

SSC BANKING MANTHAN

Current Affairs Supplement

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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



Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Pradhan Mantri Digital Health Mission

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Pradhan Mantri Digital Health Mission (PM-DHM) via video-conferencing. The pilot project of National Digital Health Mission had been announced by the Prime Minister from the ramparts of Red Fort on 15th August, 2020.
- Currently, PM-DHM is being implemented in pilot phase in six Union Territories. The nation-wide rollout of PM-DHM coincides with National Health Authority celebrating the **third anniversary of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana**. Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya was present on the occasion.
- Based on the foundations laid down in the form of Jan Dhan, Aadhaar and Mobile (JAM) trinity and other digital initiatives of the government, PM-DHM will create a seamless online platform through the provision of a wide-range of data, information and infrastructure services, duly leveraging open, interoperable, standards-based digital systems while ensuring the security, confidentiality and privacy of health-related personal information.
- The Mission will enable access and exchange of longitudinal health records of citizens with their consent. The key components of PM-DHM include a health ID for every citizen that will also work as their health account, to which personal health records can be linked and viewed with the help of a mobile application.
- Healthcare Professionals Registry and Healthcare Facilities Registries will act as a repository of all healthcare providers across both modern and traditional systems of medicine. This will ensure ease of doing business for doctors and hospitals and healthcare service providers.
- PM-DHM Sandbox, created as a part of the Mission, will act as a framework for technology and product testing that will help organizations, including private players, intending to be a part of National Digital Health Ecosystem become a Health Information Provider or Health Information User or efficiently link with building blocks of PM-DHM.

Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY; also referred to as Ayushman Bharat National Health Protection Scheme NHPS) is a national public health insurance fund of the Government of India that aims to provide free access to health insurance coverage for low income earners in the country. Roughly, the bottom 50% of the country qualifies for this scheme. People using the program access their own primary care services from a family doctor. When anyone needs additional care, then PM-JAY provides free secondary health care for those needing specialist treatment and tertiary health care for those requiring hospitalization. The programme is part of the Indian government's National Health Policy and is means-tested. It was launched in September 2018 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. That ministry later established the National Health Authority as an organization to administer the program. It is a centrally sponsored scheme and is jointly funded by both the union government and the states. By offering services to 50 crore (500 million) people it is the world's largest government sponsored healthcare program. It is providing a cover of Rs.5 lakh (US\$7,000) per family per year for medical treatment in empaneled hospitals, both public and private; offering cashless payment and paperless recordkeeping through the hospital or doctor's office; using criteria from the Socio Economic and Caste Census 2011 to determine eligibility for benefits. It covers 3 days of pre-hospitalisation and 15 days of post-hospitalisation.

Naga Cucumber from Nagaland gets GI tag

- Nagaland’s “sweet cucumber” was recently awarded a geographical identification (GI) tag as an agricultural product under provisions of The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.
- Naga cucumbers are juicy, soft and sweet and is grown completely organically. They are low in calories but high in potassium and contain a high level of water & can serve as an alternative to consuming sports drinks.
- Cucumber has been traditionally cultivated by Naga farmers in their Jhum fields as a mixed crop mainly during the Kharif season (April –May). It is one of the important component crops in the jhum cultivation.
- This is primarily grown as a cash crop along with paddy and however, now the ‘off-season’ cucumbers from different districts of the Nagaland especially from Mokokchung district have gained much popularity within the state and now it has become a trend amongst the farmers in the district.
- Some tribes like Konyak are found to grow cucumber all throughout the year by seed to seed method depending upon the soil type. Many different local varieties of cucumber which are soft, juicy and have a sweet taste are grown throughout Nagaland. Naga cucumbers are a kind of fruits that differ in taste, shape and sizes from those available in other.

Sojat Mehndi from Rajasthan gets GI tag

- Sojat Mehndi from Rajasthan has received the geographical indication (GI) tag from the government, a move that helps growers of this product get a premium price as no other producer can use the name to market similar goods.
- “GI tag for Sojat Mehndi is a win-win for farmers, MSME players, artisans and consumers alike if we can leverage it to enhance its exports given its herbal cosmetic and medicinal uses. A GI tag is used for an agricultural, natural or a manufactured product (handicraft and industrial goods) originating from a definite geographical territory.
- Typically, such a name conveys an assurance of quality and distinctiveness, which is essentially attributable to the place of its origin. Darjeeling Tea, Tirupathi Laddu, Kangra Paintings, Nagpur Orange and Kashmir Pashmina are among the registered GIs in 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.

Himachal Pradesh: World’s highest electric vehicle charging station sets up in Lahaul Spiti

- The world’s highest electric vehicle charging station was inaugurated in Kaza, Lahaul Spiti. “This is the first station here. If the station gets a good response, more stations would be set up. Pune-based EV charging infra startup goEgoNetwork has installed its electric vehicle charging facility at Kaza in the Spiti Valley, Himachal Pradesh, making it the world’s highest EV charging station.
- Bharat AC and Dual Socket Type 2 chargers, which have been installed by the company in the Western Himalayas, have Make-in-India certification and compliance with ARAI and OCA certification, and will cater to all the EV scooters and cars, goEgoNetwork said. goEgo has collaborated with TVS Motor Company to promote EV infrastructure in Himachal Pradesh, according to the release. The company said its aim, which is in line with the government’s vision of becoming a 100 per cent EV nation by 2030, is to encourage EV owners to avail seamless and anxiety-free long-distance travel.

A charging station, also called an EV charger or electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE), is a piece of equipment that supplies electrical power for charging plug-in electric vehicles (including hybrids, neighborhood electric vehicles, trucks, buses, and others). Although batteries can only be charged with DC power, most electric vehicles have an onboard AC-to-DC converter that allows them to be plugged into a standard household AC electrical receptacle. Inexpensive low-power public charging stations will also provide AC power, known as “AC charging stations”. Most fully electric car models can accept both AC and DC power. The Government of India has approved amendments in Electric Vehicle (EV) charging guidelines. A phase-wise installation of charging infrastructure: The first phase (1-3 years): All megacities and connected expressways with a population of 4 million-plus as per census 2011. The second phase (3-5 years): State capitals, UT headquarters. At least one charging station is to be set up in a grid of 3 km X 3 km in the cities. One charging station at every 25 km on both sides of highways/roads. Fast charging station at every 100 kms (one on each side of the highways).

Candidates for seven Rajya Sabha seats elected

- Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Dairy Dr. L. Murugan was elected unopposed to the lone Rajya Sabha seat from Madhya Pradesh. Congress nominee Rajani Patil was announced elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha seat from Maharashtra.
- The by-poll was necessitated following the untimely demise of Congress MP Rajeev Satav. In Tamil Nadu, Two DMK candidates Dr. Kanimozhi N.V.N.Somu and K.R.N.Rajeshkumar have been declared elected to the Rajya Sabha.
- Trinamool Congress candidate Sushmita Dev has been elected unopposed to Rajya Sabha from the vacant seat of West Bengal. Union minister and former Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has been elected to the Rajya Sabha from Assam unopposed. In Puducherry, the BJP Candidate for the lone Rajya Sabha Seat Mr. S. Selvaganabathy, was elected unopposed.

Under Article 80 of the Constitution, the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) is composed of not more than 250 members, of whom 12 are nominated by the President of India from amongst persons who have special knowledge or practical experience in respect of such matters as literature, science, art and social service. Nominated members enjoy all powers, privileges and immunities available to an elected member of Parliament. They take part in the proceedings of the House as any other member. They, however, are not entitled to vote in the election of the President of India. But in the election of the Vice-President of India, they have a right to vote. So far, none from them has been inducted into the Council of Ministers.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh launches Amrit Grand Challenge Program titled “जनCARE”

- Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh launched the “AmritGrand Challenge Program” titled “जनCARE” to identify 75 Start-Up Innovations in Telemedicine, Digital Health, mHealth with BIG Data, AI, Block Chain and other technologies.
- The Minister said the launch of Grand Challenge coincides with the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav launched by the Prime Minister. India’s Bio-Economy is on way to achieve 150 billion dollar target to contribute effectively to Prime Minister’s vision of a 5 trillion dollar economy by 2024-25.

The term ‘bioeconomy’ refer to as the production of renewable biological resources and the conservation of these resources and waste streams into value added products, such as food, feed, bio-based products and bioenergy. It serves the goals of resource saving and of reducing environmental pollution on the principles of sustainable development. The concept of Bioeconomy was started by USA, Canada, and European Union (EU) and Australia to boost their economy by using bio-resources.

Assam’s Judima Wine Becomes Northeast India’s First Beverage to Be Awarded GI Tag

- The traditional Judima wine of the Dimasa tribals of Assam and Nagaland has become the first beverage from northeast India to be awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. Dimasa tribals prepare the wine from sticky rice and certain herbs.

- The AAU researched its historical background, utility, and scientific aspects, **in close coordination with the Youth Association for Development and Empowerment (YADEM) of Assam’s Dima Hasao district.**

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Institute of Petrochemicals Technology, Jaipur

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually dedicated to the nation the Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering and Technology (CIPET), located in Rajasthan’s Jaipur. He also laid the foundation stone of four new medical colleges in Banswara, Sirohi, Hanumangarh and Dausa districts of Rajasthan.**
- **These Medical Colleges have been sanctioned under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for “Establishment of new medical colleges attached with district/ referral hospitals”. Preference to set up medical colleges is given to underserved, backward and Aspirational Districts. Under three phases of the Scheme, 157 new medical colleges have been approved across the nation.**

The oil and gas industry in India dates back to 1889 when the first oil deposits in the country were discovered near the town of Digboi in the state of Assam. Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL) is an Indian company responsible for maintaining the country’s strategic petroleum reserves. Strategic crude oil storages are at three underground locations in Mangalore, Visakhapatnam and Padur (Udupi, Karnataka). All these are located on the east and west coasts of India which are readily accessible to the refineries. Indian refiners maintain 64.5 days of crude storage, so India has overall reserve oil storage of 74 days. In the 2017-18 budget speech by then Indian finance minister Arun Jaitley, it was announced that two more such caverns will be set up Chandikhole, Odisha and Bikaner in Rajasthan as part of the second phase. In June 2018, the Narendra Modi administration approved the construction of a new storage facility in Chandikhole and doubling the capacity at Padur. This would raise India’s strategic reserve capacity to 11.83 million tonnes. Apart from this, India is planning to expand more strategic crude oil facilities in second phase at Rajkot in Gujarat. Hardeep Singh Puri is currently serving as the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs in India.

India gets first herbicide-tolerant & non-GM rice varieties

- **The Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) has developed the country’s first-ever non-GM (genetically modified) herbicide-tolerant rice varieties that can be directly seeded and significantly save water and labour compared to conventional transplanting.**
- **The varieties — Pusa Basmati 1979 and Pusa Basmati 1985 — contain a mutated acetolactate synthase (ALS) gene making it possible for farmers to spray Imazethapyr, a broad-spectrum herbicide, to control weeds.**
- **This dispenses with the need to prepare nurseries where paddy seeds are first raised into young plants, before being uprooted and replanted 25-35 days later in the main field. The two new varieties are scheduled to be officially released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.**

The AcetoLactate Synthase (ALS) gene in rice codes for an enzyme (protein) that synthesises amino acids for crop growth and development. The herbicide sprayed on normal rice plants binds itself to the ALS enzymes, inhibiting their production of amino acids. **Imazethapyr, effective against a range of broadleaf, grassy and sedge weeds, can’t be used on normal paddy, as the chemical does not distinguish between the crop and the invasive plants.** However, the new basmati varieties contain a mutated ALS gene whose DNA sequence has been altered using ethyl methanesulfonate, a chemical mutant. As a result, the ALS enzymes no longer have binding sites for Imazethapyr and amino acid synthesis isn’t inhibited. The plants can now “tolerate” application of the herbicide, and hence it kills only the weeds. It is important to note that, as **there is no foreign gene involved in the process, the herbicide-tolerance is through mutation breeding. Thus, it is not a Genetically modified organism.**

Hardeep Singh Puri launches seventh consecutive edition of Swachh Survekshan

- **Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched the seventh consecutive edition of Swachh Survekshan in New Delhi.**
- **It is the world’s largest urban cleanliness survey conducted by Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban. Designed with People First as its driving philosophy, Swachh Survekshan 2022 is curated towards capturing the initiatives of cities for the overall welfare and well-being of frontline sanitation workers.**

- The survey, flavoured with the Azaadi@75 spirit, will also give priority to the voices of senior citizens and young adults alike and reinforce their participation towards upholding the cleanliness of urban India. Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 and AMRUT 2.0 launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 1st of October.
- Swachh Survekshan 2022 has incorporated specific indicators that drive cities to improve working conditions and livelihood opportunities for these frontline soldiers in urban India's sanitation journey. It is symbolic that the seventh edition of the world's largest urban sanitation survey coincides with the commencement of the celebrations of the 75th year of India's independence.

Hardeep Singh Puri is an Indian politician and former civil servant who is currently serving as the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs in India. He is a 1974 batch Indian Foreign Service officer who served as the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations from 2009 to 2013. He joined the Bharatiya Janata Party in January 2014, and became a Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha from Uttar Pradesh in November, 2020.¹

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav launches DigiSaksham - a digital skills programme to enhance employability of youth

- Labour and Employment Minister Bhupender Yadav launched DigiSaksham - a digital skills programme to enhance the employability of youth by imparting digital skills. This joint initiative with Microsoft India is an extension of the Government's ongoing programmes to support the youth from rural and semi-urban areas.
- Through DigiSaksham initiative, free of cost training in digital skills including basic skills as well as advance computing, will be provided to more than three lakh youths in the first year.
- The Jobseekers can access the training through National Career Service Portal - www.ncs.gov.in. The initiative gives priority to the job-seekers of semi-urban areas belonging to disadvantaged communities, including those who have lost their jobs due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Under the DigiSaksham initiative, there will be basically three types of training viz. Digital Skills – Self paced learning, VILT mode training (Virtual Instructor led) and ILT mode training (Instructor led). The ILT training which is in person training would be conducted at the Model Career Centres (MCCs) and National Career Service Centres (NCSC) for SCs/STs across the country. Through this initiative, nearly one crore active jobseekers registered on National Career Service (NCS) Portal will be able to access training in areas like Java Script, Data Visualisation, Advance Excel, Power Bi, HTML, Programming languages, software development fundamentals, Introduction to coding, etc, equipping them with the skills required in a digital economy. DigiSaksham will be implemented in the field by Aga Khan Rural Support Programme India (AKRSP-I).

World's largest Khadi Tricolour unfurled in Ladakh on Gandhi Jayanti

- World's largest Khadi national flag was installed at Leh in Ladakh on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti. It was inaugurated by Ladakh Lieutenant Governor RK Mathur. The tricolor, which is 225-feet long and 150-foot wide, weighs around 1,000 kg.
- The flag has been made by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and was displayed by 57 Engineer Regiment of the Indian Army. The flag measuring 225 ft by 150 ft and weighing 1000 kgs, is the largest hand woven and hand spun Cotton Khadi Flag ever manufactured in India by the Khadi Village and Industries Commission affiliated Mumbai based Khadi Dyers and Printers.

The National Flag of India is a horizontal rectangular tricolour of India saffron, white and India green; with the Ashoka Chakra, a 24-spoke wheel, in navy blue at its centre. It was adopted in its present form during a meeting of the Constituent Assembly held on 22 July 1947, and it became the official flag of the Dominion of India on 15 August 1947. The flag was subsequently retained as that of the Republic of India. In India, the term "tricolor" almost always refers to the Indian national flag. The flag is based on the Swaraj flag, a flag of the Indian National Congress designed by Pingali Venkayya. By law, the flag is to be made of khadi, a special type of hand-spun cloth or silk, made popular by Mahatma Gandhi. The manufacturing process and specifications for the flag are laid out by the Bureau of Indian Standards.

Kolkata's New Town, first Indian city to commit to UN pledge, strives for efficient green energy

- Kolkata's New Town, the only Indian city to commit to United Nations' 'energy compact' pledge for battling the climate crisis, has committed to ensure stable modern energy connection to all, use 2% renewable energy by 2030, explore geothermal energy by 2030, ensure 5% energy efficiency and non-motorization of intra-city travel by 50%. Many other Indian cities have lined up to get into the pledge.
- New City is a rising deliberate metropolis the place individuals are migrating in and new habitations are being constructed. Power demand is growing with growing inhabitants. New City is a photo voltaic metropolis beneath the photo voltaic metropolis mission of the central authorities with an put in capability of 1,252 KWp solar energy vegetation. One other 500 KWp is beneath set up. 600KWh energy is being generated from one biomass convertor unit making use of segregated moist waste of 5 TPD. Additional, 6,600 KWH energy era via biomass converter is feasible with 55 TPD extra accessible segregated moist waste. Constructing guidelines have been amended to encourage use of photo voltaic vitality in personal buildings for energy era and water heating, town's pledge compact vitality motion revealed.

Kolkata (previously Calcutta, the official name until 2001) is the capital of the Indian state of West Bengal. Located on the eastern bank of the Hooghly River, the city is approximately 80 kilometres (50 mi) west of the border with Bangladesh. Under the company rule and later under the British Raj, Calcutta served as the capital of British-held territories in India until 1911. At that time, the British assessed its perceived geographical disadvantages, combined with growing nationalism in Bengal, and moved the capital to New Delhi. Calcutta was the centre for the Indian independence movement. It is the third-most populous metropolitan area in India. The Port of Kolkata is India's oldest operating port and its sole major riverine port. Kolkata is regarded as the Cultural Capital of India

Varanasi to be first Indian city to start ropeway service in Public Transportation

- Varanasi, the PM Modi's parliamentary constituency, will soon become the first Indian city to use ropeway services in public transportation. The world's third and India's first public transport ropeway is proposed to be constructed from Cantt Railway Station (Varanasi Junction) to Church Square (Godauliya) to ease the traffic congestion.
- Soon, with the start of this ropeway project worth Rs 424 crore, Kashi Vishwanath Temple and Dashashwamedh Ghat will be easily accessible. Covering an aerial distance of 4.2 km, the ropeway is expected to save time and money for the tourists who have to face traffic jams en route to one of the oldest cities in the world, also known as the Gateway of Eastern India.

Varanasi also known as Kashi or Benares, or Banaras is a city on the banks of the river Ganges in Uttar Pradesh. A major religious hub in India, it is the holiest of the seven sacred cities in Hinduism and Jainism, and played an important role in the development of Buddhism and Ravidassia. Varanasi lies along National Highway 2, and is served by Varanasi Junction railway station and Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport. The city is represented in the Parliament of India by the current Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi, who won the Lok Sabha elections in 2014 and 2019 by a huge margin.

Nation pays homage to Father of the Nation 'Mahatma Gandhi' and former PM Lal Bahadur Shastri on their birth Anniversary

- The Nation pays homage to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi on his 152nd birth anniversary and 117th birth anniversary of Lal Bahadur Shastri on October 2. A series of functions have been organized across the country and by Indian Missions abroad. A Sarva Dharma Prarthana Sabha was organised at his Samadhi – Raj Ghat in the national capital. Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary is also observed as the International Day of non-violence.
- Shastri was born on 2 October, 1904 in Mughalsarai district of Uttar Pradesh. He entered politics at a young age as a satyagrahi in the Indian National Movement. On August 15, 1947, he became the Minister of Police and Transport in independent India. Shastri became the Prime Minister of India in 1964 and led the country during the India-Pakistan war in 1965. He coined the slogan 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan' which resonated with masses and was widely accepted. On January 11, 1966, he breathed his last in Tashkent after a cardiac arrest.

Mahatma Gandhi was born on 2 October, 1869 at Porbandar, Gujarat. Every year on 2 October, Gandhi Jayanti is observed. This year the day marks the 152nd birth anniversary. His birthday is celebrated every year as Gandhi Jayanti. His ideology of truth and non-violence influenced many and was also adopted by Martin Luther and Nelson Mandela for their struggle movement. On 30 January Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated by Nathuram Godse and so, this day is observed as Martyr's Day or Shaheed Diwas.

India-Sri Lanka Joint Military Exercise 'Mitra Shakti' is being conducted in Sri Lanka

- The 8th Edition of India – Sri Lanka Joint Military Exercise 'Mitra Shakti' is being conducted in Sri Lanka from 4th to 15th of October this year. An all arms contingent of 120 personnel of the Indian Army will participate in the exercise along with a battalion of the Sri Lankan Army.
- The exercise will involve tactical level operations at sub-unit level in an international counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism environment and will go a long way in further strengthening the relationship between both the South Asian Nations. This will also act as a catalyst in bringing synergy and cooperation at grass root level between both Armies. The seventh edition of the joint exercise was conducted at Foreign Training Node (FTN) Maharashtra's Pune in 2019.

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.

NITI Aayog launches State Nutrition Profiles for 19 States & UTs

- NITI Aayog, in a joint effort with International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Indian Institute of Population Sciences (IIPS), UNICEF and Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) launched the State Nutrition Profiles for 19 States and Union Territories.
- The State Nutrition Profiles (SNPs) give insights on nutrition outcomes, immediate and underlying determinants and interventions based on National Family Health Survey rounds 3, 4 and 5. The SNPs include a comprehensive compilation of crucial data that can positively affect policy decisions and facilitate research in the area.

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.

EC freezes Lok Janshakti Party poll symbol

- The Election Commission has frozen Lok Janshakti Party LJP poll symbol till dispute between Chirag Paswan and Pashupati Paras factions is resolved.
- In its order the Commission has barred both factions from using the name of LJP or its symbol bungalow till the dispute between the rival groups is settled by the poll-body.

On the question of a split in a political party outside the legislature, Para 15 of the Symbols Order, 1968, states: "When the Commission is satisfied... that there are rival sections or groups of a recognised political party each of whom claims to be that party the Commission may, after taking into account all the available facts and circumstances of the case and hearing (their) representatives... and other persons as desire to be heard decide that one such rival section or group or none of such rival sections or groups is that recognised political party and the decision of the Commission shall be binding on all such rival sections or groups."

Chacha Chaudhary declared as mascot of Namami Gange programme: Ministry of Jal Shakti

- In a bid to bring about a behavioural change amongst children towards Ganga and other rivers in the country, **Chacha Chaudhary** has been declared as the mascot of the **Namami Gange Programme**, the Ministry of Jal Shakti announced. **Chacha Chaudhary is an extremely popular Indian comic character who is known for his problem-solving skills.**
- The NMCG has been focusing on youngsters as part of its outreach and public communications efforts to keep the Ganga clean and pollution-free. Taking a step towards this, **the NMCG has collaborated with Diamond Toons to produce and distribute comics, e-comics and animated videos.** The content's primary objective will be **bringing about behavioural change amongst kids towards Ganga and other rivers.**
- **Ganga basin is the largest river basin in India in terms of catchment area, constituting 26% of the country's land mass (8,61,404 Sq. km) and supporting about 43% of its population (448.3 million as per 2001 census).** The basin lies between East longitudes 73°02' and 89°05' and North latitudes of 21°06' and 31°21', covering an area of 1,086,000 sq km, **extending over India, Nepal and Bangladesh. About 79% area of Ganga basin is in India.** The basin covers 11 states viz., Uttarakhand, U.P., M.P., Rajasthan, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal and Delhi. **The current focus of World Bank funded National Ganga River Basin Projects (NGRBP) of NMCG is on five major states on the main stem of river Ganga namely Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar and West Bengal.**

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 (set in 2016; which replaced the National Ganga River Basin Authority - NGRBA). National Ganga Council is under chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. It has a Rs. 20,000-crore, centrally-funded, non-lapsable corpus and consists of nearly 288 projects.

Prime Minister launched SBM-U 2.0, AMRUT 2.0 in New Delhi

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0, SBM-U and Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation 2.0, AMRUT in New Delhi. SBM-U 2.0 and AMRUT 2.0 have been designed to realize the aspiration to make all cities Garbage Free and Water Secure.**
- These flagship Missions signify a step forward towards effectively addressing the challenges of rapidly urbanizing India. It will also help contribute towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals 2030. In pursuance of the Prime Minister's vision, the schemes, with an outlay of about ₹ 4.4 Lakh Crore, will adopt 'Universal Approach' and make a move towards 'Saturation' in sanitation and water availability in all Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).

The announcement for the launch of SBM was made by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 15th August 2014, with the Mission being formally launched on 2nd October 2014. The objectives of the Mission were-Eradication of open defecation in all statutory towns; 100% scientific management of municipal solid waste in all statutory towns; and effecting behaviour change through Jan Andolan. AMRUT was launched as the first water – focused Mission in 2015, with a total Mission outlay of Rs.1,00,000 crore. The Mission caters to 500 major cities covering 60% of the urban population. Projects worth more than Rs. 80,000 crore have been grounded and more than funds allocated for project implementation worth Rs. 77,640 crore. Work worth Rs. 56,000 crore has been carried out and Rs. 48,000 crore expanded.

Country's first Pan-India helpline for senior citizens: Elder Line (Toll Free No- 14567)

- **Government of India has taken a monumental step towards addressing the challenges and problems the elderly population face, through country's first Pan-India toll-free helpline - 14567 – called 'Elder Line'.**
- **The helpline provides free information and guidance on pension issues, legal issues, extends emotional support, and even intervenes on field in cases of abuse, and rescues homeless elderly.** Till date, 17 states have already opened the Elder line and others are in the pipeline to be opened.

- In the last 4 months alone, over 2 lakh calls have been received, and over 30 thousand seniors have already been serviced. Of these, **nearly 40 percent calls were related to guidance required in the vaccine and queries related to it and nearly 23 percent of calls were related to pension.** India is expected to **have nearly 20 percent elderly population which amounts to over 300 million senior citizens by 2050.** This age group faces various mental, emotional, financial, legal and physical challenges.
- **The intent of ‘Elder Line’ is to provide all senior citizens with one platform across the country to connect and share their concerns, get information and guidance on problems that they face on a day-to-day basis.**

India is a country in South Asia. It is the seventh-largest country by area, the second-most populous country, and the most populous democracy in the world. Bounded by the Indian Ocean on the south, the Arabian Sea on the southwest, and the Bay of Bengal on the southeast, **it shares land borders with Pakistan to the west, Afghanistan to northwest; China, Nepal, and Bhutan to the north; and Bangladesh and Myanmar to the east. In the Indian Ocean, India is in the vicinity of Sri Lanka and the Maldives; its Andaman and Nicobar Islands share a maritime border with Thailand, Myanmar and Indonesia.** India has been a federal republic since 1950, governed in a democratic parliamentary system. **Ram Nath Kovind is serving as the 14th and current President of India since his inauguration in 2017. Narendra Damodardas Modi is serving as the 14th and current prime minister of India since 2014. Modi was the Chief Minister of Gujarat from 2001 to 2014. He is a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its National Democratic Alliance (NDA). He is a Member of Parliament in the Lok Sabha from Varanasi constituency.**

Edayur Chilli and Kuttiaattoor Mango gets G.I. tag

- **Edayur Chilli and Kuttiaattoor Mango** are the latest to receive the Geographical Indication status from Kerala.
- **Edayur chilli is a local cultivar of Edayur, Athavanad, Marakkara, Irimbiliyam, Kalpakanchery and Valanchery panchayats in Valanchery block and Moorkanad and Kuruva panchayats in Angadippuram block of Malappuram district. It has been cultivated in the area for at least 150 years.**
- **Kuttiaattoor mango is a popular and tasty traditional mango cultivar of Kuttiaattoor and the nearby gram panchayats of Kannur district. This mango has maximum spread in Kuttiaattoor panchayath. Trees with a large number of mangoes on them are a visual treat for anyone visiting Kuttiaattoor during the months of March, April and May.**

Maharashtra’s Famed White Onion Gets Geographical Indication Tag

- **The famed white onion of Alibag in Maharashtra’s Raigad district has earned itself a ‘Geographical Indication’, giving the crop a unique identity and wider markets.** They pointed out that Alibag’s white onion, which has medicinal qualities and is **used for the treatment of heart ailments, controlling cholesterol and creation of insulin, has been mentioned in the official gazette as long back as 1883.**
- **“The agriculture department and Konkan Agriculture University had jointly submitted the GI application on January 15, 2019. On September 29 this year, the proposal was scrutinised in the Mumbai office of the Registrar of Patents and it was decided to confer GI tag on Alibag’s white onion,”** an official said.

GI tag for 7 indigenous products of Uttarakhand

- **Recently, Uttarakhand’s seven indigenous products were given the Geographical Indicators (GI) tag. To preserve such works and retain cultural significance of commercial products, geographical indication (GI) tag has been awarded to seven indigenous products from Uttarakhand.**
- **These include Kumaon’s chyura oil, Munsyari rajma, Bhotia dann (a rug made by Bhotias, a nomadic community), aipan (traditional art made on special occasions), ringal craft (art of making items by knitting bamboo strands), copper products and thulma (blankets spun from locally-sourced fabric).**
- **Besides, the state has also applied for a GI tag for 11 farm products - red rice, Berinag tea, gahat, mandua, jhangora, burans sarbat, kala bhatt, chaulai/ramdana, Almora lakhori mirch, pahari toor dal and malta fruit.**

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.

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated 3-day Urban conclave in Lucknow

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was in Lucknow to inaugurate a three day Urban conclave named **New Urban India: Transforming Urban Landscape**. The conclave along with a conference and exhibition on the subject is being organised at the Indira Gandhi Pratishthan in Lucknow under the Azadi ka Amrit mahotsav celebrations.
- On this occasion Prime Minister inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of 75 urban projects or schemes. Urban development ministers from across the country are expected at the three-day event, where in the presence of the PM, the best practices in urban development, in UP or elsewhere, would be showcased. Prime Minister Modi virtually hands over digital keys to 75,000 beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana in 75 districts and will also interact with five beneficiaries.

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.

5th edition of India - Japan Maritime Bilateral Exercise held in Arabian Sea

- The fifth edition of India - Japan Maritime Bilateral Exercise JIMEX between the Indian Navy and the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force was held in Arabian Sea. JIMEX series of exercises commenced in January 2012 with special focus on maritime security cooperation. The last edition of JIMEX was conducted in September 2020.
- JIMEX-21 aims to develop common understanding of operational procedures and enhance inter-operability through conduct of a multitude of advanced exercises, across the entire spectrum of maritime operations. Multi-faceted tactical exercises involving weapon firings, cross-deck helicopter operations and complex surface, anti-submarine and air warfare drills will consolidate coordination developed by the two navies.
- Naval cooperation between India and Japan has increased in scope and complexity over years. JIMEX-21 will further enhance the cooperation and mutual confidence between the two navies and fortify the long-standing bond of friendship between the two countries.

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.

Telangana to hold India's first smartphone based e-Voting trial

- The Telangana government has developed India's first smartphone-based e-Voting solution. The digital implementation has been successfully developed and tested, and a mock election via an app will be held at Khammam district.
- Registrations are open from October 8 to 18 for the same, and dummy voting is on October 20. The app will also bind a device ID and phone number to a specific citizen registration process such that only the same device can be used during voting, thereby enhancing security by design itself.

Telangana is a state in India situated on the south-central stretch of the Indian peninsula on the high Deccan Plateau. On 2 June 2014, the area was separated from the northwestern part of Andhra Pradesh as the newly formed state with Hyderabad as its capital. It is a land locked state in India. Kalvakuntla Chandrashekhara Rao has been serving as the first and current Chief Minister of Telangana since 2014. Tamilisai Soundararajan is an Indian medical doctor serving as current Governor of Telangana.

India Joins High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People

- At a ceremony held between the French and Indian governments on 7th October in New Delhi, India officially joined the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People, a group of more than 70 countries encouraging the adoption of the global goal to protect 30x30.
- HAC members currently include a mix of countries in the global north and south; European, Latin American, Africa and Asia countries are among the members. India is the first of the BRICS bloc of major emerging economies (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) to join the HAC.
- India's announcement comes in the lead up to a high-level biodiversity meeting, hosted by China. The virtual meeting to take place October 11-15 will tackle key aspects of the biodiversity treaty to be finalized in 2022. The global 30x30 goal is currently a centrepiece of the treaty.

Mumbai becomes the first Indian city to join TUMI E-Bus Mission

- Taking a green step forward, Mumbai has logged its name as the first city in India to join the Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative (TUMI) E-Bus Mission.
- Mumbai has woken up to the urgent call of creating an action plan to mitigate the impact of climate change and the electrification of public travel has been marked essential to realise the vision. In this regard, the city administration has deemed it fit to announce Mumbai's participation in the TUMI E-Bus Mission. The plan is a strong resolution to work towards reducing the carbon footprints of public transport and redefine the targets for e-bus induction on city roads.

Mumbai (also known as Bombay, the official name until 1995) is the capital city of the Indian state of Maharashtra. According to the United Nations, as of 2018, Mumbai is the second-most populous city in the country after Delhi and the seventh-most populous city in the world with a population of roughly 20 million. As per the Indian government population census of 2011, Mumbai was the most populous city in India with an estimated city proper population of 12.5 million living under Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai. Mumbai lies on the Konkan coast on the west coast of India and has a deep natural harbour. In 2008, Mumbai was named an alpha world city. It has the highest number of millionaires and billionaires among all cities in India. Mumbai is home to three UNESCO World Heritage Sites: the Elephanta Caves, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, and the city's distinctive ensemble of Victorian and Art Deco buildings. The seven islands that constitute Mumbai were originally home to communities of Marathi language speaking Koli people.

Geographical Indication Tag for Kanniyakumari clove

- The spices growers of Kanniyakumari have obtained the Geographical Indication Tag for the clove being grown in the hilly regions of the district as it is known for its rich aromatic oil content.
- Clove, one of the prominent spice crops of the district, is grown on 760 hectares in the densely wooded areas of Maaraamalai, Blackrock and Velimalai in the Western Ghats of the Veerapuli Reserve Forests and Mahendragiri.

- **The district represents about 73% of the area under clove in Tamil Nadu.** Of the total production of 1,100 tonnes of cloves in India, Tamil Nadu accounts for close to 1,000 tonnes, of which over 65% is grown in the district. **“The climate in the hilly regions of Kanniyakumari district is ideal for clove cultivation. This region benefits from both the south-west and north-east monsoons.**

Parliament Panels Reconstituted, Congress Leaders Retained As Chairmen

- **BJP’s Sushil Kumar Modi replaced Bhupender Yadav, now a minister, as chairman of the panel on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice**
- **Congress leaders Shashi Tharoor, Anand Sharma and Jairam Ramesh were retained as the head of parliamentary standing committees on information-technology, home affairs and science and environment, respectively.**
- **Various department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees were reconstituted by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla today in consultation with Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu. There are 24 department-related parliamentary standing committees constituted every year.** Each panel comprises 21 members from Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha.

Balaghat Chinnor rice first agriculture produce in Madhya Pradesh to get GI tag

- **As Madhya Pradesh continues to fight a legal battle to get Geographical Indication (GI) tag for basmati rice (PB1) produced in the state, Chinnor rice produced in Balaghat district has bagged the GI tag.**
- **It is expected to go a long way in the revival of the traditional variety of rice beyond basmati. Incidentally, it is the first GI tag for an agriculture produce of MP. Balaghat happens to be the rice bowl of Madhya Pradesh which produces the finest variety of indigenous rice in the country.**

New Pamban Bridge, India’s first vertical lift sea bridge

- **“New Pamban Bridge, India’s first vertical lift Railway Sea Bridge”, which is expected to be ready for use by March 2020. Indian Railways began the construction work on the new 2.05 km Pamban railway bridge in Mandapam, which will connect Rameswaram to the mainland in Tamil Nadu.**
- **The new bridge will help the railways to operate trains at higher speed, carry more weight and increase the volume of traffic between Pamban and Rameswaram.** The existing Pamban Rail Bridge, which connects Rameswaram to mainland India, is 105 years old.
- **The more than two-kilometre-long bridge, which is likely to cost Rs. 250 crore, will have a 63-metre stretch, which will lift up while remaining parallel to the deck to allow access to the ships.**

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 plans major infrastructure push for Buddhist Circuit

- **In Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, the plan is to further develop the sites of Bodh Gaya, Nalanda, Rajgir, Viashali, Sarnath, Shravasti, Kushinagar, Kaushambi, Sankisa and Kapilavastu.**
- **“Under the Ministry of Tourism’s flagship Swadesh Darshan scheme, multiple projects have been undertaken in Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh. These projects are at different stages of implementation, with the government eyeing a completion deadline of 2022-23 for most of them”.**

Swadesh Darshan, a Central Sector Scheme, was launched in 2014 -15 for integrated development of theme based tourist circuits in the country. This scheme is envisioned to synergise with other schemes like Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Skill India, Make in India etc. Under the scheme, the Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for infrastructure development of circuits. One of the objectives of the scheme is to develop theme-based tourist circuits on the principles of high tourist value, competitiveness and sustainability in an integrated manner.

Telangana to get world's largest first-of-its-kind Aqua hub

- In a first-of-its-kind project, Telangana state will soon be home to the world's largest integrated freshwater Aqua Hub proposed to be constructed near Mid Manair Dam in Rajanna-Sircilla district.
- The project will be located on an area of more than 500 acres near the Mid Manir Dam and will include all activities including fish seed production, feed production, cage farming and fish processing, among others.
- The venture, which will likely be given its ultimate kind, will likely be a complete facility and will likely be taken up below the intensive fish farming technique. An intensive fish farming system is the well-managed type of fish farming, through which all makes an attempt are made to obtain most manufacturing of fish from a minimal amount of water.

8th edition of India-Sri Lanka bilateral joint exercise 'Mitra Shakti' commences in Sri Lanka

- The 8th edition of India-Sri Lanka bilateral joint exercise Mitra Shakti commenced at the Combat Training School Ampara in Sri Lanka. The two week long exercise is conducted from 4th to 15th of this month. The Indian Army contingent comprising of 120 personnel of Infantry Battalion Group and a similar strength from a Battalion of the Sri Lankan Army are participating in the bilateral exercise.
- Troops will train, share and rehearse tactical drills to undertake joint counter-terrorism operations in a semi urban or rural environment under United Nations mandate. Senior military observers and dignitaries of the Indian and the Sri Lankan Armies will be witnessing the validation phase of the exercise.
- The exercise provides an ideal platform for both contingents to share their operational experience and expertise while also being instrumental in broadening the inter-operability and cooperation between the Armies of India and Sri Lanka. The seventh edition of the joint exercise was conducted at Foreign Training Node (FTN) Maharashtra's Pune in 2019.

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.

PM Narendra Modi launched first ever National Infrastructure Masterplan 'PM Gati Shakti'

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the first ever National Infrastructure Masterplan, Pradhan Mantri Gati Shakti. The Gati Shakti scheme was announced by Mr Modi on Independence Day this year.
- This will bring together 16 Ministries, including seven core infrastructure sectors, on one platform to synergise project planning across stakeholder ministries to avoid duplication, expedite clearances and plug gaps at the right time. The Gati Shakti platform will provide information instantaneously, allowing for better coordination.
- The plan is aimed at achieving three basic goals - seamless multimodal connectivity to facilitate easy movement of goods and people, improved prioritisation, optimal usage of resources, timely creation of capacities, and resolution of issues such as disjointed planning, standardisation and clearances.
- The Gati Shakti Master Plan will provide the framework for the National Infrastructure Pipeline program and is aimed at making Indian products more competitive by cutting down the logistics costs and improving the supply chains.

- Pradhan Mantri Gati Shakti scheme is aimed at giving a foundation for holistic infrastructure and an integrated pathway to the economy. It will help the country's local manufacturers turn globally competitive. The new initiative worth over one hundred lakh crore rupees will also bring employment opportunities to the youth.
- The plan is to attract investment from all over the world for improving the infrastructure of the country. The scheme will also give a new direction and a fresh momentum to the overall infrastructure development of the country. The seamless multi-modal connectivity will ensure seamless movement of goods and people and enhance ease of living as well as ease of doing business.
- There exists a wide gap between macro planning and micro implementation due to the lack of coordination and advanced information sharing as departments think and work in silos. According to a study, the logistical cost in India is about 13% of GDP, which is higher than developed countries. Due to this high logistical cost, the competitiveness of India's exports is greatly reduced.
- The scheme is in synergy with the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP). The NMP has been announced to provide a clear framework for monetisation and give potential investors a ready list of assets to generate investment interest.

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. It will help in fulfilling the ambitious targets set by the government for 2024-25, including expanding the length of the national highway network to 2 lakh kms, creation of more than 200 new airports, heliports and water aerodromes.

Government notifies transfer of Justice Akil Kureshi as Rajasthan HC Chief Justice

- The Centre notified the transfer of Justice Akil Kureshi, Chief Justice of the Tripura High Court, who was at the centre of a two-year impasse within the Supreme Court collegium over the appointment of judges, as the Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court.
- Moreover, eight judges were elevated as chief justices of various high courts. Meanwhile, Justice Indrajit Mahanty, heading the Rajasthan High Court has been posted as chief justice of the Tripura High Court. Moreover, Justice Mohammed Rafiq, heading the Madhya Pradesh High Court has been sent to Himachal Pradesh High Court as its new chief justice.
- Justice Biswanath Somadder heading the Meghalaya High Court has been posted as chief justice of the Sikkim High Court. Justice A K Goswami, heading the Andhra Pradesh High Court has been sent to head the Chhattisgarh High Court.
- Eight judges were also elevated as chief justices of various high courts. Justice Rajesh Bindal, acting chief justice of the Calcutta High Court, was elevated as chief justice of the Allahabad High Court.
- Justice Ranjit V More of Meghalaya was made chief justice of the same high court, according to a list published by the Department of Justice in the Law Ministry. Acting chief justice of the Karnataka High Court, Justice Satish Chandra Sharma has been elevated as chief justice of the Telangana High Court.
- Justice Prakash Shrivastava of the Madhya Pradesh High Court has been made chief justice of the Calcutta High Court. Acting chief justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court Justice R V Malimath will now head the Madhya Pradesh High Court.
- Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi of the Allahabad High Court will head the Karnataka High Court. Similarly, Justice Arvind Kumar of the Karnataka High Court had been elevated as chief justice of the Gujarat High Court. Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra of the Chhattisgarh High Court has been made chief justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court.

Article 124(2) of the Indian Constitution provides that the Judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President after consultation with such a number of the Judges of the Supreme Court and of the High Courts in the States as the President may deem necessary for the purpose. As per Article 217, the Judge of a High Court shall be appointed by the President in consultation with the CJI and the State Governor, and, in the case of appointment of a Judge other than the Chief Justice, the Chief Justice of the High Court. The names are recommended by the Collegium. Collegium System is the system of appointment and transfer of judges that has evolved through judgments of the Supreme Court, and not by an Act of Parliament or by a provision of the Constitution. The Supreme Court collegium is headed by the CJI and comprises four other senior most judges of the court. A HC collegium is led by its Chief Justice and four other senior most judges of that court. The collegium sends its final recommendation to the President of India for approval. The President can either accept it or reject it. In the case it is rejected, the recommendation comes back to the collegium. If the collegium reiterates its recommendation to the President, then he/she is bound by that recommendation.

Centre to constitute National Road Safety Board

- Aimed at promoting road safety, innovation, and the adoption of new technology, the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has notified the constitution of the National Road Safety Board.**
- **The rules specify provisions regarding its composition, eligibility for Chairman and Members of the Board, selection process, term of office, the procedure for resignation and removal, powers and functions of the Board, meetings of the Board, etc.**
- As per the rules specified by the ministry, **the head office of the board would be in the National Capital Region and the board may establish offices at other places in India.**

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.

Thanjavur's Kalamkari paintings get GI tag

- **The traditional Karuppur Kalamkari Painting done using pens, brushes made of bamboo stick, palm stem, date tree and coconut tree stems, received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. The certificate was issued recently by the Geographical Indications Registry based on an application filed by Tamil Nadu Handicrafts Development Corporation (Poompuhar).**
- **The Kalamkari in Thanjavur region is the traditional dye-painted figurative and patterned clothes, made for temples such as ceiling cloth, umbrella covers, cylindrical hangings and chariot covers.**

GI tag for Rataul mango variety of Baghpat in Uttar Pradesh

- **The Rataul mango, grown in large numbers in Baghpat in Uttar Pradesh, received its GI tag. Interestingly, the tussle for the GI tag has been going on between India and neighboring Pakistan as the latter also claims proprietorship over this variety of mango. The claims are that the variety was taken by relatives of the Uttar Pradesh farmers and carried to Pakistan where it is cultivated too and widely exported to Middle Eastern countries.**
- **Named after the village Rataul in Baghpat district, the variety of mango has a distinctive smell and flavour. While the mango is not widely known in other parts of the country, it is a great favourite with the inhabitants of western Uttar Pradesh.**

International Energy Agency invites India to become full-time member

- **International Energy Agency (IEA) has invited India, the world's third-largest energy consumer, to become its full-time member - a proposal if accepted will require New Delhi to raise strategic oil reserves to 90 days requirement.**
- **India in March 2017 became an associate member of the Paris-based body which advises industrialised nations on energy policies. In January this year, IEA members and India agreed to enter into a strategic**

partnership, strengthening their collaboration across a range of vital areas including energy security and clean energy transition.

- **Starting in 2015, the IEA has been opening its doors to major emerging economies that are at the centre of the global conversation on energy. Since then, eight countries have joined the IEA's Association programme: Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Morocco, Singapore, South Africa and Thailand. Along with the 30 members and the countries formally seeking accession, this expanded IEA now represents 75% of global energy demand.**

The IEA was founded in Paris in 1974 by industrialised countries - within the framework of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) - in response to the oil embargo. According to IEA, a member country must maintain "crude oil and/or product reserves equivalent to 90 days of the previous year's net imports, to which the government has immediate access (even if it does not own them directly) and could be used to address disruptions to global oil supply." India's current strategic oil reserves equal 9.5 days of its requirement. Also, a member of IEA has to show "a demand restraint programme to reduce national oil consumption by up to 10%." India has the fastest-growing energy market in the world. IEA is made up of 30 member countries and eight associate nations.

Hunar Haat organised in Rampur, UP from 16th to 25th October

- **Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi has said that Hunar Haat is being organised in Rampur, Uttar Pradesh from 16th to 25th October this year. This Hunar Haat is being organised as a part of series of 75 Hunar Haat going to be organised across the country under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.**
- **Artisans and craftsmen from more than 30 States and Union Territories will bring their indigenous exquisite handmade products for sale and display at the Hunar Haat. Vishwakarma Vatika will be one of the main attractions in Hunar Haat to be organised across the country. It will be helpful in preserving and promoting the traditional art and craft of the country.**

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. It envisages boosting the skills of craftsmen, weavers and artisans who are already engaged in the traditional ancestral work.

Railways successfully operated two long haul freight trains Trishul, Garuda for first time

- **Railways has successfully operated two long haul freight trains Trishul and Garuda for the first time over South Central Railway. Information and Broadcasting Minister, Anurag Thakur said the trains provide a very effective solution to the problem of capacity constraints in critical sections. Trishul is the first long haul of South Central Railway comprising three freight trains of 177 wagons.**
- **This train was started from Kondapalli station of Vijayawada division to Khurda division of East Coast Railway. South Central Railway followed it up with running of yet another similar one named Garuda from Raichur of Guntakal division to Manuguru of Secunderabad division.**

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.

Union Cabinet approves AMRUT 2.0 till 2025-26

- The Union Cabinet approved the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation 2.0 (AMRUT 2.0) till 2025-26. The Cabinet said, providing reliable and affordable water supply and sanitation services to urban households is a national priority.
- The decision is a step towards AatmaNirbhar Bharat and with aim of making the cities water-secure and self-sustainable through a circular economy of water. This will be achieved by providing functional tap connections to all households, undertaking water source conservation, rejuvenation of water bodies and wells, recycle and re-use of treated used water and rainwater harvesting.
- AMRUT Mission was launched in June 2015 to facilitate ease of living to citizens in 500 cities by providing tap connections and sewer connections. So far, more than one crore ten lakh household tap connections and 85 lakh sewer connections have been provided. Taking forward the remarkable strides made under AMRUT, AMRUT 2.0, targets universal coverage of water supply by providing household tap connections in all four thousand 378 statutory towns. The mission targets to provide two crore 68 lakh tap connections and two crore 64 lakh sewer and septage connections to achieve the intended outcomes. The total indicative outlay for AMRUT 2.0 is two lakh 77 thousand crore rupees including a central share of 76 thousand 760 crore rupees for five years from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission was renamed to Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) and then relaunched by Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi in June 2015 with the focus to establish infrastructure that could ensure adequate robust sewage networks and water supply for urban transformation by implementing urban revival projects. Rajasthan was the first state in the country to submit State Annual Action Plan under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT). The scheme Housing for All by 2022 and Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) were launched on the same day. The scheme is dependent with public-private partnership (PPP) model. If required, various other schemes like Swachh Bharat Mission, Housing for All 2022, along with the local state schemes like that related to water supply and sewerage and other infrastructure related schemes can be linked to AMRUT.

Second phase of Multilateral Maritime Exercise Malabar to commence on Oct 12

- Indian Navy has participated in the second phase of Multilateral Maritime Exercise Malabar along with the Japan Maritime Self Defence Force, Royal Australian Navy and the United States Navy.
- The exercise is conducted in the Bay of Bengal from 12th to 15th of this month. First Phase of the exercise was conducted in the Philippines Sea. The Indian Navy's participation includes INS Ranvijay, INS Satpura and a Submarine.
- The US Navy was represented by the Aircraft Carrier USS Carl Vinson along with two destroyers, USS Lake Champlain and USS Stockdale. The Japan Maritime Self Defence Force was represented by JS Kaga and JS Murasame. The Royal Australian Navy was represented by HMAS Ballarat and HMAS Sirius.
- The Second Phase of the exercise was built upon the synergy, coordination and inter-operability developed during the First Phase of the exercise. It would focus on advanced surface and anti-submarine warfare exercises, seamanship evolutions and weapon firings.

Exercise Malabar is a trilateral naval exercise involving the United States, Japan and India as permanent partners. The annual Malabar exercises includes diverse activities, ranging from fighter combat operations from aircraft carriers through maritime interdiction operations, anti-submarine warfare, diving salvage operations, amphibious operations, counter-piracy operations, cross-deck helicopter landings and anti-air warfare operations. Originally begun in 1992 as a bilateral exercise between India and the United States, the exercise was expanded in 2007 with the participation of Japan, Singapore and Australia. Japan became a permanent partner in 2015. Australia participated in the exercise again in 2020, marking the second time that the Quad will be jointly participating in a military exercise.

New Pragati Maidan to host G-20 summit in 2023

- **Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal** said that the new Pragati Maidan will host the G-20 summit in 2023. “PM GatiShakti-National Master Plan will give a push and direction to various development plans. It will also encourage investments. Under the leadership of PM Modi, the G-20 summit will be held at Pragati Maidan in 2023 for the first time”.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** launched PM GatiShakti-National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity on Wednesday at Pragati Maidan. During the event, he also inaugurated the new exhibition complex (Exhibition Halls 2 to 5) at Pragati Maidan. The India International Trade Fair (IITF), the flagship event of the India Trade Promotion Organisation, will be held in these new exhibition halls from November 14 to 27.

The G20 (or Group of Twenty) is an international forum for the governments and central bank governors from 19 countries and the European Union (EU). Founded in 1999 with the aim to discuss policy pertaining to the promotion of international financial stability, the G20 has expanded its agenda since 2008 and heads of government or heads of state, as well as finance ministers, foreign ministers and think tanks, have periodically conferred at summits ever since. It seeks to address issues that go beyond the responsibilities of any single nation. The G20 members are: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Japan, India, Indonesia, Italy, Mexico, Russia, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union.

India, US to raise 100 billion dollar annually to fight climate change

- **India and the US** reaffirmed their commitment to raising \$100 billion annually from public and private sector sources to help develop the two countries’ efforts to tackle climate change.
- The climate crisis was the first topic of discussion at a meeting of the India-US Economic and Financial Partnership under the leadership of India’s finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman and US treasury secretary Janet Yellen.
- The India-US Economic and Financial Partnership was launched in 2010 as a framework to cement economic bonds between the two countries and build a foundation for greater cooperation and economic growth in the future.

United States of America (USA) is a federal republic composed of 50 states and capital is Washington, D.C., Donald John Trump served as 45th President of the United States. He became the oldest and wealthiest person ever to assume the presidency, the first without prior military or government service, and the fifth to have won the election while losing the popular vote. Joseph Robinette Biden served as the 47th vice president of the United States from 2009 to 2017. In January 2017, Barak Obama awarded Biden the Presidential Medal of Freedom with distinction. He is current and 46 the President of the United States and he is the oldest President of America.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in G20 Extraordinary Leaders’ Summit on Afghanistan in virtual format

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** participated in the G20 Extraordinary Leaders’ Summit on Afghanistan in virtual format at the invitation of the Italian Presidency of the G-20.
- **Prime Minister** had earlier participated in the SCO - CSTO outreach Summit on Afghanistan. External Affairs Minister, Dr. S Jaishankar, participated in the meeting of G20 Foreign Ministers on Afghanistan on the margins of the UN General Assembly in New York.
- The G20 comprises twenty of the world’s major economies and is an important platform to help build international consensus and facilitate a coordinated approach between multilateral organizations, including the UN and its agencies, and global and regional actors to address the worsening humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan is a landlocked country at the crossroads of Central and South Asia. It is bordered by Pakistan and India to the east and south, Iran to the west, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan to the north, and China to the northeast. It is inhabited by 31.4 million people as of 2020, with 4.6 million living in the capital and largest city, Kabul. Hibatullah Akhundzada is the third Supreme Commander of the Taliban and the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. Abdul Ghani Baradar is the First Vice Emir of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. The afghani is the currency of it. The twenty-year-long war between the government and the Taliban reached a climax with the 2021 Taliban offensive and the resulting fall of Kabul which returned the Taliban to power.

India's first Atal Community Innovation Center launched by Vivekananda Global University

- India's 1st Atal Community Innovation Center (ACIC) was inaugurated at Vivekananda Global University, Jaipur (VGU). It will be the first center in the country to be set up by the Government of India, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and NITI Aayog.
- This center, started under the joint aegis of Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog and VGU, will benefit the hardworking, passionate and courageous businessmen of Rajasthan who want to take their business towards heights.

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is a flagship initiative set up by the NITI Aayog to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country. Its objective is to develop new programmes and policies for fostering innovation in different sectors of the economy, provide platform and collaboration opportunities for different stakeholders, create awareness and create an umbrella structure to oversee the innovation ecosystem of the country.

India hosts first ever SCO Seminar on Role of Women in Armed Forces

- India hosted the first ever SCO Seminar on Role of Women in Armed Forces. India has been an active participant in the deliberations on issues focusing on women empowerment and gender mainstreaming at various UN bodies. The Indian Army has contributed women officers as Military Observers and Staff Officers apart from them forming part of Medical Units being deployed in UN Missions.
- In 1960, women of the Indian Armed Forces Medical Services headed the UN Peacekeeping mission in the Republic of Congo to assist with the setting up of a 400-bed hospital. In 2007, India created history by deploying the first ever all-female Formed Police Unit for UN Peacekeeping in Liberia.
- In 2019, India deployed a Female Engagement Team as part of the UN Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This female engagement team deployed in Congo has played a critical role in peacekeeping and inspiring women in local communities.

