

---

# MANTHAN

---

**A General Awareness Weekly**

**1<sup>st</sup> November to 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2021**

# PREFACE

---

**Dear Students,**

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 Week. 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 fulfill aspirations.

**Happy Reading**

**Team CL**



Career  
Launcher

## National



### India-US joint military exercise 'Yudh Abhyas' concludes in Alaska

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### MoS IT inaugurates first internet exchange of NIXI in Uttarakhand

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

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

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

### Kalij Pheasant declared bird of J&K UT

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

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

### Manipur launches Go to Village 2.0 in Thoubal district

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## India, UK launched solar Green Grids Initiative at COP26

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **Mission Ganga enters Guinness Book of World Records**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## India hosted Delhi Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan

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

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

## Ganga Atlas developed by IIT Kanpur launched during Ganga Utsav

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

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

## NE India's first private varsity gets NAAC accreditation

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

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

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

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

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

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

## France to help India in advanced military technologies

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- More than 100 world leaders have promised to end and reverse deforestation by 2030, in the COP26 climate summit's first major deal. Brazil, where stretches of the Amazon rainforest have been cut down, was among the signatories. The pledge includes almost \$19.2 bn of public and private funds.
- Experts welcomed the move, but warned a previous deal in 2014 had failed to slow deforestation at all and commitments needed to be delivered on. Felling trees contributes to climate change because it depletes forests that absorb vast amounts of the warming gas CO<sub>2</sub>. A total of 110, had made the landmark commitment. The two-week summit in Glasgow is seen as crucial if climate change is to be brought under control.
- The countries who have signed the pledge - including Canada, Brazil, Russia, China, Indonesia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the US and the UK - cover around 85% of the world's forests. Some of the funding will go to developing countries to restore damaged land, tackle wildfires and support indigenous communities.
- Governments of 28 countries also committed to remove deforestation from the global trade of food and other agricultural products such as palm oil, soya and cocoa.
- These industries drive forest loss by cutting down trees to make space for animals to graze or crops to grow. More than 30 of the world's biggest financial companies - including Aviva, Schrodgers and Axa - have also promised to end investment in activities linked to deforestation. And a £1.1 bn fund will be established to protect the world's second largest tropical rainforest - in the Congo Basin.

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

## Global Methane Pledge

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

## World's First Museum in the Sky introduced by Saudia Airlines

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

## World's first transnational solar power grid plan

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

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

-----



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

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

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

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

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

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

## Microsoft stock becomes world's most valuable; beating Apple

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

Microsoft Corporation is an American multinational technology corporation which produces computer software, consumer electronics, personal computers, and related services. Its best known software products are the Microsoft Windows line of operating systems, the Microsoft Office suite, and the Internet Explorer and Edge web browsers. Its flagship hardware products are the Xbox video game consoles and the Microsoft Surface lineup of touchscreen personal computers. Microsoft ranked No. 21 in the 2020 Fortune

500 rankings of the largest United States corporations by total revenue; it was the world's largest software maker by revenue as of 2016. It is **considered one of the Big Five companies in the U.S. information technology industry, along with Amazon, Google (Alphabet), Apple, and Facebook (Meta).** Bill Gates is a co-founder of Microsoft, along with his late childhood friend Paul Allen. It is headquartered in Redmond, Washington, United States.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Asian Development Bank gets USD 665 million for climate projects

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

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

## Sebi forms IT project advisory committee to provide technical expertise

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## RBI issues revised PCA framework for banks

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

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

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

## RBI panel calls for an overhaul of ARC regulations

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

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



## Inventions/Discoveries

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

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

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

### Punjab bats for conservation of Indus river dolphin

- The census of one of the world's most threatened cetaceans, the Indus river dolphin (*Platanista gangetica minor*) — a freshwater dolphin that is found in river Beas, is all set to commence in the winter as part of a project by the Centre. However, Punjab's wildlife preservation wing has gone a step ahead to not only protect the dolphins but also their natural habitat.

- The Indus river dolphin is classified as endangered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and, until recently, it was believed that these dolphins were endemic to Pakistan. But in 2007, a remnant but viable population of Indus dolphins was discovered in Punjab's Harike wildlife sanctuary and in the lower Beas River.
- Since its discovery, research is being done by Punjab's Department of Forests and Wildlife Preservation in partnership with WWF-India on the current distribution, habitat use and population abundance of the mammal. The Indus river dolphin was declared the State aquatic animal of Punjab in 2019.

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

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

### Amazon to launch first 2 satellites under Project Kuiper

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Pekapeka-tou-roa, a long-tailed bat that is one of New Zealand's two native land mammals, has won the country's Bird of the Year award. However, this had led to a controversy in the country as the title has been awarded to a native mammal instead of a bird.

