kind effort to depict India's food story from the beginning to India becoming the largest food grain exporter in the country.

- **“Tamil Nadu will now be home to the agricultural history of India. Thanjavur is the cultural capital of Tamil Nadu. Now it will be home to the agricultural history of India”.**

Piyush Goyal is the cabinet minister of the Government of India having portfolios such as Minister of Textiles, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. Currently a Member of Parliament for Rajya Sabha from the state of Maharashtra, he is also the current Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha.

INS Karmuk takes part in India, Singapore, Thailand Trilateral Maritime Exercise ‘SITMEX’

- **Indian Naval Ship INS Karmuk and an indigenously built Missile Corvette is participated in the 3rd edition of India, Singapore and Thailand Trilateral two day Maritime Exercise SITMEX - 21 in Andaman Sea.** Republic of Singapore Navy, RSN is being represented by RSS Tenacious, a Formidable Class Frigate and Royal Thai Navy, RTN by His Majesty's Thailand Ship HTMS Thayanchon, a Khamrosin Class Anti-submarine Patrol Craft.
- **SITMEX is being conducted annually since 2019 with an aim to enhance mutual inter-operability and imbibing best practices between Indian Navy, Republic of Singapore Navy and Royal Thai Navy.** The maiden edition of SITMEX was hosted by Indian Navy off Port Blair in September 2019. RSN hosted the second edition of the exercise in November 2020. The 2021 edition of the exercise is hosted by RTN in Andaman Sea.

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated First Global Innovation Summit of Pharmaceuticals sector

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the First Global Innovation Summit of the Pharmaceuticals sector** through video conferencing. Chemical and Fertilizers Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya also be presented on the occasion.
- This is a distinctive initiative that **aims to bring together key Indian and international stakeholders from the government, industry, academia, investors, and researchers** to discuss and strategize priorities to foster a thriving innovation ecosystem in the pharmaceuticals industry in India.
- The two-day Summit had 12 Sessions and over 40 national and international speakers deliberating **on a range of subjects including the regulatory environment, funding for innovation, industry-academia collaboration and innovation infrastructure.**
- In his speech, the prime minister emphasised on the fact that **Indian healthcare sector has earned global trust to the extent of being called the pharmacy of the world.**

The **pharmaceutical industry in India, US\$40 billion by value, world's 3rd largest by overall volume and world's largest as provider of generic medicines globally**, with 20% and 3.5% share of total global pharmaceutical exports by volume and value respectively to more than 200 countries and territories in 2021. As of 2021, most of pharmaceuticals made in India are low cost generic drug which comprise most of pharmaceutical export of India. **In terms of the global market, India currently holds an accountable share and is known as the pharmacy of the world and as the biggest generic supplier.**

World's largest solar park in Bhadla, India

- Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis, **IIWFA, out of 10 largest parks being constructed in the world, 5 are in India.** World's largest solar park is being constructed in Rajasthan and is known as **Bhadla Solar Park, India.**
- **Bhadla Solar Power Plant is a 2245 Megawatts plant** and situated on 14000 acres of land. This project has been constructed in 4 different phases. This solar park is located in Bhadla, Rajasthan. **Earlier China was the leading producer of solar energy** but now India even though the late joiner of the race is way ahead of China.
- In December 2019, Mercom reported on the **then largest solar park being fully operational in Pavagada, Karnataka, with a capacity of 2,050 MW.** Now, with 2,245 MW of solar project, Bhadla solar park housing has become the largest solar park in the world.

- Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation Limited (RRECL), through its subsidiary, **Rajasthan Solar Park Development Company Limited (RSPDCL)**, has constructed **745 MW of projects**. Saurya Urja Company of Rajasthan, a joint venture company of the **government of Rajasthan and IL&FS Energy Development Company**, has developed infrastructure for **1,000 MW of solar projects**. **Adani Renewable Energy Park Rajasthan**, a joint venture between the government of Rajasthan and **Adani Renewable Energy Park**, (a subsidiary of Adani Enterprises) has developed **500 MW of solar projects**.

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurates “Tech NEEV/@75” as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav

- **Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated “Tech NEEV/@75” as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav** and interacted with successful start-ups including those from the tribal communities **on the occasion of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas**.
- Referring to Prime Minister’s historic decision to **celebrate 15th November i.e. the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda as “Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas”** Dr Jitendra Singh informed that the Government will be setting up **30 Science Technology and Innovation (STI) Hubs** in different parts of the country for **Scheduled Tribes (STs)** by end of 2022 to promote scientific talent among tribal communities and for their overall socio-economic development.
- Out of **75 proposed STI Hubs for SCs/STs**, **20 have already been established by Department of Science and Technology** which will **directly benefit 20,000 people** through various interventions spreading across farm, non-farm and other allied livelihood sectors.

Bengal launches ‘Duare Ration’ scheme for doorstep delivery of ration

- **West Bengal government-led by Mamata Banerjee launched the ‘Duare Ration’ scheme** which will benefit **10 crore people in Bengal**. **The ration at doorstep – ‘duare ration’ scheme** was part of AITC’s manifesto in recently concluded assembly polls.
- **Based on the success of “Duare Sarkar”,** a social welfare scheme introduced by the state government which yielded good results during polls, the state government planned to **introduce ‘Duare Ration’, or ration at doorstep, to reach out to the grassroots and avoid corruption**. A vehicle carrying ration will reach the neighbourhood, where people will collect ration.

West Bengal is a state in the eastern region of India along the Bay of Bengal. Part of the Bengal region of the Indian subcontinent, it borders Bangladesh in the east, and Nepal and Bhutan in the north. The state capital is Kolkata. Under the East India Company rule and later under the British Raj, Calcutta served as the capital of British-held territories in India until 1911, when its perceived geographical disadvantages, combined with growing nationalism in Bengal, led to a shift of the capital to New Delhi. Mamata Banerjee is serving as the current Chief Minister of West Bengal since 2011, the first woman to hold the office. Jagdeep Dhankhar is serving as the current Governor of West Bengal.

India has become third-largest domestic aviation market in the world

- **Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia** said that **India has become the third-largest domestic aviation market in the world**. Civil Aviation is emerging as one of the major pillars providing fillip to economic growth.
- **Mr Scindia inaugurated a curtain raiser event on Wings India, 2022 which is Asia’s largest event on Civil Aviation (Commercial, General and Business Aviation)**. India’s civil aviation industry is the pride of the nation as it is playing a key role in connecting Indians to the remotest corners of the country and to the world.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation of Government of India is the nodal Ministry responsible for the formulation of national policies and programmes for development and regulation of Civil Aviation and for devising and implementing schemes for the orderly growth and expansion of civil air transport. **Jyotiraditya Madhavrao Scindia** serves as the Minister of Civil Aviation. He is a Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha representing the State of Madhya Pradesh.

Indian Railways' first pod hotel inaugurated in Mumbai

- Raosaheb Dadarao Patil Danve, Minister of State of Railways, Coal and Mines, **Government of India inaugurated the state of the art POD concept retiring room at Mumbai Central railway station.**
- **The unique facility at Mumbai Central station consists of a total Pod inventory of 48**, comprising of 3 categories, namely 30 Classic Pods, 7 Ladies only, 10 Private Pods and One for Differently Abled as well.
- **While the Classic Pods and Ladies only Pods will comfortably fit One guest, the Private Pod will also have a private space within the room**, whereas the Room for Differently abled will comfortably fit 2 guests with space for free movement of Wheelchair. **The passenger can avail all modern facilities** at comparatively cheaper rates.

Indian Railways (IR) is the **fourth-largest railway network in the world by size**. There are a total of **18 Railway zones**. **South Coast Railway Zone is the newest and 18th railway zone**, headquartered at **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**. **Ashwini Vaishnaw is currently serving as the Minister of Railways in the Government of India**. He was elected as the **BJP candidate from Maharashtra for the Rajya Sabha on 3 June 2016**. **The practice of a separate Railway Budget was started by the British in 1924 under the recommendation of a 10-member Acworth Committee headed by British economist William Mitchell Acworth in 1920-21**. **On 21 September 2016, Government of India approved the merger of the Railway Budget with the Union budget of India**, and thus came to end — a 92-year-old practice of separate rail and general budgets.

India re-elected to UNESCO executive board for 2021-25 term

- **India has been reelected to the UNESCO Executive Board**, one of the **three constitutional organs of the United Nations**, for the **2021-25 term**.
- **“India gets reelected to the Executive Board of UNESCO with 164 votes for the term 2021-25,”**. Apart from India, Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Cook Islands and China have also been elected in Group IV Asian and Pacific States category. UNESCO Executive Board consists of 58 member-states each with a four-year term of office.

UNESCO is the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and is a specialised agency of the United Nations (UN). It seeks to **build peace through international cooperation in Education, the Sciences and Culture**. **UNESCO's programmes contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals defined in Agenda 2030**, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015. **Political and economic arrangements of governments are not enough to secure the lasting and sincere support of the peoples**. Peace must be founded upon dialogue and mutual understanding. Peace must be built upon the intellectual and moral solidarity of humanity. It is **headquartered at the World Heritage Centre in Paris, France**. **Audrey Azoulay is a French civil servant and politician who has been serving as the Director-General of the UNESCO since 2017, becoming the second female leader of the organization**.

Mission Paani unveils India's first-ever pledge for clean water and sustainable sanitation

- **Harpic Mission Paani launched India's first-ever 'Sanitation for All Pledge and Preamble: Clean Water, Sustainable Sanitation'** with Minister of Jal Shakti - Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and five prominent women leaders - Kausar Munir (Lyricist), Savita Punia (Indian Hockey Player), Smriti Mandhana (Indian Cricketer), Bhavina Patel (Indian par athlete and table tennis player) and Lovlina Borgohain (Indian Boxer, Olympian) **at the Mission Paani Sanitation Forum on World Toilet Day**.
- **Mission Paani, a path-breaking initiative by Network 18 and Harpic India to promote water conservation, safe sanitation and hygiene, on the occasion of World Toilet Day brought the country together including celebrities, sportspersons and activists to take a pledge to uphold India's first-ever Preamble for safe water and sustainable sanitation for all**. Access to clean water and safe sanitation is important for a healthier nation and this would become the most critical human rights component in the country's development in future.
- The event also witnessed the **unveiling of a first-of-its-kind Coffee Table Book '101 Stories of Inspiration' endorsed by Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu**. The book is a showcase of hope and inspiration stories of sanitation workers in India. **The book compiled by the Integrated Health and Wellbeing Council is a tribute to these workers who have risked their lives to create a cleaner and more hygienic environment by taking care of our cleanliness and sanitation needs**.

World Toilet Day (WTD) is an official United Nations international observance day on 19 November to inspire action to tackle the global sanitation crisis. Worldwide, 4.2 billion people live without “safely managed sanitation” and around 673 million people practice open defecation. **Sustainable Development Goal 6 aims to “Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”.** This year’s theme is ‘Valuing Toilets’.

Operation Hercules: Army, IAF prepare for winter deployment amid Ladakh standoff

- The exercise named ‘Operation Hercules’ was undertaken by the Indian Air Force and Indian Army on November 15 with transport aircraft of the IAF being pressed into action. The platforms utilised for the airlift were C-17, IL-76 and An-32 aircraft, which took off from one of the forward bases of Western Air Command.
- This exercise was held at a time when the Indian armed forces are preparing for another winter of enhanced deployment of over 50,000 troops in Ladakh amid continuing tensions with China. The aim of this high intensity airlift was to strengthen the supply chain in the Northern sector and augment winter stocking in operational areas.

6th edition of Indo-France joint military exercise Ex SHAKTI 2021 commences at Draguignan, France

- The Sixth Edition of Indo - France joint military exercise Ex SHAKTI 2021 has commenced at the Military School of Draguignan, France.
- The Indian Army contingent is being represented by a composite team of three Officers, three Junior Commissioned Officers and 37 soldiers from a battalion of Gorkha Rifles and support Arms.
- The training so far has focused on aspects of joint planning, mutual understanding of conduct of operations and identification of coordination aspects required for jointly operating in a Counter-Terrorism environment under United Nations mandate.

France is a transcontinental country spanning Western Europe and overseas regions and territories in South America and the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans. France is a unitary semi-presidential republic with its capital in Paris. Euro is the official currency of France and CFP franc is the currency used in the French overseas collectivities of French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Wallis and Futuna. Greece is a country located in Southeast Europe. Athens is its largest and capital city. Euro is the official currency of it.

Home Minister Amit Shah lays foundation Stone of Rani Gaidinliu Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum in Manipur

- Home Minister Amit Shah laid the Foundation Stone for setting up the Rani Gaidinliu Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum at Luangkao village in Manipur’s Tamenglong district via video-conferencing. The project has been sanctioned by the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs at an estimated cost of 15 crore rupees.
- The State Cabinet had decided to set up the Museum at Luangkao Village in Tamenglong District which is the birthplace of renowned freedom fighter Rani Gaidinliu and decided to name the Museum as Rani Gaidinliu Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum.

Amit Anilchandra Shah is currently serving as the Minister of Home Affairs and the first Minister of Co-operation of India. He served as the President of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) from 2014 to 2020. He was elected to the lower house of Parliament, Lok Sabha, in the 2019 Indian general elections from Gandhinagar. Earlier, he had been elected as a member of the upper house of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, from Gujarat in 2017. Sworn in at the age of 54, he is the youngest serving full-time Home Minister.

Indian Navy commissioned first of four Visakhapatnam class destroyers

- INS Visakhapatnam, a P15B stealth guided-missile destroyer was commissioned into the Indian Navy in the presence of Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai.

- The ship measures 163 metres in length, 17 metres in breadth with a displacement of 7,400 tonnes and can be regarded as one of the most potent warships to have been constructed in India. **The ship is propelled by four powerful gas turbines, in a Combined Gas and Gas (COGAG) configuration**, which is capable of achieving speeds in excess of 30 knots.
- The ship has enhanced **stealth features resulting in a reduced Radar Cross Section (RCS) achieved through efficient shaping of its hull**, full beam superstructure design, plated masts and use of radar transparent materials on exposed decks.
- **Visakhapatnam is packed with sophisticated state of the art weapons and sensors, such as Surface to Surface Missile and Surface to Air Missiles.** The ship is fitted with a modern surveillance radar, which provides target data to the gunnery weapon systems of the ship. **INS Visakhapatnam measures 163m in length, 17m in breadth with a displacement of 7,400 tonnes.**

The Indian Navy is the naval branch of the Indian Armed Forces. The President of India is the Supreme Commander of the Indian Navy. The Chief of Naval Staff, a four-star admiral, commands the navy. It is **one of the largest and most powerful navies in the world. As a blue-water navy, it operates significantly in Persian Gulf Region and the Horn of Africa to the Strait of Malacca**, and routinely conducts anti-piracy operations and partnership building with other navies in the region. It also conducts routine two to three month-long deployments in the South and East China seas as well as the western Mediterranean simultaneously. **The navy has a listening post in Madagascar. The Chief of the Naval Staff is the head of the military staff of the Indian Navy. The current CNS is Admiral Karambir Singh.**

NITI Aayog launches Sustainable Development Goals Urban Index and Dashboard 2021-22; Shimla tops the Index followed by Coimbatore and Chandigarh

- **Shimla, Coimbatore and Chandigarh have topped the Niti Aayog's first Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Urban India Index**, while **Dhanbad, Meerut and Itanagar are the worst performers**, according to a report released by the government think tank.
- According to an official statement, **the Niti Aayog has developed the SDG Urban index and dashboard in collaboration with GIZ and BMZ under the umbrella of Indo-German Development Cooperation.** Launching the index and dashboard, **Niti Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar** said, "Cities are fast becoming engines of growth. The SDG Urban Index and dashboard, a product of innovative partnership between Niti Aayog and GIZ, will go a long way in instituting a robust SDG monitoring system in our cities, and is a milestone step in our SDG localisation journey."
- **Top 10 Urban areas in SDG Urban Index and Dashboard 2021-22 are Shimla, Coimbatore, Chandigarh, Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi, Panaji, Pune, Tiruchirapalli, Ahmedabad and Nagpur.**
- **While, bottom 10 Urban Areas in SDG Urban Index and Dashboard 2021-22 are Dhanbad, Meerut, Itanagar, Guwahati, Patna, Jodhpur, Kohima, Agra, Kolakata and Faridabad.** Out of 56 urban areas ranked in the index, 44 are with population of above one million, 12 are state capitals with a population of less than a million.
- While for some indicators, **'urban area' implies urban local bodies (ULBs), in other cases, it refers to all urban areas within a district collectively.** The data on these indicators have been sourced from official data sources such as NFHS, NCRB, U-DISE, data portals of various ministries, and other government data sources.
- According to the government think tank, **for each SDG, the urban areas are ranked on a scale of 0-100. A score of 100 implies that the urban area has achieved the targets set for 2030; a score of 0 implies that it is the farthest from achieving the targets among the selected urban areas.**
- **The areas with ranking between 0 and 49 have been ranked as aspirants, those with 50-64 are termed as performers, 65-99 are called front-runners and the ones with perfect score are called achievers.** However, not a single area has a perfect score. Launching the index and dashboard, **Niti Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar** said that cities are fast becoming engines of growth.
- The statement said the **index highlights the strengths and gaps of ULB-level data, monitoring, and reporting systems. "The index and dashboard will further strengthen SDG localisation and institute robust SDG monitoring at the city level,"** it said.

The National Institution for Transforming India, also called NITI Aayog, was formed via a resolution of the Union Cabinet on January 1, 2015. It was established to replace the Planning Commission which followed a top-down model. NITI Aayog is the premier policy ‘Think Tank’ of the Government of India, providing both directional and policy inputs. The current chairman of NITI Aayog is Shri Narendra Modi, current vice chairman is Dr. Rajiv Kumar and the current chief executive officer is Shri Amitabh Kant.

Indore is used to occupying first place: MP CM on city getting cleanest city tag fifth year in row

- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan congratulated the people of Indore, which was adjudged India’s cleanest city for the fifth year in a row in the central government’s annual cleanliness survey. Indore has got used to being in the first place.
- Indore has also got the first place in Safai Mitra Suraksha challenge, he said, adding that in the annual cleanliness survey, Bhopal, Ujjain, Pachmarhi Cantt, Hoshangabad, Dewas and Badwah also won the awards. According to Chouhan, under the garbage-free city category, Bhopal, Ujjain, Gwalior, Dewas, Singrauli, Burhanpur and Dhar also won the award besides Indore.

Madhya Pradesh (meaning Central Province) is a state in central India. Its capital is Bhopal, and the largest city is Indore. Madhya Pradesh is the second largest Indian state by area and the fifth largest state by population with over 72 million residents. It borders the states of Uttar Pradesh to the northeast, Chhattisgarh to the southeast, Maharashtra to the south, Gujarat to the west, and Rajasthan to the northwest. Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel is the current Governor of Madhya Pradesh. Shivraj Singh Chouhan is the current Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, having been elected to the same position 3 times in the past, and a Member of Legislative Assembly in Madhya Pradesh from Budhni.

Ashwini Kumar Choubey inaugurated Food Corporation of India’s first state of art laboratory in Gurugram

- Food Corporation of India (FCI) under Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) has developed its first state-of-art laboratory for in house testing of food grain samples.
- Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Honourable Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Environment, Forest and Climate Change inaugurated the ‘Quality Control Laboratory’ at Institute of Food Security (IFS), FCI, Gurugram (Haryana).
- FCI for developing its first state-of-art laboratory for in house testing of food grain samples for chemical parameters which will lead to improved satisfaction levels for the consumers. The laboratory has been set up under the able guidance of the Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysuru in Karnataka.

The Food Corporation of India (FCI) is a statutory corporation created and run by the Government of India. It is under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Government of India formed by the enactment of Food Corporation Act, 1964 by the Parliament of India. Its top official is designated as Chairman who is a central government civil servant of the IAS cadre. It was set up in 1965 with its initial headquarters at Chennai. Later this was moved to New Delhi. It also has regional centers in the capitals of the states. Important regions of the state also serve as district centers.

Assam ranks 3rd in IPF’s smart policing index, Andhra first and Telangana at second spot

- Assam Police has secured the third position among 29 states and Union Territories in the Indian Police Foundation’s list of ‘Smart Policing’ index. As per the list, Assam Police has secured the third rank in the country with an overall rating of 7.89 out of 10. Andhra Pradesh is ranked first with a score of 8.11 and Telangana secured the second position with 8.10 points. With a score of 5.81, Uttar Pradesh is ranked at 28th position and Bihar has occupied the last position with 5.74 points.
- The Indian Police Foundation (IPF), a multidisciplinary think tank and policy advocacy platform, conducted the “IPF SMART Policing Survey 2021” in 29 states and Union Territories of the country and published its report. The SMART Policing idea was envisioned, articulated and introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Conference of DGPs of State and Central Police Organizations, held at

Guwahati, in 2014 and it envisaged systemic changes to transform the Indian police to be strict and sensitive, modern and mobile, alert and accountable, reliable and responsive, techno-savvy and trained.

- **The purpose of the IPF survey was to gather information on citizens' perceptions of the impact of the SMART policing initiative and to gauge public perceptions** of the quality of policing in India and the level of public trust in the police. The experts from various Institutions of repute, **including IIT-Kanpur and Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) in Mumbai** were involved in this survey.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 'InFinity Forum'

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 'InFinity Forum'**, a two -day thought leadership Forum on FinTech. The event is being **hosted by International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) under the aegis of Government of India in collaboration with GIFT City and Bloomberg** in virtual mode. **Indonesia, South Africa and the United Kingdom are partner countries in the first edition of the forum.**
- **InFinity Forum is IFSCA's flagship financial technology and global thought leadership event** where pressing problems, progressive ideas, innovative technologies from across the world gets discovered, discussed and developed into solutions.
- **It unites the world's leading minds in policy, business and technology to discuss and come up with actionable insight into how technology and innovation can be leveraged by the FinTech industry** for inclusive growth and serving the humanity at large.
- The agenda of the Forum will focus on **the theme of 'Beyond'; with various sub themes including FinTech beyond boundaries, with governments and businesses focussing beyond the geographical boundaries** in the development of global stack to promote financial inclusiveness; **FinTech beyond Finance, by having convergence with emerging areas such as SpaceTech, GreenTech and AgriTech to drive sustainable development; and FinTech Beyond Next, with focus on how Quantum Computing could impact the nature of Fintech industry in the future and promote new opportunities.**

The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), headquartered at GIFT City, Gandhinagar Gujarat, has been established under the International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019. It works as a **unified authority for the development and regulation of financial products, financial services and financial institutions in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in India.** At present, **the GIFT IFSC is the maiden international financial services centre in India.**

South Asian countries plan SOS system for hydrological management of Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna basin

- **India and its neighbouring countries sharing the trans-boundary Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna basins are planning to develop a Hydrological SOS system** — a round-the-year system to share data on reservoirs, rivers and dam waters, which will help mitigate water hazards like floods, droughts, mudslides and accelerated erosion. **The GBM river basin system cuts across India, Tibet, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh.**
- **The fragile ecology, varied terrain and socio-economic-political ties add to the challenges in addressing the flooding caused by the three rivers.** Last October, the South Asian Flash Flood Warning system was launched by India. This system has been sending warnings six hours ahead of likely flash flooding. The IMD's hydrometeorological division sends alerts and advisories for **India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Bangladesh.**

The Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna (GBM) Delta and its catchment area are shared between five countries which means that the delta is strongly influenced by neighbouring country's water and sediment management decisions in addition to climatic, environmental and internal management. **Delta administration is also shared between Bangladesh and India, including the unique Sundarbans mangrove forest.** An overview of delta-building and socio-ecological processes from Holocene to Anthropocene are outlined providing a background for current issues.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated the three-day ‘Rashtra Raksha Samarpan Parv’

- **Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated the three-day ‘Rashtra Raksha Samarpan Parv’ in Jhansi** on November 17, 2021. The festival culminated on the birth anniversary of Rani of Jhansi Laxmi Bai on 19th November. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will dedicate/launch several new initiatives of Ministry of Defence to the Nation in a grand ceremony being organised in the precincts of Jhansi Fort on November 19, 2021.
- **As the country is celebrating ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’ to commemorate 75 years of Independence, the Raksha Mantri recalled the country’s journey after 1947**, saying that there has been a paradigm shift in the meaning of Independence since then. “Earlier, Independence meant freedom from foreign rule. It later changed to fulfilling one’s needs with the help of the world.
- **Today’s it is being ‘Aatmanirbhar’ in the development journey.** Due to our Government’s efforts, we have moved on the path of self-reliance,” he said. **He linked the government’s vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat to Mahatma Gandhi’s ideas of Poorna Swaraj and Swadeshi.** Shri Rajnath Singh listed India’s achievements in different sectors saying that the country has risen to new heights. He made special mention of the **Government’s achievement of administering over 110 crore vaccines in the fight against COVID-19, terming it as a remarkable feat.**
- The Government’s efforts have **started to bear fruit, the Raksha Mantri said, mentioning Rs 50,000 crore order from the Armed Forces to Hindustan Aeronautical Limited (HAL).** He termed it a historic deal which will take the Indian Aerospace sector to greater heights. Shedding light on other visible results, Shri Rajnath Singh said, in the last seven years, **the defence exports have crossed Rs 38,000 crore mark.**

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) is charged with coordinating and supervising all agencies and functions of the government relating directly to national security and the Indian armed forces. The President of India is the ceremonial commander-in-chief of the armed forces of the country. The Indian Armed Forces (including Indian Army, Indian Air Force, and Indian Navy) and Indian Coast Guard under the Ministry of Defences are primarily responsible for ensuring the territorial integrity of the nation. A military department was created by the supreme government of the British East India Company at Kolkata in the year 1776. Rajnath Singh is currently serving as the Defence Minister of India. He has been Member of parliament, Lok Sabha two times from Lucknow (Lok Sabha constituency) and once from Ghaziabad (Lok Sabha constituency).

Prime Minister launched multiple initiatives to boost country’s Defence sector at ‘Rashtra Raksha Samarpan Parv’ at Jhansi in Uttar Pradesh

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of 400 crore rupees project at Jhansi node of UP Defence Industrial Corridor.** The project is being executed by Bharat Dynamics Ltd for setting up a plant to produce propulsion systems for Anti-Tank Guided Missiles.
- **Prime Minister launched the National programme of Simulation Training for NCC cadets with the aim to scale up simulation training facilities for all three wings of NCC.** It includes setting up of Rifle Firing Simulators for the Army Wing of NCC, Microlight flying simulators for Air Wing and Rowing simulators for the Naval wing. Mr Modi dedicated to the nation augmented reality-powered electronic kiosks at the National War Memorial which will enable visitors to pay floral homage to martyrs through the simple click of the button.

Narendra Damodardas Modi is an Indian politician serving as the 14th and current Prime Minister of India since 2014. Modi was the Chief Minister of Gujarat from 2001 to 2014 and is the Member of Parliament from Varanasi. He is a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its National Democratic Alliance (NDA). He is also a member of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), a right-wing Hindu nationalist paramilitary volunteer organisation. He is the first Prime Minister to have been born after India’s independence in 1947 and the second Prime Minister not belonging to the Indian National Congress to have won two consecutive elections, as well as a majority in both terms in the Indian lower house of parliament.

5th East Asia Summit Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation to begin in Kolkata

- The fifth East Asia Summit, EAS Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation was held in Kolkata. The two-day event is being organized by India in partnership with Australia.
- Apart from the two governments, organizers include the ASEAN-India Centre at Research and Information System for Developing Countries in collaboration with National Maritime Foundation of Australia and the Research Centre for East and North East Regional Studies, Kolkata.
- During the conference, experts from both government and academia from the EAS participating countries were deliberated upon various aspects of maritime security cooperation under four thematic sessions, namely Maritime Security; Resource and Information Sharing; Science and Technology Cooperation; and Pandemic and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management. The event will conclude with a panel discussion on the Way Forward.

Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport to become 'Net Zero Carbon Emission' Airport by 2030

- Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport is set to become Net Zero Carbon Emission Airport by 2030. Delhi airport is the first airport in Asia Pacific Region to achieve Level 4 Accreditation under ACI's Airport Carbon Accreditation.
- DIAL has implemented various programmes at the airport such as use of renewable energy, development of green airport infrastructures and multiple passenger connectivity networks, energy conservation and efficiency improvements, and stakeholder partnership programs.
- The announcement was part of a video which was displayed by the Airport Council International (ACI) during the COP-26, the United Nations summit on climate change held recently in Glasgow, UK.

Net zero emissions mean that all man-made greenhouse gas emissions, such as carbon dioxide, are removed from the atmosphere through reduction measures to tackle global warming. Carbon neutral refers to a policy of not increasing carbon emissions and of achieving carbon reduction through offsets. India is currently the world's third biggest emitter of greenhouse gases, after the United States and China. Speaking at the COP26 summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced that the country would make one billion-tonne reduction in projected emissions from now until 2030. Modi also said India's emissions intensity, or emissions per unit GDP, will be reduced by at least 45% by 2030 from the 2005 levels.

Labour and Employment Minister Bhupender Yadav initiates first ever All India Domestic Workers Survey

- Labour and Employment Minister Bhupender Yadav flagged off the first ever All India Domestic Workers Survey. The survey will cover 742 districts in 37 States and Union territories.
- The objective is to estimate the number and proportion of domestic workers at the national and state level and find out household estimates of live-in and live-out domestic workers. Besides, it will also estimate the average number of domestic workers engaged by different types of households. The Minister said the survey will help the government understand significant issues and chart evidence-based data-driven policies.
- Speaking on this occasion, the Union Minister said that this is for the first time in Independent India that such Nationwide survey is being conducted and this shows the commitment of government towards having an evidence based, data driven policy which will help in targeted and last mile delivery of services & achieve the goal of "Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas, Sabka Viswas" under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The Minister further stated that all these All India Surveys & the e-shram portal will be game changer & have set New standards in data driven Policies.

The Ministry of Labour & Employment is one of the oldest and most important Ministries of the Government of India. This is an India's federal ministry which is responsible to protect and safeguard the interest of workers in general and their social security. The Ministry aims to create a healthy work environment for higher production and productivity and to develop and coordinate vocational skill training and employment. Bhupender Yadav serves as the Union Cabinet Minister of Labour and Employment, Environment, Forest and Climate Change. He is a Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha, representing the state of Rajasthan.

For first time, India records more women than men, finds latest NFHS

- As per the fifth round of the National Family and Health Survey (NFHS), India now has more women than men. There are 1,020 women for every 1,000 men as per the report released by the Union health ministry.
- In 1990 when Nobel laureate Amartya Sen coined the term “missing women”, there were 927 women per 1,000 men in India. This indicates that the numbers are improving.
- According to NFHS-3, conducted in 2005-06, the ratio was equal, 1000: 1000; it went down to 991:1000 in 2015-16 in NFHS-4. This is the first time, in any NFHS or Census, that the sex ratio is skewed in favour of women.
- The government released the factsheets of key indicators on population, reproductive and child health, family welfare, nutrition and others for India as well as 14 states and UTs, clubbed under phase two, of the 2019-21 NFHS-5.
- According to the findings, child nutrition indicators showed a slight improvement at all-India level as stunting declined from 38 per cent to 36 per cent, wasting from 21 per cent to 19 per cent and underweight from 36 per cent to 32 percent.
- The states and UTs which were surveyed in this phase were Arunachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, NCT of Delhi, Odisha, Puducherry, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, a Health Ministry statement said.
- At the national level, the occurrence of anaemia among women and children was found to be the same as that in 14 states and UTs. The findings for national level were calculated by using data from phase one and phase two of the NFHS-5. The findings of phase one of the NFHS-5 for 22 states and UTs were released in December, 2020.

The National Family Health Survey (NFHS) is a large-scale, multi-round survey conducted in a representative sample of households throughout India. The NFHS is a collaborative project of the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai, India; ICF, Calverton, Maryland, USA and the East-West Center, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW), Government of India, designated IIPS as the nodal agency, responsible for providing coordination and technical guidance for the NFHS. NFHS was funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) with supplementary support from United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). The First National Family Health Survey (NFHS-1) was conducted in 1992-93.

In a first in India, house built using hemp fibre in Uttarakhand

- An architect couple has built a sprawling 5-room house in Yamkeshwar block of Pauri Garhwal district, using ‘hemcrete’ – a mixture of parts of “bhang” or hemp plant, lime, wood, mud, water and other minerals – which can be used as a green alternative to concrete.
- This is the first time hemcrete has been put to extensive use to build a house in India. The technique is prevalent in countries like Australia and New Zealand. The couple has built a 5-room house using hemcrete in the Pauri Garhwal district. The house is spread over 800 sq ft and cost Rs 30 lakh to build. It is built using farm waste hemp and therefore it is eco-friendly and affordable.

Uttarakhand is often referred to as the Devbhumi, due to many Hindu temples and pilgrimage centres found throughout the state. On 9 November 2000, Uttarakhand became the 27th state of the Republic of India, being created from the Himalayan and adjoining northwestern districts of Uttar Pradesh. Trivendra Singh Rawat served as the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand till March 10, 2021. Mr Pushkar Singh Dhami is serving as the current Chief Minister of Uttarakhand since March 10, 2021. Baby Rani Maurya is serving as the current governor of Uttarakhand since 26 August 2018. The winter capital of Uttarakhand is Dehradun, the largest city of the state, which is a rail head. Gairsain, a town in Chamoli district is the summer capital of Uttarakhand. The High Court of the state is located in Nainital.

Cabinet approves continuation of umbrella scheme ‘O-SMART’

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave its approval for the continuation of the umbrella scheme, Ocean Services, Modelling, Application, Resources and Technology, O-SMART of Ministry of Earth Sciences for implementation during the period from 2021-26 at an overall cost of 2 thousand 177 crore rupees.
- The scheme encompasses seven sub-schemes namely Ocean Technology, Ocean Modelling and Advisory Services (OMAS), Ocean Observation Network (OON), Ocean Non-Living Resources, Marine Living Resources and Ecology (MLRE), Coastal Research and Operation and Maintenance of Research Vessels.
- These sub-schemes are being implemented by autonomous and attached institutes of the Ministry like National Institute of Ocean Technology NIOT Chennai, Indian National Center for Ocean Information Services INCOIS Hyderabad, National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research NCPOR Goa, Center for Marine Living Resources and Ecology CMLRE Kochi and National Centre for Coastal Research NCCR Chennai as well as involving other national institutes. A fleet of oceanographic and coastal research vessels of the Ministry provide required research support for scheme.
- The objectives of the O-SMART scheme are: providing forecast and services based on the continuous observation of oceans, development of technologies and exploratory surveys for sustainable harnessing of oceanic resources (both living and non-living) and promotion of front-ranking research in ocean sciences.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences was formed on 29 January 2006 from a merger of the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune and Earth Risk Evaluation Centre (EREC), and the Ministry of Ocean Development. Jitendra Singh is the current Minister of state (independent charge) ministry of earth science.

With Noida Airport, Uttar Pradesh to become First State in India with 5 International Airports

- With the foundation-laying ceremony for the Noida International Airport, Uttar Pradesh is now on its way to having five international airports, the highest for any state in India. In perspective, the state had only two international airports since 2012 when Varanasi got this distinction after Lucknow.
- The international airport at Kushinagar became operational after it was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 20, 2021, while work on the international airport in Ayodhya is in full swing and air services are expected to start early next year. The fifth international airport is to come up at Jewar near Noida in the National Capital Region (NCR).

Andhra Assembly withdraws resolution to abolish Legislative Council

- A day after passing a Bill to repeal two laws that were cleared last year as part of the YSRCP government's contentious move to set up three different state capitals, the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution to withdraw an earlier resolution seeking abolishment of the Legislative Council.
- The YSR Congress Party government had passed the statutory resolution in January 2020 under Article 169(1) of the Constitution, seeking that the Council be abolished. The Andhra Pradesh Assembly recently passed a resolution to abolish the state's Legislative Council (LC). The bill is yet to be introduced in Parliament. Until 2019, Jammu and Kashmir too had a legislative council but it was dissolved once the erstwhile state was downgraded into a Union Territory.

The State Legislative Council, or Vidhan Parishad, or Saasana Mandali is the upper house in those 6 states of India that have a bicameral state legislature; the lower house being the State Legislative Assembly. Its establishment is defined in Article 169 of the Constitution of India. According to the Article 169 of the Constitution of India, the Parliament of India can create or abolish the State Legislative Council of a state if that state's legislature passes a resolution for that with a special majority. The tenure of the MLCs are six years. One-third of the members of State Legislative Council retire after every two years. This arrangement parallels that for the Rajya Sabha, the upper house of the Parliament of India. At present six states – Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka – have a Legislative Council.

Fourth Scorpene-class submarine 'INS Vela' commissioned into Indian Navy

- **INS Vela, the fourth Scorpene-class submarine was commissioned into the Indian Navy. P-75 project represents the growing strategic congruence between the two nations, India and France.** Designated as Yard 11878 during its construction, INS Vela is the fourth Scorpene-class submarine built by MDL in collaboration with Naval Group of France.
- **INS Vela would form part of the Western Naval Command's Submarine fleet and would be another potent part of its arsenal. The new Vela carries forward the legacy of her namesake, the erstwhile INS Vela which was commissioned on 31 Aug 1973 as the lead boat of Vela class submarines.** The crew of the erstwhile 'Vela', a Russian-origin Foxtrot Class Submarine, which was decommissioned in 2009, was also present. Vela has taken the 'Make in India' spirit a notch higher with indigenised battery cells.

Himanta Biswa Sarma launches Assam Micro Finance Incentive and Relief Scheme 2021

- **Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma launched the ambitious Assam Micro Finance Incentive and Relief Scheme 2021 to incentive those making regular payment of microfinance loans.** The scheme would benefit a total of 24 lakh women beneficiaries in the State while 59,468 women would receive reliefs amounting from Rs.16,000-Rs.25,000 in Sonitpur district.

Jagdish Mukhi is the current Governor of Assam and Assam is known for Assam tea and Assam silk. Dispur is the capital of the state of Assam. Guwahati is the largest city of Assam and Northeastern India. Himanta Biswa Sarma is current the Chief Minister of Assam. In 1874, on the formation of Assam as the Chief Commissioner's Province, it was chosen as the headquarters of the new administration because of its convenient location between the Brahmaputra and Surma valleys and more so because the climate of Shillong was much cooler than tropical India. Shillong remained the capital of undivided Assam until the creation of the new state of Meghalaya on 21 January 1972, when Shillong became the capital of Meghalaya, and Assam moved its capital to Dispur in Guwahati. Tea production in West Bengal was approximately 25 million kilograms in March 2021, the highest to any other region in the country. Assam came second that year with close to 20 million kilograms.