The SCO was formed on the basis of the agreements on confidence-building in the military sphere and on mutual reduction of armed forces in the border area signed by the Republic of Kazakhstan, the People's Republic of China, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan in Shanghai and Moscow in 1996 and 1997 respectively. The need to make efforts to transform the Shanghai Five into a regional structure of multilateral cooperation in various spheres was noted in the Dushanbe Declaration of 4 July 2000 by the heads of State of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the People's Republic of China, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan. The original five members, with the exclusion of Uzbekistan, were previously members of the Shanghai Five group, founded on 26 April 1996. Since then, the organization has expanded its membership to eight states when India and Pakistan joined SCO as full members on 9 June 2017 at a summit in Astana, Kazakhstan. SCO is headquartered in Shanghai.

Karuppur kalamkari paintings, Kallakurichi wood carvings get geographical indication (GI) tags

- In Tamil Nadu, the Karuppur kalamkari paintings and the Kallakurichi wood carvings recently received the geographical indication (GI) tags. Both of these art forms are traditional in nature.
- While the paintings are intricately made on a cotton cloth using pens or brushes made out of bamboo tree and coconut tree stems, the wood carving is essentially one wherein the craftsmen are specialised in carving temple-related items and also furniture, using traditional designs.

- Kalamkari means creating something with a ‘kalam’, or a brush. Traditionally, only three colours are used — black, red and yellow. But lately, ‘pale blue’ has also started being used, states the *Tamil Nadu Weatherman*. Several other innovations and traditions from the state have also received the coveted tag, like the Kanyakumari cloves, Dindigul locks, Mahabalipuram stone sculpture, Nilgiri (orthodox) tea, Virupakshi hill banana, Thanjavur doll, Thanjavur paintings, Coimbatore wet grinder, Kancheepuram silk and saree, to name a few.

BSF now has uniform 50 km jurisdiction to arrest, search, seize in border states

- The Centre has empowered the Border Security Force to conduct searches, arrest suspects and make seizures up to 50 km from India-Pakistan and India-Bangladesh borders. Effectively, the move reduces the BSF jurisdiction in a few states, increases in some others and makes no difference in Rajasthan.
- The move might raise administrative and political issues in the affected states allowing the BSF to take action to curb illegal activities linked to national security in 10 states and two Union Territories.
- As per the fresh order, the BSF, which was empowered to take action only up to 15 km in Punjab, West Bengal and Assam, has now been authorised to spread its reach up to 50 km.

The Border Security Force (BSF) is India’s border guarding organisation on its border with Pakistan and Bangladesh. It is one of the five Central Armed Police Forces of India, and was raised in the wake of the 1965 War on 1 December 1965, “for ensuring the security of the borders of India and for matters connected there with”. It currently stands as the world’s largest border guarding force. BSF has been termed as the First Line of Defence of Indian Territories. Pankaj Kumar Singh is the current Director General of BSF.

India set to update 2030 climate targets under Paris Agreement

- India is set to update its 2030 climate targets under the Paris Agreement. India is considering cutting down almost by half the amount of greenhouse gases produced for every dollar of economic activity by the end of the decade.
- India’s updated nationally determined contributions or NDCs, as commitments by countries under the Paris Agreement are referred to, could include a commitment to reduce the emissions intensity of the economy by at least 46 to 48 per cent from its 2005 levels.
- Building on its enhanced renewable energy target of 450 GW, India could pledge to increase the share of non-fossil fuel sources in its energy generation capacity to at least 60 per cent, with the possibility of raising it to 65 per cent, by 2030.
- India’s goal of achieving 450GW renewable energy by 2030 is likely to be the highlight of the country’s contribution to climate change mitigation at the UN-led COP26 summit that begins in Glasgow.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 15 announced that India has installed 100GW of renewable energy. He added that India is the only country among G20 nations that is progressing rapidly to meet its climate goals.
- India has set a target of achieving 40% of electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030 in its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement. One of the means to achieve the target is installing 175GW of renewable energy by 2022.
- The Coalition of Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), a global partnership of 27 countries initiated by India in 2019, will also be launching an initiative to help small island states develop resilience to climate change at COP26. The initiative titled “Infrastructure for the Resilient Island States” will be implemented between 2022 and 2030 in 58 countries in the Caribbean, the Pacific, and the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean, and the South China Sea. India, Australia, and the UK are likely to pledge \$10 million each for the project and other CDRI initiatives.

Under the Paris Agreement, India presently has three quantifiable NDCs. They include lowering the emissions intensity of its GDP by 33-35% compared to 2005 levels by 2030, increasing total cumulative electricity generation from fossil-free energy sources to 40% by 2030, and creating an additional carbon sink of 2.5-3 billion tonnes through additional forest and tree cover. The Conference of Parties comes under the United Nations Climate Change Framework Convention (UNFCCC) which was formed in 1994. The UNFCCC was

established to work towards “stabilisation of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere.” COP members have been meeting every year since 1995. The UNFCCC has 198 parties including India, China and the USA. The first conference (COP1) was held in 1995 in Berlin. At COP3 held in Kyoto, Japan, in 1997, the famous Kyoto Protocol was adopted. It commits the member states to pursue limitation or reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. It entered into force on 16 February 2005 and there are 192 Parties in the Kyoto Protocol. India hosted the eighth COP from October 23 to November 1, 2002 in New Delhi.

India re-elected to UNHRC for record 6th term with overwhelming majority

- India has been re-elected to the UN Human Rights Council for a record 6th term with an overwhelming majority. Permanent Mission of India in the United Nations said, **India stands committed to work together with fellow members of the Council towards the goal of global promotion and protection of human rights.**
- It expressed **gratitude to the UN membership for reposing its faith in India.** The Indian Mission said, it will continue to work for promotion and protection of Human Rights through **Samman, Samvad and Sahyog.** It has congratulated other UN member states who have been elected to the council.
- The UN General Assembly elected by secret ballot **Argentina, Benin, Cameroon, Eritrea, Finland, Gambia, Honduras, India, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Montenegro, Paraguay, Qatar, Somalia, UAE and the US.** Though member states were chosen in a secret ballot, the election was a non-contest, with 18 candidate countries standing for 18 seats.
- The United States, which had quit the council in 2018 under the previous Donald Trump’s regime, was **reelected to the global rights body for a period of three-and-a-half years.** Ahead of its dramatic walkout, the US had accused the UN of hypocrisy and obsession with haranguing Israel. It received 168 votes during vote.
- **Among other notable entries, the UN General Assembly chose Eritrea,** often criticised for alleged rights abuses. The country received 144 votes. **The council is tasked with promoting and protecting human rights worldwide, addressing violations and making recommendations,** hence the election of Eritrea again raised the issue of having authoritarian regimes on the body.

The Human Rights Council is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations system made up of 47 States responsible for the promotion and protection of all human rights around the globe. It has the ability to discuss all thematic human rights issues and situations that require its attention throughout the year. **The Council has 47 members elected for staggered three-year terms on a regional group basis. The headquarters of the Council is in Geneva, Switzerland. The Council investigates allegations of breaches of human rights in United Nations member states, and addresses thematic human rights issues such as freedom of association and assembly, freedom of expression, freedom of belief and religion, women’s rights, LGBT rights, and the rights of racial and ethnic minorities. The Council was established by the United Nations General Assembly on 15 March 2006 to replace the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR), which had been strongly criticized for allowing countries with poor human rights records to be members. The Council works closely with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and engages the United Nations special procedures.**

Amit Shah rechristens island as ‘Mount Manipur’

- Home Minister Amit Shah said that the government has **decided to rechristen Mount Harriet Island in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands as Mount Manipur** in the memory of those who sacrificed their life for the country from the north-eastern state.
- **“Manipur had a significant contribution in resisting the British in the entire Northeast during the 1857 Revolution and also in 1891. Manipur never gave up and the people there continued to fight. Manipur was the only state that had implemented its own Constitution.**
- **Manipuri war heroes Yuvraj Tikendrajit and General Thangal were publicly hanged in Fida, Imphal. The British thought that by hanging them, they had crushed the freedom movement, but it did not happen. After that Maharaja Kulchandra Dhwaja Singh and 22 freedom fighters were sent to Kala Pani and they were kept on Mount Harriet. Today in his memory, we would like to honor his contribution by naming Mount Harriet as Mount Manipur,”** Shah said.
- Shah is on a three-day visit to Andaman and Nicobar. **He inaugurated various development projects on Ross Island which has now been rechristened as Netaji Subhash Island.**

- “The Indian Republic today would not have been possible if Sardar Patel had not made more than 550 princely states a part of India in less than a year and a half. Sardar Saheb also did not receive the same respect as he should have received after Independence. But history repeats itself, no matter how much injustice is done to anyone, good work is never hidden and today in Kevadia, the world’s tallest statue of Sardar Saheb has been installed by Narendra Modi, which people from all over the world come to see,” he said.

The Ministry of Co-operation is a ministry under the Government of India which was formed in July 2021. The ministry provides a separate administrative, legal and policy framework for strengthening the cooperative movement in the country. The ministry’s creation was with its vision statement of “Sahkar se samridhi” (Prosperity from cooperation). Before the creation of this ministry, the objectives of this ministry were looked after by the Ministry of Agriculture. Amit Shah is currently serving as the Minister of Home Affairs and the first Minister of Co-operation of India. Cooperative societies is a subject of State List under the Seventh schedule of the Constitution, many experts raised concerns that, creating such a ministry at the central level would increase the power in the hands of union government. A three-judge bench of the Supreme Court quashed part of the 97th Amendment Act and Part IX B of the Constitution which governs the “Cooperative Societies” in the country. The “Ministry of Cooperation” will continue to have the power to look into the work of “multi state” co-operative societies though the Supreme Court has struck down the constitutional provisions that prescribed the contours of the rules that state governments could create in their own states.

Punjab CM Charanjit Singh Channi launches ‘Mera Ghar Mere Naam’ scheme

- Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi launched ‘Mera Ghar Mere Naam’ scheme to give ownership rights to people living in houses within the ‘lal lakir’ of villages and cities. ‘Lal lakir’ refers to land that is part of the village habitation and is used for non-agriculture purposes only.
- The chief minister said that subsequently all the eligible residents after proper identification or verification will be given the property cards (sanads) to give ownership rights to them in a time-bound manner.

The five tributary rivers of the Indus River from which the region took its name are the Sutlej, Ravi, Beas, Chenab and Jhelum rivers; the Sutlej, Ravi and Beas rivers flow through the Indian Punjab. The region was originally called Sapta Sindhu, the Vedic land of the seven rivers flowing into the sea. The Sanskrit name for the region, as mentioned in the Ramayana and Mahabharata for example, was Panchanada which means “Land of the Five Rivers”, and was translated to Persian as Punjab after the Muslim conquests. Chandigarh is a city, district and union territory in India that serves as the joint capital of the two neighbouring states of Punjab and Haryana. Banwarilal Purohit is the current Governor of Punjab and Administrator of Chandigarh as of 29 September 2021.

Earth Sciences Minister Dr Jitendra Singh launches Air Quality Early Warning System

- Earth Sciences Minister Dr Jitendra Singh has launched Air Quality Early Warning System on the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav week.
- Dr Singh said that the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology has developed a new Decision Support System and extended the ability of the existing air quality early warning system to have decision-making capability for air quality management.
- Air warning System integrated with the Decision Support System will become a user-friendly tool for air-quality management in and around Delhi. A dedicated website has been created to deliver quantitative information about the contribution of emissions from Delhi and the surrounding 19 districts to the air quality in Delhi. The website is designed to deliver quantitative information about the contribution from biomass-burning activities in the neighbouring states to the degradation of air quality in Delhi.

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.

Indian Army establishes Airspace Control Centre in Arunachal Pradesh for first time-ever

- The Indian Army established Airspace Control Centre for the first time in the forward area in West Kameng, Arunachal Pradesh.
- The aim of the centre is to track movement and allow operations to go seamlessly.

The Indian Army is the land-based branch and the largest component of the Indian Armed Forces. The President of India is the Supreme Commander of the Indian Army, and its professional head is the Chief of Army Staff (COAS), who is a four-star general. Two officers have been conferred with the rank of field marshal, a five-star rank, which is a ceremonial position of great honour. The Indian Army originated from the armies of the East India Company, which eventually became the British Indian Army, and the armies of the princely states, which were merged into the national army after independence. General Bipin Rawat is the first and current Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) of India. General Manoj Mukund Naravane is the current and 28th Chief of the Army Staff (COAS).

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana: Crop insurance being revamped from kharif 2022

- Aiming to roll out an overhauled Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) from kharif 2022, the government has constituted a working group comprising officials from Centre, key crop-producing states and top executives of public sector insurance companies to suggest “sustainable, financial and operational models.”
- The move comes after many states quit the scheme, defeating the objective of protecting farmers’ income. The newly formed group, headed by CEO of PMFBY, will have principal secretaries (agriculture) of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Odisha as members.
- Of late, the Centre has identified a hardening of premium market, lack of sufficient participation in tenders, inadequate underwriting capacity of insurers as major issues that adversely impacted PMFBY during implementation of the scheme.
- The premium to be paid by farmers is fixed at 1.5% of the sum insured for rabi crops and 2% for Kharif crops, while it is 5% for cash crops under PMFBY. The balance premium is split equally between the Centre and states. Many states have demanded their share of the premium subsidy be capped at 30% while some others demand the Centre to bear the entire subsidy.
- “The working group will find out reasons for high premium rates and suggest mechanism to rationalize them including the option of creating a risk pool,” a source in agriculture ministry said adding role of state governments will have to be defined as they are the implementing agencies.
- Already, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Bihar exited the scheme, citing the cost of the premium subsidy to be borne by them. While Punjab never implemented the crop insurance scheme, Bihar, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh have their schemes under which farmers do not pay any premium, but they receive a fixed amount of compensation in case of crop failure.

The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) launched on 18 February 2016 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is an insurance service for farmers for their yields. It was formulated in line with One Nation–One Scheme theme by replacing earlier two schemes National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS) by incorporating their best features and removing their inherent drawbacks (shortcomings). It aims to reduce the premium burden on farmers and ensure early settlement of crop assurance claim for the full insured sum. The prescribed premium is 2% to be paid by farmers for all Kharif crops and 1.5% for all rabi crops. In the case of annual commercial and horticultural crops, the premium is 5%. Premium cost over and above the farmer share was equally subsidized by States and Government of India. However, Government of India shared 90% of the premium subsidy for North Eastern States to promote the uptake in the region. The scheme was compulsory for loanee farmers availing Crop Loan/Kisan Credit Card (KCC) account for notified crops and voluntary for others.

Madhya Pradesh announces implementation of Mukhyamantri Ration Aapke Dwar Yojana

- **Madhya Pradesh government** has announced the implementation of Mukhyamantri Ration Aapke Dwar Yojana in the state. Under the scheme, **ration will now be transported by vehicles in those villages where there are no fair price shops.**
- The objective of Mukhyamantri Ration Aapke Dwar Yojana is to **provide ration material to Divyanga and senior citizens near their homes so that they do not need to go to the ration shop of other villages to get their monthly food.**

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.

J&K: LG Manoj Sinha declares JKP's much-awaited CCTNS project "Go-Live"; Launches "JK eCop" Mobile App

- **Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha declared the much-awaited Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS) project of J&K Police "Go-Live" and launched the "JK eCOP" Mobile Application at Raj Bhavan in Srinagar.**
- **CCTNS will make the Police function citizen-friendly and more transparent by automating the functioning of Police Stations** besides providing multiple channels by simplifying the process to access services from the police.
- **"JK eCOP" Mobile App will provide all police-related public services.** The app provides features like One Click access for locating the nearest Police Station, panic button to send distress message and provides all the important helpline numbers to the public.

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.

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Vishram Sadan at National Cancer Institute in Jhajjar

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Infosys Foundation Vishram Sadan** at the National Cancer Institute in Jhajjar Campus of AIIMS New Delhi through video conferencing.
- The 806 bedded Vishram Sadan has been **constructed by Infosys Foundation as a part of Corporate Social Responsibility. The Vishram Sadan will provide air-conditioned accommodation facilities to the accompanying attendants of the Cancer Patients who often have to stay in Hospitals for a longer duration.**
- It has been **constructed by the Infosys Foundation at a cost of about 93 crore rupees.** The Vishram Sadan is located in close proximity to the hospital and OPD Blocks of the National Cancer Institute.

Indian Army wins gold medal at Cambrian Patrol Exercise in UK

- **The Indian Army won a Gold Medal at the Cambrian Patrol Exercise held in the UK** while competing against 96 teams representing special forces and regiments from around the world. **The Gorkha Rifles Frontier Force represented the Indian Army at the drill held at Brecon, Wales.**
- The Indian Army team performed well in harsh terrain and inclement weather. **The event is considered the ultimate test of human endurance and team spirit and is considered the Olympics of Military Patrolling.** These conditions added to the challenges of simulated situations to assess the reaction of the teams in a combat setting.

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Kushinagar International Airport in Uttar Pradesh

- **The inauguration of the Kushinagar International Airport was marked by the landing of the inaugural flight at the airport from Colombo in Sri Lanka, carrying Sri lankan delegation of over hundred Buddhist Monks** and dignitaries including the 12-member Holy Relic entourage bringing the Holy Buddha Relics for Exposition.
- The delegation also comprises of Anunayakas (deputy heads) of all four Nikatas (orders) of Buddhism in Sri Lanka, Asgiriya, Amarapura, Ramanya, Malwatta as well as **five Ministers of the Government of Sri Lanka led by Cabinet Minister Namal Rajapakshe.**
- **The Kushinagar International Airport has been built at an estimated cost of 260 crore rupees.** It will **facilitate domestic and international pilgrims to visit the Mahaparinirvana Sthal of Lord Buddha** and is an endeavour in connecting the Buddhist pilgrimage holy sites around the world.
- **The airport will serve nearby districts of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar** and is an important step in boosting the investment and employment opportunities in the region.
- **The Prime Minister visited the Mahaparinirvana temple, offer Archana and Chivar to the reclining statue of Lord Buddha and also plant a Bodhi tree sapling.** Mr Modi participated in an event, organised to mark **Abhidhamma Day.**
- **The day symbolises the end of three-month rainy retreat - Varshavaas or Vassa - for the Buddhist Monks,** during which they stay at one place in vihara and monastery and pray.
- The event was also be **attended by eminent Monks from Sri Lanka, Thailand, Myanmar, South Korea, Nepal, Bhutan and Cambodia,** as well as Ambassadors of various countries. Mr Modi also walked through the exhibition of Paintings of Ajanta frescos, Buddhist Sutra Calligraphy and Buddhist artefacts excavated from Vadnagar and other sites in Gujarat. The Prime Minister will participate in a public function at Barwa Jangal in Kushinagar.
- In the event, he **laid the foundation stone of Rajkiya Medical College, Kushinagar** which will be built at a cost of over 280 crore rupees. The Medical college will have a 500-bed hospital and provide admissions to 100 students in MBBS course in academic session 2022-2023.

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.**

152 SAKSHAM Centres launched under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana

- As part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, **a total of 152 Centre for Financial Literacy & Service Delivery (SAKSHAM Centres) across 77 districts of 13 states launched under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) of the Ministry of Rural Development.**

- Centre for Financial Literacy & Service Delivery (CFL&SD) would act as one stop solution/single window system for basic financial needs of Self-Help Group (SHG) households in rural areas. The main objective of the center is to provide financial literacy & facilitate delivery of financial services (savings, credit, insurance, pensions etc.) to SHG members and rural poor. These Centers will be managed by SHG network, largely at the level of the Cluster Level Federations (CLFs), with the help of trained Community Resource Persons (CRPs).
- These trained CRPs are provided six days residential training at Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs) established by the Lead Bank of the district. All of these resources persons, popularly known as Financial Literacy Community Resource person (FL CRPs) also provided a training tool kit in vernacular languages.

Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India in June 2011 as a restructured version of Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojna (SGSY). The Mission aims at creating efficient and effective institutional platforms of the rural poor enabling them to increase household income through sustainable livelihood enhancements and improved access to financial services. In November 2015, the program was renamed Deendayal Antayodaya Yojana (DAY-NRLM). NRLM has set out with an agenda to cover 7 Crore rural poor households, across 600 districts, 6000 blocks, 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats and 6 lakh villages in the country through self-managed Self Help Groups (SHGs) and federated institutions and support them for livelihoods collectives in a period of 8-10 years.

Centre issues notification for setting up of seven mega integrated textile region & apparel parks

- Textiles ministry said, PM MITRA Parks is envisaged to help India in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal of build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.
- The Ministry has issued the Notification for setting up of seven PM MITRA Parks. The scheme aims to realise the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi of building an Aatmanirbhar Bharat and to position India strongly on the Global textiles map.
- PM MITRA is inspired by the 5F vision of Prime Minister. The '5F' Formula encompasses - Farm to fibre; fibre to factory; factory to fashion; fashion to foreign. This integrated vision will help furthering the growth of textile sector in the economy.
- The scheme is to develop integrated large scale and modern industrial infrastructure facility for entire value-chain of the textile industry. It will reduce logistics costs and improve competitiveness of Indian Textiles.
- The scheme will help India in attracting investments, boosting employment generation and position itself strongly in the global textile market. These parks are envisaged to be located at sites which have inherent strength for Textile Industry to flourish and have necessary linkages to succeed. The seven PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks will be setup at Greenfield or Brownfield sites located in different willing States.
- For a Greenfield PM MITRA park, the Union Development Capital Support will be thirty per cent of the Project Cost, with a cap of 500 Cr rupees and for Brownfield sites 30 per cent of project cost of balance infrastructure and restricted to a limit of 200 crore rupees.

The Ministry of Textiles is an Indian government national agency responsible for the formulation of policy, planning, development, export promotion and regulation of the textile industry in India. This includes all natural, artificial, and cellulosic fibers that go into the making of textiles, clothing and Handicrafts. 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.

PM Modi to attend G-20 Summit in Rome, World Leader's Summit of COP26 in Glasgow

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will travel to Rome and Glasgow from 29th of October to 2nd November to attend the 16th G-20 Summit and the World Leaders' Summit of COP-26.

- Mr Modi will participate in the 16th G-20 Summit in Rome from 30th and 31st October at the invitation of the Prime Minister of Italy Mario Draghi. The Summit will also be attended by Heads of State and Heads of Government of G-20 Member Countries, the European Union and other invited countries and International Organizations.
- This will be the 8th G-20 Summit that Prime Minister would be attending. The G-20 has emerged as the premier global forum for international economic cooperation. India is scheduled to host the G-20 Summit in 2023 for the first time. The forthcoming Summit under the Italian Presidency is centred around the theme 'People, Planet, Prosperity', focussing on the areas of Recovery from the Pandemic and Strengthening of Global Health Governance, Economic Recovery and Resilience, Climate Change and Energy Transition and Sustainable Development and Food Security.

PM Atmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojna launched in Varanasi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on a day-long visit to Uttar Pradesh. He launched the ambitious Pradhan Mantri Atmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojna (PMASBY) nationwide at a function organised in Varanasi.
- With the total outlay of Rs 64,180 Crore the centrally sponsored scheme PMASBY aims to fill the gaps in health infrastructure, surveillance and health research in urban and rural areas in the country till 2025-26.
- In view of the global pandemic of Covid-19, the main purpose of the scheme is to make communities self-reliant in managing pandemics and health crises. Under this scheme Critical care services will be available in all the districts of the country with more than five lakh populations, through Exclusive Critical Care Hospital Blocks, while the remaining districts will be covered through referral services.
- The PMASBY scheme targets to build an IT enabled disease surveillance system by developing a network of surveillance laboratories at block, district, regional and national levels in Metropolitan areas. Integrated Health Information Portal will be expanded to all States and Union Territories (UTs) to connect all public health labs.
- The Prime Minister also inaugurated and laid the foundation of various development projects and works worth over Rs 5200 crore in his parliamentary constituency Varanasi.
- Mr Modi inaugurated Nine (09) newly built medical colleges in the state at a function in Siddharth Nagar. These medical colleges have been completed in Siddharthnagar, Etah, Hardoi, Pratapgarh, Fatehpur, Deoria, Ghazipur, Mirzapur and Jaunpur districts. Out of total nine, eight medical colleges have been completed under Centre's scheme and one has been made functional by the state government with its own resources.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is an Indian government ministry charged with health policy in India. It is also responsible for all government programs relating to family planning in India. The current minister is Mansukh L. Mandaviya, while the current MOS health is Dr Bharati Pawar. Rajkumari Amrit Kaur appointed the first Health Minister of India in 1947 and remained in office until 1957.

Delhi - Agra NH stretch to become India's first Hi-Tech Corridor

- The Delhi - Agra national highway (NH) stretch is soon going to be a smart and hi-tech corridor and now commuters will have to be watchful of their speed as chances of getting 'challaned' is going to increase.
- The Delhi - Agra stretch that begins from the Old Mathura road will be the first NH corridor in the country to have screens which will alert drivers, if they are going beyond the permitted speed limit.
- These basically are the Vehicle Actuated Speed Displays (VASDs) and will be installed at different locations that will capture and display the vehicle speed in real-time.
- The step is a part of the National Highways Authority of India's (NHAI) program to put in place the first Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) on any National Highway (NH), which aims to make the corridor seamless and safe for traffic movement.
- The authority has also floated a tender inviting the bids and the project stretch will begin from the start point of 4.4 km long 6-lane Badarpur Elevated Highway to Agra. The ATMS software will generate e-challans and will be integrated with the Vahan database, FASTag and NIC through which it will procure details of the vehicle

for cross verification purpose. The information will be passed on to the traffic management system for further actions to be taken.

The **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** is an autonomous agency of the Government of India, set up in 1995 (Act 1988) and is responsible for management of a network of over 50,000 km of National Highways out of 1,32,499 km in India. It is a nodal agency of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. NHAI has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Indian Space Research Organisation for satellite mapping of highways.

Updated NPR form appears to retain contentious questions

- The latest form of the National Population Register (NPR) appears to have retained contentious questions such as “mother tongue, place of birth of father and mother and last place of residence”, according to a document compiled by a committee under the Registrar General of India and shared with District Census officers.
- Though NPR was first compiled in 2010 and updated in 2015, the new questions were part of a trial exercise involving 30 lakh respondents in September 2019. The exercise has been opposed by some States and citizen groups as NPR is the first step toward compilation of the National Register of Indian Citizens (NRC) according to Citizenship Rules, 2003.
- According to Citizenship Rules framed in the year 2003, NPR is the first step towards compilation of National Register of Indian Citizens (NRIC) or NRC.
- The CAA passed by the Parliament on December 11, 2019 allows citizenship on basis of religion to six undocumented communities from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh who entered India on or before December 31, 2014.
- There are apprehensions and fears that the CAA followed by a country-wide NRC will benefit non-Muslims excluded from the proposed citizens’ register, while excluded Muslims will have to prove their citizenship. The government has denied that CAA and NRC are linked and that there are currently any plans to compile a countrywide NRC.
- According to the Annexure: “National Population Register 2020”, the respondent will have to specify the “name of State and district” if the place of birth of father and mother is in India and mention the country’s name if not born here. The form will collect details on 14 parameters of all family members.

The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 was passed by the Parliament of India on 11 December 2019. The Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019 has been notified on December 12, 2019 and has come into force from January 10, 2020. It amended the Citizenship Act, 1955 by providing a pathway to Indian citizenship for persecuted religious minorities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan who are Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis or Christians, and arrived in India before the end of December 2014. In case a person belong to the aforementioned faiths, from these three countries, does not have proof of birth of parents, they can apply for Indian citizenship after six years of residence in India. President of India Ram Nath Kovind gave his assent to the legislation on December 12, 2019.

India Hands Over Jaynagar-Kurtha Cross-Border Rail Link to Nepal

- India handed over the 34.9 km-long cross-border rail link connecting Jaynagar in Bihar to Kurtha in Nepal to the Nepal government, a move that is expected to enhance trade and commerce activities as well as people to people linkages between the two countries.
- The Jaynagar-Kurtha section is part of the 68.7 km Jaynagar-Bijalpura-Bardidas rail link built under the Government of India’s grant assistance of NPR 8.77 billion. Under the grant assistance of India, the gauge conversion of a 34.9 kms narrow gauge section into broad gauge, from Jaynagar in India to Kurtha in Nepal, has now been completed.

Nepal is a landlocked country in South Asia. Nepal has a diverse geography, including fertile plains, subalpine forested hills, and eight of the world’s ten tallest mountains, including Mount Everest, the highest point on Earth. Nepal is a multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, multi-religious and multi-cultural state, with Nepali as the official

language. Kathmandu is the nation's capital and the largest city. The name "Nepal" is first recorded in texts from the Vedic period of the Indian subcontinent, the era in ancient Nepal when Hinduism was founded, the predominant religion of the country. The Constitution of Nepal, adopted in 2015, affirms Nepal as a secular federal parliamentary republic divided into seven provinces. Sher Bahadur Deuba is serving as the Prime Minister of Nepal since 13 July 2021. Bidya Devi Bhandari is serving as the second president of Nepal, in office since 28 October 2015. She is the first woman to hold the office in the country. Nepalese rupee is the official currency of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal.

Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation to be dissolved

- Based on the recommendation of Principal Economic Advisor of Finance Ministry Sanjeev Sanyal for rationalisation of railway bodies by closing down or merging multiple organisations, the Indian Railways has ordered to dissolve Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation (IRSDC).
- "The stations managed by IRSDC shall be handed over to respective Zonal Railways and all the projects related documents shall be handed over to respective Zonal Railways by IRSDC".
- With this step, IRSDC is the second organisation under the Ministry of Railways to be shut down after the closure of the Indian Railways Organisation for Alternative Fuel (IROAF) on September 7, 2021.

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.

Cochin airport becomes first in India to start hydropower project

- After becoming the first airport in India to come up through a public-private partnership (PPP) and the world's first to operate on solar power, Cochin international airport has added another feather to its cap by starting a hydropower station.
- The power plant with annual power generation capacity of 14 million units will be commissioned on November 6 at Arippara near Kozhikode. Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan will inaugurate the Rs 52 crore project.
- The 4.5 MW run-of-the river small hydro project (SHP) was awarded to Cochin International Airport by the Kerala government's power department as part of its SHP policy on a Build-Own-Operate-Transfer (BOOT) basis for a lease period of 30 years.

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.

PM Modi launches PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission in Varanasi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched PM Ayushman Bharat Infrastructure Mission from Varanasi with a total outlay of 64,180 crore rupees. PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission aims to strengthen the critical healthcare network from village to block to the district to the regional and national level in the next four-five years.
- Mr Modi said, under this Mission, his government will develop the network of treatment and critical care units in every nook and corner of the country with an aggressive approach. He said it will work to provide affordable, accessible and cheap holistic health care facilities in the country.

- The Prime Minister said, through PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission an **entire ecosystem for services from treatment to critical research will be created in every corner of the country**. Prime Minister said, the mission will establish a system to tackle the menace of future pandemics.

Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission is one of the largest pan-India schemes for strengthening healthcare infrastructure across the country. It is in addition to the National Health Mission. It will provide support to 17,788 rural Health and Wellness Centres in 10 ‘high focus’ states and establish 11,024 urban Health and Wellness Centres across the country. Through this, critical care services will be available in all the districts of the country with more than five lakh population through exclusive critical care hospital blocks, while the remaining districts will be covered through referral services. Under the scheme, a national institution for one health, four new national institutes for virology, a regional research platform for WHO (World Health Organization) South East Asia Region, nine biosafety level-III laboratories, and five new regional national centres for disease control will be set up.

Ministry of Textiles approves Pilot Project on skilling of Design and Commissioning technical personnel

- Ministry of Textiles has approved the Pilot Project on skilling of Design and Commissioning technical personnel associated with the application of geotextiles in infrastructure projects.
- The project will be conducted concurrently by the Indian Institute of Sciences, Bangalore, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras and Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee.
- The coordinating faculty of the concerned fields of Engineering will look after the implementation of the special courses in consultation with the other concerned centres. Ministry of Textiles will coordinate for all matters related to conducting these Courses. A batch will consist of a minimum of 75 to a maximum of 100 candidates and during the pilot phase, two batches are scheduled for each of these three Institutes.

The Ministry of Textiles is an Indian government national agency responsible for the formulation of policy, planning, development, export promotion and regulation of the textile industry in India. This includes all natural, artificial, and cellulosic fibers that go into the making of textiles, clothing and Handicrafts. The current Minister of Textiles is Piyush Goyal.

Nine Medical Colleges in UP inaugurated by PM Modi; Says, UP will become medical hub of Northern India

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated nine medical colleges in Uttar Pradesh, giving a boost to the state’s medical infrastructure. Modi inaugurated the medical colleges virtually from Siddharthnagar. Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya were also present at the event.
- The Medical Colleges are situated in Siddharthnagar, Etah, Hardoi, Pratapgarh, Fatehpur, Deoria, Ghazipur, Mirzapur and Jaunpur districts. Built at a cost of Rs 2,329 crore, the medical colleges are located in Siddharthnagar, Etah, Hardoi, Pratapgarh, Fatehpur, Deoria, Ghazipur, Mirzapur and Jaunpur districts.
- While eight medical colleges have been sanctioned under a Centrally sponsored scheme for establishment of new medical colleges attached with district or referral hospitals, the one at Jaunpur has been made functional by the state government through its own resources.

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.

Government panel to oversee NIPUN Bharat progress

- The Centre's NIPUN Bharat mission, aimed at equipping every child till class 3 with basic comprehension and mathematical skills, received a push with the Ministry of Education setting up a national steering committee to oversee its progress and provide policy-level guidance.
- The steering committee, as envisaged in the NIPUN (National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy) Bharat guidelines, will be chaired by Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. The members include education secretaries of UP, Gujarat, Karnataka and Sikkim, and the Union school education secretary and NCERT director.

In July 2020, the Union Cabinet has approved the new National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 with an aim to introduce several changes in the Indian education system - from the school to college level. The NEP 2020 aims at making "India a global knowledge superpower". The NEP cleared by the Cabinet is only the third major revamp of the framework of education in India since independence. The two earlier education policies were brought in 1968 and 1986. The Cabinet has also approved the renaming of the Ministry of Human Resource Development to the Ministry of Education. The Ministry of Education (MoE), previously the Ministry of Human Resource Development (1985-2020), is responsible for the implementation and formulation of the National Policy on Education approved by Union cabinet of India and to ensure that it is implemented in letter and spirit. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad is the First Minister of Education in the Indian. He is commonly remembered as Maulana Azad; the word Maulana is an honorific meaning 'Our Master' and he had adopted Azad (Free) as his pen name. The current Union Minister for Education is Dharmendra Pradhan since 7 July 2021. Shri Pradhan currently represents Madhya Pradesh in the Rajya Sabha as Member of Parliament.

Centre notifies 4-year teacher education programme

- The Centre notified the four-year integrated teacher education programme (ITEP) — envisaged as the minimum degree qualification for school teachers under the National Education Policy 2020 — which will be offered by about 50 institutes across the country from the next academic year.
- Dual-major bachelor's degrees will be offered under ITEP, integrating basic BA and BSc degrees with BEd. The course will help students save a year — pursuing BEd after completing a bachelor's degree currently takes five years. NEP 2020 states that teacher engagement from 2030 will be "only through ITEP". The course will initially be offered in pilot mode in about 50 selected multidisciplinary institutions across the country.
- The National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) under the Ministry of Education has devised the curriculum of the course. The four-year ITEP will be available for all students who choose teaching as a profession after clearing school.
- "Admission for the course will be carried out by the National Testing Agency (NTA) through the National Common Entrance Test (NCET). This course will be offered by multidisciplinary institutions and will become the minimal degree qualification for schoolteachers," the statement added.

NITI Aayog approved study on facial recognition tech in India

- NITI Aayog has approved a proposal to conduct a study on the use of facial recognition technology in India. The study, to be conducted by an independent think-tank, will have a budget of Rs 23.17 lakh.
- The decision was taken on 18 October during a meeting chaired by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar. Sources said NITI Aayog member Dr VK Saraswat, who looks after science and technology, highlighted the "security angle" and flagged the issue of "misuse / malpractices" related to facial recognition technology.

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.

4 Indian universities led by IISc Bangalore make it to the Times Higher Education Reputation Rankings 2021

- **Four Indian institutes** have made it to the Times Higher Education’s annual Reputation Rankings, that lists the world’s top 200 universities based on votes from leading academics around the world.
- **Indian Institute of Science Bangalore** climbs into the top 100 (91-100 band), leading among the Indian institutes. **Indian Institute of Technology Bombay** climbs two ranking bands to 126-150th.
- **IIT Madras** retains its place in the 176-200 band while **IIT Delhi (176-200)** appears in the band while **IIT Delhi (176-200)** appears in the table for the first time. For the 2021 ranking, 10,963 experienced, published academics around the world cast 150,000 votes, for universities across the globe that they believe have the best reputation for research and teaching.
- **The ranking, comprising 202 universities from 29 countries and regions** sees **Harvard University in the United States** retain its position at the very top of the table, with **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)** retaining second place and the United Kingdom’s University of Oxford climbing two places to third in the year it played a pivotal role in delivering a Covid-19 vaccine.

SC appoints three-member expert committee to probe into Pegasus surveillance case

- **The Supreme Court ordered a probe into the Pegasus surveillance case by a three-member expert committee. The committee will be headed by Retired Supreme Court judge, Justice RV Raveendran.**
- A Bench comprising Chief Justice of India NV Ramana and Justice Surya Kant and Justice Hima Kohli observed, there has been **no specific denial by the Centre on the issue. The Supreme Court will monitor the function of the committee.**
- **The Court observed that while it is the era of information technology** which is crucial for our daily lives, it is equally important to safeguard the privacy of citizens. The Court said, **while there are restrictions on right to privacy, the same are bound by Constitutional safeguards.**
- The Apex court said, restrictions on privacy can be imposed only for prevention of terrorist activities in the interest of national security.

The Supreme Court of India came into being on 28 January 1950. It replaced both the Federal Court of India and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council which were then at the apex of the Indian court system. The first Chief Justice of India was Sir H J Kania. Originally, the Constitution of India envisaged a supreme court with a chief justice and seven judges; leaving it to parliament to increase this number. At present, SC is consisting of the Chief Justice of India and 33 sanctioned other judges. The motto of the Supreme Court is ‘Yato Dharmastato Jayah’, means “whence law (dharma), thence victory”. It is also referred to – as the wheel of righteousness, encompassing truth, goodness and equity. As per the Article 142 of the Constitution, it is the duty of the President of India to enforce the decrees of the Supreme Court and the court is conferred with the inherent jurisdiction to pass any order deemed necessary in the interest of justice. The Supreme Court has replaced the British Privy Council as the highest court of appeal.

Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya releases Krishi UDAN 2.0

- **Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya released Krishi UDAN 2.0** which lays out the vision of improving value realization through better integration and optimization of Agri-harvesting and air transportation.
- The scheme proposes to **facilitate and incentivize the movement of Agri-produce by air transportation.** The Minister said Krishi UDAN 2.0 is an example of the government’s collaborative approach towards policymaking.
- This scheme will **open up new avenues of growth for the agriculture sector and help attain the goal of doubling farmers’ income by removing barriers in the supply chain, logistics and transportation of farm produce.**
- **The Krishi UDAN 2.0 will be implemented at 53 airports across the country mainly focusing on Northeast and tribal regions** and is likely to benefit farmers, freight forwarders and Airlines.
- **The Ministry of Civil Aviation plans to be pilot the scheme for 6 months,** and, will introduce amendments based on the results of the evaluation and consultations with other stakeholders.

An online platform named E-KUSHAL (Krishi Udaan for Sustainable Holistic Agri-Logistics) would also be developed to facilitate information dissemination to all stakeholders regarding the transportation of agricultural produce. The ministry has also proposed convergence of E-KUSHAL with the National Agriculture Market (e-NAM). 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.

India, Kyrgyzstan hold first strategic dialogue in New Delhi

- The first India-Kyrgyzstan Strategic Dialogue between the National Security Council Secretariats was held in New Delhi. The Indian side was led by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and the Kyrgyz side was led by Secretary of Security Council of Kyrgyzstan Lieutenant General Marat Imankulov.
- The two sides held discussions on threats and challenges facing both countries as well as the regional security environment, with special reference to Afghanistan. The two sides welcomed a similarity of views on these matters and agreed-upon steps to enhance bilateral security cooperation between the relevant bodies, including in the fields of counter-terrorism, combating radicalisation, narcotics control and defence cooperation.

Kazakhstan is a country in Central Asia, it has borders with Russia in the north, China in the east, and Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan in the south. The capital is Nur-Sultan, formerly known as Astana. Kazakhstan is the world's largest landlocked country, and the ninth-largest in the world. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has been serving as the President of Kazakhstan since 20 March 2019. The tenge is the currency of Kazakhstan.

Sex ratio increases in Delhi

- The sex ratio in Delhi has increased to 933 females to one thousand males in 2020. According to the annual report of the Directorate of Economics and Statistics of the Government of Delhi, this number was 920 in 2019.
- The infant mortality rate in Delhi has also decreased in comparison to 2019. The infant mortality rate per thousand in 2019 was 24.19 and in 2020 it was 20.37. Sex ratio is usually used as a yardstick to assess gender-based sex selection in a certain region.

Delhi bordered by Haryana on three sides and by Uttar Pradesh to the east. According to the 2011 census, Delhi city proper's population was over 11 million, the second-highest in India after Mumbai. Anil Baijal is the current & 21st Lieutenant Governor of Delhi. Arvind Kejriwal is the current and 7th Chief Minister of Delhi. The Constitution (Sixty-ninth Amendment) Act, 1991 declared the Union Territory of Delhi to be formally known as the National Capital Territory of Delhi. Delhi is a Union Territory with a legislature, and it came into being in 1991 under Article 239AA of the Constitution inserted by the Constitution (Sixty-ninth Amendment) Act, 1991.

Indian Coast Guard Ship 'Sarthak' dedicated to the Nation

- In a significant boost to the maritime safety and security of the nation, the indigenously built Indian Coast Guard Ship Sarthak dedicated to the nation at Goa.
- The ship will be based at Porbandar in Gujarat and operate on India's Western Seaboard under the Operational and Administrative Control of the Commander, Coast Guard Region (Northwest). The ship Sarthak is commanded by Deputy Inspector General MM Syed and has complement of 11 Officers and 110 men.
- The ship is fitted with state-of-the-art equipment, sensors and weapons which enables it to function as a command platform and undertake mandated Coast Guard charter of duties including search and rescue, combating maritime crimes and preserving and protecting the marine environment. Indian Coast Guard is a pioneer in inducting indigenous platforms and Indian Coast Guard Ship Sarthak is a glowing example of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) is a maritime law enforcement and search and rescue agency of India with jurisdiction over its territorial waters including its contiguous zone and exclusive economic zone. The Indian Coast Guard was formally established on 1 February 1977 by the Coast Guard Act, 1978 of the Parliament of India. It operates under the Ministry of Defence. It is headquartered in New Delhi.

Government of India appoints Justice Ashok Bhushan as NCLAT chairperson, Justice R Sudhakar as NCLT president

- The government has appointed Justice Ashok Bhushan, a former judge of the Supreme Court, as chairperson of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT). Besides, it has appointed Justice Ramalingam Sudhakar, former chief justice of Manipur High Court, as president of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT). Both the NCLT and NCLAT are getting permanent heads after more than one-and-a-half years following the retirement of their respective incumbents.
- “The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the proposal for appointment of Justice Ashok Bhushan, former Judge of the Supreme Court of India as Chairperson, NCLAT for a period of 4 years from the date of assumption of charge of the post, or till he attains the age of 70 years, or until further orders, whichever is the earliest.

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) is a tribunal which was formed by the Central Government of India under Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013. The NCLAT was formed as a body with an appellate jurisdiction at the same time when NCLT was established as a major reform as per powers granted to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs in India. The tribunal is responsible for hearing appeals from the orders of National Company Law Tribunal(s) (NCLT), starting on 1 June 2016. The tribunal also hears appeals from orders issued by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India under Section 202 and Section 211 of IBC.

India’s largest landfill biogas plant launched in Hyderabad

- Ramky Enviro has inaugurated one of the world’s first and India’s largest landfill gas-to-compressed biogas plant at the Hyderabad Integrated Municipal Solid Waste (HiMSW) site.
- The project is focused on the conversion of landfill gas into compressed biogas as an automotive fuel. The project offers significant benefits such as carbon sequestration and reduced emissions of GHGs into the environment and contributes to the greening of the automotive industry.
- “This project responds to one of the biggest strategic imperatives of how can we make India’s infrastructure development more sustainable, whilst supporting our strategic energy security priorities.” The successful transformation of one of the largest municipal waste dumpsites in India to a significant source of sustainable energy and green auto fuel, is a great example of circular economy innovation at scale, one that is unprecedented globally.

Andhra Pradesh stands first in family-pact suicide deaths in India: NCRB

- With 19 cases, Andhra Pradesh for the third consecutive year stands at second place in terms of mass family suicides after Tamil Nadu in the country, according to the latest Accidental Deaths and Suicides of India (ADSI) 2020 report released by National Crime Records Bureau.
- However, in terms of the most number of victims due to family pact suicides, Andhra Pradesh achieves the dubious distinction of standing first in India with 46 deaths from 19 instances, accounting for 16% of the pact suicide victims in the country in 2020.
- Compared to that of 2019, there has been a 35% increase in family pact suicides in the state and a 72% increase compared to that of 2018.

Andhra Pradesh is the first state in India to have Five Deputy Chief Ministers one each from Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, backward, minority and Kapu communities. YS Jagan Mohan Reddy is the current Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. Andhra Pradesh is the first state in India to have three capital cities; there are Visakhapatnam (Executive capital), Amaravati (Legislative capital) and Kurnool (Judiciary). Andhra Pradesh High Court imposed a stay on implementation of 3 capitals. Andhra Pradesh is the first state to be formed on a linguistic basis in India on 1 October 1953. On 2 June 2014, Telangana was separated from the northwestern part of Andhra Pradesh as the newly formed state with Hyderabad as its capital.

Madhya Pradesh government announces scheme to provide free residential plots to families

- The Madhya Pradesh government has announced a scheme to provide free plots of land to families who don't own one, so that they can lead a dignified life. Under the Mukhyamantri Awasiya Bhu-adhikar Yojna, the state government will provide plots to families that don't have land to build their own homes.
- The scheme has been implemented with the objective of ensuring that every family has the right to a dignified life with basic necessities. The scheme has been started to provide residential plots to the eligible families on Abadi land in each Gram Panchayat. Under the scheme, district collectors have been empowered with respect to the availability of Abadi land, and the maximum area of the plot for allotment will be 60 sq m.

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.

NITI Aayog releases report on Health Insurance for India's Missing Middle

- NITI Aayog released a comprehensive report titled Health Insurance for India's Missing Middle, which brings out the gaps in the health insurance coverage across the Indian population and offers solutions to address the situation.
- The report was launched in the presence of NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant and Additional Secretary Dr Rakesh Sarwal. NITI Aayog Member Dr V.K. Paul, in the Foreword of the report has highlighted the need for health insurance coverage for all and said significant challenges will need to be overcome to increase the penetration of health insurance. He further mentioned that the government and the private sector will need to come together in this endeavor.

India, Israel agree to form task force to identify new areas of defence cooperation

- India-Israel Joint Working Group on Bilateral Defence Cooperation has agreed to form a Task Force to formulate a comprehensive Ten-Year Roadmap to identify new areas of cooperation.
- The Joint Working Group is the apex body between the Ministry of Defence of India and Israel's Ministry of Defence to comprehensively review and guide all aspects of Bilateral Defence Cooperation.
- The two sides reviewed the progress made in Military to Military engagements including exercises and industry cooperation. The Co-chairs were also apprised of the progress made by the Sub Working Groups on Defence Procurement and Production and Research and Development.

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.

International



Accra named UNESCO World Book Capital 2023

- The Director-General of UNESCO, Audrey Azoulay, has named Accra (Ghana) as UNESCO World Book Capital for 2023, following the evaluation of the World Book Capital Advisory Committee.
- After Guadalajara (Mexico) in 2022, the city of Accra was selected for its strong focus on young people and their potential to contribute to the culture and wealth of Ghana. Accra's proposed programme seeks to use the power of books to engage these young people, as an effective way of skilling up the next generation.

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.

India, UK likely to announce 'green grid' at COP26 summit

- India and the UK are likely to announce a joint declaration on "one sun, one world, one grid" — or OSOWOG, a concept New Delhi has been pushing through its International Solar Alliance — at the upcoming COP26.
- Both countries have been working towards achieving this concept, and the joint venture will be signed by energy ministers of the two nations in the presence of the two Prime Ministers. The UN Climate Change Conference, or COP26, is scheduled to be held between October 31 and November 12 in Scotland.

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.

Iceland elects Europe's first female majority parliament

- Iceland looks set to make history by becoming the first European country to elect a female majority to parliament. According to projections based on the final election results, 33 of the 63 seats in the Althingi, or 52%, have been won by women.
- This would mark an increase of nine seats from the last election in 2017. No other European country has breached the 50% threshold, with Sweden coming closest at 47%, according to data from the Inter Parliamentary Union.

Iceland is a Nordic island country in the North Atlantic Ocean and the most sparsely populated country in Europe. The capital and largest city is Reykjavík. Katrin Jakobsdóttir is an Icelandic politician serving as the prime minister of Iceland since 2017. The krona is the currency of Iceland.

Tunisia's President appoints woman as prime minister in first for Arab world

- **Tunisian President Kais Saied has appointed Najla Bouden Romdhan as the first female Prime Minister in Tunisia** and the Arab world, two months after he sacked the previous government and seized wide-ranging executive powers.
- **“This is the first time in the history of Tunisia that a woman has led a government,”** Saied said as he met with Romdhan, according to a video from the president's office. **“It is an honor to Tunisia and Tunisian women.”** Romdhan served in the ministry of higher education in 2011, according to Tunisia's privately owned Mosaïque FM.

Tunisia is the northernmost country in Africa. Its capital and largest city is Tunis. The dinar is the currency of Tunisia. In 2011, the Tunisian Revolution, triggered by the lack of freedom and democracy under the 24-year rule of president Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, overthrew his regime and catalyzed the broader Arab Spring across the region.

Berlin to get first female mayor

- Germany's center-left Social Democrats (SPD) scored a bonus election win in Berlin on top of their slim victory in the nationwide election. In a closely fought race, **Franziska Giffey, the SPD candidate to be the mayor of Berlin, won 21.4% of the vote, beating rival candidates from the Green party, Bettina Jarasch, on 18.9%, and the conservative Christian Democrat (CDU) option, Kai Wegner, on 18.1%.**
- **Giffey, who is set to become Berlin's first ever female mayor,** told local public broadcaster RBB that she wanted to talk to both the Greens and the CDU about forming a possible coalition, saying her priority was “to get as much of the SPD's program into the coalition negotiations as possible.”

Japan: Fumio Kishida wins governing party leadership election, set to be next PM

- **Japan's former Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida has won the governing party leadership election and is set to be the next Prime Minister.**
- **Kishida replaces outgoing party leader Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga,** who is stepping down after serving only one year since taking office last September.

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.

Machu Picchu is now the world's first carbon neutral tourist destination

- **Machu Picchu has become the first international destination to obtain the carbon neutral certificate.** The certification was awarded to the Historic and Natural Sanctuary of Machu Picchu by the Green Initiative, which is an institution that seeks to promote green and environmentally friendly tourism.
- **The Green Initiative positioned Machu Picchu as a global reference in terms of sustainability.** As per the certification, it seeks to drastically reduce carbon dioxide emissions of the Inca citadel, with the intention of reducing 45 percent of carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions in 2030 and reaching neutrality in 2050.
- Among all the other actions, **Machu Picchu got the certification for installing the only organic waste treatment plant that exists in Peru, to transform garbage into natural coal as well as for having the transformation plant of oil that produces biodiesel and glycerin from vegetable oils,** discarded from homes and restaurants in the area.

France and Greece sign defence deal

- France and Greece announced a defence deal worth around €3 billion (\$3.5 billion), including Athens' decision to buy three French warships, as part of a strategy to boost its defence capacities in the Eastern Mediterranean amid recurring tensions with Turkey, a long-time foe.
- French President Emmanuel Macron and Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis announced a defence and security strategic partnership in Paris.

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.

Dubai's Expo opens, bringing first World Fair to the Mideast

- After eight years of planning and billions of dollars in spending, the Middle East's first ever World Fair opened in Dubai, with hopes the months-long extravaganza draws both visitors and global attention to this desert-turned-dreamscape.
- Named Expo 2020, the event was postponed by a year due to the outbreak of the coronavirus last year. While that could have an impact on how many people flock to the United Arab Emirates, the six-month-long exhibition offers Dubai a momentous opportunity to showcase its unique East-meets-West appeal as a place where all are welcome for business.

Italy's 'Smart Bay' seeks to tackle Mediterranean climate change

- On Italy's Ligurian coast, biologists and environmentalists are working to tackle the effects of climate change in the Mediterranean with help from a so-called "Smart Bay".
- Marine biologists fear the Mediterranean is becoming hotter and more acidic, which would affect the habitat of many native species and also lead to violent changes in weather systems such as more frequent tornadoes.
- The Santa Teresa Smart Bay, in an area on the northwestern coast noted for tourism and diving, is Italy's first underwater "living" laboratory where scientists use aquatic invertebrate animals known as bryozoans and other organisms as live sensors.
- Researchers from the Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development (ENEA) and the National Research Council (CNR) chose the small bay as a perfect location to monitor the seawater. It provides data for the study of extreme weather events that are becoming more frequent in countries such as Italy, Greece, Spain, and France.

Italy is a country consisting of a peninsula delimited by the Alps and several islands surrounding it. Italy is located in the center of the Mediterranean Sea, in Southern Europe, and is also often considered part of Western Europe. A unitary parliamentary republic with Rome as its capital and largest city. Sergio Mattarella is current President of Italy since 2015. Mario Draghi is the current Prime Minister of Italy since 13 February 2021. Euro is the official currency of it.

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed sworn in for second five-year term

- Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed sworn in for a second five-year term running a country in the grip of a nearly year-long war. His Prosperity Party was declared the winner of Parliamentary Elections earlier this year in a vote criticized and at times boycotted by opposition parties.
- However, outside electoral observers described the poll as better run than those in the past. Mr Abiy, the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize winner for restoring ties with neighboring Eritrea and for pursuing sweeping political reforms, now faces major challenges as war in the Tigray region spreads into other parts of the country.
- This war is weakening Ethiopia's economy, once one of Africa's fastest-growing and threatening to isolate Mr. Abiy, once seen as a regional peacemaker.

Ethiopia, officially the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, is a country in the Horn of Africa, and is the most populous landlocked country in the world. It shares borders with Eritrea and Djibouti to the north, Somaliland to the northeast, Somalia to the east, Kenya to the south, South Sudan to the west and Sudan to the northwest. The national capital and largest city, Addis Ababa. The birr is the unit of currency in Ethiopia. Sahle-Work Zewde is the current President of Ethiopia since 2018, being the first woman to hold the office. The Horn of Africa consists of the internationally recognized countries of Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Djibouti, as well as the unrecognized country of Somaliland.