- **The award hosted by Forest and Bird (an independent conservation organization) is given after an annual competition.** In this unique battle, New Zealanders rank their favourite birds out of the country's 200-odd native species.
- **It also helps in raising awareness of their ecological plight. Pekapeka-tou-roa was added to the New Zealand's Bird of the Year list by Forest and Bird.** Forest and Bird allowed a native mammal to enter the competition for the first time. The organization added many people in the country don't even know that Pekapeka-tou-roa exists.

### China launches earth science satellite

- **China sent an Earth science satellite into space from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in the northern Shanxi Province. The satellite, called Guangmu, was launched by a Long March-6 carrier rocket.**
- **The satellite, with three optical payloads in it, can provide space observation data for monitoring, evaluating and studying the interaction between human and nature and sustainable development. This was the 395<sup>th</sup> flight mission of the Long March rocket series, the launch center said.**
- **Developed by the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the satellite (SDGSAT-1) is the world's first space science satellite dedicated to serving the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.**

### DRDO, IAF jointly test smart anti-airfield weapon

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

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

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



## Sports Personalities in News

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

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

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

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

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

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

## J&K team for deaf clinches 1<sup>st</sup> position in World Deaf Judo Championship

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

-----

## MISCELLANEOUS

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

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

### Delhi's first pet park opens at Old Rajendra Nagar

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

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

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

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

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

### PM Narendra Modi inaugurates rebuilt Shankaracharya samadhi in Kedarnath

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

## PERSONS IN NEWS

### Tamil Nadu teenager Vinisha Umashankar makes a clarion call at COP26

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

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

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

### Kamal Haasan becomes first Indian actor to enter a metaverse

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

-----

## AWARDS

### South African author Damon Galgut bags Booker Prize 2021 for his novel 'The Promise'

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

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

### In a first, 2 Bangladeshis to be honoured with Padmas

- Bangladeshi career diplomat late Syed Muazzem Ali and veteran museologist Enamul Haq have been honored India's highest civilian awards. Syed Muazzem Ali was honored with the third-highest civilian award in India, Padma Bhushan. Enamul Haq has been nominated for the Padma Shri award.
- Former high commissioner to India Muazzem Ali and 1971 war hero Colonel Quazi Sajjad Ali Zahir will be the first Bangladeshi citizens to be honoured with one of India's highest civilian awards, the Padma Shri.
- Muazzem Ali will be honoured posthumously at a function where other awardees named in January too will receive their awards. India and Bangladesh are celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bangladesh's liberation and the 50<sup>th</sup> year of diplomatic ties with India as well as the centenary of Sheikh Mujibur Rehman.
- The Padma Bhushan is the third-highest civilian award in the Republic of India, preceded by the Bharat Ratna and the Padma Vibhushan and followed by the Padma Shri. Instituted on 2 January 1954, the award is given for “distinguished service of a high order...without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex.”
- Padma Shri, also spelled Padma Shree, is the fourth-highest civilian award of the Republic of India, after the Bharat Ratna, the Padma Vibhushan and the Padma Bhushan. It is awarded by the Government of India every year on India's Republic Day. Padma Awards were instituted in 1954 to be awarded to citizens of India in recognition of their distinguished contribution in various spheres of activity including the arts, education, industry, literature, science, sports, medicine, social service and public affairs.

