
MANTHAN

A General Awareness Weekly

2nd August to 8th August, 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



Prime Minister Narendra Modi is first Indian Prime Minister to preside over UNSC meeting

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a high-level United Nations Security Council** open debate on enhancing maritime security and the need for international cooperation in this field. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the first Indian Prime Minister to preside over a UN Security Council Open Debate**, according to the Prime Minister's Office.
- **The last time an Indian PM was engaged in this effort was the then PM PV Narasimha Rao in 1992** when he attended a UNSC meeting. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be the first Indian PM to preside over a meeting during India's presidency of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), said Syed Akbaruddin, India's former envoy to UN.
- The prime minister chaired the **open debate on "Enhancing Maritime Security - A Case for International Cooperation"** via video conferencing. The Open Debate was focused on ways to effectively counter maritime crime and insecurity and strengthened coordination in the maritime domain.
- The meeting is attended by several Heads of State and Government of member states of the United Nations Security Council, and high level briefers from the UN System and key Regional Organizations. **The UN Security Council has discussed and passed resolutions on different aspects of maritime security and maritime crime.**
- However, **this was the first time that maritime security will be discussed in a holistic manner as an exclusive agenda item in such a high level open debate.** The Oceans have played an important part in India's history right from the time of the Indus Valley Civilization.
- Based on our civilizational ethos that sees the seas as an enabler of shared peace and prosperity, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi put forward the vision of SAGAR – an acronym for 'Security and Growth for all in the Region' in 2015.**
- This vision focuses on cooperative measures for sustainable use of the oceans, and provides a framework for a safe, secure, and stable maritime domain in the region. In 2019, at the East Asia Summit, this initiative was further elaborated through the **Indo-Pacific Oceans' Initiative with a focus on seven pillars of maritime security.** This include Maritime Ecology, Maritime Resources, Capacity Building and Resource Sharing, Disaster Risk Reduction and Management, Science, Technology and Academic Cooperation, and Trade Connectivity and Maritime Transport.
- **India's two-year tenure as a non-permanent member of the Security Council began on January 1, 2021. The August presidency was India's first Presidency during its 2021-22 tenure as a non-permanent member of the Security Council.** India will again preside over the Council in December next year, the last month of its two-year tenure. **This is the Eighth time India became the non-permanent member of UNSC.**

PM Modi's 5-point agenda for enhancing maritime cooperation are: 1. Removal of barriers to legitimate maritime trade 2. Resolution of maritime disputes peacefully in accordance with international law 3. Fight threats from natural disasters, non-state actors 4. Conservation of marine resources 5. Promoting responsible maritime connectivity.

Amit Shah lays foundation of forensic sciences institute in Lucknow

- **Union home affairs minister Amit Shah laid the foundation of a forensic sciences institute in Lucknow.** The institute, which would operate under the ministry of home affairs, is proposed to be affiliated to Gujarat-based National Forensics Sciences University (NFSU).
- The forensic sciences institute would take in **150 students once it starts operating and provide cutting edge expertise in discourses such as behavioural science, civil and criminal law, police science, criminology and forensics among others.**
- **The forensic sciences institute would be headed by a senior police officer.** The institute will also work to train scientists working in forensic labs and police personnel by developing professional skills for scientific investigation of cases of complex crimes.

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

All four quad countries to take part in next edition of Malabar Exercise

- **The Indian Navy is deploying a naval task group comprising four frontline warships to the South China Sea, Western Pacific and South East Asia for over two months** beginning early August, in a significant move aimed at enhancing its profile in the strategically key sea lanes.
- In the course of their deployment, the ships will **participate in the next edition of the Malabar exercise alongside the navies of Japan, Australia, the US in the Western Pacific.** It will be the second consecutive year when navies of all four member countries of Quad or the Quadrilateral coalition will carry out the mega naval wargame.
- **China has been suspicious about the purpose of the Malabar exercise as it feels that the wargame is a part of efforts to contain its influence in the Indo-Pacific region.**
- The ships are scheduled to participate in bilateral SIMBEX exercise with Singaporean Navy, “Samudra Shakti” exercise with the Indonesian Navy and AUS-INDEX exercise with the Australian Navy.
- “The Indian Navy undertakes regular deployments to friendly foreign countries and Indian and the Pacific Ocean regions in furtherance of the **prime minister’s initiative of “Security and Growth for All in the Region – SAGAR”**,” the Navy said in the statement. It said such engagements build “**bridges of friendship**” and strengthen international cooperation.

The Malabar exercise started in 1992 as a bilateral drill between the Indian Navy and the US Navy in the Indian Ocean. Japan became a permanent member of the exercise in 2015. In a significant move, **India last year invited Australia to be part of the Malabar exercise that effectively made it a drill by all four member nations of the Quad.** The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QSD, also known as the Quad) is a strategic dialogue between the United States, Japan, Australia and India that is maintained by talks between member countries. **The dialogue was paralleled by joint military exercises of an unprecedented scale, titled Exercise Malabar.**

Navies of India, Indonesia Undertake Coordinated Patrol in Indian Ocean

- **An Indian Naval Ship began a two-day coordinated patrol with an Indonesian Navy vessel in the Indian Ocean region,** in an exercise that highlights a high degree of mutual trust, confidence, synergy and cooperation between the two friendly navies.
- **The CORPAT between India and Indonesia also witnessed the participation of Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both nations.** “The exercise, being conducted as a “non-contact, at sea only” exercise in view of COVID-19 pandemic, highlights the high degree of mutual trust and confidence, synergy and cooperation between the two friendly navies”. According to the statement, **the Indian Naval Ship (INS) Saryu, an indigenously built Offshore Patrol Vessel is undertook coordinated patrol (CORPAT) with Indonesian Naval Ship KRI Bung**

Tomo from July 30 to 31. The 36th edition of IND-INDO CORPAT seeks to bolster the maritime cooperation between the two navies and forge strong bonds of friendship across the Indo Pacific.

India and Indonesia have been carrying out Coordinated Patrols along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) twice a year since 2002, with an aim of keeping this vital part of the Indian Ocean Region safe and secure for commercial shipping, international trade and conduct of legitimate maritime activities. CORPATs help build understanding and interoperability between navies, and facilitate institution of measures to prevent and suppress Illegal Unreported Unregulated (IUU) fishing, drug trafficking, maritime terrorism, armed robbery and piracy. “As part of Government of India’s vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region), Indian Navy has been proactively engaging with countries in the Indian Ocean Region to enhance maritime security in the region.

IIT Roorkee Launches Seven New Academic Programmes to Cater to Rising Demand for New-Age Technologies

- **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee** has launched seven new academic programmes in select areas of engineering, architecture, economics, and management along with specialization in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence to cater to the rising demand for new-age technologies.
- The seven new programmes are in select areas of engineering, architecture, economics and management along with specialisation in data science and artificial intelligence, it said. “The new programmes involve the transmission of relevant knowledge and using the knowledge we produce. They are interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary, and also in line with National Education Policy 2020.

Tribal affairs Ministry has launched ‘Adi-Prashikshan Portal’ to create an end-to-end centralized online interactive training platform on tribal development

- **Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA)** has launched ‘Adi-Prashikshan Portal’ to act as a central repository of all training programs conducted by Ministry of Tribal Affairs, State Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs), National Society for Education of Tribal Students (NESTS) and other organizations funded by the Ministry for strengthening the capacities (in terms of knowledge, skills, attitude) of government functionaries, ST PRI members, Teachers, SHG women, Youth and Tribal Communities.
- **The main objective of the portal is to create an end-to-end centralized online interactive training platform on tribal development** which brings together training organizers, thematic experts/resource persons, master trainers, trainees and training material at one place.
- **All Tribal Research Institutes including Gujarat Tribal Research & training Society, Gandhinagar** have been given training on the functionality of the portal. All trainers, trainees and master trainers related to the training programs organized or funded by the Ministry are required to be registered through this portal.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, a branch of Government of India, looks after the affairs of the tribal communities in India. The ministry was set up in 1999 after the bifurcation of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (India) to have a more focused approach on the integrated socio-economic development of the Scheduled Tribes (STs), the most underprivileged of the Indian Society. Arjun Munda is the current Minister of Tribal Affairs. He was also Chief Minister of Indian state of Jharkhand. He is the member of Parliament from Khunti Lok Sabha Constituency.