Colonel Mamady Doumbouya sworn in as interim President of Guinea

- Colonel Mamady Doumbouya was sworn in as Interim President of coastal West African country of Guinea. Colonel Doumbouya, who led the overthrow of President Alpha Conde was sworn in by Supreme Court Head Mamadou Sylla for a transition period of unspecified length.
- The former French legionnaire, 41, becomes Africa's second-youngest leader, after Mali's Assimi Goita, 38, who also staged a military takeover. Col Doumbouya is barred from contesting future elections under plans to restore civilian rule announced this week. The 5 September coup has been widely condemned.
- Both West Africa body Ecowas and the African Union have suspended Guinea. Ecowas also imposed sanctions against the coup leaders and demanded a return to constitutional order within six months.

Guinea is a coastal country in West Africa. Conakry is the capital and largest city of Guinea. The Guinean franc is the currency of Guinea. Guinea borders the Atlantic Ocean to the west, Guinea-Bissau to the northwest, Senegal to the north, Mali to the northeast, Cote d'Ivoire to the southeast, and Sierra Leone and Liberia to the south.

Fumio Kishida sworn-in as new Prime Minister of Japan

- Japan's Parliament elected former Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida as the Prime Minister. He is the 100th Prime Minister in the country's political history. Lawmakers in both chambers of the Diet voted for the newly elected leader of the Liberal Democratic Party, the main ruling party.
- Sixty-four-year-old Kishida won by a comfortable margin against Yukio Edano, head of the largest opposition Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan. Mr Kishida won 311 votes in the Lower House, over 80 more than a majority. He garnered 141 votes in the Upper House, 20 more than a majority.

Russia test-fires hypersonic 'Tsirkon' missile for first time

- Russia had successfully test launched a Tsirkon (Zircon) hypersonic cruise missile from a submarine for the first time, a weapon President Vladimir Putin has lauded as part of a new generation of unrivalled arms systems.
- The defence ministry, which tested firing the Tsirkon missile from a warship in July, said that the Severodvinsk submarine had fired the missile while deployed in the Barents Sea and had hit its chosen target. Low-quality video footage released by the ministry showed the missile shooting upwards from a submarine, its glare lighting up the night sky and illuminating the water's surface.
- In July, parts of footage showing Russia's advanced new S-500 surface-to-air missile system appeared to have been deliberately blurred to make it harder to examine in detail.

Russia or the Russian Federation is a transcontinental country spanning Eastern Europe and Northern Asia. It is the largest country in the world; covering over 17,125,191 square kilometres (6,612,073 sq mi), consisting of more than one-eighth of the Earth's inhabited land area, extending to eleven time zones, and has bordering sixteen sovereign nations. Vladimir Putin is serving as the current President of Russia since 2012, previously being in the office from 1999 until 2008. He was also Prime Minister from 1999 to 2000 and again from 2008 to 2012. Russian ruble or rouble is the currency of the Russian Federation. Mikhail Mishustin is serving as Prime Minister of Russia since 16 January 2020.

Mahalaya celebrated in Bangladesh

- Mahalaya festival was celebrated across Bangladesh with devotion and piety. Special puja programmes were organised across temples in the capital city Dhaka and other cities of Bangladesh.

- Mahanagar Sarbajanin Puja Committee organised a programme marking the Mahalaya at Dhakeshwari National temple early in the morning to observe Mahalaya.

Bangladesh is a country in South Asia. It shares land borders with India and Myanmar (Burma). Nepal, Bhutan and China are located near Bangladesh but do not share a border with it. Dhaka is its capital and largest city, followed by Chittagong, which has the country's largest port. Bangladeshi taka is the currency of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman often shortened as Sheikh Mujib or Mujib, was a Bangladeshi politician, statesman and Founding Father of Bangladesh who served as the first President and later as the Prime Minister of Bangladesh from 17 April 1971 until his assassination on 15 August 1975. Mohammad Abdul Hamid is the 16th and current President of Bangladesh, in office since April 2013. Sheikh Hasina is the current Prime Minister of the Bangladesh. India shares its longest international border with Bangladesh (4,096-kilometer) (2,545-mile).

Oxford University ranked first in the world for Computer Science

- For the second year running the University of Oxford has been ranked first in the world for Computer Science in the Times Higher Education 2022 World University Rankings.
- 891 universities from 75 countries and regions are ranked for Computer Science. With Europe claiming 31 of the top 100 positions and an impressive 82 of the top 200. The University of Cambridge and Switzerland's EHT Zurich claimed joint fourth.
- The Department is one of the longest-established Computer Science departments in the world and is the home to a community of world-class research and teaching. Research activities encompass core Computer Science (algorithms, data, programming languages, and artificial intelligence), as well as human-centred computing, automated verification, computational biology, cyber physical systems, quantum computing and security.

Russian film crew in orbit to make first movie in space

- A Russian actor and a film director rocketed to space on a mission to make the world's first movie in orbit, a project the Kremlin said will help the nation's space glory.
- Actor Yulia Peresild and director Klim Shipenko blasted off for the International Space Station in a Russian Soyuz spacecraft together with cosmonaut Anton Shkaplerov, a veteran of three space missions. Their Soyuz MS-19 lifted off from the Russian space launch facility in Baikonur, Kazakhstan and arrived at the station after about 3½ hours.
- The trio reported they were feeling fine and spacecraft systems were functioning normally. Peresild and Klimenko are to film segments of a new movie titled "Challenge," in which a surgeon played by Peresild rushes to the space station to save a crew member who needs an urgent operation in orbit.

The International Space Station (ISS) is a space station, or a habitable artificial satellite, in low Earth orbit. Its first component launched into orbit in 1998, and the ISS is now the largest human-made body in low Earth orbit. The ISS serves as a microgravity and space environment research laboratory in which crew members conduct experiments in biology, human biology, physics, astronomy, meteorology, and other fields. Five different space agencies representing 15 countries built the \$100-billion International Space Station and continue to operate it today. NASA, Russia's Roscosmos State Corporation for Space Activities (Roscosmos), the European Space Agency, the Canadian Space Agency and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency are the primary space agency partners on the project.

Germany's Greens meet conservatives for crunch coalition talks

- Germany's Greens met Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives for talks to explore whether they and a smaller liberal party could form a new coalition government following last month's national election.
- Unlike some other countries, where the president or monarch invites parties to enter talks on forming a government, in Germany it is up to the parties themselves to find their own partners. The centre-left Social Democrats (SPD), who narrowly won the election, said they were ready to move to three-way coalition talks with the Greens and business-friendly Free Democrats (FDP).

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. Euro is its official currency.

Mansukh Mandaviya releases UNICEF's publication 'The State of the World's Children 2021'

- **Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya released UNICEF's global flagship publication – "The State of the World's Children 2021; On My Mind: promoting, protecting and caring for children's mental health in New Delhi. The report details the significant impact of COVID-19 pandemic on children's mental health. Describing significance of the report which focuses on mental health, Mr Mandaviya said that Mental Health is both an old issue and an emerging issue. He highlighted that "COVID-19 was a test of mental stress for the entire society.**
- **Dr Yasmin Ali Haque, UNICEF India Representative presented some key findings of the report. The State of the World's Children 2021 has found that around 14 per cent of 15 to 24-year-olds in India, or one in seven, reported often feeling depressed or having little interest in doing things.**

UNICEF, also known as the United Nations Children's Fund, is a United Nations agency responsible for providing humanitarian and developmental aid to children worldwide. The agency is among the most widespread and recognizable social welfare organizations in the world, with a presence in 192 countries and territories. UNICEF is the successor of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund also known as the UNICEF, created on December 11, 1946, in New York, by the U.N. Relief Rehabilitation Administration to provide immediate relief to children and mothers affected by World War II. **Henrietta H. Holsman Fore is an American public health and international development executive who serves as the Executive Director of UNICEF.**

Austria's Sebastian Kurz steps down over corruption probe to save coalition

- **Austria's conservative Chancellor Sebastian Kurz resigned to pull his coalition government back from the brink of collapse after the junior party demanded his head because he has been placed under investigation on suspicion of corruption.**
- **The move by Kurz, who denies wrongdoing, satisfied his coalition partner, the Greens, and came just three days before a special session of parliament at which they were preparing to back a motion of no-confidence that would have forced him out.**
- **Sebastian Kurz is an Austrian politician currently serving as chairman and parliamentary leader of the Austrian People's Party (OVP). He was twice chancellor of Austria, initially from December 2017 to May 2019 and then a second time from January 2020 to October 2021. For about four years, Kurz was the youngest head of government in the world as well as the youngest chancellor in Austrian history, being first elected into office at age 31.**

Austria is a landlocked East Alpine country in the southern part of Central Europe. It is composed of nine federated states, one of which is Vienna, Austria's capital and largest city. Alexander Van der Bellen is the current President of Austria. Alexander Schallenberg is serving as Chancellor of Austria since 11 October 2021. Euro is the official currency of it.

Abolhassan Baniadr, Iran's first president after 1979 revolution, dies

- **Abolhassan Baniadr, Iran's first president after the country's 1979 Islamic Revolution who fled Tehran after being impeached for challenging the growing power of clerics as the nation became a theocracy, died.**
- **Among a sea of black-robed Shiite clerics, Baniadr stood out for his Western-style suits and a background so French that it was in philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre that he confided his belief he'd be Iran's first president some 15 years before it happened.**
- **Those differences only isolated him as the nationalist sought to instill a socialist-style economy in Iran underpinned by his deep Shiite faith instilled by his cleric father.**

Iran also called Persia is a country in Western Asia and its capital is Tehran. The rial is the currency of Iran. Hassan Rouhani is the current President and Sayyid Ali Hosseini Khamenei is the current Supreme Leader. Ebrahim Raisi is the current President-elect of Iran and will assume office 3 August 2021.

Germany unveils world's first automated, driverless train

- German rail operator Deutsche Bahn and industrial group Siemens unveiled the world's first automated, driverless train in the city of Hamburg, billing it as more punctual and energy efficient than traditional trains.
- The project, which Siemens and Deutsche Bahn called a "world first", is part of a 60 million euro (\$70 million) modernisation of Hamburg's rapid urban rail system.
- It would be the first time that a fully automated Hamburg train will run on sharing tracks with other regular trains. While other cities in Europe, for instance, Paris, already have driverless metros and the airports often have automated monorail trains plying terminals, those are operated on exclusive single tracks, according to local German reports.

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. 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 the President of Germany since 19 March 2017. Euro is the official currency of it. Angela Dorothea Merkel is serving as the chancellor of Germany since 2005.

Iraq: Cleric Moqtada al-Sadr's party 'biggest winner' in parliamentary election

- In Iraq, Shi'ite Muslim cleric Moqtada al-Sadr's party is the biggest winner in an Iraqi parliamentary election. His party has increased the number of its seats from 54 in 2018 to 73 this time in the 329-member parliament, according to initial results.
- However, with 94 percent of the ballot boxes counted, none of the competing political blocs appeared on track to win a majority in parliament and consequently name a Prime Minister. Kurdish parties have won 61 seats. Sunni parliament speaker Mohammed al-Halbousi's Taqaddum coalition won 38 seats. Former Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's State Of Law coalition came third overall with 37.

Iraq is a country in Western Asia, bordered by Turkey to the north, Iran to the east, Kuwait to the southeast, Saudi Arabia to the south, Jordan to the southwest and Syria to the west. The capital and largest city is Baghdad. The Iraqi dinar is the currency of Iraq. Mustafa al-Kadhimi is currently serving as the Prime Minister of Iraq since May 2020. Barham Salih is the current President of Iraq.

China, Russia launch joint naval drills in Russian Far East

- China and Russia are holding joint naval drills off the Russian Far East in the latest sign of their growing political and military alignment. The exercises Joint Sea 2021 kicked off with a ceremony in Russia's Peter the Great Gulf.
- Chinese state media say the drills encompass communications, anti-mine, anti-air and anti-submarine operations, joint maneuvering and firing on seaborne targets. While such exercises have been held before, the reports say this is the first time China has sent anti-submarine warfare planes and destroyers for exercises abroad. China and Russia are united in opposing U.S. influence and are harsh critics of Washington's foreign policy stumbles in Afghanistan and elsewhere.

China is a country in East Asia and the world's most populous country, with a population of around 1.404 billion. Beijing is the capital of the People's Republic of China. Xi Jinping is serving as president of the People's Republic of China. National People's Congress is the national legislature of the People's Republic of China. With 2,980 members in 2018, it is the largest parliamentary body in the world. China's currency yuan joins the International Monetary Fund's basket of reserve currencies. China claims sovereignty over all of the South China Sea, a huge source of hydrocarbons. However, several ASEAN member countries, including Vietnam, Philippines and Brunei, have made counterclaims. Chinese claims in the South China Sea are described in part by the nine-dash line. China and India are the two neighbouring countries in Asia. India shares 3488 km of

border with China that runs along the states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand and Arunachal Pradesh. The Belt and Road Initiative, known in Chinese and formerly in English as One Belt One Road or OBOR for short, is a global infrastructure development strategy adopted by the Chinese government in 2013 to invest in nearly 70 countries and international organizations.

Indian Army contingent departs for Indo-US Joint Military Exercise “Ex Yudh Abhyas 2021” in Alaska

- The 17th edition of the joint military training exercise “Ex Yudh Abhyas 2021” was conducted at Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, Alaska, the United States as part of the ongoing Indo-US Defence Cooperation. The contingent, comprising of 350 personnel of an Infantry Battalion Group departed on October 14.
- The Exercise YudhAbhyas is the largest running joint military training and defense cooperation endeavour between India and the US. The earlier version of this exercise was held in India at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Bikaner, Rajasthan earlier this year in the month of February. This exercise is a milestone in the growing military cooperation between the two countries.
- The exercise is from October 15-29 and aims at enhancing interoperability, cooperation and understanding. During the exercise the two sides will work on combined arms manoeuvres in cold climatic conditions. And the primary aim is learning best practices from each other and sharing tactical level drills. The Indian Army has deployed 350 soldiers of the 7 Madras infantry battalion. And the US side has sent in 300 soldiers belonging to the First Squadron (Airborne) of the 40th Cavalry Regiment. The exercise was started in 2004 under the US Army Pacific Partnership Program.

Norway’s Labor and Center parties to form a minority government

- Norway’s leftwing Labour Party and the rural Centre Party have agreed to form a minority government. The deal paves the way for Labour leader Jonas Gahr Stoere to become prime minister, replacing Conservative Prime Minister Erna Solberg who said after losing the election that she plans to step down.

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.

Moscow Metro Introduces ‘World’s First’ Pay-by-Face System

- The Moscow Metro rolled out what authorities have touted as the world’s first fare payment system based on facial recognition technology. The cashless, cardless and phone-less system, called “Face Pay,” has been fitted at special turnstiles across the Russian capital’s more than 240 metro stations.

8th Edition of joint military exercise MITRA SHAKTI between Indian, Sri Lanka culminates

- The 8th Edition of joint military exercise MITRA SHAKTI between the Indian Army and the Sri Lankan Army culminated in Ampara, Sri Lanka. Exercise Mitra Shakti, based on counter insurgency and counter terrorism operations in semi urban terrain is the largest bilateral exercise being undertaken by the Sri Lankan Army and it forms a major part of India and Sri Lanka’s growing defence partnership.

Global Hunger Index 2021: India slips to 101st spot, behind Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal

- India has slipped to the 101st position among 116 countries in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2021 from its 2020 ranking (94), to be placed behind Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal. Eighteen countries, including China, Brazil and Kuwait, shared the top rank with GHI score of less than five, the website of the Global Hunger Index that tracks hunger and malnutrition said.
- With this, only 15 countries — Papua New Guinea (102), Afghanistan (103), Nigeria (103), Congo (105), Mozambique (106), Sierra Leone (106), Timor-Leste (108), Haiti (109), Liberia (110), Madagascar (111),

Democratic Republic of Congo (112), Chad (113), Central African Republic (114), Yemen (115) and Somalia (116) — fared worse than India this year.

- The report, prepared jointly by Irish aid agency Concern Worldwide and German organisation Welt Hunger Hilfe, mentioned the level of hunger in India as “alarming” with its GHI score decelerating from 38.8 in 2000 to the range of 28.8 – 27.5 between 2012 and 2021.
- The GHI score is calculated on four indicators — undernourishment; child wasting (the share of children under the age of five who have low weight for their height, reflecting acute under nutrition); child stunting (children under the age of five who have low height for their age, reflecting chronic under nutrition); child mortality (the mortality rate of children under the age of five).

The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is published annually as part of a partnership between Concern Worldwide, Ireland’s largest aid and humanitarian agency and Welthungerhilfe. The first GHI report was published in 2006. The GHI is intended to be “a tool designed to comprehensively measure and track hunger at global, regional, and national levels”.

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) added Turkey and two other countries to its ‘grey list.’

- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) added Turkey and two other countries to its ‘grey list.’ The international organisation deals with monitoring and the setting up of guidelines to combat money laundering and terrorism financing.
- This adds to Turkey’s troubles as is already in the thick of an economic crisis, with its currency rapidly devaluing against the dollar. For Turkey, which is joined by Jordan and Mali on the list, its inclusion means that investors and creditors are less likely to put their money into the country. Pakistan is also on the list.
- Exports, output and consumption suffer domestically and the fiscal position for the country is also weakened as global banks are reluctant to conduct more business in the country. The international pressure also comes in the form of withheld international aid and lowered confidence in the macroeconomic policies of a nation.
- The FATF took two countries — Botswana and Mauritius — out of the grey list. It is because these countries had made significant progress in addressing the strategic AML/CFT (Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism) deficiencies identified earlier by the FATF and included in their respective action plans.
- The first list, ‘Call for action,’ also called the FATF Black List, features countries that the group has considered non-cooperative in the global fight against money laundering and terrorist financing. Currently, this list only contains North Korea and Iran.
- The ‘grey list’ or the ‘Other monitored jurisdictions’ list, on the other hand, features countries where the FATF trains a bigger lens on the financial goings-on of a country to ensure they are meeting the recommendation criteria set out by the organisation.

The FATF is an international intergovernmental agency that was founded in 1989 with backing from the Group of Seven (G7) countries to combat money laundering. The FATF Secretariat is located at the OECD headquarters in Paris. After the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in the US, the mandate of the group was expanded to combat terror financing as well. The Financial Action Task Force comprises over 39 member countries including India. Dr. Marcus Pleyer of Germany assumed the position of President of the FATF on 1 July 2020. He succeeded Xiangmin Liu of the People’s Republic of China.

Northern Ireland Protocol

- During negotiations the EU and UK agreed a Northern Ireland Protocol that there would be no new checks on goods crossing the border between NI and the Republic of Ireland (ROI). The protocol was designed to prevent checks along the border between Northern Ireland (in the UK) and the Republic of Ireland (in the EU), following Brexit.
- But since it came into force at the start of 2021, it has prompted disagreements between the UK and EU because it has disrupted trade between Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

- During Brexit negotiations, **all sides agreed that protecting the 1998 Northern Ireland peace deal (the Good Friday agreement) was an absolute priority. That meant keeping the land border open and avoiding new infrastructure such as cameras and border posts.**
- This was easy to do when both Ireland and Northern Ireland were part of the EU. **Both sides automatically shared the same EU rules on trade and no checks were needed on goods travelling between them.**
- **Current Issue of Contention:** Under the protocol, **foods with animal origins coming from mainland Britain into Northern Ireland need health certification. This has been done to ensure that the food items meet European standards as they would end up in Ireland, part of the EU’s single market.**
- **The UK wants a light-touch system (with minimal checks) on goods that companies promise will stay in Northern Ireland.** On the other hand, the EU wants **Britain to sign up to Europe’s health certification rules to minimize the need for controls. Regulations like this have been waived during the ongoing “grace period”, which is scheduled to end later in 2021.**

Northern Ireland Protocol aims to resolve the issue of the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Northern Ireland is part of the UK and the Republic of Ireland remains part of the European Union (EU). It has been one of the major issues created by Brexit. This frontier is contested and parts of it were fortified during the decades of violence known as “The Troubles”. With the Good Friday Agreement those visible signs of division melted away along the open border, however, it has again come into a troubled position with Brexit. The Good Friday Agreement, also known as Belfast Agreement, was reached on Good Friday, 10th April 1998. It was an agreement between the British and Irish governments and most of the political parties in Northern Ireland, on how Northern Ireland should be governed. Under Brexit, the UK Prime Minister insisted on leaving Europe’s customs union and its single market, allowing goods to flow freely across European borders without checks. The protocol sets out a plan to deal with this unique situation by effectively leaving Northern Ireland half inside the European system and half inside the British one.

World’s First UNESCO Trail Launched in Scotland

- **The world’s first ever UNESCO trail, bringing together some of Scotland’s most iconic, diverse and culturally significant sites. Scotland’s UNESCO Trail connects the country’s 13 place-based UNESCO designations, including World Heritage Sites, Biospheres, Global Geoparks and Creative Cities to form a dedicated digital trail.**
- **It aims to take visitors on a cultural journey across the country experiencing everything from history to science, music, design and literature to nature and cityscapes.**
- **Designed specifically to support ambitions to make Scotland a world-leading responsible tourism destination, Scotland’s UNESCO Trail encourages visitors to stay longer, visit all year round, make sustainable travel choices, explore more widely and at the right time of the year, and in turn, contribute to the sustainable quality of life of those communities surrounding the designated sites.**

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) based in Paris. Audrey Azoulay appointed as the Director-general of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), becoming the second female leader of the organization. UNESCO was founded in 1945 as the successor to the League of Nations’ International Committee on Intellectual Cooperation.

Seville to become world’s first city to name heat waves

- **Seville, Spain, will become the first city in the world to begin naming and categorizing heat waves, similar to the system already in place for hurricanes. Kicking off in 2022, the plan is part of an increasing global effort to bring more attention to heat waves as an immediate threat and symptom of climate change.**
- **The City of Seville is collaborating with the Atlantic Council’s Adrienne Arsht-Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Center (Arsht-Rock), its Science Advisory Panel – comprising leading climatologists and public health, disaster relief, and social and behavioral scientists – and AEMET, Spain’s meteorological agency, the Spanish Agency for Climate Change, the University of Sevilla, and the Pablo de Olavide University, to develop**

the methodology behind a formal naming and categorization system for heat waves, which will commence in 2022.

- Kathy Baughman McLeod, SVP and director of Arsht-Rock Center and Mauricio Rodas, former Mayor of Quito, Atlantic Council fellow, and lead for Arsht-Rock's Extreme Heat Resilience Alliance, City Champions for Heat Action initiative, also spoke at today's event alongside the Mayor.
- This methodology will categorize and name heat waves on the basis of their impact on human health, since heat is one of the major weather-related killers in Seville and other cities in Europe.
- This will permit local officials to implement specific policies, such as opening air conditioned shelters or adding extra staff to emergency rooms, when heat waves are ranked highly because they are expected to be associated with large negative health outcomes. Categorizing dangerous meteorological events based upon health impact is unique and important in developing proper means to deal with their damaging effects.

Seville is the capital and largest city of the Spanish autonomous community of Andalusia and the province of Seville. It is situated on the lower reaches of the River Guadalquivir, in the southwest of the Iberian Peninsula.

A global first links 13 of Scotland's UNESCO cities and sites in a digital trail

- Long renowned as the birthplace of literary heroes and authors such as Arthur Conan Doyle and Muriel Spark, Edinburgh is one of 13 sites in Scotland recognised by UNESCO as a place of international importance.
- Now the city, along with the nearby Forth Bridge connecting it to Fife, will become part of the world's first ever UNESCO trail. Designed to help transform Scotland into a world-leading responsible tourism destination, the digital trail connects together for the first time all of Scotland's UNESCO world heritage sites, biospheres, geoparks and cities of culture.
- Under a wider initiative of promoting responsible tourism, the Scottish government has collaborated with tourism and heritage organisations to launch the trail ahead of the COP 26 climate change summit being held in Glasgow from 31 October.

World's First Desert-Circling Railway "Closed Loop" Expected to Run in 2022

- Heruo Railway, the "last kilometer" of the railway encircling Taklimakan Desert, completed laying tracks, setting the foundation for operating the world's first desert-circling railway in 2022.
- The construction of the Heruo Railway began in December 2018. It is designed to connect Hetian City in Southern Xinjiang and Ruoqiang County in Bayingolin Mongolian Autonomous Prefecture.
- Heruo Railway, together with the existing Geku Railway, Kahe Railway, and Southern Xinjiang Railway, forms a closed railway loop around the Taklimakan Desert.

Barbados elects first ever president ahead of becoming republic

- Barbados has elected its first ever president as it prepares to become a republic, removing Queen Elizabeth as head of state. Dame Sandra Mason, 72, is set to be sworn in on 30 November, which will mark the country's 55th anniversary of independence from Britain. The first woman to serve on the Barbados Court of Appeals, Dame Sandra has been governor-general since 2018.
- The government announced the plan to move to a republic status last year. It said the time had come for Barbados to fully leave the colonial past behind. The change had already been recommended by a constitutional review in 1998.
- With a population of about 285,000, Barbados is one of the more populous and prosperous Caribbean islands. Once heavily dependent on sugar exports, its economy has diversified into tourism and finance. Barbados will not be the first former British colony in the Caribbean to become a republic. Guyana took that step in 1970, less than four years after gaining independence from Britain. Trinidad and Tobago followed suit in 1976 and Dominica in 1978.

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.

Konkan Shakti exercise: India, UK begin first-ever joint tri-services exercise

- The maiden bilateral tri-service exercise, **Konkan Shakti 21**, between the armed forces of India and the UK culminated in the Arabian Sea on October 27. With the arrival of the UK Carrier Strike Group on the western coast, **India-U.K. ties will gear up for a phase of high profile engagements.**
- The Strike Group led by HMS Queen Elizabeth is on a “non-provocative” exercise in the Indo-Pacific region in what is being interpreted as the biggest British naval deployment since the end of the Cold War.
- The defence ministry said in a statement, “Drills undertaken during the exercise involved replenishment at sea practice, strike operations by fighter aircraft, cross control of helicopters, **simulated induction of army troops, gun shoots on expendable air targets, advanced air and sub-surface exercises, composite helicopter formation fly-past and large force engagement involving fighter aircraft of the UK (F35B), Indian Navy (MiG 29K) and Indian Air Force (SU-30 and Jaguar),** all of which reflected high synergy, professionalism and readiness of both nations to conduct joint maritime operations, when required.”

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.

India at 71st on Global Food Security index 2021 of 113 nations

- Global Food Security (GFS) Index 2021 of 113 countries, but the country lags behind its neighbours Pakistan and Sri Lanka in terms food affordability, according to a report. According to the report, **India held 71st position with an overall score of 57.2 points on the GFS Index 2021 of 113 countries,** fared better than Pakistan (75th position), Sri Lanka (77th Position), Nepal (79th position) and Bang
- Ireland, Australia, the UK, Finland, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Canada, Japan, France and the US shared the top rank with the overall GFS score in the range of 77.8 and 80 points on the index. **The GFS Index was designed and constructed by London-based Economist Impact and is sponsored by Corteva Agriscience.**

The GFS Index was designed and constructed by London-based Economist Impact and is sponsored by Corteva Agriscience. The GFS Index measures the underlying drivers of food security in 113 countries, based on the factors of affordability, availability, quality and safety, and natural resources and resilience. **It considers 58 unique food security indicators including income and economic inequality – calling attention to systemic gaps and actions needed to accelerate progress toward United Nations Sustainable Development Goal of Zero Hunger by 2030.**

Luxembourg becomes first European country to legalise cannabis

- In a bid to bring fundamental changes in country’s approach towards recreational drugs, **Luxembourg has become the first country in Europe to legalise growing and consuming cannabis.**
- The country’s government announced **that from now on, people aged 18 and above will be allowed to grow a maximum of four cannabis plants per household. Locals will have to use their household boundary — indoors, outdoors, balcony, terrace or garden — to grow cannabis at home. Nobody will be permitted to grow the recreational drug in public spaces.**

Luxembourg is a landlocked country in Western Europe. It is bordered by Belgium to the west and north, Germany to the east, and France to the south. Its capital, Luxembourg City, is one of the four official capitals of the European Union (together with Brussels, Frankfurt, and Strasbourg) and the seat of the Court of Justice of the European Union, the highest judicial authority in the EU. Xavier Bettel is a Luxembourg lawyer and politician who has served as Prime Minister of Luxembourg since 2013. Henri is the Grand Duke of Luxembourg. Euro is its official currency of it.

Glasgow to host COP-26 summit from Oct 31

- The UK will host the COP 26 UN Climate Change Conference from October 31 to November 12. This year marks the 26th Conference of Parties (thus the name COP26) and will be held in the Scottish Event Campus in Glasgow.
- The most critical climate change conference since the Paris Agreement, the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP-26) is to be hosted by United Kingdom in Glasgow. At COP-26, public, social, and private sector leaders will unite to seek solutions, alongside BCG, the exclusive COP-26 consultancy partner.
- The Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement call for financial assistance from parties with more financial resources to those that are less endowed and more vulnerable. Climate finance is needed for mitigation because large-scale investments are required to significantly reduce emissions.
- The Paris Agreement reaffirms the obligations of developed countries, while for the first time also encouraging voluntary contributions by other parties. Such mobilization of climate finance should represent a progression beyond previous efforts.
- According to the UNFCCC, COP26 will work towards four goals: 1. Secure global net-zero by mid-century and keep 1.5 degrees within reach. 2. Adapt to protect communities and natural habitats. 3. Mobilise finance: To deliver on our first two goals, developed countries must make good on their promise to mobilise at least \$100 bn in climate finance per year by 2020. 4. ‘Finalise the Paris Rulebook’: Leaders will work together to frame a list of detailed rules that will help fulfil the Paris Agreement.

Conference of Parties (COP) comes under the United Nations Climate Change Framework Convention (UNFCCC) which was formed in 1994. The UNFCCC entered into force in 1994, and nearly all of the world's nations have now signed on. The UNFCCC was adopted in 1992 at the Rio Earth Summit, which marked the beginning of the international community's first concerted effort to confront the problem of climate change. Known also as the Rio Convention, the UNFCCC established a framework for action to stabilise concentrations of greenhouse gases in the earth's atmosphere. It is the parent treaty of the 2015 Paris Agreement. It is also the parent treaty of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol.

G7 countries reach breakthrough on digital trade and data

- The Group of Seven wealthy nations agreed on principles to govern cross-border data use and digital trade, Britain said in what was described as a breakthrough that could liberalise hundreds of billions of dollars of international commerce. Trade ministers from the G7 reached agreement at a meeting in London.
- The deal sets out a middle ground between highly regulated data protection regimes used in European countries and the more open approach of the United States.

Group of Seven (G7) is an intergovernmental organisation consisting of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. The heads of government of the member states, as well as the representatives of the European Union, meet at the annual G7 Summit. The seven countries involved are also the largest IMF-advanced economies in the world. The concept of a forum for the world's major industrialized countries emerged before the 1973 oil crisis.

Abu Dhabi gets world's first Warner Bros. hotel

- The first-ever Warner Bros. hotel in the world is opened in Abu Dhabi. The hotel promises experiences to visitors with their beloved stories and characters. The hotel will also tell the film's history and offer a 360-degree city and sea views. Guests can also enjoy wearing their favorite costumes from Warner Bros. movies and TV shows.

- **The hotel is built on the popular Yas Island, which is one of the biggest tourist destinations in Abu Dhabi.** The new hotel marked the opening of the world's largest indoor theme park. The guests will see digital screens playing scenes from Warner Bros.' archives.

Abu Dhabi is the capital and the second most populous city of the United Arab Emirates (the most populous being Dubai), and also capital of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, the largest of the UAE's seven emirates. United Arab Emirates (UAE) is a federal sovereign absolute monarchy in Western Asia. Khalifa Al Nahyan is the current President of the United Arab Emirates. Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum is the Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Ruler of the Emirate of Dubai. United Arab Emirates dirham is the currency of the United Arab Emirates. It is bordered by Saudi Arabia to the west and south and by Oman to the east and northeast. The land border with Qatar in the Khawr al Udayd area is a source of ongoing dispute.

Saudi Arabia is Converting an Oil Rig into the World's First Offshore Extreme Amusement and Leisure Park

- **Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund** has announced that it will convert an oil rig into a 150,000 square meter amusement park and resort located in the Arabian Gulf.
- Titled "THE RIG.", the project is expected to be the world's first touristic destination built on offshore oil platforms, featuring three hotels, eleven world-class restaurants, roller coaster rides, and extreme sports and activities like bungee jumping and skydiving, all accessible via a ferry, yacht, cruise, or helicopter.

Saudi Arabia is a sovereign Arab state in Western Asia. Saudi Arabia is the largest country in the Middle East. Riyadh is the capital and most populous city of Saudi Arabia. Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud has been King of Saudi Arabia, Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia, and Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques since 23 January 2015. Mohammad bin Salman is the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, also serving as First Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Council for Economic and Development Affairs and Minister of Defense—the world's youngest office holder at the time. Saudi riyal is the currency of Saudi Arabia.

Uzbek president secures second term in landslide victory

- **Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev** has been re-elected for a second five-year term, winning 80.1% of the vote in which Western observers said was not truly competitive despite improvements brought by recent reforms.
- **Mirziyoyev's widely expected victory** will allow him to deepen his reform campaign and likely lead to Uzbekistan opening up further to foreign trade and investment - while retaining a highly centralised political system.
- He has also rebuilt the resource-rich country's ties with both Russia and the West and pledges to cut poverty through rapid economic growth and gradually decentralise decision-making by devolving some powers to district councils.

The Republic of Uzbekistan is a very landlocked country in Central Asia. It is itself surrounded by five landlocked countries: Kazakhstan to the north; Kyrgyzstan to the northeast; Tajikistan to the southeast; Afghanistan to the south, Turkmenistan to the south-west. Its capital and largest city is Tashkent. The sou'm is the currency of Uzbekistan in Central Asia.

Denmark PM to become first world leader to visit India in 20 months

- **Denmark Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen** visited India over the weekend, becoming the first head of government to visit New Delhi in over 20 months, where she was welcomed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- **The last time any foreign leader visited India** was Myanmar's President Win Myint from February 26 to 29, 2020 and the then US President Donald Trump. The Danish PM is now in India to discuss details about 'Green Strategic Partnership'. The two countries had held a virtual summit on the topic in September 2020 as the two sides want to work together on green growth by focusing on an ambitious implementation of the Paris Agreement and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Denmark is a Nordic country in Northern Europe. The Kingdom of Denmark is constitutionally a unitary state comprising metropolitan Denmark and the two autonomous territories. 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). Mette Frederiksen has been Prime Minister of Denmark since June 2019. The krone is the official currency of Denmark, Greenland, and the Faroe Islands, introduced on 1 January 1875.

US, Bahrain conduct first drone drills in Gulf

- The US and Bahrain navies conducted a joint exercise at sea, launching a series of drills integrating unmanned systems into regional maritime operations.
- The US Fifth Fleet, based in Bahrain, announced last month it launched a new task force in the Gulf to rapidly incorporate drones and artificial intelligence into operations, saying Task Force 59 would rely on regional and coalition partnerships. The announcement by the US Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT) came amid maritime tensions between Iran and its arch-enemy Israel, with which Bahrain normalised ties last year.

Developed Countries push 100 billion Dollar climate finance goal target deadline to 2023

- UK which holds the Presidency of the summit published a Climate Finance Delivery Plan to provide clarity on when and how developed countries will meet the 100 billion Dollar climate finance goal. The new outlook states that the goal will be met from 2023. This is three years later than what was committed to by the Developed Countries at the Paris Summit in 2015.
- Developed countries committed to a goal of mobilising jointly 100 billion Dollars a year by 2020 to address the needs of developing countries, in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation. The Parties committed to continue delivering on this goal through 2025 at Paris conference.
- The Climate Finance Delivery Plan calls upon those developed countries who have not yet made a pledge should come forward with an ambitious climate finance commitment as soon as possible.

Penny Black, the world's first postage stamp

- An example of the world's first postage stamp, the Penny Black, is being offered at auction. Dating from 1840, the item is “the earliest securely dated example of the first postage stamp”.

African Union suspends Sudan after military coup

- The African Union has suspended Sudan from all of its activities until the civilian-led transitional authority is restored. Abdalla Hamdok was arrested during the coup.
- Sudanese General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan had ordered the dissolution of the government and declared a state of emergency. Since then, thousands of citizens have mounted protests, chanting “No to military rule.”

The African Union (AU) is a continental union consisting of 55 member states located on the continent of Africa. The AU was announced in the Sirte Declaration in Sirte, Libya, on 9 September 1999, calling for the establishment of the African Union. The bloc was founded on 26 May 2001 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and launched on 9 July 2002 in Durban, South Africa. The intention of the AU was to replace the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), established on 25 May 1963 in Addis Ababa by 32 signatory governments; the OAU was disbanded on 9 July 2002. Moussa Faki Mahamat is the current Chairperson of the African Union Commission.

ECONOMY AND FINANCE



Economy News

India bags 14th spot in World Giving Index; 61% Indians helped strangers in 2020 Covid pandemic

- **India has stood among the top-20 generous countries**, according to the CAF World Giving Index 2021. **India has bagged the 14th spot and is up from the 10-year global rank of 82.** “India is one of the fastest climbers on the Index, it ranks 14 this year, in the 10th Anniversary report, India ranked 82,” the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) latest survey said.
- **As per the report, 61% more Indians have helped a stranger during the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic year.** Last year, **36% of Indians donated money, 34% volunteered for social causes in the country.**
- **Globally, developed countries like the USA, Canada, Ireland, the UK, and the Netherlands fell out of the highest ranking, only Australia and New Zealand maintained the top-10 ranking.** Interestingly, poor countries like **Kenya, Nigeria, and Ghana were spotted under the top-10 generous countries in the CAF 2021 index.**

India emerges as Dubai’s second biggest trade partner

- **Dubai’s biggest trade partner is China, recording 30.7% growth year-on-year with total trade in H1 2020. India has emerged as Dubai’s second biggest trading partner after China** with the overall volume touching 38.5 billion dirham in the first half of 2021.
- According to a Dubai government statement, **the emirate had a trade volume of 86.7 billion dirham with China in H1 (first half) of 2021, followed by India and the U.S. at third position.** Trade with India grew 74.5% year-on-year to 67.1 billion dirham from 38.5 billion dirham in H1 2020.

UK’s Wellington College to open schools in India, 1st campus to come up in Pune

- **UK’s Wellington College International and India’s Unison Group have entered a partnership to open premium schools in India.**
- **The schools will share the values, ethos, enduring quality and ambition of Wellington College, while combining the very best of British and Indian education.**

SEBI approves frameworks for Gold and Social Stock Exchanges

- **Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has approved the frameworks for gold exchange and Social Stock Exchange. A gold exchange is being set up to trade the yellow metal in the form of electronic gold receipts, which will help in having a transparent domestic spot price discovery mechanism.**
- **The instrument representing gold is to be called Electronic Gold Receipt (EGR), and will be having trading, clearing and settlement features akin to other securities.** In a statement, SEBI said, **the Gold Exchange, encompassing the entire ecosystem of trading of EGR and physical delivery of gold, is expected to create a vibrant gold ecosystem in the country.**

- The Gold Exchange would be a national platform for buying and selling EGRs with underlying standardized gold in India and also create a national pricing structure for gold.
- Under the creation of Social Stock Exchange (SSE), the Sebi board said, it will be used for purpose of fund raising by social entrepreneurs. SSE will be a separate segment of the existing stock exchanges.
- Social Enterprises (SEs) eligible to participate in the SSE should be entities, Non-Profit Organizations, and for-profit social enterprises, having social intent and impact as their primary goal.
- The framework for the SSE has been developed on the basis of the recommendations of a working group and technical group constituted by the regulator.
- The Sebi board has decided to amend rules pertaining to delisting of equity shares of a company following an open offer as part of efforts to make merger and acquisition transactions more rational and convenient. It also eased eligibility requirements relating to Superior Voting Rights shares framework.

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.

Delhi Greenest City for Real Estate In India, Ranks 63rd Globally: Report

- Delhi is the greenest city for real estate in India but ranks 63rd globally, according to a study by property consultant Knight Frank. London, Shanghai, New York, Paris and Washington DC are the world's top five green cities for real estate.
- “Globally ranked 63rd, Delhi is the greenest city for real estate in India. Followed by Chennai with a global rank of 224, Mumbai with a global rank of 240, Hyderabad with a global rank of 245, Bengaluru with a global rank of 259 and Pune with a global rank of 260,” Knight Frank said in a statement.
- US, UK, Germany, France, and the Netherlands are set to be the top destinations for cross border real estate investment in 2022.

Indel Money partners with IndusInd Bank for India's first conventional gold loan co-lending partnership

- Indel Money, a non-banking finance company (NBFC) pioneering in gold loans, has entered into a first-of-its-kind conventional gold loan co-lending partnership with IndusInd Bank to offer gold loans at competitive rates to a bigger and diverse segment of borrowers.
- Under the co-lending partnership agreement, Indel Money will originate and process gold loans based on mutually formulated credit parameters and eligibility criteria.
- The company will service the customers through the entire lifecycle of the loans including sourcing, documentation, collection and loan servicing.
- IndusInd Bank will take into its book 80% of the gold loan generated by the co-lending arrangement while the remaining 20% will be funded by Indel Money. The NBFC will start the co-lending partnership with a pilot project in Sept 2021 before expanding it pan India.

IndusInd Bank Limited is a new-generation Indian bank headquartered in Pune. The bank offers commercial, transactional and electronic banking products and services. IndusInd Bank was inaugurated in April 1994 by then Union Finance Minister Manmohan Singh. IndusInd Bank is the first among the new-generation private banks in India.

Ranthambore's 700-year-old Barwara Fort becomes India's 1st Six Senses hotel

- A 14th century fort in Rajasthan's famed tiger district Ranthambore has been “sensitively” converted into a luxury hotel, marking the entry of hospitality major InterContinental Hotels Group's (IHG) wellness and sustainability brand Six Senses into India.

- **The original Barwara Fort was constructed in the 14th century by the Chauhans. The 700-year-old fort's restoration took more than a decade, incorporating two palaces and as many temples within the walled fort. Now converted into a hotel, it has 48 one-bedroom suites designed in a contemporary Rajasthani style. The resort has three restaurants with a bar and lounge, apart from a Six Senses Spa and fitness centre and two swimming pools, banqueting areas, a lifestyle boutique and a children's club.**

IITian entrepreneur makes into Hurun Top 10 India rich list for first time

- **Indian-American entrepreneur and the CEO-founder of cloud security company Zscaler, Jay Chaudhry is tenth richest Indian, according to a report by IIFL-Hurun India's top 10 rich list.**
- **The increased demand for enterprise cyber security services amidst increased corporate ransomware attacks contributed a 85% increase in Chaudhry's wealth and stormed into the top 10 of IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich list 2021.**

Textiles Ministry approves continuation of Comprehensive Handicrafts Cluster Development Scheme

- **Ministry of Textiles has approved continuation of Comprehensive Handicrafts Cluster Development Scheme with a total outlay of 160 crore rupees. The scheme will continue up to March 2026. Infrastructural support, market access, design and technology up-gradation support etc will be provided to handicrafts artisans under this scheme.**
- **Comprehensive Handicrafts Cluster Development Scheme aims to create world-class infrastructure that caters to the business needs of the local artisans and small and medium-sized enterprises to boost production and export.**
- **The main objective of setting up these clusters is to assist the artisans and entrepreneurs to set up world-class units with modern infrastructure, latest technology, and adequate training and human resource development inputs, coupled with market linkages and production diversification.**
- **Under Comprehensive Handicrafts Cluster Development Scheme, soft interventions like Baseline Survey and Activity Mapping, Skill Training, Improved Tool Kits, Marketing events, Seminars, Publicity, Design workshops, Capacity Building, etc will be provided. Hard interventions like Common Facility Centers, Emporiums, Raw Material Banks, Trade Facilitation Centers, Common Production Centers, Design and Resource Centers will also be granted.**

The world's most powerful passports in 2021

- **India's rank has slipped by six places from last year to 90 on the Henley Passport Index, which lists the world's most travel-friendly passports. The Henley Passport Index comes at a time when countries are easing travel rules for international visitors after almost two years since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic.**
- **The index ranks the passports of countries according to the number of destinations their holders can visit without a prior visa. The rankings are based on the analysis of data provided by the International Air Transport Association (IATA).**
- **Japan and Singapore stood at the top of this year's list, with their passports holders allowed to travel visa-free to 192 countries, while South Korea and Germany share the second position. For the third consecutive year, Japan has secured the top position. Meanwhile, Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Pakistan, and Yemen are among the least powerful.**
- **India, which held the 84th rank last year, fell down to the 90th position, with its passport holders allowed to travel visa-free to 58 countries. India shares the rank with Tajikistan and Burkina Faso.**

40th edition of India International Trade Fair 2021 to be held at Pragati Maidan

- **The 40th edition of India International Trade Fair 2021 will be held from 14th to 27th November at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi. This year the theme of the fair is Atmanirbhar Bharat which will focus on economy, export potential, infrastructure supply chain, demand and vibrant demography.**

- The event is being organised as integral part of “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsava” - commemorating the 75th year celebration of India’s Independence in newly built halls of International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC) as well as in the existing halls at Pragati Maidan. Apart from trade and industry related conference and seminars, the fair offers branding opportunity on large LED screens installed at strategic locations in fair premises.
- Branding sites available at specific locations inside Pragati Maidan on payment basis Besides, other major attractions and promotional facilities include, Mobile application, investment and joint-venture opportunities, transfer of technology option, startups and SMEs cultural and State Day celebrations. The fair will be organised as per the preventive measures to contain spread of the pandemic.

Shifting Gears: South Asia Economic Focus, fall 2021

- South Asia’s recovery continues as global demand rebounded and targeted containment measures helped minimize the economic impacts of the recent waves of COVID-19. But the recovery remains fragile and uneven, and significant risks exist that could jeopardize short-term recovery and long-term growth.
- India’s economy, South Asia’s largest, is expected to grow by 8.3 percent in the fiscal year 2021-22, supported by increase in public investment to boost domestic demand and incentives schemes to boost manufacturing. World Bank projections show that economic activity in South Asia will stay well below the pre-pandemic trend for several years. South Asia’s average annual growth is forecast to be 3.4 percent over 2020-23, which is 3 percentage points less than it was in the four years preceding the pandemic.

IMPS limit raised to Rs 5L from Rs 2L

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has raised the transaction limit in Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 5 lakh. IMPS offers instant domestic funds transfer facility 24x7 through banking channels.
- The RBI has also proposed to introduce a framework for retail digital payments in offline mode across the country. This will further expand the reach of digital payments and open up new opportunities for individuals and businesses. A scheme to test technologies that enable digital payments even in remote places where internet connectivity is either absent or barely available was announced in August 2020.

Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) is an instant payment inter-bank electronic funds transfer system in India. IMPS offers an inter-bank electronic fund transfer service through mobile phones. The service is available 24x7 throughout the year including bank holidays. NEFT was also made available 24x7 from December 2019. RTGS was also made available 24x7 from 14th December 2020. It is managed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and is built upon the existing National Financial Switch network. IMPS was publicly launched on 22 November 2010.

Nearly 52,000 apprentices hired in Skill India’s ‘National Apprenticeship Mela’ 2021

- Skill India with due support from Directorate General of Training (DGT) and National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) organized a day-long ‘Apprenticeship Mela’ across the country in over 660 locations.
- Under the initiative, nearly 52,000 apprentices were hired. The event witnessed participation from more than five thousand organisations, operating in more than 30 sectors such as Power, Retail, Telecom, Electronics, Automotive and more. Additionally, country’s aspiring youth received the opportunity to engage and select prospects from more than 500 trades including posts for Welder, Electrician, Housekeeper, Beautician, Mechanic and more.

IMF says India will be fastest growing economy; expects 9.5 % growth this year

- International Monetary Fund (IMF) has projected that India will continue to be the world’s fastest growing major economy, clocking a growth rate of 9.5 per cent in 2021. As per latest IMF projections, Indian economy will grow at 8.5 percent in 2022.

- India's growth projection released by the latest World Economic Outlook remains unchanged from its previous WEO (World Economic Outlook) update of July this summer but is a three-percentage point in 2021 and 1.6 percentage point drop from its April projections.
- The world economy is expected to grow at 5.9 per cent in 2021 and 4.9 per cent in 2022, according to IMF. The United States is projected to grow at six per cent this year and 5.2 per cent the next year.
- China, on the other hand, is projected to grow at 8 per cent in 2021 and 5.6 per cent in 2022. IMF said, global recovery continues, but the momentum has weakened and uncertainty has increased.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is an organization of 190 countries, working to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduce poverty around the world. Created in 1945, the IMF is governed by and accountable to the 190 countries that make up its near-global membership. Ms. Kristalina Georgieva, from Bulgaria, is Managing Director and Chairman of the Executive Board of International Monetary Fund (IMF) from October 1, 2019. Prominent Indian-American economist Gita Gopinath has joined as the chief economist of the International Monetary Fund, becoming the first woman to occupy the top post at the global lender. The latest currency that was added to the basket of currencies by the International Monetary Fund to determine the value of XDR is the Chinese renminbi in 2016. The other international currencies in the basket of currencies are British Pound, Japanese Yen, US Dollar, and Euro. XDR is the currency code of Special Drawing Rights. Andorra has joined the International Monetary Fund (IMF), to become its 190th member.

Rich List: India's wealthiest self-made entrepreneurs under 40

- IIFL Wealth and Hurun India released the 'IIFL Wealth Hurun India 40 and Under Self-Made Rich List 2021' ranking the self-made entrepreneurs of India with a wealth of over Rs 1,000 crore.
- Indian-born businessman and founder of Media.net Divyank Turakhia topped the list with a wealth of Rs 12,500 crore, followed by co-founders of Browser Stack Nakul Aggarwal and Ritesh Arora with a wealth of Rs 12,400 crore each.
- 42 of the 45 entrepreneurs reside in India, with Bengaluru having the highest number of IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich Listers aged under 40. Software, services, transportation and logistics are the major contributors of wealth for entrepreneurs under the age of 40.

Pakistan among top 10 countries in list of largest external debt stocks

- Pakistan is among the top 10 countries that possess the largest external debt stocks and became eligible for the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, said World Bank report.
- The combined external debt stock of the 10 largest DSSI-eligible borrowers (Angola, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mongolia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, and Zambia) was 509 billion dollars at end-2020, 12 per cent higher than the comparable figure at end-2019 and equivalent to 59 per cent of the external debt obligations of all DSSI-eligible countries combined.
- They also accounted for 65 per cent of the end-2020 private non-guaranteed external debt of DSSI-eligible countries. The rate at which debt accumulated in individual countries varied considerably.

Settlement orders: Sebi forms high-powered advisory panel

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has constituted a four-member high-powered advisory committee on settlement orders and compounding of offences. The committee will be chaired by Vijay C Daga, retired judge of High Court of Bombay.
- The other members of the panel are —former law secretary in Ministry of Law & Justice, PK Malhotra; ex-chairman of Deloitte Haskins & Sells LLP PR Ramesh and DN Raval, partner at Raval & Raval Associates.

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.

Crypto assets pose financial stability challenges: IMF report

- The rapid growth of the crypto ecosystem presents new opportunities, the IMF has said, but also cautioned that the digital currency assets pose financial stability challenges. Cryptocurrencies are digital or virtual currencies in which encryption techniques are used to regulate the generation of units and verify the transfer of funds, operating independently of a central bank.
- “The rapid growth of the crypto ecosystem presents new opportunities. Technological innovation is ushering in a new era that makes payments and other financial services cheaper, faster, more accessible, and allows them to flow across borders swiftly,” it said in a chapter of its latest report Global Financial Stability Report.

Real estate sector in country expected to reach market size of 1 trillion dollars by 2030

- NITI Aayog CEO, Mr. Amitabh Kant said that India’s real estate sector is expected to reach a market size of 1 trillion dollars and contribute 18-20 percent of the country’s GDP by 2030.
- Addressing the 13th Edition of Confederation of Indian Industry - CII Realty and Infrastructure Conclave 2021 in Mumbai, Mr. Kant said housing sales are recovering, buoyant by the decade low mortgage rates.
- The Smart City Project, which aims to build 100 smart cities, is a prime opportunity for real estate companies. Mr. Kant said the realty sector and its stakeholders also play a critical role in supporting the ‘housing for all’ initiative taken by the government.
- Mr. Kant said the Atmanirbhar Bharat Package 3.0 that provides tax relief for real estate developers and home buyers and the setting up of Alternative investment Fund, Affordable Housing Fund and National Housing Bank with an initial corpus of 35,000 crore rupees is likely to revive the sector in coming months.
- The Real Estate Investment Trust Platform, as approved by Securities and Exchange Board of India, will create opportunities worth 1.25 trillion rupees in coming years.

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.

Govt debt likely to breach 90% of GDP this year, says IMF report

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has projected the government debt, including that of the Centre and the states, to rise to a record 90.6 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) during 2021-22 against 89.6 per cent in the previous year.
- It will then moderate to 88.8 per cent during FY23, but will remain over 85 per cent during the next five years — till 2026-27, the IMF said in its latest Fiscal Monitor. Before Covid-19 hit the country, the government debt remained less than 80 per cent in the recent past.
- For instance, it was 74.1 per cent during FY20, 70.4 per cent in the previous year, 69.7 per cent in FY18 and 68.9 per cent in the year before that. The Centre’s debt was at 58.8 per cent of GDP in FY21. It fell slightly to 57.6 per cent in the first quarter of FY22.

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to the 190 countries that make up its near-global membership. Ms. Kristalina Georgieva, from Bulgaria, is Managing Director and Chairman of the Executive Board of International Monetary Fund (IMF) from October 1, 2019. Prominent Indian-American economist Gita Gopinath has joined as the chief economist of the International Monetary Fund, becoming the first woman to occupy the top post at the global lender. The latest currency that was added to the basket of currencies by the International Monetary Fund to determine the value of XDR is the Chinese renminbi in 2016. The other international currencies in the basket of currencies are British Pound, Japanese Yen, US Dollar, and Euro. XDR is the currency code of Special Drawing Rights. Andorra has joined the International Monetary Fund (IMF), to become its 190th member.

India, Israel, US and UAE agree to establish joint economic forum

- India, United States, Israel and the UAE have decided to form a forum for future economic cooperation and to explore possibilities of joint infrastructure projects in the fields of transportation, technology, maritime security, and economics and trade.
- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his counterparts from Israel, the US and the UAE have agreed to establish a forum for economic cooperation at a quadrilateral meeting during which they discussed possibilities for joint infrastructure projects in the fields of transportation, technology, maritime security, and economics and trade.
- At the end of the meeting, it was decided that each minister will appoint senior-level professionals to a joint working group that will formulate options for cooperation in the areas identified by the ministers, it said. The intention is to hold an in-person meeting of the ministers in the coming months at 'Expo 2020' in Dubai, the statement said.

India ranks 40th out of 43 global pension systems, as per survey

- India has ranked 40th out of 43 pension systems across the world in the 2021 Mercer CFS Global Pension Index survey, suggesting the need for strategic reforms in India to revamp the pension system so as to ensure adequate retirement income.
- India had stood at 34th position out of 39 pension systems rated in 2020. According to the survey, India had an overall index value of 43.3 among the countries analysed, lower than the index value of 45.7 for 2020.
- Globally, Iceland was ranked highest with an overall index value of 84.2 while Thailand had the lowest overall index value at 40.6.