# IMPORTANT DAYS

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

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

## National Unity Day

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

## National Ayurveda Day is celebrated on 2<sup>nd</sup> November

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

## World Tsunami Awareness Day 5 November

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

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

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

## National Cancer Awareness Day 2021

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

# QUESTIONS

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

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

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

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

58. The Delhi Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan will be hosted by \_\_\_\_\_ on 10<sup>th</sup> November.  
(a) Afghanistan (b) India (c) Nepal (d) Bhutan
59. Which of the following countries launched the satellite, called Guangmu, by a Long March-6 carrier rocket?  
(a) Japan (b) China (c) South Korea (d) Vietnam
60. Who recently won his fifth ATP title of the season and 18<sup>th</sup> overall at the Erste Bank Open?  
(a) Frances Tiafoe (b) Alexander Zverev (c) Andy James (d) Thomas Tsipiras
61. Name the first private varsity in the northeastern region, which has been awarded the accreditation rating of “A Grade” by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC).  
(a) University of Science and Technology, Manipur  
(b) University of Science and Technology, Mizoram  
(c) University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya  
(d) University of Science and Technology, Tripura
62. The first Bangladeshi citizen to be honoured with one of India’s highest civilian awards, the Padma Shri is  
(a) Muazzem Ali (b) Ahmad Zabbar (c) Taufeeq Umar (d) Minhaj Nizami
63. The UK’s Wellington College International will open its first school in \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Bhopal (b) Pune (c) Nagpur (d) Kochi
64. Name the political leader who has emerged at the top of the global leader approval ratings recently.  
(a) Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador  
(b) Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison  
(c) Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi  
(d) Germany Chancellor Angela Merkel
65. Recently, World’s First Museum in the Sky is introduced by \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Canada Airlines (b) American Airlines  
(c) Saudia Airlines (d) Malaysian Airlines
66. Recently, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has authorised \_\_\_\_\_ as an Agency Bank of the RBI for undertaking Government business.  
(a) Bandhan Bank (b) IDFC First Bank (c) Axis Bank (d) ICICI Bank
67. The \_\_\_\_\_ and Indian Air Force (IAF) have jointly carried out two flight tests of the indigenously-developed smart anti-airfield weapon.  
(a) Indian Navy  
(b) Indian Army  
(c) Defence Research and Development Organisation  
(d) Indian Space Research Organisation
68. The youngest bowler to take 400 T20 wickets is  
(a) Ravindra Jadeja (b) Trent Boult (c) Rashid Khan (d) Shaheen Afridi
69. National Cancer Awareness Day in India to raise awareness about cancer is observed on \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) 2<sup>nd</sup> November (b) 4<sup>th</sup> November (c) 7<sup>th</sup> November (d) 11<sup>th</sup> November
70. Name the first Indian actor who has partnered with an Indian celebrity NFT and fan engagement platform to exclusively launch his digital avatars, NFTs and also his debut in the metaverse.  
(a) Akshay Kumar (b) Amitabh Bachchan (c) Ajay Devgan (d) Kamal Haasan

## ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATION

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

- 19. d** The Reserve Bank of India has now appointed Bandhan Bank as an Agency Bank of the RBI to conduct government business.
- 20. c** The Sports Ministry handed over a total of 74 National Sports Awards, including 5 Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratnas and 27 Arjuna Awards.
- 21. c** The Gujarat government launched its 'e-Sarkar' app on a pilot basis in its effort to make administrative works paperless, quick and easy for citizens.
- 22. c** In Manipur, the State Government revived its initiative to deliver governance at doorstep and bring inclusive development in the state with launching the Go to Village 2.0 in Thoubal.
- 23. b** India and the UK are set to enhance their International Solar Alliance (ISA) partnership with the launch of a new Green Grids Initiative connecting different parts of the world at the United Nations (UN) COP26 climate summit in Glasgow.
- 24. b** The Government has declared Kalij Pheasant as the bird of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
- 25. d** For the first time in North Macedonia's 30-year history, a prime minister has resigned.
- 26. d** The National Ayurveda Day is being observed on 2<sup>nd</sup> November.
- 27. c** The Centre has constituted a 20-member Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGoS), which will be a monitoring mechanism for the development and implementation of the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan (NMP). The Cabinet Secretary will be its Chairperson.
- 28. c** Sebi has constituted IT Projects Advisory Committee that will advise the markets regulator on projects aimed to utilise advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, data analytics and cloud computing. The seven-member committee, headed by Abhay Karandikar, a director at IIT Kanpur, will provide guidance to upgrade existing Sebi's IT systems and solutions with the latest IT practices, techniques, tools and technologies, an update available with the regulator showed.
- 29. c** Indian Oil Corporation's Board has given its nod to set up the country's first mega-scale Maleic Anhydride Plant to manufacture value-added chemical products at its Panipat Refinery and Petroleum Complex (PRPC).
- 30. a** Jeff Bezos-headed Amazon has announced the launch of first two satellites under Project Kuiper, its low-earth orbit (LEO) satellite constellation, which will provide fast and affordable internet to 'unserved and undeserved' communities across the globe.
- 31. c** Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS) on sidelines of climate summit in Glasgow.
- 32. c** South African author Damon Galgut has won the 2021 Booker Prize for Fiction for his novel The Promise.
- 33. a** Ministry of Defence has announced incentives for cashless transaction on eChhawani Portal of Cantonment Board to promote digital economy.
- 34. d** The Ministry of Rural Development has signed an MoU with Flipkart to help empower local businesses and self-help groups (SHGs) especially those that are led by women by bringing them into the e-commerce fold.
- 35. b** The Reserve Bank of India will soon launch a web-based supervisory system that will enable off-site and on-site supervision of modern functions such as digital banking and cyber security.