Cabinet approves continuation of Fast Track Special Courts

- The Cabinet approved continuation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Fast Track Special Courts for further two years till 31st March 2023. 1,023 Fast Track Special Courts have been given get two-year extension. 389 exclusive POCSO courts will also get extension. Central share of outlay will be funded from Nirbhaya fund. The scheme was launched on October 2, 2019.
- This will provide speedy justice access to justice to victims of sexual crimes, quick justice to the hapless victims and declogging of their judicial system. It will help in reduction in number of pending cases of rape and POCSO Act. To bring more stringent provisions and expeditious trial and disposal of such cases, the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018 was enacted which made provision of stringent punishment, including death penalty, for perpetrators of rape, it said.

Fast track courts (FTCs) were first recommended by the Eleventh Finance Commission in 2000 “to substantially bring down, if not eliminate, pendency in the district and subordinate courts over the next five years”. FTSCs are dedicated courts expected to ensure swift dispensation of justice. They have a better clearance rate as compared to the regular courts and hold speedy trials. It also strengthens the deterrence framework for sexual offenders. More recently, in 2019, the government approved a scheme for setting up 1,023 fast-track special courts (FTSCs) across the country for expeditious disposal of pending rape cases under the Indian penal Code (IPC) and crimes under the POCSO Act.

Cabinet approved continuation of Samagra Shiksha Scheme for School Education for five years

- The Union Cabinet also approved continuation of Samagra Shiksha Scheme for School Education for five years from 1st April this year to 31st March 2026.
- Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said, the Financial outlay is over 2 lakh 94 thousand 283 crore rupees which includes Central share of more than 1 lakh 85 thousand 398 crore rupees. It will cover 1.16 million schools, over 156 million students and 5.7 million Teachers of Government and aided schools.
- It has been upgraded to align it with the Sustainable Development Goal for Education and the new National Education Policy launched in 2020.

Samagra Shiksha Scheme is an integrated scheme for school education covering the entire gamut from pre-school to class XII. It aims to deliver inclusive, equitable, and affordable school education. It subsumes the three Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE). It is being implemented as a centrally sponsored scheme. It involves a 60:40 split in funding between the Centre and most States. It was launched by the Ministry of Education in 2018.

India joined Community of Portuguese Language Countries as Associate Observer in July

- Minister of State for External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi said that India has joined the Community of Portuguese Language Countries, CPLP as Associate Observer in July.
- In a tweet, the Minister said that this sets a new platform for strengthening India’s historic bonds of friendship with Lusophone countries and pursuing cooperation in areas of mutual interest. The move will further enrich and strengthen India’s ties with the Portuguese speaking world.

INS Khanjar becomes the first Indian Navy ship to call at heritage coastal port of Gopalpur

- Indian Naval Ship Khanjar becomes the first Indian Navy ship to call at the heritage coastal port of Gopalpur in Odisha.
- The two-day visit which concluded was organised as part of Aazadi ka Amrit Mahotsav as well as Swarnim Vijay Varsh celebrations to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Independence and 50th anniversary of the 1971 War.

Gopalpur is a coastal town and a Notified Area Council on the Bay of Bengal coast in Ganjam district in the southern part of Odisha. During ancient times, Gopalpur served as an important port for the seafarers of ancient Kalinga. It is identified with the site Mansurkota located near Gopalpur, just below the mouth of the river Rushikulya. Even during the World War –I, it was an important military port where soldiers used to embark on a journey to Burma.

Arvind Kejriwal launches initiative to make Delhi a global city by 2047

- Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal launched Delhi@2047, an initiative that aims at fostering partnerships with the private sector, CSR initiatives and philanthropic organisations to achieve the vision for Delhi by 2047.
- “As India enters its 75th year of independence, it is time to set our vision for 2047. “Delhi has made good efforts in some sectors in last 5 years. Extraordinary achievements have been made in education. Delhi has 24x7 electricity supply. There are over 100 door services. While tabling the budget in the Delhi assembly on March 9, finance minister Manish Sisodia said Delhi’s population is likely to reach 32.8 million by 2047.

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

Judge-population ratio stood at 21.03 judges per million people in 2020

- The judge-population ratio in India stood at 21.03 judges per million people in 2020. The judge-population ratio in 2018 stood at 19.78 judges per million people and 20.39 in 2019.
- In order to calculate the judge-population ratio for per million population in a particular year, the Department of Justice in the Ministry of Law, uses the population count as per 2011 census and available information regarding sanctioned strength of judges in Supreme Court, high courts, district and subordinate courts, in the particular year. India has 25 high courts.
- The sanctioned strength of judges in Supreme Court increased from 31 in 2014 to 34 in the year 2020. The sanctioned strength of judges of high courts increased from 906 judges in June 2014 to 1,079 judges in December, 2020.

Parliament passes Essential Defence Services Bill, 2021

- Parliament has passed the Essential Defence Services Bill, 2021 with the Rajya Sabha approving it amidst din. The Lok Sabha has already cleared the Bill.
- The Bill allows the central government to prohibit strikes, lock-outs, and lay-offs in units engaged in essential defence services. It amends the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 to include essential defence services under public utility services.

Essential defence services include any service in: (i) any establishment or undertaking dealing with production of goods or equipment required for defence related purposes, or (ii) any establishment of the armed forces or connected with them or defence. These also include services that, if ceased, would affect the safety of the establishment engaged in such services or its employees. In addition, the government may declare any service as an essential defence service if its cessation would affect the: (i) production of defence equipment or goods, (ii) operation or maintenance of industrial establishments or units engaged in such production, or (iii) repair or maintenance of products connected with defence. Persons commencing or participating in illegal strikes will be punished with up to one year imprisonment or Rs 10,000 fine, or both. Persons instigating, inciting, or taking actions to continue illegal strikes, or knowingly supplying money for such purposes, will be punished with up to two years imprisonment or Rs 15,000 fine, or both.

Parliament passes Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas Bill, 2021

- Parliament has passed the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Bill, 2021 with the Rajya Sabha approving it amid din. The Lok Sabha has already cleared the Bill. The Bill provides for the constitution of a Commission for better co-ordination, research, identification, and resolution of problems related to air quality in the NCR and adjoining areas.
- Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh have been defined as adjoining areas where any source of pollution may cause adverse impact on air quality in the NCR. Contravention of provisions of the Bill will be punishable with imprisonment of up to five years, or fine of up to one crore rupees, or both.
- The Bill excludes farmers from the scope of these penalties. Speaking on the Bill, Environment and Forest Minister Bhupender Yadav said the Centre is committed for environment protection. Mr. Yadav clarified the farmers will not be penalised under this Bill. He also said there will be a representative from the agriculture sector in the Air Quality Commission. The Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Ordinance, 2021 was promulgated on April 13, 2021.

- According to Clause 14, any non-compliance or contravention of any provision of this Act, rules made thereunder, or any order or directive issued by the commission is punishable by imprisonment for a term of up to five years or a fine of up to Rs 1 crore or both provided that the provisions of this section shall not apply to any farmer for causing air pollution by stubble burning or mismanagement of agricultural residue. All appeals against the commission's orders will be heard by the National Green Tribunal (NGT).