USA replaces China as world's biggest Bitcoin miner

- The United States has overtaken China to account for the largest share of the world's bitcoin mining, data published by the U.K.'s Cambridge Centre for Alternative Finance showed.
- The U.S. has become the world's epicenter for Bitcoin mining after a crackdown in China effectively eliminated the practice in the former cradle of the industry.
- China's share of the power of computers connected to the global bitcoin network, known as the "hash rate", fell to zero by July from 44 percent in May, the data showed.
- The United States now accounts for the largest share of mining, some 35.4 percent of the global hash rate as of end-August, followed by Kazakhstan and Russia, the data showed.

Cryptocurrency is a specific type of virtual currency, which is decentralised and protected by cryptographic encryption techniques. Bitcoin, Ethereum, Ripple are a few notable examples of cryptocurrencies. Bitcoin is a type of digital currency that enables instant payments to anyone. Bitcoin was introduced in 2009. Bitcoin is based on an open-source protocol and is not issued by any central authority. The origin of Bitcoin is unclear, as is who founded it. A person, or a group of people, who went by the identity of Satoshi Nakamoto are said to have conceptualised an accounting system in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis. In 2018, The RBI issued a circular preventing all banks from dealing in cryptocurrencies. This circular was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in May 2020. Recently, the government has announced to introduce a bill; Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2021, to create a sovereign digital currency and simultaneously ban all private cryptocurrencies.

Former U.S. president Donald Trump launches ‘TRUTH’ social media platform

- Former U.S. President Donald Trump launched his own social media app, TRUTH Social, that he said would “stand up to Big Tech” companies such as Twitter and Facebook that have barred him from their platforms.
- TRUTH Social will be created through a new company formed by a merger of the Trump Media and Technology Group and a special acquisition company (SPAC), according to a press release distributed by both organizations.
- The social network, set for a beta launch next month and full rollout in the first quarter of 2022, is the first of three stages in the company’s plans, followed by a subscription video-on-demand service called TMTG+ that will feature entertainment, news and podcasts.

Donald John Trump is an American politician, media personality, and businessman who served as the 45th president of the United States from 2017 to 2021.

Invest India elected as President of World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies

- Invest India has been unanimously elected as the President of the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA) for 2021-2023, officials said.
- Invest India is the National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency that helps investors looking for investment opportunities and options in India. “Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s untiring efforts at building institutions of excellence has led to Invest India achieving this seminal honour, and it underlines the absolute faith and trust of the global community in India,” an official said.
- India has made consistent efforts at implementing pioneering economic reforms welcoming business, which resulted in Invest India currently facilitating more than USD 155 billion in indicative investment potentially creating over 3 million jobs.
- Invest India, a young startup within the Government of India is now globally acknowledged as the gold standard among global investment promotion agencies (IPAs).
- WAIPA’s Steering Committee for 2021-23 includes the President, two Vice Presidents - Egypt and Switzerland, and nine Regional Directors, Brazil, South Korea, Finland, Kuwait, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Azerbaijan, Ghana, and Samoa.

The World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA) is an international Non-governmental organization established in 1995 by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development that acts as a forum for investment promotion agencies (IPA), provides networking and promotes best practice in investment promotion. It was established in 1995 under the auspices of the UNCTAD to promote the role of Investment Promotion Agencies, IPAs, in enhancing economic development and FDI. The Secretariat has been based in Geneva, Switzerland since 1995. Since 2015 its headquarters are established in Istanbul, Turkey, from where Waipa serves its 170+ members in 130 countries.

Kolkata Port introduces long-range marine communication system

- In view of a much needed solution for providing effective long range Marine communication, the Radio over Internet Protocol (ROIP) System at Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata (SMP, Kolkata), was inaugurated.
- ROIP system is being introduced as a marine communication mode, for the first time in any Major Indian Port. It shall cover the entire Hugli River Estuary from Kolkata to Sandheads, having base stations at 4 Locations. With this facility, vessels at Sandheads can be directly communicated via Radio, from Kolkata, specially during storms and inclement weather.
- This is the much-needed solution for providing long-range marine communication, and with this facility, vessels at Sandheads can be directly communicated via radio from Kolkata, especially during storms and inclement weather.

India's first 'Skill Impact Bond' launched, fund to benefit 50,000 youth

- The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) launched the first-of-its-kind and the largest 'Impact Bond' for skilling in India in collaboration with global partners, involving a USD 14.4 million fund which will benefit 50,000 youth by making them employment ready.
- Along with the NSDC, the global coalition comprises of HRH Prince Charles's British Asian Trust, the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation (MSDF), The Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF), HSBC India, JSW Foundation and Dubai Cares, with FCDO (UK Government) & USAID as technical partners. "The Skill Impact Bond (SIB) is also the first impact bond involving public, private partners and a public private partnership organisation, NSDC".

National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) is a not-for-profit public limited company incorporated on July 31, 2008 under section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 (corresponding to section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013). NSDC was set up by Ministry of Finance as Public Private Partnership (PPP) model. The Government of India through Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) holds 49% of the share capital of NSDC, while the private sector has the balance 51% of the share capital. NSDC aims to promote skill development by catalyzing creation of large, quality and for-profit vocational institutions.

BRICS Joint Statistical Publication, JSP Snapshot released

- The 13th Meeting of Heads of National Statistical Offices of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) Countries was held virtually under the Chairship of India.
- Dr. G. P. Samanta, Chief Statistician of India and Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Government of India chaired the meeting. The meeting was attended by representatives from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of BRICS Countries. JSP Snapshot 2021 for BRICS Countries were released.
- The theme of the meeting was NSOs efforts in monitoring Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) wherein speakers from BRICS NSOs highlighted efforts taken so far as well as future plan in terms of data and methodologies in monitoring of SDGs.

PM Modi approves reconstitution of Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the reconstitution of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM). Noted economist Dr Bibek Debroy will be the Chairman of the seven-member Council. It has been constituted for a period of two years. The Council will analyze any issue, economic or otherwise, referred to it by the Prime Minister and advise him. It will also address issues of macroeconomic importance and present views thereon to the Prime Minister.

IITF 2021 to be held from November 14-27 at Pragati Maidan

- India International Trade Fair (IITF) will be held at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi from 14th of November to 27th November. The fair held annually, which witnesses record footfall, was not held last year due to the COVID19 outbreak.
- The theme of the fair is 'AatmaNirbhar Bharat' (Self-Reliant India) - the vision of 'New India'. Bihar is the 'Partner State' whereas Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand are the "Focus States" in the fair.

In a first, personal loans beat credit to industry

- The share of personal loans in bank credit has for the first time overtaken overall loans to the industry sector during the second quarter of the current financial year.
- This has happened with loans to industry as of end-September 2021 shrinking by Rs 66,239 crore over March 2021 levels, while loans to individuals grew Rs 73,011 crore during the period. According to data released by the Reserve Bank of India, bank credit outstanding was Rs 109.5 lakh crore.
- According to bankers, the decline in financial institution credit to massive firms might be attributed to their deleveraging coupled with shifting to the debt market the place cheaper cash is accessible by business paper. Some companies are seeing higher money realisations and don't really feel the necessity to borrow.

Banks in News

RBI approves reappointment of Amitabh Chaudhry as MD & CEO of Axis Bank

- The private lender confirmed the appointment and stated that it has received the central bank's approval for Chaudhry's re-appointment for another three-year period, with effect from 1 January, 2022 to December 31, 2024.
- **Before joining Axis Bank, Chaudhry was the MD and CEO of HDFC Standard Life Insurance Company** and has also served as the head of testing unit of Infosys Technologies Ltd and MD & CEO of Infosys BPO.
- **Axis Bank Limited is an Indian banking and financial services company headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra.** It sells financial services to large and mid-size companies, SMEs and retail businesses.

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. Shashikant Das is the current Governor of RBI.

RBI's Monetary Policy Committee member Varma diverged from policy stance

- While the Reserve Bank's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) retained the accommodative stance and kept the main policy rates unchanged in the review earlier this month, Jayanth R Varma, a member of the MPC, has strongly argued for tightening the policy stating that inflation and growth risks are "well beyond the control" of the MPC.
- "A pattern of policy making in slow motion that is guided by an excessive desire to avoid surprises is no longer appropriate," Varma, professor, IIM Ahmedabad, said in the policy review, according to the minutes of the MPC meeting held on October 8.
- According to RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, going forward, **if there are no spells of unseasonal rains, food inflation is likely to register significant moderation in the immediate term, aided by record kharif production, more than adequate food stocks, supply-side measures and favourable base effects.**

Union Bank of India signs MoU with CDAC-Hyderabad

- Union Bank of India entered into a partnership with CDAC (Centre for Development of Advanced Computing) Hyderabad, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, under bank's Cyber Security Centre of Excellence initiative, as per which CDAC will assist the bank to impart cyber security awareness and education to its stakeholders- customers and employees.
- This collaboration is a first-of-its-kind initiative on cyber security and will benefit bank's staff and customers and different user groups, people at large to improve their security awareness levels and guide them to protect themselves from cyber threats in this digital era.

Union Bank of India is an Indian government-owned bank under the ownership of Ministry of Finance with 120+ million customers and a total business of US\$106 billion. After the amalgamation with Corporation Bank and Andhra Bank, which came into effect on 1 April 2020, the amalgamated entity became the fifth largest PSU bank in terms of branch network with around 9500 branches. Union Bank of India was registered on 11 November 1919 as a limited company in Bombay (present-day Mumbai) and was inaugurated by Mahatma Gandhi.

Axis Bank is the first Indian private bank to do a term SOFR trade finance deal

- Axis Bank has become the first Indian private sector bank to arrange a term Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) linked trade financing deal, joining a select group of banks and financial institutions globally who have executed similar transactions.

- The transaction was executed for Hindalco Industries Ltd, the world's largest aluminium company by revenue, and linked to 90-day SOFR financed by Axis Bank's GIFT City IBU branch.

Axis Bank Limited is an Indian private sector bank headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It sells financial services to large and mid-size companies, SMEs and retail businesses. It is the third largest private sector bank in India. The bank was founded in December 1993 as UTI Bank, opening its registered office in Ahmedabad and a corporate office in Mumbai. Shikha Sharma was the managing director and CEO of Axis Bank from 2009 to 2018. Amitabh Chaudhry is the current managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of it.

UCO Bank CEO Atul Kumar Goel appointed chairman of Indian Banks' Association

- UCO Bank CEO Atul Kumar Goel has been appointed as chairman of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) for 2021-22 succeeding Union Bank of India CEO Rajkiran Rai.
- In the managing committee meeting, IBA members also elected State Bank of India chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara, Canara Bank CEO L V Prabhakar and IDBI Bank CEO Rakesh Sharma as deputy chairmen of the IBA.

Indian Banks' Association (IBA), formed on (26 September 1946) as a representative body of management of banking in India operating in India - an association of Indian banks and financial institutions based in Mumbai. With an initial membership representing 22 banks in India in 1946, IBA currently represents 247 banking companies operating in India. IBA was formed for development, coordination and strengthening of Indian banking, and assist the member banks in various ways including implementation of new systems and adoption of standards among the members.

Centrum-BharatPe gets licence for small finance bank

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued a Small Finance Bank (SFB) license to the consortium of Centrum Financial Services, and Digital payments platform BharatPe.
- A new bank license has been issued after a gap of nearly 6 years, and we thank the RBI for the confidence shown in the abilities of Centrum and BharatPe.

Small Finance Banks are the financial institutions which provide financial services to the unserved and unbanked region of the country. They are registered as a public limited company under the Companies Act, 2013. Needs to open at least 25% of its banking outlets in unbanked rural centres. Required to extend 75% of its adjusted net bank credit to the Priority Sector Lending (PSL). The RBI mandates banks to lend a certain portion of their funds to specified sectors, like agriculture, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), export credit, education, housing, social infrastructure, renewable energy among others. At least 50% of its loan portfolio should constitute loans and advances of up to Rs. 25 lakhs. The maximum loan size and investment limit exposure to a single and group debtor would be restricted to 10% and 15% of its capital funds, respectively. They cannot extend large loans. If the initial shareholding by promoters in the bank is in excess of 40% of paid-up voting equity capital, it should be brought down to 40% within a period of 5 years. The minimum paid-up voting equity capital / net worth requirement shall be Rs. 200 crores. For Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks (UCBs), desirous of voluntarily transiting into SFBs, initial requirement of net worth shall be at Rs. 100 crores, which will have to be increased to Rs. 200 crores within 5 years from the date of commencement of business.

Kotak Mahindra Bank becomes 1st scheduled private sector bank to collect direct, indirect taxes

- Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMBL) has received approval from the government for collection of direct and indirect taxes, such as income tax, Goods and Services Tax (GST) etc, through its banking network.
- With this, the bank becomes the first scheduled private sector bank to receive approval after the announcement by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman allowing all banks to participate in government-related business.

Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited is an Indian private sector bank headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra, India. It offers banking products and financial services for corporate and retail customers in the areas of personal finance, investment banking, life insurance, and wealth management. As of February 2021, it is the third largest Indian private sector bank by market capitalization, with 1600 branches & 2519 ATMs.

RBI caps IPO funding by NBFCs at ₹1 cr per borrower

- The Reserve Bank of India announced a scale-based regulation of non-banking finance companies, which include a ceiling on IPO funding per borrower as well as changes in the minimum net owned fund, classification of non-performing assets, and capital requirements.
- Under the new framework, there will be a ceiling of ₹1 crore per borrower for financing subscription to an initial public offering (IPO). Under the new framework, the regulatory structure for NBFCs shall comprise four layers based on their size, activity, and perceived riskiness — base, middle, upper and top layer.

Kamath to be first NaBFID chairman

- The government has appointed veteran banker K V Kamath as the first chairperson of the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure & Development (NaBFID).
- Kamath has been given a three-year term and is expected to play a key role in giving shape to the new development financial institution (DFI) that will focus on providing long-term funding.
- For the former chief of the New Development Bank (BRICS Bank), life has come a full circle and the government is keen to tap into his experience in development financing across Asia.
- The NaBFID Act enables the government to guarantee bonds and other debt instruments issued by the institution. In addition to NaBFID, the finance minister has exhorted the private sector to promote DFIs.

NBFID will be a corporate body with authorised share capital of Rs. 1 lakh crores. Initially, the central government will own 100% shares of the institution. This share may subsequently be reduced up to 26%. **Financial Objective:** To directly or indirectly lend, invest, or attract investments for infrastructure projects located entirely or partly in India. **Developmental Objective:** Includes facilitating the development of the market for bonds, loans, and derivatives for infrastructure financing. NBFID will work toward financial as well as developmental objectives.

HDFC Bank's additional masala bonds get listed on NSE IFSC's platform

- NSE International Exchange (NSE IFSC) has listed HDFC Bank's additional masala bonds on its debt securities market platform. NSE IFSC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the National Stock Exchange (NSE). The private lender's additional Tier 1 (AT1) masala bonds got listed on the debt securities market platform.
- Since the launch of NSE IFSC Debt Securities Market (DSM), it has listed total aggregate medium-term notes worth over USD 31 billion and listed bonds worth more than USD 17 billion.

NSE IFSC Limited (NSE IFSC) is a fully owned subsidiary company of National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE) and applied to the SEBI for in-principle approval to establish an international exchange in Gujarat International Finance Tech City - International Financial Service Centre. GIFT city, which is a special economic zone, shall host India's first international financial services centre. This proposed new exchange is intended to grow the financial market as well as expected to bring capital into India. Stock exchanges operating in the GIFT IFSC will be permitted to offer trading in securities in any currency other than the Indian rupee. NSE IFSC Limited would also be permitted to offer longer trading days than what stock exchanges are currently permitted to do in India. NSE IFSC obtained Certificate of incorporation dated November 29, 2016 issued by the Registrar of Companies, Gujarat situated at Ahmedabad.

Firms in News

Bharat Petroleum, SBI Card Launch Co-Branded RuPay Credit Card

- State-run oil refiner Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) partnered with State Bank of India (SBI) Cards to launch the BPCL SBI Co-branded RuPay contactless credit card.
- The card is said to provide rewarding fuel savings and benefits, and cardholders will also make huge savings on other categories of spends which include groceries, dining, departmental stores, and movies, according to a statement shared by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- The users of BPCL SBI Card RuPay will receive 13X reward points on every ₹ 100 spent on fuel purchases at the Bharat Petroleum petrol pumps and one per cent fuel surcharge waiver on every transaction upto ₹ 4,000, translating to 4.25 per cent, according to the statement. Customers using the contactless credit card will earn 2,000 activation bonus reward points worth ₹ 500 on the payment of joining fee.

RuPay (Rupee and Payment) is an Indian multinational financial services and payment service system, conceived and launched by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) on 26 March 2012. It was created to fulfil the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) vision of establishing a domestic, open and multilateral system of payments. RuPay facilitates electronic payment at all Indian banks and financial institutions. NPCI maintains ties with Discover Financial, JCB to enable RuPay card scheme to gain international acceptance.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched e-RUPI, a person and purpose specific digital payment solution on 2nd August 2021. e-RUPI is a cashless and contactless instrument for digital payment. It is a QR code or SMS string-based e-Voucher, which is delivered to the mobile of the beneficiaries. The users of this seamless one-time payment mechanism will be able to redeem the voucher without a card, digital payments app or internet banking access, at the service provider. It has been developed by National Payments Corporation of India on its UPI platform, in collaboration with the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and National Health Authority. e-RUPI connects the sponsors of the services with the beneficiaries and service providers in a digital manner without any physical interface. It also ensures that the payment to the service provider is made only after the transaction is completed. Being pre-paid in nature, it assures timely payment to the service provider without involvement of any intermediary.

Starter launches Nasdex, the first Asia-focused decentralized exchange, in India

- Community-driven launchpad, Starter, which supports interoperability of initial DEX offerings (IDO), has launched the IDO of Nasdex in India.
- Nasdex is an Asia-focused decentralized exchange that offers the ability to trade tokenized equities on blockchain via minting and trading mechanism that mimics the off-chain economics of the real-world equity price. An initial DEX offering or IDO refers to the launching of a cryptocurrency on a decentralized exchange (DEX).
- According to CoinMarketCap, decentralized exchanges or DEXs are autonomous decentralized applications that allow cryptocurrency buyers or sellers to trade without having to give up control over their funds to any intermediary or custodian.
- Nasdex serves as a bridge between the crypto and the equity world and seeks to mitigate limitations of traditional equity exchanges such as geographical and portfolio management and investors only being able to buy stocks but unable to sell.

NASDEX is a decentralized exchange that offers our users the ability to trade tokenized equities on blockchain via our minting and trading mechanism that mimics the offchain economics of the real world equity price.

Paytm becomes India's first platform to accept international remittances directly into digital wallet

- Paytm Payments Bank has forged a tie-up with Ria Money Transfer, a cross-border money transfer firm and a business segment of Euronet Worldwide, to help its 333 million customers receive money from their relatives abroad.

- This partnership makes Paytm the country's first platform to accept international remittances directly into a digital wallet. On the other hand, Ria Money became the first money transfer company to connect with Paytm's wallet users.

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.

CII's First 'East India Summit' to Kickoff

- The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) organized the first 'East India Summit' virtually, bringing together six countries and states of East and North East to deliberate on infrastructure investment opportunities.
- The 'East India Summit 2021' is scheduled from September 28 till October 7. This is going to be a digital venture and will bring together a wide audience and participants from across the world.
- The CII theme for 2021-22 is 'Building India for a New World: Competitiveness, Growth, Sustainability, Technology' – which would essentially aim towards bringing the entire ecosystem work in partnership.

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is a non-governmental trade association and advocacy group headquartered in New Delhi, India, founded in 1895. CII engages business, political, academic, and other leaders of society to shape global, regional, and industry agendas. It is a membership-based organisation.

ONGC Videsh first Indian company to hunt for oil, gas in Bangladesh

- ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL) has started exploration in Bangladesh, becoming the first Indian entity to hunt for oil and gas in that country.
- The overseas investment arm of state-run ONGC, in consortium with Oil India Ltd, started drilling the first well in shallow offshore Block SS04 off Maheshkhali Island, about 355 km from Capital Dhaka, in Chittagong division of Cox's Bazar district.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is an Indian government-owned crude oil and natural gas corporation. Its registered office is in New Delhi. It is under the ownership of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India. It is the largest oil and gas exploration and production company in the country, and produces around 70% of India's crude oil (equivalent to around 57% of the country's total demand) and around 84% of its natural gas. In November 2010, the Government of India conferred the Maharatna status to ONGC.

Tata Sons wins bid for acquiring national carrier Air India

- Tata Sons will regain control of Air India as it takes over 100 per cent of the government's stake in the national carrier, marking the end of a protracted struggle to sell the airline and the first step in the Centre's mega privatisation push.
- The Mumbai-based conglomerate placed a winning bid of Rs 18,000 crore, of which Rs 2,700 crore will be paid in cash and the remaining Rs 15,300 crore will be absorbed from the over Rs 60,000 crore debt the airline had as of August 31, 2021.
- The government, in 1953, had taken control of the airline from the Tata Group, which founded the carrier as Tata Airlines in 1932.
- Talace Pvt Ltd, a unit of Tata Sons, the holding company for the conglomerate, will acquire 100 per cent of Air India, said Secretary, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management, Tuhin Kanta Pandey. "In the next steps, the letter of intent will be issued and the share-purchase agreement will be signed, and the transaction is expected to close by the end of December 2021," he said.
- 'Welcome back, Air India,' tweeted Ratan Tata, Chairman Emeritus, Tata Sons. "On an emotional note," Tata's statement said, "Air India, under the leadership of Mr J R D Tata had...gained the reputation of

being one of the most prestigious airlines in the world. Tatas will have the opportunity of regaining the image and reputation.”

- Civil Aviation Secretary Rajiv Bansal said the **bidding conditions provide for the Tatas to retain all employees of Air India for one year from the close of the transaction. They can offer a voluntary retirement scheme (VRS) in the second year. Air India has 12,085 employees — 8,084 permanent, and 4,001 contractual. In addition, Air India Express has 1,434 staffers.**
- **The Tata Group cannot transfer the Air India India brand or logo for five years and thereafter, can do so only to an Indian entity. The scope of the sale includes 100% of the government’s stake in Air India and 100% of the airline’s shareholding in low-cost airline Air India Express Ltd and 50% in Air India SATS Airport Services Private Ltd.**

Air India is the flag carrier airline of India, headquartered at New Delhi. It is owned by Air India Limited of Talace Private Limited, a Special-Purpose Vehicle (SPV) of Tata Sons, and operates a fleet of Airbus and Boeing aircraft serving 102 domestic and international destinations. Air India is the largest international carrier out of India with an 18.6% market share. Over 60 international destinations are served by Air India across four continents. The airline was founded by J. R. D. Tata as Tata Airlines in 1932; Tata himself flew its first single-engine de Havilland Puss Moth, carrying air mail from Karachi’s Drigh Road Aerodrome to Bombay’s Juhu aerodrome and later continuing to Madras (currently Chennai). After World War II, it became a public limited company and was renamed as Air India. On 21 February 1960, it took delivery of its first Boeing 707 named Gauri Shankar and became the first Asian airline to induct a jet aircraft in its fleet. Air India also operates flights to domestic and Asian destinations through its subsidiaries Alliance Air and Air India Express. Air India’s mascot is the Maharajah (Emperor) and the logo consists of a flying swan with the wheel of Konark inside it.

Mukesh Ambani to Gautam Adani: Top 10 richest Indians in 2021

- **With a net worth of Rs 7,18,000 crore, Reliance chairman Mukesh Ambani has retained the title of being the richest Indian for the 10th consecutive year, a report released by IIFL Wealth and Hurun India has said.**
- **Meanwhile, for the first time, both Adani brothers feature in the top 10 richest Indian list 2021. “With Rs 5,05,900 crore, Gautam Adani, 59, storms into the no. 2 spot, almost quadrupling his wealth from Rs 1,40,200 cr,” the report says. The top 10 list also features four new faces, including steel magnate Lakshmi Mittal and Kumar Mangalam Birla of the Aditya Birla Group.**

After DHFL, Srei becomes 2nd NBFC to be taken to NCLT

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has superseded the boards of Kolkata-based non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) Srei Infrastructure Finance and Srei Equipment Finance. The two firms will now be referred for insolvency proceedings in the second such instance after Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd (DHFL). “In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 45-IE (1) of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, the Reserve Bank has superseded the Board of Directors of Srei Infrastructure Finance Limited (SIFL) and Srei Equipment Finance Limited (SEFL), owing to governance concerns and defaults by the aforesaid companies in meeting their various payment obligations.”**

Visa launches India’s first card-on-file tokenization service

- **Digital payments firm, Visa, has launched India’s card-on-file (CoF) tokenization services in India, in line with the recently issued Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines.**
- **Launched in partnership with mobile-based payments firm, Juspay, the CoF tokenization service will be available across e-commerce companies such as Grofers, Bigbasket and MakeMyTrip.**

Visa Inc. (VISA) is an American multinational financial services corporation headquartered in Foster City, California, United States. It facilitates electronic funds transfers throughout the world, most commonly through Visa-branded credit cards, debit cards and prepaid cards. Visa is one of the world’s most valuable companies. Visa does not issue cards, extend credit or set rates and fees for consumers; rather, Visa provides financial institutions with Visa-branded payment products that they then use to offer credit, debit, prepaid and cash access programs to their customers.

Moody's upgrades outlook on India's sovereign rating to Stable from Negative

- **International ratings agency Moody's has upgraded the outlook on India's sovereign rating to Stable from Negative.** Upgrading the outlook, Moody's cited broadening of the economic recovery and receding financial sector risks. The agency noticed that the **rising vaccinations has reduced growth risks from subsequent coronavirus infections.**
- **Though, the rating agency retained India's rating at Baa 3, reflecting the lowest investment grade rating,** but it said that the decision to change the outlook to stable comes as solvency in the financial system has strengthened. It said, the **credit conditions in the country has also improved.**
- In a revision after nearly two years, the rating agency said, **it expects real GDP to surpass pre-pandemic levels of 2019-20 this year as the ongoing economic recovery is picking up.** It expects 9.3 per cent GDP growth in the current fiscal followed by 7.9 per cent growth in the next fiscal.
- In November 2019, **it changed the outlook to negative from stable with a Baa2 rating.** However, in June 2020, **it downgraded India back to Baa3, the lowest investment grade with a negative outlook.**

Moody's Investors Service, often referred to as Moody's, is the bond credit rating business of Moody's Corporation, representing the company's traditional line of business and its historical name. Moody's Investors Service provides international financial research on bonds issued by commercial and government entities. **Moody's, along with Standard & Poor's and Fitch Group, is considered one of the Big Three credit rating agencies.** It is also included in the Fortune 500 list of 2021. **Moody's was founded by John Moody in 1909 in New York to produce manuals of statistics related to stocks and bonds and bond ratings.** In 1975, the company was **identified as a Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organization (NRSRO) by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.**

World Steel Association elects Sajjan Jindal as Chairman; becomes first Indian to hold the post

- **The World Steel Association (WSA) has elected JSW Steel Chairman and Managing Director Sajjan Jindal as its Chairman for the 2021-22 period.**
- With this, **Jindal becomes the first representative from India to serve as Chairman of the WSA.** The association has also appointed Tata Steel CEO T V Narendran and Arcelor Mittal chief L N Mittal to the Executive Committee.

World Steel Association is the international trade body for the iron and steel industry. The association is one of the largest and most dynamic industry associations in the world, **with members in every major steel-producing country. Members represent around 85% of global steel production.** It is a **non-profit organisation with its headquarters in Brussels, Belgium** and a second office in Beijing, China, whose **purpose is to promote steel and the steel industry to customers, the industry, media and the general public.**

Mukesh Ambani brings 7-eleven stores to India, first one in Mumbai

- **Mukesh Ambani, Asia's richest man, will bring 7-Eleven Inc.'s convenience stores to India,** adding to his burgeoning retail empire in the world's only billion-people-plus consumer market that's open to foreign firms.
- **Mr Ambani's Reliance Retail Ltd. secured the pact** just days after troubled supermarket operator Future Retail Ltd. terminated its own agreement with one of the world's biggest convenience chains. **The first 7-Eleven store will open in a Mumbai suburb, and will be followed by a further "rapid rollout" starting across India's financial hub.**
- **Reliance scooped the transaction after indebted Future Retail** this week said it **ended the agreement it inked with 7-Eleven in 2019 by mutual consent** after it was unable to open the brand's stores or pay franchisee fees.
- **Industries.**

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).

Reliance opens first premium mall ‘Jio World Drive’ in Mumbai

- Reliance Industries’ premium retail unit Jio World Drive announced the opening of its first commercial centre in Bandra Kurla Complex area of Mumbai.
- The premium mall, Jio World Drive (JWD), is spread across an area of 17.5 acre and it will be Mumbai’s first rooftop Jio drive-in Theatre which will be operated by PVR. JWD will house only premium international and Indian brands.
- “With the opening of Jio World Drive, Bandra Kurla Complex is poised to be the new social centre of gravity in Mumbai. The precinct will set a new benchmark for curated experiences that one can expect from such retail avenues from across the globe, in the heart of Mumbai.

Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited, doing business as Jio, is an Indian telecommunications company and a subsidiary of Jio Platforms, headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra, India. It operates a national LTE network with coverage across all 22 telecom circles. It does not offer 2G or 3G service, and instead uses only voice over LTE to provide voice service on its 4G network. Jio soft launched on 27 December 2015 with a beta for partners and employees, and became publicly available on 5 September 2016. It is the largest mobile network operator in India and the third largest mobile network operator in the world with over 42.62 crore (426.2 million) subscribers. Mukesh Ambani is the founder and Chairman of it.

Tesla moving headquarters to Texas from California

- Tesla Inc Chief Executive Elon Musk said the electric carmaker plans to move its headquarters from Silicon Valley’s Palo Alto, California to Austin, Texas, where it is building a massive car and battery manufacturing complex.
- Tesla joins Oracle, HP and Toyota Motor in moving U.S. headquarters to Texas from California, which has relatively high taxes and living costs. While Silicon Valley also is a hive of development of new ideas and companies, Texas is known for cheaper labor and less stringent regulation.

Tesla, Inc. is an American electric vehicle and clean energy company based in Palo Alto, California, United States, with plans to move its headquarters to Austin, Texas in the future. Founded in July 2003 by Martin Eberhard and Marc Tarpenning as Tesla Motors, the company’s name is a tribute to inventor and electrical engineer Nikola Tesla. In February 2004, via a US\$6.5 million investment, X.com co-founder Elon Musk became the largest shareholder of the company and its chairman. He has served as CEO since 2008. According to Musk, the purpose of Tesla is to help expedite the move to sustainable transport and energy, obtained through electric vehicles and solar power.

Mukesh Ambani joins Jeff Bezos, Elon Musk in world’s exclusive \$100 billion club

- Mukesh Ambani, Asia’s richest person, joined Jeff Bezos and Elon Musk in the world’s most exclusive wealth club with a fortune of at least \$100 billion. The chairman of India’s Reliance Industries Ltd. entered the rarefied group of 11 men as his conglomerate’s stock climbed to a record.
- He’s now worth \$100.6 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, after his wealth increased by \$23.8 billion this year. India’s billionaires are some of the largest gainers on the world’s rich list, as Asia’s best-performing major stock market this year gets a boost from a surge in initial public offerings.
- Earlier, Mukesh Ambani retained his top spot in the 2021 Forbes list of 100 richest Indians in 2021 for the 14th year in a row. His wealth growth can be attributed to RIL’s steady rise in the stock market due to gains in the telecom, digital and retail businesses.

- **Elon Musk topped the list with a net worth of \$222 billion. Musk is the founder, CEO, and Chief Engineer at SpaceX. He is also the CEO, and product architect at Tesla.; SpaceX's Starlink broadband will focus on 10 rural Lok Sabha constituencies in India to provide internet services.**

Government accords “Maharatna” status to PFC

- **Govt. of India accorded ‘Maharatna’ status to the state-owned Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC), thus giving PFC greater operational and financial autonomy. An order to this effect was issued by the Department of Public Enterprises, under the Ministry of Finance.**
- **Incorporated in 1986, PFC is the largest Infrastructure Finance Company exclusively dedicated to Power Sector under the administrative control of the Ministry of Power. The grant of ‘Maharatna’ status to PFC will impart enhanced powers to the PFC Board while taking financial decisions.**
- **The Board of a ‘Maharatna’ CPSE can make equity investments to undertake financial joint ventures and wholly-owned subsidiaries and undertake mergers and acquisitions in India and abroad, subject to a ceiling of 15% of the Net Worth of the concerned CPSE, limited to Rs.5,000 crore in one project.**
- **The Board can also structure and implement schemes relating to personnel and Human Resource Management and Training. They can also enter into technology Joint Ventures or other strategic alliances among others.**

Power Finance Corporation Ltd. (P. F. C.) is an Indian financial institution under the ownership of Ministry of Power, Government of India. Established in 1986, it is the financial backbone of Indian Power Sector. PFC is India's largest NBFC and also India's largest infrastructure finance company. Government has raised status of PFC from ‘Navratna’ to ‘Maharatna’ company on 12 October 2021. The corporation is headed by the chairman and managing director, who at present is Ravinder Singh Dhillon. It is based in New Delhi.

Amara Raja Group among top 500 best employers in world

- **Tirupati-based Amara Raja Group has been listed among the 500 best employers to work for across the globe, according to the ‘World’s Best Employer Ranking-2021’ published by the Forbes Magazine.**
- **The study was conducted in partnership with market research firm Statista, which contacted 1.5 lakh full and part-time employees from 58 countries working for multinational companies and institutions. The Amara Raja Group is ranked fourth in the list, after Reliance Industries, Larsen & Toubro and Bajaj.**

BPCL Unveils Automated Fuelling System ‘U-Fill’ in 65 Cities

- **Indian government-owned, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) now has unveiled an automated fuelling technology system, commonly now as U-Fill to ease the customers with a better experience at the outlets.**
- **The new U-Fill outlets have been launched in 65 cities and are likely to be launched soon across the country. The customers need not download any app to use the U-Fill technology. When payment is concerned, a customer can use any desired application for payment, such as Google pay, Paytm, and others.**

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) is an Indian government-owned oil and gas corporation. It is under the ownership of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India, headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It operates two large refineries in Kochi and Mumbai. India's second-largest downstream government owned oil corporation, it was ranked 309th on the 2020 Fortune list of the world's biggest corporations, and 792nd on Forbes's 2021 “Global 2000” list. In 2017, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) received Maharatna status, putting it in the category of government-owned entities in India with the largest market capitalization and consistently high profits.

DSP Investment Managers Launches India's First ETF Based on Equal Weight Strategy

- **DSP Investment Managers announced the launch of DSP Nifty 50 Equal Weight ETF, India's First Exchange Traded Fund based on the Nifty 50 Equal Weight Index. In an equal weight index, each stock in it gets equal weight.**

- Thus, if the strategy is applied to Nifty 50, the equal weighted index will own the same 50 companies as Nifty 50 and will have 2% weight to each company unlike the current market cap weight design where some stocks get large weights like 9-10% and many stocks in the lower tail get only 0.3%. This gives all companies in the index an equal chance to contribute to returns rather than being overly dependent on the top 10.

DSP Investment Managers Private Limited operates as an investment management firm. The Company manages equities, exchange traded funds, and fixed income portfolios. DSP Investment Managers serves customers worldwide. It is headquartered in Chandigarh.

India may soon get its first ‘Total Market’ Index Fund

- Former Flipkart co-founder Sachin Bansal’s Navi Mutual Fund has filed for an index fund that will track the Nifty Total Market Index. The index was created on 13 October by the National Stock Exchange (NSE).
- In 2019, Motilal Oswal Mutual Fund launched an index fund based on the Nifty 500. However the Total Market Index goes one step further and covers ‘micro-cap’ stocks as well with 750 stocks under its ambit.

National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE) is the leading stock exchange of India, located in the city of Mumbai, Maharashtra. It is under the ownership of some leading financial institutions, Banks, and Insurance companies. NSE was established in 1992 as the first dematerialized electronic exchange in the country. NSE was the first exchange in the country to provide a modern, fully automated screen-based electronic trading system that offered easy trading facilities to investors spread across the length and breadth of the country. Vikram Limaye is the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of NSE.

Razorpay launches ‘TokenHQ’, India’s first multi-network

- Razorpay has announced the launch of ‘Razorpay TokenHQ’, a robust and secure multi-network Card-on-File (CoF) tokenization solution. The announcement came after RBI introduced new guidelines disallowing businesses, payment aggregators, and acquiring banks, from storing customers’ credit/debit/prepaid card information.
- Razorpay TokenHQ is available for all businesses; and merchants using other payment gateways can also use Razorpay’s solution to tokenize cards and route payments using their existing payment partnerships.
- “The RBI has been making great strides to enhance the security and convenience of digital payments in India.
- India’s First Multi-Network tokenization solution, ‘TokenHQ’, will work across all major card networks, thus enabling every business in India to tokenize customer card information.”

Twitter launches first Community in India for cricket fans

- Twitter has launched its first Community in India as well as the first outside the US to bring together cricket fans from around the world. ‘The Cricket Twitter – India’ went live.
- “We’re bringing this test to India with a community that will nurture one of the conversations that Indians are passionate about — Cricket. Admission to the community is on an invite-only basis. The moderators pick the focus and create the Community rules. These are in addition to Twitter’s policy.

Twitter (initially called Twtrr) is an American microblogging and social networking service on which users post and interact with messages known as “tweets”. Registered users can post, like, and retweet tweets, but unregistered users can only read those that are publicly available. Users interact with Twitter through browser or mobile frontend software, or programmatically via its APIs. Prior to April 2020 services were accessible via SMS. The service is provided by Twitter, Inc., a corporation based in San Francisco, California. Tweets were originally restricted to 140 characters, but the limit was doubled to 280 for non-CJK languages in November 2017. Audio and video tweets remain limited to 140 seconds for most accounts. Twitter was created by Jack Dorsey, Noah Glass, Biz Stone, and Evan Williams in March 2006 and launched in July of that year. An October 21, 2021 report found that Twitter’s deep learning recommender system, an algorithm intended to personalize the user’s Home timeline—introduced in 2016—favored “right-leaning politics”.

GAIL to build India's largest green hydrogen plant to supplement natural gas production

- State-owned GAIL (India) Ltd will build India's largest green hydrogen-making plant as it looks to supplement its natural gas business with carbon-free fuel.
- "For India to achieve the target of raising the share of natural gas in the energy basket to 15 % gas usage by 2030 from current 6.2 %, gas consumption has to rise three and half times to 600 million standard cubic meters per day. The plant planned is for 10 MW capacity, the largest announced so far in the country.

GAIL (India) Limited (formerly known as Gas Authority of India Ltd.) is a government owned natural gas corporation responsible for natural gas processing and distribution in India headquartered in GAIL Bhawan New Delhi, India. It is under the ownership of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India. It has the following business segments: natural gas, liquid hydrocarbon, liquefied petroleum gas transmission, petrochemical, city gas distribution, Renewable Energy including Solar & Wind, exploration and production, Petrochemicals, GAILTEL and electricity generation. GAIL was conferred with the Maharatna status on 1 Feb 2013, by the Government of India. GAIL, the Largest Natural Gas Company of India, owns and operates a network of around 13,722 km of natural gas pipeline and currently executing around 6,000 km of pipeline projects of its own and about 2,000 km through two JVs, as part of the National Gas Grid. PGRB has authorized your Company to execute a 1,755 km long Mumbai-Nagpur-Jharsuguda Pipeline.

BharatPe appoints former SBI chairman Rajnish Kumar as its chairman

- BharatPe has appointed former SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar as chairman of the board. In his role as BharatPe chairman, Kumar will be involved in formulating the firm's short-term and long-term strategy, as well as work closely with the board and executives on regulatory matters.
- He will also advise and counsel the management on corporate governance. Kumar became SBI chairman in October 2017 and attained superannuation in October 2020. He is currently an independent non-executive director at HSBC Bank Asia and L&T Infotech Ltd.

BharatPe is a fintech company that caters to the small merchants and kirana store owners of India. The company offers a range of fintech products including interoperable QR code for UPI payments, Bharat Swipe (POS machine) for card acceptance, and small business financing. It facilitates small merchants to accept payments via UPI (Unified Payments Interface) for free, through the BharatPe QR code. The firm was co-founded by Ashneer Grover and Shashvat Nakrani in 2018, with its headquarters in New Delhi, India.

Saudi Arabia launches national infrastructure fund with BlackRock

- Saudi Arabia, advised by the world's largest fund manager BlackRock, has launched a national infrastructure fund to support up to 200 billion riyals (\$53.32 billion) in projects over the next decade.
- The National Infrastructure Fund will invest in areas such as water, transportation, energy, and health, contributing to Saudi Arabia's plans to transform the economy and make it less reliant on oil revenue.
- The fund is one of the development funds of the National Development Fund (NDF), a body created in 2017 with the aim of supervising and linking together several economic development funds previously spread between various ministries and agencies.

BlackRock, Inc. is an American multinational investment management corporation based in New York City. Founded in 1988, initially as a risk management and fixed income institutional asset manager, BlackRock is the world's largest asset manager, with US\$9.46 trillion in assets under management as of 2021.

Facebook goes Meta

- Facebook is reshuffling its names under a rebranded corporate parent: Meta. Facebook rose to prominence over the past two decades with some of the world's most recognisable branding: a big blue-and-white letter F. CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced the change, saying he wanted a new brand and a clearer corporate naming scheme to help focus on what's next for the internet beyond social media.

- **The rebrand comes as Facebook faces a deluge of news stories and public scrutiny based on thousands of internal corporate documents** obtained by news organizations, including NBC News. The documents, originating with former Facebook product manager and whistleblower Frances Haugen, reveal internal employee dissent over the platform’s policies.
- The change was accompanied by a new corporate logo designed like an infinity-shaped symbol that was slightly askew. **Facebook and its other apps, such as Instagram and WhatsApp, will remain but under the Meta umbrella.**
- The change won’t affect the name of the company’s signature blue-colored app, which will **keep the name Facebook. But it will mean a new identity for the corporate umbrella that also owns Instagram and WhatsApp.**
- Together with the app Messenger, Meta will own and control four of the most popular smartphone apps in the world. **The name is a nod to the idea of the “metaverse,” a term for a potential future internet that emphasizes virtual spaces. Zuckerberg said the metaverse will be the internet’s “next frontier.”** Zuckerberg, who has a longtime interest in studying classical Greece and Rome, noted that “meta” is Greek for “beyond.”

Meta Platforms, Inc., Meta (formerly Facebook, Inc.), is an American technology conglomerate based in Menlo Park, California. It was founded by Mark Zuckerberg, along with his fellow roommates and students at Harvard College, who were Eduardo Saverin, Andrew McCollum, Dustin Moskovitz and Chris Hughes, originally as TheFacebook.com—today’s Facebook, a popular global social networking service. It is one of the world’s most valuable companies. It is considered one of the Big Five companies in U.S. information technology, with Google, Apple, Microsoft and Amazon. Facebook offers other products and services beyond its social networking platform, including Facebook Messenger, Facebook Watch, and Facebook Portal. It also has acquired Instagram, WhatsApp, Oculus, Giphy and Mapillary, and has a 9.9% stake in Jio Platforms.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



NASA launches Landsat 9 satellite to boost climate change monitoring

- NASA's Landsat 9 satellite was successfully launched from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California. The satellite will monitor the Earth's land surface and provide data to assist in climate change planning.
- The satellite is performing as expected, NASA said in a statement. It lifted off on a United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket from Space Launch Complex 3E, following which the Landsat 9 observatory successfully separated from the vehicle.
- The launch marks nearly 50 years of Landsat presence in space. The first launch was in 1972 – since then, a Landsat has always remained in orbit. The Landsat 9 will join previously-launched Landsat 8 to collect images across Earth every eight days.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is an independent agency of the executive branch of the United States federal government responsible for the civilian space program, as well as aeronautics and aerospace research. President Dwight D. Eisenhower established NASA in 1958. Sen. Bill Nelson was sworn in as the 14th NASA administrator on May 3, 2021, tasked with carrying out the Biden-Harris administration's vision for the agency.

AIIMS-Bhubaneswar receives funding for 'first' brain bank of Eastern India

- The AIIMS-Bhubaneswar has received funding from the ICMR to establish a satellite brain bank, a "first of its kind" in the eastern region that will boost research in neurosciences.
- The Indian Council of Medical Research sanctioned ₹47 lakh for setting up a satellite brain bio-bank in the department of pathology and lab medicine. A brain bank is a repository of brain samples of deceased persons, which finds use in research work. The approved duration of the scheme is three years, and annual extensions will be granted after review of the work done, AIIMS-Bhubaneswar said.

India successfully flight-tests new version of Akash missile

- A new version of the Akash Missile, Akash Prime was successfully flight tested from Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, Odisha. The missile intercepted and destroyed an unmanned aerial target mimicking enemy aircrafts, in its maiden flight test after improvements.
- In comparison to the existing Akash System, Akash Prime is equipped with an indigenous active Radio Frequency seeker for improved accuracy. Other improvements also ensure more reliable performance under low temperature environments at higher altitudes.
- Modified ground system of the existing Akash weapon system has been used for the current flight test. The range stations of Integrated Test Range comprising Radars, Electro Optical Tracking System and Telemetry stations monitored the missile trajectory and flight parameters.

US engineers create 'smallest-ever human-made flying structure'

- Engineers from Illinois' Northwestern University have created an electronic microchip or "microflier" with flight capabilities, which can help monitor air pollution levels and airborne diseases.

- The “smallest-ever human-made flying structure”, which is about the size of a grain of sand, does not require an engine or a motor. Instead, it catches flight on the wind — much like a maple tree’s propeller seed — and spins like a helicopter through the air toward the ground.

India becomes first country to commercial produce and spray Nano Urea through Drone

- For the first time in the World, India conducted a practical field trial of Drone for Spraying of Nano Liquid Urea at Bhavnagar in Gujarat.
- The field trial was conducted in the presence of Union Chemical and Fertilizer Minister Mansukh Mandaviya by IFFCI, which had developed the Nano Urea. The Ministry claimed that India is the first country in the world that has started commercial production of Nano Urea and is using it on a large scale.
- “Drones would be able to spray more land in less time. This would save the time of the farmers. The cost of spraying would be less. Along with this, the safety of the sprinklers will also be ensured,” Mandaviya said.
- He said liquid Nano Urea has emerged as a powerful alternative to conventional Urea. And for the government, it would also reduce the subsidy burden. A study conducted by IFFCO found that spraying nano urea through drones is more effective on crops and will also have a positive effect on productivity.

In June 2021, Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) introduced the world’s first Nano Urea Liquid for farmers across the world. It has been indigenously developed at Nano Biotechnology Research Centre, Kalol, Gujrat in line with Atmanirbhar Bharat and Atmanirbhar Krishi. It is a nutrient (liquid) to provide nitrogen to plants as an alternative to the conventional urea. It is developed to replace conventional urea and it can curtail the requirement of the same by at least 50%. It contains 40,000 mg/L of nitrogen in a 500 ml bottle which is equivalent to the impact of nitrogen nutrient provided by one bag of conventional urea. Conventional urea is effective 30-40% in delivering nitrogen to plants, while the effectiveness of the Nano Urea Liquid is over 80%. Its effectiveness has been tested in over 11,000 farmers’ fields for 94 crops like rice and wheat. An average 8% increase in yield has been witnessed.

David Julius & Ardem Patapoutian from US share 2021 prize in Medicine or Physiology

- Scientists who discovered how our bodies feel the warmth of the sun or the hug of a loved one have won the Nobel Prize. David Julius and Ardem Patapoutian, from the United States, share the 2021 prize in Medicine or Physiology for their work on sensing touch and temperature.
- They unpicked how our bodies convert physical sensations into electrical messages in the nervous system. Their findings could lead to new ways of treating pain. Heat, cold and touch are crucial for experiencing the world around us and for our own survival. But how our bodies actually do it had been one of the great mysteries of biology.

Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine administered by the Nobel Foundation is awarded yearly for outstanding discoveries in the fields of life sciences and medicine. It is one of five Nobel Prizes established in his will in 1895 by Swedish chemist Alfred Nobel, the inventor of dynamite. The first one was awarded in 1901 to the German physiologist Emil von Behring, for his work on serum therapy and the development of a vaccine against diphtheria. The first woman to receive the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, Gerty Cori, received it in 1947 for her role in elucidating the metabolism of glucose. The first Indian to receive award in Medicine was Har Gobind Khorana for research that showed the order of nucleotides in nucleic acids, which carry the genetic code of the cell and control the cell’s synthesis of proteins. He shared the 1968 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine with Marshall W. Nirenberg and Robert W. Holley for research that showed the order of nucleotides in nucleic acids, which carry the genetic code of the cell and control the cell’s synthesis of proteins.

Centre permits 100% FDI in telecom sector

- The Centre informed that it has permitted 100% FDI under automatic route in the telecom services sector. DPIIT states that a “non-resident entity can invest in India, subject to the FDI Policy except in those sectors/activities which are prohibited.
- However, an entity of a country, which shares land border with India or where the beneficial owner of an investment into India is situated in or is a citizen of any such country, can invest only under the Government route.”

- Till now, only 49 per cent of FDI was allowed through the automatic route and anything beyond that had to come via the government route. Telcos, including infrastructure providers, will be covered under the new FDI regime.

75 Science Technology and Innovation Hubs to be set up in different parts of the country

- The government will set up 75 Science Technology and Innovation (STI) Hubs in different parts of the country. These hubs will be exclusively for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) and will not only promote scientific talent, but also contribute to socio-economic development of these communities.
- After a high level review meeting with senior officials of Department of Science and Technology (DST) in New Delhi, the Minister said, in the last two years, 20 STI Hubs have already been established which will directly benefit 20 thousand SC and ST population through various interventions.

PM Narendra Modi launched Indian Space Association

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Indian Space Association (ISpA) via video conferencing. He also interacted with representatives of the Space Industry on this landmark occasion.
- Indian Space Association is the Premier Industry Association of Space and Satellite companies, which aspires to be the collective voice of the Indian Space industry. It will undertake policy advocacy and engage with all stakeholders in the Indian Space domain, including the Government and its agencies.
- Echoing the Prime Minister's vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, ISpA will help in making India self-reliant, technologically advanced and a leading player in the space arena. ISpA is represented by leading home grown and global corporations with advanced capabilities in space and satellite technologies.
- Its founding members include Larson and Toubro, Nelco, OneWeb, Bharti Airtel, Mapmyindia, Walchandnagar Industries and Ananth Technology Limited. Other core members include Godrej, Hughes India, Azista-BST Aerospace Private Limited, BEL, Centum Electronics and Maxar India.
- Mr. Jayant Patil, Whole time Director - Defence & Smart Technologies, is the first Chairman of ISpA and Mr. Rahul Vatts, Chief Regulatory Officer Bharti Airtel and Director – OneWeb India is the Vice Chairman. Lt Gen. A.K. Bhatt (Retd) is the Director General of the Association. ISpA aims to be a forum of the space industry in the Indian private sector and partner the Government of India and other key stakeholders across space industry segments in making the nation self-reliant in the area as well as to become a global service provider. We thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister for his blessings to this initiative."
- According to ISRO, the current size of the global space economy stands at about USD 360 billion. However, India accounts for only about 2% of the space economy with a potential to capture 9% of the global market share by 2030.

Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) was approved in 2020 to provide a level playing field for private companies to use Indian space infrastructure. In the 2019 Budget, the government had announced the setting up of a New Space India Limited (NSIL), a public sector company that would serve as a marketing arm of ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation). Its main purpose is to market the technologies developed by ISRO and bring it more clients that need space-based services. That role, incidentally, was already being performed by Antrix Corporation, another public sector undertaking working under the Department of Space, and which still exists.

Department of Biotechnology launches country's first 'One Health' consortium

- Dr. Renu Swarup, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of launched the First 'One Health' project of DBT through video conferencing. This programme envisages carrying out surveillance of important bacterial, viral and parasitic infections of zoonotic as well as transboundary pathogens in India, including the North-eastern part of the country. Use of existing diagnostic tests and the development of additional methodologies when required are mandated for the surveillance and for understanding the spread of emerging diseases.
- Dr. Renu Swarup in her address during the launch of the programme remarked that this Consortium, consisting of 27 organisations led by DBT-National Institute of Animal Biotechnology, Hyderabad, is one of the

biggest one health programs launched by Govt of India in post-COVID times. The One health consortium consists of AIIMS, Delhi, AIIMS Jodhpur, IVRI, Bareilly, GADVASU, Ludhiana, TANUVAS, Chennai, MAFSU, Nagpur, Assam agricultural and veterinary university and many more ICAR, ICMR centres and wild life agencies.

- Subsequently, **Dr. Renu Swarup, Secretary, DBT inaugurated the International mini-symposium on “Essentials of One Health”** through Video Conferencing. Dr. Swarup in her inaugural address emphasized the need of a holistic approach to understand the health of human, animals and wildlife to minimize the damage caused by future pandemics. International and national speakers shared their views on initiating and nurturing the concept of ‘One Health’ where man, animal, plants and environment are needed to be considered complimentary to each other for maintaining health of all.

ITCA Bengaluru launches 75 Students’ Satellites Consortium: Mission 2022

- **Indian Technology Congress Association in Bengaluru focuses on building synergies between academia, industry and research organisations.** It has initiated an ambitious programme to commemorate the 75 years of Indian Independence. It has launched 75 Students’ Satellites Consortium: Mission 2022. Under the mission, a consortium of 75 students will build satellites to be launched by ISRO.
- **The Indian Technology Congress Association has collaborated with various organisations such as TMISAT of Israel, CSPD Serbia and UNISEC of Japan to design and launch the student-built satellite by 2022 when India completes its 75 years of Independence.**

ITCA is a dedicated Association for Technologists focused on facilitating collaboration between Professionals from the industry, R&D Laboratories, Government, Academic Institutions and professional bodies. Over the years, ITC has emerged as a leading forum for the confluence of thought leaders in technology, sciences and businesses working on deploying technology-intensive solutions for contemporary challenges.

First nuclear reactor pressure vessel installed at Bangladesh atomic power plant

- **Russia’s state-run nuclear power corporation has completed the installation of the reactor pressure vessel at Bangladesh’s first atomic power plant,** marking a significant step forward in the country’s efforts to develop its nuclear power industry.
- **India’s Hindustan Construction Company has bagged a \$110 million contract for civil works at the Rooppur plant in a joint venture with Bangladesh’s MAX Group.** The Indian company holds a 40% share in the joint venture.
- **Indian firms are able to participate in construction work and supply of non-critical equipment for the project under a trilateral agreement signed by India, Russia, and Bangladesh in 2018.**

Hindustan Construction Company Limited or HCC Limited is a construction company headquartered in Mumbai, India whose businesses span the sectors of Engineering & Construction, Real Estate, Infrastructure, Urban development & Management.

Earth receives first radio signals from planet outside of Solar System

- In a major discovery, **astronomers have for the first time detected stars that are blasting radio signals hinting at the presence of hidden planets around them.** The signals were picked up using the world’s most powerful radio antenna, the Low-Frequency Array (LOFAR) situated in the Netherlands.
- **The new technique of spotting hidden planets could hint at the possibility of life in the system, which remains the biggest question in astronomy.** Are we alone? The signals were detected by Dr Benjamin Pope from the University of Queensland and his colleagues at the Dutch national observatory ASTRON. The astronomers have been searching for planets using LOFAR.
- **The astronomers have detected signals from 19 distant red dwarfs, four of which are best explained by the existence of planets orbiting them.** “We’ve long known that the planets of our own solar system emit powerful radio waves as their magnetic fields interact with the solar wind, but radio signals from planets outside our solar system had yet to be picked up.”