Kerala Tourism launches STREET Project

- **In a pioneering initiative to take tourism deep into the state's interiors and rural hinterland, Kerala Tourism launched the 'STREET' project in select spots in seven districts, which would help visitors experience the diversity of offerings in these locales.**
- **In the first phase, the project would be implemented in Kadalundi in Kozhikode, Thrithala and Pattithara in Palakkad, Pinarayi and Ancharakkandi in Kannur, Maravanthuruthu and Manchira in Kottayam, Valiyaparamba in Kasaragod, Kanthalloor in Idukki and Chekadi in Wayanad.**
- **The project, conceived by the Responsible Tourism Mission, is inspired by the 'Tourism for Inclusive Growth' slogan of The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). The STREET is an acronym for Sustainable, Tangible, Responsible, Experiential, Ethnic, Tourism hubs.**

Kerala is a state on the southwestern, Malabar Coast of India. It was formed on 1 November 1956 following the States Reorganisation Act by combining Malayalam-speaking regions. Kerala has the highest literacy rate 93.91% in the 2011 census; the highest life expectancy, 77 years; and the highest sex ratio, 1,084 women per 1,000 men. Arif Mohammad Khan is the current Governor of Kerala. Kerala is known as "God's own country" and is one of the popular tourist destinations in India. Pinarayi Vijayan is the current Chief Minister of Kerala, in office since 25 May 2016. As per the census 2011, Haryana has the lowest child sex ratio i.e.834 per thousand males. Kerala is the largest producer of the rubber in the India.

Central Vista: Govt constitutes 5-member panel for timely completion of projects

- **The Modi government constituted a five-member committee to ensure timely completion of various projects executed under the Central Vista Redevelopment Plan. The five-member committee will be headed by former finance secretary Ratan P Watal. Deputy CAG P K Tiwari, former director of L&T Shailendar Roy, IIT Delhi professor Mausam and ministry's joint secretary have been included in the committee.**

- The redevelopment of the Central Vista, the nation’s power corridor, envisages a new parliament building, a common central secretariat, revamping of the 3-km-long Rajpath from the Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate, new office and residence of the prime minister, and a new vice-president enclave.

Central Vista Redevelopment Project refers to the ongoing redevelopment to revamp the Central Vista, India’s central administrative area located near Raisina Hill, New Delhi. The area was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens and Sir Herbert Baker during British colonial rule and was retained by Government of India after independence. The cost of the Central Vista Redevelopment project, which also includes a Common Central Secretariat and the Special Protection Group (SPG) building, has been estimated to be around Rs.13,450 crore (US\$1.8 billion) spread over four years. The project began with the ceremonial laying of the foundation stone of the New Parliament Building on 10 December 2020.



Career
Launcher

International



Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida declares victory for his ruling Liberal Democratic Party

- **Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has declared victory for his ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).** It was a big win for Mr Kishida, who became Prime Minister only a month ago. **His party secured more than 233 Lower House seats enough to govern without its coalition partner Komeito.**
- **The LDP has dominated Japanese politics for decades, but was criticised for its handling of the pandemic.** Mr Kishida's predecessor Yoshihide Suga quit after just a year in office. The resignation came amid plummeting poll ratings for the LDP following an unpopular push to continue with the Tokyo Olympics despite public concern about surging Covid-19 rates. **Mr Kishida, 64, has long-targeted the prime ministerial role and previously served as the country's foreign minister from 2012 to 2017.**
- **The LDP went into general election holding 276 of the 465 seats up for grabs.** Initial exit polls suggested the LDP would need to rely on its coalition partner for a majority - but it defied expectations.
- **The LDP has now scored 261 seats, exceeding the parliamentary majority of 233 seats.** With Komeito scoring 32 seats, it gives their coalition a total of 293 seats. **Japan's parliament, known as the National Diet, comprises the lower House of Representatives and an upper House of Councillors.**

Naruhito is the Emperor of Japan. He acceded to the Chrysanthemum Throne on 1 May 2019, beginning the Reiwa era, following the abdication of his father, Emperor Akihito, on 30 April 2019. He is the 126th monarch according to Japan's traditional order of succession. Tokyo is the capital city of Japan and yen is the official currency of Japan and it is the third most traded currency in the foreign exchange market after the United States dollar and the euro. Fumio Kishida is the current Prime Minister of Japan since 4 October 2021. He has also served as President of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) since 29 September 2021.

International "Blue Flag" air combat exercise held in southern Israel

- **The fifth bi-annual Blue Flag exercise entered its second week, with thousands of troops and dozens of aircraft from around the world taking part in the most advanced aerial drill ever held in the Jewish state.**
- **An estimated 1,500 technical and administrative personnel from different air forces are taking part in the drill at the Ovda Air Force base in the Negev north of Eilat.**

'Global sea levels rose by a factor of two within 10 years': WMO

- **The global mean sea level rose by a factor of two within a period of 10 years.** On the eve of the World Leaders Summit at the Glasgow climate change conference (COP26), WMO's provisional State of Climate in 2021 report said the mean global sea level rise was 2.1 mm per year between 1993 and 2002 and 4.4 mm per year between 2013 and 2021.
- **This was mostly due to the loss of ice mass from glaciers and ice sheets.** Arctic sea ice was below the 1981-2010 average at its maximum in March. Sea ice extent then decreased rapidly in June and early July in the Laptev Sea and East Greenland Sea regions.
- **India lost \$87 billion last year due to disasters like tropical cyclones, floods and droughts,** World Meteorological Organisation's State of the Climate in Asia report had said last week. **Sea surface temperatures in and around Asia are increasing more than the global average at three times the rate in the case of the Arabian sea, it underlined.**

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for promoting international cooperation on atmospheric science, climatology, hydrology and geophysics. The WMO originated from the International Meteorological Organization, a nongovernmental organization founded in 1873 as a forum for exchanging weather data and research. The Convention entered into force on 23 March 1950, and the following year the WMO began operations as an intergovernmental organization within the UN system. It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, the WMO is governed by the World Meteorological Congress, composed of member states, which meets every four years to set policies and priorities. The Congress is led by an Executive Council led by the President, currently Gerhard Adrian of Germany.

For the first time in North Macedonia's 30-year history, a prime minister has resigned

- For the first time in North Macedonia's 30-year history, a prime minister has resigned. Zoran Zaev stepped down after a defeat in local elections, plunging North Macedonia into political crisis.
- North Macedonia's Prime Minister Zoran Zaev announced his resignation following the crushing defeat of his governing Social Democratic Union of Macedonia, or SDSM, in the second round of the country's local elections. Zaev told a news conference at the party headquarters in Skopje "the responsibility for this outcome is mine and I'm resigning as prime minister and as leader of the Social Democratic Union."

North Macedonia (formerly Macedonia before February 2019), officially the Republic of North Macedonia, is a country in Southeast Europe. It gained independence in 1991 as one of the successor states of Yugoslavia. North Macedonia is a landlocked country bordering with Kosovo to the northwest, Serbia to the north, Bulgaria to the east, Greece to the south, and Albania to the west. Skopje is the capital and largest city. The Macedonian denar is the currency of North Macedonia. Stevo Pendarovski is the current President of North Macedonia.

World leaders promise to end, reverse deforestation by 2030, in COP26 climate summit's first major deal

- More than 100 world leaders have promised to end and reverse deforestation by 2030, in the COP26 climate summit's first major deal. Brazil, where stretches of the Amazon rainforest have been cut down, was among the signatories. The pledge includes almost \$19.2 bn of public and private funds.
- Experts welcomed the move, but warned a previous deal in 2014 had failed to slow deforestation at all and commitments needed to be delivered on. Felling trees contributes to climate change because it depletes forests that absorb vast amounts of the warming gas CO₂. A total of 110, had made the landmark commitment. The two-week summit in Glasgow is seen as crucial if climate change is to be brought under control.
- The countries who have signed the pledge - including Canada, Brazil, Russia, China, Indonesia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the US and the UK - cover around 85% of the world's forests. Some of the funding will go to developing countries to restore damaged land, tackle wildfires and support indigenous communities.
- Governments of 28 countries also committed to remove deforestation from the global trade of food and other agricultural products such as palm oil, soya and cocoa.
- These industries drive forest loss by cutting down trees to make space for animals to graze or crops to grow. More than 30 of the world's biggest financial companies - including Aviva, Schroders and Axa - have also promised to end investment in activities linked to deforestation. And a £1.1 bn fund will be established to protect the world's second largest tropical rainforest - in the Congo Basin.

The Prime Minister of India addressed the COP26 world leaders summit in Glasgow where he made a critical pitch for climate action and stood for the nations of the developing world as well. India's Commitments at the Summit: While delivering his national statement on India's behalf, the PM presented five commitments from India towards climate action at COP26. These include: 1. Taking India's non-fossil fuel energy capacity to 500 gigawatt (GW) by 2030. 2. Fulfilling 50% of India's energy requirements through renewable energy by 2030. 3. Bringing down the carbon intensity of India's economy by more than 45% by 2030. 4. Cut down its net projected carbon emission by 1 billion tons from now until 2030. 5. Achieve the target of net zero carbon emission by 2070.

Global Methane Pledge

- The Global Methane Pledge was launched at the ongoing UN COP26 climate conference in Glasgow. So far, over 90 countries have signed this pledge, which is an effort led jointly by the United States and the European Union.
- Methane is the second-most abundant greenhouse gas in the atmosphere, after carbon dioxide, and, therefore, pledges related to cutting down its emissions are significant.
- The pledge was first announced in September by the US and EU, and is essentially an agreement to reduce global methane emissions. One of the central aims of this agreement is to cut down methane emissions by up to 30 per cent from 2020 levels by the year 2030.
- According to the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, methane accounts for about half of the 1.0 degrees Celsius net rise in global average temperature since the pre-industrial era.
- “Rapidly reducing methane emissions is complementary to action on carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, and is regarded as the single most effective strategy to reduce global warming in the near term and keep the goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius within reach.”

World’s First Museum in the Sky introduced by Saudia Airlines

- Passengers flying on SAUDIA, the flag carrier of Saudi Arabia, from Riyadh to AIUla enjoyed a unique experience – of flying in what is probably the world’s first ‘museum in the sky’.
- AIUla is a city of the Medina Region of north-western Saudi Arabia, and falls under the Governorate of Ula. Founded in the sixth century BC, it was the capital of the ancient Lihyanites (Dedanites) and has survived as an old walled city, packed with mud-brick and stone houses.
- Saudi Arabia has decided to build AIUla as an archaeological destination for travellers and have entered into various collaborations to build supporting infrastructure.
- The Prince Abdul Majeed bin Abdulaziz International Airport, built as part of the development strategy of the Royal Commission for Al-Ula (RCU), and which was approved to receive international flights in March this year, has catapulted this heritage site on the global tourist map.

World’s first transnational solar power grid plan

- The world’s first transnational solar power grid that connects multiple countries was unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his UK counterpart Boris Johnson. The announcement came at the 26th Conference of Parties (COP26) being held in Glasgow, a meeting that is essential for humanity to mitigate climate change.
- “One Sun, One World & One Grid will not only reduce storage needs but also enhance the viability of solar projects. This creative initiative will not only reduce carbon footprints and energy cost but also open a new avenue for cooperation between different countries and regions”.

The International Solar Alliance is a common platform for cooperation among sun-rich countries lying fully or partially between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn. The initiative was launched at the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris at the end of 2015 by the then, President of France and the Prime Minister of India. In January 2016, Narendra Modi, and the then, French President François Hollande jointly laid the foundation stone of the International Solar Alliance headquarters and inaugurated the interim Secretariat at the National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) in Gwalpahari, Gurugram, India. Ajay Mathuri is the current Director General of ISA.

UK unveils commemorative Mahatma Gandhi coin to mark Diwali

- Britain unveiled a new commemorative coin to mark Diwali, celebrating the life and legacy of Indian independence leader Mahatma Gandhi. The special coin, available in gold and silver, features an image of India’s national flower, the lotus, and one of Gandhi’s most famous quotes: “My life is my message.”

- Gandhi, a figurehead for civil rights movements across the world, **led the campaign against British rule in India, helping to secure independence in 1947.** The coin is designed by Heena Glover. The £5 coin, is part of the Royal Mint's wider Diwali collection, which includes a gold bar depicting the Hindu goddess of wealth, Lakshmi.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, commonly known as the United Kingdom (UK or U.K.), or Britain, is a sovereign country in north-western Europe, off the north-western coast of the European mainland. The United Kingdom includes the island of Great Britain, the north-eastern part of the island of Ireland, and many smaller islands within the British Isles. The United Kingdom's capital is London. Boris Johnson has been Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and Leader of the Conservative Party since July 2019. Elizabeth II (Elizabeth Alexandra Mary) is Queen of the United Kingdom and 15 other Commonwealth realms. Pound sterling is the official currency of the United Kingdom.

British Sikh Female Army Officer Harpreet Chandi Sets Off For South Pole Adventure

- A 32-year-old British Sikh Army officer and physiotherapist is on a mission to become the first Indian-origin female to complete a solo, unsupported trek to the South Pole and is flying out to Chile to begin her adventure.
- Captain Harpreet Chandi, known as Polar Preet, will be travelling 700 miles while pulling a pulk or sledge with all of her kit, battling temperatures of minus 50 degrees Celsius and wind speeds of up to 60 mph.

Global Drug Index shows how most countries fail drug policy test

- Norway, New Zealand, Portugal, the UK and Australia are the five leading countries on humane and health driven drug policies according to the inaugural edition of the Global Drug Policy Index released by the Harm Reduction Consortium. Brazil, Uganda, Indonesia, Kenya, and Mexico are the five lowest-ranking countries.
- A first of its kind global drug policy index 2021 that ranks 30 countries drawn from across regions on how humane and health-driven their drug laws and policies are, gives India a score of 46 out of 100 with Norway at the top with 74 and Brazil at the bottom scoring 26. In terms of ranking India is at 18.
- The index highlights that the global dominance of drug policies based on repression and punishment has led to low scores overall, with a median score of just 48 out of 100 for all 30 countries which is assessed as a “drug policy failure” and a sign for urgent measures to deal with the situation.
- The Global Drug Policy Index is the first-ever data-driven global analysis of drug policies and their implementation. It is composed of 75 indicators running across five broad dimensions of drug policy: criminal justice, extreme responses, health and harm reduction, access to internationally controlled medicines, and development. “The Global Drug Policy Index is nothing short of a radical innovation,” said Helen Clark, Chair of the Global Commission on Drug Policy and former Prime Minister of New Zealand.

India retains slot in top 10 on climate performance index; China at 37, US 55

- India has retained its spot in the top 10 best performing countries for the third year in a row in the global Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) released by Germanwatch on the side-lines of the COP26.
- The report noted that no country performed well enough in all index categories to achieve an overall very high rating in CCPI. Therefore, once again, the top three places in the overall ranking remain empty.
- Denmark, placed 4th, is the highest ranked country in CCPI 2022, but it does not perform well enough to achieve an overall very high rating. India has been ranked in 10th place. India's performance was rated high in the GHG Emissions, Energy Use, and Climate Policy categories, and medium in Renewable Energy.
- China, the biggest current polluter, was ranked at 37th position (down from 33rd last year). The second most current emitter, the US, was at 55th spot.

Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) is an independent monitoring tool for tracking the climate protection performance of 60 countries and the EU – covering 92% of the Global Greenhouse Gas Emissions. To enhance transparency in international climate politics and enable comparison of climate protection efforts and progress made by individual countries. CCPI assesses each country's performance in four categories: GHG Emissions (40% of the overall ranking), Renewable Energy (20%), Energy Use (20%) and Climate Policy (20%).

Egypt to host COP27 international climate conference next year

- The UN climate change conference COP26 in Glasgow has announced that **Egypt was chosen to host the upcoming session of the conference in 2022 (COP27)**. Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi declared in September his country's interest in hosting the COP27 on behalf of the African continent.
- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) will host the 2023 edition of the conference. **Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai announced that the UAE had won its bid to host the COP28 conference in 2023.**

The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the apex decision-making authority of UNFCCC. The COP meets every year, unless the Parties decide otherwise. The first COP meeting was held in Berlin, Germany in March, 1995. The COP meets in Bonn, the seat of the secretariat, unless a Party offers to host the session. The office of the COP President normally rotates among the five United Nations regional groups which are - Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Central and Eastern Europe and Western Europe and Others. The President is usually the environment minister of his or her home country. She/he is elected by acclamation immediately after the opening of a COP session.

Chilean President impeached over Pandora Papers revelation

- **President Sebastian Pinera was impeached by the lower house of Chile's congress, setting up a trial in the nation's Senate over whether to remove him due to allegations he favoured the sale of a family property while in office.**
- The vote to accept the charges got the bare minimum of 78 votes needed in the 155-member Chamber of Deputies and followed a marathon 20-hour session. **Sixty-seven legislators voted against the "constitutional accusation", including several members of the opposition.** Others abstained or were absent.

Chile is a country in western South America. It occupies a long, narrow strip of land between the Andes to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west. **The country's capital and largest city is Santiago, and its national language is Spanish. The peso is the currency of Chile.**

Czech PM, government formally resigns after election defeat

- **Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babis and his government have resigned in a formal step required by the Constitution following last month's parliamentary election.**
- **Mr. Babis sent the resignation letter to President Milos Zeman.** The head of state is expected to ask Mr. Babis to stay in office until a new government is appointed.

The Czech Republic also known by its short-form name Czechia and formerly known as Bohemia, is a **landlocked country** in Central Europe. **Prague is the capital city in the Czech Republic. Czech koruna, also known as Czech Crown, has been the currency of the Czech Republic since 1993.**

In world's first, Israel holds war games to prepare for more lethal Covid strain

- **Israel began a nationwide drill to test its readiness in the event of an outbreak of a new, more lethal Covid-19 variant. The 'Omega Drill', deemed as the world's first such exercise, will be led by Prime Minister Naftali Bennett.**
- **The exercise, war-gamed over three sessions to simulate the passage of time** after a potential flare-up, will test the resilience of systems that determine lockdown policies, monitor variants, offer economic support for citizens, enforce quarantines and watch border crossings.
- The drill will be **conducted in the format of a war-game and will consist of a senior-level, inter-organizational simulation that tests the national management of a new strain, the 'Omega' strain, that has yet to be discovered in the State of Israel.**

Israel is a country in the Middle East, Jerusalem is one of the oldest cities in the world, and is considered holy to the three major Abrahamic religions—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Both Israel and the Palestinian Authority claim Jerusalem as their capital, however, neither claim is widely recognized internationally. Knesset is the unicameral national legislature of Israel. Israeli new shekel is the currency of Israel. Naftali Bennett is an Israeli politician serving as the 13th and current Prime Minister of Israel since 13 June 2021. Isaac Herzog is serving as the current president of Israel since 7 July 2021.

CO2 emissions to rebound in 2022

- **Global CO2 emissions are set to rebound to pre-pandemic levels next year**, according to an assessment published as countries signed up to fossil-fuel cutting pledges criticised as too vague by campaigners. The grim emissions assessment was billed as a “reality check” for nations gathered at the COP26 summit in Glasgow, seen as a last chance to halt catastrophic climate crisis.
- **Moderate progress this week was checked by the release of the Global Carbon Project’s annual report**, which showed that emissions from gas and coal will rise in 2021 by more than they dropped during the pandemic. It suggested CO2 emissions could eclipse the 40-billion-tonne record set in 2019, which some have predicted - and many hoped - would be a peak.

Jonas Gahr Stoere becomes new Prime Minister of Norway

- **The new centre-left Cabinet of Norway formally took over power after the newly-elected Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Stoere presented a centre-left minority government.** The new cabinet in Norway was introduced a day after a deadly bow-and-arrow attack in a small town.
- **Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Stoere, the leader of the centre-left Labor Party of Norway, stood outside the Royal Palace with his 19-member team-10 women and nine men.** The team includes the leader of the Euroskeptic center party, Trygve Slagsvold Vedum, who becomes the Finance Minister.
- **Emilie Enger Mehl became the youngest Justice Minister of Norway at the age of 28**, while the Foreign Minister portfolio went to another woman- Anniken Scharning Huitfeldt. **In Norway, a minority coalition of the leftwing Labour Party and the rural Centre Party took over after beating the ruling Conservative-led government in the vote for Parliament in September 2021.**

Norway is a Nordic country in Northern Europe whose mainland territory comprises the western and northernmost portion of the Scandinavian Peninsula. The Nordic countries, or the Nordics, or Norden (literally “the North”), are a geographical and cultural region in Northern Europe and the North Atlantic, which includes the sovereign states of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden as well as the autonomous countries of the Faroe Islands and Greenland (both part of the Kingdom of Denmark). Oslo is the capital city of Norway. The krone is the currency of Norway.

Sudan’s army chief appoints new ruling council, led by him

- **Sudan’s army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan was sworn in as head of a new transitional council** he appointed to lead the country following the military takeover late last month, shrugging off domestic and international pressure to reverse the coup.
- **The new 14-member Sovereign Council, for which one member is yet to be confirmed, includes civilians representing Sudan’s regions but none from the Forces of Freedom and Change (FFC) political coalition** that had been sharing power with the military in a democratic transition since 2019.

Sudan is a country in Northeast Africa. It borders the countries of Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Libya, South Sudan, and the Red Sea. Its capital is Khartoum. The Sudanese pound is the basic unit of the Republic of the Sudan. General Abdel Fattah Abdelrahman al-Burhan is a Sudanese politician and Sudanese Army general who is the de facto head of state of Sudan as the Commander-In-Chief of the Sudanese Armed Forces after leading a coup d’état in October 2021 that deposed Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok.

Bulgaria: Incumbent President Rumen Radev leads Presidential Elections

- **In Bulgaria, incumbent President Rumen Radev is leading in the first round of the country's Presidential Elections.** The GERB-UDF coalition and Continue the Change coalition are neck-and-neck in the Parliamentary polls.
- **Radev led his challenger Anastas Gerdzhikov by 64 to 66 percent in the presidential run-off** after nearly winning outright in the first round on November 14, exit polls by Alpha Research and Gallup International showed amid a record low voter turnout.

Bulgaria is a country in Southeast Europe. Sofia is the nation's capital and largest city. The **lev** is the currency of Bulgaria. **Rumen Georgiev Radev** is a Bulgarian politician and former major general who is the **current President of Bulgaria** since 22 January 2017.

Barbados establishes world's first metaverse embassy

- **A virtual city hall, where citizens can meet avatars of public officials and file complaints, will be set up in 2023, it said in a statement. Barbados will open what it says will be the world's first metaverse embassy in the virtual reality platform Decentraland, with embassies on other platforms also planned.**
- **The Metaverse is a term used to describe a virtual space within digital environments such as online games, social media, and virtual reality.** It is a combination of the prefix "meta", meaning beyond, and stem "universe".
- **Barbados, the tiny Caribbean island nation, has decided to extend its diplomatic outreach by becoming the first country to establish a digital embassy after an agreement with metaverse platform Decentraland.** Barbados' Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade officially signed an agreement to establish a digital embassy in Decentraland, a user-owned, Ethereum-based digital environment.

Barbados is an island country in the Lesser Antilles of the West Indies, in the Caribbean region of the Americas, and the most easterly of the Caribbean Islands. Bridgetown is the capital and largest city of Barbados. The Dollar has been the currency of Barbados since 1935.

Kamala Harris becomes first woman to get US presidential powers briefly as Joe Biden undergoes medical

- **President Joe Biden transfers power briefly to Vice President Kamala Harris while he is under anesthesia for a routine colonoscopy for one hour and 25 minutes, making her the first woman to hold presidential power in US history.**
- **On November 19, 2021, Kamala Harris served as acting president from 10:10 to 11:35 am EST, while President Biden underwent a colonoscopy. She became the first woman, and the third person overall, to assume the powers and duties of the U.S. presidency under Section 3 of the Twenty-fifth Amendment.**
- **Biden is undergoing his annual physical at the Walter Reed military hospital outside of Washington. Harris is the first woman to serve as vice president of the United States; no woman has ever been president in the country's nearly 250-year history.** "The Vice President will work from her office in the West Wing during this time," Psaki said.
- **Presidential power has been transferred to the vice president before, when President George W. Bush had colonoscopies in 2002 and 2007. Biden, who turns 79, is the oldest person to take office as US president.**
- **Section 3 of the 25th Amendment to the US Constitution says the President can send a letter to the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate declaring they are "unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, and until he transmits to them a written declaration to the contrary, such powers and duties shall be discharged by the Vice President as Acting President."**
- **In order to transfer the powers back to Biden, a separate letter was sent after the procedure. "In accordance with the provisions of section 3 of the Twenty-Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution, I hereby transmit to you my written declaration that I am able to discharge the powers and duties of the Office of the President of the United States and that I am resuming those powers and duties," the letter, which was sent to both Pelosi and Leahy, reads.**

Kamala Devi Harris is an American politician and attorney who is the 49th and current vice president of the United States. She is the first female vice president and the highest-ranking female official in U.S. history, as well as the first African American and first Asian American vice president. A member of the Democratic Party, she served as the attorney general of California from 2011 to 2017 and as a United States senator representing California from 2017 to 2021. Harris became vice president upon being inaugurated in January 2021 alongside President Joe Biden, having defeated the incumbent president, Donald Trump, and vice president, Mike Pence, in the 2020 election.

Two shades of blue: France changes colour of national flag and it went unnoticed for 3 years

- It's a change so subtle it went unnoticed for almost three years. **But President Emmanuel Macron ordered a change to the colour of the French flag to find echoes of heroism in France's past.** Keen-eyed observers can see that the **French red-white-and-blue tricolour flying above the Elysee Palace and also placed behind Macron at news conferences** and speeches now has a darker navy blue rather than the previous bright blue.
- **The navy blue colour marks a return to tradition – it had been then President Valery Giscard d'Estaing who switched the brighter blue in 1976 so that it matched the colour of the European flag, which displays yellow stars on a blue background.**

World's First Electric Autonomous Cargo Ship Launched In Norway

- Zero emissions and, soon, zero crew: **the world's first fully electric autonomous cargo vessel was unveiled in Norway,** a small but promising step toward reducing the maritime industry's climate footprint.
- On board the Yara Birkeland, the traditional machine room has been replaced by eight battery compartments, giving the vessel a capacity of 6.8 MWh – sourced from renewable hydroelectricity. **The maritime sector, which is responsible for almost three percent of all man-made emissions, aims to reduce its emissions by 40 per cent by 2030 and 50 per cent by 2050.**

UNESCO member states adopt the first global agreement on artificial intelligence ethics

- **UNESCO has adopted the world's first international ethics guidelines for artificial intelligence,** which prohibit the use of the technology for **"social scoring" and mass surveillance.**
- **The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) director-general, Audrey Azoulay, presented the world's first global standard on artificial intelligence (AI).** AI technologies are delivering remarkable results in highly specialized fields such as cancer screening and building inclusive environments for people with disabilities. They also **help combat global problems like climate change and world hunger, and help reduce poverty by optimizing economic aid.**
- **In 2018, Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO, launched an ambitious project:** to give the world an ethical framework for the use of artificial intelligence. Three years later, thanks to the **mobilization of hundreds of experts from around the world and intense international negotiations, the 193 UNESCO's member states have just officially adopted this ethical framework.**

UNESCO is the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and is a specialised agency of the United Nations (UN). It seeks to build peace through international cooperation in Education, the Sciences and Culture. UNESCO's programmes contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals defined in Agenda 2030, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015. Political and economic arrangements of governments are not enough to secure the lasting and sincere support of the peoples. Peace must be founded upon dialogue and mutual understanding. Peace must be built upon the intellectual and moral solidarity of humanity. It is headquartered at the World Heritage Centre in Paris, France. Audrey Azoulay is a French civil servant and politician who has been serving as the Director-General of the UNESCO since 2017, becoming the second female leader of the organization.

El Salvador Plans World's First Bitcoin City

- **El Salvador plans to build the world's first "Bitcoin City", funded initially by bitcoin-backed bonds.** President Nayib Bukele said doubling down on his bet to harness the crypto currency to fuel investment in the Central American country.
- **El Salvador in September became the first country in the world to adopt bitcoin as legal tender.** Bitcoin City will **not levy any taxes except for value-added tax (VAT).** One half of this VAT levied will be **used to fund the bonds issued to build the city and the next half would be used to pay for services such as garbage collection.**
- **El Salvador plans to issue \$1 billion in tokenised US-dollar denominated 10-year bonds to pay 6.5 per cent** via the Liquid Network, according to Samson Mow, chief strategy officer of Blockstream. Half of the funds of the so-called "volcano bond" will be converted to Bitcoin and the other half will be used for infrastructure and Bitcoin mining powered by geothermal energy, Mow said, while sharing the stage with Bukele.
- Blockstream models show at the end of the 10th year of the bond, the annual percentage yield will be 146 per cent due to Bitcoin's projected appreciation, Mow said, **forecasting Bitcoin will hit the \$1 million mark within five years.**

El Salvador is a country in Central America. El Salvador's capital and largest city is San Salvador. The currency is United States dollar. Nayib Bukele is the current President of it.

Sudan's military reinstates ousted civilian PM Hamdok

- **Sudan's ousted Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok has been reinstated following last month's coup when he was put under house arrest.** Under the agreement, the reinstated prime minister will lead a cabinet of technocrats until elections are held. But it is unclear how much power the new civilian government will have, as it will be subject to military oversight.
- **General Abdel Fattah Abdelrahman al-Burhan is a Sudanese politician and Sudanese Army general who is the de facto head of state of Sudan as the Commander-In-Chief of the Sudanese Armed Forces after leading a coup d'état in October 2021 that deposed Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok.**

Sudan is a country in Northeast Africa. It borders the countries of Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Libya, South Sudan, and the Red Sea. **Its capital is Khartoum. The Sudanese pound is the basic unit of the Republic of the Sudan.**

Kuwait reappoints Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid as Prime Minister

- **Kuwait's Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah al-Khalid has been reappointed Prime Minister and tasked with forming a cabinet that would be the Gulf OPEC oil producer's third this year in a domestic political standoff.**
- **Sheikh Sabah, Prime Minister since late 2019, was reappointed by an emiri order issued by Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal al-Ahmad al-Sabah.** The government had resigned on Nov. 8 in the standoff with the elected parliament. **Emir Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmed al-Sabah temporarily handed over some of his main constitutional duties to the crown prince,** his designated successor, including naming the prime minister and swearing in the cabinet.

Kuwait is a country in Western Asia. It is situated in the northern edge of Eastern Arabia at the tip of the Persian Gulf, bordering Iraq to the north and Saudi Arabia to the south. **Kuwait also shares maritime borders with Iran.** Most of the country's population resides in the urban agglomeration of the **capital city Kuwait City.** As of 2021, **Kuwait has a population of 4.67 million people where 1.45 million are Kuwaitis and 3.2 million are foreign nationals.** The Kuwaiti dinar is the currency of Kuwait. **Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is the Crown Prince of Kuwait. Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is the Emir of Kuwait.**

Bulgaria's President Rumen Radev wins second term

- **Bulgarian President Rumen Radev won a second term in office** by a wide margin as voters in the European Union's poorest country backed his strong anti-corruption message, exit polls showed.
- **Radev, 58, defeated his challenger Anastas Gerdzhikov, also 58, winning 66% to 32% in the presidential run-off** after nearly winning outright in the first round on Nov 14.

Bulgaria is a country in Southeast Europe. Sofia is the nation's capital and largest city. The lev is the currency of Bulgaria. **Rumen Georgiev Radev** is a Bulgarian politician and former major general who is the **current President of Bulgaria** since 22 January 2017.

Magdalena Andersson becomes Sweden's first female Prime Minister

- **Sweden's parliament approved Magdalena Andersson as the country's first female prime minister**, tapping the finance minister who recently became the new leader of the Social Democratic party.
- **Andersson was tapped to replace Stefan Lofven as party leader and prime minister**, roles he relinquished earlier this year. Under the Swedish Constitution, prime ministers can be named and govern as long as a parliamentary majority a minimum of 175 lawmakers is not against them.

Sweden is a Nordic country in Northern Europe. The Nordic countries, or the Nordics, or Norden (literally "the North"), are a **geographical and cultural region in Northern Europe** and the North Atlantic, which **includes the sovereign states of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden** as well as the **autonomous countries of the Faroe Islands and Greenland (both part of the Kingdom of Denmark)**. The capital city is **Stockholm**. The **krona** is the official currency of Sweden. **Stefan Lofven** has been **Prime Minister of Sweden** since October 2014.

Germany to get its first woman foreign minister

- **Green party co-leader Annalena Baerbock has become Germany's first woman foreign minister**, as the country's incoming coalition government takes shape.
- The 40-year-old mother-of-two is expected to take on the role in early December **once the new government – made up of the Social Democrats (SPD), the liberal FDP and the Greens – is formally installed**. Baerbock has signalled a more assertive stance on **China and Russia, putting respect for human rights and the rule of law at the centre of German diplomacy**.

Germany is a country in Central Europe. It is the second-most populous country in Europe after Russia, and the most populous member state of the European Union. Germany is situated between the Baltic and North seas to the north, and the Alps to the south; It borders Denmark to the north, Poland and the Czechia to the east, Austria and Switzerland to the south, and France, Luxembourg, Belgium, and the Netherlands to the west. **The nation's capital and largest city is Berlin, and its financial centre is Frankfurt; the largest urban area is the Ruhr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier is serving as President of Germany** since 19 March 2017. **Angela Dorothea Merkel** has been **serving as the chancellor of Germany** since 2005. **Euro** is its official currency.

Petr Fiala named new Czech PM by Covid-stricken President

- **Right-winger Petr Fiala was named the Czech Republic's new prime minister** in an unusual ceremony, with wheelchair-bound President Milos Zeman speaking from behind a plastic barrier because he has Covid-19.
- **Fiala teamed up his Civic Democratic Party with two smaller parties to form the Together alliance** which came **first in last month's general election**. The grouping, which includes the centrist Christian Democrats and the centre-right TOP 09 parties, narrowly beat the ANO movement of outgoing populist billionaire Prime Minister Andrej Babis.

The **Czech Republic, also known by its short-form name Czechia and formerly known as Bohemia**, is a landlocked country in Central Europe. **Prague is the capital and largest city** in the Czech Republic. **Czech koruna, also known as Czech Crown, has been the currency of the Czech Republic**. **Milos Zeman** is serving as the **current President of the Czech Republic**.

New Zealand becomes first country in the world to legalise drug checking

- New Zealand made drug checking permanent by enacting a bill allowing a pilot programme providing harm reduction services at festivals to continue and extend its operations.
- New Zealand is the first country to make drug checks explicit and, as a result, easier. The pilot programme, which was approved in December 2020, was set to expire in December 2021.

India, Sri Lanka and Maldives hold maritime exercises

- A two-day trilateral maritime drill conducted by the coast guards of India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives to bolster security in the Indian Ocean, enhance mutual operational capability and exercise interoperability between these three countries culminated in the Maldives.
- The 15th edition of the trilateral engagement termed ‘Dosti’ is conducted biennially, and 2021 marks 30 years since these maritime drills were first introduced. “The aim of India-Maldives-Sri Lanka tri-lateral exercise ‘Dosti’ is to further fortify the friendship, enhance mutual operational capability, and exercise interoperability and to build cooperation between the Coast Guards of Maldives, India and Sri Lanka.”

SLINEX (Sri Lanka India Naval Exercise) are a series of naval exercises between the Indian Navy and the Sri Lanka Navy. The first ever SLINEX exercise took place in 2005. Sri Lanka is an island country in South Asia, located in the Indian Ocean to the southwest of the Bay of Bengal. Sri Lanka is separated from the India by the Gulf of Mannar and the Palk Strait. Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte is the official, administrative capital of Sri Lanka. Colombo is the commercial capital and largest city of Sri Lanka. Gotabaya Rajapaksa is the current President of Sri Lanka. Mahinda Rajapaksa is the Prime Minister. The rupee is the currency of Sri Lanka.

ECONOMY AND FINANCE



Economy News

Boosting dairy co-ops: Shah launches NCDC's "Dairy Sahakar"

- Union Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah and Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Parshottam Rupala have jointly launched 'Dairy Sahakar,' a scheme envisaging investment of Rs 5,000 crore with a focus on encouraging cooperative dairy businesses in the country.
- This is for the first time, a comprehensive scheme exclusively for cooperatives related to all aspects of dairy business has been framed by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) in partnership with Animal Husbandry and Dairy Department of the Government of India.

Incentives announced for Cashless Transaction on eChhawani Portal of Cantonment Board to promote digital economy

- Ministry of Defence has announced incentives for cashless transaction on eChhawani Portal of Cantonment Board to promote digital economy. The financial incentives are being provided for Community Hall Booking, Water Tanker Booking, Water and Sewerage Connection, grant of Trade License and 78 other services under Miscellaneous Collection.
- Ministry of Defence in a statement said that the residents utilizing these services on eChhawani Portal and making payments in digital and cashless mode will be getting up to two per cent rebate on non-tax charges and fees.
- The Ministry said that there is also a proposal to provide rebate in property tax amount to those residents who avail eChhawani module online payment facility. eChhawani is a citizen centric project of Directorate General of Defence Estates. Under this initiative, Cantonment Boards provide online citizen services to more than 20 lakh residents across 62 Cantonments in the country through unified eChhawani Portal.

Union Minister Piyush Goyal releases 3rd edition of Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) report, 2021

- Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal launched the 3rd edition of the Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) report, 2021.
- As per the report, Gujarat has been adjudged as the Best Performing State while Uttar Pradesh is the top improver. Gujarat occupied the first position, Haryana second while Punjab got the third position as per the report. Some states have leapfrogged in their rankings and Uttar Pradesh has moved ahead seven places.
- He said, better logistics infrastructure will improve Ease of Doing Business and Ease of Living and during the COVID period the government was able to manage critical requirements due to efficient infrastructure. He mentioned that LEADS is an attempt to bring Longevity, Efficiency, Accuracy, Durability, and Smartness in the Logistics sector.

UP ranks first in India for establishing MSME units

- **Uttar Pradesh ranks first in the country in terms of establishment of MSME units**, Chief Secretary Rajendra Kumar Tiwari said and asserted an investment-friendly environment has been created by the state government. Tiwari made the remarks after inaugurating the Uttar Pradesh Pavilion at the India International Trade Fair-2021 at the Pragati Maidan, Delhi.

As per the latest classification of MSME: **1. Micro enterprises would be those with investments not exceeding Rs one crore and turnover of Rs 5 crore. 2. Small enterprises would be those with investment up to Rs 10 crore and turnover of up to Rs 50 crore. 3. Medium enterprises – as those with investments not exceeding Rs 50 crore and turnover of Rs 250 crore.**

China overtakes US as world's richest nation as global wealth surges

- **China has surpassed the United States to become the richest nation in the world as global wealth tripled over the past two decades**, according to a new report by the research arm of consultants McKinsey & Co.
- **The worldwide net worth rose to \$514 trillion in 2020, from \$156 trillion in 2000**, according to research conducted by McKinsey & Co. China emerged at the top of the worldwide list, accounting for almost one-third of the increase.
- **China's wealth jumped to \$120 trillion in 2020 from just \$7 trillion in 2000. This marks a jump of \$113 trillion in 20 years, helping the nation surpass the United States in terms of net worth.** During the same period, **the US saw its net worth more than double to \$90 trillion.** However, the nation could not beat China due to muted increases in property prices.
- It is worth noting that in **both the US and China, more than two-thirds of the wealth is held by the richest 10 per cent of households**, and their share has been increasing, according to the McKinsey & Co report quoted by Bloomberg.