The primary functions of the commission will be to coordinate activities taken by concerned state governments (Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh). Its main functions include: **1. Planning and executing plans to prevent and control air pollution in the NCR region 2. Providing a framework for identification of air pollutants 3. Conducting research and development through networking with technical institutions 3. Training and creating a special workforce to deal with issues related to air pollution 5. Preparing various action plans such as increasing plantation and addressing stubble burning.** The commission's authority includes the ability to limit activities that affect air quality, investigate and conduct research related to environmental pollution that influences air quality. In addition, the commission has the authority to tax and collect environmental compensation from farmers who contaminate the environment by burning stubble.

Indian, Russian Armies begin joint Exercise INDRA 2021 at Volgograd in Russia

- The Indo – Russia joint training Exercise INDRA 2021 commenced at Prudboy Ranges, Volgograd in Russia. It started an impressive opening ceremony that saw the unfurling of the National Flags of both countries.
- Exercise INDRA 2021 will enhance interoperability between the Indian and Russian Armies. The aim of the exercise is to facilitate joint training between Indian and Russian Armies to jointly plan and conduct counter terror operations under the United Nations mandate.
- The conduct of the exercise will also entail academic discussions between expert groups of both contingents. The exercise will focus on unit level joint planning and conduct of anti-terrorist operations and will include cordon and search operations, intelligence gathering and sharing, perception management, humanitarian laws and hostage rescue in simulated settings. Exercise INDRA – 2021 will strengthen mutual confidence, interoperability and enable sharing of best practices between both the armed forces. It will be another landmark event in the history of Indo-Russian defence cooperation.

The INDRA series of exercises began in 2003 and was conducted as a bilateral naval exercise alternately between the two countries. However, the first joint Tri-Services Exercise was conducted in 2017. The last joint, tri-services exercise between India and Russia was conducted in India in December 2019. It was held simultaneously at Babina (near Jhansi), Pune, and Goa. The exercise will entail conduct of counter terror operations under the United Nations mandate by a joint force against international terror groups.

Renegotiate Indus Water Treaty to address impact of climate change: Parliamentary Panel

- A parliamentary panel has recommended renegotiating the Indus Water Treaty with Pakistan to address the impact of climate change on water availability in the river basin, along with other challenges which are not covered under the agreement.
- The Standing Committee on Water Resources has also recommended that India should constantly monitor the Chinese actions to ensure that they do not pursue any major interventions on the Brahmaputra River which could adversely affect India's national interests.

The Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) is a water-distribution treaty between India and Pakistan, brokered by the World Bank, to use the water available in the Indus River and its tributaries. It was signed in Karachi on 19 September 1960 by Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Pakistani President Ayub Khan. The Treaty gives control over the waters of the three “eastern rivers” — the Beas, Ravi and Sutlej with a mean annual flow of 33 million acre-feet (MAF) — to India, while control over the waters of the three “western rivers” — the Indus, Chenab and Jhelum with a mean annual flow of 80 MAF — to Pakistan. India has about 20% of the total water carried by the Indus system while Pakistan has 80%. The treaty allows India to use the western river waters for limited irrigation use and unlimited non-consumptive use for such applications as power generation, navigation, floating of property, fish culture, etc.

L-G launches J&K film policy in presence of Aamir Khan, Rajkumar Hirani

- **J&K Lt Governor Manoj Sinha launched Jammu & Kashmir's Film Policy-2021 in Srinagar** in the presence of actor Amir Khan, filmmaker Rajkumar Hirani, and producer Mahaveer Jain.
- The policy will **facilitate an overall growth of film industry in the region; setting up of Jammu & Kashmir Film Development Council**; a website for talent pool and shooting destinations; development of shooting locales, infrastructure for film screening; revival of closed cinema halls; upgrade of cinema halls; setting up of multiplexes and cinema halls; destination marketing; J&K film festival; and restoration and preservation of J&K films.

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. 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.

MoS Education Subhas Sarkar participates in G20 Research Ministers' meeting

- **Minister of State for Education Subhas Sarkar participated in the G20 Research Ministers' meeting** which was hosted in blended mode by Italy. **G20 Education Ministers exchanged views on enhancing research collaborations and sharing digital space among G20 Countries** for a strong, sustainable, resilient and inclusive recovery.

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

Gujarat CM launches eNagar mobile application and portal

- **Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has launched eNagar mobile application and portal.** The eNagar covers 10 modules with 52 services including property tax, professional tax,
- Water & drainage, Complaints and grievance redressal, building permission, fire and emergency services. Gujarat Urban Development Mission has been appointed as a nodal agency for eNagar project. Total 170 locations including 162 municipalities and 8 Municipal Corporations are covered under the eNagar project.

Gujarat is a state on the western coast of India with a longest coastline of India 1,600 km (990 mi). Its capital city is Gandhinagar, while its largest city is Ahmedabad. **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City** is a business district promoted by the Government of Gujarat through a joint venture company. **GIFT City is India's first operational smart city in the Ahmedabad and international financial services centre.** Acharya Devvrat is Governor of Gujarat and Vijay Rupani is the current Chief Minister of Gujarat. Gujarat has become the first state to implement newly-introduced 10 per cent reservations in government jobs and higher education for the economically weaker sections in the general category and followed by Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh.

Karnataka becomes first state to issue order to implement New Education Policy 2020 from current academic session

- **Karnataka Government** has issued an order to implement the National Education Policy from the current academic year 2021-22. Karnataka has become the first state in the country to issue an order to implement the new Education policy.
- The National Education Policy that aims at increasing the Gross Enrollment ratio in higher education from 26.8 percent in 2018 to 50 percent by 2035 will bring in sweeping reforms in the area of education. Once implemented the National Skills Qualification Framework will become part of the graduation programme.
- They can get a maximum of 40 percent credits through official online courses and 50 percent credits from any University. They have the option to discontinue and integrate courses after a specific period. A single regulator will oversee higher education in the country.
- The National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020), which was approved by the Union Cabinet of India on 29 July 2020, outlines the vision of India's new education system. The NEP 2020 replaces the National Policy on Education of 1986. In January 2015, a committee under former Cabinet Secretary T. S. R. Subramanian started the consultation process for the New Education Policy. Based on the committee report, in June 2017, the draft NEP was submitted in 2019 by a panel led by former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chief Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan. The policy aims to transform India's education system by 2040. Education in India is a Concurrent List subject.
- The NEP 2020 enacts numerous changes in India's education policy. It aims to increase state expenditure on education from around 3% to 6% of the GDP as soon as possible. The National Education Policy 2020 has 'emphasised' on the use of mother tongue or local language as the medium of instruction till Class 5 while, recommending its continuance till Class 8 and beyond. The Policy recommends that all students will learn three languages in their school under the 'formula'. At least two of the three languages should be native to India. It also states that no language will be imposed on the students. The government clarified that the language policy in NEP is a broad guideline; and that it was up to the states, institutions and schools to decide the implementation.
- The "10 + 2" structure will be replaced with "5+3+3+4" model. Coding will be introduced from class 6 and experiential learning will be adopted. It proposes a 4-year multi-disciplinary bachelor's degree in an undergraduate programme with multiple exit options. MPhil (Masters of Philosophy) courses are to be discontinued to align degree education with how it is in Western models. A Higher Education Council of India (HECI) will be set up to regulate higher education.

Ladakh Removes Inner Line Permit Restrictions for Tourists

- The Ladakh administration issued a notification to do away with the need for an inner line permit (ILP) for all Indian nationals, including domestic tourists, to visit the notified protected areas of the union territory.
- Domestic visitors were required to obtain an Inner Line Permit (ILP) from authorities to visit the inner areas of Ladakh. According to the 2015 order, Indian tourists are permitted to visit places beyond Panamik upto Warshi including Yarma Gompa/Yarma Gonboo Monastery in Ladakh region.