Raman Gangakhedkar among WHO's scientific advisory group for origins of novel pathogens

- **Dr Raman Gangakhedkar**, a leading Indian epidemiologist, has been named to an expert group launched by the WHO that will examine origins of emerging and re-emerging pathogens of epidemic and pandemic potential, including SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19.
- **Gangakhedkar**, the former head of epidemiology and communicable diseases at the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), is the **Dr C.G. Pandit National Chair at the ICMR**. The SAGO will advise WHO on the development of a global framework to define and guide studies into the origins of emerging and re-emerging pathogens of epidemic and pandemic potential, including SARS-CoV-2.

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 director-general is Tedros Adhanom of Ethiopia.

China sent its first solar exploration satellite into space

- China sent its first solar exploration satellite into space from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in northern Shanxi Province. The satellite was launched aboard a Long March-2D rocket and entered its planned orbit successfully.
- Ten small satellites including an orbital atmospheric density detection experimental satellite and a commercial meteorological detection constellation experimental satellite were also sent into space using the same carrier rocket.

Madhya Pradesh: Jabalpur gets India's first Kids friendly COVID vaccination centre

- On the occasion of ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav 2021’ under the Nurturing Neighbourhood Challenge Jabalpur developed the country's first kids friendly COVID vaccination centre.
- The centre would cater to the children of 2 yr to 12 yr age and their vaccination process. The new kids friendly COVID vaccination centre has been given a catchy look and feel. The centre has been painted in a way that will help to reduce the injection-fear among the children. Equipped with popular cartoons and a park to play, this kids vaccination centre is getting a lot of praise from the residents.

In a rocky Israeli crater, scientists simulate life on Mars

- **AMADEE-20 habitat** is tucked beneath a rocky outcrop. Inside they sleep, eat and conduct experiments. Outside they wear mock space suits fitted with cameras, microphones and self-contained breathing systems.
- The Austrian association is running the project together with the Israel Space Agency and local group **D-MARS**. A number of recent Mars probes have captivated astronomy fans across the world with robotic rovers like NASA's Perseverance and, for the first time, the helicopter Ingenuity, offering a glance of the planet's surface. But a manned mission is likely more than a decade off.

IIT researchers working on first-of-its kind geography based smart speed warning system

- Researchers at different Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) are working on development of a first-of-its kind “smart speed warning system” for vehicles which will alert the driver on the basis of road infrastructure and geographical location to avoid over-speeding related crashes.
- According to statistics available with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, about 70 per cent of road fatalities in India occur due to over-speeding. To minimise such fatalities, the government had mandated that all new cars sold from July 1, 2019, should include a speed governor device that will generate intermittent warning beeps for above 80 kmph and the constant beep for above 120 kmph for drivers. To further reduce damage to lives, the fine for speeding was increased by ten times under the new Motor Vehicles Act of 2019.

NASA launches spacecraft on 12-year mission to probe Jupiter Asteroids

- **NASA launched a spacecraft called Lucy on a 12-year mission to explore Jupiter's Trojan asteroids for the first time** gathering new insights into the solar system's formation. The Atlas V rocket responsible for propelling the probe took off from Cape Canaveral.
- **Named after an ancient fossil of a pre-human ancestor, Lucy will become the first solar-powered spacecraft to venture so far from the Sun**, and will observe more asteroids than any probe before it – eight in all.
- **Lucy will also make three Earth flybys for gravity assists, making it the first spacecraft to return to our planet's vicinity from the outer solar system.**
- **Lucy's first encounter will be in 2025 with asteroid Donaldjohanson in the Main Belt, between Mars and Jupiter.** The asteroid is named after the discoverer of the Lucy fossil.
- **Between 2027 and 2033, it will encounter seven Trojan asteroids – five in the swarm that leads Jupiter, and two in the swarm that trails the gas giant. The largest of them is about 60 miles (95 kilometers) in diameter.**
- **Lucy will fly by its target objects within 250 miles (400 kilometers) of their surfaces, and use its onboard instruments and large antenna to investigate their geology, including composition, mass, density and volume.**
- **The Jupiter Trojan asteroids, thought to number well over 7,000, are leftover raw materials from the formation of our solar system's giant planets – Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.**
- **Scientists believe they hold vital clues about the composition and physical conditions in the protoplanetary disk from which all the Sun's planets, including Earth, formed. They are broadly grouped into two swarms – the leading swarm is one-sixth a lap ahead of Jupiter while the trailing swarm is one-sixth behind.** Some are gray, while others are red – with the differences indicating how far away from the Sun they might have formed before assuming their present trajectory.
- **Lucy the fossil was discovered in Ethiopia in 1974 and helped shed light on human evolution. The space mission's name was chosen with the hope that it will shed light on the solar system's evolution.**
- **The paleoanthropologists who discovered the hominin remains named her after the Beatles' song "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds", which they were playing loudly at the expedition camp.**
- **Lucy the probe is carrying a diamond beam splitter into the sky – the Lucy Thermal Emission Spectrometer, which detects far infrared radiation, to map asteroid surface temperatures.** By measuring the temperature at different times of day, the team can deduce physical properties such as how much dust, sand or rock is present.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is an independent agency of the executive branch of the United States federal government responsible for the civilian space program, as well as aeronautics and aerospace research. President Dwight D. Eisenhower established NASA in 1958. Sen. Bill Nelson was sworn in as the 14th NASA administrator on May 3, 2021, tasked with carrying out the Biden-Harris administration's vision for the agency.

First in India, IIT Madras to launch diploma in virtual reality from 2022

- **The Indian Institute of Technology Madras launched a virtual reality programme, one of the first.** The diploma programme will be available beginning with the following academic year.
- **The prestigious IIT has partnered with the Japanese business Monolith to provide an advanced diploma programme.** The VR diploma programme will be offered online and offline, **with the first cohort beginning in January 2022.** Students who are interested in the diploma programme will be able to apply beginning in November.
- **The VR diploma programme is open to anybody with an engineering background, including those seeking engineering degrees. Every year, IIT Madras will accept 50 students for the programme.**

South Korea launches its first homegrown space rocket

- **South Korea has launched its first homegrown rocket, stepping up the country's ambitions in space. The Korean Satellite Launch Vehicle II, known as Nuri, took off from Goheung, about 500 km south of Seoul.**

- **President Moon Jae-in** said the **vehicle completed its full flight sequence but failed in its goal of putting a dummy satellite in orbit**. Such launches are essential for a space programme but could potentially also have military applications.
- **South Korea is locked in an arms race with North Korea**, with both recently test-firing new weapons. **The North put a satellite in orbit in 2012**. **Nuri cost South Korea an estimated 2 trillion won \$1.6 billion to develop**. Weighing 200 tonnes and measuring 47.2 metres long, it is fitted with six liquid-fuelled engines.
- **South Korea plans to carry out four more launches of the Nuri until 2027 to increase reliability**, according to the Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI) that is overseeing the launch.
- **Previous attempts by Seoul to launch a rocket in 2009 and 2010 failed**, with the second exploding minutes after take-off. South Korea is aiming to send a probe to the moon by 2030.

DRDO, IAF jointly flight test indigenously developed Long-Range Bomb successfully

- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Air Force, IAF team jointly flight tested indigenously developed Long-Range Bomb successfully from an aerial platform**. The Long-Range Bomb after release from the IAF fighter aircraft, **guided to a land-based target at a long range with accuracy within specified limits**. All the mission objectives were successfully met.
- **The flight of the bomb and the performance was monitored by a number of range sensors including Electro Optical Tracking System, Telemetry and radar deployed by the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur in Odisha**.
- **The Long-Range Bomb has been designed and developed by Research Centre Imarat, a DRDO laboratory located at Hyderabad** in coordination with other DRDO laboratories. This will prove to be a force multiplier for the Indian Armed Forces.

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. Satheesh Reddy** is the current Chairman of DRDO.

India first Asian country to have two container-based hospitals

- **Union health minister Mansukh Mandaviya** said that the government is working with a **'saturation approach'** for affordable and quality healthcare.
- **The pan-India Health Infrastructure Scheme aims to provide a fillip to India's capacity to address emergent Public Health issues**, which, according to the government, will bring about a "paradigm shift" in India's healthcare infrastructure.
- **The scheme will provide primary, secondary, tertiary, digital and resilient healthcare systems** that will equip the country to face the challenges of pandemics in the future.

Mansukh Laxmanbhai Mandaviya is an Indian politician currently serving as the **Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chemical and Fertilizers of India**. He is also a **Rajya Sabha member from Gujarat**.

India successfully test-fires surface-to-surface ballistic missile Agni-5

- **Surface to a surface ballistic missile, Agni-5 was successfully launched from APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha**. **Agni-5 is capable of striking targets at ranges up to 5,000 kilometers** with a very high degree of accuracy.
- **"A successful launch of the Surface to Surface Ballistic Missile, Agni-5, was carried out on October 27 at approximately from APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha,"** the ministry said. **It uses a three-stage solid-fuelled engine**. The successful launch is in line with India's policy to have 'credible minimum deterrence' that **underpins the commitment to 'No First Use'**.
- **This missile uses a three-stage solid fuelled engine and is 17 metre tall and 2 metre wide**. This is the eighth trial of the indigenously developed missile which is capable of carrying 1.5 tonnes of nuclear warheads.

- **The DRDO-developed missile has a payload capacity of 1,500 kg of high-explosive warhead.** The Agni missile is programmed to turn towards the earth's gravitational pull after reaching the peak of its trajectory. Its path is precisely directed by advanced onboard computer and inertial navigation system.
 - As the missile enters the earth's atmosphere, **the atmospheric air rubbing the skin of the missile during re-entry phase raises the temperature above 4,000 degrees Celsius.** The indigenously designed and developed carbon-carbon composite heat shield continues to burn sacrificially, protecting the payload and maintaining the inside temperature below 50 degrees Celsius.
 - India has at present in its armoury of Agni series, **Agni-1 with 700 km range, Agni-2 with 2,000 km range, Agni-3 and Agni-4 with with 2,500 km to more than 3500 km range.**
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Career
Launcher

Inventions/Discoveries

A planet orbiting three suns discovered for the first time in distant universe

- The Sun in our solar system fuels everything, and Earth is just at the perfect spot to support life in the habitable zone, but there is a planet in the distant universe that has not one but three suns. Astronomers have for the first time discovered a planet that is orbiting three stars in its system.
- Located at a distance of 1300 light-years from Earth, the planet has been identified by astronomers from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, in the system GW Ori. Astronomers had so far observed planets with unitary star systems and dual star systems, however, this is the first such discovery of a novel phenomenon.
- Researchers used the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA) telescope to analyse the three observed dust rings around the three stars, which are critical to forming planets.
- However, while studying the data they found a substantial, yet the puzzling gap in the circum-triple disc. They speculated that the gap was created by gravitational torque from the three stars and studied the different origins of the system.
- Jeremy Smallwood, lead author and a recent PhD graduate in astronomy from UNLV said that after constructing a comprehensive model of GW Ori, they found that the more likely, and fascinating, explanation for the space in the disc is the presence of one or more massive planets, Jupiter-like in nature.

New Discovery about Immune “Sentinel” Cells May Aid In Cancer Treatment

- Australian Researchers during a recent study made a surprise discovery about how immune “sentinel” cells are maintained, which could have implications for drugs in development for cancer treatment.
- The findings of the study were published in the journal Science Immunology. The researchers studied the impact of deleting specific proteins in immune cells that were responsible for controlling the ability of cells to silence or switch off genes.
- They were surprised to find that one population of “sentinel” immune cells was affected by the deletion of a component of the machinery, causing the cells to disappear from skin and lungs completely. This suggests that drugs that inhibit this component to treat diseases, such as cancer, could have unintended consequences for the immune system.

World Health Organization (WHO) recommends first Anti-Malaria vaccine

- In a historic move, the World Health Organization (WHO) has endorsed the first anti-malarial vaccine. WHO said it is recommending the widespread use of malaria vaccine among children in sub-Saharan Africa and in other regions with moderate to high P. falciparum malaria transmission.
- WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said, the long-awaited malaria vaccine for children is a breakthrough for science, child health and malaria control. He said using this vaccine on top of existing tools to prevent malaria could save tens of thousands of young lives each year. Malaria remains a primary cause of childhood illness and death in sub-Saharan Africa, according to the WHO.

The World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for international public health. The WHO Constitution, which establishes the agency’s governing structure and principles, states its main objective as “the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health”. It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, with six semi-autonomous regional offices and 150 field offices worldwide. The WHO was established by constitution on 7 April 1948 which is commemorated as World Health Day. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has been serving since 2017 as Director-General of the World Health Organization. Tedros is the first African in the role, and was endorsed by the African Union. Before serving as Director-General, he held two high-level positions in the government of Ethiopia: Minister of Health from 2005 to 2012 and Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2012 to 2016.

Bharat Biotech to produce world's first malaria vaccine

- India's Bharat Biotech will be producing part of the world's only malaria vaccine that has been developed by Pharma major GSK, and was recently approved by WHO (World Health Organisation)
- As part of this partnership, GSK would transfer RTS manufacturing technology to Bharat Biotech to produce the S antigen component of the malaria vaccine, and the license on all rights pertaining to it. GSK will retain the production of the adjuvant of the vaccine (AS01E) and will supply it to Bharat Biotech.

Bharat Biotech International Limited (BBIL) is an Indian multinational biotechnology company headquartered in Hyderabad, engaged in the drug discovery, drug development, manufacture of vaccines, bio-therapeutics, pharmaceuticals and health care products. Krishna Ella is the founder and chairman of Bharat Biotech where he is also a Managing Director.

India's first Banni buffalo IVF calf born in Gujarat

- India saw the birth of its first IVF calf of a Buffalo breed namely Banni. The calf is born out of 6 Banni IVF pregnancies established at the doorsteps of a farmer Vinay. L. Wala in Gujarat's Somnath district.
- The process was carried out to enhance the number of genetically superior buffaloes to increase milk production, the official said. Banni buffalo is known for its resilience and higher milk producing capacity in an arid environment.
- A "Banni" buffalo belonging to a dairy farmer from Dhanej village in Gir Somnath gave birth to an IVF male calf, in what the Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying called the birth of the first calf of the breed born using in-vitro fertilisation (IVF).
- Producing calves by deploying ART will pave the way for rapid multiplication of superior animals at a much faster pace, said Shyam Zawar, the CEO of JK Trust.
- The technology can help the country to multiply the population of genetically superior buffaloes resulting in higher milk yield, he said, adding that the NGO was also behind the country's first IVF calf named Krishna born on January 9, 2017.

In vitro fertilisation (IVF) is a process of fertilisation where an egg is combined with sperm in vitro ("in glass"). The process involves monitoring and stimulating a woman's ovulatory process, removing an ovum or ova (egg or eggs) from her ovaries and letting sperm fertilise them in a culture medium in a laboratory. After the fertilised egg (zygote) undergoes embryo culture for 2–6 days, it is implanted in the woman or another woman's uterus, with the intention of establishing a successful pregnancy. In July 1978, Louise Brown was the first child successfully born after her mother received IVF treatment. Brown was born as a result of natural-cycle IVF, where no stimulation was made.

First planet outside Milky Way Galaxy detected: Saturn-like object is orbiting a black hole

- Objects hanging in the vacuum of the cosmos orbiting a star have been detected throughout the galaxy, these exoplanets have been a source of enhancing our understanding of the conditions beyond our solar system.
- Astronomers have now gone a step further and detected the first planet not just beyond the solar system but beyond the entire stretch of the Milky Way Galaxy. This is the first time that signs of a planet transiting a star beyond the Milky Way galaxy has been detected.
- The unique discovery was led by Nasa's Chandra X-ray Observatory that has peaked into the spiral galaxy Messier 51 (M51), also called the Whirlpool Galaxy.
- Astronomers have over the years detected over 4,000 such exoplanets, some Earth-like, some hot Jupiters and others decaying due to astronomical events in their region. Almost all of them are within the realm of the Milky Way, less than about 3,000 light-years from Earth. But the exoplanet in M51 would be about 28 million light-years away, meaning it would be thousands of times farther away than those in the Milky Way.

The Milky Way is the galaxy that includes the Solar System, with the name describing the galaxy’s appearance from Earth: a hazy band of light seen in the night sky formed from stars that cannot be individually distinguished by the naked eye. The term Milky Way is a translation of the Latin *via lactea*, from the Greek, meaning “milky circle.” From Earth, the Milky Way appears as a band because its disk-shaped structure is viewed from within. Galileo Galilei first resolved the band of light into individual stars with his telescope in 1610. Until the early 1920s, most astronomers thought that the Milky Way contained all the stars in the Universe.



Career
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ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT



Uttarakhand forest department dedicates North India's biggest Palmetum to citizens

- The Uttarakhand Forest Department dedicated the state's first Palmetum and the biggest one in North India, to the people in the Haldwani area of Nainital district. The Palmetum, which took over three years to develop, has over 110 species of palms.
- "One palm species is endemic to Uttarakhand. It is called *Trachycarpus Takil* (Takil Palm) and is the only Palm that can survive sub-zero temperature and has also been declared as a threatened species by the Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board.

Himachal Pradesh becomes first state in India to begin organised cultivation of true dalchini

- The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) -Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (IHBT) has, for the first time, begun organized cultivation of 'true' variety of cinnamon plant in the country.
- "The true cinnamon is derived from *Cinnamomum verum* whereas the majority of cinnamon being sold in the market is derived from *Cinnamomum cassia* which is yet another species whose bark is used in place of *Cinnamomum verum* and it has a high content of coumarin which is not good for health and is known as kidney destroyer due to which it is banned in the US and other countries".

India has emerged as 4th largest exporter of Marine products in the world

- MoS I&B Dr L Murugan said that India has emerged as the 4th largest exporter of Marine products in the world. Marine products account for 17 to 18 per cent of the total agricultural products exports of the country. The Union Government initiative of the Matsya Sampada is paying its rich dividends.

World's First 'Jumanji - The Adventure' Theme Park to Open in Italy

- Italy is all set to welcome cinephiles and all those who love thrill and adventure to the world's first theme park ride based on the much-loved Jumanji franchise.
- The ride has been named 'Jumanji — The Adventure' and will be located at the Gardaland Resort in Italy. The ride based on the Sony Big Pictures franchise will be open to the public in 2022.

Hara Bhara, India's first aerial seeding campaign launched in Hyderabad

- In a move to accelerate reforestation across the country, Hara Bhara, India's first aerial seeding campaign using the Seedcopter drone was launched by Marut Drones, an aerial seeding company, in collaboration with the Telangana State government. The idea of the campaign is to accelerate the mission of reforestation through the planting of one billion trees using drones by 2030 in the country.

Lucknow's KGMU first medical institute in India to have pathogen reduction technology

- Pathogen reduction technology (PRT), a proactive approach for improving blood transfusion safety, will soon be available at the King George's Medical University, which will be the first medical institute in the country to introduce this technology.

- Prof Tulika Chandra, HoD, transfusion medicine at the KGMU made an announcement to this effect during a programme on National Voluntary Blood Donation Day. “PRT is currently in use in Europe and US, and the KGMU will be the first in India to use this technology, which can kill viruses that we currently may not even be aware of,” said Chandra. She said the use of this technology will ensure higher safety levels for patients undergoing blood transfusion with blood issued from the KGMU.

India’s newest Tiger Reserve, No. 4 in Chhattisgarh

- The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) approved the Chhattisgarh government’s proposal to declare the combined areas of the Guru Ghasidas National Park and Tamor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary as a Tiger Reserve. The new Reserve is located in the northern part of the state, bordering Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand. This will be the fourth Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh, after the Udanti-Sitanadi, Achanakmar, and Indravati Reserves.
- The proposal was considered by the 11th Technical Committee of the NTCA on September 1, and approval was granted a month later under Section 38V(1) of The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. (“Tiger Conservation Plan: The State Government shall, on the recommendation of the Tiger Conservation Authority, notify an area as a tiger reserve.”)

Himachal Pradesh becomes first Indian state to begin organised cultivation of Cinnamon

- Cinnamon cultivation in Himachal Pradesh has been introduced by CSIR’s Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (IHBT) on a pilot basis. Organised Cinnamon cultivation in Himachal Pradesh was launched on 29 September 2021, with State Agriculture Minister Virendra Kanwar planting the first sapling in the Una district.
- India imports 45,318 tonnes of Cinnamon annually from Sri Lanka, China, Indonesia, Vietnam, and Nepal. On the occasion, the director of CSIR-IHBT informed that as much as 2000 hectares of the area was under Cinnamomum Verum cultivation in Kerala but was in an unorganized sector.

Mozambique becomes first country to receive emission reductions payments from forest carbon partnership facility

- Mozambique has become the first country to receive payments from a World Bank trust fund for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation—commonly known as REDD+.
- The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) paid Mozambique \$6.4 million for reducing 1.28 million tons of carbon emissions since 2019. The payment is the first of four under the country’s Emission Reductions Payment Agreement (ERPA) with the FCPF that could unlock up to \$50 million for reducing up to 10 million tons of CO₂ emissions in Mozambique’s Zambézia Province by the end of 2024.

The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) is a global partnership of governments, businesses, civil society, and indigenous people’s organizations focused on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, forest carbon stock conservation, the sustainable management of forests, and the enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries, activities commonly referred to as REDD+. Launched in 2008, the FCPF now works with 47 developing countries across Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean, along with 17 donors that have made contributions and commitments totaling \$1.3 billion.

India occupies top spot globally in emissions related to crop burning: Report

- India is ranked at the top in emissions related to crop burning, accounting for 13 per cent of total global emissions for the 2015-2020 period, according to a new report released by climate tech startup Blue Sky Analytics, which is also part of global coalition “Climate TRACE”.
- Blue Sky Analytics, the Indian climate tech startup founded by an IIT alumnus, also pointed towards a 12.2-per cent contribution by India to cropland fire emissions in 2020. However, it also points to an increase in emissions by 12.8 per cent in 2019-20, increasing India’s global contribution to 12.2 per cent.

World's first city-wide plastic survey launches in Portsmouth

- A project to help map 'hotspots' of plastic rubbish in Portsmouth is being launched. The MAPP (Mapping Portsmouth Plastic) project will be a world first – a city-wide plastic survey, designed to help find solutions to reduce plastic waste in urban areas.
- It is the latest development from the University of Portsmouth's Revolution Plastics initiative. Researchers will analyse data gathered via the Jetsam app to better understand the patterns and movement of plastic waste in Portsmouth. The information will help them develop ways of reducing large amounts of plastic from entering the environment.

252-million-year-old fossil site in J&K's Khanmoh preserves world's first tsunami

- Formally adopting the 252-million-year-old Guryul Ravine fossil site in the Khanmoh area of Jammu & Kashmir's Srinagar, a field workshop was organised on the repository of the Permian-Triassic (P-T, P-Tr) mass extinction event.
- A multitude of fossils hunted at the site, dating as far back as 252 million years ago, were displayed at the workshop. However, one of the key attractions of the day was the evidence of the world's first tsunami lying buried at the site in Khanmoh.

Indian Railways likely to become world's first 'net-zero' carbon emitter by 2030

- Indian Railways, the world's fourth largest railway network in terms of size, is one of the largest electricity consumers in the country. It consumed approximately 18,410 million units (MU) for traction loads (trains) and 2,338 MU for non-traction loads (office, railway stations, etc) in 2020.
- It spends nearly Rs 11,045 crore every year on electric energy bills, accounting for nearly 7 per cent of total operating expenses. It transports 24 million passengers every day — slightly less than Australia's population — across the subcontinent on 13,000 trains covering approximately 67,956 kilometres.
- Add another 3.3 million tonnes of freight per day — 1,200 million tonnes in 2020/21 — and the fuel requirements are massive. The Indian Railways, therefore, has a massive carbon footprint.

NZ Passes World's First Climate Law

- New Zealand has become the first country in the world to pass a law that will ensure financial organisations to disclose and act on climate-related risks and opportunities.
- The Financial Sector (Climate-related Disclosures and Other Matters) Amendment Bill has now passed its third reading. Once in effect, it is expected to make a significant contribution to New Zealand achieving carbon neutrality by 2050.

Maharashtra Becomes First In India to Introduce 10 Year Wildlife Action Plan

- Maharashtra became the first state in the country to release a 'Wildlife Action Plan'. The course of action is for 10 years (2021-2030) where the effect of climate change on wildlife and other ecosystems within the state will be recognised and studied, in order to be prepared to tackle it.
- The plan will, 'take up studies on effects of climate change on flora and fauna; climate adaptation and mitigation and other related research on climate change.' Further, it adds that it is absolutely necessary to 'investigate, quantify and monitor the impacts of climate change on marine biodiversity and its possible relationship with invasive species'.

Maharashtra is a state in the western and central peninsular region of India occupying a substantial portion of the Deccan Plateau. The centre of India is in this state. Maharashtra is the second-most populous state in India as well as the third-most populous country subdivision in the world. It was formed on 1 May 1960 by splitting the bilingual Bombay State, which had existed since 1956, into majority Marathi-speaking Maharashtra and Gujarati-speaking Gujarat. Mumbai is the capital city of the Indian state of Maharashtra. As per the Indian government population census of 2011, Mumbai was the most populous city in India with an estimated city proper population of 12.5 million living under Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai. Bhagat Singh Koshiyari is serving as the current Governor of Maharashtra. Uddhav Bal Thackeray is the current Chief Minister of Maharashtra.

NITI Aayog launches Geospatial Energy Map of India

- NITI Aayog launched a Geographic Information System (GIS)-based Energy Map of India. “NITI Aayog in collaboration with Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has developed a comprehensive Geographic Information System (GIS) Energy Map of India with the support of Energy Ministries of Government of India.”
- “The GIS map provides a holistic picture of all energy resources of the country which enables visualisation of energy installations such as conventional power plants, oil and gas wells, petroleum refineries, coal fields and coal blocks, district-wise data on renewable energy power plants and renewable energy resource potential through 27 thematic layers”. The Aayog is of the view that GIS-mapping of energy assets will be useful for ensuring real-time and integrated planning of the energy sector of India, given its large geographical distribution and interdependence.

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.

Goa gets country's first alcohol museum, dedicated to local delight feni

- India's first-ever alcohol museum has knocked the doors of the country's unofficial party capital of Goa as a Goan businessman and collector decided to educate travellers on the history and significance of the coastal state's unique culture.
- The 'All About Alcohol' museum has opened in Goa's Candolim, the tourist destination popular for its locally distilled drink 'feni' – made with either coconut or cashews – and is dedicated to the coastal state's rich heritage.

Goa is a state on the southwestern coast of India within the Konkan region, geographically separated from the Deccan highlands by the Western Ghats. Goa is popularly known as the Pearl of the orient and tourist paradise. Panaji is the state's capital, while Vasco da Gama is its largest city. The historic city of Margao in Goa still exhibits the cultural influence of the Portuguese, who first voyaged to the subcontinent in the early 16th century as merchants, and conquered it soon thereafter, whereupon Goa became an overseas territory of the Portuguese Empire, part of what was then known as Portuguese India, and remained as such for about 450 years, until it was annexed by India in 1961. The “armed action” was code named Operation Vijay (meaning “Victory”) by the Indian Armed Forces. P. S. Sreedharan Pillai is currently serving as the Governor of Goa state. Pramod Sawant is the current Chief Minister of Goa.

G20 Rome summit aims to set agenda for COP26 climate talks

- Hectic negotiations are underway among G20 countries to set the agenda for the upcoming COP26 global climate talks in Glasgow and strike a consensus between the developed and developing nations to raise and hasten climate ambitions.
- On the table is a strong pitch for net-zero commitments, cutting coal use in the power sector, signing up on the methane pledge, reducing fuel subsidy, and upping the national climate targets – also known as Nationally Determined Contributions. The developed nations are upping the ante and aim to finalise an ambitious climate action plan at the G20 heads of nations summit in Rome on October 30-31.
- On the other side of the divide are India, China, Brazil, Australia, Indonesia and Saudi Arabia – countries where the growth agenda could be deeply impacted by these decisions. The 'net-zero' target is one of them.

The G20 (or Group of Twenty) is an intergovernmental forum comprising 19 countries and the European Union (EU). It works to address major issues related to the global economy, such as international financial stability, climate change mitigation, and sustainable development. The G20 is composed of most of the world's largest economies, including both industrialized and developing nations. As of 2021 there are 20 members of the group: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, the European Union, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Spain is a permanent guest invitee.

Plastic pollution in aquatic systems may triple by 2040: UNEP

- **The microbial community on plastic debris — the plastisphere — now covers the multiple biomes on Earth.** From the deepest parts of the ocean to the most remote oceanic islands, plastics and microplastics are all-pervasive. **A new report by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has rung alarm bells:** The amount of plastics in the oceans has been **estimated to be around 75-199 million tonnes at present.**
- Without meaningful action, emissions of plastic waste into **aquatic ecosystems are projected to nearly triple by 2040. It could more than double by 2030, according to the assessment.** The report talks about the extreme pressures being exerted on the planet due to plastic pollution and the need for urgent action to offset it.
- The report flagged that under a business-as-usual scenario and in the **absence of necessary interventions, the amount of plastic waste entering aquatic ecosystems could nearly triple from 9-14 million tonnes a year in 2016 to 23-37 million tonnes a year by 2040.**

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is responsible for coordinating responses to environmental issues within the United Nations system. It was established by Maurice Strong, its first director, after the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm in June 1972. Its mandate is to provide leadership, deliver science and develop solutions on a wide range of issues, including climate change, the management of marine and terrestrial ecosystems, and green economic development. The organization also develops international environmental agreements; publishes and promotes environmental science and helps national governments achieve environmental targets. As a member of the United Nations Development Group, UNEP aims to help the world meet the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

India's 1st state-owned Wildlife DNA lab to open in Nagpur

- **India's first state government-owned Wildlife DNA analysis laboratory has been inaugurated at Regional Forensic Science Laboratory (RFSL) in Nagpur, Maharashtra.**
- Currently there are two central government-owned Wildlife DNA laboratory. **These are located at Dehradun and Hyderabad.** The new facility will enable the authorities in Maharashtra to promptly get DNA reports of animals hit by man-wildlife conflict or menaces such as poaching, which until now, were sent to laboratories in Hyderabad or Dehradun for testing and authorities had to wait for months to get the report.
- **Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and state home minister Dilip Walse-Patil inaugurated country's first state government-owned Wildlife DNA analysis laboratory at Regional Forensic Science Laboratory (RFSL) in Nagpur.** There are two central government-owned Wildlife DNA laboratory at Dehradun and Hyderabad.

Nag River revitalization project approved by Expenditure Finance Committee

- **The Nag River revitalization project conceptualized by Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has been approved by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC).**
- **It is an ambitious project for the people of Nagpur.** Mr Gadkari informed that that following the Cabinet's approval, **work worth of 2 thousand 117 crore rupees will now actually begin.**
- A period of eight years have been fixed for the completion of the work under this project. **Under it, three STP projects, a 500-kilometer sewerage network, a pumping station and community toilets will be constructed.**

Shimla in Himachal Pradesh is home to India's first oxygen-rich homes at Amila Hills

- **The scenic town of Shimla in Himachal Pradesh boasts of India's first real estate project where one can find oxygen-rich luxury homes at the height of 6,510 feet.**
- **Amila Group, a reputed real estate company, has established India's largest and well-organized hill development project known as 'Amila Hills', which is 16 kilometres away from Shimla, with the government permitting the private builders to come up with various projects.**
- Situated in the outskirts of Shimla, Amila Hills comprises a 5-star hotel-cum-health resort spread across 19 acres, luxury residences spread across 35 acres and **boasts of world-class amenities like high street shopping areas, a temple, a helipad, a world-class clubhouse, age-friendly nature trails, etc.**

Arunachal college spots 3 new fish species

- The Department of Zoology of Dera Natung Government College of Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh has discovered three new species of fish of genus *Aborichthys* of family *Nemachelidae*, according to a recent report.
- They have been named *Aborichthys uniobarensis*, *Aborichthys barapensis* and *Aborichthys palinensis*. “The three fish species are distributed in streams like Senki, Barap and Palin, which are the tributaries of Brahmaputra river system,”

Union Minister of Power & New and Renewable Energy launches the Green Day Ahead Market (GDAM)

- **Shri R K Singh, Union Minister of Power & New and Renewable Energy, launched the new market segment, Green Day Ahead Market (GDAM).** On the occasion the Minister said that we are opening doors for Renewable Energy.
- **In the set of reforms including the launch of GDAM any interested party can setup renewable energy capacity and sell it to Discoms / industries sell renewable energy. Advantages of free ISTS will be available and Open access will be granted within 15 days.** Large industries can go green. Our efforts have been to make doing the business simpler and GDAM is a step in this direction.

“Stark Reminder”: Glacier in Antarctica Named After Glasgow Climate Summit

- A glacier in far-away Antarctica has been formally named **Glasgow Glacier in honour of this Scottish city hosting the high-level UN climate summit** which formally opened, kicking off two weeks of intense diplomatic talks on curbing global warming.
- The 100-km long body of ice, which has been experiencing rapid melting, was formally named by researchers at the University of Leeds to mark the 26th Conference of Parties (COP26) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), a stark reminder of why such an urgent action is needed. “By naming this glittering giant of nature after the city where humankind will gather to fight for the future of the planet, we have a stark reminder of what we are working to preserve”.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh launches Indian manned Ocean Mission Samudrayan

- **Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh launched the Indian manned Ocean Mission Samudrayan in Chennai.** The Minister said that India has joined the elite club of Nations such as the USA, Russia, Japan, France and China to have such underwater vehicles for carrying out subsea activities.
 - The Ministry of Earth Sciences is carrying out deep ocean exploration of the non-living resources such as polymetallic manganese nodules, gas hydrates, hydrothermal sulphides and cobalt crusts located at a depth between 1000 and 5500 metres.
 - Sea trials of 500 metre rated shallow water version of the manned submersible are expected to take place in the last quarter of 2022 and the MATSYA 6000, the deep water manned submersible will be ready for trials by the second quarter of 2024.
 - NIOT is indigenously developing a manned submersible designed to carry three persons in 2.1 diameter Titanium Alloy Personal Sphere with an operational endurance of 12 hours and systems to support emergency endurance upto 96 hours.
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SPORTS



Sports Personalities in News

Virat Kohli becomes first Indian batter to score 10,000 runs in T20 format

- India captain Virat Kohli reached a coveted milestone of 10,000-run mark in all forms of T20 cricket (international, domestic and franchise) during his side Royal Challengers Bangalore's IPL match against Mumbai Indians.

Sania Mirza-Shuai Zhang win Ostrava Open women's doubles title

- India's Tennis veteran, Sania Mirza won the doubles title at the Ostrava Open with her Chinese partner Shuai Zhang. The final was held at the ČEZ Aréna in Ostrava in the Czech Republic.
- This is the first title of this season for Sania Mirza and the 43rd title of her career. Ostrava Open is a tournament organized for women tennis players. It resurfaced in 2020 to make up for the loss of tournaments due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Ganemat Sekhon wins Silver in women's Skeet at the Junior World Championships

- Rising Women's Skeet talent Ganemat Sekhon has won a silver medal at International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Championship in Lima, Peru.

Smriti Mandhana becomes first Indian women to score a Test hundred on Australian soil

- In a historic moment in women's cricket, Smriti Mandhana became first Indian woman to score a Test hundred on Australian soil.
- Mandhana made 127 off 216 balls with the help of 22 boundaries and a six at the Carrara Oval, and added an Indian record of 102 runs in Australia for the second wicket with Punam Raut (36), continuing the good work after putting on 93 with Shafali Verma on a rain-marred opening day.

Dinesh Karthik's famous last-ball six becomes India's first sports NFT

- The artwork is a non-fungible token or NFT, and is an animation of that fateful last ball, Karthik's six, and the celebration in its aftermath. It features a voice-over by Karthik narrating his thoughts and emotions while facing up to the last ball and hitting the winning runs.
- In March 2018, India faced Bangladesh in the finals of the Nidahas Trophy; the match turned into a classic nail-biter with the team needing 5 runs to win off the last ball, and Karthik at the crease.

Australia's Ellyse Perry becomes first woman cricketer to achieve double of 5000 Runs, 300 Wickets in International Cricket

- Australia all-rounder Ellyse Perry picked her 300th wicket in international cricket – across all three formats of the game. As a result, Perry is now the first woman cricketer to have achieved the double of 5,000 runs and 300 wickets in international cricket.
- In ODIs, Perry has 3,135 runs to her credit along with 152 wickets. While in the shortest format, the all-rounder has 1,243 runs along with 115 wickets.

Anshu Malik scripts history becoming first Indian woman to win silver medal in World Wrestling Championships

- Indian grappler Anshu Malik has scripted history as she became the first Indian woman to win a silver medal in the World Wrestling Championships. Anshu lost to Olympic medallist Helen Maroulis of the USA 4-1 in the summit clash of women's 57 kg category at Oslo in Norway.
- Maroulis won the gold medal after her splendid show. Anshu Malik is a two-time Asian Championship medalist, which includes gold and a Ranking Series silver medalist.
- India's Sarita Mor, a two-time Asian champion, won a bronze medal in the women's 59 kilogram category after beating Sweden's Sara Lindborg 8-2 in the playoff. Previously, only five Indian women had won bronze at the world championships.

Vinay Sahasrabudhe to head Parliamentary panel for education, women, children, youth, sports

- Parliamentary standing committees have been reconstituted for a new term.
- Vinay P Sahasrabudhe was appointed chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee for Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports.

Divya Deshmukh becomes India's latest Woman Grand Master

- Child prodigy Divya Deshmukh has become India's latest Woman Grand Master (WGM) at the Grandmaster chess tournament in Budapest, Hungary.

MS Dhoni becomes first T20 captain to lead in 300 matches

- Former Indian wicketkeeper-batter MS Dhoni has become the first captain to lead 300 matches in the T20 format. Dhoni has been at the helm for Chennai Super Kings, India, Rising Pune Supergiants in the - IPL, CL T20, Asia Cup, T20 World Cup - and has won every major T20 Trophy in the world.
- Second on the all-time list comes West Indian icon, Daren Sammy who has lead Peshawar Zalmi, Rajshahi Kings, St Lucia, St Lucia Stars, St Lucia Zouks, Sunrisers Hyderabad, Titans, West Indies, West Indies XI, and Windward Islands in the T20 format in 208 matches.

Indian Grandmaster P Iniyen wins chess tournament in Spain

- Indian Grandmaster P Iniyen clinched the title in the La Nucia Open chess tournament with an unbeaten run.
- Iniyen, with an Elo rating of 2529, finished equal on seven points with GMs Andrey Sumets (Ukraine) and Rodrigo Vasquez Schroeder (Chile) but the Indian won the event on the basis of a better tie-break score. Iniyen, who was seeded fifth, remained unbeaten in the nine-round tournament.

Harbhajan Singh, Javagal Srinath awarded MCC life membership

- India's Harbhajan Singh and Javagal Srinath were awarded life membership of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), joining 16 other cricketers who were given the honour this year. The MCC, based at Lord's, is the custodian of cricket laws.
- Harbhajan and Srinath both enjoyed fine international careers. Harbhajan is India's third-highest wicket-taker in Tests, with 417 dismissals in 103 Tests and more than 700 plus international wickets across formats.

Paddler Payas Jain becomes World No. 1 in U-17 category

- Payas Jain became the second Indian paddler to achieve a World No. 1 ranking, thanks to his title-winning performances in the Under-17 Boys category.

Indian GM Iniyen wins chess tournament in Serbia

- Indian Grandmaster P Iniyen emerged winner in the 5th Rujna Zora chess tournament held with seven points from nine rounds. He had recently won an event in Spain and his performance here enabled him gain one Elo point. His current FIDE rating is 2556.

Kashmiri girl Tajamul Islam wins world kickboxing gold

- Tajamul Islam, 13, is the first Kashmiri girl to have represented India and won the gold medal — in the under-14 age category — in World Kickboxing Championship held at Cairo in Egypt on October 22. She was born in Tarkpora, a remote village in north Kashmir's Bandipora district, 56 km from Srinagar.
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Career
Launcher

Sport Events

Odisha to host junior men's World Cup Hockey from November 24 to December 5

- **Odisha will host the junior men's World Cup Hockey in coming November. Chief minister Naveen Patnaik announced this in capital Bhubaneswar. He also unveiled the logo and trophy for the tournament.**
- **As many as 16 countries will take part in the event that will be held in the Kalinga stadium in Bhubaneswar from the 24th November 5th December 2021. Odisha had hosted the 2018 men's hockey world cup.**

Nagaland to host 56th National Cross Country Championship in January 2022

- **Nagaland will be hosting the 56th National Cross Country Championship in January next year. Nagaland will be hosting the 56th National Cross Country Championship on 15th of January 2022. It will be the first ever for the state to host such national athletics events.**

Hockey India withdraws from 2022 Birmingham CWG, cites Covid concerns

- **Hockey India President Gyanandro Ningombam communicated the federation's decision to Indian Olympic Association (IOA) President Narinder Batra.**
- **Hockey India reasoned that there is only a 32-day window available between Birmingham Games (July 28-August 8) and the Hangzhou Asian Games (September 10-25) and it can't risk sending its players to the UK which has been one of the worst affected countries by the coronavirus pandemic.**
- **"You will appreciate that the Asian games is the Continental qualification event for the 2024 Paris Olympic Games and keeping the priority of the Asian Games in mind, Hockey India can not risk any members of the Indian teams contracting Covid-19 during the Commonwealth Games,".**

Germany unveils logo for soccer's Euro 2024 tournament

- **Germany has unveiled the logo for soccer's 2024 European Championship during a ceremony with a light show in the stadium that will hold the final. The logo features an outline of the Henri Delaunay Cup — the bulbous tournament trophy — set on a colored oval outline that resembles the Olympiastadion's roof.**
- **It features colors from the flags of UEFA's 55 member nations, set in 24 slices around the trophy to represent the 24 teams that will ultimately qualify for the tournament in Germany.**
- **Germany hosted the World Cup in 2006, with the final held in the refurbished Olympiastadion. The stadium was originally built for the 1936 Olympic Games hosted by Nazi Germany. West Germany also hosted the World Cup in 1974 and the European Championship in 1988.**

DRS to be used in men's T20 World Cup for the first time

- **For the first time in an ICC men's T20I tournament the Decision Review System (DRS) will be in use as the governing body has announced that the system will be available at the T20 World Cup.**
- **The ICC has also decided to increase the minimum number of overs for delayed and rain-interrupted matches. During the group stages of the T20 World Cup, each team will need to bat for a minimum of five overs for the result to be decided by the DLS method. That's the norm for any T20I currently.**
- **But for the semi-finals and the final, each team will need to bat for a minimum of 10 overs to effect a result, as was the norm in the women's T20 World Cup last year, where it became a major talking point after the first semi-final, between England and India, was washed out in Sydney, and the absence of a reserve day saw England eliminated.**

Germany becomes first team to qualify for 2022 World Cup

- **Germany qualified for the 2022 World Cup by crushing North Macedonia 4-0 away to secure top spot in qualifying Group J with two games to spare.**

Indian women's team beat Spain 3-2 in Uber Cup Finals

- The Indian women's badminton team registered a 3-2 win over Spain in Group B of the 2020 Uber Cup Finals, at Aarhus in Denmark. Though Spain were without former World No 1 Carolina Marin, the Indians will take the 3-2 win as amorable booster as it was their first match of the event.

India beat Nepal 3-0 to clinch SAFF Championship title for 8th time

- India clinched the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship for eighth time defeating Nepal 3-0 in Male. India dominated possession in the first-half but they failed to score any goal. Notably, this is the Indian football team's first title victory under head coach Igor Stimac. The final was the 12th for India in 13 editions, which also shows their domination in this regional tournament.

Chennai Super Kings beat Kolkata Knight Riders to win its 4th IPL title

- Chennai Super Kings beat Kolkata Knight Riders by 27 runs to win its fourth IPL title in Dubai. Faf du Plessis wins the Man of the Match award for smashing a knock of 86 in 59 balls for Chennai.
- Ruturaj Gaikwad has won the Orange Cap for scoring highest run with 635 runs from 16 matches in this edition of IPL. While Du Plessis finished the campaign as the second-highest run scorer of the the season with 633 off 16 games.
- The Purple Cap goes to RCB's Harshal Patel, who has registered 32 wickets in 15 games in this IPL season. With this, MS Dhoni led Chennai lift the IPL trophy for the fourth time, having previously won the tournament in 2010, 2011, and 2018.

The Indian Premier League (IPL) is a domestic, annual Twenty20 cricket tournament in India, organized by the IPL Governing Council, under the aegis of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). It is the most watched Twenty20 tournament and the second-best paying sporting league globally. IPL was established in 2008 and currently consists of eight teams in eight cities across India. The inaugural IPL season was won by Rajasthan Royals. As of October 2021, there have been fourteen seasons of the IPL tournament. The latest season was conducted with Chennai Super Kings winning the title. The Mumbai Indian won the IPL title 5 times overall and it is the most successful team in the tournament.

IPL gets two new teams, RPSG and CVC Capitals win Lucknow, Ahmedabad bids

- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced that RPSG Ventures Ltd. and Ireliya Company Pte Ltd. (CVC Capital Partners) have won the ownership rights of Lucknow and Ahmedabad teams in the Indian Premier League (IPL).
- The RPSG Ventures Ltd. were awarded Lucknow as their home base with a winning bid of a whopping Rs 7,090 crore. CVC Capital Partners took Ahmedabad as its home base with a second-highest bid of Rs 5,625 crore.

Athletics Federation of India signs 3-year partnership with IOS Sports

- In a first of its kind move, the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) has signed a 3-year exclusive partnership with sports management firm IOS Sports and Entertainment.
- As commercial partners to AFI, IOS Sports will work towards building the federation's brand in the country and unlock commercial assets and partner with top brands.

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik Launches India's First FIFA Football For Schools Programme

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has launched the FIFA Football for Schools Programme, which is the first for India. The Chief Minister launched the programme during a ceremony at the Kalinga Institute of Social Science (KISS) in Bhubaneswar. The inauguration ceremony was virtually attended by Dr Nik Gugger, Member of Parliament, Switzerland along with the President of FIFA, Gianni Infantino.
- The FIFA Football for Schools (F4S) is a worldwide programme run by the global football federation which aims at continuing education, development and empowerment of around 700 million children.

AWARDS



Indian environmental law organisation wins Right Livelihood Award

- Delhi-based environmental organisation **Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment (LIFE)** has received the **2021 Right Livelihood Award** for its “grassroots approach of empowering vulnerable communities to protect their livelihoods and claim their right to a clean environment.”
- The award is known as Sweden’s alternative Nobel Prize. Other awardees include **Cameroonian women rights activist Marthe Wandou**, **Russian environmental activist Vladimir Sliviyak**, and **Canadian Indigenous rights defender Freda Huson**.
- The **Right Livelihood Award** honours and supports people solving global problems. It comes with a cash prize of **1 million Swedish crowns (115,000 USD)** and long-term support to highlight and expand Laureates’ work.
- The jury of **Stockholm-based Right Livelihood**, which chose the awardees, said that **LIFE** was receiving the Award “for innovative legal work empowering communities to protect their resources in the pursuit of environmental democracy in India.”
- The prize was established in 1980 by **German-Swedish philanthropist Jakob von Uexkull**, and is presented annually in early December. Although it is promoted as an “Alternative Nobel Prize”, it is not a Nobel prize (i.e., a prize created by **Alfred Nobel**). It does not have any organizational ties at all to the awarding institutions of the Nobel Prize or the Nobel Foundation, unlike the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences, which is not technically a Nobel prize but is administered by the Nobel Foundation.

The man behind “Yellow Revolution” – Mr. Dinesh Shahra, awarded with Globoil Lifetime Achievement Award 2021

- **Dinesh Shahra**, has received **Globoil India Lifetime Achievement Award 2021** for his exemplary contribution to the **Edible Oil Industry**, held with all its grandeur and glamour, at **Taj Convention Centre Hotel, Goa**.
- **Dinesh Shahra** is one of the few industrialists who successfully made an indelible mark in the **Indian agriculture sector**. By spearheading the ‘**yellow revolution**’, Mr. Shahra played a pivotal role in transforming **Madhya Pradesh** into the “soy bowl of India”, providing millions of Indians access to quality nutrition. His vision for self-sufficiency, strategic food security & agri-reforms has enhanced the livelihood of millions of stakeholders, especially farmers.

Bangladeshi Fairouz Faizah Beether gets 2021 Changemaker Award

- **Fairooz Faizah Beether** of **Bangladesh** has been chosen for the **2021 Changemaker Award** for her work promoting good health and well-being by the **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation**. The award celebrates an individual who has inspired change using personal experience or from a position of leadership.

- The Changemaker Award is part of the Goalkeepers Global Goals award instituted by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to accelerate progress towards attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN.

Yemeni humanitarian organization wins Nansen Refugee Award 2021

- A humanitarian organization from Yemen has been declared as the winner of the 2021 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award. The organisation named “Jeel Albena Association for Humanitarian Development”, founded in 2017 by Ameen Jubran has won the prestigious honour to support and provide a lifeline to tens of thousands of Yemenis people displaced by the country’s conflict.
- The UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award honours individuals, groups or organizations for going above and beyond the call of duty to protect refugees, other displaced and stateless people.

Abdulrazak Gurnah wins the 2021 Nobel Prize in literature

- The Nobel Prize in literature has been awarded to the novelist Abdulrazak Gurnah, for his “uncompromising and compassionate penetration of the effects of colonialism and the fate of the refugee in the gulf between cultures and continents”.
- Gurnah grew up on one of the islands of Zanzibar before fleeing persecution and arriving in England as a student in the 1960s. He has published 10 novels as well as a number of short stories. Anders Olsson, chair of the Nobel committee, said that the Gurnah’s novels – from his debut Memory of Departure, about a failed uprising, to his most recent, Afterlives – “recoil from stereotypical descriptions and open our gaze to a culturally diversified East Africa unfamiliar to many in other parts of the world”.
- No black African writer has won the prize since Wole Soyinka in 1986. Gurnah is the first black writer to win since Toni Morrison in 1993.
- Until recently, he was Professor of English and Postcolonial Literatures at the University of Kent, Canterbury. 73 year old Gurnah has published ten novels, including Paradise and Desertion and a number of short stories.
- The Swedish Academy in a statement said that the theme of the refugee’s disruption runs throughout Abdulrazak Gurnah’s work. He began writing as a 21-year-old in English exile, and although Swahili was his first language, English became his literary tool.

The Nobel Prize in Literature is a Swedish literature prize that has been awarded annually, since 1901, to an author from any country who has, in the words of the will of Swedish industrialist Alfred Nobel, produced “in the field of literature the most outstanding work in an ideal direction”. It is one of the five Nobel Prizes established by the 1895 will of Alfred Nobel, which are awarded for outstanding contributions in chemistry, physics, literature, peace, and physiology or medicine. The first Nobel Prize in Literature was awarded in 1901 to Sully Prudhoe of France. In 2017, the Swedish Academy awarded Kazuo Ishiguro the Nobel Prize in Literature. Rabindranath Tagore was the first Indian citizen to be awarded Nobel Prize in Literature for his poem Gitanjali and Mother Teresa is the only woman in the list.

Vice President confers Assam Government’s biennial Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi Award for National Integration and National Contribution

- Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu has conferred Assam Government’s biennial Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi Award for National Integration and National Contribution at a special function in Guwahati for the year 2021, on October 03, 2021, to three recipients.
- The awardees are Assam branch of Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust, German based Assamese litterateur Dr. Nirod Kumar Barooah and Shillong Chamber Choir at Srimanta Sankardeva Kalakshetra.
- The biennial Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi Award was instituted by the Government of Assam in 1993 in memory of the first Chief Minister of Assam Bharat Ratna Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi. The award carries five lakh rupees each, a citation and an angavastram.

- The Vice President said that Gopinath Bordoloi was a true statesman and we must take inspiration from his works. **The Gopinath Bordoloi Award is named after the first chief minister of Assam after independence and He was a freedom fighter. He was awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1999 posthumously.**

Chaitanya Tamhane wins best screenplay for ‘The Disciple’ at Asian Film Awards

- **Director Chaitanya Tamhane has won the best screenplay award for his Marathi-language feature ‘The Disciple’ at the 15th Asian Film Awards.**
- **The winners in 18 categories were announced at a ceremony hosted by the Asian Film Awards Academy (AFAA) in conjunction with Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) and Asian Contents & Film Market (ACFM) at the Paradise Hotel Busan.**

Benjamin List, Briton David MacMillan win Chemistry Nobel Prize for mirror-image molecules

- **Two scientists have been awarded the 2021 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for their work on building molecules that are mirror images of one another. German-born Benjamin List and Briton David MacMillan were announced as the winners at an event in Stockholm.**
- **Their chemical toolkit has been used for discovering new drugs and making molecules that can capture light in solar cells. The winners will share the prize money of 10 million Swedish kroner (1,135.54 million US Dollars).**
- **The technique, called asymmetric organocatalysis, has made it much easier to produce asymmetric molecules - chemicals that exist in two versions, where one is a mirror image of the other. Chemists often just want one of these mirror images - particularly when producing medicines - but it has been difficult to find efficient methods for doing this.**
- **The Swedish industrialist Alfred Nobel founded the prizes in his will written a year before his death in 1896. A total of 187 individuals have received the chemistry prize since it was first awarded in 1901. Only seven of these laureates have been women. One person, the British biochemist Frederick Sanger, won the prize twice - in 1958 and 1980.**

Nobel Prize in Chemistry is awarded annually by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences to scientists in the various fields of chemistry. It is one of the five Nobel Prizes established by the will of Alfred Nobel in 1895. The first Nobel Prize in Chemistry was awarded in 1901 to Jacobus Henricus van't Hoff, of the Netherlands, "for his discovery of the laws of chemical dynamics and osmotic pressure in solutions".

Deepika Padukone becomes first Indian to win Best Actress at Global Achiever's Award

- **Bollywood actor Deepika Padukone has become the first Indian artiste to win Global Achiever's Award. The list of winners also include renowned personalities like Barack Obama, Jeff Bezos and Cristiano Ronaldo, among others. HBW News, an international publication, reportedly announced the winners' list.**

Trio win physics Nobel for work that helps understand changing climate

- **Japanese-born American Syukuro Manabe, German Klaus Hasselmann and Italian Giorgio Parisi won the 2021 Nobel Prize for Physics for work that helps understand complex physical systems such as Earth's changing climate.**
- **One half of the prize, worth 10 million Swedish crowns (\$1.15 million), goes in equal parts to Manabe, who is 90, and Hasselmann for modelling earth's climate and reliably predicting global warming.**
- **The other half goes to Parisi for discovering "hidden rules" behind seemingly random movements and swirls in gases or liquids.**
- **The Nobel prizes were created in the will of Swedish dynamite inventor and businessman Alfred Nobel and have been awarded since 1901 with only a handful of interruptions, primarily due to the two world wars.**

The first Nobel Prize in Physics was awarded to physicist Wilhelm Rontgen in recognition of the extraordinary services he rendered by the discovery of the remarkable rays (or x-rays). Sir Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman carried out ground-breaking work in the field of light scattering, which earned him the 1930 Nobel Prize for Physics. He was the first Asian and first non-white to receive any Nobel Prize in the sciences. Before him Rabindranath Tagore (also Indian) had received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913.