India, world's largest recipient of remittances, received USD 87 bn in 2021: World Bank

- **According to the World Bank's Migration and Development Brief, India has become the world's largest recipient of Remittances, receiving USD 87 billion** (a gain of 4.6 % from previous year) **with the United States being the biggest source**, in 2021. The United States is **accounting for over 20% of all Remittances.**
- **India is followed by China, Mexico, the Philippines, and Egypt**, the Washington-based global lender. **In India, remittances are projected to grow three per cent in 2022 to USD 89.6 billion**, reflecting a drop in overall migrant stock, as a large proportion of returnees from the Arab countries await return, it said.
- **Remittances are usually understood as financial or in-kind transfers made by migrants to friends and relatives back in communities of origin.** These are basically sum of two main components - **Personal Transfers in cash or in kind between resident and non-resident households and Compensation of Employees**, which refers to the income of workers who work in another country for a limited period of time. **Remittances help in stimulating economic development in recipient countries**, but this can also make such countries over-reliant on them.

The World Bank is a vital source of financial and technical assistance to developing countries around the world. The World Bank Group comprises **five institutions managed by their member countries.** It was **established in 1944**, the World Bank Group is **headquartered in Washington, D.C.** **David Robert Malpass is an American economic analyst and former government official serving as President of the World Bank Group since 2019.** **Together, IBRD and IDA form the World Bank**, which provides financing, policy advice, and technical assistance to governments of developing countries. **IDA focuses on the world's poorest countries, while IBRD assists middle-income and creditworthy poorer countries.** The International Development Association (IDA) is a multinational financial institution providing aid to poor countries in the form of loans. It is also referred to as soft loan window of the World Bank.

Foreign Direct Investment: India has become a more important source of FDI into US

- **India has become a more important source of FDI into US**, said US-India Business Council chief ahead of the maiden visit of US Trade Representative Katherine Tai to India.
- **“India has become a much more imp source of FDI into US because of the amount of Indian investment and Indian manufacturing** that is coming into the United States of America. One of the major concerns that Indian companies have brought has been around labour and immigration policies that allowed Indian companies to be able to source from India through H1B1 visa.”

Foreign direct investment (FDI) is when a company takes controlling ownership in a business entity in another country. With FDI, foreign companies are directly involved with day-to-day operations in the other country. This means they aren't just bringing money with them, but also knowledge, skills and technology. Generally, FDI takes place when an investor establishes foreign business operations or acquires foreign business assets, including establishing ownership or controlling interest in a foreign company. **Routes through which India gets FDI:**
Automatic Route: In this, the foreign entity does not require the prior approval of the government or the RBI.
Government Route: In this, the foreign entity has to take the approval of the government. The Foreign Investment Facilitation Portal (FIFP) facilitates the single window clearance of applications which are through approval route. It is administered by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

India's first government-approved vehicle scrapping and recycling facility

- **Maruti Suzuki Toyotsu India (MSTI), a joint venture (JV) between Maruti Suzuki India (MSIL) and Toyota Tsusho Corporation, has opened its first government-approved end-of-life vehicle (ELV) scrapping and recycling unit in Noida in Uttar Pradesh.**
- Built with an investment of Rs 44 crore, the 10,993-square metre facility, **with a capacity to scrap and recycle over 24,000 ELVs annually, was inaugurated by Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) Nitin Gadkari.** It's a step towards a circular economy, with the aim to promote organised, transparent, and environment-friendly dismantling of ELVs.
- This is **India's first government-approved vehicle scrapping and recycling centre for end-of-life vehicles.** The Centre will use environmentally friendly practices with local equipment and global expertise to scrap and recycle end of life vehicles.

Nitin Jairam Gadkari was served as the President of the BJP from 2010-2013. He is the **current Minister for Road Transport & Highways of India.** Gadkari represents Lok Sabha from Nagpur constituency, Maharashtra. During the cabinet reshuffle on 7th July 2021 the **portfolio for Ministry of MSME which was under him was reassigned to Narayan Rane,** another BJP MP from Maharashtra as a part of cabinet expansion.

Rourkela Steel Plant of SAIL bags the ENCON Award 2021

- **The Rourkela Steel Plant of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) bagged the Energy Conservation Award in the Eastern region ENCON Award 2021 competition.**
- **The Rourkela Steel Plant was adjudged with its best-ever 4.75-star energy rating** in the competition held by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). **The rating is also the best ever for SAIL.**
- **The Encon Energy Award is open to all Master's students in Industrial Sciences, Master's (Industrial Engineers) in Engineering (Civil Engineers), Master's (Applied) Economic Sciences (Commercial Engineers) and Master's in Biomedical Engineering (Bioengineers).**

New Wage Rate Index series released; base year revised to 2016 from 1963-65

- **Ministry of Labour released a new series of Wage Rate Index (WRI) with base year 2016, being compiled and maintained by the Labour Bureau,** an attached office of the ministry.

- The new series of WRI with base 2016 = 100 will replace the old series with base 1963-65. The government periodically revises the base year for major economic indicators to reflect the changes in the economy and to capture the wage pattern of workers.
- Thus, as per the recommendations of International Labour Organization, National Statistical Commission etc, the base year of WRI numbers has been revised from 1963-65 to 2016 by the Labour Bureau to enhance the coverage and to make index more representative.

New series of WRI has increased the scope and coverage in terms of number of industries, occupations under selected industries, sample size, weightage of industries etc. Revision of WRI will play a significant role in coming out with minimum wages and national floor wages including other parameters which will be decided soon by expert group. New WRI series will be compiled twice a year, as on January 1 and July 1 each year, on point-to-point half-yearly basis. Weighting diagram in new WRI series was prepared based on the results of seventh round of Occupational Wage Survey. In the new WRI basket, total 37 industries have been covered as opposed to 21 industries in 1963-65 series.

Telangana, Kerala top in H1 capex; UP, Maha among laggards

- Telangana and Kerala lead the capital expenditure chart of states in the first half of 2021-22 while the biggest two spenders, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra, are the laggards with not even spending a fifth of the budgeted amount, thereby pulling down the overall capex by states to a low 28.4 per cent in the period.
- While UP is the largest in term of capex planned at Rs 1,14,274 crore, it has spent only 20.8 per cent of it Rs 23,803 crore, followed by Maharashtra with a capex of Rs 59,139 crore but has spent only Rs 8,454 crore so far while the smaller states like Telangana tops the list of states with the highest capex spends at Rs 14,814 crore in H1 which is 51.9 per cent of the budgeted Rs 28,518 crore for the full year.

General Council decides to postpone MC12 indefinitely

- The World Trade Organization (WTO) has announced it will postpone the Twelfth Ministerial Conference (MC12) indefinitely. This is the second time the event has been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The WTO General Council reached this decision during an emergency meeting on 26 November 2021.
- MC12 was originally planned for June 2020 in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan. Due to the pandemic, the General Council decided to postpone the event until the end of 2021 and moved it to Geneva, with Kazakhstan chairing. This marks the second time that the pandemic has forced a postponement of the 12th Ministerial Conference. The meeting was originally due to take place in June 2020 in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is an intergovernmental organization that regulates and facilitates international trade between nations. Governments use the organization to establish, revise, and enforce the rules that govern international trade. It officially commenced operations on 1 January 1995, pursuant to the 1994 Marrakesh Agreement, thus replacing the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) that had been established in 1948. The WTO is the world's largest international economic organization, with 164 member states representing over 98% of global trade and global GDP. The WTO is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala is a Nigerian-American economist, fair trade leader, environmental sustainability advocate, human welfare champion, sustainable finance maven and global development expert. Since March 2021, Okonjo-Iweala is serving as Director-General of the World Trade Organization. Notably, she is the first woman and first African to lead the WTO as Director-General.

Banks in News

Bandhan Bank now an Agency Bank of RBI, to conduct govt business

- **The Reserve Bank of India has now appointed Bandhan Bank as an Agency Bank of the RBI to conduct government business.** Bandhan Bank now joins several other private banks that have been empanelled as an Agency Bank of the RBI.
- **Bandhan Bank will now be authorised to handle transactions related to GST, VAT and the collection of state taxes.** Aside from that it can also look after collection of stamp duty and pension payments on behalf of central and state governments, among others. **The bank's products, services and digital banking capabilities will help it to carry out its new role.**

Bandhan Bank Ltd. is an **Indian banking and financial services company, headquartered in Kolkata, West Bengal. Bandhan Bank is present in 34 out of 36 states and union territories of India, with 5,618 banking outlets and more than 2.43 crore customers. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh is the founder, CEO and managing director of Bandhan Bank.**

Asian Development Bank gets USD 665 million for climate projects

- **The Asian Development Bank said it has won commitments of USD 665 million to support climate-related projects in Southeast Asia. The Manila, Philippines-based lender manages the regional Green Recovery Platform, which has targeted a total of USD 7 billion for such spending. So far, including earlier pledges, it has raised USD 2 billion, the ADB said.**
- **The new funding announced at the UN climate summit in Glasgow, Scotland, includes USD 151 million from the United Kingdom, USD 155 million from the Italian state bank Cassa Depositi e Prestiti, USD 58 million from the European Union and USD 300 million from the Green Climate Fund.**

Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a regional development bank established on **19 December 1966, which is headquartered in the Ortigas Center located in the city of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines. Masatsugu Asakawa, by career a Japanese civil servant, is the president of the Asian Development Bank. Asakawa, who took office on 17 January 2020, is the 10th president of ADB.**

RBI to launch web-based supervisory system to enable off-site and on-site supervision of modern functions

- **The Reserve Bank of India will soon launch a web-based supervisory system that will enable off-site and on-site supervision of modern functions** such as digital banking and cyber security.
- **Mr. Jain said that the banks need to be careful in complying with rules and invest in technologies to meet the supervisory challenges as they experiment with new services** in the post-COVID world through ultimately governance standards, business model, risk culture and assurance functions will decide how well they fare in long run. He further said that the **web-based and end-to-end workflow automation system has been developed by the Central Bank.**

BSE joins hand with HDFC Bank to promote startup, SME listing

- **Leading stock exchange BSE has collaborated with private sector lender HDFC Bank to further encourage and promote the listing of startups and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) across India. Through this pact, HDFC Bank and BSE will evaluate banking and lending solutions for startups, under going listing process on startups and SME platform.**
- **HDFC Bank will identify potential startups as well as SMEs and help them to partner with intermediaries like merchant bankers, chartered accountants and lawyers to list on BSE.** Both the parties have agreed to conduct and participate in joint outreach activities and contribute to each other's publications on the startup ecosystem in India.

RBI issues revised PCA framework for banks

- **Capital, asset quality and leverage** will be the key areas for monitoring in the revised framework, the banking regulator said.
- A central bank panel has suggested an overhaul of the rules governing Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARC) to enhance the availability of bad loans for transactions and bring in a wider set of investors to the market for distressed assets. **The revised PCA framework will be effective from January 1, 2022.**
- **“The objective of the PCA framework is to enable supervisory intervention at an appropriate time and require the supervised entity to initiate and implement remedial measures in a timely manner, so as to restore its financial health.**

RBI publishes ‘Statement of Commitment to Support Greening India’s Financial System

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently published its ‘Statement of Commitment to Support Greening India’s Financial System - NGFS.
- **RBI said that, to benefit from the membership of NGFS by learning from and contributing to global efforts on Green Finance, RBI joined the Central Banks and Supervisors Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS) as a Member on April 23, 2021.**
- In this regard, on the occasion of the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26), **NGFS has reiterated its willingness to contribute to the global response required to meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement,** and, to that end, NGFS will expand and strengthen the collective efforts towards greening the financial system.

RBI panel calls for an overhaul of ARC regulations

- A central bank panel has suggested an overhaul of the rules governing Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARC) to enhance the availability of bad loans for transactions and bring in a wider set of investors to the market for distressed assets.
- **The recommendations include purchase of loans classified as fraud, an online system for transparency in transactions, and permission to transact in financial assets owned by mutual funds.**
- **The need to define ‘substantial part of business’ to ensure change in management, and permission to participate in the resolution under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) by ARCs** are among the 42 recommendations of the panel.
- **“There is a need for streamlining and standardising the process of sale of stressed assets undertaken by the banks/ FIs,” said the report of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) committee headed by Sudarshan Sen. “Certainty and transparency in such processes are critical for development of an efficient stressed assets market.”**

An asset reconstruction company is a special type of financial institution that buys the debtors of the bank at a mutually agreed value and attempts to recover the debts or associated securities by itself. The asset reconstruction companies or ARCs are registered under the RBI and regulated under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act, 2002).

PM Narendra Modi launches two innovative customer centric initiatives of RBI

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually launched two innovative customer centric initiatives of RBI namely, the Retail Direct Scheme and the Reserve Bank - Integrated Ombudsman Scheme.**
- **In the presence of Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, the Prime Minister said these schemes will expand the scope of investment in the country and make access to capital markets easier and more secure for investors.**
- **Emphasizing the citizen centric nature of these schemes, Mr. Modi said the biggest touchstone of any democracy is the strength and proactiveness of its grievance redressal system, adding that the Integrated Ombudsman Scheme will go a long way in that direction.**

- Stating that **the Retail Direct Scheme will ensure easier and safer access for smaller investors in government securities**, the Prime Minister said **the provision of guaranteed settlement for government securities gives assurance of safety to citizens to invest their small savings**. The account can also be linked to the investor's savings bank account. It may be noted that there will be no charges for opening the Retail Direct Gilt Account.
- **The Reserve Bank- Integrated Ombudsman Scheme aims to further improve the grievance redress mechanism for resolving customer complaints** against entities regulated by RBI. **The central theme of the scheme is based on 'One Nation-One Ombudsman' with one portal, one email and one address** for the customers to lodge their complaints. There will be a single point of reference for customers to file their complaints, submit the documents, track status and provide feedback.
- **The banking and insurance facilities that were beyond the reach of many have been made accessible to all, including farmers, small traders, women, the deprived and poorer sections of society**. He added that **more than 1.25 crore beneficiaries, especially MSMEs and small entrepreneurs have strengthened their enterprises by availing loans worth two lakh ninety thousand crore rupees** under the Credit Guarantee Scheme.

The Reserve Bank of India was founded on 1 April 1935 to respond to economic troubles after the First World War. RBI was conceptualised as per the guidelines, working style and outlook presented by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar in his book titled "The Problem of the Rupee – Its origin and its solution" and presented to the Hilton Young Commission. The bank was set up based on the recommendations of the 1926 Royal Commission on Indian Currency and Finance, also known as the Hilton–Young Commission. In 1969, the Indira Gandhi-headed government nationalised 14 major commercial banks. Upon Indira Gandhi's return to power in 1980, a further six banks were nationalised. The first Governor of the RBI was British banker Osborn Smith and C.D. Deshmukh was the first Indian Governor of RBI. Shaktikanta Das is the current Governor of RBI.

SBI launches video life certificate for pensioners

- **The State Bank of India (SBI) has launched a video life certificate service for pensioners**. This new facility will allow pensioners to submit their life certificates via video from their homes.
- It is important for pensioners and family pensioners to **submit their life certificates before November 30 every year to avoid their pensions getting suspended**. If the life certificate is not submitted by the pensioner, then he/she will stop receiving his/her pension.

On April 1, 2017, the State Bank of India, which was India's largest bank, merged with five of its associate banks (State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur, State Bank of Hyderabad, State Bank of Mysore, State Bank of Patiala and State Bank of Travancore), and with the Bharatiya Mahila Bank. Dinesh Kumar Khara is the current chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI). Imperial Bank of India was the oldest and the largest commercial bank of the Indian subcontinent, and was subsequently transformed into State Bank of India in 1955.

RBI organised its first global hackathon with theme 'smarter digital payments'

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced its first global hackathon 'HARBINGER 2021 – Innovation for Transformation' with the theme 'smarter digital payments'**. HARBINGER 2021 invites innovative ideas for several problem statements in the payment and settlement systems landscape, including, context-based retail payments to remove the physical act of payment.
- **The Central bank has invited participants to identify and develop solutions** that have the potential to make digital payments accessible to the under-served, enhance the ease of payments and user experience while strengthening the security of digital payments and promoting customer protection. **The hackathon is owned and sponsored by RBI and will be hosted on the Application Programming Interface Exchange (APIX) platform.**

India Post Payments Bank tie-up with Bajaj Allianz for distribution of non-life insurance

- **India Post Payments Bank has entered into a tie-up with Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company to enable customers, particularly from weaker sections and living in unbanked and underserved areas, to become financially secure and empowered.**

- **Bajaj Allianz Life Smart Protect Goal and Bajaj Allianz Life Guaranteed Pension Goal** are the term and annuity products, which will be offered as per this strategic alliance. **Both the products will be available to customers in addition to the Department of Posts’ existing Postal Life Insurance and Rural Postal Life Insurance products.**

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) is a specialised division of Indian Post which is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Post a department under Ministry of Communications of the Government of India. Opened in 2018, the bank had acquired about 4.0 crore customers by December 2020. The bank offers savings and current accounts up to a balance of ₹1 Lakh. It is headquartered in New Delhi.

RBI directs NBFCs to appoint Internal Ombudsman within 6 months

- Reserve Bank of India has directed Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) to appoint an Internal Ombudsman within 6 months. Deposit-taking NBFCs with more than 10 branches and non-deposit-taking NBFCs with an asset size of a minimum of 5 thousand Crore rupees have been asked to appoint an internal ombudsman within 6 months. It will be an apex of their internal grievance redress mechanism.
- All complaints that are partly or wholly rejected by the NBFC will be reviewed by the Internal Ombudsman before the final decision of the NBFC is conveyed to the complainant. The Internal Ombudsman will not entertain any complaints directly from members of public. NBFCs not having a public customer interface have been excluded from the requirement for appointment of an Internal Ombudsman.
- Ombudsman is a government official who deals with complaints made by ordinary people against public organizations. This concept of Ombudsman arrived from Sweden. It means an officer appointed by the Legislature to handle complaints against a service or administrative authority.

A Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) is a company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 engaged in the business of loans and advances, acquisition of shares/stocks/bonds/debentures/securities issued by Government or local authority or other marketable securities of a like nature, leasing, hire-purchase, insurance business, chit business but does not include any institution whose principal business is that of agriculture activity, industrial activity, purchase or sale of any goods (other than securities) or providing any services and sale / purchase / construction of immovable property. NBFC cannot accept demand deposits. NBFCs do not form part of the payment and settlement system and cannot issue cheques drawn on itself. Deposit insurance facility of Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation is not available to depositors of NBFCs.

NSDL e-Governance gets RBI’s in-principle approval as Account Aggregator

- NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure, IT-enabled services provider, has received an in-principle approval from RBI to set up an account aggregator business under its wholly owned subsidiary, NSDL e-Governance Account Aggregator Ltd.
- NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure issues PAN cards and helps government agencies in e-governance projects. It has been at the forefront in laying out the e-governance infrastructure for the country and providing citizen-centric services at population scale. The account aggregator (AA) model has the potential to transform the way financial services are delivered through a unique architecture for consent-based data sharing.

The Reserve Bank of India was founded on 1 April 1935 to respond to economic troubles after the First World War. RBI was conceptualised as per the guidelines, working style and outlook presented by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar in his book titled “The Problem of the Rupee – Its origin and its solution” and presented to the Hilton Young Commission. The bank was set up based on the recommendations of the 1926 Royal Commission on Indian Currency and Finance, also known as the Hilton–Young Commission. In 1969, the Indira Gandhi-headed government nationalised 14 major commercial banks. Upon Indira Gandhi’s return to power in 1980, a further six banks were nationalised. The first Governor of the RBI was British banker Osborn Smith and C.D. Deshmukh was the first Indian Governor of RBI. Shaktikanta Das is the current Governor of RBI.

RBI-led panel suggests reining in lending apps

- A committee set up by the central bank has suggested reining in controversial digital loan apps through a mix of regulations, including creating a nodal agency to verify their credentials and legislation to prevent “illegal lending”.
- The report’s thrust is on enhancing customer protection and making the digital lending ecosystem safe while encouraging innovation. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had set up a working group on digital lending, including online platforms and mobile apps, headed by its executive director Jayant Kumar Dash in January after allegations of coercive debt recovery tactics.
- The committee, in its report, has now suggested that a nodal agency be set up which will verify the technological credentials of digital apps of balance sheet lenders and lending service providers. It will also maintain a public register of verified apps on its website.

Mooh Band Rakho: HDFC Bank launches Campaign to Create Awareness on Cyber Frauds

- In a bid to raise awareness on cyber frauds and how to prevent them, a campaign called Mooh Band Rakho was launched by the HDFC Bank in Cyberabad during the International Fraud Awareness Week 2020.
- The campaign was initially aimed to contribute in the fight against COVID-19 and has now been extended to fighting cyber fraud. This is the second year HDFC Bank is participating in this awareness week.

HDFC Bank Limited is an Indian banking and financial services company headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra. HDFC Bank is India’s largest private sector lender by assets. In 1994 HDFC Bank was incorporated, with its registered office in Mumbai, India. It is the largest bank in India by market capitalisation as of March 2020. Sashidhar Jagdishan is the MD of HDFC Bank.

SBI Research upgrades India’s GDP growth estimate for financial year 2022

- SBI Research has upgraded India’s GDP growth projection for financial year 2022 to the range of 9.3%-9.6% from its earlier estimates of 8.5%-9%.
- The revised GDP estimate of SBI Research is in-line with RBI’s projection of 9.5% GDP growth for the current fiscal year. The projection comes as the country recorded only 11% increase in Covid-19 cases during the July-September quarter of 2021, second-lowest among the top 15 most affected countries.

On April 1, 2017, the State Bank of India, which was India’s largest bank, merged with five of its associate banks (State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur, State Bank of Hyderabad, State Bank of Mysore, State Bank of Patiala and State Bank of Travancore), and with the Bharatiya Mahila Bank. Dinesh Kumar Khara is the current chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI). Imperial Bank of India was the oldest and the largest commercial bank of the Indian subcontinent, and was subsequently transformed into State Bank of India in 1955.

ICICI Bank launches ‘Trade Emerge’, a platform for Indian exporters, importers

- ICICI Bank has announced the launch of its online platform, ‘Trade Emerge’, to offer comprehensive digital banking and value-added services to exporters and importers across India. This digital facility is associated with ‘India Filings’, an online business and tax compliance platform. It will also help traders avail certain export benefits under the country’s Foreign Trade Policy.
- Platform’s incorporation services will assist companies to set up an export-import business in India to obtain key registrations and licenses such as trade license, Importer Exporter Code (IEC), GST registration and Registration Cum Membership Certificate issued by export promotion organisations or Commodity Boards of India.

ICICI Bank Limited is an Indian multinational bank and financial services company with its corporate office in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It offers a wide range of banking products and financial services for corporate and retail customers through a variety of delivery channels and specialized subsidiaries in the areas of investment banking, life, non-life insurance, venture capital and asset management. Sandeep Bakhshi (born 28 May 1960) is an Indian banker, and the MD & CEO, ICICI Bank since October 2018.

JP Morgan becomes world's most systemic bank

- **JP Morgan Chase** has become the world's most systemically important bank once again according to the latest annual ranking of top lenders by global regulators, with BNP Paribas and Goldman Sachs also now deemed more systemic.
- The **Financial Stability Board (FSB)**, made up of regulators from G20 countries, published its latest table of the world's 30 most systemic banks. The 30 banks are divided between four "buckets" in order of how systemic, interconnected and complex they are, with **JP Morgan now in a higher bucket than its nearest peers.**
- Last year **JPMorgan shared the highest bucket with HSBC and Citigroup**, but is now alone in the next bucket up, which had been empty. **JP Morgan had been the world's most systemic bank in 2019. BNP Paribas and Goldman Sachs have also moved up one bucket.**

JPMorgan Chase & Co. is an American multinational investment bank and financial services holding company headquartered in New York City. JPMorgan Chase is incorporated in Delaware. As of June 30, 2021, JPMorgan Chase is the largest bank in the United States, the world's largest bank by market capitalization, and the fifth-largest worldwide in terms of total assets, controlling US\$3.684 trillion. As a "Bulge Bracket" bank, it is a major provider of various investment banking and financial services. As of 2021 it is the largest lender to the fossil fuel industry in the world.



Firms in News

Indian Oil to set up India's first mega-scale Maleic Anhydride Plant at Panipat

- Indian Oil Corporation's Board has given its nod to set up the country's first mega-scale Maleic Anhydride Plant to manufacture value-added chemical products at its Panipat Refinery and Petroleum Complex (PRPC).
- The project — with a capex of ₹3,681 crore will be commissioned in 54 months from stage 1 investment approval. "The project is proposed to have a capacity of 120 KTA (kilo tonnes per annum) of Maleic Anhydride (MAH) that is used to make speciality products like polyester resins and surface coatings plasticisers, agrochemicals and lubricant additives".

Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) or IndianOil, is an Indian government corporation. It is under the ownership of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India headquartered in New Delhi. The government corporation is ranked 212th on the Fortune Global 500 list of the world's biggest corporations as of 2021.

ITC becomes first company in India to commit to AWS Water Stewardship Certification

- Multi business conglomerate ITC Ltd. has become the first company in India to announce its ambitious target for 2035 to certify all of its owned factories and hotels operating in areas of high-water stress to the International Water Stewardship Standard (AWS Standard).
- Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS) certification is considered as the global benchmark for water stewardship. The international standard acknowledges companies for responsible water use, leading to positive environmental, social, cultural and economic impacts.

ITC Limited is an Indian company headquartered in Kolkata, West Bengal. ITC has a diversified presence across industries such as cigarettes, FMCG, hotels, packaging, paperboards and specialty papers and agribusiness.

Microsoft stock becomes world's most valuable; beating Apple

- Microsoft's stock becomes world's most valuable after it's share rose as much as 1.1% to hit a market value of 2.46 trillion Dollars blowing past Apple. The drop in Apple Inc.'s shares propelled Microsoft Corp. to the position of the world's largest listed company by market capitalization.
- Microsoft's market cap stood at \$2.49 trillion while Apple's market capitalisation stood at \$2.46 trillion, as reported by CNBC. Microsoft has surpassed Apple's market cap in previous instances as well. For the first time since 2010, Microsoft passed Apple's market cap in 2018 and later in July 2020.

Microsoft Corporation is an American multinational technology corporation which produces computer software, consumer electronics, personal computers, and related services. Its best known software products are the Microsoft Windows line of operating systems, the Microsoft Office suite, and the Internet Explorer and Edge web browsers. Its flagship hardware products are the Xbox video game consoles and the Microsoft Surface lineup of touchscreen personal computers. Microsoft ranked No. 21 in the 2020 Fortune 500 rankings of the largest United States corporations by total revenue; it was the world's largest software maker by revenue as of 2016. It is considered one of the Big Five companies in the U.S. information technology industry, along with Amazon, Google (Alphabet), Apple, and Facebook (Meta). Bill Gates is a co-founder of Microsoft, along with his late childhood friend Paul Allen. It is headquartered in Redmond, Washington, United States.

India's first open air rooftop drive-in theatre opened from November 5

- Reliance Retail said the country's first open air roof-top theatre, where people can drive in with their car to watch cinema, opened from November 5 at its premium shopping mall Jio World Drive in Mumbai. The Jio drive-in theatre, operated by PVR will have a capacity to accommodate 290 cars and it claims to have the biggest screen in town.

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) is an Indian conglomerate holding company headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra, India. On 18 October 2007, Reliance Industries became the first Indian company to breach \$100 billion market capitalization. On 10 September 2020, Reliance Industries became the first Indian company to cross \$200 billion in market capitalisation. It is also the highest income tax payer in the private sector in India. Dhirubhai Ambani founded Reliance Industries in Bombay with his cousin. Mukesh Dhirubhai Ambani is the current chairman, managing director, and largest shareholder of Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL).

Sebi forms IT project advisory committee to provide technical expertise

- Sebi has constituted IT Projects Advisory Committee that will advise the markets regulator on projects aimed to utilise advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, data analytics and cloud computing.
- The seven-member committee, headed by Abhay Karandikar, a director at IIT Kanpur, will provide guidance to upgrade existing Sebi's IT systems and solutions with the latest IT practices, techniques, tools and technologies, an update available with the regulator showed. It will provide technical expertise to Sebi in various stages of IT solution procurement as members of the Tender Evaluation Committee.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is the regulatory body for securities and commodity market in India under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Finance, Government of India. It was established on 12 April 1988 and given Statutory Powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992. SEBI has its headquarters at the business district of Bandra Kurla Complex in Mumbai. Ajay Tyagi was appointed chairman on 10 February 2017, replacing U K Sinha, and took charge of the chairman office on 1 March 2017.

Lava becomes first Indian brand to launch 5G smartphone

- Home-grown mobile phone company Lava International has become the first Indian brand to launch 5G smartphones for domestic consumers.
- The smartphone launched under the brand name 'Agni' has been developed by Lava in India and is getting manufactured at its plant in Noida, Uttar Pradesh. "The purpose of launching Agni is to give Indian consumers the choice of a made in India 5G smartphone for Indians by an Indian company.

Lava International is an Indian multinational electronics company that manufactures smartphones, laptops, computer hardwares and consumer electronics. It was founded in 2009 as an offshoot of a telecommunication venture. It is headquartered in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India. Lava was founded in 2009 by Hari Om Rai, Sunil Bhalla, Shailendra Nath Rai and Vishal Sehgal.

Johnson & Johnson announces split, to form two public companies

- Johnson & Johnson shares jumped after the company said it will break itself up into two public companies, one focused on drugs and medical devices, and the other on consumer products.
- J&J's pharmaceutical arm its strongest performer. The drug unit generated 55% of the company's sales in 2020, with another 28% coming from the medical device unit, and 17% from the consumer arm. Altogether in 2020, J&J made \$83 billion in revenue. As the company continues to demonstrate strong growth, analysts estimate J&J will produce \$94 billion in 2021 sales.

Johnson & Johnson (J&J) is an American multinational corporation founded in 1886 that develops medical devices, pharmaceuticals, and consumer packaged goods. Johnson & Johnson is headquartered in New Brunswick, New Jersey, the consumer division being located in Skillman, New Jersey. The company announced in November 2021 that it would split into two publicly traded companies, one focused on consumer products, the other on pharmaceuticals. Alex Gorsky is chairman and CEO of Johnson & Johnson.

SEBI allows Invesco MF to launch India's first blockchain feeder fund

- Markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has approved the Invesco CoinShares Global Blockchain ETF Fund of Fund (FoF), which will be the first scheme in India to offer exposure to global companies participating in the blockchain ecosystem.

- The feeder fund will invest in Ireland-domiciled Invesco CoinShares Global Blockchain UCITS Exchange-traded Fund (ETF). The fund holds investments such as Canadian bitcoin miner Bitfarms Ltd, US crypto exchange Coinbase Global Inc and the world's biggest corporate crypto holder MicroStrategy Inc.
- The underlying fund was earlier called Invesco Elwood Global Blockchain UCITS ETF, with the name changed after digital asset manager CoinShares International Ltd acquired the ETF index business from Elwood Technologies.

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Paytm Money offers voice-based trading

- Paytm Money has launched voice trading powered by artificial intelligence (AI), which allows users to explore, buy and sell securities by speaking out the commands. Paytm Money is a group company of Paytm, which recently concluded its initial public offering (IPO). The announcement comes three days before the planned listing on. "The voice trading feature enables a single voice command, with the use of neural networks and natural language processing (NLP), to allow instant processing.

Paytm ("pay through mobile") is an Indian multinational technology company that specialises in digital wallet, e-commerce, payment system and financial technology company, based in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India. Paytm was founded in August 2010 with an initial investment of \$2 million by its founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma in Noida, a region adjacent to India's capital New Delhi. It started off as a prepaid mobile and DTH recharge platform, and later added data card, postpaid mobile and landline bill payments in 2013.

BPCL green hydrogen unit to be India's largest

- Bharat Petroleum Corporation will soon float a tender for a 20 MW electrolyser to build the country's largest green hydrogen plant as it aims to achieve net-zero emissions for its operations by 2040, its chairman Arun Kumar Singh has said. BPCL is working out the details and aims to firm up its net-zero roadmap by next March.
- Climate change concerns have pushed most major economies and several companies to set a net-zero greenhouse gas emissions target for themselves. Oil majors BP and Shell plan to turn net-zero by 2050 while Reliance Industries, India's largest company by market value, has set a target to achieve this feat by 2035.

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited is an Indian government-owned oil and gas corporation. It is under the ownership of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, headquartered in Mumbai. India's second-largest downstream government owned oil corporation.

Fitch affirms India's sovereign rating, retains negative outlook

- Fitch Ratings says it has affirmed India's long-term foreign-currency issuer default rating (IDR) at 'BBB-' with a negative outlook, unchanged from its previous review. It also said that the rating balances a still-string medium-term growth outlook and external resilience from solid foreign-reserve buffers against high public debt, a weak financial sector, and some lagging structural issues.
- "The medium-term debt trajectory remains core to our rating assessment, as higher debt levels constrain the government's ability to respond to shocks and could lead to a crowding out of financing for the private sector, in our view. General government debt rose to 89.6% of GDP in FY21, the highest of 'BBB' emerging-market sovereigns. We forecast the ratio to decline slightly to 89.0%, still well above the 60.3% 'BBB' median in 2021," the rating agency said in its assessment.
- "We forecast robust GDP growth of 8.7 per cent in the fiscal year ending March 2022 (FY22) and 10 per cent in FY23 (ending March 2023), supported by the resilience of India's economy, which has facilitated a swift cyclical recovery from the Delta Covid-19 variant wave in 2Q21," Fitch said.

- Last month, Moody's Investors Service had affirmed India's sovereign rating and upgraded its outlook to 'stable', from 'negative' citing receding downside risks to economy and financial system.

A credit rating agency (CRA) assesses an entity's (group, company, government, etc.) creditworthiness in general terms or relating to particular debt or financial obligation. These agencies help lenders and investors determine the potential risk involved in lending money to a particular borrowing entity and gauge the entity's repayment ability based on its past credit behaviour. SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) authorizes and regulates all credit rating agencies in India as per SEBI Regulations, 1999 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992. There are seven credit rating agencies in India including CRISIL, ICRA, CARE, India Ratings and Research Pvt Ltd, Acuite Ratings & Research, Brickwork Ratings India Pvt. Ltd. and Infomeries Valuation and Rating Pvt. Ltd. that are authorised by SEBI to assess credit ratings.

Defy raises \$5.5 million to build India's first social crypto exchange

- Fintech startup Defy has raised \$5.5 million (around Rs 40.79 crore) in a funding round to build India's first social crypto exchange that allows users to create their profiles and share portfolios with friends and followers.
- A social crypto exchange is a platform where investors can observe and follow the investing strategies undertaken by experts in the field, influencers and even friends. Defy, founded by entrepreneurs Bhagaban Behera, Sriharsha Setty and Nakul Kelkar, has received Seed funding worth \$5.5 million.
- In August, CoinDCX raised \$90 million in its Series C round led by Facebook founder Eduardo Saverin's B Capital group, valuing the company at \$1.1 billion.

India on top of Facebook's 2021 Integrity Prioritisation List

- India came on top of Facebook's Integrity Country Prioritisation list for 2021 — which is an internal list of countries that are at the highest risk of violence, hate speech and misinformation among other harms drawn by the company, now renamed Meta. In the Tier I category, India was followed by Pakistan, Syria, Iraq and Ethiopia.

Azim Premji retains top spot as India's 'most generous' billionaire

- Wipro founder Azim Premji has, for a second straight year, emerged as the country's "most generous" philanthropist billionaire, as he topped the Edelgive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2021, ahead of the likes of Mukesh Ambani, Shiv Nadar, Nandan Nilekani, Kumar Mangalam Birla, Gautam Adani, among others. With a total donation of ₹9713 crore in FY 2021, amounting to ₹27 crore per day, Premji, 76, saw his contribution increase by nearly a fourth.
- Azim Premji was followed by HCL's Shiv Nadar who was placed on second position with contributions amounting to Rs 1,263 crore for upliftment causes. Meanwhile, India's richest man, Mukesh Ambani of Reliance Industries came third with Rs 577 crore contribution. Next up is Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chairman of the Aditya Birla Group with a donation of Rs 377 crore.
- Nine women found place on the rankings, led by Rohini Nilekani of Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies (₹69 crore), USV's Leena Gandhi Tewari (₹24 crore) and Anu Aga of Thermax (₹20 crore). Also, Mumbai had the highest number of people on the list (31 per cent), followed by Delhi (17 per cent) and Bengaluru (10 per cent).

Azim Hashim Premji is an Indian business tycoon, investor, engineer, and philanthropist, who was the chairman of Wipro Limited. Premji remains a non-executive member of the board and founder chairman. He is informally known as the Czar of the Indian IT Industry. Wipro Limited is an Indian multinational corporation that provides information technology, consulting and business process services. The Fortune India 500 ranks it the 29th largest Indian company by total revenue. It is headquartered in Bangalore, Karnataka.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



Amazon launched first 2 satellites under Project Kuiper

- **Jeff Bezos-headed Amazon has announced the launch of first two satellites under Project Kuiper, its low-earth orbit (LEO) satellite constellation**, which will provide fast and affordable internet to ‘unserved and underserved’ communities across the globe.
- **The two satellites, both prototypes, will be launched in fourth quarter next year.** Amazon said that the two satellites will be called ‘KuiperSat-1’ and ‘KuiperSat-2,’ adding that these will be used to test the communications and network technology that will be used in the final satellite design.

Amazon.com, Inc. is an American multinational technology company based in Seattle, Washington, which focuses on e-commerce, cloud computing, digital streaming, and artificial intelligence. It is one of the Big Five companies in the U.S. information technology industry, along with Google, Apple, Microsoft, and Facebook. Amazon was founded by Jeff Bezos in Bellevue, Washington, on July 5, 1994. It started as an online marketplace for books but expanded to sell electronics, software, video games, apparel, furniture, food, toys, and jewelry.

ISRO to provide world a solar power calculator application that can measure solar energy potential of any region

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that Indian Space Research Organisation- ISRO will soon provide the world a solar power calculator application that can measure solar energy potential of any region** across the globe. This application will be useful in deciding the location of solar projects and will strengthen ‘One Sun, One World and One Grid’ initiative.
- **Solar energy is totally clean and sustainable and the challenge is that this energy is only available during daytime and dependent on the weather.** ‘One Sun, One World and One Grid’ is solution to this problem and through a worldwide grid clean energy can be transmitted to anywhere and anytime.
- **This creative initiative will not only reduce the carbon footprint and cost of energy,** but will also open a new avenue of cooperation between different regions and countries.