Inner Line Permit (ILP) is an official travel document issued by the Government of India to allow inward travel of an Indian citizen into a protected area for a limited period. It is obligatory for Indian citizens from outside those states to obtain a permit for entering into the protected state. The document is an effort by the government to regulate movement to certain areas located near the international border of India. This is an offshoot of the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulations, 1873, which protected Crown's interest in the tea, oil and elephant trade by prohibiting "British subjects" from entering into these "Protected Areas" (to prevent them from establishing any commercial venture that could rival the Crown's agents). The word "British subjects" was replaced by Citizen of India in 1950. Despite the fact that the ILP was originally created by the British to safeguard their commercial interests, it continues to be used in India, officially to protect tribal cultures in northeastern India. At present, it is implemented in Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur.



Nikol Pashinyan officially appointed Armenia's prime minister

- Armenia's acting Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has been officially appointed to the post by the country's President after Pashinyan's party won an early parliamentary election in June.
- The peace agreement saw Azerbaijan reclaim control over large parts of Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding areas that had been held by Armenian forces for more than a quarter-century. Protesters in Armenia denounced the deal as a betrayal of national interests.

The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is an ethnic and territorial conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh, inhabited mostly by ethnic Armenians, and seven surrounding districts, inhabited mostly by Azerbaijanis until their expulsion during the First Nagorno-Karabakh War, which are de facto controlled by the self-declared Republic of Artsakh, but are internationally recognized as de jure part of Azerbaijan. A four-day escalation in April 2016 became the deadliest ceasefire violation until the 2020 conflict. The fighting stopped with a ceasefire agreement on November 10, 2020, by which most of the territories lost by Azerbaijan during the First Nagorno-Karabakh war were returned to Azerbaijan. 44 days of fighting ended on November 10, with a peace deal brokered by Russia. Armenian forces agreed to return to Azerbaijan all occupied territory outside of the former Soviet Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast, with Russian peacekeepers guaranteeing safe passage through the region of Lachin which separates Nagorno-Karabakh from Armenia. The President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, has claimed that the conflict has ended.

Ex-PM Tony Abbott in India as Australia's special trade envoy

- Former Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott is visiting the country during August 2-6 as Prime Minister Scott Morrison's special trade envoy for India to deepen trade and investment ties.
- India and Australia elevated their relationship to a comprehensive strategic partnership and upgraded their 2+2 foreign affairs and defence dialogue to the ministerial level at a virtual summit between Modi and Morrison in June last year.

Australia is the largest country in Oceania and the world's sixth-largest country by total area. Australia's capital is Canberra, and its largest city is Sydney. Scott Morrison is serving as the current Prime Minister of Australia. Elizabeth II is the Head of the Commonwealth and queen regnant of seven independent Commonwealth countries: the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Pakistan, and Ceylon. The country's other major metropolitan areas are Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, and Adelaide. Australia is a highly developed country, with the world's fourteenth-largest economy.

UAE: World's first solar project to extract water from air at Masdar

- The world's first project to produce commercial volumes of an uninterrupted water supply from a sustainable source will launch in Masdar City in Abu Dhabi.
- The innovative pilot project will be run by US-based water technologies company, AQUOVUM, in partnership with Masdar and Khalifa University of Science and Technology, as part of a three-party research and development agreement. The project, which is beginning this month, will evaluate the performance of

AQUOVUM's large format Atmospheric Water Generation (AWG) technology in combination with a renewable energy source, and its ability to be included in current and/or future sustainable water projects.

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

Myanmar army chief appoints himself Prime Minister, promises election by 2023

- The State Administration Council of Myanmar has been reformed as 'Caretaker government of Myanmar' headed by the Chief of the Myanmar military Senior General Min Aung Hlaing as the Prime Minister. Gen. Hlaing also pledged to hold elections by 2023.
- Min Aung Hlaing's announcement came six months to the day after the Tatmadaw's February 1 seizure of power from a civilian government that won a resounding victory of elections in November. The military claims the elections were marred by fraud, and officially annulled the results last week.

Aung San Suu Kyi is a Myanmar politician, diplomat, author, and Nobel Peace Prize laureate (1991). She is the leader of the National League for Democracy and the first and served as State Counsellor of Myanmar (equivalent to a prime minister) and Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2016 to 2021. She is also the first woman to serve as Minister for Foreign Affairs. Myanmar's capital city is Naypyidaw and kyat is the currency of Myanmar. Sittwe Port is a deep-water port constructed by India in 2016 at Sittwe, the capital of Rakhine State in Myanmar, on the Bay of Bengal. Situated at the mouth of the Kaladan River, the USD 120 Million port is being financed by India as a part of the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project, collaboration between India and Myanmar. Min Aung Hlaing is a Burmese army general who has been serving as Chairman of the State Administration Council of Myanmar since February 2021, a position which makes him the country's de facto leader.

Iran Ultraconservative Ebrahim Raisi inaugurated as President

- Ultraconservative Ebrahim Raisi inaugurated as president of Iran, a country whose hopes of shaking off a dire economic crisis hinges on reviving a nuclear deal with world powers.
- Raisi replaces moderate president Hassan Rouhani, whose landmark achievement was the 2015 nuclear agreement between Iran and six major powers. From the outset, Raisi will have to tackle negotiations aimed at reviving the nuclear deal from which the US unilaterally withdrew imposing sweeping sanctions.

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

Germany becomes 5th country to sign International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement

- Germany became the 5th country to sign the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement after amendments to it entered into force on 8th January 2021, opening its Membership to all Member States of the United Nations. Ambassador of Germany to India Walter J. Lindner deposited signed copies of the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement with the Ministry of External Affairs, the depositary of the Agreement.

Germany is a country in Central Europe. It is the second-most populous country in Europe after Russia, and the most populous member state of the European Union. The nation's capital and largest city is Berlin, and its financial centre is Frankfurt; the largest urban area is the Ruhr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier is serving as the President of Germany since 19 March 2017. Euro is the official currency of it.

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.

ASEAN appoints envoy to open dialogue in Myanmar

- The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has appointed Brunei's Second Minister for Foreign Affairs Erywan Yusof as its special envoy to facilitate the mediation of the dialogue process in Myanmar.
- The appointment of the envoy from Brunei comes amid media reports of deep divisions within ASEAN countries on the issue. The announcement came in a joint communique issued after the 54th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' meet in which 10 countries including Myanmar took part virtually.
- Myanmar's military toppled a democratically elected government six months ago, plunging the country into turmoil as security forces suppressed protests, killing hundreds. The economy has collapsed and a humanitarian crisis worsened in the past month as coronavirus infections surged, overwhelming the health system.
- The United Nations and many countries, including the United States and China, have urged ASEAN, whose 10 members include Myanmar, to spearhead diplomatic efforts to restore stability.

ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) is an economic union comprising 10 member states in Southeast Asia, which promotes intergovernmental cooperation and facilitates economic, political, security, military, educational, and sociocultural integration among its members and other countries in Asia. ASEAN was established with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) by its founding fathers in 1967. The founding fathers of ASEAN are: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. The motto of ASEAN is "One Vision, One Identity, One Community". The 8th August is observed as ASEAN Day. ASEAN Secretariat is located in Jakarta, Indonesia. The ASEAN ten members are: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Canada joins international coalition launched by India in 2019

- The international coalition, CDRI, was unveiled by Indian PM Narendra Modi at the UN Climate Action Summit in New York in 2019 and now includes 22 countries, four international partners and two private sector organisations.
- Canada has joined the Coalition on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), an initiative that was launched by India in 2019.

The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) is an international coalition of countries, United Nations (UN) agencies, multilateral development banks, the private sector, and academic institutions that aims to promote disaster-resilient infrastructure. Its objective is to promote research and knowledge sharing in the fields of infrastructure risk management, standards, financing, and recovery mechanisms. It was launched by the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the 2019 UN Climate Action Summit in September 2019.

Canada is a country located in the northern part of North America. Canada is the world's second-largest country by total area. Elizabeth II is the Head of the Commonwealth and queen regnant of seven independent Commonwealth countries: the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Pakistan, and Ceylon. Its capital is Ottawa, and its three largest metropolitan areas are Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver. Canadian dollar is the currency of Canada. Justin Pierre James Trudeau is serving as the 23rd and current Prime Minister of Canada since 2015.