Journalists Maria Ressa, Dmitry Muratov win Nobel Peace Prize

- The Nobel Peace Prize awarded to journalists Maria Ressa of Philippines and Dmitry Muratov of Russia for their fight for freedom of expression in their countries.
- The pair were honoured for their efforts to safeguard freedom of expression, which is a precondition for democracy and lasting peace, said the chairwoman of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, Berit Reiss-Andersen.
- They are representatives of all fearless journalists who stand up for truth in a world in which democracy and freedom of the press face increasingly adverse conditions, she said. 58 years old Ressa and 59 years old Rappler have also documented how social media is being used to spread fake news, harass opponents and manipulate public discourse.
- Ressa, a former CNN correspondent who also holds US citizenship, is currently on bail pending an appeal against a conviction last year in a cyber-libel case, for which she faces up to six years in prison. Muratov, has defended freedom of speech in Russia for decades, under increasingly challenging conditions.
- The Nobel Peace Prize is one of the five Nobel Prizes established by the will of Swedish industrialist, inventor, and armaments (military weapons and equipment) manufacturer Alfred Nobel, along with the prizes in Chemistry, Physics, Physiology or Medicine, and Literature. Since March 1901, it has been awarded annually (with some exceptions) to those who have “done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses”.

Three US-based economists win economics Nobel Prize for work on natural experiments

- A U.S.-based Canadian David Card, Israeli-American Joshua Angrist and Dutch-American Guido Imbens won the Nobel Economics Prize for insights into the labour market and “natural experiments”.
- The Nobel committee said in a statement that the researchers were honoured for providing “new insights about the labour market” and showing “what conclusions about cause and effect can be drawn from natural experiments”.
- Half of the prize went to Card, a professor at the University of California, Berkeley “for his empirical contributions to labour economics.” Card’s work has focused on labour market effects of minimum wages, immigration and education.
- The other half went jointly to Angrist, a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and Imbens, a professor at Stanford, “for their methodological contributions to the analysis of causal relationship.”

Meghalaya Environment Minister to Get PETA Award for ‘Vegan Leather’ Initiative

- PETA India has decided to confer on Meghalaya Environment Minister James P K Sangma the Progressive Business Concept Award for his plans to produce ‘vegan leather’ in the northeastern state.
- People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) volunteers in Meghalaya will soon hand over the award to the minister.

Agri waste-recycling project Takachar named among Prince William’s Earthshot Prize winners

- A Delhi-based entrepreneur’s agricultural waste recycling project was named among the winners of Prince William’s inaugural Earthshot Prize, dubbed the “Eco Oscars”, at a gala ceremony in London.
- Vidyut Mohan led Takachar was named the winner of the GBP 1 million prize for its cheap technology innovation to convert crop residues into sellable bio-products in the “clean our air” category.
- It was among five worldwide winners of the prize, created by William, the Duke of Cambridge, to reward people trying to save the planet.

The Earthshot Prize is awarded by the Royal Foundation to five winners each year for their contributions to environmentalism. It was first awarded in 2021 and is planned to run annually until 2030. Each winner receives a grant of £1 million to continue their environmental work. The five categories were inspired by the UN Sustainable Development Goals; they are ‘the restoration and protection of nature’, ‘air cleanliness’, ‘ocean

revival', 'waste-free living', and 'climate action'. The Earthshot Prize was launched in 2020 by Prince William, Duke of Cambridge and David Attenborough. The winners are selected by the Earthshot Prize Council, which includes Prince William and Attenborough.

Kerala wins award for city with most sustainable transport system

- Kerala has won the award for the 'city with the most sustainable transport system'. The award, which will be presented on October 29 at Delhi, has been given in recognition of the projects implemented – like Kochi Metro, Water Metro and e-mobility – to enhance the transport facilities in the city of Kochi. The formation of the Kochi Open Mobility Network, which digitized and integrated various transport facilities, also helped to win the award.

Tamil film 'Koozhangal' is India's official entry to the Oscars 2022

- Tamil film 'Koozhangal', has been announced as India's official entry to the Oscars 2022. Shaji N. Karun, the Chairperson of the 15-member Selection Committee, set up by the Film Federation of India.
- Directed by debutant Director P.S. Vinothraj, 'Koozhangal' tells the story of an alcoholic father and his son and their journey to bring back the mother, who has left the home. The film will compete for the Best International Feature Film at the 94th Academy Awards, in Los Angeles.
- Earlier this year, 'Koozhangal' had also won the prestigious Tiger Award, the top honour at the 50th edition of the International Film Festival Rotterdam this year.

Earth Guardian Award for Parambikulam Foundation

- The Parambikulam Tiger Conservation Foundation (PaTCoF), a non-profit organisation under the forest department that strives to facilitate conservation of tiger and biodiversity in Parambikulam tiger reserve, has bagged the Earth Guardian Award instituted by the NatWest Group.
- The eight winners of the award were felicitated by UN Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora secretary general Ivonne Higuero through a virtual ceremony.

Indian American scientist gets Lifetime Achievement Award

- Indian American scientist Dr Vivek Lall was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award at Ritossa Family Summits in Dubai recently.
- Dr Lall, who is known for playing a key role in enhancing India-US defence trade and instrumental in some of the top deals between the two countries was presented with the award in recognition of his "outstanding vision, dedication and success". The award was given to Dr Lall in the presence of UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade Dr Thani Bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi.

'Chhichhore' makers dedicate award to SSR

- The late actor Sushant Singh Rajput's 'Chhichhore' was presented the Best Hindi Film award. The film was directed by Nitesh Tiwari and produced by Sajid Nadiadwala.
- Actor Rajinikanth was conferred with the 51st Dadasaheb Phalke Award. The superstar dedicated the honour to his "mentor" and "guru" the late film-maker K Balachander.

Rajinikanth receives Dadasaheb Phalke Award in Delhi

- Superstar Rajinikanth was conferred with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award at a ceremony to honour the winners of 67th National Film Awards at Delhi's Vigyan Bhawan. The superstar received a standing ovation as he walked on stage to receive the honour from Vice President Venkaiah Naidu. A video that had special messages for the actor from Mohanlal, Khushbu, Amitabh Bachchan and music director AR Rahman was also played ahead of the award. The actor's family, wife Latha and son-in-law Dhanush were also present at the ceremony. Dhanush also received the National Award in the Best Actor category for Asuran.
- The Dadasaheb Phalke Award is India's highest award in the field of cinema. It is presented annually at the National Film Awards ceremony by the Directorate of Film Festivals, an organisation set up by

the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The recipient is honoured for their “outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Indian cinema” and is selected by a committee consisting of eminent personalities from the Indian film industry.

- **The award comprises a Swarna Kamal (Golden Lotus) medallion, a shawl, and a cash prize of ₹1,000,000 (US\$13,000). Presented first in 1969, the award was introduced by the Government of India to commemorate Dadasaheb Phalke’s contribution to Indian cinema. Phalke (1870–1944), who is popularly known as and often regarded as “the father of Indian cinema”, was an Indian filmmaker who directed India’s first full-length feature film, Raja Harishchandra (1913).**
- **As of 2021, there have been 51 awardees. Among those, actor Prithviraj Kapoor (1971) and actor Vinod Khanna (2017) are the only posthumous recipients. The first recipient of the award was actress Devika Rani, who was honoured at the 17th National Film Awards.**



Career
Launcher

PERSONS IN NEWS

LGBT activist Dorottya Redai named in Time's 100 most-influential people in the world list

- **An academic and LGBT activist in Hungary is among the world's 100 most influential people**, according to Time magazine, for her work on a children's book that set in motion a debate over human rights in the Central European country.
- "It's an honor. Obviously, it feels really rewarding to be one of these amazing 100 people," **Dorottya Redai, a researcher at the CEU Democracy Institute in Budapest and activist with the Labrisz Lesbian Association.**
- **The magazine included Redai on its annual TIME100 list last month to honor her efforts to advance LGBT rights in Hungary**, where recent moves by the country's right-wing government have been blasted as an attack on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.
- **At the center of Redai's recent work was her spearheading the publication of "Meseország Mindenkié" ("Fairyland is for Everyone")**, a children's book that retells classic fairytales. The book features disabled children, Roma people, LGBT protagonists and members of other minority groups as characters.
- **According to Redai, who helped coordinate and recruit the 17 authors who contributed tales, the book was intended to "address social issues in ways that are digestible for younger children,"** and to provide parents and teachers with a tool for discussing difficult topics like child neglect, the death of a parent, adoption and poverty.
- But its publication sparked a backlash in Hungary. **A week after "Fairyland is for Everyone" came out, a politician from a far-right party tore pages out of a copy and put them through a paper shredder, calling the book "homosexual propaganda."**

Urvashi Rautela becomes first Indian female actress to receive 10 years UAE golden visa

- In the past, many cine stars have been **granted the Golden Visa by Dubai including actor Shah Rukh Khan, actor Sanjay Dutt, actor Suniel Shetty, singer Neha Kakkar, and recently filmmaker Boney Kapoor.** Now, actress Urvashi Rautela has been also granted the same recognition.

Jungle Nama Book by Amitav Ghosh

- **Jungle Nama is a book written by Amitav Ghosh and illustrated by New York-based artist Salman Toor.** It is a verse adaptation of the **medieval Bengali tale about the forest (Sundarbans) goddess, Bon Bibi.**

Kangana Ranaut becomes brand ambassador of UP govt's 'one district-one product' scheme

- **The Uttar Pradesh government named actor Kangana Ranaut as the brand ambassador of its ambitious 'one district-one product' programme.** The UP government has launched the one district-one product (ODOP) programme with the **aim to create product-specific traditional industrial hubs across 75 districts of the state.**

Manish Malhotra becomes India's first fashion designer to launch NFT

- **Manish Malhotra has become the first Indian fashion designer to drop five NFTs in collaboration with Lakme Fashion Week.**
- For the uninitiated, **NFT stands for non-fungible token unique and non-interchangeable unit of data stored on a digital ledger. It uses blockchain technology to establish a verified and public proof of ownership.** The NFTs were dropped on WazirX NFT Marketplace.

CEA steps down as 3-yr tenure ends

- **Chief Economic Adviser Krishnamurthy Subramanian announced returning to academia following completion of his three-year tenure.** The government had appointed Subramanian, Professor of Finance at Indian School of Business, as CEA in December 2018.

400 Days book by Chetan Bhagat

- Bestselling author Chetan Bhagat released the trailer of his upcoming book “400 Days”. The book, published by Westland, is the **third story from the Keshav-Saurabh series** after “The Girl in Room 105” and “One Arranged Murder”. It was released on October 8.

Shree Saini Becomes First Indian-American to Be Crowned Miss World America

- **The first Indian-American to win the crown of Miss World America 2021**, Shree Saini of Washington State, is among the most unique pageant winners to be crowned.
- **An advocate for heart health**, Saini has had a **permanent pacemaker since she was 12 and overcame a major car accident** which left her with burns all over her face. But she rarely if ever lets any of that hold her back or define her.

Directi founder Divyank Turakhia wealthiest Indian under-40 with Rs 12,500 cr net worth

- Divyank Turakhia of Media.Net has topped a list of the most-wealthy Indians under-40 years with a networth of Rs 12,500 crore.
- Most of the 45 entrants in the ‘IIFL Wealth-Hurun India 40 and Under Self-Made Rich List 2021’ are start-up entrepreneurs and each has a networth of over Rs 1,000 crore. Browserstack co-founders Nakul Aggarwal (38) and Ritesh Arora (37) with wealth of Rs 12,400 crore each are second on the list, which has 31 new entrants this year.

JK Rowling releases Christmas book about ‘being lost and found’ inspired by son’s toy pigs

- Harry Potter author JK Rowling released her first children’s Christmas book, inspired by lockdown and her son David’s beloved cuddly toy pigs.
- ‘The Christmas Pig’ is a story about “being lost and being found, about loving and being loved, about what stays with us and what falls away.”.

Actress Divya Dutta’s second book, ‘The Stars in My Sky’

- From her impromptu improvisations on the sets with Irrfan Khan to her non-stop peals of laughter with Shah Rukh Khan, actress Divya Dutta tells it all in her upcoming book, “The Stars in My Sky: Those Who Brightened My Film Journey”, slated to be released on October 25.
- In her second book, Dutta recounts her experiences with some of the stalwarts of Bollywood who played a significant role in her film journey.

Justice A.K. Goswami sworn-in as new Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh High Court

- Chief Justice A.K. Goswami was sworn in as the new Chief Justice of the Chhattisgarh High Court. He was earlier serving as the Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh.
- Governor Anusuiya Uikey administered the oath of office and secrecy at a function held at Raj Bhawan. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, members of the council of ministers, and senior officials were present on the occasion.

Harbhajan Singh conferred with honorary Ph.D. in Sports by renowned French university

- One of the greatest off-spinners India has ever produced, Harbhajan Singh, referred to by his fans as The Turbanator, has been conferred with an honorary Ph.D. in Sports by Ecole Superieure Robert de Sorbon, a renowned university in France, in a convocation ceremony. When it comes to the degree that Harbhajan has been conferred with, the university offers the doctorate degree to popular personalities, including the ones from the sports fraternity

Aravind Kumar sworn in as Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court

- Justice Aravind Kumar was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court. Governor Acharya Devvrat administered the oath of office to him at Raj Bhavan in Gandhinagar.

- **Justice Aravind Kumar succeeds Justice Vikram Nath as the Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court.** Before this assignment, he was working as a Judge of the Karnataka High Court.

Joe Biden nominates Indian American to a key position in Pentagon

- **US President Joe Biden announced his intent to nominate Indian American Ravi Chaudhary** to a key position in the Pentagon.
- **A former Air Force officer, Chaudhary has been nominated for the position of the assistant secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Energy and the Environment.** He needs to be confirmed by the United States Senate before he can be sworn in for this key Pentagon position.

Indo-Canadian Amarjeet Sohi, ex-cabinet minister, elected mayor of Edmonton

- **Former Indo-Canadian cabinet minister Amarjeet Sohi has been elected mayor of the city of Edmonton in Canada's Alberta.** The 57-year-old had opted out of contesting in recently held general elections to focus on winning the mayoral polls.

Joe Biden names Neera Tanden as White House staff secretary

- **US President Joe Biden named Neera Tanden, a longtime Democratic insider in Washington, to be White House staff secretary,** moving her into a little-known but influential West Wing post after failing earlier this year to install her as the director of the Office of Management and Budget.
- **Tanden has been a senior adviser to the president,** working quietly behind the scenes to build support among interest groups for his social spending agenda and overseeing a government reform agenda with officials at the budget office.
- **Tanden had previously served as the president of the Center for American Progress,** a liberal think tank, and was a close adviser to former Sen. Hillary Clinton. In her new job, Tanden will be at the center of the flow of information between Biden and his senior White House advisers.

Indian-Origin politician Anita Anand appointed as Canada's new Defence Minister

- **In Canada, Indian-origin politician Anita Anand was appointed as the new Defence Minister in a Cabinet reshuffle by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau,** over a month after his Liberal Party returned power in the snap polls and amid calls for major military reforms.
- **Ms. Anand, will replace long-time Defence Minister Indian-origin Harjit Sajjan,** whose handling of the military sexual misconduct crisis has been under criticism. The new Cabinet maintains gender balance and has 38 members, up one person from before the election.
- **Ms. Anand has a deep background as a corporate lawyer** and has worked extensively on corporate governance, which refers specifically to the laws and rules in place to manage the operations of businesses.
- **Ms. Anand, along with Sajjan and Bardish Chagger were the three Indo-Canadian Ministers in the dissolved Cabinet** who emerged victorious in the Parliamentary polls.

Ram Gopal Varma's 'Dangerous' is India's first film for sale on Blockchain

- **Ram Gopal Varma's upcoming crime drama, Dangerous, became India's first film to go on sale as an NFT (Non-fungible tokens) on Blockchain.** The filmmaker took to Twitter to announce that it has now been sold out and wrote that film business will never be the same.
- **Ram Gopal Varma has a penchant for looking at things differently – be it his cinematic angles, his take on subjects or mythology – and continuing in the same vein – the maverick filmmakers have now put up a film for sale as a Non-Fungible Token (NFT) on Blockchain which can be purchased with any Fiat and other currency.**

Shaktikanta Das reappointed as RBI Governor for three more years

- **The government has approved the reappointment of Shaktikanta Das as Governor of the Reserve Bank of India for a period of three years.**

- **The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet** has approved the reappointment of Mr Das. The re-appointment will be effective from 10th December this year or until further orders.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) decides appointments to several top posts under the Government of India. The committee is composed of the Prime Minister of India (who is the Chairman) and the Minister of Home Affairs. Originally the Minister-in-charge of the concerned Ministry was also part of the committee but as of 14 July 2016, is not.

Abdul Qadeer Khan, father of Pakistan’s nuclear bomb dies at 85

- Abdul Qadeer Khan, 85, known as the father of Pakistan’s nuclear bomb died due to Covid-19 in Islamabad.
- AQ Khan had been living a secluded life since 2004 after he admitted to a role of massive global nuclear proliferation scam by Pakistan. He had accepted responsibility for illegal proliferation of N-technology to Iran, North Korea and Libya.

Azim Premji retains top spot as India’s ‘most generous’ billionaire

- Indian business tycoon Azim Premji has retained his spot as the top billionaire philanthropist of India for the second time in a row. According to the Edelgive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2021, the former Wipro Chairman donated Rs 9,713 crore or Rs 27 crore a day in FY 2021 making him the top giver in the country. As per the list, Premji increased his donation by nearly a fourth during the pandemic year.
- 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.
- Meanwhile, the second-richest Indian, Gautam Adani has been placed on the eighth spot on the givers’ list with a donation of Rs 130 crore towards disaster relief. Anil Aggarwal, Chairman of the Vedanta Group is on the eighth spot on the givers’ list as he contributed Rs 130 crore.

MISCELLANEOUS

I&B Minister Anurag Thakur launched Clean India Programme from Prayagraj

- **Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur launched a month-long Clean India Programme from Prayagraj as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.** This programme starting from 1st of October will continue till the month-end.
- The aim of the cleanliness drive is to **create awareness, mobilize people and ensure their involvement in cleaning waste mainly Single Use Plastic waste throughout the country.**
- **This programme is being organised in six lakh villages of 744 districts across the country through the networks of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan-NYKS affiliated Youth Clubs and National Service Scheme-affiliated institutions.** All preparations have been put in place to kickstart the programme at Sangam City Prayagraj.
- **Union Minister Anurag Singh Thakur launched Swacch Bharat Abhiyan in a programme organized at the campus of Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology Prayagraj.** Apart from the various departments, public participation will also be ensured in the programme.

Ministry of Tourism launched ‘NIDHI 2.0’ & ‘India Tourism Statistics’

- **The Ministry of Tourism is organized an event to celebrate “World Tourism Day 2021” on 27th September 2021 in New Delhi,** which has been designated by the UNWTO as a day to focus on “Tourism for Inclusive Growth”. Speaker of Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla was chief guest of the event.
- **NIDHI 2.0 (National Integrated Database of Hospitality Industry) and ‘India Tourism Statistics – At a Glance, 2021’ has launched.** A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will also be signed between Ministry of Tourism, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and The Responsible Tourism Society of India (RTSOI) to actively promote and support ‘sustainability initiatives’ in the tourism sector of each other.

Mumbai to get 1st state military museum

- **Chief minister Uddhav Thackeray said a state war memorial-cum-museum will be set up in Mumbai,** showcasing glorious achievements of the Indian armed forces.
- The work on the museum be **completed expeditiously and some parts of it must be opened for the public by August 15, 2022.**

Government organised Vayo Naman Programme in honour of senior citizens

- **Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry organised Vayo Naman Programme in the honour of senior citizens on the occasion of the International Day of Older Persons in New Delhi.** Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu was the chief guest of the programme and conferred the Vayosheshtra Samman awards.
- **The Vice President also dedicated the Elderly Help Line 14567 to the Nation and launch the Senior Able Citizens Reemployment in Dignity (SACRED) and Senior Care Ageing Growth Engine (SAGE) Portals on this occasion.** The Ministry celebrates International Day of Older Persons every year on 1st of October for the cause of elderly persons.

Lakshadweep to get its first statue – of Mahatma Gandhi

- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveiled the first public statue in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep — that of Mahatma Gandhi.** The six-foot-tall bronze statue is installed in Kavaratti Island.
- **“This will be the first ever statue to be unveiled in Lakshadweep islands to commemorate the contribution of our great freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for the cause of India’s independence.**
- **It is a milestone for Lakshadweep to unveil the statue of the Father of the Nation on the day of Gandhi Jayanti and dedicate it to the nation on this auspicious occasion by the Hon’ble Defence Minister”.**

Centre transforms 29 labour laws with four labour codes: Union Labour Minister Bhupendra Yadav

- Union Labour Minister Bhupendra Yadav said that Centre has transformed 29 labour laws with four labour codes. ESI COVID-19 and Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna Relief Scheme Approval Letters to Unorganised Workers and Beneficiaries at a programme in Mumbai, he said no matter in which sector a labourer is working his social security should be guaranteed.
- The labour ministry had envisaged implementing the four codes on industrial relations, wages, social security and occupational health safety & working conditions from April 1, 2021.
- These four labour codes will rationalise 44 central labour laws. The ministry had even finalised the rules under the four codes. But these could not be implemented because many states were not in a position to notify rules under these codes in their jurisdictions.
- Labour is a concurrent subject under the Constitution of India and therefore both the Centre and states have to notify rules under these four codes to make them the laws of the land in their respective jurisdictions.

Chhattisgarh launches cow dung based power generation project

- Chhattisgarh chief minister Bhupesh Baghel launched an electricity generation project that uses cow dung as fuel at a farmers' event to mark Gandhi Jayanti. The programme will see women and youth get opportunities and also will be a step towards realizing Mahatma Gandhi's dream of 'Gram Swaraj' (village self rule). "The entire world is worried over global warming.
- There is talk of green energy everywhere, so our government has decided to make electricity from cow dung. In every village, such a unit will be set up in gauthans (a place in rural areas where cattle are kept), where cow dung is procured under the Godhan Nyay Yojana scheme".

Kaveree Bamzai's 'The Three Khans' and the India they shaped

- A book has titled "The Three Khans: And the Emergence of New India" authored by Kaveree Bamzai.
- In the book, senior journalist, Kaveree Bamzai has juxtaposed the careers of the 3 Khans, Aamir, Shah Rukh, & Salman, with the most tumultuous times in the history of the republic.

Drones dance at first of its kind exhibition in India

- Botlab Dynamics, a start-up incubated at IIT-Delhi and the Drone Federation of India, put up the country's first drone display and it had about 80 small drones dancing about and creating intricate multi-coloured formations in the skies above IIT-Delhi. Under Kharola's watch a month ago, sweeping changes have been made on drone regulations that will enable the industry to fly to new heights in coming years.

Gandhi Museum inaugurated at Noakhali in Bangladesh

- On the occasion of the 152 birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the renovated Gandhi Museum was inaugurated at the historic Gandhi Ashram Trust at Noakhali in Bangladesh. The inauguration was done by the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh Dr A K Abdul Momen, Law Minister Advocate Anisul Huq and High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Vikram Doraiswami. The renovation of the Museum housed inside the Gandhi Ashram campus has been supported by India.
- A seminar on the theme of Ahimsa, Satyagraha and the Mahatma – Revisited was also organised to commemorate the International Day of Non-Violence and the 152nd Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi at Gandhi Ashram, Noakhali as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.

Jt military exercise Surya Kiran-15 between armies of India & Nepal concludes

- In Uttarakhand, the joint military exercise Surya Kiran-15 between the armies of India and Nepal ended in Pithoragarh. 300 soldiers from both each side took part in the exercise, which started on September 21.
- During the exercise, soldiers of both countries shared counter-insurgency tactics, information about weapons, expertise in the field of counter-terrorism operations, and technical know-how to combat IEDs

and booby traps. During the exercise, the soldiers of both countries also destroyed the hideouts of the terrorists. Lt Gen SS Mahal said that the soldiers of both countries learned a lot from the joint exercise.

Giriraj Singh launches People's Plan Campaign-2021 and Vibrant Gram Sabha Dashboard

- **Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Minister Giriraj Singh launched People's Plan Campaign-2021-Sabki Yojana, Sabka Vikas and Vibrant Gram Sabha Dashboard.** He also released a booklet on People Plan Campaign-2021 for preparation of plans for 2022-23 and the 10th issue of Gramoday Sankalp Magazine.
- **Shri Giriraj Singh said that Panchayats are the centre points of grassroots democracy. There are 31.65 lakh elected Panchayat representatives across the country in which 14.53 lakh are women.** And, they can bring about tremendous transformational changes in rural areas. **Panchayats have a significant role to play in effective and efficient implementation of flagship schemes for transformation of rural India.**

PM Modi likely to inaugurate UP's third airport in Kushinagar

- **Uttar Pradesh's third international airport — after Lucknow and Varanasi — will be inaugurated in Kushinagar.** The inauguration will be most likely done at the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 20. The airport is being opened keeping the demand of the sector in mind, particularly the wide interest of nationals from South East Asia to visit Buddhist sites in the region.

Defence Secretary launched website www.indianrdc.mod.gov.in for Republic Day Celebrations

- **Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar launched a website for Republic Day Celebrations - 2022.** To showcase the Republic Day Celebrations, which will mark the 75th year of Independence-Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, Ministry of Defence has created a new website: www.indianrdc.mod.gov.in.
- **The website will be a single-point official source for all the content related to Republic Day Celebrations.** The website includes features like a special RDC Radio, Gallery, Interactive Filters, E-book, Blogs on the Indian Freedom Movement, Wars and War Memorials.

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya gets PhD degree from a Gujarat University

- **Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, who holds the charge of chemicals and fertilizers ministry, has been conferred PhD degree by the Maharaja Krishnakumarsinhji Bhavnagar University in Gujarat.** The minister is learnt to have appeared for viva on October 1 at the university. Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has earned a PhD degree on 'Role of Gram Vidyapiths in Community Development and Future Challenges'.

An IRS officer has set up India's first tree hospital in Amritsar

- **Rohit Mehra knows all about revenue and taxation.** He can find income-tax evaders and flaws in tax returns. This Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer can crunch vast numbers. While wearing the mantle of Additional Commissioner Income Tax (Amritsar), Mehra is preoccupied with files and forms, but when he returns to his other love, he is busy setting up vertical gardens, micro-forests and spreading the word about **his latest initiative - a free hospital for trees, the world's first tree and plant clinic and hospital with an ambulance.**
- **Set up in Amritsar, the Smt Pushpa Tree & Plant Hospital & Dispensary works along with botanists, tree-lovers, scientists, ayurvedacharyas, forest experts, and Indian Forest Service (IFS) officers to address queries on plant diseases and treat them.**

Manipur CM launches "Chief Minister's Health for All" scheme

- **In Manipur, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh launched the "Chief Minister's Health for All".** The scheme was already announced by him on the 71st Birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 17th September this year.
- **The Chief Minister Gi Hakchel Gi Tengbal (CM Health Care Scheme) and Ayushman Bharat health cards will also be issued to the patients having severe and chronic illness, if eligible.** The Chief Minister also distributed ASHA Plus devices, smartphones and tablets to CHOs, Nurses and ASHA workers for the newly launched campaign.

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.

Himachal Pradesh's Kinnaur becomes first fully vaccinated district in India

- Himachal Pradesh's tribal district of Kinnaur, which shares international border with China, has become the first fully vaccinated district in the Country.
- The district has attained 100 percent vaccine coverage with all eligible citizens above 18 years getting both doses of Covid-19 vaccine.

I&B Minister Anurag Thakur launches MyParkings app in New Delhi

- Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur launched MyParkings app in New Delhi in presence of Mukesh Surya, Mayor South Delhi Municipal Corporation.
- Mr Thakur said, parking is a difficult issue and this app is an effort to reduce stress and help people plan their trips better. Smart parking solution through app or through card is an effortless solution towards hassle-free parking.
- Booking of online parking slots will enable people to park their vehicles without inconvenience. Ease of parking through the app will also help reduce pollution from vehicles by minimizing the time spent searching for parking spots.

India's first Women Mission Rock Band performed in Kashmir on October 9-10

- India's first female mission rock band, Meri Zindagi, was performing in the valleys of Kashmir on October 9 and 10. The band members was spreading awareness about girls' education, menstrual hygiene, fundamental rights and self-dependency through the beautiful means of music.
- The Lucknow-based band will be performing at a musical concert to spread information and make the girls and women of the area conscious of the various dimensions of life that surround a female. The rock band will not just give a performance but will also hold a chat session, especially for young female students to talk about education, health and equality.

India's first Diploma course in mountaineering launched

- Coinciding with the auspicious day of Vijay Dashami, India's first Diploma in Mountaineering course is launched by Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU).
- The course is designed by Guardian Giripremi Institute of Mountaineering (GGIM), the pioneer mountaineering training institute in India. A year-long course will commence. A year-long course commenced from October 18. Total 132 students applied for the course, out of which 45 students have been selected on merit basis for the course.

Salman Khan launches India's first social crypto token, Chingari's 'SGARI'

- Social Token App, Chingari unveiled its' first-ever crypto token, 'SGARI' at a public event at Taj Lands' End, Mumbai at the hands of film star and the brand ambassador of the tech start-up, Salman Khan. With the launch, Chingari claims to be the first social network in India to have issued crypto tokens.
- Recently the Indian short-video sharing platform completed a funding round of over \$19 million from more than 30 venture funds and individual investors. The funding will help the startup to build 'SGARI' with Solana, a fast growing ecosystem in crypto technology.

2.51 lakh homeless families to get gift of their house before Diwali in Madhya Pradesh

- **Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will conduct virtual home entrance to 2 lakh 51 thousand families before Diwali.** The beneficiaries also include the special backward tribes Baiga, Sahariya and Bharia families.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set a target of providing houses to all the homeless people of the country by the year 2022.** Madhya Pradesh has done a commendable job in this.
- **Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin, 21 lakh five thousand houses have been built in the state.** The work of housing construction did not stop even during the Corona period in the state. More than 3 lakh houses were constructed during this period.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari launches knowledge App, platform CUNSLT

- **Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has launched knowledge App and platform CUNSLT.** Emphasizing on innovation, entrepreneurship, science technology, research and skill for knowledge transformation, the minister said, conversion of knowledge into wealth is the future.
- **CUNSLT app will be a forum for mentors to share their life experiences.** He said, the app will allow people to learn from the wisdom which has been acquired over the lifetime.
- **CUNSLT app is the first such global facility by which people** who need information, advice, counsel, guidance can contact and call up experts in multiple sectors on-the-go.
- **Each expert also gets a unique, exclusive page reflecting their contributions by way of articles** and video-blogs and this serves as their intellectual legacy and helps to promote interest in them. CUNSLT uses the framework of context and convergence to instantly connect knowledge seekers and knowledge givers.

UIDAI to host Aadhaar Hackathon 2021

- **UIDAI will host “Aadhaar Hackathon 2021” from 28th to 31st October.** The hackathon is targeted at young innovators - who are still at various engineering institutes and eager to step into the real world.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given a clarion call to celebrate the 75th year of Independence of India, as the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.** To celebrate this momentous occasion, UIDAI is hosting the hackathon which is themed around two topics. **The first theme is around “Enrolment and Update”,** which essentially covers some of the real-life challenges being faced by the residents while updating their address.

Rajnath Singh launched Web Based Project Monitoring Portal for Military Engineer Services

- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched the Web Based Project Monitoring Portal for Military Engineer Services.** The portal will enable real time monitoring of projects from its inception till its completion.

52nd International Film Festival of India to be held in Goa in hybrid format in November 2021

- **The 52nd edition of the IFFI will be held in Goa** from November 20 - 28. Considering the present COVID-19 situation, **the 52nd IFFI will be held in a hybrid format.**

Kurup becomes the First Indian Film to Launch NFT Collectibles

- **Digital artwork and a printed poster of the feature film Kurup signed by the lead actor Dulquer Salmaan to be up for grabs on the NFT marketplace.** Kurup, one of the most-anticipated Bollywood feature film release of the year, has achieved a unique distinction of becoming the first Indian movie to release three non-fungible tokens NFTs as a part of its promotion prior to the theatrical release.

Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated AIIA- iCAINE at AIIA on Oct 29

- **Minister of AYUSH Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the Incubation Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (AIIA- iCAINE)** at All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi.
- The event witnessed representatives from Ayurveda Sector across the country. Besides, a national seminar on **“Start-ups in Ayush Sector- Scope and Opportunities (AYUR-UDYAMAH)** is also being organized on 30th October as a part of the programme.

- To promote entrepreneurship leveraging the academic knowledge, the All India Institute of Ayurveda has set up an Incubation and Innovation Centre on its campus to nucleate a cluster of new-age ventures. The incubation centre will be set up under the mandate of the Ministry of Ayush given to AIIA to nucleate a cluster of new-age ventures and to promote entrepreneurship leveraging academic knowledge.

Tripura launches bamboo cricket bats and stumps

- Tripura Chief Minister of Tripura, Biplab Deb was presented with Bamboo bats and stumps made by the BCDI, Agartala, under the mentorship of NECTAR. In collaboration with BCDI, Agartala, NECTAR carried out a pilot project on development of indigenous Bamboo Cricket bats and Stumps. **Bamboo bat is made up of bamboo glue board technology which is a substitute of wood and a sustainable material.** The indigenously developed bamboo cricket carries good strokes and it has now been sent to various agencies for Feedback.

Union Minister for Culture and Tourism G.Kishan Reddy launches Amrit Mahotsav Podcast

- As part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Union Minister for Culture and Tourism G.Kishan Reddy launched the Amrit Mahotsav Podcast. This podcast series is a tribute to the persons and movements that significantly contributed to India's freedom struggle and some of which did not find a place in the conventional storyline.
- The first series, Zara Yaad Karo Qurbani, went live with an episode based on the Indian National Army. New episodes will be added on a weekly basis. Ministry of Culture in a statement said that as an ode to the sacrifices made, **it is only befitting to salute these heroes by recollecting their stories of courage and valour as part of commemorating 75 years of India's Independence.**

National Tribal Dance Festival held in Raipur

- Indian and international dance groups took part in the National Tribal Dance Festival to take place in Raipur from October 28.
- The three-day festival, organised under the tourism development plan of the Chhattisgarh government hosted artists belonging to diverse tribal communities from countries, including Uzbekistan, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Uganda, Syria, Mali, Palestine, and Kingdom of Eswatini.

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri to inaugurate 14th Urban Mobility Conference 2021

- Hardeep S Puri Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated the 14th Urban Mobility Conference 2021 through video conference.
- The main theme of this year's conference is **Mobility for All** which focuses on providing equitable access and promote inclusive urban transportation. This session will focus on policies and practices for re-framing urban mobility so that no one is left behind. Mr Puri will also present awards to the state and city winners for Excellence in Urban Transport.

Chennai-Mysore-Chennai Shatabdi Express becomes first IMS certified train

- Chennai - Mysore- Chennai Shatabdi Express becomes the first Integrated Management Systems certified train of Southern Railway. The certificate has been given for maintenance and better use of environment-friendly resources and for offering travel comfort. **This is also the first Shatabdi of Indian Railways and the second express train on Indian Railways to bag this certification.**

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Rivers Day 2021

- Every year on the fourth Sunday of September, World River Day is observed to raise awareness regarding water bodies and to promote their conservation. This year, it falls on September 26.
- The theme for World Rivers Day 2021 is “Waterways in our communities” with a specific emphasis on the need to conserve and repair urban waterways, which are frequently under stress.

International Day for Universal Access to Information 28 September

- On 17 November 2015, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) declared 28 September as International Day for Universal Access to Information.
- The theme chosen for the 2021 IDUAI is “The Right to Know – Building Back Better with Access to Information.”

International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction 29 September

- On 29 September 2021, the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste was observed for the second time. Globally, around 14 percent of food produced is lost between harvest and retail, while an estimated 17 percent of total global food production is wasted (11 percent in households, 5 percent in the food service and 2 percent in retail).

World Heart Day observed

- To increase public awareness of cardiovascular diseases, their prevention and their global impact, World Heart Day is being observed and celebrated annually on September 29. World Heart Day was first founded in 1999 with the World Heart Federation (WHF) collaborating with the World Health Organisation (WHO). This year, the theme of World Heart Day is “Use Heart to Connect”.

World Maritime Day 30 September

- The World Maritime Day 2021 is observed every year on the last Thursday of the month of September and this year it falls on September 30, 2021.
- This year’s theme is “Seafarers: at the core of shipping’s future”.

International Day of Non-Violence 2 October

- The International Day of Non-Violence is observed on 2 October, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, leader of the Indian independence movement and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of non-violence. On the International Day of Non-Violence, created by the United Nations in 2007, we look back on the influence of an Indian activist born Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi but known the world over as Mahatma Gandhi. The International Day of Non-Violence honors how Gandhi’s work and legacy has impacted global, non-violent protest.

International Day of Older Persons 1 October

- On 14 December 1990, the United Nations General Assembly designated October 1 as the International Day of Older Persons.
- The 2021 theme “Digital Equity for All Ages” affirms the need for access and meaningful participation in the digital world by older persons.

World Habitat Day 4 October

- The United Nations designated the first Monday of October of every year as World Habitat Day to reflect on the state of our habitats, and on the basic right of all to adequate shelter. The Day is also intended to remind the world that we all have the power and the responsibility to shape the future of our cities and towns.
- The theme for this year’s World Habitat Day is ‘Accelerating urban action for a carbon-free world’. The theme recognizes that cities are responsible for some 70 percent of global carbon dioxide emissions with transport, buildings, energy, and waste management accounting for the bulk of urban greenhouse gas emissions.

World Teachers' Day

- **World Teachers' Day** is held annually on **5 October** to celebrate all teachers around the globe. It commemorates the anniversary of the adoption of the **1966 ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers**, which sets benchmarks regarding the rights and responsibilities of teachers, and standards for their initial preparation and further education, recruitment, employment, and teaching and learning conditions.
- The theme of **World Teacher's Day 2021** is, '**Teachers at the Heart of Education Recovery**. The theme recognises teachers for their tireless efforts to keep teaching even during hardships like COVID-19 Pandemic.

World Cotton Day 7 October

- The initiative of **World Cotton Day** was born in **2019**, when four cotton producers in sub-Saharan Africa—**Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali**, known as the **Cotton Four** -proposed the **World Trade Organization** a **World Cotton Day** celebration on **October 7**.
- The theme for **World Cotton Day 2021** is "**There's more to cotton than you think**".

World Post Day 9 October

- **World Post Day** is celebrated each year on **9 October**, the anniversary of the establishment of the **Universal Postal Union in 1874 in the Swiss Capital, Bern**. It was declared **World Post Day** by the **UPU Congress** held in **Tokyo, Japan** in **1969**.
- The theme of **World Post Day 2021** is "**Innovate to recover**".

World Mental Health Day

- The overall objective of **World Mental Health Day** is to raise awareness of mental health issues around the world and to mobilize efforts in support of mental health. **10 October is World Mental Health Day**.
- The **World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH)** has declared this year's theme to be '**Mental Health In An Unequal World**' which will highlight the inequalities in the societies.

International Day of the Girl Child 11 October

- On **December 19, 2011**, **United Nations General Assembly** declare **October 11** as the **International Day of the Girl Child**, to recognize girls' rights and the unique challenges girls face around the world.
- The theme for **International Day of the Girl Child 2021** is '**Digital generation. Our generation**'.

28th NHRC Foundation Day

- **NHRC** was set up on **October 12, 1993** for the promotion and protection of human rights.
- The **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)** of India is a **Statutory public body** constituted on **12 October 1993** under the **Protection of Human Rights Ordinance of 28 September 1993**. It was given a statutory basis by the **Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 (PHRA)**.

International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, 13 October

- The **International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction** is celebrated on **13 October**; it is an opportunity to acknowledge the progress being made toward reducing disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health.
- The **2021** edition focuses on "**International cooperation for developing countries to reduce their disaster risk and disaster losses.**" This is the sixth of the **Sendai Seven targets**. Held every **13 October**, the day celebrates how people and communities around the world are reducing their exposure to disasters and raising awareness about the importance of reining in the risks that they face.

International Day of Rural Women 15 October

- The **United Nations' International Day of Rural Women** celebrates and honours women and girls living in rural areas on **15 October** each year. It recognizes the huge role that rural mothers, daughters and grandmothers play in producing food, and building agricultural and rural development worldwide.
- This year, the theme is '**Rural women cultivating good food for all**'.

World Food Day 2021

- **World Food Day is an international day celebrated every year worldwide on 16 October** to commemorate the date of the founding of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in 1945.
- **The day is celebrated widely by many other organizations concerned with hunger and food security**, including the World Food Programme and the International Fund for Agricultural Development. **WFP received the Nobel Prize in Peace for 2020 for their efforts to combat hunger**, contribute to peace in conflict areas, and for playing a leading role in stopping the use of hunger in the form of a weapon for war and conflict.
- **The theme for World Food Day this year is “Our actions are our future- Better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life,”** as per the official website of FAO.

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 17 October

- **The observance of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty can be traced back to 17 October 1987.** On that day, **over a hundred thousand people gathered at the Trocadéro in Paris**, where the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was signed in 1948, to honour the victims of extreme poverty, violence and hunger.
- **This year’s theme is “Building forward together: Ending Persistent Poverty, Respecting all People and our Planet.”**

World Students’ Day 2021

- **World Students’ Day is marked on A. P. J. Abdul Kalam’s birthday, 15 October.** In 2010 the United Nations declared 15 October “World Students’ Day”.
- **This year, the theme for World Students’ day is “Learning for people, planet, prosperity and peace”**, which aims to reaffirm the role of education as a fundamental right of every person across the world.

World Sight Day 2021

- **World Sight Day is an annual day of awareness held on the second Thursday of October**, to focus global attention on vision impairment, including blindness.
- **This year, World Sight Day takes place on October 14, 2021 with the theme: ‘Love Your Eyes’.**

Global Media and Information Literacy Week 24-31 October

- **Global Media and Information Literacy Week 2021 is hosted by South Africa.** This year marks **10 years** since the seeds of Global Media and Information Literacy Week were planted in 2011 in Fez, Morocco.
- This was long before the exponential rise in disinformation, political polarisation, increasing influence of digital platforms and the COVID-19 pandemic. **This year’s MIL theme is ‘Media and Information Literacy for the Public Good’.**

International Snow Leopard Day

- **October 23 is recognised as International Snow Leopard Day.** Unlike other big cats like the tigers, snow leopards and their conservation have gained ground only recently. It also **commemorates the anniversary of the Bishkek Declaration.**

World Development Information Day 24 October

- **The General Assembly in 1972 established World Development Information Day to draw the attention of the world to development problems** and the need to strengthen international cooperation to solve them.
- **The Assembly decided that the date for the Day should coincide with United Nations Day, 24 October**, which was also the date of the adoption, in 1970, of the **International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade.**
- **This year theme for the day is ‘Action for Sustainable Development Goal’.**

World Statistics Day

- **World Statistics Day is an international day to celebrate statistics every year on 20 October.** Created by the United Nations Statistical Commission, it was **first celebrated on 20 October 2010**. The day is celebrated every five years. India celebrates its statistics day on 29 June, the birthday of the statistician Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis.

United Nations Day 24 October

- **United Nations Day, on 24 October, marks the anniversary of the day in 1945 when the UN Charter entered into force.** UN Day, celebrated every year, offers the opportunity to amplify our common agenda and reaffirm the purposes and principles of the UN Charter that have guided us for the past 76 years. Usually held in the General Assembly Hall of the Organization, at Headquarters in New York, a concert is held to mark UN Day.
- **The theme for this year is “Building Back Together for Peace and Prosperity”** for a small audience, according to social distancing rules.

World Day for Audiovisual Heritage 27 October

- **The 33rd session of UNESCO’s General Conference proclaimed 27 October as World Day for Audiovisual Heritage,** in commemoration of the adoption, in 1980 by the 21st session of the General Conference, of the Recommendation for the Safeguarding and Preservation of Moving Images.
- **The theme of the World Day for Audiovisual Heritage is “Your Window to the World”.**

World Thrift Day

- **World Thrift Day is celebrated every year on 31st October worldwide** to promote savings and financial security of individual and nation as a whole.
- **This year, the theme for World Thrift Day is ‘Understanding the importance of savings’.**

World Cities Day 31 October

- **The United Nations General Assembly designated 31 October as World Cities Day.** Urban October was launched by UN-Habitat in 2014 to emphasize the world’s urban challenges and engage the international community towards the New Urban Agenda.
- **This year, the theme for World Cities Day is ‘Adapting Cities for Climate Resilience’** to aware people of the effects of climate-related disasters, such as floods, droughts, sea-level rise, heatwaves, landslides and storms on cities.

QUESTIONS

1. Recently, Cucumbers from _____ got the Geographical Indication tag.
(a) Sikkim (b) Nagaland (c) Manipur (d) Tripura
2. Which of the following will soon become the first Indian city to use the ropeway services in the public transportation?
(a) Dehradun (b) Varanasi (c) Patna (d) Manali
3. Which of the following has been named as UNESCO World Book Capital for 2023?
(a) Accra (Ghana) (b) Lisbon (Portugal)
(c) Paris (France) (d) Munich (Germany)
4. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the _____ via video-conferencing.
(a) Pradhan Mantri Digital Healthy Mass (PM-DHM)
(b) Pradhan Mantri Digital Healthy Mission (PM-DHM)
(c) Pradhan Mantri Digital Health Mission (PM-DHM)
(d) Pradhan Mantri Digitally Health Mission (PM-DHM)
5. Which of the following countries is set to make history by becoming the first European country to elect a female majority to parliament?
(a) Ireland (b) Iceland (c) Sweden (d) Norway
6. Which of the following oil refineries has recently partnered with State Bank of India (SBI) Cards to launch the Co-branded RuPay contactless credit card?
(a) HPCL (b) BPCL (c) Indian Oil (d) IOCL
7. According to the CAF World Giving Index 2021, India has bagged the _____ spot and is up from the 10-year global rank of 82.
(a) 6th (b) 9th (c) 12th (d) 14th
8. Recently, The Uttarakhand Forest Department dedicated the state's first Palmetum and the biggest one in North India, to the people in the _____.
(a) Nainital district (b) Almora district (c) Haridwar district (d) Chamoli district
9. According to Indian Union Minister, India has emerged as the _____ largest exporter of Marine products in the world.
(a) 2nd (b) 4th (c) 6th (d) 8th
10. Which of the following Indian states will host the junior men's World Cup Hockey in coming November?
(a) West Bengal (b) Jharkhand (c) Odisha (d) Uttar Pradesh
11. Recently, Sojat Mehndi from _____ has received the geographical indication (GI) tag from the government.
(a) Gujarat (b) Rajasthan (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Karnataka
12. Recently, The world's highest electric vehicle charging station was inaugurated in _____.
(a) Leh, Ladakh (b) Kaza, Lahaul Spiti
(c) Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh (d) Manali, Kullu
13. Recently, Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Dairy Dr. L. Murugan was elected unopposed to the lone Rajya Sabha seat from _____.
(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Karnataka
(c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Maharashtra

14. According to a Dubai government statement, India has emerged as Dubai's _____ biggest trading partner after China.
(a) Second (b) Third (c) Fifth (d) Seventh
15. Recently, Union Labour Minister Bhupendra Yadav said that Centre has transformed _____ labour laws with four labour codes.
(a) 11 (b) 15 (c) 25 (d) 29
16. Who among the following has received Globoil India Lifetime Achievement Award 2021 for his exemplary contribution to the Edible Oil Industry?
(a) Amit Rajawat (b) Dinesh Shahra (c) Tejpal Singh Sandhu (d) Gurupal Raj Shekhon
17. The Ministry of Tourism is organized an event to celebrate "World Tourism Day 2021" on _____.
(a) 21st September (b) 23rd September (c) 25th september (d) 27th September
18. Name the cricketer who reached a coveted milestone of 10,000-run mark in all forms of T20 cricket (international, domestic and franchise).
(a) Rohit Sharma (b) Mahendra Singh Dhoni
(c) Suresh Raina (d) Virat Kohli
19. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) declared _____ as International Day for Universal Access to Information.
(a) 21 September (b) 23 September
(c) 25 September (d) 28 September
20. Who is the author of book titled "The Three Khans: And the Emergence of New India"?
(a) Farah Khan (b) Kaveree Bamzai
(c) Shobhana Bharatiya (d) Arpita Khan
21. Which of the following states traditional Judima wine has become the first beverage from northeast India to be awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag?
(a) Manipur (b) Tripura (c) Mizoram (d) Assam
22. Recently, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh launched the "Amrit Grand Challenge Program" titled _____ to identify 75 Start-Up Innovations in Telemedicine, Digital Health, mHealth with BIG Data, AI, Block Chain and other technologies.
(a) "जनCARE" (b) "जनSUVIDHA" (c) "जनKALYAN" (d) "जनSEWA"
23. The UK's Wellington College to open schools in India, 1st campus to come up in _____.
(a) Nagpur (b) New Delhi (c) Pune (d) Lucknow
24. Recently, Community-driven launchpad, _____ which supports interoperability of initial DEX offerings (IDO), has launched the IDO of Nasdex in India.
(a) Super (b) Starter (c) Flower (d) Unique
25. Recently, A new version of the Akash Missile, Akash Prime was successfully flight tested from Integrated Test Range, _____.
(a) Paradip (b) Chandipur (c) Dehradun (d) Vihakhapatnam
26. Recently, which of the following Payments Banks has forged a tie-up with Ria Money Transfer, a cross-border money transfer firm and a business segment of Euronet Worldwide, to help its 333 million customers receive money from their relatives abroad?
(a) Paytm (b) Jio (c) Airtel (d) IPPB

27. Recently, The AIIMS _____ has received funding from the ICMR to establish a satellite brain bank, a “first of its kind” in the eastern region that will boost research in neurosciences.
(a) Bhubaneswar (b) Guwahati (c) Kolkata (d) Shillong
28. Which of the following countries engineers created the “smallest-ever human-made flying structure”, which is about the size of a grain of sand and does not require an engine or a motor?
(a) Germany (b) France (c) USA (d) Canada
29. Name the Indian tennis player who won the doubles title at the Ostrava Open with her Chinese partner Shuai Zhang.
(a) Manisha Jha (b) Sania Mirza (c) Alka Tripathi (d) Kavita Hitesh
30. International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction is celebrated on:
(a) 24 September (b) 26 September (c) 28 September (d) 29 September
31. The UN Climate Change Conference, or COP26, is scheduled to be held in _____.
(a) Ireland (b) Sweden (c) Norway (d) Scotland
32. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated CIPET: Institute of Petrochemicals Technology, _____ via video conferencing.
(a) Jaipur (b) Bhubaneswar (c) Patna (d) Shillong
33. Which of the following countries President Kais Saied has appointed Najla Bouden Romdhan as the first female Prime Minister in the Arab world?
(a) Oman (b) Jordan (c) Kuwait (d) Tunisia
34. Who among the following has won the governing party leadership election and is set to be the next prime minister of Japan?
(a) Sanae Takaichi (b) Fumio Kishida (c) Seiko Noda (d) Yoshihide Suga
35. According to a study by property consultant Knight Frank, which is the greenest city for real estate in India?
(a) Kolkata (b) Hyderabad (c) Bengaluru (d) Delhi
36. Which of the following has recently approved the frameworks for gold exchange and Social Stock Exchange?
(a) Reserve Bank of Indian (b) Indian Bullion Index
(c) Securities Exchange Board of India (d) Ministry of Finance
37. Which of the following states has become first state in India to begin organised cultivation of true dalchini?
(a) Karnataka (b) Kerala (c) Uttarakhand (d) Himachal Pradesh
38. Recently, Delhi-based environmental organisation Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment (LIFE) has received the 2021 Right Livelihood Award. The award is known as _____ alternative Nobel Prize.
(a) Norway’s (b) Finland’s (c) Icelans’s (d) Sweden’s
39. Recently, Researchers during a recent study made a surprise discovery about how immune _____ cells are maintained, which could have implications for drugs in development for cancer treatment.
(a) “merital” (b) “nuptial” (c) “sentinel” (d) “alimantal”
40. World Heart Day is being observed and celebrated annually on _____.
(a) September 21 (b) September 23 (c) September 26 (d) September 29
41. Which of the following has recently become the first international destination to obtain the carbon neutral certificate?
(a) Taj Mahal (b) Machu Picchu (c) Statue of Liberty (d) Colosseum

42. According to a report by IIFL-Hurun India's top 10 rich list, Name the Indian-American entrepreneur and the CEO-founder of cloud security company Zscaler, who is the tenth richest Indian.
(a) Deepak Bharadwaj (b) Ajeet Bajaj (c) Jay Chaudhry (d) Maheep Luthra
43. Recently, Indel Money, a non-banking finance company (NBFC) pioneering in gold loans, has entered into a first-of-its-kind conventional gold loan co-lending partnership with _____ to offer gold loans at competitive rates to a bigger and diverse segment of borrowers.
(a) Bandhan Bank (b) IDFC First Bank (c) IndusInd Bank (d) Airtel Payment Bank
44. Which of the following two European countries announced a defence deal worth around €3 billion (\$3.5 billion) recently?
(a) France and Italy (b) France and Greece (c) Portugal and UK (d) Iceland and Ireland
45. Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur launched a month-long Clean India Programme from _____ as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
(a) Prayagraj (b) Patna (c) New Delhi (d) Hyderabad
46. Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry organised _____ Programme in the honour of senior citizens on the occasion of the International Day of Older Persons in New Delhi.
(a) Vayo Naman (b) Vayo Pranam (c) Vayo Samman (d) Vayo Aadar
47. Recently, Maharashtra Chief minister Uddhav Thackeray informed that state war memorial-cum-museum will be set up in _____.
(a) Solapur (b) Pune (c) Nagpur (d) Mumbai
48. Recently, Labour and Employment Minister Bhupender Yadav launched _____ a digital skills programme to enhance the employability of youth by imparting digital skills.
(a) DigiSaksham (b) DigiSakshar (c) DigiCapable (d) DigiSudhar
49. Recently, which of the following forts becomes India's 1st Six Senses hotel?
(a) Neemrana Fort (b) Barwara Fort (c) Jahaz Mahal (d) Jaisalmer Fort
50. The World's First 'Jumanji - The Adventure' Theme Park is to be opened in:
(a) France (b) Italy (c) Germany (d) Portugal
51. Recently, World's largest Khadi national flag was installed at _____ on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.
(a) Leh in Ladakh (b) Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh
(c) Nagpur in Maharashtra (d) Rajkot in Gujarat
52. The Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveiled the first public statue in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep — that of _____.
(a) Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (b) Mahatma Gandhi
(c) Subhash Chandra Bose (d) Bhagat Singh
53. Which is first Indian city to commit to UN pledge that strives for efficient green energy?
(a) Kolkata's New Town (b) Mumbai's Hiranandani
(c) Ahmadabad's Green City (d) Bhopal's Fun City
54. Which of the following cities will soon become the first Indian city to use ropeway services in public transportation?
(a) Prayagraj (b) Haridwar (c) Shimla (d) Varanasi
55. Which is first Indian state to launch an electricity generation project that uses cow dung as fuel at a farmers' event to mark Gandhi Jayanti?
(a) Jharkhand (b) Chhattisgarh (c) Haryana (d) Punjab