ISRO is the space agency of India headquartered in the city of Bangalore. ISRO was formed in 1969. ISRO built India’s first satellite, Aryabhata, which was launched by the Soviet Union on 19 April 1975. Dr Kailasavadivoo Sivan is current the chairperson of the ISRO. Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) or Sriharikota Range (SHAR) is a rocket launch centre operated by ISRO. It is located in Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.

China launches earth science satellite

- **China sent an Earth science satellite into space from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in the northern Shanxi Province.** The satellite, called Guangmu, was launched by a Long March-6 carrier rocket.
- **The satellite, with three optical payloads in it, can provide space observation data for monitoring, evaluating and studying the interaction between human and nature and sustainable development.** This was the 395th flight mission of the Long March rocket series, the launch center said.

- Developed by the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the satellite (SDGSAT-1) is the world's first space science satellite dedicated to serving the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

DRDO, IAF jointly test smart anti-airfield weapon

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Air Force (IAF) have jointly carried out two flight tests of the indigenously-developed smart anti-airfield weapon. The weapon was launched by an IAF aircraft from Chandan ranges at Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
- Smart anti airfield weapon has been designed and developed by Research Centre Imarat (RCI) in coordination with other DRDO Laboratories and extensive support from IAF. Quality and design certification agencies have contributed significantly in its development and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Bengaluru has carried out weapon integration with the aircraft.
- Electro-optical configuration of the system is equipped with Imaging Infra-Red (IIR) Seeker technology enhancing the weapon's precision strike capability. In both the tests, the intended target was hit with high accuracy. The system is designed for a maximum range of 100 kilometres.
- The newly adapted launcher ensured smooth release and ejection of the weapon. Advanced guidance and navigation algorithms, software performed as per the mission requirements. The telemetry and tracking systems captured all mission events throughout the flight. All the mission objectives were achieved.

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is an Indian state-owned aerospace and defence company, headquartered in Bangalore (Bengaluru), India. Established on 23 December 1940, HAL is one of the oldest and largest aerospace and defence manufacturers in the world today. HAL began aircraft manufacturing as early as 1942 with licensed production of Harlow PC-5, Curtiss P-36 Hawk and Vultee A-31 Vengeance for the Indian Air Force.

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is an agency of the Republic of India, charged with the military's research and development, headquartered in New Delhi, India. It was formed in 1958 by the merger of the Technical Development Establishment and the Directorate of Technical Development and Production with the Defence Science Organisation. Dr G. Sathesh Reddy is the current Chairman of DRDO.

Astronaut Wang Yaping becomes first Chinese woman to walk in space

- Astronaut Wang Yaping became the first woman to walk in space after she took part in Shenzhou-13 mission's first extravehicular activity with mission commander Zhai Zhigang. Shenzhou-13, meaning "Divine Vessel" in Chinese, is Zhai and Wang's second space mission and Ye's first.
- "This marks the first extravehicular activity of the Shenzhou-13 crew, and it is also the first in China's space history involving the participation of a woman astronaut,". Mission commander Zhai is a former fighter pilot who performed China's first spacewalk in 2008.

Lakshadweep becomes the first in India to achieve full COVID vaccination

- Union Territory Lakshadweep has achieved complete Covid vaccination of its eligible population. Lakshadweep has become the first among states and Union Territories to achieve complete vaccination coverage of its eligible population.
- The UT has vaccinated 99.2 percent of the eligible population with both doses. As per the Health Ministry's statewide Covid vaccination data, a total of 1,01,759 doses of vaccines have been administered in the UT so far. It includes 55,144 shots as the first dose and 46,615 as the second dose.

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a contagious disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The first case was identified in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. It has since spread worldwide, leading to an ongoing pandemic. WHO first learned of this new virus on 31 December 2019, following a report of a cluster of cases of 'viral pneumonia' in Wuhan, People's Republic of China. The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are, Fever, Dry cough and Fatigue. The standard diagnosis method is by real-time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) from a nasopharyngeal swab. In India, the first case was reported in Kerala.

India launches the 41st Scientific Expedition to Antarctica

- **India has successfully launched the 41st Scientific Expedition to Antarctica** with the arrival of the first batch of its contingent at the southern white continent. **The first batch comprising of 23 scientists and support staff reached the Indian Antarctic station Maitri.**
- Four more batches shall be **landing in Antarctica by air using DROMLAN facility and onboard chartered ice-class vessel MV VasiliyGolovnin** by mid-January 2022. The 41st expedition has two major programs. **The first program encompasses geological exploration of the Amery ice shelf at Bharati station.**
- This will help explore the link between India and Antarctica in the past. **The second program involves reconnaissance surveys and preparatory work for drilling of 500 meters of ice core near Maitri.**
- It will **help in improving the understanding of Antarctic climate, westerly winds, sea-ice and greenhouse gases from a single climate archive for past 10,000 years.** The ice core drilling will be done in collaboration with the British Antarctic Survey and the Norwegian Polar Institute.
- In addition to accomplishing scientific programs, it will **replenish the annual supplies of food, fuel, provisions, and spares for operations and maintenance of life support systems at Maitri and Bharati.**

India's first fisheries business incubator launched in Haryana's Gurugram costing Rs. 3.23 crore

- **Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Shri Parshottam Rupala inaugurated the country's first-of-its kind, dedicated business incubator to be known as LINAC- NCDC Fisheries Business Incubation Centre (LIFIC) in Haryana's Gurugram costing Rs. 3.23 crore** to nurture fisheries start-ups under real market-led conditions.
- **To begin with, the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), an implementing agency for the LIFIC, has identified the first batch of ten incubatees from four states—Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra.** Out of them, 6 are from newly-created Fish Farmers Producer Organizations with the support of the financial grant under the PMMSY.
- **Stating that the Centre will serve as a 'milestone' in the future for the fisheries sector** which is being given a big push **under the central flagship Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) launched last year by Prime Minister Narendra Modi,** Rupala said that the incubation unit will provide handholding such as training, converting entrepreneurial ideas into business models and doling out seed money to the new as well as existing business entrepreneurs keen to make big in the segment.
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IIT Delhi and IIIT Delhi tech innovation hubs join hands to build India's first medical cobotics centre

- **The technology innovation hubs of IIT Delhi and IIIT Delhi have signed an MoU to set up India's first medical cobotics centre.** I-Hub Foundation for Cobotics (IHFC), the Technology Innovation Hub (TIH) of IIT Delhi and iHub Anubhuti, the TIH of Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi (IIITD) joined hands to build India's first Medical Cobotics Centre (MCC) at IIIT-Delhi.
- **The TIHs are funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India under its National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS).** IIT Delhi and IIIT Delhi have strong expertise in engineering and have strong linkages with researchers and medical professionals from various institutions in India such as AIIMS and others.

World's most sophisticated MRI facility launched at National Brain Research Centre in Manesar Haryana

- **Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh launched first of its kind, latest, world's most sophisticated MRI facility at the National Brain Research Centre (NBRC), Manesar in Haryana.** It is India's premier institute dedicated to Neuroscience Research and Education.

- On the occasion, the Minister said, with this facility, India embarks on new frontiers of human Neuroscience with a unique and powerful 3-T MRI platform of outstanding performance. **He informed that MRI Scanner Prisma from Siemens, Germany, is being used by several international initiatives, like Brain initiative of USA, the European human brain project.**

NASA launched test mission of asteroid-deflecting spacecraft

- **SpaceX launched NASA’s planetary defense mission, Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART), on a Falcon 9 rocket from the Vandenberg Space Force Base in California. The mission is an attempt to understand how to deflect an asteroid off a collision course toward Earth.**
- **A SpaceX rocket was blasted off from California as NASA seeks to demonstrate a first-of-its-kind planetary defense system, designed to deflect an asteroid from a potential doomsday collision with Earth. The DART mission will test NASA’s ability to alter an asteroid’s trajectory with kinetic force - crashing a robot spacecraft into it at high speed and nudging the space boulder just enough to keep our planet out of harm’s way.**
- **DART’s target is a tiny fraction of the size of the cataclysmic Chicxulub asteroid that slammed into Earth about 66 million years ago, killing most of the planet’s animal species. It is not on a path that will cause it to hit Earth in the foreseeable future.**
- **“Asteroid Dimorphos: we’re coming for you!” NASA tweeted after the launch. The goal is to slightly alter the trajectory of Dimorphos, a “moonlet” around 525 feet (160 meters, or two Statues of Liberty) wide that circles a much larger asteroid called Didymos (2,500 feet in diameter). The pair orbit the Sun together. “What we’re trying to learn is how to deflect a threat,” NASA’s top scientist Thomas Zuburchen said of the \$330 million project, the first of its kind.**

Space Exploration Technologies Corp. (doing business as SpaceX) is an American aerospace manufacturer, space transportation services and communications corporation headquartered in Hawthorne, California. SpaceX was founded in 2002 by Elon Musk with the goal of reducing space transportation costs to enable the colonization of Mars. SpaceX manufactures the Falcon 9 and Falcon Heavy launch vehicles, several rocket engines, Dragon cargo, crew spacecraft and Starlink communications satellites. SpaceX’s achievements include the first privately funded liquid-propellant rocket to reach orbit (Falcon 1 in 2008), the first private company to successfully launch, orbit, and recover a spacecraft (Dragon in 2010), the first private company to send a spacecraft to the International Space Station (Dragon in 2012), the first vertical take-off and vertical propulsive landing for an orbital rocket (Falcon 9 in 2015), the first reuse of an orbital rocket (Falcon 9 in 2017), and the first private company to send astronauts to orbit and to the International Space Station (SpaceX Crew Dragon Demo-2 in 2020).

Inventions/Discoveries/Health

NASA's solar probe faces space dust, debris on way to Sun

- NASA's ambitious Parker Solar Probe spacecraft, studying the Sun at close proximity, is being bombarded with space dust and debris on its way to the Sun.
- Scientists at the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics (LASP) at the University of Colorado, Boulder and the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (APL) have examined collisions between the Parker Solar Probe spacecraft and dust.
- Traversing near-sun space at up to 180 kilometres per second, Parker Solar Probe ploughs through the densest region of the zodiacal cloud. The zodiacal cloud is a thick, pancake-shaped dust cloud that extends throughout the solar system and is made up of tiny dust grains shed from asteroids and comets.
- As Parker Solar Probe barrels through this region, the study found that thousands of tiny (about 2 to 20 microns in diameter, or less than a quarter of the width of a human hair) dust grains strike the spacecraft at hypervelocity (faster than 6,700 miles per hour).

The Parker Solar Probe (abbreviated PSP; previously Solar Probe, Solar Probe Plus or Solar Probe+) is a NASA space probe launched in 2018 with the mission of making observations of the outer corona of the Sun. It will approach to within 9.86 solar radii (6.9 million km or 4.3 million miles) from the center of the Sun, and by 2025 will travel, at closest approach, as fast as 690,000 km/h (430,000 mph), or 0.064% the speed of light. Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory designed and built the spacecraft, which was launched on 12 August 2018. It became the first NASA spacecraft named after a living person, honoring nonagenarian physicist Eugene Newman Parker, professor emeritus at the University of Chicago.

Scientists in Ahmedabad discover exoplanet 1.4 times bigger than Jupiter

- Scientists from the Ahmedabad-based Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) have discovered an exoplanet that is 725 light years away from us and orbiting an ageing star that has 1.5 times the mass of our Sun, according to the department of space.
- The exoplanet is 1.4 times the size of Jupiter and it is orbiting unusually close to a star, completing one orbit in just 3.2 Earth days. Despite being bigger than Jupiter, its mass is 70% that of the solar system's largest planet. Exoplanets are planetary bodies that are outside our solar system and they usually orbit a star.
- The distance between the newly discovered exoplanet and its star is nearly one-tenth the distance between the Sun and Mercury. Due to the proximity of the exoplanet to its star, it is extremely hot with surface temperatures reaching up to 2,000 degrees Kelvin (1726.85 degrees Celsius) and an inflated radius with very low density.
- The star is known as HD 82139 as per the Henry Draper catalogue and TOI 1789 as per the TESS catalogue. Hence, the planet is known as TOI 1789b or HD 82139b as per the IAU nomenclature.

225 hectare Maharashtra land handed over for first LIGO project in India

- The Hingoli revenue department has handed over 225 hectare of land in Maharashtra to authorities of the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) project for setting up the first such facility in the country.
- There are currently a couple of such labs in the US - at Hanford in Washington and Livingston in Louisiana - which study the gravitational waves. In 2016, the central government had given an 'in principle' approval to the LIGO-India mega science proposal for research on gravitational waves.
- The project will provide opportunities to scientists and engineers to dig deeper into the realm of gravitational waves. A few years back, scientists had for the first time observed ripples in the fabric of spacetime called gravitational waves, arriving at the earth from a cataclysmic event in the distant universe.

INDIGO or IndIGO (Indian Initiative in Gravitational-wave Observations) is a consortium of Indian gravitational-wave physicists. This is an initiative to set up advanced experimental facilities for a multi-institutional observatory project in gravitational-wave astronomy located near Aundha Nagnath, Hingoli District, Maharashtra, India. Predicted date of commission is in 2024. LIGO-India is a planned advanced gravitational-wave detector to be located in India, whose concept proposal is now under active consideration by the science funding agencies in India and US.

India's first veterinary ventilator hospital, in Ahmedabad

- A Gujarati man, who lost his pet a year ago due to lack of facilities has now opened “a one-stop solution to everything related to pets — a non-profit veterinary hospital with fully equipped OT rooms and India's first animal vet ventilator” in Ahmedabad.

India's first medical collaborative robotics centre coming up soon in IIT-Delhi

- India's first Medical Cobotics Centre (MCC) is being set up at IIT-Delhi for promoting related advanced researches in the field of medical simulation. Cobotics is a neologism formed by the “collaborative” and “robotics” terms. Recently at a function, the I-Hub Foundation for Cobotics (IHFC), the Technology Innovation Hub (TIH) of Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi) and the TIH of Inderprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi (IIITD), signed an MoU to set up the MCC at IIT-Delhi.
- The proposed MCC will be a technology-enabled medical simulation and training facility for the young resident doctors besides acting as a validation centre for the research outcomes for healthcare robotics and digital health.

IIT Varanasi developed India's first device for on-site production of ultra-pure Hydrogen

- Scientists at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), BHU claim to have developed a first-of-its-kind device in India for the on-site production of ultra-pure Hydrogen.
- According to the team, at a time when India has committed to zero net emissions by 2070 at the COP26 Climate Summit this is a major development in the Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the device is 100 per cent indigenous and every component made in IIT (Banaras Hindu University) facilities.
- “The developed device can potentially change the hydrogen energy prospects in India and make hydrogen an energy source for fuelling India's transportation and power needs. This technology can be a turning point not only in the research areas but also to each and every individual in one way or the other.”

WHO avoids Greek alphabet Xi and names new Covid variant Omicron

- The new variant of Covid identified first in South Africa has been named omicron by the World Health Organization. The variants of SARS-CoV-2 are named after Greek alphabets, but for naming omicron, the experts skipped two letters Nu and Xi and chose omicron instead.
- In fact, Nu started trending on social media platforms after the news of a new Covid variant came out as Nu was the possible choice for the name of this new variant, which is believed to be more transmissible than the other variants.
- Omicron”, the new Covid variant that has the world on alert, has been named after the 15th letter of the Greek alphabet. The first 12 have already been used for naming other strains. Why were letters 13 and 14 – Nu and Xi – skipped by the World Health Organisation?, Many said the letters were avoided for a reason. The letter “Nu” could be confused with “new” and “Xi” is part of Chinese President Xi Jinping's name.

The World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for international public health. The WHO Constitution states its main objective as “the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health”. Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, it has six regional offices and 150 field offices worldwide. The WHO was established on 7 April 1948. The first meeting of the World Health Assembly (WHA), the agency's governing body, took place on 24 July of that year. The current director-general is Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus of Ethiopia.

ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT

India launches 'Climate Equity Monitor' on first day of COP26

- On the first day of the climate change conference, COP26, India launched an online dashboard – the 'Climate Equity Monitor' for assessing, at the international level, equity in climate action, inequalities in emissions, energy and resource consumption across the world, and ongoing climate policies of several countries from the perspective of developing countries.
- The 'Climate Equity Monitor' is aimed at monitoring the performance of Annex-I Parties under the UNFCCC (comprising developed countries) based on the foundational principles of the Climate Convention, namely equity and the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC).
- The performance and policies of the Non Annex-I Parties (developing countries) will be also provided for comparison, a release from the Environment, Forests and Climate Change Ministry said. The performance here is the respective countries actions to cut down on carbon emissions as part of the climate actions that will collectively help restrict global temperature rise.
- India's Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister, Bhupender Yadav, tweeted: "Climate Equity Monitor that focuses on equity and climate action from a data and evidence-based perspective will encourage a vigorous discussion on this crucial issue and engage experts from all countries." He also congratulated the team that worked on this project, the release said.
- The website has been conceptualised and developed by independent researchers from India — the Climate Change Group at the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), Chennai, and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Department at the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) Bengaluru, with other independent researchers.

The 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference, also known as COP26 (Conference of the Parties), is the 26th United Nations Climate Change conference. It is being held at the SEC Centre in Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom, between 31 October and 12 November 2021, under the presidency of Alok Sharma. It was delayed for a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The conference is the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the third meeting of the parties to the Paris Agreement. It is the first time since COP21 that parties are expected to commit to enhanced ambition towards mitigating climate change. As outlined in the Paris Agreement, parties are required to carry out a process colloquially known as the 'ratchet mechanism' every five years to give new national pledges.

White House sends Kigali amendment on climate-warming gases to Senate

- The White House sent an international agreement that requires countries to phase down greenhouse gases frequently found in refrigerators and air conditioners to the U.S. Senate for ratification. The so-called Kigali amendment to the Montreal Protocol is a global treaty to reduce hydro fluorocarbons, or HFCs, that was adopted in 2016 but that the United States has not yet ratified. The amendment calls for the phase-down of HFCs, gases that are significantly more potent than carbon dioxide in contributing to global warming.
- The move comes shortly after President Joe Biden's trip to Glasgow, Scotland, for the U.N. climate conference. Biden has pledged that the United States will cut its greenhouse gas emissions by 50%-52% by 2030 compared with 2005 levels. Worldwide implementation of the amendment could prevent as much as a half degree Celsius (0.9 F) in warming by the end of the century.
- In September, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency finalized a rule that would slash the use of HFCs by 85 percent over the next 15 years. The rule carries out legislation that was passed with bipartisan support by Congress last year and would make the United States compliant with the Kigali amendment.
- Administration officials noted bipartisan support for tackling the issue in the past. The request for the Senate to ratify comes shortly after Biden on Monday signed a \$1 trillion infrastructure bill into law that passed with support from his fellow Democrats and some Republicans.

Punjab bats for conservation of Indus river dolphin

- The census of one of the world's most threatened cetaceans, the Indus river dolphin (*Platanista gangetica minor*) — a freshwater dolphin that is found in river Beas, is all set to commence in the winter as part of a project by the Centre. However, Punjab's wildlife preservation wing has gone a step ahead to not only protect the dolphins but also their natural habitat.
- The Indus river dolphin is classified as endangered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and, until recently, it was believed that these dolphins were endemic to Pakistan. But in 2007, a remnant but viable population of Indus dolphins was discovered in Punjab's Harike wildlife sanctuary and in the lower Beas River.
- Since its discovery, research is being done by Punjab's Department of Forests and Wildlife Preservation in partnership with WWF-India on the current distribution, habitat use and population abundance of the mammal. The Indus river dolphin was declared the State aquatic animal of Punjab in 2019.

Jammu and Kashmir gets its first ever floating theatre at Dal Lake

- The first-ever open-air floating theatre in Jammu and Kashmir has been launched in the famous Dal Lake. This theatre aims to attract tourism to the union territory. Kashmir has earned fame on a global level for its natural beauty and Bollywood filmmakers have called it a 'photographers paradise'.
- On this occasion, a Shikara rally, adorned with shining lights passed through Nehru Park to Kabootar Khana with local artists singing and dancing to Kashmiri songs which entertained guests and passersby. Bollywood film 'Kashmir ki Kali' was shown to tourists and residents of the area in the theatre.

Bat Wins New Zealand's 'Bird of the Year' Award

- Pekapeka-tou-roa, a long-tailed bat that is one of New Zealand's two native land mammals, has won the country's Bird of the Year award. However, this had led to a controversy in the country as the title has been awarded to a native mammal instead of a bird.
- The award hosted by Forest and Bird (an independent conservation organization) is given after an annual competition. In this unique battle, New Zealanders rank their favourite birds out of the country's 200-odd native species.
- It also helps in raising awareness of their ecological plight. Pekapeka-tou-roa was added to the New Zealand's Bird of the Year list by Forest and Bird. Forest and Bird allowed a native mammal to enter the competition for the first time. The organization added many people in the country don't even know that Pekapeka-tou-roa exists.

Kaiser-i-Hind is Arunachal's State butterfly

- State Cabinet of Arunachal Pradesh, headed by Chief Minister Pema Khandu, approved "Kaiser-i-Hind" as the state butterfly. Kaiser-i-Hind is scientifically known as *Teinopalpus imperialis*. In literal terms, it means Emperor of India. The butterfly is having a wingspan of 90-120 mm. It is found across six States along Eastern Himalayas at elevations from 6,000-10,000 feet in a well-wooded terrain.
- The Kaiser-i-Hind is protected under Schedule II of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Despite that, they are hunted for the supply to butterfly collectors. International Union for Conservation of Nature has red-listed the Kaiser-i-Hind.
- The insect with a 90-120 mm wingspan is found in the eastern Himalayas. An elusive swallowtail butterfly carrying 'India' in its name and found in next-door China will become the State butterfly of Arunachal Pradesh. The butterfly carries 'India' in its name and it is found in southern China, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal and Bhutan. Kaiser-e-Hind is a very rare and elusive swallowtail butterfly.

India's first museum on earth sciences to be set up in UP

- Uttar Pradesh now has the first Museum in India dedicated to Earth, The Indian Museum of Earth. The Museum will have exhibits from the world of palaeosciences, geology, tectonics and Earth processes and will be a world-class iconic museum with collections from palaeosciences, geology, tectonics, earth processes and whatnot.

- “The museum, which will be a geo treasure of the country, will **become a reality with the joint efforts of Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (BSIP)**, ministry of earth sciences, ministry of mines, ministry of environment, forest and climate change, ministry of science and technology and the ministry of culture.”

COP26: Maharashtra bags top leadership award in Glasgow

- **Maharashtra received “high commendations” in two other categories - Climate Partnerships and Creative Climate Solutions.** British Columbia and Québec in Canada won awards in these two categories
- **The coalition has previously supported Bengal in revamping its state climate action plan by allocating money from its Future Fund** for a feasibility study on e-ferries in Kolkata.
- **In Chhattisgarh, the coalition organised capacity-building workshops for officials on how to track greenhouse gas emissions and build inventories that comply** with international standards. Chhattisgarh, Jammu and Kashmir, Telangana, and Bengal are also part of the coalition.

In a first, rare pink leopard sighted in Rajasthan

- **In a first in India, the rare ‘pink’ leopard was recently sighted in Ranakpur region, located in the Aravalli hills of south Rajasthan.** Earlier sightings of the pink leopard were reported in South Africa in 2012 and 2019.

Scientist develop new protein-based Covid vaccine that doesn’t need cold storage

- **The research team at Boston Children’s Hospital, US, noted that currently available Covid vaccines require cold storage and sophisticated manufacturing capacity,** which makes it difficult to produce and distribute them widely, especially in less developed countries.
- **The new vaccine candidate elicited strong immune responses against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, and its variants in mice,** the researchers said. The vaccine was successfully freeze-dried and later reconstituted without losing efficacy, they said, adding it remained stable and potent for at least seven days at room temperature.

Earth’s first landmass emerged in Singhbhum: study

- **A new study has challenged the widely accepted view that the continents rose from the oceans about 2.5 billion years ago.** It suggests this **happened 700 million years earlier — about 3.2 billion years ago —** and that the earliest continental landmass to emerge may have been Jharkhand’s Singhbhum region. The study, by researchers from India, Australia and the US.
- **Scientists have found sandstones in Singhbhum with geological signatures of ancient river channels, tidal plains and beaches over 3.2 billion years old,** representing the earliest crust exposed to air.
- The researchers studied the granites that form the continental crust of Singhbhum region. **“These granites are 3.5 to 3.1 billion years old and formed through extensive volcanism that happened about 35-45 km deep inside the Earth and continued on-and-off for hundreds of millions of years until all the magma solidified to form a thick continental crust in the area. Due to the thickness and less density, the continental crust emerged above surrounding oceanic crust owing to buoyancy”.**

SPORTS



Sports Personalities in News

Tokyo Olympics Medallists Neeraj Chopra And Lovlina Borgohain Among 12 Sportspeople To Be Awarded Khel Ratna

- Tokyo 2020 medallists Neeraj Chopra, PR Sreejesh, Lovlina Borgohain and Ravi Kumar Dahiya were among 12 sportspeople honoured with the country's highest sporting honour - the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award. The other Khel Ratna awardees were Indian men's hockey team captain Manpreet Singh, footballer Sunil Chhetri and cricketer Mithali Raj.
- Tokyo Paralympics medallists Avani Lekhara, Pramod Bhagat, Krishna Nagar, Sumit Antil and Manish Narwal also received the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna award for 2021.
- As many as 35 athletes - including history-making fencer Bhavani Devi, hockey player Vandana Katariya and Tokyo Paralympics medallist Bhavina Patel and Cricketer Shikhar Dhawan - were given the Arjuna Award. The awards are generally given on the occasion of National Sports Day - August 29 (Dhyan Chand's birth anniversary) - but were deferred this year due to the Olympics and Paralympics.
- Athletics coach Radhakrishnan Nair and table tennis coach Subramanian Raman were among those who received the Dronacharya Award. The National Sports Awards are announced by the Indian Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports.
- The Khel Ratna Award, officially known as the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award (transl. Major Dhyan Chand Sport Jewel Award), formerly known as the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award in Sports and Games, is the highest sporting honour of India. It is awarded annually by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- The recipient(s) is/are selected by a committee constituted by the Ministry and is honoured for their "spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports over a period of four years" at international level. As of 2020, the award comprises a medallion, a certificate, and a cash prize of Rs.25 lakh (US\$33,000).
- Instituted in 1991–1992, the award was given for the performance by a sportsperson in a year. Based on the suggestions provided by 2014 award selection committee, the Ministry revised the criteria in February 2015 to consider the performance over a period of four years. The nominations for a given year are accepted till 30 April or last working day of April with not more than two sportspeople nominated for each sports discipline. A twelve-member committee evaluates the performances of a sportsperson at various International events like Olympic Games, Paralympic Games, Asian Games, and Commonwealth Games. The committee later submits their recommendations to the Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports for further approval. The award from 1991-2021 was named after Rajiv Gandhi (1944-1991), former Prime Minister of India.
- The award since August 6, 2021 is named after Major Dhyan Chand (1905–79), an Indian field hockey player, widely regarded as one of the greatest field hockey players of all time, who scored more than 1000 goals over a career that spanned over 20 years from 1926 to 1948. The first recipient of the award was Chess Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand, who was honoured for the performance in the year 1991–92. In 2001, sport shooter Abhinav Bindra, then aged 18, became the youngest recipient of the award.

T20 World Cup: Mohammad Shahzad becomes first Afghanistan player to reach 2000 T20I runs

- **Mohammad Shahzad became the first Afghanistan player to reach 2000 T20I runs.** On 31 October 2021, in Afghanistan's T20 World Cup match against Namibia, Shahzad became the first player for Afghanistan to score 2,000 runs in T20I cricket.

Rahul Dravid has been appointed the Head Coach of Team India (Senior Men)

- **The Cricket Advisory Committee comprising Ms Sulakshana Naik and Mr RP Singh unanimously appointed Mr Rahul Dravid as the Head Coach of Team India (Senior Men).** The former India captain will take charge from the upcoming home series against New Zealand.
- **Prior to his appointment as a coach, Dravid was the Head of Cricket at National Cricket Academy (NCA), Bengaluru.** From 2015 to 2019, he was the head coach of the India Under-19 and India A teams. Under his tutelage, the under-19 team finished runners up at the 2016 U-19 Cricket World Cup and won the 2018 U-19 Cricket World Cup. **Known for his sound batting technique, Dravid scored 24,177 runs in international cricket and is widely regarded as one of the greatest batsmen in the history of cricket. He is colloquially known as Mr. Dependable and often referred to as *The Wall*.**

Unmukt Chand first Indian to sign BBL contract, joins Melbourne Renegades

- **Former U-19 World Cup-winning captain Unmukt Chand is set to become the first Indian cricketer to play in Australia's Big Bash League after he signed for Melbourne Renegades for the 2021-2022 season.** Chand, a former India A skipper, had never played for the Indian senior team but was part of three IPL franchises — Delhi Daredevils, Mumbai Indians and Rajasthan Royals.

Alexander Zverev beats Frances Tiafoe to win fifth ATP title in 2021

- **Alexander Zverev won his fifth ATP title of the season and 18th overall by defeating American qualifier Frances Tiafoe at the Erste Bank Open.** "The season has been unbelievable so far. I have won the biggest event of the world the Olympics and I have won two ATP 500 and two Masters events".

Rashid Khan creates history, becomes youngest bowler to take 400 T20 wickets

- **Afghanistan leg-spinner Rashid Khan became the youngest bowler to take 400 T20 wickets during his team's crucial Super 12 encounter against New Zealand in Dubai.** Rashid joined an elite list of cricketers as he picked up his 400th wicket in the ongoing New Zealand vs Afghanistan T20 World Cup game.

Canelo Alvarez knocks out Caleb Plant to become 1st undisputed world super middleweight champion

- **Saul 'Canelo' Alvarez made history knocking out Caleb Plant in the 11th round to become the first undisputed world super middleweight champion,** unifying all four major belts in less than 12 months.
- **The 31-year-old added the IBF belt to his WBC, WBA and WBO straps in a winner-takes-all showdown at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas to join an exclusive club.**

Novak Djokovic beats Daniil Medvedev for 37th Masters title in Paris

- **World number one Novak Djokovic won a sixth Paris title and record 37th Masters crown beating 2020 champion Daniil Medvedev.**
- **The 34-year-old Serbian gained a measure of revenge over his Russian opponent who dashed his dreams of a Grand Slam sweep in the US Open final in September.**
- **The Masters title secured Djokovic's second record in as many days after he was confirmed as season-ending world number one for a seventh time.** The 20-time Grand Slam winner said he approached the final in a relaxed frame of mind after wrapping up the world number one landmark.

Oinam Bembem Devi becomes first Indian woman footballer to receive Padma Shri Award

- **Oinam Bembem Devi became the first Indian woman footballer, and the seventh overall to receive the prestigious Padma Shri Award.** In the process, Bembem joins the elite club of Late Gostho Paul, Late Sailen

Manna, Chuni Goswami, PK Banerjee, Bhaichung Bhutia and current Indian Men's National Team captain Sunil Chhetri as Indian Footballers who won the prestigious Padma Shri Award.

Rohit Sharma becomes third cricketer to score 3,000 runs in men's T20I

- Indian batter Rohit Sharma completed 3000 T20I runs and became the third cricketer in the world to achieve this feat. Rohit reached the 3000 run mark in the ongoing match against Namibia in ICC men's T20 World Cup.
- Indian skipper Virat Kohli is at the top of the tally with 3227 runs, which is followed by New Zealand's Martin Guptill and India's Rohit Sharma with 3115 and 3008 runs respectively.

ICC T20 World Cup 2021: Mohammad Rizwan Becomes First-Ever Batsman To Score 1000+ T20I Runs In A Calendar Year

- Star Pakistan wicketkeeper-batsman Mohammad Rizwan is having a sensational run in T20 Internationals in the year 2021. He has been consistently scoring big runs for Pakistan and in the process, he has become the first-ever player in the history of the T20 Internationals to smash 1000+ runs in a calendar year.
- Before Rizwan, the record of most runs in a calendar year in T20I was held by Ireland batter Paul Stirling who smashed 748 runs in just 20 innings in 2019 at an average of 41.55 and strike rate of 140.60. During this period he also smashed 8 half-centuries.

Sunil Chhetri becomes first Indian footballer to receive Khel Ratna Award

- After becoming the first Indian footballer to receive the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna award captain Sunil Chhetri said playing for 19 years is the primary reason why he was named for the prestigious award.
- Chhetri on 80 goals is currently tied with Lionel Messi at the second place in the goal scorers list among active footballers at the international level, with Cristiano Ronaldo leading on 115 goals. He had earlier been conferred with the Padma Shri Award and the Arjuna Award.

Rahul Dravid takes charge as new Indian Cricket team coach

- Rahul Dravid has taken charge as the new Indian Cricket team coach. BCCI tweets 'say hello to new coach' Rahul Dravid has taken charge as the new Indian Cricket team coach.

Ganguly replaces Kumble as ICC Cricket's Committee chairman

- BCCI president Sourav Ganguly has been appointed as the Chairman of the ICC men's Cricket Committee, the game's governing body.
- Ganguly will replace fellow Indian Anil Kumble, who stepped down after serving a maximum of three, three-year terms. Johnny Grave, CEO of Cricket West Indies has been appointed to the ICC Women's Cricket Committee.

WBBL07: Smriti Mandhana becomes first from India to score a hundred

- Smriti Mandhana became the first Indian to score a hundred in the Women's Big Bash League when she hit one for Sydney Thunder against Melbourne Renegades. Sydney Thunder's Smriti Mandhana scored an unbeaten 114 off 64 balls in the match against the Melbourne Renegades.

Garbine Muguruza defeats Anett Kontaveit for first WTA Finals title

- Spain's Garbine Muguruza claimed her first WTA Finals title defeating Estonian Anett Kontaveit 6-3 7-5 in Guadalajara, Mexico.
- It was Muguruza's fourth appearance at the season-ending finals and her first in the championship match. Her win gave Spain its first-ever WTA Finals title and will see her end the year as the world number three when the rankings are updated.

Formula 1: Lewis Hamilton wins in Qatar with Max Verstappen second

- **Seven-times world champion Lewis Hamilton won the inaugural Qatar Grand Prix for Mercedes to cut Max Verstappen's overall Formula One lead to eight points** with two races remaining.
- **Red Bull's Verstappen was second**, after starting seventh following a five-place grid drop for failing to respect warning flags in Saturday's qualifying, but took a bonus point for fastest lap. **Double world champion Fernando Alonso was third for Renault-owned Alpine, the 40-year-old Spaniard's first podium finish since 2014.**

Kento Momota clinches Indonesia Masters badminton tournament men's singles title

- **In Badminton, World No. 1 Japan's Kento Momota clinched the Indonesia Masters badminton tournament men's singles title** after beating Denmark's Anders Antonsen in the final, in Bali.
- In the women's singles final, **Japan's Akane Yamaguchi, who had beaten India's PV Sindhu in the semi-final, was defeated by An Se-Young.** In the men's doubles, **Hoki Takuro and Kobayashi Yugo beat home favorites Marcus Fernaldi Gideon and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo.**
- Japan's great day continued in the women's doubles as **Matsuyama Nami and Shida Chiharu outclassed South Korea's Jeong Na-eun and Korea Kim Hye-jeong.**

ICC appoints Geoff Allardice as permanent CEO

- **Australian Geoff Allardice has been appointed as permanent CEO of the International Cricket Council** after serving the role on an interim basis for more than eight months. **Allardice thus replaced Manu Sawhney, who had resigned from his position in July.**

The International Cricket Council (ICC) is the world governing body of cricket. It was founded as the Imperial Cricket Conference in 1909 by representatives from Australia, England and South Africa. It was renamed as the International Cricket Conference in 1965, and took up its current name in 1987. The ICC has its headquarters in Dubai, UAE. The ICC has 105 member nations currently: 12 Full Members that play Test matches, and 94 Associate Members. Shashank Manohar resigned as Chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC) on 30 June 2020, after more than four years in the role. ICC deputy chairman Imran Khwaja was made interim chairman until an election in November. New Zealand administrator Greg Barclay was elected Chairman on 24 November 2020.

Harmanpreet becomes first Indian to achieve this honor in WBBL

- **India's Harmanpreet Kaur enjoyed a fantastic Women's Big Bash League (WBBL) season.** The senior Indian cricketer has achieved a special honor.
- **She has become the first Indian player to be named the WBBL Player of the Tournament.** She has ended the regular season as **Melbourne Renegades' leading batter with 399 runs and bowler with 15 wickets.**

Squash: Saurav Ghosal becomes the first Indian to win Malaysian Open

- **The Indian squash star, Saurav Ghosal, has become the first Indian to be crowned the Malaysian Open Champion - a PSA World Tour Bronze event.** The 35-year-old defeated top seed Miguel Rodrigues of Colombia 3-0 in 55 minutes to be crowned the champion.

Sport Events

Sports Ministry hands over trophies to winners of National Sports Awards 2020

- **Sports Ministry handed over trophies to the winners of National Sports Awards 2020 at function** held in New Delhi. All the winners of the National Sports Awards had already received the cash awards but were not able to collect their trophies and citation during last year's event as the Sports Awards ceremony was held virtually owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **The Sports Ministry handed over a total of 74 National Sports Awards, including 5 Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratnas and 27 Arjuna Awards.**

India Named Participant in First-ever 'FIH Hockey5s Lausanne' to Be Held in June 2022

- **The International Hockey Federation (FIH) is delighted to announce that its first ever senior World Hockey5s event** - which was initially scheduled in September this year but postponed due to COVID-related issues - **will take place on 4-5 June 2022, in Lausanne, Switzerland.**
- **Ten teams from four continents, including some of the powerhouses of international hockey, will compete: Switzerland, India, Malaysia, Pakistan and Poland (Men) and Switzerland, India, Poland, South Africa and Uruguay (Women).**
- **Hockey5s is played with 5 athletes per team. It is particularly known for its non-stop end to end action,** since the ball is in play for about 90% of a match, thanks to rebound-boards placed against the outside of the side-lines and back-lines.