Prime Minister launched e-RUPI, a cashless and contactless instrument for digital payment

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi **launched e-RUPI, a cashless and contactless instrument for digital payment** through video conferencing. Mr Modi has always championed digital initiatives. **e-Rupi, a person and purpose specific digital payment solution, is a QR code or SMS string-based e-Voucher, which is delivered to the mobile of the beneficiaries.**
- **eRupi has been developed by National Payments Corporation of India on its UPI platform, in collaboration with the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and National Health Authority.** The users of this seamless one-time payment mechanism will be able to redeem the voucher without a card, digital payments app or internet banking access, at the service provider.
- Over the years, several programmes have been **launched to ensure that the benefits reach its intended beneficiaries in a targeted and leak-proof manner, with limited touch points between the government and the beneficiary.** The concept of electronic voucher takes forward this vision of Good Governance. It is a revolutionary initiative in the direction of ensuring a leak-proof delivery of welfare services.
- It can also be **used for delivering services under schemes meant for providing drugs and nutritional support under Mother and Child welfare schemes, TB eradication programmes, drugs and diagnostics under schemes like Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana and fertilizer subsidies.** **The private sector can also leverage these digital vouchers as part of their employee welfare and corporate social responsibility programmes.**

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) is an umbrella organisation for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India. Founded in 2008, the NPCI is a not-for-profit organisation registered under section 8 of the Companies Act 2013, established by Reserve Bank of India & IBA. It is headquartered in Mumbai.

Parliament passes Inland Vessels Bill

- **The Parliament has passed the Inland Vessels Bill, 2021** with Rajya Sabha approving it amid din. The Lok Sabha has already passed the bill. **The legislation is to replace the Inland Vessels Act, 1917.** **Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, moved The Inland Vessels Bill, 2021 in the upper house for consideration and passing.**
- **The bill seeks to introduce a uniform regulatory framework for inland vessel navigation across the country.** It provides for a central database for recording the details of vessel, vessel registration and crew on an electronic portal. The bill defines mechanically propelled inland vessels to include ships, boats, sailing vessels, container vessels and ferries. **The Bill will promote economical and safe cargo transportation in the inland water and bring uniformity in the application of the law relating to inland waterways and navigation in the country.**

“Inland Vessel” or “Inland mechanically propelled vessel” means a mechanically propelled vessel, which ordinarily plies on inland water, but does not include fishing vessel and a ship registered under the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.

Lok Sabha passes General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2021

- The Lok Sabha passed the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2021 amid din. The bill seeks to amend the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972. It provides a greater private sector participation in the public sector insurance companies.
- The 1972 Act set up the General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC). The businesses of the companies nationalised under the Act were restructured in four subsidiary companies of GIC: (i) National Insurance, (ii) New India Assurance, (iii) Oriental Insurance, and (iv) United India Insurance. The Act was subsequently amended in 2002 to transfer the control of these four subsidiary companies from GIC to the central government, thereby making them independent companies. Since 2000, GIC exclusively undertakes reinsurance business.
- The bill removes the mandatory provision of 51 per cent shareholding of the Central Government in General Insurance Corporation of India, National Insurance, New India Assurance, Oriental Insurance and United India Insurance companies.

Insurance is a legal agreement between two parties i.e. the insurance company (insurer) and the individual (insured). In this, the insurance company promises to make good the losses of the insured on happening of the insured contingency. The contingency is the event which causes a loss. It can be the death of the policyholder or damage/destruction of the property. It's called a contingency because there's an uncertainty regarding happening of the event. The insured pays a premium in return for the promise made by the insurer. Insurance is a subject listed in the Union list in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. It means only Union Government can make laws on insurance (a state Government cannot make law on this subject).

Bibin Babu is the founder of World's First Blockchain Based Payment Application

- Bibin Babu is the founder of Payiza company which is the world's first blockchain-based payment application. Which supports all kinds of currency agnostic payments and remittances across countries. Also, he built Asia's 1st blockchain research Center and Library.
- Because of his huge contribution, Bibin had ranked as 'Top Whiz Kid of India' by India Today. He has also achieved the 30 Under 30 award in the Technology Category. Due to his tremendous work in the field, he has represented India in the Global Innovation Olympics organized by the Government of China.

Indian Bank signs MoU with IIT Bombay for extending exclusive credit facility to Start-ups and MSMEs

- Indian Bank entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE) – an initiative of Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay – for extending exclusive credit facility to Start-ups and MSMEs.
- SINE, IIT, Bombay is the forerunner in setting up joint R&D with industries and supporting start-up incubation. SINE, IIT, Bombay provides support to the MSME sector by providing joint research and development arrangements and technical and financial support for incubation and acceleration of high-end technology products.
- The Bank will extend loans of up to 50 crore rupees to these start-ups for their working capital requirements or purchase of machinery and equipment. As the name goes, this initiative, which is mutually beneficial for both Bank and IIT, Bombay, will be the spring board for start-ups to realise their ambitions.

Indian Bank is an Indian nationalised financial services and banking company. It is under the ownership of the Ministry of Finance of the Government of India, established in 1907 and headquartered in Chennai, India. I As per the announcement made by the Indian Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on 30 August 2019, Allahabad Bank merged from 1 April 2020, making it the seventh largest bank in the country.

Reliance slips 59 places on Fortune Global 500 list, SBI jumps 16 spots

- Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's oil-to-telecom conglomerate Reliance Industries Ltd slipped 59 places to rank 155th on the 2021 Fortune Global 500 list. Reliance took a beating on the rankings as revenues dropped owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is its lowest ranking since 2017.

- **Reliance's revenue fell 25.3 per cent to USD 63 billion, mostly because oil prices plunged** in the second quarter of 2020 when the global spread of the pandemic wiped away demand.
- **Walmart continues to top the Fortune list with revenue of \$524 billion, followed by China's State Grid at \$384 billion. State Bank of India (SBI) moved up 16 places to rank 205 but Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) dropped 61 places to 212th rank.**
- **"Fortune Global 500 companies generated revenues totaling more than one-third of the world's GDP. They generated USD 31.7 trillion in revenues (down 5%), USD 1.6 trillion in profits (down 20%) and employ 69.7 million people worldwide,"** it said.

Fortune is an American multinational business magazine headquartered in New York City. It is published by Fortune Media Group Holdings, owned by Thai businessman Chatchaval Jiaravanon. The publication was founded by Henry Luce in 1929. The magazine competes with Forbes and Bloomberg Businessweek in the national business magazine category and distinguishes itself with long, in-depth feature articles. The magazine regularly publishes ranked lists, including the Fortune 500, a ranking of companies by revenue that it has published annually since 1955.

Government launches Indian Customs Compliance Information Portal

- **Government launched the Indian Customs Compliance Information Portal for providing free access to information on all Customs procedures and regulatory compliance.** The Central Board for Indirect Taxes and Customs said, it will handle nearly 12 thousand Customs Tariff Items.
- **The portal www.cip.icegate.gov.in/CIP is yet another facilitation tool to empower the business as well as any interested person** with up-to-date information on the legal and procedural requirements of Customs for carrying out imports and exports. The portal will also provide complete knowledge of all import and export related requirements for all items covered under the Customs Tariff.

India, World Bank sign 250 million dollar project to make existing dams safe and resilient

- **India and World Bank have signed 250 million dollar project to make existing dams safe and resilient. The Government of India, the Central Water Commission, government representatives from 10 participating states and the World Bank signed the project for long-term dam safety program.**
- **The project will be implemented in approximately 120 dams across** the states of Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Tamil Nadu, and at the national level through the Central Water Commission.