56. Recently, On the occasion of the 152 birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the renovated Gandhi Museum was inaugurated at the historic Gandhi Ashram Trust at _____ in Bangladesh.
(a) Dhaka (b) Noakhali (c) Chhittagong (d) Mirpur
57. Which of the following companies has started exploration in Bangladesh, becoming the first Indian entity to hunt for oil and gas in that country?
(a) BHEL Videsh Ltd (b) ONGC Videsh Ltd (c) GAIL Videsh Ltd (d) OIL Videsh Ltd
58. Recently, Botlab Dynamics, a start-up incubated at _____ and the Drone Federation of India, put up the country's first drone display.
(a) IIT-Bombay (b) IIT-Delhi (c) IIT-Hyderabad (d) IIT-Bombay
59. The World Maritime Day is celebrated on:
(a) 21 September (b) 24 September (c) 27 September (d) 30 September
60. Who among the following has won a silver medal at International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Championship in Lima, Peru?
(a) Heena Siddhu (b) Tanya Shekhon (c) Geeta Yadav (d) Ganemat Sekhon
61. The 8th Edition of India – Sri Lanka Joint Military Exercise _____ is being conducted in Sri Lanka from 4th to 15th of October this year.
(a) 'Saathi Shakti' (b) 'Maitrayi Shakti' (c) 'Mitra Shakti' (d) 'Sahayata'
62. Which of the following in a joint effort with International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Indian Institute of Population Sciences (IIPS), UNICEF and Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) launched the State Nutrition Profiles for 19 States and Union Territories?
(a) Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (b) Ministry of Finance
(c) NITI Aayog (d) National Family Survey of India
63. Recently, The Election Commission has frozen poll symbol of which of the following political parties?
(a) Lok Janshakti Party (b) Shiv Sena
(c) Janta Dal United (d) Janta Dal Secular
64. Recently, The Nation pays homage to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi on his _____ birth anniversary.
(a) 129th (b) 138th (c) 152nd (d) 167th
65. Recently, On Ligurian coast of which country biologists and environmentalists are working to tackle the effects of climate change in the Mediterranean with help from a so-called "Smart Bay"?
(a) France (b) Portugal (c) Italy (d) Greece
66. Recently, the Middle East's first ever World Fair opened in:
(a) Abu Dhabi (b) Dubai (c) Sharjah (d) Masdar
67. In a move to accelerate reforestation across the country, _____ India's first aerial seeding campaign using the Seedcopter drone was launched by Marut Drones.
(a) Green (b) Hara Bhara (c) Bharpoor (d) Harit Bharat
68. In a historic moment in women's cricket, who among the following became first Indian woman to score a Test hundred on Australian soil recently?
(a) Mithali Raj (b) Smriti Mandhana (c) Deepti Sharma (d) Tanya Bhatia
69. Who among the following has become the first Indian female actress to receive 10 Years UAE golden visa?
(a) Deepika Padukone (b) Alia Bhatt (c) Urvashi Rautela (d) Huma Qureshi

70. The Jungle Nama is a book written by _____.
(a) Amitav Ghosh (b) Chetan Bhagat (c) Arundhati Roy (d) Ruskin Bond
71. According to the Ministry of Jal Shakti, which of the following has been declared as the mascot of the Namami Gange Programme?
(a) Chacha Chaudhary (b) Dogaa (c) Tausi (d) Billu
72. Recently, Uttar Pradesh government named who among following actors as the brand ambassador of its ambitious 'one district-one product' programme?
(a) Priyanka Chopra (b) Kangana Ranaut (c) Hema Malini (d) Deepika Padukone
73. Recently, Colonel Mamady Doumbouya was sworn in as Interim President of _____.
(a) Zambia (b) Gambia (c) Turkey (d) Guinea
74. According to a report released by IIFL Wealth and Hurun India, who among the following has retained the title of being the richest Indian for the 10th consecutive year?
(a) Gautam Adani (b) Mukesh Ambani (c) Azim Premji (d) Shiv Nadar
75. For the first time in the World, India conducted a practical field trial of Drone for Spraying of Nano Liquid Urea at _____.
(a) Jaipur in Rajasthan (b) Bhavnagar in Gujarat
(c) Hisar in Haryana (d) Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh
76. Which of the following will be the first medical institute in India to have pathogen reduction technology?
(a) AFMC (b) King George's Medical University
(c) AIIMS, Delhi (d) JIPMER
77. Recently, In Uttarakhand, the joint military exercise Surya Kiran-15 between the armies of _____, that ended in Pithoragarh.
(a) India and Sri Lanka (b) India and Nepal (c) India and Mauritius (d) India and Maldives
78. Name the first woman cricketer who has achieved the double of 5,000 runs and 300 wickets in international cricket.
(a) Alysse Healey (b) Ellyse Perry (c) Bill Mooney (d) Mithali Raj
79. Who among the following author released the trailer of his upcoming book "400 Days"?
(a) Amish Tripathi (b) Chetan Bhagat (c) Aditya Shergill (d) Dhanraj Kartik
80. Recently, The International Day of Older Persons was observed on _____.
(a) October 1 (b) October 3 (c) October 5 (d) October 7
81. Recently, David Julius and Ardem Patapoutian, from the _____, share the 2021 Nobel prize in Medicine or Physiology for their work on sensing touch and temperature.
(a) United Kingdom (b) Switzerland (c) Norway (d) United States of America
82. Recently, Edayur Chilli and Kuttiaattoor Mango became the latest to receive the Geographical Indication status from _____.
(a) Karnataka (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Lakshadweep (d) Kerala
83. The 40th edition of India International Trade Fair 2021 will be held from 14th to 27th November in _____.
(a) New Delhi (b) Kolkata (c) Chennai (d) Hyderabad
84. The Urban conclave named 'New Urban India: Transforming Urban Landscape' is inaugurated by Prime Minister at:
(a) Indore (b) Lucknow (c) Patna (d) Guwahati

85. Recently, To showcase the Republic Day Celebrations, which will mark the _____ year of Independence-Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, Ministry of Defence has created a new website: www.indianrdc.mod.gov.in.
(a) 72nd (b) 75th (c) 76th (d) 77th
86. Recently, Japan's Parliament elected former Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida as the Prime Minister. He is the _____ Prime Minister in the country's political history.
(a) 50th (b) 75th (c) 100th (d) 120th
87. Recently, Astronomers have for the first time discovered a planet that is orbiting _____ stars in its system.
(a) Two (b) Three (c) Four (d) Six
88. Who is the first Indian-American to win the crown of Miss World America 2021?
(a) Aditi Deshpande (b) Kavita Mohapatra (c) Shree Saini (d) Ananya Paridhi
89. Which of the following Indian states will be hosting the 56th National Cross Country Championship in January next year?
(a) Tripura (b) Nagaland (c) Meghalaya (d) Assam
90. World Habitat Day is celebrated every year on:
(a) First Sunday of October (b) First Monday of October
(c) First Saturday of October (d) First Wednesday of October
91. Japanese-born American Syukuro Manabe, German Klaus Hasselmann and Italian Giorgio Parisi won the 2021 Nobel Prize for Physics for work that helps understand complex physical systems such as _____.
(a) Earth's changing climate (b) Earth's global warming
(c) Earth's rotation on its own axis (d) Earth's revolution around the sun
92. Recently, The 8th edition of bilateral joint exercise Mitra Shakti commenced between _____.
(a) India-Sri Lanka (b) India-Maldives (c) India-Mauritius (d) India-Nepal
93. Recently, The famed white onion of _____ has earned itself a 'Geographical Indication', giving the crop a unique identity and wider markets.
(a) Gujarat (b) Maharashtra (c) Rajasthan (d) Madhya Pradesh
94. Which of the following countries had successfully tested launched a Tsirkon (Zircon) hypersonic cruise missile from a submarine for the first time?
(a) China (b) Russia (c) South Korea (d) North Korea
95. Which of the following countries Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed sworn in for a second five-year term running a country in the grip of a nearly year-long war?
(a) Eritrea (b) Ethiopia (c) Yemen (d) Turkey
96. Which of the following banks becomes 1st scheduled private sector bank to collect direct, indirect taxes?
(a) Yes Bank (b) RBL bank (c) HDFC Bank (d) Kotak Mahindra Bank
97. World Teachers' Day is held annually on _____ to celebrate all teachers around the globe.
(a) 1 October (b) 2 October (c) 5 October (d) 8 October
98. The world's first tree and plant clinic and hospital with an ambulance has been set up in:
(a) Hisar (b) Amritsar (c) Lucknow (d) Chandigarh
99. Recently, Hockey India withdraws from 2022 _____, cites Covid concerns.
(a) Birmingham CWG (b) Gold Coast CWG (c) Berlin CWG (d) London CWG

100. Which of the following banks has become the first Indian private sector bank to arrange a term Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) linked trade financing deal, joining a select group of banks and financial institutions globally who have executed similar transactions?
(a) IDFC First Bank (b) Kotak Mahindra Bank (c) Bandhan Bank (d) Axis Bank
101. Which of the following states has developed India's first smartphone-based e-Voting solution?
(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Telangana (c) Karnataka (d) Goa
102. Recently, Mahalaya festival was celebrated across _____ with devotion and piety.
(a) Myanmar (b) Bangladesh (c) Mauritius (d) Maldives
103. Recently, Digital payments firm, _____ has launched India's card-on-file (CoF) tokenization services in India, in line with the recently issued Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines.
(a) Mastercard (b) Maestro (c) Visa (d) Rupay
104. Recently, geographical indication (GI) tag has been awarded to _____ indigenous products from Uttarakhand.
(a) Three (b) Four (c) Six (d) Seven
105. Recently, International ratings agency Moody's has upgraded the outlook on India's sovereign rating to _____ from Negative.
(a) Unstable (b) Positive (c) Stable (d) Neutral
106. The fifth edition of _____ Maritime Bilateral Exercise JIMEX will be held in Arabian Sea.
(a) India – Japan (b) India-Mexico (c) India – China (d) India – South Korea
107. Recently, The Centre informed that it has permitted _____ FDI under automatic route in the telecom services sector.
(a) 49% (b) 51% (c) 75% (d) 100%
108. How many scientists have been awarded the 2021 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for their work on building molecules that are mirror images of one another?
(a) Two (b) Three (c) Four (d) Six
109. Who among the following has created history by becoming the first Indian woman wrestler to reach the World Championship final?
(a) Deepa Malik (b) Anshu Malik (c) Naina Malik (d) Aditi Thapa
110. Four cotton producers in sub-Saharan Africa– Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali, known as the Cotton Four - proposed the World Trade Organization a World Cotton Day celebration on _____.
(a) October 2 (b) October 4 (c) October 7 (d) October 9
111. Which of the following Asian countries officially joined the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People, a group of more than 70 countries encouraging the adoption of the global goal to protect 30x30?
(a) Bangladesh (b) Japan (c) India (d) Nepal
112. Which of the following Indian cities has logged its name as the first city in India to join the Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative (TUMI) E-Bus Mission?
(a) Hyderabad (b) Bengaluru (c) Mumbai (d) Kolkata
113. For the second year running the _____ has been ranked first in the world for Computer Science in the Times Higher Education 2022 World University Rankings.
(a) University of Oxford (b) University of Cambridge
(c) University of California (d) University of Philadelphia

114. Who among the following has become the first Indian fashion designer to drop five NFTs in collaboration with Lakme Fashion Week?
(a) Manish Malhotra (b) Shyamak Dawar (c) Vaishnavi Merchant (d) Zoya Akhter
115. Who among the following will bring 7-Eleven Inc.'s convenience stores to India, adding to his burgeoning retail empire in the world's only billion-people-plus consumer market that's open to foreign firms?
(a) Gautam Adani (b) Anil Ambani (c) Anil Thadani (d) Mukesh Ambani
116. In a historic move, the _____ has endorsed the first anti-malarial vaccine.
(a) NITI Aayog (b) World Health Organization (WHO)
(c) Union Finance Ministry (d) Union Corporate Affairs Ministry
117. Recently, The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) approved the _____ government's proposal to declare the combined areas of the Guru Ghasidas National Park and Tamor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary as a Tiger Reserve.
(a) Jharkhand (b) Rajasthan (c) Chhattisgarh (d) Madhya Pradesh
118. Which of the following states becomes first Indian state to begin organised cultivation of Cinnamon?
(a) Himachal Pradesh (b) Uttarakhand (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Jharkhand
119. Name the Indian grappler who has scripted history as she became the first Indian woman to win a silver medal in the World Wrestling Championships.
(a) Anshu Malik (b) Deepa Malik (c) Anjan Kapadia (d) Manisha Jha
120. Recently, The Nobel prize in literature has been awarded to the novelist _____ for his "uncompromising and compassionate penetration of the effects of colonialism and the fate of the refugee in the gulf between cultures and continents".
(a) Marc Gram (b) Thomas Buchanan (c) Abdulrazak Gurnah (d) Himand Kutbuch
121. Who among the following won the 2021 Nobel Prize in literature?
(a) Alex Tudor (b) Max Buchman (c) Abdulrazak Gurnah (d) Frank Luthar
122. Who has been appointed as chairman of the panel on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice?
(a) Kaushik Basu (b) Sushil Kumar Modi (c) Ravi Shankar Prasad (d) Prakash Javadekar
123. Recently, The spices growers of Kanniyakumari have obtained the Geographical Indication Tag for the _____ being grown in the hilly regions of the district as it is known for its rich aromatic oil content.
(a) Clove (b) Black Pepper (c) Cinnamon (d) Cardamom
124. Uttar Pradesh's third international airport — after Lucknow and Varanasi — will be inaugurated in _____.
(a) Gorakhpur (b) Greater Noida (c) Kushinagar (d) Kanpur
125. According to South Asia Economic Focus, India's economy, South Asia's largest, is expected to grow by _____ percent in the fiscal year 2021-22.
(a) 4.2 (b) 5.5 (c) 6.7 (d) 8.3
126. Recently, Tesla Inc Chief Executive Elon Musk said the electric carmaker plans to move its headquarters from Silicon Valley's Palo Alto, California to _____ where it is building a massive car and battery manufacturing complex.
(a) Austin (b) Washington D.C. (c) Boston (d) New York
127. Reliance Industries' premium retail unit Jio World Drive announced the opening of its first commercial centre in _____.
(a) Kolkata (b) Chennai (c) New Delhi (d) Mumbai

128. India's _____ will be producing part of the world's only malaria vaccine that has been developed by Pharma major GSK, and was recently approved by WHO (World Health Organisation).
(a) Bharat Biotech (b) Sun Pharma (c) Indian Biotech (d) Ranbaxy
129. Who among the following Indian cricketer's famous last-ball six become India's first sports NFT?
(a) Rohit Sharma (b) Madanlal (c) Dinesh Karthik (d) Virat Kohli
130. World Mental Health Day is observed on:
(a) 1 October (b) 4 October (c) 8 October (d) 10 October
131. Recently, Chinnor rice produced in Balaghat district of _____ has bagged the GI tag.
(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Telangana
132. Which is India's first vertical lift Railway Sea Bridge?
(a) New Howrah Bridge (b) New Rameshwaram Bridge
(c) New Pamban Bridge (d) New Palk Strait Bridge
133. Which of the following ministries has approved continuation of Comprehensive Handicrafts Cluster Development Scheme with a total outlay of 160 crore rupees?
(a) Ministry of Textiles (b) Ministry of Arts & Handicrafts
(c) Ministry of Corporate Affairs (d) Ministry of Home Affairs
134. In Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, the plan is to further develop the sites of Bodh Gaya, Nalanda, Rajgir, Viashali, Sarnath, Shravasti, Kushinagar, Kaushambi, Sankisa and Kapilavastu. These sites are linked with:
(a) Ramayana Circuit (b) Jain Circuit (c) Buddhist Circuit (d) Sufi Circuit
135. In a first-of-its-kind project, _____ will soon be home to the world's largest integrated freshwater Aqua Hub proposed to be constructed near Mid Manair Dam in Rajanna-Sircilla district.
(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Karnataka (c) Telangana (d) Tamil Nadu
136. Which of the following will regain control of Air India as it takes over 100 per cent of the government's stake in the national carrier?
(a) Tata Sons (b) Adani Wilmar (c) Reliance Industries (d) Godrej Properties
137. Recently, Chief Economic Adviser Krishnamurthy Subramanian announced returning to academia following completion of his _____ tenure.
(a) one year (b) two year (c) three year (d) five year
138. Recently, who was appointed chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee for Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports?
(a) Harish Dwivedi (b) Vinay P Sahasrabudde
(c) Achyut Ranjan (d) Rajeev Chandrashekar
139. United Nations General Assembly declared _____ as the International Day of the Girl Child, to recognize girls' rights and the unique challenges girls face around the world.
(a) October 1 (b) October 4 (c) October 9 (d) October 11
140. Who has won the best screenplay award for his Marathi-language feature 'The Disciple' at the 15th Asian Film Awards?
(a) Deepak Mohapatra (b) Amit Misra (c) Chaitanya Tamhane (d) Balajeet Vibhuti
141. Who was elevated as Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court recently?
(a) Justice Indrajit Mahanty (b) Justice Ranjit V More
(c) Justice Biswanath Somadder (d) Justice Rajesh Bindal

142. Recently, Aimed at promoting road safety, innovation, and the adoption of new technology, the _____ has notified the constitution of the National Road Safety Board.
(a) Ministry of Home Affairs (b) Ministry of Law & Justice
(c) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (d) Ministry of Education (National
143. Recently, Abolhassan Banisadr died. He was the first president of _____ after the country's 1979 Islamic Revolution.
(a) Iraq (b) Iran (c) Syria (d) Oman
144. Which of the following countries Chancellor Sebastian Kurz resigned to pull his coalition government back from the brink of collapse after the junior party demanded his head because he has been placed under investigation on suspicion of corruption?
(a) Germany (b) Austria (c) France (d) Belgium
145. Recently, The traditional Karuppur Kalamkari Painting of _____ done using pens, brushes made of bamboo stick, palm stem, date tree and coconut tree stems, received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
(a) Kerala (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Tamil Nadu (d) Andhra Pradesh
146. Recently, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has raised the transaction limit in Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) from Rs 2 lakh to _____.
(a) Rs 2.5 lakh (b) Rs 3 lakh (c) Rs 5 lakh (d) Rs 10 lakh
147. According to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, who among the following Asian recently joined the world's most exclusive wealth club with a fortune of at least \$100 billion?
(a) Shane Lee (b) Jack Ma (c) Mukesh Ambani (d) Tokohiko Nakau
148. Who among the following launched Indian Space Association (ISpA) via video conferencing?
(a) K Sivan (b) Narendra Modi
(c) Jitendra Singh (d) Bhupendra Yadav
149. Name the Indian cricketer who has been recently conferred with an honorary Ph.D. in Sports by Ecole Superieure Robert de Sorbon, a renowned university in France.
(a) Yuvraj Singh (b) Rahul Dravid (c) Harbhajan Singh (d) Sachin Tendulkar
150. The Nobel Peace Prize 2021 is awarded to journalists Maria Ressa of _____ and Dmitry Muratov of Russia for their fight for freedom of expression in their countries.
(a) Philippines (b) Myanmar (c) Columbia (d) Ghana
151. Recently, The Rataul mango, grown in large numbers in _____, received its GI tag.
(a) Hisar in Haryana (b) Kapurthala in Punjab
(c) Baghpat in Uttar Pradesh (d) Darbhanga in Bihar
152. Which of the following Asian countries has been invited by International Energy Agency (IEA) to become its full-time member?
(a) India (b) South Korea (c) Singapore (d) Nepal
153. Recently, Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi has said that the next Hunar Haat is being organised in _____ from 16th to 25th October this year.
(a) New Delhi (b) Jaipur (c) Bhopal (d) Rampur
154. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the first ever National Infrastructure Masterplan, Pradhan Mantri Gati Shakti. This will bring together _____ Ministries, including seven core infrastructure sectors, on one platform.
(a) 8 (b) 12 (c) 16 (d) 20

155. Recently, Railways has successfully operated two long haul freight trains _____ and Garuda for the first time over South Central Railway.
(a) Chakra (b) Trishul (c) Talwar (d) Spear
156. Which of the following countries unveiled the world's first automated, driverless train recently?
(a) France (b) South Korea (c) Germany (d) Japan
157. Recently, Abdul Qadeer Khan, known as the father of _____ nuclear bomb died due to Covid-19.
(a) Bangladesh's (b) Pakistan's (c) Iraq's (d) Iran's
158. Recently, A U.S.-based Canadian David Card, Israeli-American Joshua Angrist and Dutch-American Guido Imbens won the _____.
(a) Nobel Economics Prize (b) Nobel Literature Prize
(c) Nobel Chemistry Prize (d) Nobel Physics Prize
159. Recently, NASA has confirmed that it is set to launch its latest mission which will look to explore asteroids. The _____ spacecraft is currently scheduled to liftoff on October 16.
(a) Barbie (b) Lucy (c) Smith (d) Archie
160. Which of the following teams recently became first team to qualify for the 2022 Football World Cup?
(a) France (b) Belgium (c) Germany (d) Nigeria
161. Recently, Chief Justice A.K. Goswami was sworn in as the new Chief Justice of the _____ High Court.
(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Chhattisgarh (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Assam
162. Recently, International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction was observed on:
(a) 11 October (b) 13 October (c) 15 October (d) 17 October
163. Name the author who released her first children's Christmas book, 'The Christmas Pig' inspired by lockdown and her son David's beloved cuddly toy pigs.
(a) JK Rowling (b) Arundhati Roy (c) Monica George (d) Hillary Clinton
164. Recently, Indian Technology Congress Association in Bengaluru focuses on building synergies between academia, industry and research organisations. It has launched _____ Students' Satellites Consortium: Mission 2022.
(a) 35 (b) 40 (c) 55 (d) 75
165. Indian Navy would be participating in the second phase of Multilateral Maritime _____ along with the Japan Maritime Self Defence Force, Royal Australian Navy and the United States Navy.
(a) Exercise Malabar (b) Exercise Friendship (c) Exercise Dosti (d) Exercise Bay of Bengal
166. Recently, Govt. of India accorded _____ status to the state-owned Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC), thus giving PFC greater operational and financial autonomy.
(a) 'Maharatna' (b) 'Navratna' (c) 'Miniratna' (d) 'Vistarratna'
167. Recently, _____ has appointed former SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar as chairman of the board.
(a) BharatPe (b) PhonePe (c) Google Pay (d) BHIM
168. Recently, The Union Cabinet approved the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation 2.0 (AMRUT 2.0) till _____.
(a) 2022-23 (b) 2025-26 (c) 2028-29 (d) 2030-31
169. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has projected that India will continue to be the world's fastest growing major economy, clocking a growth rate of _____ per cent in 2021.
(a) 6.5 (b) 7.5 (c) 8.5 (d) 9.5

170. For the first time in an ICC men's T20I tournament the Decision _____ System (DRS) will be in use as the governing body has announced that the system will be available at the T20 World Cup.
(a) Response (b) Review (c) Replay (d) Recurrent
171. Who was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court recently?
(a) Justice Aravind Kumar (b) Justice Anoop Chandra
(c) Justice Vikas Mohapatra (d) Justice Mahesh Desmukh
172. Which of the following will host the G-20 summit in 2023?
(a) Shivaji Maidan (b) New Pragati Maidan (c) Gandhi Maidan (d) Bharat Maidan
173. Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the G20 Extraordinary Leaders' Summit on Afghanistan in virtual format at the invitation of the _____ Presidency of the G-20.
(a) Canadian (b) American (c) Italian (d) Chinese
174. Recently, IIFL Wealth and Hurun India released the 'IIFL Wealth Hurun India 40 and Under Self-Made Rich List 2021' ranking the self-made entrepreneurs of India with a wealth of over _____ crore.
(a) Rs 500 (b) Rs 1,000 (c) Rs 2,500 (d) Rs 5,000
175. Recently, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued a Small Finance Bank (SFB) license to the consortium of Centrum Financial Services, and Digital payments platform _____.
(a) BharatPe (b) Phone Pay (c) Amazon Pay (d) BHIM UPI
176. The combined external debt stock of the 10 largest DSSI-eligible borrowers (Angola, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mongolia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, and Zambia) was _____ dollars at end-2020.
(a) 389 billion (b) 467 billion (c) 509 billion (d) 666 billion
177. The world's most powerful radio antenna, the Low-Frequency Array (LOFAR) is situated in _____.
(a) Greenland (b) Netherlands (c) Sweden (d) Canada
178. The United Nations' International Day of Rural Women celebrates and honours women and girls living in rural areas on _____ each year.
(a) 13 October (b) 14 October (c) 15 October (d) 16 October
179. Who among the following has become India's latest Woman Grand Master (WGM) at the Grandmaster chess tournament in Budapest, Hungary?
(a) Divya Deshmukh (b) Geeta Mukherjee (c) Amrita Nagar (d) Deepa Luthra
180. The Indian women's badminton team registered over Spain in Group B of the 2020 Uber Cup Finals, at Aarhus in _____.
(a) Norway (b) Denmark (c) Sweden (d) Finland
181. India's first Atal Community Innovation Center (ACIC) was inaugurated at _____.
(a) Barkatullah University, Bhopal (b) Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh
(c) Lovely Professional University, Jalandhar (d) Vivekananda Global University, Jaipur
182. Recently, The World Steel Association (WSA) has elected _____ as its Chairman for the 2021-22 period.
(a) L N Mittal (b) Sajjan Jindal (c) Naveen Jindal (d) T V Narendran
183. Who among the following has topped a list of the most-wealthy Indians under-40 years with a networth of Rs 12,500 crore?
(a) Sandeep Bindal (b) Amarendra Jha (c) Himanshu Tyagi (d) Divyank Turakhia

184. Recently, The exercises Joint Sea 2021 kicked off with a ceremony between _____.
(a) India and Myanmar (b) Singapore and Malaysia
(c) China and Russia (d) Japan and South Korea
185. Who has been appointed as chairman of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) for 2021-22?
(a) Atul Kumar Goel (b) Rakesh Sharma (c) Dinesh Kumar Khara (d) Rajkiran Rai
186. Recently, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur launched _____ app in New Delhi.
(a) MyParkings (b) MyStarting (c) MyVehicles (d) MyStands
187. Who has become the first captain to lead 300 matches in the T20 format?
(a) Steve Smith (b) MS Dhoni (c) Virat Kohli (d) Rishabh Pant
188. The India-US Economic and Financial Partnership was launched in year _____.
(a) 2005 (b) 2008 (c) 2010 (d) 2014
189. Recently, PETA India has decided to confer on the Progressive Business Concept Award to whom for his plans to produce 'vegan leather' in the northeastern state?
(a) Atul Kumar Das (b) Mahesh G Saini (c) James P K Sangma (d) M K Nishan
190. International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is observed on:
(a) 7 October (b) 12 October (c) 17 October (d) 19 October
191. What is the rank of India among 116 countries in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2021?
(a) 56th (b) 75th (c) 94th (d) 101st
192. Which of the following Indian states, Karuppur kalamkari paintings and the Kallakurichi wood carvings recently received the geographical indication (GI) tags?
(a) Kerala (b) Karnataka (c) Tamil Nadu (d) Andhra Pradesh
193. Which of the following districts has become the first fully vaccinated district in the Country?
(a) Kinnaur (b) Darbhanga (c) Indore (d) Udaipur
194. Recently, The Centre has empowered the Border Security Force to conduct searches, arrest suspects and make seizures up to _____ from India-Pakistan and India-Bangladesh borders.
(a) 20 km (b) 30 km (c) 50 km (d) 75 km
195. Which of the following metros rolled out as the world's first fare payment system based on facial recognition technology?
(a) London (b) Moscow (c) Paris (d) Lisbon
196. The 17th edition of the joint military training exercise "Ex Yudh Abhyas 2021" will be conducted between _____.
(a) India- UK (b) India-USA (c) India- Germany (d) India- Russia
197. Who has been named to an expert group launched by the WHO that will examine origins of emerging and re-emerging pathogens of epidemic and pandemic potential, including SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19?
(a) Dr Raman Gangakhedkar (b) Dr Mukesh Gulgaonkar
(c) Dr Tirath Singh (d) Dr Shailendra Tyagi
198. On the occasion of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav 2021' under the Nurturing Neighbourhood Challenge, _____ developed the country's first kids friendly COVID vaccination centre.
(a) Jaipur (b) Bhopal (c) Jabalpur (d) Patna

199. Name the Bollywood actress whose upcoming book, “The Stars in My Sky: Those Who Brightened My Film Journey”, is slated to be released on October 25.
(a) Neena Gupta (b) Divya Dutta (c) Kajol (d) Mandira Bedi
200. World Food Day is an international day celebrated every year worldwide on _____.
(a) 6 October (b) 11 October (c) 16 October (d) 21 October
201. Which of the following has launched the country’s first ‘One Health’ consortium?
(a) Department of Finance (b) Department of Technology
(c) Department of Biochemistry (d) Department of Biotechnology
202. Which of the following northeastern states recently launched the “Chief Minister’s Health for All”?
(a) Manipur (b) Mizoram (c) Sikkim (d) Nagaland
203. Recently, Jonas Gahr Stoere took oath as the prime minister of:
(a) Sweden (b) Norway (c) Finland (d) Ireland
204. Recently, the 8th Edition of joint military exercise MITRA SHAKTI was held between _____.
(a) India and Mauritius (b) India and Maldives (c) India and Sri Lanka (d) India and Nepal
205. The Global Financial Stability Report is published by:
(a) World Bank (b) International Monetary Fund
(c) United Nations General Assembly (d) Asian Development Bank
206. Which of the following has become the first country to receive payments from a World Bank trust fund for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation—commonly known as REDD+?
(a) Mozambique (b) Senegal (c) Malaysia (d) Mauritius
207. World Students’ Day is marked on A. P. J. Abdul Kalam’s birthday, _____.
(a) 9 October (b) 12 October (c) 15 October (d) 18 October
208. According to statistics available with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, about _____ per cent of road fatalities in India occur due to over-speeding.
(a) 30 (b) 50 (c) 70 (d) 90
209. Recently, The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has constituted a four-member high-powered advisory committee on settlement orders and compounding of offences. The committee will be chaired by _____.
(a) Vijay C Daga (b) Deepak Luthra (c) Mukesh Jain (d) Aditya Pal
210. Which of the following countries clinched the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship for eighth time recently?
(a) India (b) Nepal (c) Maldives (d) Bangladesh
211. Recently, the Government of India has decided to rechristen Mount Harriet Island in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands as _____.
(a) Mount Manipur (b) Mount Nagaland
(c) Mount Sikkim (d) Mount Tripura
212. Recently, The world’s first ever UNESCO trail is launched in _____.
(a) Ireland (b) Scotland (c) Sweden (d) Norway
213. Recently, RBI approves reappointment of Amitabh Chaudhry as MD & CEO of _____.
(a) HDFC Bank (b) Axis Bank (c) RBL Bank (d) ICICI Bank

214. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has projected the government debt, including that of the Centre and the states, to rise to a record _____ per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) during 2021-22.
(a) 76.5 (b) 82.6 (c) 87.2 (d) 90.6
215. Recently, NASA launched a spacecraft called _____ on a 12-year mission to explore Jupiter's Trojan asteroids for the first time gathering new insights into the solar system's formation.
(a) Lucy (b) Aric (c) Versatile (d) Opel
216. Recently, Social Token App, Chingari unveiled its' first-ever crypto token, '\$GARI' at the hands of film star and the brand ambassador of the tech start-up _____.
(a) Salman Khan (b) Shahrukh Khan (c) Amitabh Bachchan (d) Shahid Kapoor
217. Recently, India's first-ever alcohol museum has been opened up in:
(a) Sikkim (b) Assam (c) Goa (d) Nagaland
218. Which is the first state in the country to release a 'Wildlife Action Plan'?
(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Maharashtra (d) Karnataka
219. World Sight Day is an annual day of awareness held on the _____ of October, to focus global attention on vision impairment, including blindness.
(a) Second Friday (b) Second Thursday (c) Second Saturday (d) Second Tuesday
220. Which of the following teams won the IPL title 2021 in Dubai recently?
(a) Kolkata Knight Riders (b) Mumbai Indians
(c) Chennai Super Kings (d) Delhi Capitals
221. Which of the following Asian countries has been re-elected to the UN Human Rights Council for a record 6th term with an overwhelming majority?
(a) Bangladesh (b) India (c) Pakistan (d) Malaysia
222. Which of the following will host "Aadhaar Hackathon 2021"?
(a) NITI Aayog (b) UIDAI (c) Ministry of Finance (d) Ministry of Home Affairs
223. Recently, India's first Diploma in Mountaineering course is launched by _____.
(a) Garhwal University (b) Savitribai Phule Pune University
(c) Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Lucknow University (d) Dehradun Mountaineering Institute
224. Which of the following Indian states launched 'Mera Ghar Mere Naam' scheme to give ownership rights to people living in houses within the 'lal lakir' of villages and cities?
(a) Haryana (b) Punjab (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Chhattisgarh
225. India's updated nationally determined contributions or NDCs, as commitments by countries under the Paris Agreement are referred to, could include a commitment to reduce the emissions intensity of the economy by at least _____ per from its 2005 levels.
(a) 23 to 25 (b) 37 to 39 (c) 46 to 48 (d) 52 to 56
226. Who has been nominated for the position of the assistant secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Energy and the Environment by the US President?
(a) Mahtab Khan (b) Ravi Chaudhary (c) Chandan Mitra (d) Deep Ujjwal Raj
227. Which of the following launched a Geographic Information System (GIS)-based Energy Map of India?
(a) NITI Aayog (b) UIDAI
(c) Ministry of Finance (d) Ministry of Home Affairs

228. The developed nations are upping the ante and aim to finalise an ambitious climate action plan at the G20 heads of nations summit in _____ on October 30-31.
(a) Milan (b) Rome (c) Paris (d) London
229. Who among the following clinched the title in the La Nucia Open chess tournament with an unbeaten run?
(a) G Sathiyam (b) K Luthra (c) M N Ravi (d) P Iniyan
230. Name the Delhi-based entrepreneur whose agricultural waste recycling project was named among the winners of Prince William's inaugural Earthshot Prize, dubbed the "Eco Oscars".
(a) Amit Vikram (b) Nrendra Gupta (c) Mahesh Jamwal (d) Vidyut Mohan
231. Which of the following is set to become world's first city to name heat waves?
(a) Masdar (b) Seville (c) Madrid (d) Milan
232. According to the 'World's Best Employer Ranking-2021' published by the Forbes Magazine, which is the topmost ranked company in the world?
(a) Samsung Electronics (b) Apple (c) Reliance Industries (d) Saudi Aramco
233. Recently, Indian government-owned, _____ now has unveiled an automated fuelling technology system, commonly now as U-Fill to ease the customers with a better experience at the outlets.
(a) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)
(b) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)
(c) National Petroleum Corporation Limited (NPCL)
(d) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)
234. Which of the following four countries have agreed to establish a forum for economic cooperation at a quadrilateral meeting during which they discussed possibilities for joint infrastructure projects in the fields of transportation, technology, maritime security, and economics and trade?
(a) India, Iran, Qatar and Egypt (b) India, UAE, Australia and New Zealand
(c) India, Israel, the US and Saudi Arabia (d) India Israel, US and UAE
235. According to a new report released by climate tech startup Blue Sky Analytics, which of the following is also part of global coalition "Climate TRACE", India is ranked at the top in emissions related to crop burning, accounting for _____ per cent of total global emissions for the 2015-2020 period.
(a) 11 (b) 13 (c) 17 (d) 21
236. According to the GFS Index, India is at _____ on Global Food Security index 2021 of 113 nations.
(a) 15th (b) 23rd (c) 47th (d) 71st
237. According to Mercer CFS Global Pension Index survey 2021, India has been ranked _____ out of 43 pension systems across the world.
(a) 21st (b) 24th (c) 29th (d) 40th
238. Recently, India's _____ were awarded life membership of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), joining 16 other cricketers who were given the honour this year.
(a) Harbhajan Singh and Javagal Srinath
(b) Anil Kumble and Kapil Dev
(c) Rahul Dravid and Venkatesh Prasad
(d) Saurav Ganguly and Sunil Joshi
239. Recently, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched the Web Based Project Monitoring Portal for _____.
(a) ISRO (b) DRDO
(c) Military Engineer Services (d) Air Force Military Services

240. Recently, Earth Sciences Minister Dr Jitendra Singh has launched Air Quality Early Warning System on the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav week. Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology is based at:
(a) Pune, Maharashtra (b) Bengaluru, Karnataka
(c) Chennai, Tamil Nadu (d) Jaipur, Rajasthan
241. Which of the following Indian states has announced the implementation of Mukhyamantri Ration Aapke Dwar Yojana recently?
(a) Chhattisgarh (b) Madhya Pradesh
(c) Jharkhand (d) Odisha
242. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Infosys Foundation Vishram Sadan at the National Cancer Institute in Jhajjar Campus of _____ through video conferencing.
(a) Safdarjung Hospital New Delhi (b) AIIMS New Delhi
(c) AFMC Pune (d) Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai
243. Recently, who among the following declared the much-awaited Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS) project of J&K Police “Go-Live” and launched the “JK eCOP” Mobile Application?
(a) Ramnath Kovind (b) Narendra Modi (c) R K Mathur (d) Manoj Sinha
244. Recently, Long renowned as the birthplace of literary heroes and authors such as Arthur Conan Doyle and Muriel Spark, Edinburgh is one of 13 sites in _____ recognised by UNESCO as a place of international importance.
(a) Ireland (b) Iceland (c) Scotland (d) Denmark
245. Recently, Heruo Railway, the “last kilometer” of the railway encircling _____ completed laying tracks, setting the foundation for operating the world’s first desert-circling railway in 2022.
(a) Taklimakan Desert (b) Thar Desert (c) Sahara Desert (d) Gobi Desert
246. Recently, A project to help map ‘hotspots’ of plastic rubbish in _____ is being launched. The MAPP (Mapping Portsmouth Plastic) project will be a world first – a city-wide plastic survey.
(a) Lisbon (b) Helsinki (c) Portsmouth (d) Boston
247. Which of the following countries has become the world’s epicenter for Bitcoin mining?
(a) Japan (b) USA (c) Canada (d) India
248. Which of the following recently announced the launch of DSP Nifty 50 Equal Weight ETF, India’s First Exchange Traded Fund based on the Nifty 50 Equal Weight Index?
(a) LJG Investment Managers (b) ASD Investment Managers
(c) Minesh Investment Managers (d) DSP Investment Managers
249. Who among the following has filed for an index fund that will track the Nifty Total Market Index?
(a) Sachin Bansal (b) Binny Bansal (c) Hitesh Modi (d) Mukesh Jain
250. The 52nd edition of the IFFI will be held in _____.
(a) Sikkim (b) Goa (c) Haryana (d) Punjab
251. Which of the following countries has launched its first homegrown rocket, the Korean Satellite Launch Vehicle II known as _____ took off from Goheung.
(a) Ruhi (b) Nuri (c) Punya (d) Dost
252. The former U.S. President Donald Trump launched his own social media app, _____ that he said would “stand up to Big Tech” companies such as Twitter and Facebook that have barred him from their platforms.
(a) ONLY Social (b) PLANET Social
(c) TRUTH Social (d) US Social

253. Name the former Indo-Canadian cabinet minister who has been elected as the mayor of the city of Edmonton in Canada's Alberta.
(a) Sandeep Kumar (b) Mahendra Joshi (c) Amarjeet Sohi (d) Anupam Mitra
254. Which of the following has elected its first ever president as it prepares to become a republic, removing Queen Elizabeth as head of state?
(a) Seychelles (b) Barbados (c) Panama (d) Fiji
255. The Indian Army established Airspace Control Centre for the first time in the forward area in _____.
(a) West Kameng, Arunachal Pradesh (b) Manali, Himachal Pradesh
(c) Chamoli, Uttarakhand (d) Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
256. Which of the following countries has remained in 'Grey List' of global terror financing watchdog?
(a) Nepal (b) Pakistan (c) Bangladesh (d) Mauritius
257. The inauguration of the _____ was marked by the landing of the inaugural flight at the airport from Colombo in Sri Lanka.
(a) Kushinagar International Airport (b) Indore International Airport
(c) Darbhanga International Airport (d) Chamba International Airport
258. The Indian Army won a _____ at the Cambrian Patrol Exercise held in the UK while competing against 96 teams representing special forces and regiments from around the world.
(a) Gold Medal (b) Silver Medal (c) Bronze Medal (d) Mixed Medal
259. Which of the following will build India's largest green hydrogen-making plant as it looks to supplement its natural gas business with carbon-free fuel?
(a) Torrent Gas (b) GAIL (c) BHEL (d) OIL India Limited
260. Which of the following has launched its first Community in India as well as the first outside the US to bring together cricket fans from around the world?
(a) Facebook (b) Google (c) Twitter (d) Instagram
261. Name the Tamil Film which has been announced as India's official entry to the Oscars 2022.
(a) 'Lift' (b) 'Koozhangal' (c) 'Master' (d) 'Jagame Thandiram'
262. Which of the following parks is envisaged to help India in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal of build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation?
(a) PM MITRA (b) PM GASTRA (c) PM DOST (d) PM FRIEND
263. Recently, the world's first tsunami lying buried at the site in Khanmoh area of _____.
(a) Ladakh (b) Haryana
(c) Jammu & Kashmir (d) Rajasthan
264. According to NITI Aayog, India's real estate sector is expected to reach a market size of 1 trillion dollars and contribute _____ percent of the country's GDP by 2030.
(a) 5-7 (b) 10-12 (c) 15-17 (d) 18-20
265. India saw the birth of its first IVF calf of a Buffalo breed namely _____.
(a) Manni (b) Banni (c) Palini (d) Kinni
266. Which of the following has elected its first-ever president to replace Britain's Queen Elizabeth as head of state in a decisive step toward shedding the Caribbean island's colonial past?
(a) Suriname (b) Trinidad & Tobago (c) Fiji (d) Barbados

267. International Snow Leopard Day is celebrated every year on:
(a) October 17 (b) October 19 (c) October 21 (d) October 23
268. Which of the following banks entered into a partnership with CDAC (Centre for Development of Advanced Computing) Hyderabad, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, under bank's Cyber Security Centre of Excellence initiative?
(a) State Bank of India (b) Punjab National Bank
(c) Union Bank of India (d) Bank of Baroda
269. Global Media and Information Literacy Week 2021 is hosted by _____.
(a) Australia (b) New Zealand (c) South Africa (d) Nepal
270. Who has been named as the White House staff secretary recently?
(a) Mangesh Jha (b) Neera Tanden (c) Deepa Mehta (d) Amit Luthra
271. Which of the following Indian states has won the award for the 'city with the most sustainable transport system'?
(a) Karnataka (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Kerala (d) Andhra Pradesh
272. The 16th G-20 Summit is held in:
(a) Paris, France (b) Rome, Italy (c) Munich, Germany (d) Ottawa, Canada
273. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the ambitious Pradhan Mantri Atmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojna (PMASBY) nationwide at a function organised in _____.
(a) Darjeeling (b) Varanasi (c) Shimla (d) Indore
274. Name the first NH corridor in the country to have screens which will alert drivers, if they are going beyond the permitted speed limit.
(a) Mumbai - Nagpur (b) Delhi – Agra
(c) Darjeeling-Shillong (d) Rameshwaram - Kanyakumari
275. Name the first-ever tri-services joint exercise between India and the UK?
(a) Coromandal Shakti 2021 (b) Konkan Shakti 2021
(c) Arya Shakti 2021 (d) Mitra Shakti 2021
276. Which is the first country in Europe to legalise growing and consuming cannabis?
(a) Luxembourg (b) Finland (c) Sweden (d) Iceland
277. Who of the following has announced the launch of a robust and secure multi-network Card-on-File (CoF) tokenization solution?
(a) Razorpay (b) Winpay (c) Onpay (d) Cardpay
278. Which has become the first country in the world to pass a law that will ensure financial organisations to disclose and act on climate-related risks and opportunities?
(a) Australia (b) New Zealand (c) Ethiopia (d) Norway
279. The First Indian Film to Launch NFT Collectibles is _____.
(a) Thoni (b) Kurup (c) Thurup (d) Commodor
280. World Development Information Day is celebrated on:
(a) 14th October (b) 17th October (c) 21st October (d) 24th October
281. The first-ever Warner Bros. hotel in the world is opened in _____.
(a) Dubai (b) Abu Dhabi (c) Masdar (d) Lisbon

282. Which of the following groups agreed on principles to govern cross-border data use and digital trade recently?
(a) G-7 (b) G-20 (c) ASEAN (d) SAARC
283. Recently, India handed over the 34.9 km-long cross-border rail link connecting Jaynagar in Bihar to Kurtha in _____ to the Nepal government.
(a) Bangladesh (b) Pakistan (c) Nepal (d) Myanmar
284. Recently, Based on the recommendation of Principal Economic Advisor of Finance Ministry _____ for rationalisation of railway bodies, the Indian Railways has ordered to dissolve Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation (IRSDC).
(a) Sanjeev Sanyal (b) Rupak Ghosh (c) Mahendra Kumar (d) Amitav Saha
285. Who has been elected as President of World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies?
(a) Divergent India (b) One India (c) Invest India (d) Target India
286. Recently, The Reserve Bank of India announced a scale-based regulation of non-banking finance companies. Under the new framework, there will be a ceiling of _____ per borrower for financing subscription to an initial public offering (IPO).
(a) ₹1 crore (b) ₹2 crore (c) ₹5 crore (d) ₹10 crore
287. Which of the following Indian states has discovered three new species of fish of genus *Aborichthys* of family Nemachelidae recently?
(a) Manipur (b) Mizoram (c) Sikkim (d) Arunachal Pradesh
288. According to a new report by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the amount of plastics in the oceans has been estimated to be around _____ million tonnes at present.
(a) 75-199 (b) 95-220 (c) 110-260 (d) 125-320
289. Recently, Maharashtra inaugurated country's first state government-owned Wildlife DNA analysis laboratory at Regional Forensic Science Laboratory (RFSL) in _____.
(a) Pune (b) Thane (c) Nagpur (d) Sholapur
290. United Nations Day is celebrated every year on _____.
(a) 22nd October (b) 24th October (c) 26th October (d) 28th October
291. Which of the following Indian airports becomes first in India to start hydropower project?
(a) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport
(b) Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Airport
(c) Cochin International Airport
(d) Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar Airport
292. Which of the following countries is converting an Oil Rig into the World's First Offshore Extreme Amusement and Leisure Park?
(a) Russia (b) Venezuela (c) Saudi Arabia (d) Kuwait
293. Recently, Shavkat Mirziyoyev has been re-elected for a second five-year term as President of _____.
(a) Uzbekistan (b) Kyrgyzstan
(c) Turkmenistan (d) Kazakhstan
294. Recently, In a first, a long-range marine communication system, which will remain effective during storms and inclement weather conditions, was introduced by _____.
(a) Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port (b) Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Port
(c) Mahatma Gandhi Port (d) Mundra Port

295. Which of the following countries advised by the world's largest fund manager BlackRock, has launched a national infrastructure fund to support up to 200 billion riyals (\$53.32 billion) in projects over the next decade?
(a) Kuwait (b) Saudi Arabia (c) Oman (d) Jordan
296. Recently, Shri R K Singh, Union Minister of Power & New and Renewable Energy, launched the new market segment, _____.
(a) Green Day Ahead Market (GDAM) (b) Grown Day Ahead Marketting (GDAM)
(c) Green Day Ahead Mixing (GDAM) (d) Greening Day Ahead Mining (GDAM)
297. Who among the following recently received the Dadasaheb Phalke Award at 67th National Film Awards ceremony in Delhi?
(a) Amitabh Bachchan (b) Rajinikanth (c) Shatrughan Sinha (d) Hema Malini
298. The World Day for Audiovisual Heritage takes place every _____.
(a) 19th October (b) 21st October (c) 25th October (d) 27th October
299. Recently, Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced that RPSG Ventures Ltd. and Ireliya Company Pte Ltd. (CVC Capital Partners) have won the ownership rights of _____ teams in the Indian Premier League (IPL).
(a) Lucknow and Ahmedabad (b) Kanpur and Gandhinagar
(c) Patna and Gangtok (d) Guwahati and Itanagar
300. Recently, which of the following films was presented the Best Hindi Film award at 67th National Film Awards ceremony in Delhi?
(a) 'Bharat' (b) 'Shikara' (c) 'Manikarnika' (d) 'Chhichhore'
301. Recently, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has launched knowledge App and platform _____.
(a) OPENER (b) CUNSLT (c) TWIST (d) THUNDER
302. Recently, "New Horizon" joint navel exercise at sea was conducted between:
(a) UK and France (b) USA & Bahrain (c) France and Oman (d) Germany and Japan
303. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated nine medical colleges in Uttar Pradesh. Which of the following is not among the recently inaugurated medical colleges?
(a) Mirzapur (b) Pratapgarh (c) Deoria (d) Saharanpur
304. Recently, The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) launched the first-of-its-kind and the largest _____ for skilling in India in collaboration with global partners, involving a USD 14.4 million fund which will benefit 50,000 youth by making them employment ready.
(a) 'Impact Bond' (b) 'Compact Bond' (c) 'Constant Bond' (d) 'Unique Bond'
305. Recently, Developed Countries push _____ Dollar climate finance goal target deadline to 2023.
(a) 20 billion (b) 50 billion (c) 100 billion (d) 200 billion
306. Which is first Asian country to have two container-based hospitals?
(a) China (b) South Korea (c) Japan (d) India
307. Recently, Indian-origin politician Anita Anand was appointed as the new Defence Minister in a Cabinet reshuffle in _____.
(a) Suriname (b) Canada (c) Fiji (d) Bangladesh
308. Recently, Objects hanging in the vacuum of the cosmos orbiting a star have been detected throughout the _____, these exoplanets have been a source of enhancing our understanding of the conditions beyond our solar system.
(a) Meteors (b) Galaxy (c) Comets (d) Intraplanets

309. Which of the following countries Prime Minister will be visiting India, becoming the first head of government to visit New Delhi in over 20 months?
(a) Norway (b) Denmark (c) Sweden (d) Finland
310. The National Tribal Dance Festival takes place in _____.
(a) Bhopal (b) Raipur (c) Bhubaneswar (d) Patna
311. Recently, The Supreme Court ordered a probe into the Pegasus surveillance case by a three-member expert committee. The committee will be headed by Retired Supreme Court judge, _____.
(a) Justice Jasti Chamaleshwar (b) Justice Gyan Sudha Mishra
(c) Justice Arun Kumar Mishra (d) Justice RV Raveendran
312. Recently, The Centre notified the _____ integrated teacher education programme (ITEP) envisaged as the minimum degree qualification for school teachers under the National Education Policy 2020 which will be offered by about 50 institutes across the country from the next academic year.
(a) Three-year (b) Four-year (c) Five-year (d) Seven-year
313. The government announced the appointment of veteran banker K V Kamath as chairperson of the newly set up _____ development finance institution NaBFID to catalyse investment in the funds-starved infrastructure sector.
(a) Rs 10,000 crore (b) Rs 20,000 crore (c) Rs 40,000 crore (d) Rs 50,000 crore
314. Recently, Four Indian institutes have made it to the Times Higher Education's annual Reputation Rankings. Which of the following institutes climbs into the top 100 (91-100 band)?
(a) Indian Institute of Science Bangalore (b) Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
(c) Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (d) Indian Institute of Technology Madras
315. Which of the following places is home to India's first oxygen-rich homes at Amila Hills?
(a) Kasaul (b) Shimla (c) Rishikesh (d) Dehradun
316. The Centre's NIPUN Bharat mission, aimed at equipping every child till _____ with basic comprehension and mathematical skills, received a push with the Ministry of Education setting up a national steering committee to oversee its progress and provide policy-level guidance.
(a) Class 1 (b) Class 3 (c) Class 5 (d) Class 7
317. Recently, Surface to a surface ballistic missile, Agni-5 was successfully launched from APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha. Agni-5 is capable of striking targets at ranges up to _____.
(a) 2,000 kilometers (b) 3,000 kilometers (c) 5,000 kilometers (d) 7,000 kilometers
318. Which of the following has approved a proposal to conduct a study on the use of facial recognition technology in India?
(a) NITI Aayog (b) PMO
(c) Ministry of Finance Affairs (d) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
319. Recently, In a first of its kind move, the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) has signed a _____ exclusive partnership with sports management firm IOS Sports and Entertainment.
(a) 1-year (b) 2-year (c) 3-year (d) 5-year
320. World Thrift Day is celebrated every year on _____ worldwide to promote savings and financial security of individual and nation as a whole.
(a) 28th October (b) 31st October (c) 3rd November (d) 5th November
321. Recently, The government has appointed veteran banker _____ as the first chairperson of the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure & Development (NaBFID).
(a) K V Kamath (b) Rajiv Chandrasekhar (c) A K Jain (d) Swathi Mahipal

322. According to the annual report of the Directorate of Economics and Statistics of the Government of Delhi, The sex ratio in Delhi has increased to _____ females to one thousand males in 2020.
(a) 930 (b) 933 (c) 938 (d) 945
323. The first _____ Strategic Dialogue between the National Security Council Secretariats was held in New Delhi.
(a) India-Kyrgyzstan (b) India-Kazakhstan (c) India-Turkmenistan (d) India-Afghanistan
324. Recently, The African Union has suspended _____ from all of its activities until the civilian-led transitional authority is restored.
(a) Sudan (b) Eritrea (c) The Gambia (d) Liberia
325. The most critical climate change conference since the Paris Agreement, the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP-26) is to be hosted by _____.
(a) United Kingdom in Glasgow (b) United States of America in Boston
(c) France in Lyon (d) Germany in Munich
326. Recently, Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya released _____ which lays out the vision of improving value realization through better integration and optimization of Agri-harvesting and air transportation.
(a) Krishi UDAN (b) Krishi UDAN 2.0 (c) Krishi UDAN 3.0 (d) Krishi UDAN 5.0
327. Recently, The Nag River revitalization project has been approved by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC). The Nag River is a river flowing through the city of _____ in Maharashtra.
(a) Solapur (b) Pune (c) Mumbai (d) Nagpur
328. Recently, The 13th Meeting of Heads of National Statistical Offices of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) Countries was held virtually under the Chairship of _____.
(a) India (b) Brazil (c) South Africa (d) China
329. Which of the following Indian states has launched the FIFA Football for Schools Programme, which is the first for India?
(a) Jharkhand (b) Odisha (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Gujarat
330. The United Nations General Assembly designated _____ as World Cities Day.
(a) 24th October (b) 26th October (c) 28th October (d) 31st October
331. Who has been recently appointed as chairperson of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)?
(a) Justice Atul Pradhan (b) Justice Vivek Chauhan
(c) Justice Ashok Bhushan (d) Justice Amit Gupta
332. Which Indian state is associated with Mukhyamantri Awasiya Bhu-adhikar Yojna?
(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Chhattisgarh (d) Haryana
333. Which of the following along with Indian Air Force, IAF team jointly flight tested indigenously developed Long-Range Bomb successfully from an aerial platform.
(a) Indian Army (b) Indian Space Research Organisation
(c) Indian Navy (d) Defence Research and Development Organisation
334. The India International Trade Fair (IITF) will be held in _____.
(a) Mumbai (b) New Delhi (c) Chennai (d) Lucknow
335. In a significant boost to the maritime safety and security of the nation, the indigenously built Indian Coast Guard Ship _____ dedicated to the nation at Goa.
(a) Sarthak (b) Swetabh (c) Siddhant (d) Siddhant

336. Which of the following states was recently presented with Bamboo bats and stumps made by the BCDI, under the mentorship of NECTAR?
(a) Mizoram (b) Manipur (c) Tripura (d) Sikkim
337. Who has been recently appointed as Governor of the Reserve Bank of India for a period of three years?
(a) Mukesh Kumar Jain (b) Shaktikanta Das (c) Dheeraj Dhawan (d) Atul Meena
338. Recently, Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh launched the Indian manned Ocean Mission _____ in Chennai.
(a) Samudrayan (b) Samudragati (c) Samudraniti (d) Samudramanathan
339. Which of the following institutes launched a virtual reality programme, one of the first in India?
(a) Indian Institute of Technology Delhi
(b) Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur
(c) Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
(d) Indian Institute of Technology Madras
340. Recently, social networking giant Facebook rebranded itself as _____.
(a) Alpha (b) Beta (c) Meta (d) Gamma
341. As per the Edelgive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2021 who retained the top spot as India's 'most generous' billionaire?
(a) Azim Premji (b) Shiv Nadar (c) Mukesh Ambani (d) Gautam Adani
342. Which of the following has released a comprehensive report titled Health Insurance for India's Missing Middle, which brings out the gaps in the health insurance coverage across the Indian population and offers solutions to address the situation?
(a) NITI Aayog (b) Ministry of Health and Family Affairs
(c) Reserve Bank of India (d) SIDBI
343. Name the first Kashmiri girl to have represented India and won the gold medal — in the under-14 age category — in World Kickboxing Championship held at Cairo in Egypt recently.
(a) Saira Bajaj (b) Najmul Khan (c) Tajamul Islam (d) Hitakshi Kumara
344. For the first time, signs of a planet transiting a star outside of the Milky Way galaxy may have been detected. "Chandra scientists have found the first possible planet candidate outside of our galaxy Located about 28 million light years from Earth in _____.
(a) Galaxy J13 (b) Galaxy U21 (c) Galaxy M51 (d) Galaxy N76
345. Which of the following countries along with India has agreed to form a Task Force to formulate a comprehensive Ten-Year Roadmap to identify new areas of cooperation?
(a) France (b) Germany (c) Israel (d) Canada
346. India's first film for sale on Block chain is
(a) Mimi (b) Dangerous (c) Unique (d) Alert
347. According to the latest Accidental Deaths and Suicides of India (ADSI) 2020 report released by National Crime Records Bureau, which state stands at the top position in terms of mass family suicides?
(a) Tamil Nadu (b) Kerala (c) Maharashtra (d) Andhra Pradesh
348. Recently, A glacier in far-away _____ has been formally named Glasgow Glacier in honour of this Scottish city hosting the high-level UN climate summit.
(a) Greenland (b) Iceland (c) Antarctica (d) New Zealand

349. Name the Indian Grandmaster who emerged as winner in the 5th Rujna Zora chess tournament.
(a) A K Lal (b) P Iniyan (c) G Sathiayan (d) L N Masu
350. Which of the following Shatabdi Express becomes the first Integrated Management Systems certified train of Southern Railway?
(a) Bengaluru-Thiruvananthapuram - Bengaluru
(b) Mumbai-Hyderabad - Mumbai
(c) Chennai-Mysore - Chennai
(d) Chennai-Bengaluru - Chennai



Career
Launcher

ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATION

1. b Naga cucumbers are juicy, soft and sweet and is grown completely organically.
2. b Varanasi will soon become the first Indian city to use the ropeway services in the public transportation. About 220 cable cars will be available between Cantt railway station (Varanasi Junction) and Godowlia.
3. a The Director-General of UNESCO, Audrey Azoulay, has named Accra (Ghana) as UNESCO World Book Capital for 2023, following the evaluation of the World Book Capital Advisory Committee.
4. c Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Pradhan Mantri Digital Health Mission (PM-DHM) via video-conferencing.
5. b Iceland looks set to make history by becoming the first European country to elect a female majority to parliament.
6. b State-run oil refiner Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) partnered with State Bank of India (SBI) Cards to launch the BPCL SBI Co-branded RuPay contactless credit card.
7. d India has bagged the 14th spot and is up from the 10-year global rank of 82.
8. a The Uttarakhand Forest Department dedicated the state's first Palmetum and the biggest one in North India, to the people in the Haldwani area of Nainital district.
9. b India has emerged as the 4th largest exporter of Marine products in the world.
10. c Odisha will host the junior men's World Cup Hockey in coming November. Chief minister Naveen Patnaik announced this in capital Bhubaneswar.
11. b Sojat Mehndi from Rajasthan has received the geographical indication (GI) tag from the government
12. b The world's highest electric vehicle charging station was inaugurated in Kaza, Lahaul Spiti.
13. a Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Dairy Dr. L. Murugan was elected unopposed to the lone Rajya Sabha seat from Madhya Pradesh.
14. a India has emerged as Dubai's second biggest trading partner after China with the overall volume touching 38.5 billion dirham in the first half of 2021.
15. d Union Labour Minister Bhupendra Yadav said that Centre has transformed 29 labour laws with four labour codes.
16. b Dinesh Shahra, has received Globoil India Lifetime Achievement Award 2021 for his exemplary contribution to the Edible Oil Industry
17. d The Ministry of Tourism is organized an event to celebrate "World Tourism Day 2021" on 27th September 2021 in New Delhi, which has been designated by the UNWTO as a day to focus on "Tourism for Inclusive Growth". Speaker of Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla will be chief guest of the event.
18. d India captain Virat Kohli reached a coveted milestone of 10,000-run mark in all forms of T20 cricket (international, domestic and franchise) during his side Royal Challengers Bangalore's IPL match against Mumbai Indians.
19. d On 17 November 2015, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) declared 28 September as International Day for Universal Access to Information.
20. b A book has titled "The Three Khans: And the Emergence of New India" authored by Kaveree Bamzai.
21. d The traditional Judima wine of the Dimasa tribals of Assam and Nagaland has become the first beverage from northeast India to be awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
22. a Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh launched the "AmritGrand Challenge Program" titled "जॄनॄCARE" to identify 75 Start-Up Innovations in Telemedicine, Digital Health, mHealth with BIG Data, AI, Block Chain and other technologies.