- 36. b** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that Indian Space Research Organisation- ISRO will soon provide the world a solar power calculator application that can measure solar energy potential of any region across the globe.
- 37. c** India and Bhutan is to have 7 additional entry and exit points for trade.
- 38. d** Rahul Dravid has been appointed the Head Coach of Team India (Senior Men).
- 39. c** More than 100 world leaders have promised to end and reverse deforestation by 2030, in the COP26 climate summit's first major deal.
- 40. c** In December 2015, the UN General Assembly designated 5 November as World Tsunami Awareness Day.
- 41. a** "The IAF and Egyptian Air Force participated in Exercise Desert Warrior
- 42. c** The National Mission for Clean Ganga set a Guinness World Record on the first day of the Ganga Utsav for the highest number of photos of handwritten notes uploaded on Facebook in an hour.
- 43. d** Marusudar River is a major tributary of the Chenab River.
- 44. a** Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT) Bombay has been billed the top Indian institute in the QS Asia University Rankings 2022 and ranked 42 worldwide.
- 45. a** The Global Methane Pledge was launched at the ongoing UN COP26 climate conference in Glasgow.
- 46. a** Aftab Pureval, an Indian-Tibetan has been elected as Mayor of Cincinnati city in the US state of Ohio, making him the first member of the community to be elected for such a position.
- 47. b** Leading stock exchange BSE has collaborated with private sector lender HDFC Bank to further encourage and promote the listing of startups and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) across India.
- 48. d** Pekapeka-tou-roa, a long-tailed bat that is one of New Zealand's two native land mammals, has won the country's Bird of the Year award. However, this had led to a controversy in the country as the title has been awarded to a native mammal instead of a bird.
- 49. b** Former U-19 World Cup-winning captain Unmukt Chand is set to become the first Indian cricketer to play in Australia's Big Bash League after he signed for Melbourne Renegades for the 2021-2022 season.
- 50. c** One of India's favourite authors Sudha Murty has a Diwali gift for children – her latest book "The Sage with Two Horns" in which she tells numerous lesser-known and fascinating stories that have been lost in the pages of Indian mythology.
- 51. c** Uttar Pradesh government will transfer money directly to the bank accounts of parents of around 1 crore 80 lakh students studying schools under the Basic Shiksha Parishad.
- 52. a** The world's first transnational solar power grid that connects multiple countries was unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his UK counterpart Boris Johnson.
- 53. b** Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launched the "Ganga Atlas: River of the Past" that documents the changes that the national river has gone over last half century.
- 54. c** Vinisha Umashankar, now 15 years old, found her answers in sunlight. A solar powered ironing cart, which would replace the conventional charcoal ironing box, would power a steam ironing box to do its job.
- 55. a** PM at Kedarnath temple unveiled a 12-foot statue of Adi Guru Shankaracharya at the seer's rebuilt samadhi

- 56. b** Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Initiative for the Resilient Island States (IRIS) for developing infrastructure of small island nations.
- 57. b** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently published its 'Statement of Commitment to Support Greening India's Financial System - NGFS.
- 58. b** Delhi Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan will be hosted by India on 10<sup>th</sup> November.
- 59. b** China sent an Earth science satellite into space from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in the northern Shanxi Province.
- 60. b** Alexander Zverev won his fifth ATP title of the season and 18<sup>th</sup> overall by defeating American qualifier Frances Tiafoe at the Erste Bank Open.
- 61. c** The University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya (USTM), the first private varsity in the northeastern region, has been awarded the accreditation rating of "A Grade" by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC).
- 62. a** Former high commissioner to India Muazzem Ali and 1971 war hero Colonel Quazi Sajjad Ali Zahir will be the first Bangladeshi citizens to be honoured with one of India's highest civilian awards, the Padma Shri.
- 63. b** The UK's Wellington College International will open its first school in Pune.
- 64. c** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emerged at the top of the global leader approval ratings.
- 65. c** World's First Museum in the Sky introduced by Saudia Airlines.
- 66. a** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has authorised Bandhan Bank as an Agency Bank of the RBI for undertaking Government business.
- 67. c** The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Air Force (IAF) have jointly carried out two flight tests of the indigenously-developed smart anti-airfield weapon.
- 68. c** Afghanistan leg-spinner Rashid Khan became the youngest bowler to take 400 T20 wickets during his team's crucial Super 12 encounter against New Zealand in Dubai.
- 69. c** November 7 is observed annually as National Cancer Awareness Day in India to raise awareness about cancer, of which 1.1 million cases are reported in the country each year.
- 70. d** Kamal Haasan becomes first Indian actor to enter a metaverse.