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

Bernard Arnault pips Jeff Bezos become world's richest person

- **Bernard Arnault, the chairperson and chief executive of the French luxury conglomerate LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton, is now the world's richest person. Bernard Arnault pipped Jeff Bezos after the Amazon founder's net worth fell \$13.9 billion in a day.**
- **Before this, Bernard Arnault led the list of the world's wealthiest people in December 2019, January 2020, May 2021 and July 2021. Arnault holds a net worth of \$198.9 billion compared to Jeff Bezos' \$194.9 billion and Tesla owner Elon Musk's \$185.5 billion, according to Forbes Real-Time Billionaires List.**

- **Forbes Real-Time Billionaires List** showed **Elon Musk** is followed by **Microsoft founder Bill Gates** at **\$132.0 billion**, **Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg** at **\$130.6 billion**, **Google co-founders Larry Page** at **\$116.5 billion** and **Oracle co-founder Larry Ellison** at **\$116.4 billion** and **Sergey Brin** at **\$112.8 billion**. **Warren Buffet's** net worth has now come down to **\$101.6 billion**, according to the Forbes list.
- **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) chairperson Mukesh Ambani** is ranked **12th** on this list with a net worth of **\$79.8 billion**. On the other hand, **Gautam Adani** fell seven places to the **23rd** spot and currently has a net worth of **\$55.6 billion** and **HCL Technologies' founder Shiv Nadar's** net worth rose to **\$25.8 billion**, Forbes Real-Time Billionaires List also showed.

Forbes' Real-Time Billionaires rankings tracks the daily ups and downs of the world's richest people. The wealth-tracking platform provides ongoing updates on the net worth and ranking of each individual confirmed by Forbes to be a billionaire. **The value of individuals' public holdings are updated every 5 minutes when respective stock markets are open (there will be a 15-minute delay for stock prices).**

SIDBI Launches Swavalamban Challenge Fund To Promote Entrepreneurship Culture In India

- **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)**, the principal financial institution engaged in the promotion, financing and development of **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**, in partnership with **Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, UK (FCDO UK)** has launched **'Swavalamban Challenge Fund' (SCF)**.
- A challenge fund is a **fund support mechanism to allocate funds for specific purposes using competition among organisations.** Suppose there is an idea which needs to be piloted or scaled up, but funds are an issue, **challenge fund provides solution platform** to present the idea in prescribed theme, implement and validate it. Later the same can be scaled up by leveraging other donor / financier support.
- **SCF shall provide financial support to non-profit organizations/educational institutions/social startups** which have focus on sustainable livelihood, financial inclusion, and access to financial services besides promoting the culture of entrepreneurship in the country. **On select six themes of livelihood, women empowerment, financial literacy, responsible business etc.** eligible entities can submit their proposal for award.

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) is the **apex regulatory body in India** for overall regulation and licensing of **microfinance institutions in India.** It is under the **jurisdiction of Ministry of Finance, Government of India** headquartered at **Lucknow** and having its offices all over the country. **Its purpose is to provide refinance facilities and short-term lending to industries, and serves as the principal financial institution in the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector.** SIDBI also coordinates the functions of institutions engaged in similar activities. **It was established on 2 April 1990, through an Act of Parliament. It is headquartered in Lucknow. SIDBI operates under the Ministry of Finance, Government of India. SIDBI is one of the four All India Financial Institutions regulated and supervised by the Reserve Bank of India; other three are India Exim Bank, NABARD and NHB.**



Inventions/Discoveries

World's first commercial fully re-programmable satellite lifts off

- **Eutelsat Quantum, the world's first commercial fully re-programmable satellite lifted off from French Guiana on board an Ariane 5 rocket, with the hope of a new era of more flexible communications.**
- **The European Space Agency (ESA) posted from its official handle a photo of the Eutelsat Quantum satellite lifting off and said that it is the "first commercial fully flexible software-defined satellite in the world".**
- **"Eutelsat Quantum, developed under an ESA partnership project with satellite operator Eutelsat and prime manufacturer Airbus, is the first commercial fully flexible software-defined satellite in the world".**
- **"Because it can be reprogrammed in orbit, it can respond to changing demands for data transmission and secure communications during its 15-year lifetime. Its beams can be redirected to move in almost real-time to provide information to passengers onboard moving ships or planes."**

The **European Space Agency (ESA)** is an **intergovernmental organisation of 22 member states dedicated to the exploration of space. Established in 1975 and headquartered in Paris, ESA has a worldwide staff of about 2,200 in 2018 and an annual budget of about €6.5 billion in 2021. The main European launch vehicle Ariane 5 is operated through Arianespace with ESA sharing in the costs of launching and further developing this launch vehicle. Josef Aschbacher is the Director General of the European Space Agency (ESA) since 1 March 2021**

Bhubaneswar becomes first city in India to vaccinate 100% of its population against Covid

- **Odisha's Bhubaneswar has become the first city in India to achieve 100 per cent vaccination coverage against Covid-19. Additionally, about one lakh migrant workers have also been administered the first dose of Covid vaccines in the capital city of Odisha.**

Vaccine Maitri (Vaccine Friendship) is a **humanitarian and commercial initiative undertaken by the Indian government to provide COVID-19 vaccines to countries around the world. The government started providing vaccines from 20 January 2021. As of 9 May 2021, India had delivered around 66.3 million doses of vaccines to 95 countries. Of these, 10.7 million doses were gifted to 47 countries by the Government of India. The remaining 54 million were supplied by the Serum Institute of India under its commercial and COVAX obligations. In late March 2021, the Government of India temporarily froze exports of the Covishield, citing India's own COVID crisis and the domestic need for these vaccines. India kicked off international shipment of the vaccines on 20 January 2021, only four days after starting its own vaccination program. Bhutan and Maldives were the first countries to receive vaccines as a grant by India.**

Newly discovered frog species named after renowned plant geneticist

- **Researchers from the University of Delhi have named a newly discovered frog species from Western Ghats region after the former vice chancellor and renowned Indian Plant geneticist professor Deepak Pental. The new species was identified based on multiple criteria, such as external morphology, DNA and calling pattern.**

- **University of Delhi researcher's professor SD Biju and Dr Sonali Garg** said they have just discovered a new species of frog belonging to the family Dicroglossidae from the **globally recognised Western Ghats biodiversity hotspot** and it has been named as **“Minervarya Pentali.”**

IIT Madras launches India's first consortium for virtual reality

- **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M)** announced the **launch of the country's first consortium for virtual reality** called **‘Consortium for VR/AR/MR Engineering Mission in India’ (CAVE)**.
- The body consists of a group of academia, industries, startups, and government bodies and is being **coordinated by IIT Madras with the objective to enable members to create new advanced technologies and applications in virtual reality**, augmented reality, mixed reality (XR) and haptics together.

Centre to implement Deep Ocean Mission at total budget of Rs 4,077 crore for 5 years

- **The government will implement the Deep Ocean Mission at a total budget of over 4,077 crore rupees for five years.** All the components of the Mission will commence in 2021.
- The Minister said a **manned submersible to be developed carrying three people to a depth of six thousand metres in the ocean for exploration of deep-sea mineral resources** and marine biodiversity.
- The **blueprint of the DOM** to explore the deep recesses of the ocean was unveiled in 2018. Earlier, **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)** had also rolled out the **draft Blue Economy Policy**.
- **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)** will be the **nodal ministry** implementing this multi-institutional ambitious mission. It will be a **mission mode project to support the Blue Economy Initiatives** of the Government of India.
- The **technology and expertise needed in such missions is now available with only five countries - US, Russia, France, Japan and China.** India will now be the sixth country to have it.
- An **Integrated Mining System** will be also developed for mining **polymetallic nodules** at those depths in the central Indian Ocean. **Polymetallic nodules are rocks scattered on the seabed containing iron, manganese, nickel and cobalt.**
- The exploration studies of minerals **will pave the way for commercial exploitation in the near future**, as and when commercial exploitation code is evolved by the **International Seabed Authority**, an **United Nations (UN)** organisation.