J&K team for deaf clinches 1st position in World Deaf Judo Championship

- In yet another shot in the arm of J&K sports performance, **the J&K team for deaf clinched 1st position in World Deaf Judo Championship held at Paris Versailles, France. Rakshanda Mehak who is part of the Indian team for the deaf clinched the bronze medal by defeating the South Korean team in the semifinal.**

First National Yogasana Championships held in Bhubaneswar from Nov 11-13

- **Over 500 competitors takes part in the first Physical National Yogasana Championships held in Bhubaneswar from November 11 to 13. The event was organised by the National Yogasana Sports Federation (NYSF) in association with the Odisha government.**
- **"Yoga has become increasingly popular in recent years and is one of the most popular and trending forms of exercise in the world. This is the time for India to take yogasana as a competitive sport on the global sports stage.**

Indian Table Tennis pair of Manika Batra, Archana Kamath clinches women's doubles title

- In Table Tennis, **Indian pair of Manika Batra and Archana Girish Kamath clinched the women's doubles title in the WTT Contender tournament in Lasko, Slovenia.**
- **Indian pair defeated the Puerto Rican team of Melanie Diaz and Adriana Diaz, 11-3, 11-8, 12-10 to win the title. Meanwhile, Manika Batra also claimed a bronze medal in the women's singles title after Wang Yidi of China defeated her by 2-4 (11-7, 7-11, 13-11, 10-12, 11-7, 11-5).**

Pakistan to host 2025 Champions Trophy, India get 3 ICC events in next cycle including 2026 World T20

- **Major cricket event will return to Pakistan after more than two decades with the country set to host the 2025 Champions Trophy, an ICC flagship tournament. The ICC board awarded the hosting rights of the 2025 Champions Trophy to Pakistan, while picking United States and West Indies as co-host of the 2024 T20 World Cup. This will be the first ever global event hosted in North America.**
- **India will get to host three ICC events in the next in the next cycle, including the 2026 T20 World Cup and 2031 50-over World Cup, where the country will be Co-hosts along with Sri Lanka and Bangladesh respectively. India will also host the 2029 Champions Trophy singularly.**

ICC Men's T-20 Cricket World Cup: Australia lift ICC T-20 World Cup by beating New Zealand in Dubai

- **Australia lifted their maiden T20 World Cup title as they defeated New Zealand** in the final by 8 wickets at Dubai International stadium. **Australia scored 173/2 to win the tournament, the highest total in seven finals of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup.** That was in reply to New Zealand's score of 172/4 in the first innings.
- **Mitchell Marsh was named Player of the Match for his unbeaten 77 off 50 balls** in the final against New Zealand. It was the sixth half-century of his T20I career, all coming in 2021.
- **Australia opener David Warner was named Player of the Tournament for racking up 289 runs** at an average of 48.16 and an impressive strike-rate of 146.70.
- **Having won ICC Cricket World Cups (in the ODI format) in 1987, 1999, 2003, 2007, 2015, Australia have now pocketed one in the T20 format as well.** The next team with most men's World Cup titles is West Indies (four), followed by India (three), Pakistan, Sri Lanka and England (two each).

USA to co-host T20 Cricket World Cup in 2024

- **The United States will co-host its first major cricket tournament in 2024 when it stages part of the men's T20 World Cup.**
- The baseball-loving country, which has never appeared at either a T20 or a 50-over World Cup, will host the event along with the more established cricket nations of the West Indies.

India and Bangladesh to jointly host 2031 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup

- **The International Cricket Council (ICC) has decided that India and Bangladesh will jointly host the 2031 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup.** The hosts were selected via a competitive bidding process which was overseen by a board sub-committee chaired by Martin Snedden along with Sourav Ganguly and Ricky Skerritt
- **The ICC confirmed the 14 host countries for the ICC men's white ball events from 2024-2031.** It includes 11 full members and three associate members who will host two ICC Men's World Cups, four ICC Men's T20 World Cups and two ICC men's Champions Trophy events. Earlier, Bangladesh had organised the 2011 World Cup along with India and Sri Lanka. It had also organised the 2014 T20 World Cup.

India bags seven medals at Asian Archery Championships

- **India bagged a total of seven medals at the Asian Archery Championships 2021 held in Dhaka.** India's recurve archery teams added two silver medals and a bronze on the final day of the Championships. **India ended the week-long continental event with seven medals - one gold, four silvers and two bronze.**

Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy Finals-21: Tamil Nadu defeats Karnataka by four wickets in Delhi

- In cricket, **Tamil Nadu lifted the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy defeating Karnataka.** Batsman M. Shahruckh Khan smashed a dramatic last-ball six to help Tamil Nadu defend the T-20 title with a thrilling four-wicket win in the summit clash in Arun Jaitley Stadium Delhi.

BWF gives Prakash Padukone lifetime achievement award

- **Indian badminton great Prakash Padukone will receive the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award this year from the Badminton World Federation (BWF).**
- The BWF Council shortlisted the Indian legend based on the award commission's recommendation. **Badminton Association of India (BAI) had submitted his name for this award.**
- **The former world no 1 and the first-ever Indian world championships medallist,** Padukone has contributed immensely to the game. **In 2018, he was also honoured with the BAI's Lifetime Achievement Award.**

Hockey: Men's Junior World Cup 2021 tournament to begin in Odisha

- **Odisha capital Bhubaneswar is all set to host the FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup beginning.** Odisha, being home to Sundargarh-the cradle of Indian hockey, has been sponsoring Indian hockey teams since the last couple of years.

- In addition, the twenty thousand capacity Birsa Munda International Hockey Stadium, billed as the largest in the country, is fast coming up in Rourkela in Odisha to play a co-host to the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup-2023 along with the iconic Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar.

Mumbai City FC become first Indian club to field team in FIFA Global Series

- Defending Indian Super League champions Mumbai City FC launched the club's official Esports team. Recognising the global reach of Esports along with its ability to bring fans closer to the club, Mumbai City FC, become the first Indian football club to field a team in the FIFA Global Series.



Career
Launcher

AWARDS



South African author Damon Galgut bags Booker Prize 2021 for his novel ‘The Promise’

- South African author Damon Galgut has won the 2021 Booker Prize for Fiction for his novel ‘The Promise’. Galgut, has won the award in his third appearance on the shortlist after making the cut in 2003 and 2010.
- He follows in the footsteps of other South African winners Nadine Gordimer and JM Coetzee, and is the first winner from the country since 1999.
- The Promise is set in Pretoria, where the author grew up, and takes place against the backdrop of South Africa’s transition out of apartheid. It tells the story of the declining Swart family, who are white farmers, through four funerals.

The Booker Prize, formerly known as the Booker Prize for Fiction (1969–2001) and the Man Booker Prize (2002–2019), is a literary prize awarded each year for the best novel written in English and published in the United Kingdom or Ireland. The winner of the Booker Prize receives international publicity which usually leads to a sales boost. When the prize was first created, only novels written by Commonwealth, Irish, and South African (and later Zimbabwean) citizens were eligible to receive the prize; in 2014 it was widened to any English-language novel — a change that proved controversial. A seven person panel constituted by authors, librarians, literary agents, publishers, and booksellers is appointed by the Booker Prize Foundation. The prize was established as the Booker Prize for Fiction after the company Booker, McConnell Ltd began sponsoring the event in 1969; it became commonly known as the “Booker Prize” or simply the “Booker.” Percy Howard Newby was the first winner of the Booker Prize, his novel ‘Something to Answer For’ having received the inaugural award in 1969. In 1970, Bernice Rubens became the first woman to win the Booker Prize, for The Elected Member.

In a first, 2 Bangladeshis to be honoured with Padmas

- Bangladeshi career diplomat late Syed Muazzem Ali and veteran museologist Enamul Haq have been honored India’s highest civilian awards. Syed Muazzem Ali was honored with the third-highest civilian award in India, Padma Bhushan. Enamul Haq has been nominated for the Padma Shri award.
- Former high commissioner to India Muazzem Ali and 1971 war hero Colonel Quazi Sajjad Ali Zahir will be the first Bangladeshi citizens to be honoured with one of India’s highest civilian awards, the Padma Shri.
- Muazzem Ali will be honoured posthumously at a function where other awardees named in January too will receive their awards. India and Bangladesh are celebrating the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh’s liberation and the 50th year of diplomatic ties with India as well as the centenary of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.
- The Padma Bhushan is the third-highest civilian award in the Republic of India, preceded by the Bharat Ratna and the Padma Vibhushan and followed by the Padma Shri. Instituted on 2 January 1954, the award is given for “distinguished service of a high order...without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex.”

- **Padma Shri**, also spelled **Padma Shree**, is the **fourth-highest civilian award of the Republic of India**, after the **Bharat Ratna**, the **Padma Vibhushan** and the **Padma Bhushan**. It is awarded by the Government of India every year on India's Republic Day. **Padma Awards were instituted in 1954** to be awarded to citizens of India in recognition of their distinguished contribution in various spheres of activity including the arts, education, industry, literature, science, sports, medicine, social service and public affairs.

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- **Tokyo Paralympics medallists Avani Lekhara, Pramod Bhagat, Krishna Nagar, Sumit Antil and Manish Narwal also received the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna award for 2021.**
- **The Khel Ratna Award, officially known as the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award (transl. Major Dhyan Chand Sport Jewel Award), formerly known as the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award in Sports and Games, is the highest sporting honour of India. It is awarded annually by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.**
- **The recipient(s) is/are selected by a committee constituted by the Ministry and is honoured for their "spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports over a period of four years" at international level. As of 2020, the award comprises a medallion, a certificate, and a cash prize of Rs.25 lakh (US\$33,000).**
- **Instituted in 1991–1992, the award was given for the performance by a sportsperson in a year.** Based on the suggestions provided by 2014 award selection committee, the Ministry revised the criteria in February 2015 to consider the performance over a period of four years. The nominations for a given year are accepted till 30 April or last working day of April with not more than two sportspersons nominated for each sports discipline. A twelve-member committee evaluates the performances of a sportsperson at various International events like Olympic Games, Paralympic Games, Asian Games, and Commonwealth Games. The committee later submits their recommendations to the Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports for further approval. **The award from 1991-2021 was named after Rajiv Gandhi (1944-1991), former Prime Minister of India.**
- **The award since August 6, 2021 is named after Major Dhyan Chand (1905–79), an Indian field hockey player, widely regarded as one of the greatest field hockey players of all time, who scored more than 1000 goals over a career that spanned over 20 years from 1926 to 1948. The first recipient of the award was Chess Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand, who was honoured for the performance in the year 1991–92. In 2001, sport shooter Abhinav Bindra, then aged 18, became the youngest recipient of the award.**
- **As many as 35 athletes - including history-making fencer Bhavani Devi, hockey player Vandana Katariya and Tokyo Paralympics medallist Bhavina Patel and Cricketer Shikhar Dhawan - were given the Arjuna Award.** Arjuna Award for outstanding performance in Sports and Games is given for good performance over a period of previous four years and showing qualities of leadership, sportsmanship and a sense of discipline.
- Those received the award in this category include **Para-Paddler Bhavina Patel, Para-Archer Harvinder Singh, Athlete Arpinder Singh, Sabre Fencer Bhavani Devi, Cricketer Shikhar Dhawan, Tennis Player Ankita Raina, Shooter Abhishek Verma, Mallakhamb player Himani Uttam Parab and Boxer Simranjit Kaur. Eighteen Hockey players including Birendra Lakra, Rupinder Pal Singh, Amit Rohidas, Vandana Katariya and Monika and Para-Badminton player Suhash Yathiraj.**
- **Besides, Athletics Coach T. P. Oushep and Radhakrishnan Nair P, Cricket Coach Sarkar Talwar, Hockey Coach Sarpal Singh and Pritam Siwach, Kabaddi Coach Ashan Kumar, Swimming Coach Tapan Kumar Panigrahi, Boxing Coach Sandhya Gurung, Para- Shooting Coach Jai Prakash Nautiyal and Table Tennis Coach Subramanian Raman have been conferred with Dronacharya Award by the President.**
- **Dhyan Chand Award for Lifetime Achievement in Sports and Games has been given to Lekha K. C. for Boxing, Abhijeet Kunte for Chess, Davinder Singh Garcha for Hockey, Vikas Kumar for Kabaddi and Sajjan Singh for Wrestling. Indian Oil Corporation Limited and Manav Rachna Educational Institution have been awarded with Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar for sports promotion and development.**

- **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy for 2021** has been given to Punjab University, Chandigarh. **President Kovind** also gave away **Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards-2020** at this juncture.
- Those awarded include **Priyanka Mohite** and **Lt. Col. Jay Prakash Kumar** and **Col. Amit Bisht** for land adventure. Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports **Anurag Thakur** and Law Minister **Kiren Rijiju** also attended the function.
- The National Sports Awards are announced by the Indian Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports. The awards are generally given on the occasion of **National Sports Day - August 29** (Dhyan Chand's birth anniversary) - but were deferred this year due to the Olympics and Paralympics.

India's first woman Air Marshal awarded Padma Shri

- **Air Marshal Dr Padma Bandopadhyay (Retd.)** received the **Padma Shri** award in the field of medicine at Rashtrapati Bhavan. **India's first woman Air Marshall** received the award by **President Ram Nath Kovind**. The Padma Awards are one of the highest civilian honours of India announced annually on the eve of Republic Day.

Bangla edition of book on naval commando operation during liberation war of 1971 launched in Dhaka

- The Bangla version of the book '**Operation X**' about the naval commando operation jointly launched by the **Indian Navy and the Mukti Bahini of Bangladesh** was launched in Dhaka.
- The book has been compiled from **personal notes of Capt MNR Samant** and **first hand accounts of Indian Naval Personnel and Muktijoddhas** who participated in the operations. It was **co-written by noted author and journalist Sandeep Unnithan** in a readable, excitingly paced language.
- '**Operation X**' was conceptualized by the then Chief of the Indian Navy, **Admiral SM Nanda** and **Captain Mihir K Roy**. It was **executed by Capt MNR Samant**. As part of the operation, over 450 naval commandos were trained who infiltrated into erstwhile East Pakistan.
- They disrupted the **Pakistani military and logistics lines of supply** by **destroying water craft, jetties and marine infrastructure**. It ultimately led to the swift surrender of the Pakistan army in 13 days of War. **Operation X** was part of '**operation Jackpot**' under which covert training and equipping of the Bangladeshi liberation army '**Mukti Bahini**' was done.
- **Between August and November 1971**, the naval commandos sank **1 lakh tons of enemy shipping** and **completely blocked ports of the then East Pakistan**. This was the **largest covert operation** undertaken anywhere in the world after World War II.

Film festival in Canada honours filmmaker Ali Kazimi with retrospective

- An **Indo-Canadian filmmaker** has been honoured with a retrospective at **Canada's largest film festival dedicated to Asian cinema**.
- **Toronto-based Ali Kazimi** is being featured as the **Canadian Artist Spotlight** for the **25th anniversary edition of the Reel Asian International Film Festival**, which showcases cinema from Asia and from the Asian diaspora.

Mountaineer Priyanka Mohite gets Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award

- **Maharashtra-based mountaineer Priyanka Mohite** was bestowed with the prestigious '**Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award 2020**' for her **outstanding contribution in the field of land adventure**.
- The 28-year-old Mohite, who started out by **trekking in Sahyadri ranges in western Maharashtra and rock-climbing, began summiting mountains from 2010**. In her 11-year mountaineering career, she has scaled the world's highest peak **Mt Everest** besides **Mt Lhotse** and **Mt Makalu**, among others. In April this year, Mohite scaled **Mt Annapurna**, the **10th highest mountain peak in the world**, and became the **first Indian woman climber to achieve the feat**.

Civil society organisation 'Pratham' to get Indira Gandhi Peace Prize for 2021

- **Pratham**, a civil society organisation, has been awarded the **Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development** for the year 2021.

- Set up in 1995 in Mumbai by Dr Madhav Chavan and Farida Lambay, Pratham is dedicated to improving the quality of education for underprivileged children in India and across the world.
- The organisation started its work in the Mumbai slums, setting up community-based pre-schools. Its outreach in India has now expanded to an average 1 million children directly and 5 million through government partnerships annually.
- Its Annual Status of Education Report (ASER), based on surveying 6 lakh rural Indian children, is now used as a model to assess education outcomes and learning deficiencies in 14 countries.

The Indira Gandhi Peace Prize is an annual prestigious award. It has been named after former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. It is conferred every year since 1986 by Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust. It consists of a monetary award of Rs. 25 lakh along with a citation. Parliamentarians for Global Action is the first recipient of the award in 1986 and Mikhail Gorbachev is a Russian and former Soviet politician, he is the second and first person to receive Indira Gandhi Peace Prize in 1987.

Union Minister Anurag Thakur confers 246 athletes and coaches with first-ever Sports Authority of India's Institutional Awards

- Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur conferred the first-ever Sports Authority of India's Institutional Awards to 246 athletes and coaches in New Delhi.
- A total of 162 athletes and 84 coaches have been conferred awards in the Outstanding Award and Best Award category for their performance in national and international competitions with cash awards.
- The awards acknowledge the exceptional performance of the SAI athletes and coaches under the various sports promotion schemes at the national and international level from 2016. Mr. Thakur emphasized the importance of Sports being an integral part of the National Education Policy. He said, when the sporting achievements of a student are announced in his or her school, it inspires other students to look beyond just academics and include sports in their life.
- He expressed happiness that sport has become an integral part of the National Education Policy and therefore is a part of every student's life now. Minister of State Nisith Pramanik said it's a momentous occasion to see the awards given out in the year of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. He said these awards are a way of assuring our athletes and coaches that the Sports Authority of India is always there to support them.

Indian Film Personality Award to be given to Hema Malini & Prasoon Joshi at IFFI

- Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur has announced that the Indian Film Personality Award for the year 2021 will be given to Hema Malini and Prasoon Joshi. The award will be given in the 52nd International Film Festival of India in Goa. The Film Festival will run from November 20 to 28.

IIT Gandhinagar PhD scholars win Gandhian Young Technological Innovation Awards 2021

- Harini Gunda, a PhD student of Chemical Engineering, Dr Chandan Kumar Jha, a PhD alumnus and postdoctoral fellow in Electrical Engineering won the award.
- Gandhian Young Technological Innovation (GYTI) Awards celebrate the spirit of student innovation in all the fields of engineering, science, technology and design through extremely affordable/frugal solutions or the ones that push the technological edge for various areas of social and industrial applications. Harini has received this award for developing 'Novel Boron Nano-additives for Improving the Performance of Solid Propellants'.

Forbes-Listed Kerala Entrepreneur becomes first Indian to be honoured with Knighthood in Italy

- Sohan Roy, a Forbes-listed entrepreneur from Kerala and who has a passion for getting noticed in the film industry through his unconventional contribution to humanity and the world cinema has now become the first Indian who has been awarded the honorary title of 'Knight of Parte Guelfa' in Italy.
- The knighthood was conferred on Roy for his humanitarian and environmental protection efforts in business and movies. The conferring ceremony took place early this week at the prestigious Basilica of Santa Croce and the Palagio di Parte Guelfa in Florence.

- Some of the previous proud recipients are Pope Francis, Stefano Cordero di Montezemolo, Giannozzo Pucci di Barsento, Gualtiero Bassetti, Luciano Artusi, among others. His notable works include the documentary “Black Sand” on ecological degradation and unscientific mining methods which got shortlisted in the Oscars. The documentary is still going strong at various film festivals.
- The movie “Mmmmm (Sound of Pain)”, which he produced was indeed loud and clear about the message of environmental protection. This movie brought to light many related issues like climate change in depth. His debut documentary and film “Dams: The Lethal Water Bombs” and “Dam 999”, respectively, focused on the negligence of environmental protection, the most destructive is the disasters caused by dams. While the documentary received 23 international awards, the movie “Dam 999” was played in nearly 130 international film festivals and became the first Indian movie to get shortlisted in the Oscars.

Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award conferred Martin Scorsese and Istvan Szabo

- The 52nd edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) is underway in Goa. The opening ceremony anchored by Padmashri awardee and renowned filmmaker Karan Johar and actor Maniesh Paul.
- The celebration started with the traditional lighting of the lamp. The 52nd edition of IFFI is also celebrating 75 years of India’s independence and 60 years of the liberation of Goa. The newly instituted Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement award this year was awarded to acclaimed Hungarian filmmaker Istvan Szabo.

Maha Vir Chakra for Galwan hero Colonel B.S. Babu

- Colonel B. Santhosh Babu, Commanding Officer of 16 Bihar who was among the 20 personnel killed in the violent clash with Chinese troops at Galwan in June last year was posthumously awarded Maha Vir Chakra (MVC), the country’s second highest war time gallantry award, by President Ram Nath Kovind. Havildar Tejinder Singh from 2 Medium Regiment has been awarded Vir Chakra, the third highest war time gallantry award.
- Four other personnel — Naib Subedar Nuduram Soren and Naik Deepak Singh from 16 Bihar, Havildar K. Palani from 81 Field regiment and Sepoy Gurtej Singh from 3 Punjab — were also honoured with the Vir Chakra posthumously. In a coincidence and an honour for Sainik School, Korukonda (SSK) in Andhra Pradesh, six former students were among the recipients of gallantry and distinguished service medals including late Col. Babu.
- Naib Soren’s wife Laxmi Mani Soren, Havildar Palani’s wife Vanathi Devi and Naik Singh’s wife, Rekha Singh, Sepoy Singh’s parents Prakash Kaur and Virsa Singh received the Vir Chakra from the President.
- In the first combat fatalities in 45 years, 20 Indian soldiers were killed in the violent clash after they were attacked by Chinese troops in Galwan valley on the night of June 15, 2020. Under Operation Snow Leopard, Col. Babu was tasked to establish an observation post in the face of the enemy and he successfully executed the task, organising and briefing his troops about the situation with a sound plan, the citation said.
- Col Babu led from the front with absolute command and control despite hostile conditions to deter the vicious enemy attack at his position, the citation read, adding: “In the skirmish that broke out and ensuing hand to hand combat with enemy soldiers, he valiantly resisted the enemy attack till his last breath, inspiring and motivating his troops to hold ground.”
- Naib Subedar Soren led his column and resisted the enemy’s attempt to push back the Indian soldiers while establishing the observation post, the citation said. “Soren displayed raw courage, fighting with a resolute spirit before succumbing to his injuries.”
- Havildar Palani stood bravely and tried to defend his comrades even when the enemy attacked him with a sharp weapon. His act of valour inspired other fellow soldiers to fight fiercely and resist enemy aggression, according to his citation.
- Naik Singh was performing duties as a nursing assistant and played a pivotal role in rendering treatment and saving the lives of more than 30 Indian soldiers. Sepoy Singh successfully spotted the enemy troops

while establishing the observation post and displayed raw courage and exceptional combat skills in resisting the enemy troops and kept fighting even after he was seriously injured, his citation stated.

- **Sainik School Korukonda raised in 1962 is celebrating its Diamond Jubilee to mark 60 years of its raising on January 18, 2022. The names of the 20 personnel killed at Galwan have been inscribed at the National War memorial in the national capital. The Army has also built a memorial for the ‘Gallants of Galwan’ at Post 120 in Eastern Ladakh.**

IAF Group Captain Abhinandan awarded Vir Chakra for shooting down Pakistani F-16 aircraft

- **Group Captain Varthaman Abhinandan, who shot down a Pakistan F-16 fighter jet in the aftermath of the Pulwama terror attack of February 2019, was awarded the Vir Chakra by President Ram Nath Kovind at a ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhawan.**
- **The Vir Chakra is the third-highest Indian military honour during wartime after Param Vir Chakra and Maha Chakra. The Vir Chakra to Abhinandan had been announced in August 2019 but has been awarded by the President now in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.**
- **President Kovind accorded the second-highest peacetime gallantry award Kirti Chakra (posthumously) to Sapper Prakash Jadhav for neutralising terrorists in an operation in Jammu and Kashmir. His wife and mother received the award.**
- **Major Vibhuti Shankar Dhoundiyal was accorded the Shaurya Chakra (posthumously) for his role in an operation where five terrorists were eliminated and 200 kg explosive material was recovered. His wife Lt Nitika Kaul and mother received the award. The gallantry awards are announced twice a year first on the occasion of Republic Day and then on Independence Day. The order of precedence of these awards is Param Vir Chakra, Ashoka Chakra, Mahavir Chakra, Kirti Chakra, Vir Chakra and Shaurya Chakra.**
- **The Ashoka Chakra is India’s highest peacetime military decoration awarded for valour, courageous action or self-sacrifice away from the battlefield. Naik Narbahadur Thapa, Havildar Bachittar Singh and Flight Lieutenant Suhas Biswas were the first recipients of the Ashoka Chakra. The medal was originally established on 4 January 1952 as the “Ashoka Chakra, Class I” as the first step of a three-class sequence of non-combatant bravery decorations. Assistant Sub-Inspector Babu Ram and Constable Altaf Hussain Bhat of Jammu and Kashmir Police have been posthumously conferred the Ashoka Chakra and the Kirti Chakra awards, respectively, on the eve of the 75th Independence Day.**

The Param Vir Chakra (PVC) is India’s highest military decoration, awarded for displaying distinguished acts of valour during wartime. Param Vir Chakra translates as the “Wheel of the Ultimate Brave”, and the award is granted for “most conspicuous bravery in the presence of the enemy”. Major Somnath Sharma, was the first recipient. Post-independence, new awards were instituted on 26 January 1950, with retroactive effect from 15 August 1947. The PVC is equivalent to the Victoria Cross in the United Kingdom and the Medal of Honor in the United States. Maha Vir Chakra (MVC) (great warrior medal) is the second highest military decoration in India, after the Param Vir Chakra, and is awarded for acts of conspicuous gallantry in the presence of the enemy, whether on land, at sea or in the air. It replaced the British Distinguished Service Order (DSO). The medal may be awarded posthumously. The most MVCs awarded in a single conflict was in the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971, when eleven were given to the Indian Air Force.

PERSONS IN NEWS

Tamil Nadu teenager Vinisha Umashankar makes a clarion call at COP26

- **Vinisha Umashankar, now 15 years old, found her answers in sunlight.** A solar powered ironing cart, which would replace the conventional charcoal ironing box, would power a steam ironing box to do its job.
- Her innovation brought her laurels from around the world, **including the prestigious Children’s Climate Prize in November 2021.** The prize given by the Sweden-based Children’s Climate Foundation is one of the most significant climate-related awards for young innovators.
- **Ms. Umashankar, one of the finalists for the Earthshot Prize, was asked by Prince William, Duke of Cambridge, to speak her mind on clean energy** at a meeting that discussed clean technology and innovation as part of the 26th U.N.
- **Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP26) in Glasgow, the U.K.** Among her audience were world leaders, including British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, U.S. President Joe Biden, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. “Young people have every reason to be angry and frustrated at leaders who have made empty promises and failed to deliver.

Indian-Tibetan Aftab Pureval elected Mayor of US city in Ohio

- **Aftab Pureval, an Indian-Tibetan has been elected as Mayor of Cincinnati city in the US state of Ohio, making him the first member of the community to be elected for such a position.** Pureval, a son of a refugee Tibetan mother and an Indian father, defeated his rival David Mann to win the Mayoral election.

Kamal Haasan becomes first Indian actor to enter a metaverse

- **Kamal Haasan, who just celebrated his 67th birthday, becomes the first Indian celebrity to have a very own digital avatar himself in a metaverse.** The actor, politician, producer and director has **announced his entry into the digital space with the launch of non-fungible token (NFT).** With this, he has **joined Indian celebrities like Amitabh Bachchan and Sunny Leone to launch his own collection of the digital tokens,** which will be exclusive to the buyers who invest in it. This also proves the growing craze regarding NFTs in India as more and more celebrities sign up in the space.
- **The actor has partnered with an Indian celebrity NFT and fan engagement platform to exclusively launch his digital avatars, NFTs and also his debut in the metaverse.** The platform will be launching a game-based metaverse, wherein the prominent actor will have his own world.
- This will give an **opportunity for all of the star’s fans across the globe to interact with him by exploring his world, interacting with his digital avatars, buying memorabilia and souvenirs - both physical and digital, meet and greet sessions and many other ways.**
- While the details of the metaverse and his virtual world have **been kept under wraps for now, the platform has revealed that they will first launch a list of NFTs, which will bring Kamal fans closer to the icon.**

President Ram Nath Kovind confers honorary rank of General of Indian Army to Nepal Army Chief at Rashtrapati Bhavan

- **President Ram Nath Kovind conferred the honorary rank of General of Indian Army to Nepal Army Chief Prabhu Ram Sharma** at a special function at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- **Indian Army Chief General Manoj Naravane was conferred the rank of Honorary General of the Nepal Army** in November 2020 by the Nepal’s President Bidya Devi Bhandari.

France’s Audrey Azoulay Re-Elected as UNESCO Chief

- **The UN cultural agency UNESCO re-elected France’s Audrey Azoulay as its director-general for a second mandate,** with the former French culture minister hailing a new confidence and unity in the organisation.
- UNESCO had been **riven by divisions when Azoulay took office in 2017 with both Israel and the United States exiting the agency over accusations of anti-Israeli bias.**

Imtiaz Ali appointed as ambassador of Russian Film Festival in India

- **Director-producer Imtiaz Ali** has been roped in as the ambassador of the Russian Film Festival in India. As part of the festival, **ten notable Russian films of various genres** will be premiered for Indian audiences on Disney+ Hotstar from October 16 to November 27. **Ali said the festival will act as a ground for many future cinematic collaborations between the India and Russia.** “Russia and India have cultural ties that go back a long way. Film stars like Raj Kapoor and Mithun Chakraborty have been very popular in Russia and at the same time, Russian music and cinema have been a part of popular culture in India.”

Samantha becomes first South Indian actress to be invited as a speaker at IFFI

- **The International Film Festival of India (IFFI)** is all set to be held in Goa from November 20-28. **For the first time ever**, the organisers have roped in a **South Indian actress to speak at the event and that is none other than Samantha.** **Samantha is the first South Indian actress to be invited as a speaker** at the event.

Justice Ashok Bhushan takes charge as NCLAT Chairperson

- **Former Supreme Court judge Justice Ashok Bhushan** took over as the chairperson of the **National Company Law Appellate Tribunal.** NCLAT has got a permanent head after a gap of almost 20 months following the retirement of its **first Chairperson Justice S J Mukhopadhyaya.**

Legendary Kathak dancer Sitara Devi biopic announced on her 101st birth anniversary

- **A biopic on legendary Kathak danseuse Sitara Devi** is in the works, the **makers announced on account of her 101st birth anniversary.** The film is produced by **Raj C Anand of Raj Anand Movies.**

Vice Admiral R Hari Kumar to be next Chief of Naval Staff, succeeding Admiral Karambir Singh

- **Government of India has appointed Vice Admiral R. Hari Kumar** as the next Chief of the Naval Staff. He is presently the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Western Naval Command. **The present Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh is retiring from service on 30th of this month.**

UN appoints Shombi Sharp as resident coordinator in India

- **Shombi Sharp of the United States** has been appointed as the **United Nations resident coordinator in India with the host government’s approval.**
- **He will serve as the secretary-general’s representative for development at the country level and lead the UN team on the ground,** including for support to India’s Covid-19 response plans to recover better for the Sustainable Development Goals. Sharp has more than 25 years of experience in promoting inclusive and sustainable development globally.

Bollywood singer Sonu Nigam launches the Indian music industry’s first-ever NFT series

- **After Amitabh Bachchan and Salman Khan, the latest Bollywood celebrity to join the crypto frenzy is Sonu Nigam,** who is **embracing non fungible tokens (NFTs) in partnership** with new age digital entertainment and technology company JetSynthesys.
- **NFTs allow artists to create unique digital works, in whatever form can be imagined, and sell these direct to fans and collectors via Blockchain.** **The NFT collection was launched in London** to appeal to the thriving diaspora looking to stay connected to their roots, featuring the popular music icon’s journey and work. **The NFT series will include Nigam’s single ‘Hall of fame’.**

CBI gets three new Joint Directors

- **Senior IPS officers Vidya Jayant Kulkarni, Ghanshyam Upadhyay and Nawal Bajaj** appointed as the **Joint Directors in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).** Kulkarni, a 1998-batch IPS officer of Tamil Nadu cadre, has been appointed for a period of five years on a deputation basis. Upadhyay, a 1999-batch IPS officer of Odisha cadre, will have his tenure till June 29, 2026. Bajaj, who is from a 1995-batch and belongs to the Maharashtra cadre, will have a combined tenure of five years, i.e. up to June 6, 2026.

India's Praveen Sinha, elected as Delegate for Asia on Executive Committee of INTERPOL

- India's candidate, **Praveen Sinha, Special Director of Central Bureau of Investigation** was elected as **Delegate for Asia on the Executive Committee of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)**. India running against four other contestants for two posts. The four contestants were China, Singapore, South Korea and Jordan.
- **The elections were held in Istanbul, Turkey during the ongoing 89th INTERPOL General Assembly.** INTERPOL is a vital body for tackling the rising spectre of trans-national organized crimes, terrorism and cyber-crimes.

The **International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO)**, commonly known as the **Interpol** is an **international organization that facilitates worldwide police cooperation and crime control. Headquartered in Lyon, France**, it is the world's largest international police organization, with seven regional bureaus worldwide and a National Central Bureau in all 195 member states. It was **founded in September 1923** as the **International Criminal Police Commission (ICPC)**, adopting many of its current duties throughout the 1930s. **The Secretariat is led by the Secretary-General, currently Jurgen Stock**, the former deputy head of Germany's Federal Criminal Police Office.

South Africa's last apartheid president F. W. de Klerk dies

- **F.W. de Klerk, who shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Nelson Mandela and as South Africa's last apartheid president oversaw the end of the country's white minority rule, has died** at the age of 85. De Klerk died after a battle against cancer at his home in the Fresnaye area of Cape Town.

Former Goa CM Luizinho Faleiro wins Rajya Sabha seat

- **Former Goa chief minister Luizinho Faleiro** was elected **unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from West Bengal** becoming the first person from Goa to become a TMC MP.

'Indian Innings: The Journey of Indian Cricket from 1947'

- It is no surprise that the very best of cricket writing moves into the realm of literature. **In the anthology Indian Innings: The Journey of Indian Cricket from 1947, veteran sports writer Ayaz Memon curates some of the finest pieces that tell the remarkable tale that Indian cricket has largely been.**
- **Cricket lends itself to the apt turn of phrase, droll humour, simmering anger and the realisation that it will throw up surprises.** It offers its chroniclers enough drama to chew on and for them to mull about styles to adopt — elegant prose, poetic flourishes, may be some rhetoric and also weave in those threads that bind the willow game with life.

MISCELLANEOUS

Sudha Murty's new book is a Diwali gift for kids

- **One of India's favourite authors Sudha Murty has a Diwali gift for children – her latest book “The Sage with Two Horns”** in which she tells numerous lesser-known and fascinating stories that have been lost in the pages of Indian mythology.
- **This is the fifth and last book of her ‘Unusual Tales from mythology’ series** featuring kings and queens, gods and goddesses, sages and extraordinary men and women of wisdom.
- **It is the follow up to “The Man from the Egg”, “Serpent’s Revenge”, “The Upside-Down King” and “The Daughter from the Wishing Tree”.** Over the five volumes, Murty has gone through different versions of the Ramayana, the Mahabharata and the Bhagavad Gita in different states and languages.

Delhi's first pet park opens at Old Rajendra Nagar

- **Dog lovers have a reason to rejoice with Delhi's first park for canines being started in Old Rajendra Nagar** by the North Delhi Municipal Corporation. Spread around 1.5 acres, it has swings, green patches for canines, and dog cartoons adorning the walls.

Tamil Nadu's first dedicated crematorium for animals set up in Chennai

- In what is said to be the **first of its kind in Tamil Nadu, a dedicated animal crematorium** has been set up at the premises of Blue Cross of India in Velachery in Chennai.
- **The Chennai Willingdon Corporate Foundation (CWCF) has sponsored the initiative in association with the Blue Cross of India. The crematorium, set up at a cost of Rs 57 lakh,** hopes to fulfill the long-felt need of pet owners, especially those living in apartments, to give their pets a dignified farewell.

Gujarat launches e-Sarkar app on pilot basis for paperless administration

- **The Gujarat government launched its ‘e-Sarkar’ app** on a pilot basis in its effort to **make administrative works paperless, quick and easy for citizens.**
- **The app will be launched full scale on December 25** when the country celebrates Good Governance Day, (coinciding with the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister late Atal Bihari Vajpayee).

PM Narendra Modi inaugurates rebuilt Shankaracharya samadhi in Kedarnath

- **The decade belongs to Uttarakhand, there will be unprecedented boost to connectivity in the region in the coming years and migration of people from the hills will stop.** He was addressing a large gathering of teerth-purohiths and devotees at the Kedarnath temple after unveiling a 12-foot statue of Adi Guru Shankaracharya at the seer's rebuilt samadhi.
- **The Prime Minister sat at the foot of the statue for a while after unveiling it and then proceeded to talk a walk around Kedarpuri to review the reconstruction work** carried out over the last few years. Work on the Shankaracharya statue, weighing around 35 tonnes, had begun in 2019.
- **Its unveiling was streamed live at 12 jyotirlingas, four mutts or monasteries established by the eighth century seer, his birth place and a number of prominent temples across the country.**

Country's first rooftop drive-in theatre to open in Mumbai

- **Akshay Kumar's Sooryavanshi was first movie to be screened at the country's first rooftop drive-in movie theatre,** which opened in Maharashtra's Mumbai.
- **The drive-in theatre, which can accommodate around 290 cars, opened at Mumbai's Jio World Drive mall in partnership with Reliance Retail** and will be operated and managed by the multiplex chain PVR Ltd.

Bhadrachalam in Telengana added as a destination in the IRCTC's Ramayana Circuit train

- **Shri G. Kishan Reddy has conveyed his regards and congratulated the Ministry of Railways and IRCTC for the successful launch of Ramayana Circuit Train.** The train will start from New Delhi to Rameswaram and stop at various important places associated with the life of Lord Sri Rama.

Bangladeshi film ‘No Ground Beneath the Feet’ selected for the international competition section of IFFI, Goa

- Bangladeshi film ‘Paayer Tolay Mati Nai’ (No Ground Beneath the Feet) directed by Mohammad Rabby Mridha has been included in the international competition section of the 52nd International Film Festival of India (IFFI) to be held at Goa between 20-28 November.
- ‘Paayer Tolay Mati Nai’ is Bangladeshi director Mohammad Rabby Mridha’s feature debut. It stars Mostafa Monwar, Priyam Archi and Dipanita Martin. The film narrates the life story of an ordinary man who walks through conflicts in his life involving work, family and morality. It tells the story of Saiful who is an ambulance driver in Dhaka.
- He experiences death on a daily basis but poverty is his biggest challenge as his family faces shrinking resources with river erosion destroying their land in the village. His second wife working abroad blames him for not buying a ticket to come back home.
- The film depicts the struggle of a person driven to the brink due to the stress caused by poverty further aggravated by natural disasters caused by climate change. Earlier, this film was selected for the 26th Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) held at Haeundae, Busan in South Korea from 6-15 October. It was included in the section named ‘A Window on Asian Cinema’ of the festival.

‘Kumkum Bhindi’: UP’s new wonder crop

- When ladyfinger goes ‘red’, it also becomes beneficial and nutritious. The new red variety of ladyfinger, aptly known as ‘Kumkum Bhindi’, is a wonder crop grown in Uttar Pradesh that will also double farmers’ income.
- According to agriculture experts, ‘Kumkum Bhindi’ has 94 per cent polyunsaturated fat which reduces bad cholesterol. Along with it, its 66 per cent sodium content is helpful in controlling high blood pressure, while its 21 per cent iron reduces the chances of anaemia and 5 per cent amount of protein keeps the body’s metabolic system in order. The crude fibre present in it controls sugar. It also contains a large amount of vitamin B complex.