- 23. c** UK's Wellington College to open schools in India, 1st campus to come up in Pune.
- 24. b** Community-driven launchpad, Starter, which supports interoperability of initial DEX offerings (IDO), has launched the IDO of Nasdex in India.
- 25. b** A new version of the Akash Missile, Akash Prime was successfully flight tested from Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, Odisha.
- 26. a** Paytm Payments Bank has forged a tie-up with Ria Money Transfer, a cross-border money transfer firm and a business segment of Euronet Worldwide, to help its 333 million customers receive money from their relatives abroad.
- 27. a** The AIIMS-Bhubaneswar has received funding from the ICMR to establish a satellite brain bank, a "first of its kind" in the eastern region that will boost research in neurosciences.
- 28. c** Engineers from Illinois' Northwestern University have created an electronic microchip or "microflier" with flight capabilities, which can help monitor air pollution levels and airborne diseases. The "smallest-ever human-made flying structure", which is about the size of a grain of sand, does not require an engine or a motor.
- 29. b** India's Tennis veteran, Sania Mirza won the doubles title at the Ostrava Open with her Chinese partner Shuai Zhang.
- 30. d** International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction is observed on 29 September.
- 31. d** The UN Climate Change Conference, or COP26, is scheduled to be held between October 31 and November 12 in Scotland.
- 32. a** Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated CIPET: Institute of Petrochemicals Technology, Jaipur via video conferencing.
- 33. d** Tunisian President Kais Saied has appointed Najla Bouden Romdhan as the first female prime minister in Tunisia and the Arab world, two months after he sacked the previous government and seized wide-ranging executive powers.
- 34. b** Japan's former Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida has won the governing party leadership election and is set to be the next prime minister.
- 35. d** Delhi is the greenest city for real estate in India but ranks 63rd globally, according to a study by property consultant Knight Frank.
- 36. c** Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has approved the frameworks for gold exchange and Social Stock Exchange.
- 37. d** Himachal Pradesh becomes first state in India to begin organised cultivation of true dachini.
- 38. d** Delhi-based environmental organisation Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment (LIFE) has received the 2021 Right Livelihood Award for its "grassroots approach of empowering vulnerable communities to protect their livelihoods and claim their right to a clean environment." The award is known as Sweden's alternative Nobel Prize.
- 39. c** Researchers during a recent study made a surprise discovery about how immune "sentinel" cells are maintained, which could have implications for drugs in development for cancer treatment.
- 40. d** World Heart Day is being observed and celebrated annually on September 29.
- 41. b** Machu Picchu has become the first international destination to obtain the carbon neutral certificate.
- 42. c** Indian-American entrepreneur and the CEO-founder of cloud security company Zscaler, Jay Chaudhry is tenth richest Indian, according to a report by IIFL-Hurun India's top 10 rich list.
- 43. c** Indel Money, a non-banking finance company (NBFC) pioneering in gold loans, has entered into a first-of-its-kind conventional gold loan co-lending partnership with IndusInd Bank to offer gold loans at competitive rates to a bigger and diverse segment of borrowers.
- 44. b** France and Greece announced a defence deal worth around €3 billion (\$3.5 billion), including Athens' decision to buy three French warships, as part of a strategy to boost its defence capacities in the Eastern Mediterranean amid recurring tensions with Turkey, a long-time foe.

- 45. a** Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur will launch a month-long Clean India Programme from Prayagraj as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- 46. a** Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry organised ‘Vayo Naman’ Programme in the honour of senior citizens on the occasion of the International Day of Older Persons in New Delhi.
- 47. d** Chief minister Uddhav Thackeray said a state war memorial-cum-museum will be set up in Mumbai, showcasing glorious achievements of the Indian armed forces.
- 48. a** Labour and Employment Minister Bhupender Yadav launched DigiSaksham - a digital skills programme to enhance the employability of youth by imparting digital skills.
- 49. b** Ranthambore’s 700-year-old Barwara Fort becomes India’s 1st Six Senses hotel.
- 50. b** Italy is all set to welcome cinephiles and all those who love thrill and adventure to the world’s first theme park ride based on the much-loved Jumanji franchise.
- 51. a** World’s largest Khadi national flag was installed at Leh in Ladakh on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.
- 52. b** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will unveil the first public statue in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep — that of Mahatma Gandhi.
- 53. a** Kolkata’s New Town, first Indian city to commit to UN pledge, strives for efficient green energy.
- 54. d** Varanasi, the PM Modi’s parliamentary constituency, will soon become the first Indian city to use ropeway services in public transportation.
- 55. b** Chhattisgarh chief minister Bhupesh Baghel launched an electricity generation project that uses cow dung as fuel at a farmers’ event to mark Gandhi Jayanti.
- 56. b** On the occasion of the 152 birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the renovated Gandhi Museum was inaugurated at the historic Gandhi Ashram Trust at Noakhali in Bangladesh.
- 57. b** ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL) has started exploration in Bangladesh, becoming the first Indian entity to hunt for oil and gas in that country.
- 58. b** Botlab Dynamics, a start-up incubated at IIT-Delhi and the Drone Federation of India, put up the country’s first drone display.
- 59. d** The IMO headquarters will be lit blue on World Maritime Day, 30 September 2021, as part of efforts to highlight seafarers and their core role in shipping.
- 60. d** Rising Women’s Skeet talent Ganemat Sekhon has won a silver medal at International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Championship in Lima, Peru.
- 61. c** The 8th Edition of India – Sri Lanka Joint Military Exercise ‘Mitra Shakti’ is being conducted in Sri Lanka from 4th to 15th of October this year.
- 62. c** NITI Aayog, in a joint effort with International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Indian Institute of Population Sciences (IIPS), UNICEF and Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) launched the State Nutrition Profiles for 19 States and Union Territories.
- 63. a** The Election Commission has freed Lok Janshakti Party LJP poll symbol till dispute between Chirag Paswan and Pashupati Paras factions is resolved.
- 64. c** The Nation pays homage to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi on his 152nd birth anniversary.
- 65. c** On Italy’s Ligurian coast, biologists and environmentalists are working to tackle the effects of climate change in the Mediterranean with help from a so-called “Smart Bay”.

- 66. b** After eight years of planning and billions of dollars in spending, the Middle East's first ever World Fair opened in Dubai, with hopes the months-long extravaganza draws both visitors and global attention to this desert-turned-dreamscape.
- 67. b** In a move to accelerate reforestation across the country, Hara Bhara, India's first aerial seeding campaign using the Seedcopter drone was launched by Marut Drones
- 68. b** In a historic moment in women's cricket, Smriti Mandhana became first Indian woman to score a Test hundred on Australian soil.
- 69. c** Urvashi Rautela Becomes First Indian Female Actress to receive 10 Years UAE Golden Visa
- 70. a** Jungle Nama is a book written by Amitav Ghosh.
- 71. a** In a bid to bring about a behavioural change amongst children towards Ganga and other rivers in the country, Chacha Chaudhary has been declared as the mascot of the Namami Gange Programme, the Ministry of Jal Shakti announced.
- 72. b** The Uttar Pradesh government named actor Kangana Ranaut as the brand ambassador of its ambitious 'one district-one product' programme.
- 73. d** Colonel Mamady Doumbouya was sworn in as Interim President of coastal West African country of Guinea.
- 74. b** With a net worth of Rs 7,18,000 crore, Reliance chairman Mukesh Ambani has retained the title of being the richest Indian for the 10th consecutive year, a report released by IIFL Wealth and Hurun India has said.
- 75. b** For the first time in the World, India conducted a practical field trial of Drone for Spraying of Nano Liquid Urea at Bhavnagar in Gujarat.
- 76. b** Pathogen reduction technology (PRT), a proactive approach for improving blood transfusion safety, will soon be available at the King George's Medical University, which will be the first medical institute in the country to introduce this technology.
- 77. b** In Uttarakhand, the joint military exercise Surya Kiran-15 between the armies of India and Nepal ended in Pithoragarh.
- 78. b** Australia all-rounder Ellyse Perry picked her 300th wicket in international cricket – across all three formats of the game. As a result, Perry is now the first woman cricketer to have achieved the double of 5,000 runs and 300 wickets in international cricket.
- 79. b** Bestselling author Chetan Bhagat released the trailer of his upcoming book "400 Days".
- 80. a** The International Day of Older Persons is observed on October 1 each year.
- 81. d** David Julius and Ardem Patapoutian, from the United States, share the 2021 prize in Medicine or Physiology for their work on sensing touch and temperature.
- 82. d** Edayur Chilli and Kuttiattor Mango are the latest to receive the Geographical Indication status from Kerala.
- 83. a** The 40th edition of India International Trade Fair 2021 will be held from 14th to 27th November at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.
- 84. b** Prime Minister Narendra Modi was in Lucknow to inaugurate a three day Urban conclave named New Urban India: Transforming Urban Landscape.
- 85. b** To showcase the Republic Day Celebrations, which will mark the 75th year of Independence-Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, Ministry of Defence has created a new website: www.indianrdc.mod.gov.in.
- 86. c** Japan's Parliament elected former Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida as the Prime Minister. He is the 100th Prime Minister in the country's political history.
- 87. b** Astronomers have for the first time discovered a planet that is orbiting three stars in its system. Located at a distance of 1300 light-years from Earth, the planet has been identified by astronomers from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, in the system GW Ori.

- 88. c** The first Indian-American to win the crown of Miss World America 2021, Shree Saini of Washington State, is among the most unique pageant winners to be crowned.
- 89. b** Nagaland will be hosting the 56th National Cross Country Championship in January next year.
- 90. b** World Habitat Day is marked on the first Monday of October each year, and is recognized by the United Nations to reflect on the state of towns and cities, and on the basic right of all to adequate shelter.
- 91. a** Japanese-born American Syukuro Manabe, German Klaus Hasselmann and Italian Giorgio Parisi won the 2021 Nobel Prize for Physics for work that helps understand complex physical systems such as Earth's changing climate.
- 92. a** The 8th edition of India-Sri Lanka bilateral joint exercise Mitra Shakti commenced at the Combat Training School Ampara in Sri Lanka.
- 93. b** The famed white onion of Alibag in Maharashtra's Raigad district has earned itself a 'Geographical Indication', giving the crop a unique identity and wider markets.
- 94. b** Russia had successfully test launched a Tsirkon (Zircon) hypersonic cruise missile from a submarine for the first time, a weapon President Vladimir Putin has lauded as part of a new generation of unrivalled arms systems.
- 95. b** Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed sworn in for a second five-year term running a country in the grip of a nearly year-long war.
- 96. d** Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMBL) has received approval from the government for collection of direct and indirect taxes, such as income tax, Goods and Services Tax (GST) etc, through its banking network.
- 97. c** World Teachers' Day is held annually on 5 October to celebrate all teachers around the globe.
- 98. b** This Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer can crunch vast numbers. While wearing the mantle of Additional Commissioner Income Tax (Amritsar), Mehra is preoccupied with files and forms, but when he returns to his other love, he is busy setting up vertical gardens, micro-forests and spreading the word about his latest initiative - a free hospital for trees, the world's first tree and plant clinic and hospital with an ambulance.
- 99. a** Hockey India withdraws from 2022 Birmingham CWG, cites Covid concerns.
- 100. d** Axis Bank has become the first Indian private sector bank to arrange a term Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) linked trade financing deal, joining a select group of banks and financial institutions globally who have executed similar transactions.
- 101. b** The Telangana government has developed India's first smartphone-based e-Voting solution.
- 102. b** Mahalaya festival was celebrated across Bangladesh with devotion and piety.
- 103. c** Digital payments firm, Visa, has launched India's card-on-file (CoF) tokenization services in India, in line with the recently issued Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines.
- 104. d** Geographical indication (GI) tag has been awarded to seven indigenous products from Uttarakhand
- 105. c** International ratings agency Moody's has upgraded the outlook on India's sovereign rating to Stable from Negative.
- 106. a** The fifth edition of India - Japan Maritime Bilateral Exercise JIMEX between the Indian Navy and the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force will be held in Arabian Sea.
- 107. d** The Centre informed that it has permitted 100% FDI under automatic route in the telecom services sector.
- 108. a** Two scientists have been awarded the 2021 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for their work on building molecules that are mirror images of one another. German-born Benjamin List and Briton David MacMillan were announced as the winners at an event in Stockholm.

- 109. b** Anshu Malik created history by becoming the first Indian woman wrestler to reach the World Championship final when she outclassed junior European champion Solomiia Vynnyk even as Sarita Mor lost her semifinal after shocking world champion and will fight for a bronze.
- 110. c** Four cotton producers in sub-Saharan Africa— Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali, known as the Cotton Four -proposed the World Trade Organization a World Cotton Day celebration on October 7.
- 111. c** India officially joined the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People, a group of more than 70 countries encouraging the adoption of the global goal to protect 30x30.
- 112. c** Mumbai has logged its name as the first city in India to join the Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative (TUMI) E-Bus Mission.
- 113. a** For the second year running the University of Oxford has been ranked first in the world for Computer Science in the Times Higher Education 2022 World University Rankings.
- 114. a** Manish Malhotra has become the first Indian fashion designer to drop five NFTs in collaboration with Lakme Fashion Week.
- 115. d** Mukesh Ambani, Asia's richest man, will bring 7-Eleven Inc.'s convenience stores to India, adding to his burgeoning retail empire in the world's only billion-people-plus consumer market that's open to foreign firms.
- 116. b** In a historic move, the World Health Organization (WHO) has endorsed the first anti-malarial vaccine.
- 117. c** The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) approved the Chhattisgarh government's proposal to declare the combined areas of the Guru Ghasidas National Park and Tamor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary as a Tiger Reserve.
- 118. a** Himachal Pradesh becomes first Indian state to begin organised cultivation of Cinnamon.
- 119. a** Indian grappler Anshu Malik has scripted history as she became the first Indian woman to win a silver medal in the World Wrestling Championships.
- 120. c** The Nobel prize in literature has been awarded to the novelist Abdulrazak Gurnah, for his "uncompromising and compassionate penetration of the effects of colonialism and the fate of the refugee in the gulf between cultures and continents".
- 121. c** Tanzanian Novelist Abdulrazak Gurnah has won the 2021 Nobel Prize in literature for his uncompromising and compassionate penetration of the effects of colonialism and the fate of the refugees in the gulf between cultures and continents.
- 122. b** BJP's Sushil Kumar Modi replaced Bhupender Yadav, now a minister, as chairman of the panel on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice.
- 123. a** The spices growers of Kanniyakumari have obtained the Geographical Indication Tag for the clove being grown in the hilly regions of the district as it is known for its rich aromatic oil content.
- 124. c** Uttar Pradesh's third international airport — after Lucknow and Varanasi — will be inaugurated in Kushinagar.
- 125. d** India's economy, South Asia's largest, is expected to grow by 8.3 percent in the fiscal year 2021-22, supported by increase in public investment to boost domestic demand and incentives schemes to boost manufacturing.
- 126. a** Tesla Inc Chief Executive Elon Musk said the electric carmaker plans to move its headquarters from Silicon Valley's Palo Alto, California to Austin, Texas, where it is building a massive car and battery manufacturing complex.
- 127. d** Reliance Industries' premium retail unit Jio World Drive announced the opening of its first commercial centre in Bandra Kurla Complex area of Mumbai.
- 128. a** India's Bharat Biotech will be producing part of the world's only malaria vaccine that has been developed by Pharma major GSK, and was recently approved by WHO (World Health Organisation)
- 129. c** Dinesh Karthik's famous last-ball six becomes India's first sports NFT.

- 130. d** 10 October is observed as World Mental Health Day.
- 131. c** As Madhya Pradesh continues to fight a legal battle to get Geographical Indication (GI) tag for basmati rice (PB1) produced in the state, Chinnor rice produced in Balaghat district has bagged the GI tag.
- 132. c** India's first vertical lift railway sea bridge, which is expected to be ready for use by March 2020." New Pamban Bridge, India's first vertical lift Railway sea bridge,".
- 133. a** Ministry of Textiles has approved continuation of Comprehensive Handicrafts Cluster Development Scheme with a total outlay of 160 crore rupees.
- 134. c** Centre plans major infrastructure push for Buddhist Circuit.
- 135. c** In a first-of-its-kind project, Telangana state will soon be home to the world's largest integrated freshwater Aqua Hub proposed to be constructed near Mid Manair Dam in Rajanna-Sircilla district.
- 136. a** Tata Sons will regain control of Air India as it takes over 100 per cent of the government's stake in the national carrier, marking the end of a protracted struggle to sell the airline and the first step in the Centre's mega privatisation push.
- 137. c** Chief Economic Adviser Krishnamurthy Subramanian announced returning to academia following completion of his three-year tenure.
- 138. b** Vinay P Sahasrabudhe was appointed chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee for Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports.
- 139. d** United Nations General Assembly declare October 11 as the International Day of the Girl Child, to recognize girls' rights and the unique challenges girls face around the world.
- 140. c** Director Chatainya Tamhane has won the best screenplay award for his Marathi-language feature 'The Disciple' at the 15th Asian Film Awards.
- 141. d** Justice Rajesh Bindal, acting chief justice of the Calcutta High Court, was elevated as chief justice of the Allahabad High Court.
- 142. c** Aimed at promoting road safety, innovation, and the adoption of new technology, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has notified the constitution of the National Road Safety Board.
- 143. b** Abolhassan Banisadr, Iran's first president after the country's 1979 Islamic Revolution who fled Tehran after being impeached for challenging the growing power of clerics as the nation became a theocracy, died.
- 144. b** Austria's conservative Chancellor Sebastian Kurz resigned to pull his coalition government back from the brink of collapse after the junior party demanded his head because he has been placed under investigation on suspicion of corruption.
- 145. c** The traditional Karuppur Kalamkari Painting done using pens, brushes made of bamboo stick, palm stem, date tree and coconut tree stems, received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. The certificate was issued recently by the Geographical Indications Registry based on an application filed by Tamil Nadu Handicrafts Development Corporation (Poompuhar).
- 146. c** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has raised the transaction limit in Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 5 lakh. IMPS offers instant domestic funds transfer facility 24x7 through banking channels.
- 147. c** Mukesh Ambani, Asia's richest person, joined Jeff Bezos and Elon Musk in the world's most exclusive wealth club with a fortune of at least \$100 billion.
- 148. b** Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Indian Space Association (ISpA) via video conferencing. He will also interact with representatives of the Space Industry on this landmark occasion.
- 149. c** One of the greatest off-spinners India has ever produced, Harbhajan Singh, referred to by his fans as The Turbanator, has been conferred with an honorary Ph.D. in Sports by Ecole Superieure Robert de Sorbon, a renowned university in France, in a convocation ceremony.

- 150. a** The Nobel Peace Prize awarded to journalists Maria Ressa of Philippines and Dmitry Muratov of Russia for their fight for freedom of expression in their countries.
- 151. c** The Rataul mango, grown in large numbers in Baghpat in Uttar Pradesh, received its GI tag.
- 152. a** International Energy Agency (IEA) has invited India, the world's third-largest energy consumer, to become its full-time member - a proposal if accepted will require New Delhi to raise strategic oil reserves to 90 days requirement.
- 153. d** Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi has said that the next Hunar Haat will be organised in Rampur, Uttar Pradesh from 16th to 25th October this year.
- 154. c** This will bring together 16 Ministries, including seven core infrastructure sectors, on one platform to synergise project planning across stakeholder ministries to avoid duplication, expedite clearances and plug gaps at the right time.
- 155. b** Railways has successfully operated two long haul freight trains Trishul and Garuda for the first time over South Central Railway.
- 156. c** German rail operator Deutsche Bahn and industrial group Siemens unveiled the world's first automated, driverless train in the city of Hamburg, billing it as more punctual and energy efficient than traditional trains.
- 157. b** Abdul Qadeer Khan, 85, known as the father of Pakistan's nuclear bomb died due to Covid-19 in Islamabad.
- 158. a** A U.S.-based Canadian David Card, Israeli-American Joshua Angrist and Dutch-American Guido Imbens won the Nobel Economics Prize for insights into the labour market and "natural experiments".
- 159. b** NASA has confirmed that it is set to launch its latest mission which will look to explore asteroids, to learn more about the early days of our solar system. The Lucy spacecraft is currently scheduled to liftoff on October 16.
- 160. c** Germany qualified for the 2022 World Cup by crushing North Macedonia 4-0 away to secure top spot in qualifying Group J with two games to spare.
- 161. b** Chief Justice A.K. Goswami was sworn in as the new Chief Justice of the Chhattisgarh High Court. He was earlier serving as the Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh.
- 162. b** The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction is observed every year on 13 October. The day is observed to promote a global culture of risk-awareness and disaster reduction.
- 163. a** Harry Potter author JK Rowling released her first children's Christmas book, inspired by lockdown and her son David's beloved cuddly toy pigs. 'The Christmas Pig' is a story about "being lost and being found, about loving and being loved, about what stays with us and what falls away."
- 164. d** Indian Technology Congress Association in Bengaluru focuses on building synergies between academia, industry and research organisations. It has initiated an ambitious programme to commemorate the 75 years of Indian Independence. It has launched 75 Students' Satellites Consortium: Mission 2022.
- 165. a** Indian Navy would be participating in the second phase of Multilateral Maritime Exercise Malabar along with the Japan Maritime Self Defence Force, Royal Australian Navy and the United States Navy.
- 166. a** Govt. of India accorded 'Maharatna' status to the state-owned Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC), thus giving PFC greater operational and financial autonomy.
- 167. a** BharatPe has appointed former SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar as chairman of the board.
- 168. b** The Union Cabinet approved the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation 2.0 (AMRUT 2.0) till 2025-26.
- 169. d** International Monetary Fund (IMF) has projected that India will continue to be the world's fastest growing major economy, clocking a growth rate of 9.5 per cent in 2021.

- 170. b** For the first time in an ICC men's T20I tournament the Decision Review System (DRS) will be in use as the governing body has announced that the system will be available at the T20 World Cup.
- 171. a** Justice Aravind Kumar was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court.
- 172. b** Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said that the new Pragati Maidan will host the G-20 summit in 2023.
- 173. c** Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the G20 Extraordinary Leaders' Summit on Afghanistan in virtual format at the invitation of the Italian Presidency of the G-20.
- 174. b** IIFL Wealth and Hurun India released the 'IIFL Wealth Hurun India 40 and Under Self-Made Rich List 2021' ranking the self-made entrepreneurs of India with a wealth of over Rs 1,000 crore.
- 175. a** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued a Small Finance Bank (SFB) license to the consortium of Centrum Financial Services, and Digital payments platform BharatPe.
- 176. c** The combined external debt stock of the 10 largest DSSI-eligible borrowers (Angola, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mongolia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, and Zambia) was 509 billion dollars at end-2020
- 177. b** In a major discovery, astronomers have for the first time detected stars that are blasting radio signals hinting at the presence of hidden planets around them. The signals were picked up using the world's most powerful radio antenna, the Low-Frequency Array (LOFAR) situated in the Netherlands.
- 178. c** The United Nations' International Day of Rural Women celebrates and honours women and girls living in rural areas on 15 October each year.
- 179. a** Child prodigy Divya Deshmukh has become India's latest Woman Grand Master (WGM) at the Grandmaster chess tournament in Budapest, Hungary.
- 180. b** The Indian women's badminton team registered a 3-2 win over Spain in Group B of the 2020 Uber Cup Finals, at Aarhus in Denmark.
- 181. d** India's 1st Atal Community Innovation Center (ACIC) was inaugurated at Vivekananda Global University, Jaipur (VGU).
- 182. b** The World Steel Association (WSA) has elected JSW Steel Chairman and Managing Director Sajjan Jindal as its Chairman for the 2021-22 period.
- 183. d** Divyank Turakhia of Media.Net has topped a list of the most-wealthy Indians under-40 years with a networth of Rs 12,500 crore.
- 184. c** China and Russia are holding joint naval drills off the Russian Far East in the latest sign of their growing political and military alignment.
- 185. a** UCO Bank CEO Atul Kumar Goel has been appointed as chairman of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) for 2021-22 succeeding Union Bank of India CEO Rajkiran Rai.
- 186. a** Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur launched MyParkings app in New Delhi in presence of Mukesh Surya, Mayor South Delhi Municipal Corporation.
- 187. b** Former Indian wicketkeeper-batter MS Dhoni has become the first captain to lead 300 matches in the T20 format.
- 188. c** The India-US Economic and Financial Partnership was launched in 2010 as a framework to cement economic bonds between the two countries and build a foundation for greater cooperation and economic growth in the future.
- 189. c** PETA India has decided to confer on Meghalaya Environment Minister James P K Sangma the Progressive Business Concept Award for his plans to produce 'vegan leather' in the northeastern state.
- 190. c** The observance of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty can be traced back to 17 October 1987.

- 191. d** India has slipped to the 101st position among 116 countries in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2021 from its 2020 ranking (94), to be placed behind Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal.
- 192. c** In Tamil Nadu, the Karuppur kalamkari paintings and the Kallakurichi wood carvings recently received the geographical indication (GI) tags. Both of these art forms are traditional in nature.
- 193. a** Himachal Pradesh's tribal district of Kinnaur, which shares international border with China, has become the first fully vaccinated district in the Country.
- 194. c** The Centre has empowered the Border Security Force to conduct searches, arrest suspects and make seizures up to 50 km from India-Pakistan and India-Bangladesh borders.
- 195. b** The Moscow Metro rolled out what authorities have touted as the world's first fare payment system based on facial recognition technology.
- 196. b** The 17th edition of the joint military training exercise "Ex Yudh Abhyas 2021" will be conducted at Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, Alaska, the United States as part of the ongoing Indo-US Defence Cooperation.
- 197. a** Dr Raman Gangakhedkar, a leading Indian epidemiologist, has been named to an expert group launched by the WHO that will examine origins of emerging and re-emerging pathogens of epidemic and pandemic potential, including SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19.
- 198. c** On the occasion of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav 2021' under the Nurturing Neighbourhood Challenge Jabalpur developed the country's first kids friendly COVID vaccination centre.
- 199. b** From her impromptu improvisations on the sets with Irrfan Khan to her non-stop peals of laughter with Shah Rukh Khan, actress Divya Dutta tells it all in her upcoming book, "The Stars in My Sky: Those Who Brightened My Film Journey", slated to be released on October 25.
- 200. c** World Food Day is an international day celebrated every year worldwide on 16 October to commemorate the date of the founding of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in 1945.
- 201. d** Department of Biotechnology has launched the country's first 'One Health' consortium.
- 202. a** In Manipur, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh launched the "Chief Minister's Health for All".
- 203. b** Jonas Gahr Støre is a Norwegian politician who has served as the prime minister of Norway since 2021 and has been Leader of the Labour Party since 2014.
- 204. c** The 8th Edition of joint military exercise MITRA SHAKTI between the Indian Army and the Sri Lankan Army culminated in Ampara, Sri Lanka.
- 205. b** The Global Financial Stability Report is a semi-annual report published by the International Capital Markets division of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The report aims to provide a regular assessment of global financial markets and to identify potential systemic weaknesses that could lead to crises.
- 206. a** Mozambique has become the first country to receive payments from a World Bank trust fund for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation—commonly known as REDD+.
- 207. c** World Students' Day is marked on A. P. J. Abdul Kalam's birthday, 15 October.
- 208. c** According to statistics available with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, about 70 per cent of road fatalities in India occur due to over-speeding.
- 209. c** The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has constituted a four-member high-powered advisory committee on settlement orders and compounding of offences. The committee will be chaired by Vijay C Daga, retired judge of High Court of Bombay.
- 210. a** India clinched the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship for eighth time defeating Nepal 3-0 in Male. India dominated possession in the first-half but they failed to score any goal.

- 211. a** Home Minister Amit Shah said that the government has decided to rechristen Mount Harriet Island in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands as Mount Manipur in the memory of those who sacrificed their life for the country from the north-eastern state.
- 212. b** The world's first ever UNESCO trail, bringing together some of Scotland's most iconic, diverse and culturally significant sites.
- 213. b** RBI approves reappointment of Amitabh Chaudhry as MD & CEO of Axis Bank
- 214. d** The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has projected the government debt, including that of the Centre and the states, to rise to a record 90.6 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) during 2021-22 against 89.6 per cent in the previous year.
- 215. a** NASA launched a spacecraft called Lucy on a 12-year mission to explore Jupiter's Trojan asteroids for the first time gathering new insights into the solar system's formation.
- 216. a** Social Token App, Chingari unveiled its' first-ever crypto token, '\$GARI' at a public event at Taj Lands' End, Mumbai at the hands of film star and the brand ambassador of the tech start-up, Salman Khan.
- 217. c** India's first-ever alcohol museum has knocked the doors of the country's unofficial party capital of Goa as a Goan businessman and collector decided to educate travellers on the history and significance of the coastal state's unique culture.
- 218. c** Maharashtra became the first state in the country to release a 'Wildlife Action Plan'.
- 219. b** World Sight Day is an annual day of awareness held on the second Thursday of October, to focus global attention on vision impairment, including blindness.
- 220. c** Chennai Super Kings beat Kolkata Knight Riders by 27 runs to win its fourth IPL title in Dubai.
- 221. b** India has been re-elected to the UN Human Rights Council for a record 6th term with an overwhelming majority.
- 222. b** UIDAI will host "Aadhaar Hackathon 2021" from 28th to 31st October. The hackathon is targeted at young innovators - who are still at various engineering institutes and eager to step into the real world.
- 223. b** Coinciding with the auspicious day of Vijay Dashami, India's first Diploma in Mountaineering course is launched by Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU).
- 224. b** Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi launched 'Mera Ghar Mere Naam' scheme to give ownership rights to people living in houses within the 'lal lakir' of villages and cities.
- 225. c** India's updated nationally determined contributions or NDCs, as commitments by countries under the Paris Agreement are referred to, could include a commitment to reduce the emissions intensity of the economy by at least 46 to 48 per from its 2005 levels.
- 226. b** US President Joe Biden announced his intent to nominate Indian American Ravi Chaudhary to a key position in the Pentagon.
- 227. a** NITI Aayog launched a Geographic Information System (GIS)-based Energy Map of India.
- 228. b** The developed nations are upping the ante and aim to finalise an ambitious climate action plan at the G20 heads of nations summit in Rome on October 30-31.
- 229. d** Indian Grandmaster P Iniyar clinched the title in the La Nucia Open chess tournament with an unbeaten run.
- 230. d** A Delhi-based entrepreneur's agricultural waste recycling project was named among the winners of Prince William's inaugural Earthshot Prize, dubbed the "Eco Oscars", at a gala ceremony in London. Vidyut Mohan led Takachar was named the winner of the GBP 1 million prize for its cheap technology innovation to convert crop residues into sellable bio-products in the "clean our air" category.
- 231. b** Seville to become world's first city to name heat waves.
- 232. a** South Korean giant Samsung Electronics was ranked the highest, it was Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries that emerged as the best employer among the Indian companies.

- 233. a** Indian government-owned, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited(BPCL) now has unveiled an automated fuelling technology system, commonly now as U-Fill to ease the customers with a better experience at the outlets.
- 234. d** External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his counterparts from Israel, the US and the UAE have agreed to establish a forum for economic cooperation at a quadrilateral meeting during which they discussed possibilities for joint infrastructure projects in the fields of transportation, technology, maritime security, and economics and trade.
- 235. b** India is ranked at the top in emissions related to crop burning, accounting for 13 per cent of total global emissions for the 2015-2020 period.
- 236. d** India at 71st on Global Food Security index 2021 of 113 nations.
- 237. d** India has ranked 40th out of 43 pension systems across the world.
- 238. a** India's Harbhajan Singh and Javagal Srinath were awarded life membership of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), joining 16 other cricketers who were given the honour this year.
- 239. c** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched the Web Based Project Monitoring Portal for Military Engineer Services.
- 240. a** The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology is a scientific institution based in Pune, Maharashtra, India for expanding research in tropical Indian Ocean of the tropics in general with special reference to monsoon meteorology, and air-sea interaction of South Asian climate.
- 241. b** Madhya Pradesh government has announced the implementation of Mukhyamantri Ration Aapke Dwar Yojana in the state.
- 242. b** Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Infosys Foundation Vishram Sadan at the National Cancer Institute in Jhajjar Campus of AIIMS New Delhi through video conferencing.
- 243. d** Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha declared the much-awaited Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS) project of J&K Police "Go-Live" and launched the "JK eCOP" Mobile Application at Raj Bhavan in Srinagar.
- 244. c** Long renowned as the birthplace of literary heroes and authors such as Arthur Conan Doyle and Muriel Spark, Edinburgh is one of 13 sites in Scotland recognised by UNESCO as a place of international importance.
- 245. a** Heruo Railway, the "last kilometer" of the railway encircling Taklimakan Desert, completed laying tracks, setting the foundation for operating the world's first desert-circling railway in 2022.
- 246. c** A project to help map 'hotspots' of plastic rubbish in Portsmouth is being launched. The MAPP (Mapping Portsmouth Plastic) project will be a world first – a city-wide plastic survey, designed to help find solutions to reduce plastic waste in urban areas.
- 247. b** The U.S. has become the world's epicenter for Bitcoin mining after a crackdown in China effectively eliminated the practice in the former cradle of the industry.
- 248. d** DSP Investment Managers announced the launch of DSP Nifty 50 Equal Weight ETF, India's First Exchange Traded Fund based on the Nifty 50 Equal Weight Index.
- 249. a** Former Flipkart co-founder Sachin Bansal's Navi Mutual Fund has filed for an index fund that will track the Nifty Total Market Index.
- 250. b** The 52nd edition of the IFFI will be held in Goa from November 20 - 28.
- 251. b** South Korea has launched its first homegrown rocket, stepping up the country's ambitions in space. The Korean Satellite Launch Vehicle II, known as Nuri, took off from Goheung, about 500 km south of Seoul.
- 252. c** Former U.S. President Donald Trump will launch his own social media app, TRUTH Social, that he said would "stand up to Big Tech" companies such as Twitter and Facebook that have barred him from their platforms.
- 253. c** Former Indo-Canadian cabinet minister Amarjeet Sohi has been elected mayor of the city of Edmonton in Canada's Alberta.

- 254. b** Barbados has elected its first ever president as it prepares to become a republic, removing Queen Elizabeth as head of state. Dame Sandra Mason, 72, is set to be sworn in on 30 November, which will mark the country's 55th anniversary of independence from Britain.
- 255. a** The Indian Army established Airspace Control Centre for the first time in the forward area in West Kameng, Arunachal Pradesh.
- 256. b** Pakistan to remain in 'Grey List' of global terror financing watchdog.
- 257. a** The inauguration of the Kushinagar International Airport will be marked by the landing of the inaugural flight at the airport from Colombo in Sri Lanka.
- 258. a** The Indian Army won a Gold Medal at the Cambrian Patrol Exercise held in the UK while competing against 96 teams representing special forces and regiments from around the world.
- 259. b** State-owned GAIL (India) Ltd will build India's largest green hydrogen-making plant as it looks to supplement its natural gas business with carbon-free fuel.
- 260. c** Twitter has launched its first Community in India as well as the first outside the US to bring together cricket fans from around the world.
- 261. b** Tamil film 'Koozhangal', has been announced as India's official entry to the Oscars 2022.
- 262. a** Textiles ministry said, PM MITRA Parks is envisaged to help India in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal of build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.
- 263. c** Formally adopting the 252-million-year-old Guryul Ravine fossil site in the Khanmoh area of Jammu & Kashmir's Srinagar, a field workshop was organised on the repository of the Permian-Triassic (P-T, P-Tr) mass extinction event. One of the key attractions of the day was the evidence of the world's first tsunami lying buried at the site in Khanmoh.
- 264. d** India's real estate sector is expected to reach a market size of 1 trillion dollars and contribute 18-20 percent of the country's GDP by 2030.
- 265. b** India saw the birth of its first IVF calf of a Buffalo breed namely Banni. The calf is born out of 6 Banni IVF pregnancies established at the doorsteps of a farmer Vinay. L. Wala in Gujarat's Somnath district.
- 266. d** Barbados has elected its first-ever president to replace Britain's Queen Elizabeth as head of state in a decisive step toward shedding the Caribbean island's colonial past.
- 267. d** Oct 23 is recognised as International Snow Leopard Day. Unlike other big cats like the tigers, snow leopards and their conservation have gained ground only recently.
- 268. c** Union Bank of India entered into a partnership with CDAC (Centre for Development of Advanced Computing) Hyderabad, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, under bank's Cyber Security Centre of Excellence initiative, as per which CDAC will assist the bank to impart cyber security awareness and education to its stakeholders- customers and employees.
- 269. c** Global Media and Information Literacy Week 2021 is hosted by South Africa.
- 270. b** US President Joe Biden named Neera Tanden, a longtime Democratic insider in Washington, to be White House staff secretary, moving her into a little-known but influential West Wing post after failing earlier this year to install her as the director of the Office of Management and Budget.
- 271. c** Kerala has won the award for the 'city with the most sustainable transport system'.
- 272. b** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be travelling to Rome, Italy and Glasgow, United Kingdom from 29 October to 2 November to attend the 16th G-20 Summit and the World Leaders' Summit of COP-26.
- 273. b** Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on a day-long visit to Uttar Pradesh. He launched the ambitious Pradhan Mantri Atmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojna (PMASBY) nationwide at a function organised in Varanasi.

- 274. b** The Delhi - Agra stretch that begins from the Old Mathura road will be the first NH corridor in the country to have screens which will alert drivers, if they are going beyond the permitted speed limit.
- 275. b** The first-ever tri-services joint exercise between India and the UK began on October 21 and will go on for a week. Named Konkan Shakti 2021.
- 276. a** Luxembourg has become the first country in Europe to legalise growing and consuming cannabis.
- 277. a** Razorpay has announced the launch of 'Razorpay TokenHQ', a robust and secure multi-network Card-on-File (CoF) tokenization solution.
- 278. b** New Zealand has become the first country in the world to pass a law that will ensure financial organisations to disclose and act on climate-related risks and opportunities.
- 279. b** Digital artwork and a printed poster of the feature film Kurup signed by the lead actor Dulquer Salmaan to be up for grabs on the NFT marketplace
- 280. d** The General Assembly in 1972 established World Development Information Day to draw the attention of the world to development problems and the need to strengthen international cooperation to solve them.
- 281. b** The first-ever Warner Bros. hotel in the world is opened in Abu Dhabi.
- 282. a** The Group of Seven wealthy nations agreed on principles to govern cross-border data use and digital trade, Britain said in what was described as a breakthrough that could liberalise hundreds of billions of dollars of international commerce.
- 283. c** India handed over the 34.9 km-long cross-border rail link connecting Jaynagar in Bihar to Kurtha in Nepal to the Nepal government.
- 284. a** Based on the recommendation of Principal Economic Advisor of Finance Ministry Sanjeev Sanyal for rationalisation of railway bodies by closing down or merging multiple organisations, the Indian Railways has ordered to dissolve Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation (IRSDC).
- 285. c** Invest India elected as President of World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies.
- 286. a** Under the new framework, there will be a ceiling of ₹1 crore per borrower for financing subscription to an initial public offering (IPO).
- 287. d** The Department of Zoology of Dera Natung Government College of Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh has discovered three new species of fish of genus Aborichthys of family Nemachelidae, according to a recent report.
- 288. a** A new report by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has rung alarm bells: The amount of plastics in the oceans has been estimated to be around 75-199 million tonnes at present.
- 289. c** Chief minister Uddhav Thackeray and state home minister Dilip Walse-Patil inaugurated country's first state government-owned Wildlife DNA analysis laboratory at Regional Forensic Science Laboratory (RFSL) in Nagpur.
- 290. b** United Nations Day, on 24 October, marks the anniversary of the day in 1945 when the UN Charter entered into force.
- 291. c** After becoming the first airport in India to come up through a public-private partnership (PPP) and the world's first to operate on solar power, Cochin international airport has added another feather to its cap by starting a hydropower station. The power plant with annual power generation capacity of 14 million units will be commissioned on November 6 at Arippara near Kozhikode.
- 292. c** Saudi Arabia is Converting an Oil Rig into the World's First Offshore Extreme Amusement and Leisure Park.
- 293. a** Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has been re-elected for a second five-year term, winning 80.1% of the vote in which Western observers said was not truly competitive despite improvements brought by recent reforms.

- 294. a** In a first, a long-range marine communication system, which will remain effective during storms and inclement weather conditions, was introduced by Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, the erstwhile Kolkata Port Trust.
- 295. b** Saudi Arabia, advised by the world's largest fund manager BlackRock, has launched a national infrastructure fund to support up to 200 billion riyals (\$53.32 billion) in projects over the next decade.
- 296. a** Shri R K Singh, Union Minister of Power & New and Renewable Energy, launched the new market segment, Green Day Ahead Market (GDAM).
- 297. b** Superstar Rajinikanth receives the Dadasaheb Phalke Award at 67th National Film Awards ceremony in Delhi.
- 298. d** The 33rd session of UNESCO's General Conference adopted to proclaim 27 October as World Day for Audiovisual Heritage, in commemoration of the adoption, in 1980 by the 21st session of the General Conference, of the Recommendation for the Safeguarding and Preservation of Moving Images.
- 299. a** The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced that RPSG Ventures Ltd. and Irelia Company Pte Ltd. (CVC Capital Partners) have won the ownership rights of Lucknow and Ahmedabad teams in the Indian Premier League (IPL).
- 300. d** The late actor Sushant Singh Rajput's 'Chhichhore' was presented the Best Hindi Film award. The film was directed by Nitesh Tiwari and produced by Sajid Nadiadwala.
- 301. b** Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has launched knowledge App and platform CUNSLT.
- 302. b** The US and Bahrain navies conducted a joint exercise at sea, launching a series of drills integrating unmanned systems into regional maritime operations.
- 303. d** The Medical Colleges are situated in Siddharthnagar, Etah, Hardoi, Pratapgarh, Fatehpur, Deoria, Ghazipur, Mirzapur and Jaunpur districts.
- 304. a** The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) launched the first-of-its-kind and the largest 'Impact Bond' for skilling in India in collaboration with global partners, involving a USD 14.4 million fund which will benefit 50,000 youth by making them employment ready.
- 305. c** Developed Countries push 100 billion Dollar climate finance goal target deadline to 2023.
- 306. d** India first Asian country to have two container-based hospitals
- 307. b** In Canada, Indian-origin politician Anita Anand was appointed as the new Defence Minister in a Cabinet reshuffle by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, over a month after his Liberal Party returned power in the snap polls and amid calls for major military reforms.
- 308. b** Objects hanging in the vacuum of the cosmos orbiting a star have been detected throughout the galaxy, these exoplanets have been a source of enhancing our understanding of the conditions beyond our solar system.
- 309. b** Denmark Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen will be visiting India over the weekend, becoming the first head of government to visit New Delhi in over 20 months.
- 310. b** Indian and international dance groups took part in the National Tribal Dance Festival to take place in Raipur from October 28.
- 311. d** The Supreme Court ordered a probe into the Pegasus surveillance case by a three-member expert committee. The committee will be headed by Retired Supreme Court judge, Justice RV Raveendran.
- 312. b** The Centre notified the four-year integrated teacher education programme (ITEP) — envisaged as the minimum degree qualification for school teachers under the National Education Policy 2020 — which will be offered by about 50 institutes across the country from the next academic year.
- 313. b** The government announced the appointment of veteran banker K V Kamath as chairperson of the newly set up Rs 20,000 crore development finance institution NaBFID to catalyse investment in the funds-starved infrastructure sector.

- 314. a** Indian Institute of Science Bangalore climbs into the top 100 (91-100 band), leading among the Indian institutes. Indian Institute of Technology Bombay climbs two ranking bands to 126-150 th.
- 315. b** Shimla in Himachal Pradesh is home to India's first oxygen-rich homes at Amila Hills
- 316. b** The Centre's NIPUN Bharat mission, aimed at equipping every child till class 3 with basic comprehension and mathematical skills, received a push with the Ministry of Education setting up a national steering committee to oversee its progress and provide policy-level guidance.
- 317. c** Agni-5 is capable of striking targets at ranges up to 5,000 kilometers.
- 318. a** NITI Aayog has approved a proposal to conduct a study on the use of facial recognition technology in India. The study, to be conducted by an independent think-tank, will have a budget of Rs 23.17 lakh.
- 319. c** In a first of its kind move, the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) has signed a 3-year exclusive partnership with sports management firm IOS Sports and Entertainment.
- 320. c** World Thrift Day is celebrated every year on 31st October worldwide to promote savings and financial security of individual and nation as a whole.
- 321. a** The government has appointed veteran banker K V Kamath as the first chairperson of the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure & Development (NaBFID).
- 322. b** The sex ratio in Delhi has increased to 933 females to one thousand males in 2020.
- 323. a** The first India-Kyrgyzstan Strategic Dialogue between the National Security Council Secretariats was held in New Delhi.
- 324. a** The African Union has suspended Sudan from all of its activities until the civilian-led transitional authority is restored.
- 325. a** The most critical climate change conference since the Paris Agreement, the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP-26) is to be hosted by United Kingdom in Glasgow.
- 326. b** Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya released Krishi UDAN 2.0 which lays out the vision of improving value realization through better integration and optimization of Agri-harvesting and air transportation.
- 327. d** The Nag River is a river flowing through the city of Nagpur in Maharashtra, India. It is known for providing the etymology for the name Nagpur. Forming a part of the Kanhan-Pench river system, the Nag River originates in Lava hills near wadi.
- 328. a** The 13th Meeting of Heads of National Statistical Offices of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) Countries was held virtually under the Chairship of India.
- 329. b** Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has launched the FIFA Football for Schools Programme, which is the first for India.
- 330. d** The United Nations General Assembly designated 31 October as World Cities Day.
- 331. c** The government has appointed Justice Ashok Bhushan, a former judge of the Supreme Court, as chairperson of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT).
- 332. b** The Madhya Pradesh government has announced a scheme to provide free plots of land to families who don't own one, so that they can lead a dignified life. Under the Mukhyamantri Awasiya Bhu-adhikar Yojna, the state government will provide plots to families that don't have land to build their own homes.
- 333. d** Defence Research and Development Organisation, DRDO and Indian Air Force, IAF team jointly flight tested indigenously developed Long-Range Bomb successfully from an aerial platform.
- 334. b** India International Trade Fair (IITF) will be held at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi from 14th of November to 27th November.
- 335. a** In a significant boost to the maritime safety and security of the nation, the indigenously built Indian Coast Guard Ship Sarthak dedicated to the nation at Goa.

- 336. c** Tripura Chief Minister of Tripura, Biplab Deb was presented with Bamboo bats and stumps made by the BCDI, Agartala, under the mentorship of NECTAR.
- 337. b** The government has approved the reappointment of Shaktikanta Das as Governor of the Reserve Bank of India for a period of three years.
- 338. a** Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh launched the Indian manned Ocean Mission Samudrayan in Chennai.
- 339. d** The Indian Institute of Technology Madras launched a virtual reality programme, one of the first. The diploma programme will be available beginning with the following academic year.
- 340. c** The social networking giant took an unmistakable step toward an overhaul, de-emphasising Facebook’s name and rebranding itself as Meta.
- 341. a** Azim Premji retains top spot as India’s ‘most generous’ billionaire.
- 342. a** NITI Aayog released a comprehensive report titled Health Insurance for India’s Missing Middle, which brings out the gaps in the health insurance coverage across the Indian population and offers solutions to address the situation.
- 343. c** Tajamul Islam, 13, is the first Kashmiri girl to have represented India and won the gold medal — in the under-14 age category — in World Kickboxing Championship held at Cairo in Egypt on October 22.
- 344. c** For the first time, signs of a planet transiting a star outside of the Milky Way galaxy may have been detected. “Chandra scientists have found the first possible planet candidate outside of our galaxy Located about 28 million light years from Earth in galaxy M51, it’s thousands of times farther away than all the other exoplanets detected in our Milky Way.”
- 345. c** India-Israel Joint Working Group on Bilateral Defence Cooperation has agreed to form a Task Force to formulate a comprehensive Ten-Year Roadmap to identify new areas of cooperation.
- 346. b** Ram Gopal Varma’s Dangerous Is India’s First Film For Sale On Blockchain.
- 347. a** With 19 cases, Andhra Pradesh for the third consecutive year stands at second place in terms of mass family suicides after Tamil Nadu in the country, according to the latest Accidental Deaths and Suicides of India (ADSI) 2020 report released by National Crime Records Bureau.
- 348. c** A glacier in far-away Antarctica has been formally named Glasgow Glacier in honour of this Scottish city hosting the high-level UN climate summit.
- 349. b** Indian Grandmaster P Iniyan emerged winner in the 5th Rujna Zora chess tournament held with seven points from nine rounds.
- 350. c** Chennai-Mysore-Chennai Shatabdi Express becomes the first Integrated Management Systems certified train of Southern Railway.