The **Ministry of Earth Sciences** was formed on **29 January 2006** from a merger of the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)**, the **National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF)**, the **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune**, and **Earth Risk Evaluation Centre (EREC)**, and the **Ministry of Ocean Development**. **Currently, the ministry is headed by Dr Jitendra Singh.**

Uttarakhand CM launches India's first earthquake early warning mobile app

- **Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami** launched the **country's first early warning mobile application which can alert users before an earthquake.** The path-breaking application is called **‘Uttarakhand Bhookamp Alert’** and has been developed by **IIT Roorkee**.
- During the launch of the lifeguarding application at the secretariat Dhami told media that people should be informed about such an app as Uttarakhand is quite susceptible to earthquakes. **The programme was initially launched as a pilot project by the Ministry of Earth Sciences for the Garhwal region of Uttarakhand.** Given its success and the need of the region, the **IIT Roorkee's EEW project proposal** was extended further by the Uttarakhand government.

An earthquake (also known as a quake, tremor or temblor) is the shaking of the surface of the Earth resulting from a sudden release of energy in the Earth's lithosphere that creates seismic waves. **An earthquake's point of initial rupture is called its hypocenter or focus.** The epicenter is the point at ground level directly above the hypocenter. The **Richter scale— also called the Richter magnitude scale is a measure of the strength of earthquakes**, developed by Charles Francis Richter. A **seismometer is an instrument that responds to ground noises and shaking such as caused by earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and explosions.**

ISRO launched earth observation satellite

- The Indian Space & Research Organisation (ISRO) launched the GSLV-F10, which is carrying the Earth Observation Satellite (EOS-03), from the second launch pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. The 51.70-metre tall rocket GSLV-F10/EOS-03 successfully lifted off from the second launch pad at the spaceport as planned at 05.43 hrs soon after the 26-hour countdown concluded.
- The launching event is the second one this year for the Bengaluru-headquartered space agency after the launch of Brazil's earth observation satellite Amazonia-1 and 18 co-passenger satellites in February this year.
- It is the second flight for the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) Mk II, which had last blasted off with the ambitious Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft to the Moon.
- With the launch of the satellite, ISRO will follow it up with another liftoff in September of EOS-4, a radar imaging satellite with Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) that can capture during day and night while looking through cloud cover. The satellite will be launched onboard a Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).
- The new satellite will be capable of obtaining vital information for application in different sectors including agriculture, forestry, water bodies as well as for disaster warning, cyclone monitoring, cloudburst or thunderstorm monitoring.
- Indian Space Research Organisation's second mission of the year to place an earth observation satellite by a GSLV rocket faced a setback as the mission could not be accomplished fully due to performance anomaly in the cryogenic stage of the rocket, the space agency said.

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.

India's first indigenous aircraft carrier, to be named INS Vikrant, finally begins sea trials

- The much-awaited sea trials of India's first indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC), which will be reincarnated as INS Vikrant once it is commissioned in August next year. Named after India's first aircraft carrier and the Indian Navy's crown jewel from 1961 to 1997, INS Vikrant is India's first indigenously designed and built aircraft carrier.
- Built at the Cochin Shipyard for around Rs 23,000 crore, the IAC will become fully operational only after the flight trials of MiG-29K supersonic fighter jets, MH-60R multi-role helicopters and the indigenously manufactured ALHs (advanced light helicopters) are completed from its deck by around mid-2023.
- India currently has just one aircraft carrier – the solitary 44,500-tonne INS Vikramaditya, which was inducted from Russia for \$2.33 billion, on November 2013. Once INS Vikrant is commissioned in August 2022, India will have two aircraft carriers for its eastern and western seabords.

Scientists develop world's first high-resolution 3D image of a monkey brain

- Scientists in China have developed the world's first high-resolution, 3D image of a monkey brain, which can one day lead to treatments for diseases such as Parkinson's. A team from the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing created a detailed map of a complete macaque monkey brain using fluorescent imaging techniques.
- The team created a new technique, known as Volumetric Imaging with Synchronous on-the-fly-scan and Readout (VISoR). Using VISoR, they tested the brains of three 10-year-old macaque monkeys.

Thailand bans coral-damaging sunscreens in marine parks

- Thailand has banned sunscreens containing chemicals that damage coral from all of its marine national parks. Concerns are growing that lotions tourists use for sun protection are harming slow-growing corals. The Thai Department of Conservation said four ingredients commonly found in sun creams were shown to destroy coral larvae, obstruct coral reproduction and cause reef bleaching.

- **Anyone flouting the ban can be fined up to 100,000 baht (£2,100).** The banned lotions are those **containing oxybenzone, octinoxate, 4-methylbenzylidene camphor or butylparaben.**
- **Similar bans have been introduced by the Pacific island of Palau and the US state of Hawaii.** This is the latest attempt by the Thai government to protect its coral from the tourism industry.
- **Though coral reefs in India are accorded the highest level of legal protection under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972,** there is also a need to reduce the overall impact of tourism on them through sensitisation programmes and by introducing and implementing specific tourism and dive-related policies. India has four coral reef areas: **The Gulf of Mannar, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep and the Gulf of Kutch.**

Coronavirus: Scientists from 4 BRICS nations to carry out genomic sequencing, mathematical modelling

- **Scientists from India, China, Russia and Brazil will carry out genomic sequencing of the novel coronavirus,** and also studies on **epidemiology and mathematical modelling of the COVID-19 pandemic.**
- **A whole-genome sequencing is required for the identification of genetic mutations** and recombinations of the virus, while epidemiological studies can help assess its distribution. Mathematical modelling is required to project its future spread.
- **Under this research supported by the DST, the Indian and Brazilian sides will assess the distribution of SARS-CoV-2 in environmental samples through metagenome analysis for wastewater-based epidemiology (WBE) surveillance.**

Nasa scientists spot unusual set of rings around black hole with companion star

- **Astronomers have spotted a spectacular set of rings around a black hole in an image captured using Nasa's Chandra X-ray Observatory and Neil Gehrels Swift Observatory.** Nasa said that the X-ray images of the giant ring reveal information about the black hole, its companion star, and the intervening dust clouds.
- **“The black hole is part of a binary system called V404 Cygni, located about 7,800 light-years away from Earth.** The black hole is actively pulling material away from a companion star — with about half the mass of the Sun — into a disk around the invisible object. This material glows in X-rays, so astronomers refer to these systems as “X-ray binaries.”

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



Sports Personalities in News

PV Sindhu, the greatest ever: Badminton star becomes first Indian woman to win 2 Olympic medals

- PV Sindhu became the first Indian woman athlete to win two individual Olympic medals, as she beat China's He Bing Jiao to win the bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics. She had won the silver medal at the 2016 Rio Olympics.
- Reigning world champion PV Sindhu brushed aside He Bing Jiao of China 21-13, 21-15 to secure the bronze medal in the women's singles event at the Tokyo Olympics. **The 26-year-old silver-medallist from the Rio Games also became the first Indian woman to win two individual Olympic medals.**
- Pusarla Venkata Sindhu has written her name all over the history of not just Indian badminton but also India's records at the Olympic Games. PV Sindhu has exceeded all expectations by becoming the first Indian shuttler to reach successive semi-finals in the Olympics.
- It is now a recorded fact that she is one of the greatest badminton players of all time the country has ever seen. She won silver medal in 2016. Sindhu had fallen agonisingly short of the gold medal as she lost the title match to Spain's Carolina Marin despite winning the opening game five years ago.
- Wrestler Sushil Kumar was so far the only Indian to have finished twice on the podium at the quadrennial showpiece event. Sushil had followed up his bronze at 2008 Beijing with a silver at the London edition.