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Redeveloped Rani Kamlapati Railway Station in Bhopal

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the redeveloped Rani Kamlapati Railway Station in Bhopal. The redeveloped Rani Kamlapati Railway station, named after brave and fearless Queen Kamalapati of the Gond kingdom, is the first world class railway station in Madhya Pradesh.
- Redeveloped in Public Private Partnership (PPP) model, the station has been designed as a green building with modern world class amenities that also takes into account ease of mobility for divyangjans. PM also dedicated to the nation multiple initiatives of the Railways in Madhya Pradesh including Gauge Converted and Electrified Ujjain-Fatehabad Chandrawatiganj Broad Gauge section, Third line in Bhopal-Barkhera section, Gauge Converted and Electrified Mathela-Nimar Kheri Broad Gauge section, and Electrified Guna-Gwalior section. He will also flag off two new MEMU trains between Ujjain-Indore and Indore-Ujjain.

Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurates Centres for nano technology and Indian Knowledge System at IIT Guwahati

- Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated the state-of-the-art Centre for Nanotechnology (CNT) and Centre for Indian Knowledge System (CIKS) at IIT Guwahati. He also released a book on NEP 2020 implementation.
- Mr Pradhan congratulated IIT Guwahati for achieving excellent rankings in various national and international ranking systems. He also appreciated the efforts of IIT Guwahati for creating an ecosystem for research and education as well as focusing on the overall development of the northeastern region.

Defence Secretary releases a book titled ‘FORCE IN STATECRAFT’

- Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar released a book titled ‘FORCE IN STATECRAFT’. The book is a compilation of essays on topics including counter-insurgency operations, conflict in North East, air power and nuclear posture which give conceptual understanding and facets of India’s national security. The contributors of the book are all stalwarts of the Armed Forces, who have vast operational experience and understanding of several important cornerstones of forces and its application.

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Kashi Corridor project

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Kashi Vishwanath Temple Corridor project in Varanasi, his parliamentary constituency, alongside families of those who had been displaced due to the project.

Delhi gears up for India's first sustained car-free citizen initiative

- Delhi's pollution levels have gone back to an all-time rise with the Air Quality Index docked at 446 plunging to the 'severe' category. Every year, as the Capital faces the deadly smog due to burning of firecrackers on Diwali and crop residue, a task as simple as breathing becomes difficult for citizens.
- Keeping this in mind, the Dialogue and Development Commission (DDC) of Delhi, a think tank of the Delhi Government, is organising six 'Raahgiri Days', India's first sustained car-free citizen initiative.

IRCTC to get 'sattvik certificate' for some trains to religious sites

- The IRCTC will promote "vegetarian-friendly travel" by getting some trains "sattvik certified", especially those running on routes connecting religious sites, according to a statement by Sattvik Council of India which is involved with the certification.

PM Modi launched NCC alumni association, become first member on Nov 19 in Jhansi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the National Cadet Corps (NCC) Alumni Association in Uttar Pradesh's Jhansi on November 19.
- He will also become the first member of the alumni association. Additionally, NCC will be started in 1,283 schools in the border and coastal districts of the country. This includes 896 schools in border areas, 255 in coastal areas and 132 in stations where the Indian Air Force is present.

Shuttler's Flick: Making Every Match Count

- Ahead of the launch of his autobiography 'Shuttler's Flick', badminton coach and former player Pullela Gopichand reveals how he channelled his hurt to devise a winning strategy and bounce back stronger.
- The seeds for the book were sown in 2016 when Gopichand served as the official Indian Olympic badminton team coach. P V Sindhu won her first Olympic silver at Rio.

Vice President releases the book 'Srimadramayanam' in Hyderabad

- Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu called upon youth to draw inspiration from Lord Rama's life in fulfilling their duty towards motherland.
- The book 'Srimadramayanam' is written by Sasikiranacharya in Hyderabad.

CROWN to be India's first ever female superhero 3D film

- Superheroes are popular in India but little does a woman get that part to play, actually bringing up a female super hero to light. But, with the changing narrative of Indian cinema, women oriented films are getting popular. Director Narein Praneas Rao, along with producers Abhay Kumar and Dr. Aravind K are all set to join the league of this reformation.
- They are coming up with this woman centric film, titled CROWN. Keeping it more iconic, this film will be a 3D film becoming India's first ever. One of its kind! The film is currently in its nascent stage and will commence shooting from January 2022. The team plans to release by the end of 2022. Former Miss India, Aditi Vats will be playing the protagonist.

Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurates Health Pavilion at India International Trade Fair in New Delhi

- Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated the Health Pavilion at India International Trade Fair at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.
- The Minister reached the venue by driving bicycle to generate awareness and promote a healthy active lifestyle in view of the rising burden of Non-Communicable Diseases, NCDs in the country.

- The theme of this year's **Health Pavilion** is to create awareness about lifestyle diseases, and importance of total health. Dr Mandaviya announced a month long campaign as part of "Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav" to create awareness about preventive health.
- "During the month long campaign, we have set ourselves a target of conducting 7.5 lakh Wellness Sessions and 75 lakh NCD screenings across the country through the Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres.
- He also observed that **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission** is a revolution and will help us in keeping records digitally. Dr Mandaviya stated that **Jan Bhagidari** has played a very critical role in India's fight against COVID. 64 thousand crore rupees have been sanctioned with the aim that every district will be covered to strengthen health Infrastructure of the country.

India last in first-ever pet homelessness index of 9 countries, Germany tops list

- India has been ranked last out of nine countries in pet care by a new **State of Pet Homelessness Index**. The index, developed by American pet-care multinational firm Mars Petcare in partnership with leading animal welfare experts, has found that in India, there are an estimated 91 lakh street or stray cats, 6.2 crore street or stray dogs, and 88 lakh cats and dogs in shelters.
- It measured the scale of pet homelessness and identified the top factors in each of the nine countries — U.S, U.K, India, Mexico, Germany, Russia, South Africa, China and Greece — that influence why cats and dogs become, or remain, homeless. Each country received an overall score between zero and 10, where 10 signifies that no pet homelessness exists.
- India scored the lowest with 2.4, well below Mexico (3.9), South Africa (4.0), China (4.8), Russia (5.2), and Greece (5.4). Germany had the highest score, 8.6, followed by the United Kingdom with 7.0, and the United States with 6.4.

Boita Bandana 2021

- **Boita Bandana** is a traditional Odia festival celebrated annually throughout Odisha, India. The name could be translated as "to float ritual boats and worshipping with lighted lamp" and comes from the tradition of making decorated boats, which are then floated on a river as a symbolic gesture of their ancestors' voyage.
- **Boita Bandana** takes place in the early morning of **Kartik Purnima** which is the full moon day in the month **Kartika** in the traditional Odia calendar.

Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw announces theme-based tourist circuit trains, Bharat Gaurav

- Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw has announced the **introduction of Bharat Gaurav**. It will be run, by both private sectors and IRCTC, in theme-based circuits. The trains will take tourists to all the magnificent historical places.

Major 'integrated' military exercise underway along western front to hone combat skills

- With integrated theatre commands on the anvil in the country, the Army is conducting a major combat exercise with other forces along the western border in Gujarat and Rajasthan to test new concepts and doctrines for wars of the future.
- The theatre-level "Dakshin Shakti" exercise, which includes over 30,000 troops from the Army, Navy, IAF, Coast Guard, BSF and intelligence agencies, has led to the "activation of the entire desert, Rann and Creek sectors". The stress during the combat manoeuvres is on the use of new weapon systems and technologies with an "integrated approach" to war-fighting.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurates ISRO's five-day Technology Conclave-21; Futuristic and Disruptive Technologies to be developed by ISRO

- Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated **ISRO's five-day Technology Conclave-2021** and highlighted the **Futuristic and Disruptive Technologies to be developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation, ISRO**. The conclave is being organized by the Directorate of Technology Development and Innovation, DTDI under the aegis of ISRO.

‘Donate Pension’ appeal for households in works

- The government is likely to involve individuals in a voluntary effort to subsidise the pensions of unorganised workers, on the lines of the ‘Give it up’ campaign that targeted the well-off to discontinue subsidies on cooking gas, in favour of those that needed it most.
- The ‘Donate a pension’ campaign is likely to cost an individual only Rs 36,000 per worker, in a one-time outgo that would compensate for the monthly contribution required to be made by the worker during his entire work life under the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) scheme. Under the scheme, a beneficiary is eligible for a monthly pension of Rs 3,000 from the age of 60.

Balasure best marine district in country

- Andhra Pradesh was awarded the best marine state, which Odisha had won last year. The best inland state award was given to Telangana while Balaghat in Madhya Pradesh received the best inland district award.
- The best hilly and northeastern state and district awards were won by Tripura and Bongaigaon, Assam, respectively.

25% of Indians poor on MPI metric, says NITI Aayog report

- Basing itself on the National Health Family Survey (NHFS) for 2015-16, the NITI Aayog has said in that year one in every four people in India was multidimensionally poor.
- “The headcount ratio answers the question ‘how many are poor?’ India’s national MPI (multidimensional poverty index) identifies 25.01 per cent of the population as multidimensionally poor,” the report said.

7th IISF 2021 to be held in Panaji from 10-13 of Dec

- The 7th India International Science Festival (IISF) 2021 will be held in Panaji, Goa from 10th to 13th of next month.
- The 4 days festival will be organized by the Ministry of Earth Sciences in collaboration with the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Department of Atomic Energy, the Department of Space and the Government of Goa. More than 100 scientists from different fields will participate and 740 science films from 70 countries will be screened.
- The festival theme will be based on Aazadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav with the motto of Celebration of science and its promotion by all.

M.P. launches a slew of ‘cow welfare’ measures

- The Shivraj Singh Chouhan Government has decided to set up a tax plan for “cow welfare” in the State where gau kalyan (cow welfare) has been at the heart of politics for years.
- “A tax plan should be prepared to mop up funds for cow fodder. Similarly, cow products should be promoted and cow phenyl should be used in Government office.

Govt approves continuation of National Apprenticeship Training Scheme for next 5-years

- Union Cabinet has approved continuation of National Apprenticeship Training Scheme for next five years. The cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi accorded its approval for stipendiary support of three thousand 54 crore rupees to apprentices who undergo apprenticeship training under National Apprenticeship Training Scheme for the period from 2021-22 to 2025-26. Approximately nine lakhs apprentices will be trained by industry and commercial organisations.
- The scheme is a well-established scheme of Government of India which has demonstrated to enhance the employability of students who have successfully completed the apprenticeship training. The apprentices who have completed graduate and diploma programme in Engineering, Humanities, Science and Commerce will be given stipend of nine thousand and eight thousand rupees per month respectively.
- The Government has approved an expenditure of more than three thousand crore rupees during the next five years which is about 4.5 times the expenditure made during the previous five years. This increased expenditure on apprenticeship is in line with the thrust which National Education Policy 2020 has given to apprenticeship.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, 2 November

- The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed **2 November** as the ‘**International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists**’. The Resolution urged Member States to implement definite measures countering the present culture of impunity. The date was chosen in **commemoration of the assassination of two French journalists in Mali on 2 November 2013**.

National Unity Day

- **National Unity Day is celebrated in India on 31 October**. It was **introduced by the Government of India in 2014**. The day is celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of Sardar Patel who had a major role in the political integration of India.

National Ayurveda Day is celebrated on 2nd November

- **The National Ayurveda Day is being observed on 2nd November**. The Day is celebrated on Dhanvantari Jayanti to create awareness about the health benefits of Ayurveda and to promote the Ayurvedic lifestyle.
- **The theme of this year Ayurveda day is ‘Ayurveda for Poshan’**.
- The Objective of the Day is to **focus on strengths of Ayurveda and its unique treatment principles**. The main aim of Ayurveda is **prevention of disease and promotion of health**.

World Tsunami Awareness Day 5 November

- **By the year 2030, an estimated 50 per cent of the world’s population will live in coastal areas exposed to flooding, storms and tsunamis**. Scaling up international cooperation to developing countries will help ensure that 100% of communities at risk of tsunami are prepared for and resilient to tsunamis by 2030.
- In December 2015, the UN General Assembly **designated 5 November as World Tsunami Awareness Day, calling on countries, international bodies and civil society to raise tsunami awareness and share innovative approaches to risk reduction**.
- **In 2021, World Tsunami Awareness Day** will promote the ‘Sendai Seven Campaign’ which aims to Substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries through adequate and sustainable support to complement their national actions for implementation of the present Framework by 2030.

International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict 6 November

- On 5 November 2001, the UN General Assembly **declared 6 November of each year as the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict**.
- **The United Nations Environment Assembly adopted a resolution on May 27, 2016** that identified the part a healthy environment plays in reducing the probability of an armed conflict.
- **The UNEP gives the example of wars in conflict zones like Afghanistan, Colombia, or Iraq which have led to a great depreciation of natural resources**. In Afghanistan, some parts of the country have registered a 95 % rate of increase in deforestation.

National Cancer Awareness Day 2021

- **November 7 is observed annually as National Cancer Awareness Day in India** to raise awareness about cancer, of which 1.1 million cases are reported in the country each year. **National Cancer Awareness Day was first announced in September 2014 by then Union health minister Dr Harsh Vardhan**, with November 7 chosen for the occasion to coincide with the birth anniversary of Nobel laureate Marie Curie, who was born on this date in 1867, and whose works led to the development of radiotherapy to treat cancer.

World Radiography Day 2021

- November 8 is observed annually as World Radiography Day to commemorate the discovery of X-radiation, or X-rays, on November 8, 1895, by German scientist Wilhelm Conrad Rontgen, who, in 1901, became the inaugural winner of the Nobel Prize in Physics for this achievement.
- The theme for the 2021 International Day of Radiology is ‘Interventional Radiology – Active care for the patient’.

World Science Day for Peace and Development, 10 November

- World Science Day for Peace and Development is an international day that highlights the important role that science has in society and is celebrated each year on November 10. The International Week of Science and Peace was first observed during 1986 as part of the observance of the International Year of Peace.
- The theme of this year is ‘Building Climate-Ready Communities’.

National Legal Services Day

- The National Legal Services Day is observed on November 9 annually in India. The Legal Services Day is celebrated to commemorate the enactment of the Legal Services Authorities Act 1987. The National Legal Services Day is significant to create awareness among people regarding various provisions under the Legal Services Authorities Act as well as the rights of the litigants.

National Education Day

- Every year, November 11 is celebrated as National education day, which commemorates the birth anniversary of independent India’s first education minister, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.

World Diabetes Day 14 November

- In 2007 General Assembly adopted resolution designating 14 November as World Diabetes Day. The document recognized “the urgent need to pursue multilateral efforts to promote and improve human health, and provide access to treatment and health-care education.”
- The resolution also encouraged Member States to develop national policies for the prevention, treatment and care of diabetes in line with the sustainable development of their health-care systems.
- The theme for World Diabetes Day 2021-23 is Access to Diabetes Care.

The Nation celebrates birth anniversary of tribal freedom fighter Bhagwan Birsa Munda as Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas on 15th November

- The Nation celebrated the birth anniversary of tribal freedom fighter Bhagwan Birsa Munda as Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas on 15 November 2021. The Government of India has declared 15th November as the ‘Janjatiya Gaurav Divas’ which also coincides with the 146th Birth Anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda. The Bhagwan Birsa Munda Tribal Freedom Fighter Museum has been built in association with the State Government of Jharkhand at the Old Central Jail location in Ranchi, where the legendary Birsa Munda had sacrificed his life.

World Antimicrobial Awareness Week

- Celebrated annually, the World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) aims to increase awareness of global antimicrobial resistance and to encourage best practices among the general public, health workers and policy makers to avoid the further emergence and spread of drug-resistant infections.
- 18 to 24 November is World Antimicrobial Awareness Week. The 2021 theme is ‘Spread Awareness, Stop Resistance’, calls on One Health stakeholders, policymakers, health care providers, and the general public to be Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Awareness champions.

International Day for Tolerance 16 November

- In 1996, the UN General Assembly invited UN Member States to **observe the International Day for Tolerance on 16 November**. This action followed up on the United Nations Year for Tolerance, 1995, proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 1993 at the initiative of UNESCO, as outlined in the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance and Follow-up Plan of Action for the Year.
- **The theme for International Day of Tolerance** is based upon the basic premise that ‘**Tolerance is respect, acceptance, and appreciation of the rich diversity of our world’s cultures, our forms of expression and ways of being human**’.

World Philosophy Day 18 November

- In 2005 the UNESCO General Conference proclaimed that **World Philosophy Day would be celebrated every third Thursday of November**. In establishing World Philosophy Day UNESCO strives to promote an international culture of philosophical debate that respects human dignity and diversity.
- **The theme for World Philosophy Day 2021** is intended to be based on “**different interactions of human beings with their social, cultural, geographical and political environment, with the underlying objective of better understanding the contribution of philosophy in our contemporary societies and the challenges they face**”.

World Television Day 21 November

- **The United Nations devised a committee on December 17, 1996, and recognized the importance of television as a medium of global exchanges of information pertaining to economic, social, and cultural aspects** deeply etched in the fabric of society. As a result, the committee decided to celebrate November 21 as World Television Day.

World Philosophy Day being observed

- **World Philosophy Day aims at promoting the international culture of a healthy, philosophical debate that respects people’s dignity and diversity**. Every year, the third Thursday of November is celebrated as World Philosophy Day. This year it is being observed on November 18.
- **The theme for World Philosophy Day 2021** is intended to be based on “**different interactions of human beings with their social, cultural, geographical and political environment, with the underlying objective of better understanding the contribution of philosophy in our contemporary societies and the challenges they face**” in the wake of the pandemic.

National Integration Day 2021

- **National Integration Day is observed annually on November 19 in India**.
- The purpose behind celebrating this day is to **preserve in the minds of the people, the beauty of unity in diversity in the socio-culturally rich country**.

World Children’s Day 20 November

- **World Children’s Day was first established in 1954 as Universal Children’s Day** and is celebrated on 20 November each year to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children’s welfare.
- **2021 Theme: A Better Future for Every Child**.

World Television Day 21 November

- In recognition of the increasing impact television has on decision-making by bringing world attention to conflicts and threats to peace and security and its potential role in sharpening the focus on other major issues, including economic and social issues, the **United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 21 November as World Television Day**.
- **On 21 and 22 November 1996 the United Nations held the first World Television Forum**, where leading media figures met under the auspices of the United Nations to discuss the growing significance of television in changing world and to consider how they might enhance their mutual cooperation.

- That is why the General Assembly decided to proclaim 21 November as World Television Day.

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women 25 November

- The United Nations General Assembly has designated November 25 as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. As in previous years, this year's International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women launches 16 days of activism to be concluded on the 10th of December 2020 — the day that commemorates the International Human Rights Day. Several public events are being coordinated and iconic buildings and landmarks will be 'orange'd' to recall the need for a violence-free future.
- **2021 Theme: Orange the World: End Violence against Women Now!**

National Milk Day

- National Milk Day is observed across India on November 26 in memory of the father of the white revolution, Dr. Verghese Kurien. This year, milk day falls on the 100th anniversary of revolutionary personality, Dr. Kurien. He played a significant role in 'Operation Flood', which made the dairy farm the largest self-sustaining industry in India. In the year 2014, the Indian Dairy Association (IDA) took the initiative to celebrate National Milk Day in India.
- National Milk Day provides a significant role in providing information related to the need for milk in human lives. Milk is considered to be the first food of a human child and is the food that is consumed throughout life. In 2021, our theme focused on Sustainability in the dairy sector. Messages around the environment, nutrition and socio-economics helped re-introduce dairy farming to the world.

Constitution Day in India

- Constitution Day, also known as "National Law Day", is celebrated in India on 26 November every year to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India. On 26 November 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Constitution of India, and it came into effect on 26 January 1950.
- Since 2015 was the 125th birth anniversary year of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (14 April 1891 – 6 December 1956), who is known as the father of the Indian Constitution, the government decided in May 2015 to celebrate this year "in a big way". The Government of India declared 26 November as Constitution Day on 19 November 2015 by a gazette notification. The Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi made the declaration on 11 October 2015 while laying the foundation stone of the B. R. Ambedkar's Statue of Equality memorial in Mumbai.
- The year of 2021 was the 131th birth anniversary of Ambedkar, who had chaired the drafting committee of the Constituent Assembly and played a pivotal role in the drafting of the constitution. Previously this day was celebrated as Law Day. 26 November was chosen to spread the importance of the constitution and to spread thoughts and ideas of Ambedkar. PM Modi Speech On National Law Day 2021, 26 November, and also The President, Vice President and Lok Sabha Speaker also addressed the program.

International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

- In 1977, the General Assembly called for the annual observance of 29 November as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. On that day, in 1947, the Assembly adopted the resolution on the partition of Palestine.
- The resolution on the observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People also encourages Member States to continue to give the widest support and publicity to the observance of the Day of Solidarity.

QUESTIONS

- Which of the following states recently launched unique academic scheme, 'Education at your doorstep'?
(a) Telangana (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Haryana
- Which of the following three states have taken the top three slots, emerging winners among the 18 large states in governance performance according to Public Affairs Centre (PAC)?
(a) Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana
(b) Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh
(c) Punjab, Haryana and Uttarakhand
(d) Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Assam
- According to WMO's provisional State of Climate 2021 report, the mean global sea level rise was 2.1 mm per year between 1993 and 2002 and _____ per year between 2013 and 2021.
(a) 3.1 mm (b) 3.7 mm (c) 3.9 mm (d) 4.4 mm
- Recently, Delhi's first park for canines has been started in _____.
(a) Kalkaji (b) Old Rajendra Nagar (c) Mukherjee Nagar (d) Mohan Estate
- Which of the following has become the first company in India to announce its ambitious target for 2035 to certify all of its owned factories and hotels operating in areas of high-water stress to the International Water Stewardship Standard (AWS Standard)?
(a) ITC Ltd. (b) Taj Hotels Ltd.
(c) Lemon Tree Hotels Ltd. (d) Mughal Sheraton Hotels Ltd.
- Recently, The first-ever open-air floating theatre in Jammu and Kashmir has been launched in the famous _____.
(a) Lal Chowk (b) Dal lake (c) Wular lake (d) Gadsar Lake
- Which of the following companies has become the world's most valuable stock?
(a) Alphabet (b) Apple (c) Microsoft (d) Zara
- Recently, The 17th edition of India-US joint exercise _____ has been concluded at Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, Alaska.
(a) Ex Yudh Abhyas 2021 (b) Ex Nomadic Elephant 2021
(c) Ex Power Lifter 2021 (d) Ex Wild Tiger 2021
- Who has become the first Afghanistan player to reach 2000 T20I runs recently?
(a) Mohammad Nabi (b) Rizwan Ahmad (c) Ashgar Afghan (d) Mohammad Shahzad
- Recently, The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed _____ as the 'International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists'.
(a) 1 November (b) 2 November (c) 4 November (d) 7 November
- Which of the following states has developed its indigenous bicycle with the brand name "Bambooka"?
(a) Jharkhand (b) West Bengal (c) Odisha (d) Chhattisgarh
- Recently, the first Internet Exchange in the state of Uttarakhand was hosted at _____ through a virtual inaugural ceremony from Delhi.
(a) Dehradun (b) Nainital (c) Rishikesh (d) Haridwar
- Recently, Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has declared victory for his ruling _____.
(a) Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) (b) Unique Democratic Party (UDP)
(c) Japan Democratic Party (JDP) (d) Republic Democratic Party (RDP)

14. Recently, Union Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah and Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Parshottam Rupala have jointly launched _____ a scheme envisaging investment of Rs 5,000 crore.
(a) Dugdh Sagar (b) Dairy Sahakar (c) Amul Cooperatives (d) Dairy Unique
15. India's first open air roof-top theatre, where people can drive in with their car to watch cinema, was opened in:
(a) Bengaluru (b) Chennai (c) Mumbai (d) New Delhi
16. Which of the following Indian states/ Union territory teams clinched first position in World Deaf Judo Championship?
(a) Haryana (b) Chhattisgarh (c) Punjab (d) Jammu & Kashmir
17. Which of the following was declared the State aquatic animal of Punjab in 2019?
(a) White Duck (b) Beas River Dolphin (c) Indus River Dolphin (d) Olive Ridley Turtles
18. National Unity Day is celebrated in India on _____.
(a) 23rd October (b) 26th October (c) 29th October (d) 31st October
19. Which of the following banks has now been appointed by the Reserve Bank of India as an Agency Bank of the RBI to conduct government business?
(a) Axis Bank (b) ICICI Bank (c) IDFC First Bank (d) Bandhan Bank
20. The Sports Ministry handed over a total of 74 National Sports Awards, including _____ Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratnas and 27 Arjuna Awards.
(a) 2 (b) 4 (c) 5 (d) 8
21. Which of the following states launched its 'e-Sarkar' app on a pilot basis in its effort to make administrative works paperless, quick and easy for citizens?
(a) Haryana (b) Rajasthan (c) Gujarat (d) Uttar Pradesh
22. Which of the following Indian state governments revived its initiative to deliver governance at doorstep and bring inclusive development in the state with launching the Go to Village 2.0?
(a) Sikkim (b) Tripura (c) Manipur (d) Mizoram
23. Which of the following are set to enhance their International Solar Alliance (ISA) partnership with the launch of a new Green Grids Initiative connecting different parts of the world at the United Nations (UN) COP26 climate summit in Glasgow?
(a) India and France (b) India and UK
(c) India and Germany (d) India and Russia
24. Which of the following union territories has declared Kalij Pheasant as the bird of the Union Territory/ State?
(a) Ladakh (b) Jammu and Kashmir
(c) Lakshadweep (d) Puducherry
25. Recently, Zoran Zaev stepped down after a defeat in local elections. He was the Prime Minister of:
(a) Siberia (b) South Macedonia
(c) Iceland (d) North Macedonia
26. The National Ayurveda Day 2021 is being observed on _____.
(a) 27th October (b) 29th October (c) 31st October (d) 2nd November
27. Recently, The Centre has constituted a _____ member Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGoS), which will be a monitoring mechanism for the development and implementation of the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan (NMP).
(a) 10 (b) 15 (c) 20 (d) 30

28. Recently, SEBI has constituted IT Projects Advisory Committee that will advise the markets regulator on projects aimed to utilise advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, data analytics and cloud computing. The seven-member committee is headed by:
(a) Atul Gokhale (b) Manish Deshpande (c) Abhay Karandikar (d) Akshay Kulshrestha
29. Recently, Indian Oil Corporation's Board has given its nod to set up the country's first mega-scale Maleic Anhydride Plant to manufacture value-added chemical products at its _____.
(a) Bhopal Refinery (b) Digboi Refinery (c) Panipat Refinery (d) Barauni Refinery
30. Recently, Jeff Bezos-headed Amazon has announced the launch of first two satellites under _____ its low-earth orbit (LEO) satellite constellation, which will provide fast and affordable internet to 'unserved and undeserved' communities across the globe.
(a) Project Kuiper (b) Project Killer (c) Project Unique (d) Project Keepon
31. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS) on sidelines of climate summit in _____.
(a) London (b) Helsinki (c) Glasgow (d) Paris
32. Who won the 2021 Booker Prize for Fiction for his novel The Promise?
(a) Michaiel Gomes (b) George Atwood (c) Damon Galgut (d) Catherine Mcwood
33. Recently, Ministry of Defence has announced incentives for cashless transaction on _____ of Cantonment Board to promote digital economy.
(a) eChhawani Portal (b) eCantonment Portal (c) eSena Portal (d) eTrisainya Portal
34. Recently, The Ministry of Rural Development has signed an MoU with _____ to help empower local businesses and self-help groups (SHGs) especially those that are led by women by bringing them into the e-commerce fold.
(a) Amazon (b) Snapdeal (c) Paytm (d) Flipkart
35. Which of the following will soon launch a web-based supervisory system that will enable off-site and on-site supervision of modern functions such as digital banking and cyber security?
(a) SIDBI (b) Reserve Bank of India
(c) NABARD (d) Ministry of Finance
36. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that _____ will soon provide the world a solar power calculator application that can measure solar energy potential of any region across the globe.
(a) DRDO (b) ISRO (c) BARC (d) ICMR
37. India and Bhutan is to have _____ additional entry and exit points for trade.
(a) 4 (b) 6 (c) 7 (d) 11
38. Name the former Indian cricketer who has been appointed the Head Coach of Team India (Senior Men)?
(a) Anil Kumble (b) Harbhajan Singh (c) Javagal Srinath (d) Rahul Dravid
39. Recently, More than 100 world leaders have promised to end and reverse deforestation by _____, in the COP26 climate summit's first major deal.
(a) 2025 (b) 2027 (c) 2030 (d) 2035
40. In December 2015, the UN General Assembly designated _____ as World Tsunami Awareness Day.
(a) 3rd November (b) 4th November (c) 5th November (d) 7th November
41. The Indian Air Force and _____ has participated in Exercise Desert Warrior.
(a) Egyptian Air Force (b) Saudi Arabian Air Force
(c) Sudanese Air Force (d) Romanian Air Force

42. Recently, The National Mission for Clean Ganga set a Guinness World Record on the first day of the Ganga Utsav for the highest number of photos of handwritten notes uploaded on _____ in an hour.
(a) Twitter (b) Instagram (c) Facebook (d) WhatsApp
43. Recently, Union Power Minister R K Singh virtually inaugurated the diversion of Marusudar River of Pakal Dul Hydro Electric Project in Kishtwar. Marusudar River is a major tributary of the _____.
(a) Ravi River (b) Beas River (c) Sutluj River (d) Chenab River
44. Which of the following Indian Institutes has been billed the top Indian institute in the QS Asia University Rankings 2022 and ranked 42 worldwide?
(a) Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (b) Indian Institute of Technology Madras
(c) Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (d) Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur
45. Recently, The Global _____ Pledge was launched at the ongoing UN COP26 climate conference in Glasgow.
(a) Methane (b) Ethane (c) Ozone (d) Carbon Monoxide
46. Recently, Aftab Pureval, an Indian-Tibetan has been elected as Mayor of _____ in the US state of Ohio, making him the first member of the community to be elected for such a position.
(a) Cincinnati city (b) Las Vegas (c) Boston (d) Oklahoma
47. Recently, Leading stock exchange BSE has collaborated with private sector lender _____ to further encourage and promote the listing of startups and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) across India.
(a) Axis Bank (b) HDFC Bank (c) ICICI Bank (d) Kotak Mahindra
48. Which of the following won the New Zealand's Bird of the Year award?
(a) Kistric Owl (b) Zambian Ostrich (c) Kiwi (d) Pekapeka-tou-roa
49. Name the Former U-19 World Cup-winning captain who is set to become the first Indian cricketer to play in Australia's Big Bash League after he signed for Melbourne Renegades for the 2021-2022 season?
(a) Prithvi Shah (b) Unmukt Chand (c) Yuvraj Singh (d) Manjot Singh
50. Name the Indian woman author who in her latest book "The Sage with Two Horns" tells numerous lesser-known and fascinating stories that have been lost in the pages of Indian mythology.
(a) Konkana Sen (b) Arundhati Roy (c) Sudha Murty (d) Manisha Lamba
51. Which of the following state governments will transfer money directly to the bank accounts of parents of around 1 crore 80 lakh students studying schools under the Basic Shiksha Parishad?
(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Haryana
(c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Bihar
52. Recently, The world's first transnational solar power grid that connects multiple countries was unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and _____.
(a) UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson (b) France President Emanuel Macron
(c) USA President Joe Biden (d) Canada Prime Minister Justin Trudeau
53. Recently, Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launched the "_____ Atlas: River of the Past" that documents the changes that the national river has gone over last half century.
(a) Brahmaputra (b) Ganga (c) Yamuna (d) Godavari
54. Name the Indian who won Children's Climate Prize in November 2021, prize given by the Sweden-based Children's Climate Foundation.
(a) Deepika Rajawat (b) Manisha Jain
(c) Vinisha Umashankar (d) Apoorva Hitesh
55. Recently, PM Narendra Modi unveiled a 12-foot statue of Adi Guru Shankaracharya at _____.
(a) Kedarnath (b) Kanchi (c) Rameshwaram (d) Puri

56. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Initiative for the Resilient _____ States (IRIS).
(a) Investment (b) Island (c) Improvement (d) Improvised
57. Which of the following published ‘Statement of Commitment to Support Greening India’s Financial System – NGFS?’
(a) NITI Aayog (b) Reserve Bank of India
(c) Ministry of Finance (d) SIDBI
58. The Delhi Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan will be hosted by _____ on 10th November.
(a) Afghanistan (b) India (c) Nepal (d) Bhutan
59. Which of the following countries launched the satellite, called Guangmu, by a Long March-6 carrier rocket?
(a) Japan (b) China (c) South Korea (d) Vietnam
60. Who recently won his fifth ATP title of the season and 18th overall at the Erste Bank Open?
(a) Frances Tiafoe (b) Alexander Zverev (c) Andy James (d) Thomas Tsipiras
61. Name the first private varsity in the northeastern region, which has been awarded the accreditation rating of “A Grade” by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC).
(a) University of Science and Technology, Manipur
(b) University of Science and Technology, Mizoram
(c) University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya
(d) University of Science and Technology, Tripura
62. The first Bangladeshi citizen to be honoured with one of India’s highest civilian awards, the Padma Shri is
(a) Muazzem Ali (b) Ahmad Zabbar (c) Taufeeq Umar (d) Minhaj Nizami
63. The UK’s Wellington College International will open its first school in _____.
(a) Bhopal (b) Pune (c) Nagpur (d) Kochi
64. Name the political leader who has emerged at the top of the global leader approval ratings recently.
(a) Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador
(b) Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison
(c) Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi
(d) Germany Chancellor Angela Merkel
65. Recently, World’s First Museum in the Sky is introduced by _____.
(a) Canada Airlines (b) American Airlines
(c) Saudia Airlines (d) Malaysian Airlines
66. Recently, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has authorised _____ as an Agency Bank of the RBI for undertaking Government business.
(a) Bandhan Bank (b) IDFC First Bank
(c) Axis Bank (d) ICICI Bank
67. The _____ and Indian Air Force (IAF) have jointly carried out two flight tests of the indigenously-developed smart anti-airfield weapon.
(a) Indian Navy
(b) Indian Army
(c) Defence Research and Development Organisation
(d) Indian Space Research Organisation
68. The youngest bowler to take 400 T20 wickets is
(a) Ravindra Jadeja (b) Trent Boult (c) Rashid Khan (d) Shaheen Afridi

69. National Cancer Awareness Day in India to raise awareness about cancer is observed on _____.
(a) 2nd November (b) 4th November (c) 7th November (d) 11th November
70. Name the first Indian actor who has partnered with an Indian celebrity NFT and fan engagement platform to exclusively launch his digital avatars, NFTs and also his debut in the metaverse.
(a) Akshay Kumar (b) Amitabh Bachchan (c) Ajay Devgan (d) Kamal Haasan
71. Recently, Black Rice of Kakching of _____ has recently been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag under agricultural products of the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act of 1999.
(a) Mizoram (b) Sikkim (c) Manipur (d) Nagaland
72. Recently, the Ministry of Civil Aviation declared the _____ as a “Major Airport”.
(a) Srinagar International airport
(b) Leh International airport
(c) Pakyong International airport
(d) Ahilyabai Holkar International airport
73. Which of the following has become the first among states and Union Territories to achieve complete vaccination coverage of its eligible population?
(a) Lakshadweep (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Jammu & Kashmir (d) Ladakh
74. Which of the following countries unveiled a new commemorative coin to mark Diwali, celebrating the life and legacy of Indian independence leader Mahatma Gandhi, recently?
(a) Britain (b) Canada (c) USA (d) France
75. Name the British Sikh Army officer and physiotherapist who is on a mission to become the first Indian-origin female to complete a solo, unsupported trek to the South Pole.
(a) Captain Harpreet Chandi (b) Captain Manpreet Brar
(c) Captain Sonalika Mintoo (d) Captain Aisha Dhillon
76. Which of the following banks has launched a video life certificate service for pensioners, which will allow pensioners to submit their life certificates via video from their homes?
(a) Punjab National Bank (b) State Bank of India (c) Union Bank of India (d) Canara Bank
77. Name the Director-producer who has been roped in as the ambassador of the Russian Film Festival in India.
(a) Imtiaz Ali (b) Anurag Kashyap (c) Anurag Basu (d) Farhan Akhtar
78. Name the new red variety of ladyfinger, aptly known as _____, which is a wonder crop grown in Uttar Pradesh that will also double farmers’ income.
(a) ‘Kumkum Bhindi’ (b) ‘Laal Bhindi’ (c) ‘Sindoori Bhindi’ (d) ‘Chamko Bhindi’
79. Who is the first undisputed world super middleweight champion who unified all four major belts in less than 12 months?
(a) Saul ‘Canelo’ Alvarez (b) Caleb Plant
(c) Alexander Grant (d) Thomas Yuley
80. Name the Indian mountaineer who was bestowed with the prestigious ‘Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award 2020’ for her outstanding contribution in the field of land adventure.
(a) Shweta Basu (b) Anamuka Jain (c) Priyanka Mohite (d) Atulya Marathe
81. Which of the following cities has recently joined the UNESCO Creative Cities Network 2021, under the crafts and folk arts category?
(a) Indore (b) Madhubani (c) Srinagar (d) Chandigarh

82. Name the former Supreme Court judge who took over as the chairperson of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal.
(a) Justice Ashok Bhushan (b) Justice Nagesh Mahajan
(c) Justice Jasti Chamleshwar (d) Justice Atul Pradhan
83. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's First 'World-class' Rly Station with Airport-like Amenities at _____.
(a) Gujarat Gandhinagar (b) Rajasthan Udaipur (c) Haryana Bhiwani (d) Madhya Pradesh's Habibganj
84. Which of the following was the first movie to be screened at the country's first rooftop drive-in movie theatre, which opened in Maharashtra's Mumbai?
(a) Jai Bhim (b) Sooryavanshi (c) Drishyam 4 (d) Singham 4
85. Which of the following universities has ranked on top above all state-run universities in the country in the QS Asia University Rankings 2022?
(a) Mumbai University (b) Calcutta University
(c) Delhi University (d) Jaipur University
86. Recently, Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal launched the 3rd edition of the Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) report, 2021. Which of the following has been adjudged as the Best Performing State?
(a) Chhattisgarh (b) Gujarat (c) Rajasthan (d) Assam
87. The first Chinese woman to walk in space is
(a) Wang Yaping (b) Zhang Ziang (c) Wang Hais (d) Hening Jepin
88. The first Physical National Yogasana Championships is held in _____.
(a) Bhopal (b) Bhubaneswar (c) Patna (d) Guwahati
89. The first South Indian actress to be invited as a speaker at IFFI is
(a) Samantha Ruth Prabhu (b) Ramya Krishnan
(c) Kajal Agarwal (d) Hanshika Motwani
90. Who won sixth Paris title and record 37th Masters crown?
(a) Andy Murray (b) Roger Federer (c) Daniil Medvedev (d) Novak Djokovic
91. Which of the following recently announced its first global hackathon 'HARBINGER 2021 – Innovation for Transformation' with the theme 'smarter digital payments'?
(a) Ministry of Finance (b) NABARD
(c) SIDBI (d) Reserve Bank of India
92. In the third edition of the Goa Maritime Conclave how many maritime forces will participate in the event?
(a) 5 (b) 7 (c) 9 (d) 12
93. The Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL), which is the world's first fully solar-powered airport, will commission its own hydroelectric project. CIAL constructed a weir dam across the _____ River.
(a) Iruvazhinji (b) Pampa (c) Kallada (d) Neyyar
94. Recently, In a first of its kind global drug policy index 2021, what is the rank of India in this index?
(a) 4 (b) 6 (c) 13 (d) 18
95. Which of the following companies has become the first Indian brand to launch 5G smartphones for domestic consumers?
(a) Micromax (b) Lava (c) Zenn (d) Mobizone

96. Recently, In Table Tennis, Indian pair of _____ and Archana Girish Kamath clinched the women's doubles title in the WTT Contender tournament in Lasko, Slovenia.
(a) Siya Jha (b) Manika Batra
(c) Amrita Kumari (d) Hitakshi Nayyar
97. Recently, The Bangla version of the book _____ about the naval commando operation jointly launched by the Indian Navy and the Mukti Bahini of Bangladesh was launched in Dhaka.
(a) 'Operation V' (b) 'Operation X' (c) 'Operation Y' (d) 'Operation Z'
98. Which of the following states received "high commendations" in two categories - Climate Partnerships and Creative Climate Solutions?
(a) Gujarat (b) Maharashtra (c) Rajasthan (d) Uttar Pradesh
99. Every year, World Radiography Day is observed on:
(a) November 3 (b) November 5 (c) November 7 (d) November 8
100. Recently, A biopic on legendary Kathak danseuse _____ is in the works, the makers announced on account of her 101st birth anniversary.
(a) Sitara Devi (b) Aparna Devi (c) Janaki Kumari (d) Lila Mehta
101. Recently, NITI Aayog has announced the top five most improved aspirational districts in the education sector for the month of September. Which of the following places tops the ranking?
(a) Sahibganj in Jharkhand (b) Jaisalmer in Rajasthan
(c) Bhoopalpalli in Telangana (d) Nuapada in Odisha
102. Recently, Government of India has appointed Vice Admiral _____ as the next Chief of the Naval Staff.
(a) R. Hari Kumar (b) M Mohan Jha (c) K Manish Gowtham (d) P. Manoj Luthra
103. Recently, President Ram Nath Kovind conferred the honorary rank of General of Indian Army to _____ at a special function at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
(a) Bhutan Army Chief (b) Bangladesh Army Chief
(c) Nepal Army Chief (d) Sri Lanka Army Chief
104. For the third year in a row in the global Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) released by Germanwatch on the side-lines of the COP26, India is at _____ position.
(a) Fifth (b) Seventh (c) Eighth (d) Tenth
105. Recently, The UN cultural agency UNESCO re-elected France's _____ as its director-general for a second mandate, with the former French culture minister hailing a new confidence and unity in the organisation.
(a) Michail Michi (b) Mithre Gaougle (c) Audrey Azoulay (d) Kerster Kithly
106. Recently, In a first in India, the rare 'pink' leopard was recently sighted in Ranakpur region, located in the Aravalli hills of _____.
(a) Rajasthan (b) Gujarat (c) Haryana (d) Punjab
107. The first Indian woman footballer, and the seventh overall to receive the prestigious Padma Shri Award is
(a) Sandhiya Ranganathan (b) Oinam Bembem Devi
(c) Indumathi Kathiresan (d) Soumya Guguloth
108. Name India's first woman Air Marshall who received the Padma Shri award in the field of medicine by President Ram Nath Kovind.
(a) Air Marshal Dr Anita Kakkad (Retd.) (b) Air Marshal Dr Aditi Thapa (Retd.)
(c) Air Marshal Dr Padma Bandopadhyay (Retd.) (d) Air Marshal Dr Pooja Luthra (Retd.)

109. Name the Indian batsman who completed 3000 T20I runs and became the third cricketer in the world to achieve this feat.
(a) Virat Kohli (b) Ravindra Jadeja (c) Rohit Sharma (d) K L Rahul
110. The World Science Day for Peace and Development is celebrated on _____.
(a) 2nd November (b) 5th November (c) 8th November (d) 10th November
111. Which of the following countries was chosen to host the upcoming session of the conference in 2022 (COP27)?
(a) Chile (b) Argentina (c) Saudi Arabia (d) Egypt
112. Recently, Union Minister of State Civil Aviation General V K Singh (retd.) launched India's first Centre for Excellence in Research on Drone/UAV Technology and Artificial Intelligence at _____.
(a) Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (b) Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati
(c) Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (d) Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay
113. Recently, President Sebastian Pinera was impeached by lower house of the country congress. Sebastian Pinera was the President of _____.
(a) Peru (b) Chile (c) Brazil (d) Argentina
114. Which of the following Asian countries came on top of Facebook's Integrity Country Prioritisation list for 2021?
(a) Nepal (b) India (c) Bangladesh (d) Mauritius
115. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched two innovative customer-centric initiatives of the _____.
(a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) (b) SIDBI
(c) NABARD (d) Ministry of Finance
116. Which of the following banks has entered into a tie-up with Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company to enable customers, particularly from weaker sections and living in unbanked and underserved areas, to become financially secure and empowered?
(a) Bandhan Bank (b) India Post Payments Bank
(c) IDFC First bank (d) ICICI Bank
117. National Legal Services Day is marked across the country annually on _____ November.
(a) 3 (b) 5 (c) 7 (d) 9
118. Recently, NASA's ambitious Parker _____ Probe spacecraft is being bombarded with space dust and debris.
(a) Lunar (b) Solar (c) Earth (d) Jupiter
119. The first-ever player in the history of the T20 Internationals to smash 1000+ runs in a calendar year is
(a) Babar Azam (b) Virat Kohli (c) Mohammad Rizwan (d) David Warner
120. F.W. de Klerk was the last apartheid president of _____.
(a) South Africa (b) Zimbabwe (c) Angola (d) Namibia
121. Recently, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the first operationalised Private Sector Defence Manufacturing facility in Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor in _____.
(a) Jhansi (b) Varanasi (c) Lucknow (d) Kanpur
122. The US became the _____ member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), an inter-governmental organisation formed by India and France to accelerate the global adoption of solar power.
(a) 87th (b) 92nd (c) 101st (d) 107th
123. Recently, Shri G. Kishan Reddy has conveyed his regards for the successful launch of _____ Circuit Train. The train will start from New Delhi to Rameswaram.
(a) Ramayana (b) Krishna (c) Buddha (d) Jain

124. Recently, India's first state-based education technology forum was created in _____.
(a) Gujarat (b) Maharashtra (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Bihar
125. Recently, Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated DBT - APSCS&T Centre of Excellence for Bioresources and Sustainable Development and Rural Technology Demonstration Centre at Kimin in Papum Pare District of _____.
(a) Manipur (b) Mizoram (c) Sikkim (d) Arunachal Pradesh
126. Recently, Prime Minister Andrej Babis and his government have resigned in a formal step required by the Constitution following last month's parliamentary election. He was the Prime Minister of:
(a) Sweden (b) Norway (c) Czech Republic (d) Finland
127. The first Indian footballer to receive the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna award is
(a) Baichung Bhutia (b) S Raghvan (c) Sunil Chhetri (d) Manoj Khambata
128. Recently, Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award has been given to _____ sportspersons.
(a) 6 (b) 8 (c) 10 (d) 12
129. Every year, National education day, which commemorates the birth anniversary of independent India's first education minister, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad is celebrated on:
(a) November 4 (b) November 7 (c) November 8 (d) November 11
130. Name the Bangladeshi film which has been included in the international competition section of the 52nd International Film Festival of India (IFFI) to be held at Goa.
(a) 'Middion 1971' (b) 'Moohe Pyar Nahin'
(c) 'Paayer Tolay Mati Nai' (d) 'Bangla Bangladesh Bhayo'
131. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the redeveloped Rani Kamalapati Railway Station in _____.
(a) Bengaluru (b) Indore (c) Bhopal (d) Chandigarh
132. Recently, President Ram Nath Kovind promulgated two Ordinances to extend the tenure of Directors of probe agencies Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED) up to _____.
(a) Four Years (b) Five Years (c) Seven Years (d) Eight Years
133. Recently, The 6th Edition of _____ Joint Military Exercise- EX SHAKTI 2021 is being conducted.
(a) Indo German (b) Indo France
(c) Indo Australia (d) Indo Portugal
134. Recently, As part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Law Minister Kiren Rijju launched _____ and felicitated frontline functionaries at a function in New Delhi.
(a) Citizens' Tele Law Mobile App (b) Citizens' Telecommunication Mobile App
(c) Citizens' Tele Law Mobile Application (d) Citizens Charter' Tele Law Mobile Application
135. The newly-elected Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Stoere is of:
(a) Norway (b) Sweden (c) Bulgaria (d) Ireland
136. Which of the following countries began a nationwide drill 'Omega Drill', deemed as the world's first such exercise to test its readiness in the event of an outbreak of a new, more lethal Covid-19 variant?
(a) Israel (b) Canada (c) USA (d) Bulgaria
137. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually launched two innovative customer centric initiatives of _____ namely, the Retail Direct Scheme and the Reserve Bank - Integrated Ombudsman Scheme.
(a) NITI Aayog (b) Reserve Bank of India
(c) State Bank of India (d) NABARD

138. Recently, A new study has challenged the widely accepted view that the continents rose from the oceans about 2.5 billion years ago. The recent research suggests that the earliest continental landmass to emerge may have been in _____ region.
(a) Jharkhand's Singhbhum (b) Odisha Mayurbhanj
(c) Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur (d) Bihar's Darbhanga
139. Recently, UN General Assembly adopted resolution designating _____ as World Diabetes Day.
(a) 4th November (b) 7th November (c) 11th November (d) 14th November
140. Recently, India's first state-based education technology forum has been created in _____.
(a) Gujarat (b) Maharashtra (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Jharkhand
141. Recently, India's first 'grass conservatory' spread over an area of two acres was inaugurated at _____ district.
(a) Almora (b) Varanasi (c) Patna (d) Udaipur
142. Which of the following states/ union territory has organising six 'Raahgiri Days', India's first sustained car-free citizen initiative?
(a) Delhi (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Punjab (d) Goa
143. To commemorate Bal Diwas, India's first Assembly Session for Children was held in _____.
(a) Gujarat (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Rajasthan
144. Recently, which of the following has approved the Invesco CoinShares Global Blockchain ETF Fund of Fund (FoF), which of the following will be the first scheme in India to offer exposure to global companies participating in the blockchain ecosystem?
(a) SIDBI (b) SEBI (c) NABARD (d) RBI
145. Recently, Abdel Fattah al-Burhan was sworn in as head of a new transitional council of _____.
(a) Egypt (b) Sudan (c) Indonesia (d) Malaysia
146. Which of the following states will soon have India's first museum dedicated to earth, aptly named 'The Indian Museum of Earth (TIME)'?
(a) Jharkhand (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Odisha (d) Madhya Pradesh
147. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Kashi Vishwanath Temple Corridor project in _____ alongside families of those who had been displaced due to the project.
(a) New Delhi (b) Varanasi (c) Lucknow (d) Shimla
148. Which of the following teams lifted their maiden T20 World Cup title?
(a) New Zealand (b) Australia (c) India (d) Pakistan
149. Recently, The Nation celebrated the birth anniversary of tribal freedom fighter Bhagwan Birsa Munda as Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas on _____.
(a) November 10 (b) November 12 (c) November 15 (d) November 18
150. Name the IIT Gandhinagar PhD scholar who won Gandhian Young Technological Innovation Awards 2021.
(a) Mridul Yadav (b) Harini Gunda (c) Mrinal Jain (d) Meenakshi Jha
151. Recently, Piyush Goyal virtually launched India's first Food Museum in:
(a) Indore (b) Kochi (c) Kanpur (d) Thanjavur
152. India's Bhadla Solar Park is the largest solar power park in the world located in:
(a) Gujarat (b) Rajasthan (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Jharkhand

153. Recently, The navies of India, Singapore and Thailand carried out a series of complex military drills in the Andaman Sea named:
(a) Royal King 21 (b) SIT 21 (c) SITMEX 21 (d) Nomadic Deer 2021
154. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the National Cadet Corps (NCC) Alumni Association in Uttar Pradesh's _____.
(a) Kanpur (b) Varanasi (c) Jhansi (d) Lucknow
155. In which of the following countries the incumbent President Rumen Radev is leading in the first round of the country's Presidential Elections?
(a) Portugal (b) Sweden (c) Finland (d) Bulgaria
156. Which of the following has recently directed Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) to appoint an Internal Ombudsman within 6 months?
(a) SIDBI (b) NABARD
(c) Reserve Bank of India (d) NITI Aayog
157. Which of the following Indian states ranks first in the country in terms of establishment of MSME units?
(a) Gujarat (b) Maharashtra (c) Rajasthan (d) Uttar Pradesh
158. Recently, Kaiser-i-Hind has been declared the state butterfly of:
(a) Sikkim (b) Manipur (c) Arunachal Pradesh (d) Mizoram
159. Which of the following Asian countries has successfully launched the 41st Scientific Expedition to Antarctica recently?
(a) China (b) India (c) Japan (d) South Korea
160. The UN General Assembly invited UN Member States to observe the International Day for Tolerance on _____.
(a) 5th November (b) 8th November (c) 11th November (d) 16th November
161. The Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated the Health Pavilion at _____.
(a) India International Trade Fair at Gandhi Maidan in Patna
(b) India International Trade Fair at Subhash Maidan in Kolkata
(c) India International Trade Fair at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi
(d) India International Trade Fair at Azad Maidan in Lucknow
162. Recently, Shombi Sharp of the United States has been appointed as the United Nations resident coordinator in _____ with the host government's approval.
(a) India (b) USA (c) Japan (d) South Korea
163. Recently which of the following establishes world's first metaverse embassy?
(a) Fiji (b) Barbados (c) Argentina (d) Brazil
164. Which of the following has launched voice trading powered by artificial intelligence (AI), which allows users to explore, buy and sell securities by speaking out the commands?
(a) Airtel Money (b) Paytm Money (c) Flipkart Money (d) Amazon Money
165. Recently, Fitch Ratings says it has affirmed India's long-term foreign-currency issuer default rating (IDR) at _____ with a negative outlook, unchanged from its previous review.
(a) AAA+ (b) AAA- (c) BBB+ (d) BBB-
166. Recently, Shri Parshottam Rupala inaugurated the country's first-of-its kind, dedicated business incubator to be known as LINAC- NCDC Fisheries Business Incubation Centre (LIFIC) in _____.
(a) Chhattisgarh's Raipur (b) Punjab's Kapurthala (c) Haryana's Gurugram (d) Madhya Pradesh's Indore

167. Recently, who has taken charge as the new Indian Cricket team coach?
(a) Rahul Dravid (b) Virinder Sehwag (c) Sachin Tendulkar (d) VVS Laksman
168. The _____ a P15B stealth guided-missile destroyer will be commissioned into the Indian Navy in the presence of Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai.
(a) Bhopal (b) Mumbai (c) Visakhapatnam (d) Kolkata
169. Which of the following Asian countries is set to host 2025 Champions Trophy?
(a) Sri Lanka (b) India (c) Pakistan (d) Bangladesh
170. Name the shuttler whose autobiography is 'Shuttler's Flick'.
(a) Pullela Gopichand (b) Prakash Padukone (c) P V Sindhu (d) Saina Nehwal
171. Which of the following states launched the 'Duare Ration' scheme which will benefit 10 crore people in Bengal?
(a) Jharkhand (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) West Bengal (d) Odisha
172. Recently, US president Biden has pledged that the United States will cut its greenhouse gas emissions by _____ by 2030 compared with 2005 levels.
(a) 30%-32% (b) 40%-42% (c) 50%-52% (d) 60%-62%
173. According to a new report by the research arm of consultants McKinsey & Co, which of the following countries became the richest nation in the world?
(a) Japan (b) China (c) USA (d) India
174. Recently, The exoplanet search and study group at the Ahmedabad-based Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), has discovered a new exoplanet orbiting too close to an evolved or aging star with a mass of _____ times that of Sun and located 725 light years away.
(a) 1.25 (b) 1.5 (c) 2 (d) 3.5
175. Which of the following European countries has ordered a change to the colour of its national flag?
(a) France (b) Germany (c) Portugal (d) Greece
176. Recently, The technology innovation hubs of _____ and IIT Delhi have signed an MoU to set up India's first medical robotics centre.
(a) IIT Delhi (b) IIT Kanpur (c) IIT Madras (d) IIT Bombay
177. Recently, Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated _____ as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav and interacted with successful start-ups including those from the tribal communities on the occasion of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas.
(a) "Tech Aadhaar @75" (b) "Tech Suvridha @75" (c) "Tech NEEV/@75" (d) "Tech Vishesh @75"
178. Which of the following countries will co-host its first major cricket tournament in 2024 when it stages part of the men's T20 World Cup?
(a) Canada (b) USA (c) France (d) New Zealand
179. Who has been appointed as the Chairman of the ICC men's Cricket Committee, the game's governing body?
(a) Sourav Ganguly (b) Javagal Srinath (c) Rahul Dravid (d) Venkatesh Prasad
180. World Toilet Day is an official United Nations international observance day on _____ to inspire action to tackle the global sanitation crisis.
(a) 12 November (b) 17 November (c) 19 November (d) 23 November
181. Recently, Indian Railways' first pod hotel was inaugurated in _____.
(a) New Delhi (b) Lucknow (c) Varanasi (d) Mumbai

182. According to Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, India has become the _____ largest domestic aviation market in the world.
(a) Second (b) Third (c) Fourth (d) Fifth
183. Which of the following Asian countries has been reelected to the UNESCO Executive Board, one of the three constitutional organs of the United Nations, for the 2021-25 term?
(a) Bangladesh (b) India (c) Pakistan (d) Japan
184. Recently, NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure, IT-enabled services provider, has received an in-principle approval from _____ to set up an account aggregator business under its wholly owned subsidiary.
(a) NABARD (b) SIDBI (c) RBI (d) NITI Aayog
185. According to the World Bank, which of the following countries is the world's largest recipient of remittances?
(a) Japan (b) China (c) India (d) Pakistan
186. Recently, The Hingoli revenue department has handed over 225 hectare of land in _____ to authorities of the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) project for setting up the first such facility in the country.
(a) Gujarat (b) Punjab (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Maharashtra
187. Recently, Fintech startup _____ has raised \$5.5 million (around Rs 40.79 crore) in a funding round to build India's first social crypto exchange.
(a) WazirX (b) Giffy (c) Defy (d) Alkexandra
188. Recently, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur has announced that the Indian Film Personality Award for the year 2021 will be given to_____.
(a) Asha Parekh and Manoj Muntasir (b) Hema Malini and Prasoon Joshi
(c) Rekha and Jubin Nautiyal (d) Sharmila Tagore and Arijit Singh
189. Recently, Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur conferred the first ever Sports Authority of India's Institutional Awards to _____ athletes and coaches in New Delhi.
(a) 199 (b) 206 (c) 219 (d) 246
190. Recently, Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu called upon youth to draw inspiration from Lord Rama's life in fulfilling their duty towards motherland. The book _____ is written by Sasikiranacharya in Hyderabad.
(a) 'SriRam' (b) 'Ramaramayanam' (c) 'Sriramayanam' (d) 'Srimadramayanam'
191. Name the civil society organization which has been awarded the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for the year 2021.
(a) Ekal (b) Pratham (c) Sakshya (d) Amrit
192. Recently, India's First Food Museum has been opened in:
(a) Nellore (b) Bhopal (c) Thanjavur (d) Udaipur
193. Name the mission which unveils India's first-ever pledge for clean water and sustainable sanitation.
(a) Mission Water (b) Mission Pyaas (c) Mission Jal (d) Mission Paani
194. What is the name of the joint exercise carried out to assess the logistics supply chain by the Indian Army and Air Force?
(a) Operation Tiger (b) Operation Prithviraj (c) Operation Hercules (d) Operation Triumph
195. Recently, The world's first fully electric autonomous cargo vessel was unveiled in _____.
(a) Russia (b) Norway (c) Sweden (d) Finland

196. Who has become the first woman to hold presidential power in US history?
(a) Kamala Harris (b) Preeti Patel (c) Nikki Haley (d) Pramila Jaypal
197. A committee set up by the central bank has suggested reining in controversial digital loan apps through a mix of regulations. Who is the head of this working group?
(a) Mahesh Dinakaran (b) Anita Meshram
(c) Jayant Kumar Dash (d) Kirpal Singh Jagtara
198. Recently, Scientists from the Ahmedabad-based Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) have discovered an exoplanet that is 725 light years away from us and orbiting an ageing star that has _____ times the mass of our Sun.
(a) 0.5 (b) 1 (c) 1.5 (d) 3
199. World Toilet Day is an official United Nations international observance day on _____ to inspire action to tackle the global sanitation crisis.
(a) 15 November (b) 17 November (c) 19 November (d) 23 November
200. The International Hockey Federation (FIH) has announced that its first ever senior World Hockey5s event will take place in _____.
(a) Brussels, Belgium (b) Lyon, France
(c) Lausanne, Switzerland (d) New York, USA
201. Recently, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated the state-of-the-art Centre for Nanotechnology (CNT) and Centre for Indian Knowledge System (CIKS) at _____.
(a) IIT Bombay (b) IIT Madras (c) IIT Guwahati (d) IIT Delhi
202. Indian Home Minister Amit Shah laid the foundation stone for setting up the Rani Gaidinliu Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum in _____.
(a) Jharkhand (b) Odisha (c) Mizoram (d) Manipur
203. According to the Swachh Survekshan 2021, which is not among the top four cleanest cities of India?
(a) Indore (b) Vijayawada (c) Thane (d) Surat
204. Recently, The Sixth Edition of Indo - France joint military exercise _____ has been commenced.
(a) Ex YUDH ABHYAS 2021 (b) Ex SHAKTI 2021
(c) Ex SURAKSHA 2021 (d) Ex MITRA 2021
205. Which of the following is the first country to establish a digital embassy after an agreement with metaverse platform Decentraland?
(a) Barbados (b) Fiji (c) Suriname (d) Maldives
206. Recently, Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh launched first of its kind, latest, world's most sophisticated MRI facility at the _____.
(a) National Brain Research Centre (NBRC), Manesar Haryana
(b) AIIMS, Delhi
(c) AFMC, Pune
(d) JIPMER, Puducherry
207. Who won the inaugural Qatar Grand Prix Formula One?
(a) Lewis Hamilton (b) Alex Tsipiras (c) Valtteri Bottas (d) Max Verstappen
208. Who recently clinched the Indonesia Masters badminton tournament men's singles title?
(a) Kidambi Srikanth (b) Anders Antonsen
(c) Kento Momota (d) Max Chiker

209. India's first ever female superhero 3D film is
(a) CROWN (b) NEST (c) UNIQUE (d) KING
200. Every Year, World Television Day is celebrated on:
(a) 19 November (b) 21 November
(c) 23 November (d) 26 November
211. Recently, Food Corporation of India (FCI) has developed its first state-of-art laboratory for in house testing of food grain samples in _____.
(a) Punjab (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Odisha (d) Haryana
212. Which of the following has secured the first position among 29 states and Union Territories in the Indian Police Foundation's list of 'Smart Policing' index?
(a) Assam (b) Andhra Pradesh (c) Puducherry (d) Delhi
213. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 'InFinity Forum', a two -day thought leadership Forum on FinTech. Which of the following is not among partner countries in the first edition of the forum?
(a) Indonesia (b) South Africa (c) Japan (d) United Kingdom
214. Which of the following cities was adjudged India's cleanest city for the fifth year in a row in the central government's annual cleanliness survey?
(a) Indore (b) Gulbarga (c) Navi Mumbai (d) Vijayawada
215. Which of the following countries plans to build the world's first "Bitcoin City", funded initially by bitcoin-backed bonds?
(a) Chile (b) Argentina (c) El Salvador (d) Brazil
216. Which of the following countries has been ranked top out of nine countries in pet care by a new State of Pet Homelessness Index?
(a) Germany (b) France (c) India (d) Sweden
217. Who has been recently appointed as permanent CEO of the International Cricket Council?
(a) Tom Moody (b) Geoff Allardice (c) Mohammad Danish (d) Kapil Dev
218. Recently, The International Cricket Council (ICC) has decided that _____ will jointly host the 2031 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup.
(a) India and Bangladesh (b) India and Sri Lanka
(c) Bangladesh and Pakistan (d) Sri Lanka and Afghanistan
219. Every year, the third _____ of November is celebrated as World Philosophy Day.
(a) Monday (b) Wednesday (c) Thursday (d) Saturday
220. The newly instituted Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement award this year was awarded to acclaimed Hungarian filmmaker _____.
(a) Chris Martha (b) Svitre Nasdo (c) Istvan Szabo (d) Luther Histric
221. Recently, On the occasion of World Fisheries Day celebration which of the following states was awarded the best marine state in India?
(a) Odisha (b) Andhra Pradesh (c) Tamil Nadu (d) Maharashtra
222. Recently, Former Goa Chief Minister Luizinho Faleiro was elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from _____ becoming the first person from Goa to become a TMC MP.
(a) Assam (b) West Bengal (c) Odisha (d) Andhra Pradesh

223. India and its neighbouring countries sharing the trans-boundary Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna basins are planning to develop a Hydrological SOS system. The GBM river basin system does not cut across which of the following countries?
(a) India (b) Myanmar (c) Bhutan (d) Bangladesh
224. Which of the following Indian states has decided to set up a tax plan for “cow welfare” in the state?
(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Haryana (c) Gujarat (d) Madhya Pradesh
225. Recently, which of the following countries ousted Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok has been reinstated following last month’s coup when he was put under house arrest?
(a) Syria (b) Zambia (c) Sudan (d) Eritrea
226. Recently, In a bid to raise awareness on cyber frauds and how to prevent them, a campaign called Mooh Band Rakho was launched by the _____.
(a) Axis Bank (b) HDFC Bank (c) ICICI Bank (d) IDFC First Bank
227. Who among the following was awarded the Vir Chakra by President Ram Nath Kovind at a ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhawan recently?
(a) Group Captain Varthaman Abhinandan (b) Major Milind Mishra
(c) Captain Atul Pandya (d) Major Vidit Chandwani
228. India’s first Medical Robotics Centre (MCC) is being set up at _____ for promoting related advanced researches in the field of medical simulation.
(a) IIIT-Delhi (b) IIIT- Hyderabad (c) IIIT-Coimbatore (d) IIIT-Bengaluru
229. In cricket, which of the following teams lifted the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy?
(a) Tamil Nadu (b) Karnataka (c) Kerala (d) Gujarat
230. Who among the following will receive the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award this year from the Badminton World Federation (BWF)?
(a) Pullela Gopichand (b) Kidambi Srikanth (c) Prakash Padukone (d) Atul Kulkarni
231. Recently, NITI Aayog under the Indo-German Cooperation has released the inaugural Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Urban Index and Dashboard 2021-22. Which city topped the Index?
(a) Shimla (b) Chandigarh (c) Kochi (d) Bhopal
232. Recently, SBI Research has upgraded India’s GDP growth projection for financial year 2022 to the range of _____.
(a) 7.3%-7.6%. (b) 8.4%-8.7% (c) 9.3%-9.6%. (d) 10.4%-10.6%
233. Recently, The Centre launched the first ever All India Survey of Domestic Workers (DWs), which will be undertaken by the _____.
(a) Labour Bureau (b) NITI Aayog (c) NABARD (d) FCI
234. The Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) Mission is associated with:
(a) ESA (b) NASA (c) ISRO (d) JAXSA
235. Recently, Sheikh Sabah al-Khalid has been reappointed as Prime Minister of _____.
(a) Saudi Arabia (b) Kuwait (c) UAE (d) Bahrain
236. Indian Prime Minister launched multiple initiatives to boost country’s Defence sector at ‘Rashtra Raksha Samarpan Parv’ at _____.
(a) Jhansi in Uttar Pradesh (b) Udaipur in Rajasthan
(c) Shimla in Himachal Pradesh (d) Raipur in Chhattisgarh

237. Which of the following companies will soon float a tender for a 20 MW electrolyser to build the country's largest green hydrogen plant as it aims to achieve net-zero emissions for its operations by 2040?
(a) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (b) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited
(c) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (d) Reliance Petroleum Corporation Limited
238. Recently, Rumen Radev won a second term as a President of _____.
(a) Sweden (b) Greece (c) Bulgaria (d) Norway
239. FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup 2021 is to be held in:
(a) Bhubaneswar (b) Bhopal (c) Ranchi (d) Lucknow
240. World Children's Day was first established in 1954 as Universal Children's Day and is celebrated on _____ each year.
(a) 15 November (b) 18 November (c) 20 November (d) 24 November
241. Recently, Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw has announced the introduction of _____ will be run, by both private sectors and IRCTC, in theme-based circuits.
(a) Bharat Utthaan (b) India Pride (c) Bharat Gaurav (d) Hindustan Garv
242. Recently, Labour and Employment Minister Bhupender Yadav flagged off the first ever All India Domestic Workers Survey. The survey will cover _____ districts in 37 States and Union territories.
(a) 543 (b) 598 (c) 656 (d) 742
243. Recently, The theatre-level _____ exercise, which includes over 30,000 troops from the Army, Navy, IAF, Coast Guard, BSF and intelligence agencies, has led to the "activation of the entire desert, Rann and Creek sectors".
(a) "Purva Shakti" (b) "Bharat Shakti"
(c) "Dakshin Shakti" (d) "Shaurya Shakti"
244. Name the first airport in Asia Pacific Region to achieve Level 4 Accreditation under ACI's Airport Carbon Accreditation.
(a) Indira Gandhi International Airport
(b) Rajiv Gandhi International Airport
(c) Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport
(d) Devi Ahilyabai Holkar International Airport
245. Magdalena Andersson has been recently approved by the Parliament as the first female Prime Minister of _____.
(a) Norway (b) Finland (c) Sweden (d) Greece
246. Which of the following banks has announced the launch of its online platform, 'Trade Emerge', to offer comprehensive digital banking and value-added services to exporters and importers across India?
(a) HDFC Bank (b) ICICI Bank (c) IDFC First Bank (d) RBL Bank
247. Recently, India's first veterinary ventilator hospital has been opened in _____.
(a) Bhopal (b) Varanasi (c) Guwahati (d) Ahmadabad
248. The fifth East Asia Summit, EAS Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation will begin in _____.
(a) Mumbai (b) Kolkata (c) Kochi (d) Paradeep
249. Who has become the first Indian female player to be named the WBBL Player of the Tournament?
(a) Shefali Sharma (b) Harmanpreet Kaur (c) Jemima Rodrigues (d) Smriti Mandhana
250. International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women is celebrated on _____.
(a) 18 November (b) 21 November (c) 23 November (d) 25 November

251. Which of the following states recently unanimously adopted a resolution to withdraw an earlier resolution seeking abolishment of the Legislative Council?
(a) Telangana (b) Chhattisgarh (c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Karnataka
252. Recently, For the first time hempcrete has been put to extensive use to build a house in India at _____.
(a) Manali (b) Gulmarg (c) Pauri Garhwal (d) Rishikesh
253. Annalena Baerbock has become first woman foreign minister of _____.
(a) France (b) Ireland (c) Sweden (d) Germany
254. What is name of the recently inaugurated International airport in Uttar Pradesh?
(a) Noida International Airport (b) Kushinagar International Airport
(c) Kanpur International Airport (d) Varanasi International Airport
255. As per the fifth round of the National Family and Health Survey (NFHS), India now has more women than men. There are _____ for every 1,000 men as per the report released by the Union health ministry.
(a) 1,005 women (b) 1,020 women (c) 1,025 women (d) 1,040 women
256. Name the Indian who was elected as Delegate for Asia on the Executive Committee of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL).
(a) Praveen Sinha (b) Mudit Agarwal (c) Shivam Bhattacharya (d) Udit Mahajan
257. According to the latest annual ranking of top lenders by global regulators, which is the world's most systemically important bank?
(a) Goldman Sachs (b) JP Morgan Chase (c) BNP Paribas (d) HSBC
258. Recently, The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave its approval for the continuation of the umbrella scheme, Ocean Services, Modelling, Application, Resources and Technology, O-SMART of _____.
(a) Ministry of Home Affairs (b) Ministry of Finance
(c) Ministry of Earth Sciences (d) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
259. Name the IIT which claim to have developed a first-of-its-kind device in India for the on-site production of ultra-pure Hydrogen.
(a) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati (b) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), BHU
(c) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi (d) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay
260. Every year, World Television Day is celebrated on:
(a) 17 November (b) 20 November (c) 21 November (d) 24 November
261. The 7th India International Science Festival (IISF) 2021 will be held in _____.
(a) Panaji, Goa (b) Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
(c) Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh (d) Raipur, Chhattisgarh
262. Which of the following has adopted the world's first international ethics guidelines for artificial intelligence, which prohibit the use of the technology for "social scoring" and mass surveillance?
(a) UNGA (b) UNESCO (c) UNICEF (d) IMF
263. Recently, Basing itself on the National Health Family Survey (NHFS) for 2015-16, the NITI Aayog has said in that year _____ in every four people in India was multi-dimensionally poor.
(a) 0 (b) 1 (c) 2 (d) 3
264. Which of the following states launched the ambitious Micro Finance Incentive and Relief Scheme 2021 to incentive those making regular payment of microfinance loans?
(a) Meghalaya (b) Sikkim (c) Tripura (d) Assam

265. Recently, Petr Fiala was named the new Prime Minister of _____.
(a) Sweden (b) Norway (c) Czech Republic (d) Peru
266. Recently, Union Cabinet has approved continuation of National Apprenticeship Training Scheme for next _____.
(a) two years (b) three years (c) five years (d) ten years
267. Which of the following countries is not involved in tri-lateral exercise 'Dosti'?
(a) Maldives (b) Mauritius (c) Sri Lanka (d) India
268. Name the fourth Scorpene-class submarine which was commissioned into the Indian Navy.
(a) INS Mahatam (b) INS Vela (c) INS Shaurya (d) INS Surya
269. Which of the following steel plants bagged the Energy Conservation Award in the Eastern region ENCON Award 2021 competition recently?
(a) Rourkela Steel Plant (b) Angul Steel Plant (c) Bhilai Steel Plant (d) Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant
270. What is the name of the first Indian club to field team in FIFA Global Series?
(a) SC East Bengal (b) Mumbai City FC (c) Kerala Blasters (d) Mohun Bagan
271. Union Government constituted a five-member committee to ensure timely completion of various projects executed under the Central Vista Redevelopment Plan. The five-member committee will be headed by _____.
(a) P K Tiwari (b) Ratan P Watal (c) Shailendar Roy (d) Amrit Raj Khurana
272. Who has become the first Indian to be crowned the Malaysian Open Champion - a PSA World Tour Bronze event?
(a) Manoj Sharma (b) Atul Ranjan (c) Saurav Ghosal (d) Bikesh Mahipal
273. Which of the following states launched the 'STREET' project in select spots in seven districts, which would help visitors experience the diversity of offerings in these locales?
(a) Punjab (b) Kerala (c) Tamil Nadu (d) Karnataka
274. Recently, The new variant of Covid identified first in _____ has been named omicron by the World Health Organization.
(a) South Africa (b) Chile (c) Peru (d) Madagascar
275. The 'Donate a pension' campaign is likely to cost an individual only _____ per worker, in a one-time outgo that would compensate for the monthly contribution required to be made by the worker during his entire work life under the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) scheme.
(a) Rs 18,000 (b) Rs 24,000 (c) Rs 30,000 (d) Rs 36,000
276. Which is the first country in the world to legalise drug checking?
(a) New Zealand (b) Canada (c) Sweden (d) Portugal
277. Recently, Ministry of Labour released a new series of Wage Rate Index (WRI) with base year _____.
(a) 2010 (b) 2012 (c) 2014 (d) 2016
278. Name the first Indian who has been awarded the honorary title of 'Knight of Parte Guelfa' in Italy recently.
(a) Amit Jha (b) Sukesh Dinkar (c) Mukesh Lal (d) Sohan Roy
279. National Milk Day is observed across India on _____ in memory of the father of the white revolution, Dr. Verghese Kurien.
(a) November 16 (b) November 19 (c) November 23 (d) November 26
280. Indian Innings: The Journey of Indian Cricket from 1947 is penned by:
(a) Kapil Dev (b) Sunil Gavaskar (c) Ayaz Memon (d) Atul Vasan

ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATION

1. b Tamilnadu Chief Minister M.K.Stalin launched an unique academic scheme, Education at your doorstep at Villupuram.
2. a Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana have taken the top three slots, emerging winners among the 18 large states in governance performance, Public Affairs Centre (PAC), a Bengaluru-based nonprofit think tank, announced.
3. d WMO's provisional State of Climate in 2021 report said the mean global sea level rise was 2.1 mm per year between 1993 and 2002 and 4.4 mm per year between 2013 and 2021.
4. b Dog lovers have a reason to rejoice with Delhi's first park for canines being started in Old Rajendra Nagar by the North Delhi Municipal Corporation.
5. a Multi business conglomerate ITC Ltd. has become the first company in India to announce its ambitious target for 2035 to certify all of its owned factories and hotels operating in areas of high-water stress to the International Water Stewardship Standard (AWS Standard).
6. b The first-ever open-air floating theatre in Jammu and Kashmir has been launched in the famous Dal lake.
7. c Microsoft's stock becomes world's most valuable after it's share rose as much as 1.1% to hit a market value of 2.46 trillion Dollars blowing past Apple.
8. a The 17th edition of India-US joint exercise, Ex Yudh Abhyas 2021 has concluded at Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, Alaska.
9. d Mohammad Shahzad became the first Afghanistan player to reach 2000 T20I runs.
10. b The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2 November as the 'International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists'.
11. d Chhattisgarh has developed its indigenous bicycle with the brand name "Bambooka". The special eco-friendly bi-cycle was developed in the land once known for bloodsheds and Naxalism, the tribal-dominated region of Bastar.
12. a Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Minister of State for Electronics & Information Technology and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship inaugurated the first Internet Exchange in the state of Uttarakhand, hosted at Dehradun, through a virtual inaugural ceremony from Delhi.
13. a Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has declared victory for his ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).
14. b Union Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah and Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Parshottam Rupala have jointly launched 'Dairy Sahakar,' a scheme envisaging investment of Rs 5,000 crore with a focus on encouraging cooperative dairy businesses in the country.
15. c Reliance Retail said the country's first open air roof-top theatre, where people can drive in with their car to watch cinema, was opened on November 5 at its premium shopping mall Jio World Drive in Mumbai.
16. d In yet another shot in the arm of J&K sports performance, the J&K team for deaf clinched 1st position in World Deaf Judo Championship held at Paris Versailles, France.
17. c The Indus river dolphin was declared the State aquatic animal of Punjab in 2019.
18. d National Unity Day is celebrated in India on 31 October. It was introduced by the Government of India in 2014.
19. d The Reserve Bank of India has now appointed Bandhan Bank as an Agency Bank of the RBI to conduct government business.
20. c The Sports Ministry handed over a total of 74 National Sports Awards, including 5 Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratnas and 27 Arjuna Awards.
21. c The Gujarat government launched its 'e-Sarkar' app on a pilot basis in its effort to make administrative works paperless, quick and easy for citizens.

- 22. c** In Manipur, the State Government revived its initiative to deliver governance at doorstep and bring inclusive development in the state with launching the Go to Village 2.0 in Thoubal.
- 23. b** India and the UK are set to enhance their International Solar Alliance (ISA) partnership with the launch of a new Green Grids Initiative connecting different parts of the world at the United Nations (UN) COP26 climate summit in Glasgow.
- 24. b** The Government has declared Kalij Pheasant as the bird of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
- 25. d** For the first time in North Macedonia's 30-year history, a prime minister has resigned.
- 26. d** The National Ayurveda Day is being observed on 2nd November.
- 27. c** The Centre has constituted a 20-member Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGoS), which will be a monitoring mechanism for the development and implementation of the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan (NMP). The Cabinet Secretary will be its Chairperson.
- 28. c** Sebi has constituted IT Projects Advisory Committee that will advise the markets regulator on projects aimed to utilise advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, data analytics and cloud computing. The seven-member committee, headed by Abhay Karandikar, a director at IIT Kanpur, will provide guidance to upgrade existing Sebi's IT systems and solutions with the latest IT practices, techniques, tools and technologies, an update available with the regulator showed.
- 29. c** Indian Oil Corporation's Board has given its nod to set up the country's first mega-scale Maleic Anhydride Plant to manufacture value-added chemical products at its Panipat Refinery and Petroleum Complex (PRPC).
- 30. a** Jeff Bezos-headed Amazon has announced the launch of first two satellites under Project Kuiper, its low-earth orbit (LEO) satellite constellation, which will provide fast and affordable internet to 'unserved and undeserved' communities across the globe.
- 31. c** Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS) on sidelines of climate summit in Glasgow.
- 32. c** South African author Damon Galgut has won the 2021 Booker Prize for Fiction for his novel The Promise.
- 33. a** Ministry of Defence has announced incentives for cashless transaction on eChhawani Portal of Cantonment Board to promote digital economy.
- 34. d** The Ministry of Rural Development has signed an MoU with Flipkart to help empower local businesses and self-help groups (SHGs) especially those that are led by women by bringing them into the e-commerce fold.
- 35. b** The Reserve Bank of India will soon launch a web-based supervisory system that will enable off-site and on-site supervision of modern functions such as digital banking and cyber security.
- 36. b** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that Indian Space Research Organisation- ISRO will soon provide the world a solar power calculator application that can measure solar energy potential of any region across the globe.
- 37. c** India and Bhutan is to have 7 additional entry and exit points for trade.
- 38. d** Rahul Dravid has been appointed the Head Coach of Team India (Senior Men).
- 39. c** More than 100 world leaders have promised to end and reverse deforestation by 2030, in the COP26 climate summit's first major deal.
- 40. c** In December 2015, the UN General Assembly designated 5 November as World Tsunami Awareness Day.
- 41. a** "The IAF and Egyptian Air Force participated in Exercise Desert Warrior
- 42. c** The National Mission for Clean Ganga set a Guinness World Record on the first day of the Ganga Utsav for the highest number of photos of handwritten notes uploaded on Facebook in an hour.

- 43. d** Marusudar River is a major tributary of the Chenab River.
- 44. a** Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT) Bombay has been billed the top Indian institute in the QS Asia University Rankings 2022 and ranked 42 worldwide.
- 45. a** The Global Methane Pledge was launched at the ongoing UN COP26 climate conference in Glasgow.
- 46. a** Aftab Pureval, an Indian-Tibetan has been elected as Mayor of Cincinnati city in the US state of Ohio, making him the first member of the community to be elected for such a position.
- 47. b** Leading stock exchange BSE has collaborated with private sector lender HDFC Bank to further encourage and promote the listing of startups and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) across India.
- 48. d** Pekapeka-tou-roa, a long-tailed bat that is one of New Zealand's two native land mammals, has won the country's Bird of the Year award. However, this had led to a controversy in the country as the title has been awarded to a native mammal instead of a bird.
- 49. b** Former U-19 World Cup-winning captain Unmukt Chand is set to become the first Indian cricketer to play in Australia's Big Bash League after he signed for Melbourne Renegades for the 2021-2022 season.
- 50. c** One of India's favourite authors Sudha Murty has a Diwali gift for children – her latest book "The Sage with Two Horns" in which she tells numerous lesser-known and fascinating stories that have been lost in the pages of Indian mythology.
- 51. c** Uttar Pradesh government will transfer money directly to the bank accounts of parents of around 1 crore 80 lakh students studying schools under the Basic Shiksha Parishad.
- 52. a** The world's first transnational solar power grid that connects multiple countries was unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his UK counterpart Boris Johnson.
- 53. b** Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launched the "Ganga Atlas: River of the Past" that documents the changes that the national river has gone over last half century.
- 54. c** Vinisha Umashankar, now 15 years old, found her answers in sunlight. A solar powered ironing cart, which would replace the conventional charcoal ironing box, would power a steam ironing box to do its job.
- 55. a** PM at Kedarnath temple unveiled a 12-foot statue of Adi Guru Shankaracharya at the seer's rebuilt samadhi
- 56. b** Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Initiative for the Resilient Island States (IRIS) for developing infrastructure of small island nations.
- 57. b** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently published its 'Statement of Commitment to Support Greening India's Financial System - NGFS.
- 58. b** Delhi Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan will be hosted by India on 10th November.
- 59. b** China sent an Earth science satellite into space from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in the northern Shanxi Province.
- 60. b** Alexander Zverev won his fifth ATP title of the season and 18th overall by defeating American qualifier Frances Tiafoe at the Erste Bank Open.
- 61. c** The University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya (USTM), the first private varsity in the northeastern region, has been awarded the accreditation rating of "A Grade" by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC).
- 62. a** Former high commissioner to India Muazzem Ali and 1971 war hero Colonel Quazi Sajjad Ali Zahir will be the first Bangladeshi citizens to be honoured with one of India's highest civilian awards, the Padma Shri.
- 63. b** The UK's Wellington College International will open its first school in Pune.
- 64. c** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emerged at the top of the global leader approval ratings.

- 65. c** World's First Museum in the Sky introduced by Saudia Airlines.
- 66. a** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has authorised Bandhan Bank as an Agency Bank of the RBI for undertaking Government business.
- 67. c** The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Air Force (IAF) have jointly carried out two flight tests of the indigenously-developed smart anti-airfield weapon.
- 68. c** Afghanistan leg-spinner Rashid Khan became the youngest bowler to take 400 T20 wickets during his team's crucial Super 12 encounter against New Zealand in Dubai.
- 69. c** November 7 is observed annually as National Cancer Awareness Day in India to raise awareness about cancer, of which 1.1 million cases are reported in the country each year.
- 70. d** Kamal Haasan becomes first Indian actor to enter a metaverse.
- 71. c** The Black Rice of Kakching has recently been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag under agricultural products of the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act of 1999. Black Rice is famous for its high nutrient value and gluten-free nature along with its use in traditional medicinal purposes.
- 72. a** The Ministry of Civil Aviation declared the Srinagar International airport as a "Major Airport".
- 73. a** Lakshadweep has become the first among states and Union Territories to achieve complete vaccination coverage of its eligible population.
- 74. a** Britain unveiled a new commemorative coin to mark Diwali, celebrating the life and legacy of Indian independence leader Mahatma Gandhi.
- 75. a** Captain Harpreet Chandi, known as Polar Preet, will be travelling 700 miles while pulling a pulk or sledge with all of her kit, battling temperatures of minus 50 degrees Celsius and wind speeds of up to 60 mph.
- 76. b** The State Bank of India (SBI) has launched a video life certificate service for pensioners. This new facility will allow pensioners to submit their life certificates via video from their homes.
- 77. a** Director-producer Imtiaz Ali has been roped in as the ambassador of the Russian Film Festival in India.
- 78. a** When ladyfinger goes 'red', it also becomes beneficial and nutritious. The new red variety of ladyfinger, aptly known as 'Kumkum Bhindi', is a wonder crop grown in Uttar Pradesh that will also double farmers' income.
- 79. a** Saul 'Canelo' Alvarez made history knocking out Caleb Plant in the 11th round to become the first undisputed world super middleweight champion, unifying all four major belts in less than 12 months.
- 80. c** Maharashtra-based mountaineer Priyanka Mohite was bestowed with the prestigious 'Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award 2020' for her outstanding contribution in the field of land adventure.
- 81. c** In a major recognition of the crafts and arts of Jammu and Kashmir, Srinagar has joined the UNESCO Creative Cities Network 2021, under the crafts and folk arts category.
- 82. a** Former Supreme Court judge Justice Ashok Bhushan took over as the chairperson of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal.
- 83. d** PM Modi inaugurated India's First 'World-class' Rly Station with Airport-like Amenities at MP's Habibganj.
- 84. b** Akshay Kumar's Sooryavanshi was the first movie to be screened at the country's first rooftop drive-in movie theatre, which opened in Maharashtra's Mumbai.
- 85. b** Calcutta University has ranked on top above all state-run universities in the country in the QS Asia University Rankings 2022.
- 86. b** As per the report, Gujarat has been adjudged as the Best Performing State while Uttar Pradesh is the top improver.

- 87. a** Astronaut Wang Yaping became the first woman to walk in space after she took part in Shenzhou-13 mission's first extravehicular activity with mission commander Zhai Zhigang.
- 88. b** Over 500 competitors will take part in the first Physical National Yogasana Championships is held in Bhubaneswar from November 11 to 13.
- 89. a** For the first time ever, the organisers have roped in a South Indian actress to speak at the event and that is none other than Samantha.
- 90. d** World number one Novak Djokovic won a sixth Paris title and record 37th Masters crown beating 2020 champion Daniil Medvedev.
- 91. d** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced its first global hackathon 'HARBINGER 2021 – Innovation for Transformation' with the theme 'smarter digital payments'.
- 92. d** Chiefs of navies or heads of maritime forces from 12 Indian Ocean littorals - Bangladesh, Comoros, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Myanmar, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand - will participate in the event.
- 93. a** CIAL constructed a weir dam across the Iruvazhinji River and hydro-mechanical and electro-mechanical systems at Arippara, near Kodencheri in Kozhikode district.
- 94. d** A first of its kind global drug policy index 2021 that ranks 30 countries drawn from across regions on how humane and health-driven their drug laws and policies are, gives India a score of 46 out of 100 with Norway at the top with 74 and Brazil at the bottom scoring 26. In terms of ranking India is at 18.
- 95. b** Home-grown mobile phone company Lava International has become the first Indian brand to launch 5G smartphones for domestic consumers.
- 96. b** The Bangla version of the book 'Operation X' about the naval commando operation jointly launched by the Indian Navy and the Mukti Bahini of Bangladesh was launched in Dhaka.
- 97. b** In Table Tennis, Indian pair of Manika Batra and Archana Girish Kamath clinched the women's doubles title in the WTT Contender tournament in Lasko, Slovenia.
- 98. b** Maharashtra received "high commendations" in two other categories - Climate Partnerships and Creative Climate Solutions. British Columbia and Québec in Canada won awards in these two categories
- 99. d** November 8 is observed annually as World Radiography Day to commemorate the discovery of X-radiation, or X-rays, on November 8.
- 100. a** A biopic on legendary Kathak danseuse Sitara Devi is in the works, the makers announced on account of her 101st birth anniversary.
- 101. c** NITI Aayog has announced the top five most improved aspirational districts in the education sector for the month of September. Bhoopalpalli in Telangana tops the ranking.
- 102. a** Government has appointed Vice Admiral R. Hari Kumar as the next Chief of the Naval Staff.
- 103. c** President Ram Nath Kovind conferred the honorary rank of General of Indian Army to Nepal Army Chief Prabhu Ram Sharma at a special function at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- 104. d** India has retained its spot in the top 10 best performing countries for the third year in a row in the global Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) released by Germanwatch on the side-lines of the COP26. Thus India, at 10th slot, is the seventh country.
- 105. c** The UN cultural agency UNESCO re-elected France's Audrey Azoulay as its director-general for a second mandate, with the former French culture minister hailing a new confidence and unity in the organisation.
- 106. a** In a first in India, the rare 'pink' leopard was recently sighted in Ranakpur region, located in the Aravalli hills of south Rajasthan.

- 107. b** Oinam Bembem Devi became the first Indian woman footballer, and the seventh overall to receive the prestigious Padma Shri Award.
- 108. c** Air Marshal Dr Padma Bandopadhyay (Retd.) received the Padma Shri award in the field of medicine at Rashtrapati Bhavan. India's first woman Air Marshall received the award by President Ram Nath Kovind.
- 109. c** Indian batter Rohit Sharma completed 3000 T20I runs and became the third cricketer in the world to achieve this feat.
- 110. d** World Science Day for Peace and Development is being celebrated on 10th November. The theme of this year is 'Building Climate-Ready Communities'.
- 111. d** The UN climate change conference COP26 in Glasgow has announced that Egypt was chosen to host the upcoming session of the conference in 2022 (COP27).
- 112. b** Union Minister of State Civil Aviation General V K Singh (retd.) launched India's first Centre for Excellence in Research on Drone/UAV Technology and Artificial Intelligence at Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati.
- 113. b** President Sebastian Pinera was impeached by the lower house of Chile's congress, setting up a trial in the nation's Senate over whether to remove him due to allegations he favoured the sale of a family property while in office.
- 114. b** India came on top of Facebook's Integrity Country Prioritisation list for 2021 — which is an internal list of countries that are at the highest risk of violence, hate speech and misinformation among other harms drawn by the company, now renamed Meta.
- 115. a** Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched two innovative customer-centric initiatives of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). "These initiatives are the RBI Retail Direct Scheme and the Reserve Bank - Integrated Ombudsman Scheme".
- 116. b** India Post Payments Bank has entered into a tie-up with Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company to enable customers, particularly from weaker sections and living in unbanked and underserved areas, to become financially secure and empowered.
- 117. d** National Legal Services Day is marked across the country annually on 9 November.
- 118. b** NASA's ambitious Parker Solar Probe spacecraft, studying the Sun at close proximity, is being bombarded with space dust and debris on its way to the Sun.
- 119. c** Star Pakistan wicketkeeper-batsman Mohammad Rizwan is having a sensational run in T20 Internationals in the year 2021.
- 120. a** F.W. de Klerk, who shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Nelson Mandela and as South Africa's last apartheid president oversaw the end of the country's white minority rule, has died at the age of 85.
- 121. c** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the first operationalised Private Sector Defence Manufacturing facility in Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor in Lucknow.
- 122. c** The US became the 101st member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), an inter-governmental organisation formed by India and France to accelerate the global adoption of solar power.
- 123. a** Shri G. Kishan Reddy has conveyed his regards and congratulated the Ministry of Railways and IRCTC for the successful launch of Ramayana Circuit Train. The train will start from New Delhi to Rameswaram and stop at various important places associated with the life of Lord Sri Rama.
- 124. b** India's first state-based education technology forum created in Maharashtra.
- 125. d** Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated DBT - APSCS&T Centre of Excellence for Bioresources and Sustainable Development and Rural Technology Demonstration Centre at Kimin in Papum Pare District of Arunachal Pradesh.
- 126. c** Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babis and his government have resigned in a formal step required by the Constitution following last month's parliamentary election.
- 127. c** After becoming the first Indian footballer to receive the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna award captain Sunil Chhetri said playing for 19 years is the primary reason why he was named for the prestigious award.

- 128. d** President Ram Nath Kovind gave away the National Sports Awards-2021 and Adventure Awards at Rashtrapati Bhavan. This year Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award has been given to 12 sportspersons.
- 129. d** Every year, November 11 is celebrated as National Education day, which commemorates the birth anniversary of independent India's first education minister, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.
- 130. c** Bangladeshi film 'Paayer Tolay Mati Nai' (No Ground Beneath the Feet) directed by Mohammad Rabby Mridha has been included in the international competition section of the 52nd International Film Festival of India (IFFI) to be held at Goa between 20-28 November.
- 131. c** Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the redeveloped Rani Kamalapati Railway Station in Bhopal.
- 132. b** President Ram Nath Kovind promulgated two Ordinances to extend the tenure of Directors of probe agencies Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED) up to five years.
- 133. b** The 6th Edition of Indo France Joint Military Exercise- EX SHAKTI 2021 is being conducted from 15 to 26 November 2021 in Frejus, France.
- 134. c** As part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju launched Citizens' Tele Law Mobile App and felicitated frontline functionaries at a function in New Delhi.
- 135. a** The new centre-left Cabinet of Norway formally took over power after the newly-elected Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Stoere presented a centre-left minority government.
- 136. a** Israel began a nationwide drill to test its readiness in the event of an outbreak of a new, more lethal Covid-19 variant. The 'Omega Drill', deemed as the world's first such exercise.
- 137. b** Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually launched two innovative customer centric initiatives of RBI namely, the Retail Direct Scheme and the Reserve Bank - Integrated Ombudsman Scheme.
- 138. a** A new study has challenged the widely accepted view that the continents rose from the oceans about 2.5 billion years ago. It suggests this happened 700 million years earlier about 3.2 billion years ago and that the earliest continental landmass to emerge may have been Jharkhand's Singhbhum region. The study, by researchers from India, Australia and the US.
- 139. d** In 2007 UN General Assembly adopted resolution designating 14 November as World Diabetes Day.
- 140. b** India's first state-based education technology forum created in Maharashtra.
- 141. a** India's first 'grass conservatory' spread over an area of two acres was inaugurated at Ranikhet in Almora district.
- 142. a** Keeping this in mind, the Dialogue and Development Commission (DDC) of Delhi, a think tank of the Delhi Government, is organising six 'Raahgiri Days', India's first sustained car-free citizen initiative.
- 143. d** To commemorate Bal Diwas, India's first Assembly Session for Children was held in Rajasthan.
- 144. b** Markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has approved the Invesco CoinShares Global Blockchain ETF Fund of Fund (FoF), which will be the first scheme in India to offer exposure to global companies participating in the blockchain ecosystem.
- 145. b** Sudan's army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan was sworn in as head of a new transitional council he appointed to lead the country following the military takeover
- 146. b** Uttar Pradesh will soon have the country's first museum dedicated to earth, aptly named, The Indian Museum of Earth (TIME), and will be a world-class iconic museum with collections from palaeosciences, geology, tectonics, earth processes and whatnot.
- 147. b** Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Kashi Vishwanath Temple Corridor project in Varanasi, his parliamentary constituency, alongside families of those who had been displaced due to the project.

- 148. b** Australia lifted their maiden T20 World Cup title as they defeated New Zealand in the final by 8 wickets at Dubai International stadium.
- 149. c** The Modi government has announced that Birsa Munda's birth anniversary – November 15 –celebrated as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas this year onwards.
- 150. b** Harini Gunda, a PhD student of Chemical Engineering, Dr Chandan Kumar Jha, a PhD alumnus and postdoctoral fellow in Electrical Engineering won the award.
- 151. d** Union Minister for Commerce, Industry, Food and Public Distribution Piyush Goyal virtually launched India's first Food Museum and said measures were on to make the country go up the ladder from currently being the fifth-largest agricultural exporter in the world.
- 152. b** India's Bhadla Solar Park is the largest solar power park in the world. Bhadla Solar Park is located in Bhadla, a dry and sandy region in Rajasthan, and spans 14,000 acres.
- 153. c** The maiden edition of SITMEX was hosted by the Indian Navy off Port Blair in September 2019 while it was organised in 2020 by the Republic of Singapore Navy.
- 154. c** Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the National Cadet Corps (NCC) Alumni Association in Uttar Pradesh's Jhansi on November 19.
- 155. d** In Bulgaria, incumbent President Rumen Radev is leading in the first round of the country's Presidential Elections.
- 156. c** Reserve Bank of India has directed Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) to appoint an Internal Ombudsman within 6 months.
- 157. d** Uttar Pradesh ranks first in the country in terms of establishment of MSME units.
- 158. c** An elusive swallowtail butterfly carrying 'India' in its name and found in next-door China will become the State butterfly of Arunachal Pradesh.
- 159. b** India has successfully launched the 41st Scientific Expedition to Antarctica with the arrival of the first batch of its contingent at the southern white continent. The first batch comprising of 23 scientists and support staff reached the Indian Antarctic station Maitri.
- 160. d** The UN General Assembly invited UN Member States to observe the International Day for Tolerance on 16 November.
- 161. c** Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated the Health Pavilion at India International Trade Fair at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.
- 162. a** Shombi Sharp of the United States has been appointed as the United Nations resident coordinator in India with the host government's approval.
- 163. b** Barbados establishes world's first metaverse embassy.
- 164. b** Paytm Money has launched voice trading powered by artificial intelligence (AI), which allows users to explore, buy and sell securities by speaking out the commands. Paytm Money is a group company of Paytm, which recently concluded its initial public offering (IPO).
- 165. d** Fitch Ratings says it has affirmed India's long-term foreign-currency issuer default rating (IDR) at 'BBB-' with a negative outlook, unchanged from its previous review.
- 166. c** Shri Parshottam Rupala inaugurated the country's first-of-its kind, dedicated business incubator to be known as LINAC-NCDC Fisheries Business Incubation Centre (LIFIC) in Haryana's Gurugram.
- 167. a** Rahul Dravid has taken charge as the new Indian Cricket team coach.
- 168. c** Visakhapatnam, a P15B stealth guided-missile destroyer will be commissioned into the Indian Navy in the presence of Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai.

- 169. c** Major cricket event will return to Pakistan after more than two decades with the country set to host the 2025 Champions Trophy, an ICC flagship tournament.
- 170. a** Ahead of the launch of his autobiography ‘Shuttler’s Flick’, badminton coach and former player Pullela Gopichand reveals how he channelled his hurt to devise a winning strategy and bounce back stronger.
- 171. c** West Bengal government-led by Mamata Banerjee launched the ‘Duare Ration’ scheme which will benefit 10 crore people in Bengal.
- 172. c** Biden has pledged that the United States will cut its greenhouse gas emissions by 50%-52% by 2030 compared with 2005 levels.
- 173. b** China has surpassed the United States to become the richest nation in the world as global wealth tripled over the past two decades, according to a new report by the research arm of consultants McKinsey & Co.
- 174. b** The exoplanet search and study group at the Ahmedabad-based Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), has discovered a new exoplanet orbiting too close to an evolved or aging star with a mass of 1.5 times that of Sun and located 725 light years away.
- 175. a** It’s a change so subtle it went unnoticed for almost three years. But President Emmanuel Macron ordered a change to the colour of the French flag to find echoes of heroism in France’s past.
- 176. a** The technology innovation hubs of IIT Delhi and IIIT Delhi have signed an MoU to set up India’s first medical cobotics centre.
- 177. c** Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated “Tech NEEV/@75” as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav and interacted with successful start-ups including those from the tribal communities on the occasion of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas.
- 178. b** The United States will co-host its first major cricket tournament in 2024 when it stages part of the men’s T20 World Cup.
- 179. a** BCCI president Sourav Ganguly has been appointed as the Chairman of the ICC men’s Cricket Committee, the game’s governing body.
- 180. c** World Toilet Day is an official United Nations international observance day on 19 November to inspire action to tackle the global sanitation crisis.
- 181. d** Indian Railways’ first pod hotel inaugurated in Mumbai.
- 182. b** Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said that India has become the third-largest domestic aviation market in the world.
- 183. b** India has been reelected to the UNESCO Executive Board, one of the three constitutional organs of the United Nations, for the 2021-25 term.
- 184. c** NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure, IT-enabled services provider, has received an in-principle approval from RBI to set up an account aggregator business under its wholly owned subsidiary, NSDL e-Governance Account Aggregator Ltd.
- 185. c** India, the world’s largest recipient of remittances, received USD 87 billion in 2021 with the United States being the biggest source, accounting for over 20 per cent of these funds, according to the World Bank.
- 186. d** The Hingoli revenue department has handed over 225 hectare of land here in Maharashtra to authorities of the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) project for setting up the first such facility in the country.
- 187. c** Fintech startup Defy has raised \$5.5 million (around Rs 40.79 crore) in a funding round to build India’s first social crypto exchange.
- 188. b** Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur has announced that the Indian Film Personality Award for the year 2021 will be given to Hema Malini and Prasoon Joshi.
- 189. d** Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur conferred the first ever Sports Authority of India’s Institutional Awards to 246 athletes and coaches in New Delhi.

- 190. d** Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu called upon youth to draw inspiration from Lord Rama's life in fulfilling their duty towards motherland. The book 'Srimadramayanam' is written by Sasikiranacharya in Hyderabad
- 191. b** Pratham, a civil society organisation, has been awarded the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for the year 2021.
- 192. c** Tamil Nadu will now be home to the agricultural history of India. Thanjavur is the cultural capital of Tamil Nadu.
- 193. d** Mission Paani, a path-breaking initiative by Network 18 and Harpic India to promote water conservation, safe sanitation and hygiene, on the occasion of World Toilet Day brought the country together including celebrities, sportspersons and activists to take a pledge to uphold India's first-ever Preamble for safe water and sustainable sanitation for all.
- 194. c** The Indian Army and Air Force carried out a joint exercise to assess their logistics supply chain. This exercise was held at a time when the Indian armed forces are preparing for another winter of enhanced deployment of over 50,000 troops in Ladakh amid continuing tensions with China.
- 195. b** The world's first fully electric autonomous cargo vessel was unveiled in Norway, a small but promising step toward reducing the maritime industry's climate footprint.
- 196. a** President Joe Biden will transfer power briefly to Vice President Kamala Harris while he is under anesthesia for a routine colonoscopy, making her the first woman to hold presidential power in US history.
- 197. c** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had set up a working group on digital lending, including online platforms and mobile apps, headed by its executive director Jayant Kumar Dash in January after allegations of coercive debt recovery tactics.
- 198. c** Scientists from the Ahmedabad-based Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) have discovered an exoplanet that is 725 light years away from us and orbiting an ageing star that has 1.5 times the mass of our Sun.
- 199. c** World Toilet Day is an official United Nations international observance day on 19 November to inspire action to tackle the global sanitation crisis.
- 200. c** The International Hockey Federation (FIH) is delighted to announce that its first ever senior World Hockey5s event - which was initially scheduled in September this year but postponed due to COVID-related issues - will take place on 4-5 June 2022, in Lausanne, Switzerland.
- 201. c** Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated the state-of-the-art Centre for Nanotechnology (CNT) and Centre for Indian Knowledge System (CIKS) at IIT Guwahati.
- 202. d** Home Minister Amit Shah laid the foundation stone for setting up the Rani Gaidinliu Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum at Luangkao village in Manipur's Tamenglong district via video-conferencing.
- 203. c** Gujarat's Surat maintained its position as the second cleanest city in India with a population over 10 lakh after Madhya Pradesh's Indore in the Swachh Survekshan 2021, the Centre's annual cleanliness survey to promote sanitation in urban centres under the Swachh Bharat Mission. Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh, swapped places with Navi Mumbai to move to the third spot from last year's fourth.
- 204. b** The Sixth Edition of Indo - France joint military exercise Ex SHAKTI 2021 has commenced.
- 205. a** Barbados, the tiny Caribbean island nation, has decided to extend its diplomatic outreach by becoming the first country to establish a digital embassy after an agreement with metaverse platform Decentraland. Barbados' Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade officially signed an agreement to establish a digital embassy in Decentraland, a user-owned, Ethereum-based digital environment.
- 206. a** Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh launched first of its kind, latest, world's most sophisticated MRI facility at the National Brain Research Centre (NBRC), Manesar in Haryana.
- 207. a** Seven-times world champion Lewis Hamilton won the inaugural Qatar Grand Prix for Mercedes to cut Max Verstappen's overall Formula One lead to eight points with two races remaining.

- 208. c** In Badminton, World No. 1 Japan's Kento Momota clinched the Indonesia Masters badminton tournament men's singles title after beating Denmark's Anders Antonsen in the final, in Bali.
- 209. a** CROWN film will be a 3D film becoming India's first ever.
- 210. b** The General Assembly decided to proclaim 21 November as World Television Day.
- 211. d** Food Corporation of India (FCI) under Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) has developed its first state-of-art laboratory for in house testing of food grain samples in Gurugram Haryana.
- 212. b** As per the list, Assam Police has secured the third rank in the country with an overall rating of 7.89 out of 10. Andhra Pradesh is ranked first with a score of 8.11 and Telangana secured the second position with 8.10 points.
- 213. c** Indonesia, South Africa and the United Kingdom are partner countries in the first edition of the forum.
- 214. a** Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan congratulated the people of Indore, which was adjudged India's cleanest city for the fifth year in a row in the central government's annual cleanliness survey.
- 215. c** El Salvador plans to build the world's first "Bitcoin City", funded initially by bitcoin-backed bonds, President Nayib Bukele said doubling down on his bet to harness the crypto currency to fuel investment in the Central American country.
- 216. a** India last in first-ever pet homelessness index of 9 countries, Germany tops list.
- 217. b** Australian Geoff Allardice has been appointed as permanent CEO of the International Cricket Council after serving the role on an interim basis for more than eight months.
- 218. a** The International Cricket Council (ICC) has decided that India and Bangladesh will jointly host the 2031 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup.
- 219. c** Every year, the third Thursday of November is celebrated as World Philosophy Day. This year it is being observed on November 18.
- 220. c** The newly instituted Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement award this year was awarded to acclaimed Hungarian filmmaker Istvan Szabo.
- 221. b** Andhra Pradesh was awarded the best marine state, which Odisha had won last year. The best inland state award was given to Telangana while Balaghat in Madhya Pradesh received the best inland district award.
- 222. b** Former Goa chief minister Luizinho Faleiro was elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from West Bengal becoming the first person from Goa to become a TMC MP.
- 223. b** The GBM river basin system cuts across India, Tibet, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh.
- 224. d** The Shivraj Singh Chouhan Government has decided to set up a tax plan for "cow welfare" in the State where gau kalyan (cow welfare) has been at the heart of politics for years.
- 225. c** Sudan's ousted Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok has been reinstated following last month's coup when he was put under house arrest.
- 226. b** In a bid to raise awareness on cyber frauds and how to prevent them, a campaign called Mooh Band Rakho was launched by the HDFC Bank.
- 227. a** Group Captain Varthaman Abhinandan, who shot down a Pakistan F-16 fighter jet in the aftermath of the Pulwama terror attack of February 2019, was awarded the Vir Chakra by President Ram Nath Kovind at a ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhawan.
- 228. a** India's first Medical Cobotics Centre (MCC) is being set up at IIIT-Delhi for promoting related advanced researches in the field of medical simulation.
- 229. a** In cricket, Tamil Nadu lifted the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy defeating Karnataka.

- 230. c** Indian badminton great Prakash Padukone will receive the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award this year from the Badminton World Federation (BWF).
- 231. a** Shimla tops the Index followed by Coimbatore and Chandigarh.
- 232. c** SBI Research has upgraded India's GDP growth projection for financial year 2022 to the range of 9.3%-9.6%.
- 233. a** The Centre launched the first ever All India Survey of Domestic Workers (DWs), which will be undertaken by the Labour Bureau.
- 234. b** Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) is a NASA space mission aimed at testing a method of planetary defense against near-Earth objects (NEO).
- 235. b** Kuwait's Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah al-Khalid has been reappointed Prime Minister and tasked with forming a cabinet that would be the Gulf OPEC oil producer's third this year in a domestic political standoff.
- 236. a** Prime Minister to launch multiple initiatives to boost country's Defence sector at 'Rashtra Raksha Samarpan Parv' at Jhansi in Uttar Pradesh.
- 237. a** Bharat Petroleum Corporation will soon float a tender for a 20 MW electrolyser to build the country's largest green hydrogen plant as it aims to achieve net-zero emissions for its operations by 2040.
- 238. c** Bulgarian President Rumen Radev won a second term in office by a wide margin as voters in the European Union's poorest country backed his strong anti-corruption message, exit polls showed.
- 239. a** Odisha capital Bhubaneswar is all set to host the FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup beginning.
- 240. c** World Children's Day was first established in 1954 as Universal Children's Day and is celebrated on 20 November each year to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children's welfare.
- 241. c** Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw has announced the introduction of Bharat Gaurav. It will be run, by both private sectors and IRCTC, in theme-based circuits.
- 242. d** Labour and Employment Minister Bhupender Yadav flagged off the first ever All India Domestic Workers Survey. The survey will cover 742 districts in 37 States and Union territories.
- 243. c** The theatre-level "Dakshin Shakti" exercise, which includes over 30,000 troops from the Army, Navy, IAF, Coast Guard, BSF and intelligence agencies, has led to the "activation of the entire desert, Rann and Creek sectors".
- 244. a** Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport is set to become Net Zero Carbon Emission Airport by 2030.
- 245. c** Sweden's parliament approved Magdalena Andersson as the country's first female prime minister, tapping the finance minister who recently became the new leader of the Social Democratic party.
- 246. b** ICICI Bank has announced the launch of its online platform, 'Trade Emerge', to offer comprehensive digital banking and value-added services to exporters and importers across India.
- 247. d** A Gujarati man, who lost his pet a year ago due to lack of facilities has now opened "a one-stop solution to everything related to pets — a non-profit veterinary hospital with fully equipped OT rooms and India's first animal vet ventilator" in Ahmedabad.
- 248. b** The fifth East Asia Summit, EAS Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation will begin in Kolkata.
- 249. b** India's Harmanpreet Kaur enjoyed a fantastic Women's Big Bash League (WBBL) season.
- 250. d** International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women 25 November.
- 251. c** A day after passing a Bill to repeal two laws that were cleared last year as part of the YSRCP government's contentious move to set up three different state capitals, the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution to withdraw an earlier resolution seeking abolishment of the Legislative Council.

- 252. c** An architect couple has built a sprawling 5-room house in Yamkeshwar block of Pauri Garhwal district, using ‘hemcrete’ – a mixture of parts of “bhang” or hemp plant, lime, wood, mud, water and other minerals – which can be used as a green alternative to concrete.
- 253. d** Green party co-leader Annalena Baerbock has become Germany’s first woman foreign minister, as the country’s incoming coalition government takes shape.
- 254. a** With the foundation-laying ceremony for the Noida International Airport, Uttar Pradesh is now on its way to having five international airports, the highest for any state in India.
- 255. b** As per the fifth round of the National Family and Health Survey (NFHS), India now has more women than men. There are 1,020 women for every 1,000 men as per the report released by the Union health ministry.
- 256. a** India’s candidate, Praveen Sinha, Special Director of Central Bureau of Investigation was elected as Delegate for Asia on the Executive Committee of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL).
- 257. b** JP Morgan Chase has become the world’s most systemically important bank once again according to the latest annual ranking of top lenders by global regulators, with BNP Paribas and Goldman Sachs also now deemed more systemic.
- 258. c** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave its approval for the continuation of the umbrella scheme, Ocean Services, Modelling, Application, Resources and Technology, O-SMART of Ministry of Earth Sciences for implementation during the period from 2021-26 at an overall cost of 2 thousand 177 crore rupees.
- 259. b** Scientists at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), BHU claim to have developed a first-of-its-kind device in India for the on-site production of ultra-pure Hydrogen.
- 260. c** In recognition of the increasing impact television has on decision-making by bringing world attention to conflicts and threats to peace and security and its potential role in sharpening the focus on other major issues, including economic and social issues, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 21 November as World Television Day.
- 261. a** The 7th India International Science Festival (IISF) 2021 will be held in Panaji, Goa from 10th to 13th of next month.
- 262. b** UNESCO has adopted the world’s first international ethics guidelines for artificial intelligence, which prohibit the use of the technology for “social scoring” and mass surveillance.
- 263. b** Basing itself on the National Health Family Survey (NHFS) for 2015-16, the NITI Aayog has said in that year one in every four people in India was multi-dimensionally poor.
- 264. d** Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma launched the ambitious Assam Micro Finance Incentive and Relief Scheme 2021 to incentive those making regular payment of microfinance loans.
- 265. c** Right-winger Petr Fiala was named the Czech Republic’s new prime minister in an unusual ceremony, with wheelchair-bound President Milos Zeman speaking from behind a plastic barrier because he has Covid-19.
- 266. c** Union Cabinet has approved continuation of National Apprenticeship Training Scheme for next five years.
- 267. b** “The aim of India-Maldives-Sri Lanka tri-lateral exercise ‘Dosti’ is to further fortify the friendship, enhance mutual operational capability, and exercise interoperability and to build cooperation between the Coast Guards of Maldives, India and Sri Lanka.”
- 268. b** INS Vela, the fourth Scorpene-class submarine was commissioned into the Indian Navy.
- 269. a** The Rourkela Steel Plant of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) bagged the Energy Conservation Award in the Eastern region ENCON Award 2021 competition.
- 270. b** Mumbai City FC become first Indian club to field team in FIFA Global Series.
- 271. b** The five-member committee will be headed by former finance secretary Ratan P Watal. Deputy CAG P K Tiwari, former director of L&T Shailendar Roy, IIT Delhi professor Mausam and ministry’s joint secretary have been included in the committee.

- 272. c** The Indian squash star, Saurav Ghosal, has become the first Indian to be crowned the Malaysian Open Champion - a PSA World Tour Bronze event.
- 273. b** In a pioneering initiative to take tourism deep into the state's interiors and rural hinterland, Kerala Tourism will launch the 'STREET' project in select spots in seven districts, which would help visitors experience the diversity of offerings in these locales.
- 274. a** The new variant of Covid identified first in South Africa has been named omicron by the World Health Organization.
- 275. d** The 'Donate a pension' campaign is likely to cost an individual only Rs 36,000 per worker, in a one-time outgo that would compensate for the monthly contribution required to be made by the worker during his entire work life under the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) scheme.
- 276. a** New Zealand made drug checking permanent by enacting a bill allowing a pilot programme providing harm reduction services at festivals to continue and extend its operations.
- 277. d** Ministry of Labour released a new series of Wage Rate Index (WRI) with base year 2016, being compiled and maintained by the Labour Bureau, an attached office of the ministry. The new series of WRI with base 2016=100 will replace the old series with base 1963-65.
- 278. d** Sohan Roy, a Forbes-listed entrepreneur from Kerala and who has a passion for getting noticed in the film industry through his unconventional contribution to humanity and the world cinema has now become the first Indian who has been awarded the honorary title of 'Knight of Parte Guelfa' in Italy.
- 279. d** National Milk Day is observed across India on November 26 in memory of the father of the white revolution, Dr. Verghese Kurien.
- 280. c** It is no surprise that the very best of cricket writing moves into the realm of literature. In the anthology Indian Innings: The Journey of Indian Cricket from 1947, veteran sports writer Ayaz Memon curates some of the finest pieces that tell the remarkable tale that Indian cricket has largely been.