Boxer Lovlina Borgohain ends with bronze medal at Olympic Games

- Indian boxer Lovlina Borgohain (69 kg) signed off with a bronze medal in the Olympic Games after a comprehensive 0-5 loss to reigning world champion Busenaz Surmeneli.
- Nonetheless, Borgohain goes home as a history-maker as the 23-year-old, who started her career as a Muay Thai practitioner, has become only the third Indian boxer to ensure a podium finish at the showpiece after Vijender Singh (2008) and M C Mary Kom (2012). Hers is also the first Olympic medal in Indian boxing in nine years.

India's ace grappler Ravi kumar Dahiya creates history, clinches Silver Medal; Men's Hockey team snatch Bronze medal

- India got one silver and bronze medal in 57 kg freestyle wrestling and hockey. However they failed to perform in other category in wrestling. Indian grappler Ravi Dahiya has secured silver medal.
- He was defeated by the reigning world champion Zaur Uguev of Russian Olympic Committee in the freestyle 57 kilogram final by 4-7.
- The hockey jinx was finally broken at Tokyo 2020 as the men's team captured its first Olympic medal in 41 years after beating Germany in the medal match. The last time India won a medal at Olympics was in 1980 when they clinched gold. The famous campaign was full of memorable wins. India finished Pool A in the second spot and defeated Britain in the quarter-finals to reach the semi-finals for the first time in 49 years. **The 1980 Games did not have semi-finals.**

Ocon wins chaotic Hungarian GP

- **Frenchman Esteban Ocon won a chaotic Hungarian Grand Prix while Lewis Hamilton finished third to take the Formula One championship lead from Max Verstappen by six points heading into the midseason break.**

Neeraj Chopra became the first gold medalist from the country in an athletics event

- **India's campaign got over a day before with Neeraj Chopra scripting history as he became the first gold medalist from the country in an athletics event.** The top prize in men's javelin throw helped India finish the Tokyo Games with its best-ever tally of seven medals including one gold, two silver, and four bronze.
- **Overall, India finished 48th in the medals table. USA took the top spot with 113 medals, China (88) came second and hosts Japan (58) are third.**
- **Indians for years yearned to see an athletic champion in the Olympics and Neeraj brought a sweet end to that wait with an 87.58 m throw in the men's javelin throw final which made him only the second individual gold medallist from India.** Also, the first track and field athlete from independent India to win an Olympic medal.

32nd Summer Games conclude with closing ceremony at Olympic Stadium in Tokyo

- **After a spectacular 16-day action, curtains came down on World's biggest sporting event, the 32nd Summer Games with a closing ceremony at the Olympic Stadium in Tokyo.**
- **Overall, India finished with seven medals — one gold, two silver and four bronze — the country's best ever finish at the Games. Wrestler Bajrang Punia who bagged a Bronze in Tokyo Olympics, led the Indian contingent out during the parade of athletes at the closing ceremony.**
- **For the first time ever in a handover ceremony at the Olympic Games, the national anthem of the next host country was delivered on film as part of Paris 2024's presentation.**
- **Overall, India finished 48th in the medals table. USA took the top spot with 113 medals, China (88) came second and hosts Japan (58) are third.**

At the Tokyo Olympics, Marcell Jacobs is The World's Fastest Man

- **At the Tokyo Olympics, Marcell Jacobs is The World's Fastest Man. The Italian crossed the line in 9.8 seconds Sunday night, the first medal ever for the country in the 100 meters.** Pietro Mennea won the 200 in 1980 and Livio Berruti won that race at the 1960 Games in Rome.
- **Even in a race with no clear favourites — American Ronnie Baker was a candidate and China's Su Bingtian ran a shocking 9.83 in the semis — Jacobs was a surprise.** Jacobs topped America's Fred Kerley and Canada's Andre DeGrasse to take the spot Bolt had commandeered since 2008.

Weightlifter Hubbard becomes first trans woman at Olympics

- **Pioneering weightlifter Laurel Hubbard became the first openly transgender woman to compete at the Olympic Games, but her Tokyo dream was cut short when she crashed out of her final early.**
- **Hubbard contested the +87 kg category in a groundbreaking move that Olympic chiefs says makes the Games more inclusive but critics fear will undermine women's sport.**

Sports Minister Shri Anurag Singh Thakur Launches Paralympic Theme Song

- **Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Shri Anurag Thakur launched the theme song "Kar De Kamaal Tu" for the Indian Paralympic contingent in New Delhi.**

World champion Kiyuna wins first men's Olympic kata title

- **World champion Ryo Kiyuna beat Spain's Damian Quintero in the final of the men's kata to give Japan their first gold in the new Olympic sport of karate.**

MISCELLANEOUS

Vindhyachal Corridor, worth Rs. 300 crore, aims to give 'grand view' to UP temple

- **Union home minister Amit Shah visited Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh to lay the foundation stone for the Vindhyachal Corridor**, dubbed a 'dream project' of the state's chief minister Yogi Adityanath.
- **The project, worth over Rs. 300 crore**, includes ramping up amenities for devotees at the Vindhyachal temple in the district as well as widening of surrounding roads to 50 feet and facilitating a grander look at the shrine for the purpose of 'darshan'. **The Vindhya Corridor**, on completion, is **expected to provide a clear view of the Ganga flowing in the northern direction of the temple**. According to reports, the river will be visible right from the stairway to the temple and will be an **added attraction for the devotees who show up for the 'darshan' of Ma Vindhvasini Devi**.

Union Minister of Culture G Kishan Reddy inaugurates exhibition on Quit India Movement

- **Union Minister of Culture G Kishan Reddy inaugurated an exhibition on the Quit India Movement** in New Delhi which has been **organised on its 79th anniversary**. As part of **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav being celebrated to mark 75th years of Independence**, National Archives of India has organised the exhibition.
- **On 8 August 1942 at the All-India Congress Committee session in Bombay, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi launched the 'Quit India' movement**. The next day, Gandhi, Nehru and many other leaders of the Indian National Congress were arrested by the British Government. Disorderly and non-violent demonstrations took place throughout the country in the following days..

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi calls for restructuring National Mineral Exploration Trust as autonomous body

- Union Minister of Mines Pralhad Joshi has urged the officials of his Ministry **to bring about further momentum in restructuring the National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) as an autonomous body**. National Mineral Exploration Trust is a body working to realize the mineral potential of the country in terms of mining activity and contribute commensurately to the growth of national economy.

Shri Kiren Rijju attended the Eighth Justice Ministers Meet of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

- **The Eighth Meeting of Ministers of Justice of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Member States attended by Shri Kiren Rijju, Union Minister of Law & Justice**. He was **joined by Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel, Minister of State in the Ministry of Law & Justice**.
- In the Eighth Meeting of the Ministers of Justice of the SCO, member States shall further **deliberate on areas of cooperation; the role of coronavirus laws in the pandemic; providing free legal aid to citizens in accordance with national legislation**; role of ministries of (law and) justice in countering corruption and other allied areas of cooperation and assistance in legal services.

DefExpo 2022 goes to Gandhinagar, focus on projecting India as manufacturing hub

- **India's flagship military exhibition, DefExpo**, will be held at Gandhinagar in Gujarat in March 2022, with a focus on projecting the country as an **emerging defence manufacturing hub, one of the top priorities for the government in the defence sector**.
- In May, **the government notified a list of 108 defence items that cannot be imported by the armed forces** with the ban kicking off from December 2021. The list, called the 'positive indigenisation list', will be implemented progressively from December 2021 to December 2025.

Meme Museum' opens in Hong Kong

- The online platform has moved a level-up, and has **opened the world's first 'Meme Museum' in Hong Kong**. With memes becoming part of how people communicate nowadays, **the Meme Museum makes for an exciting spot to visit**.

Union Ministers visit 'My Handloom My Pride Expo' at Dilli Haat

- **Minister of State for Textiles and Railways Ms. Darshana Jardosh, Minister of State for Commerce Ms. Anupriya Patel, Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture Ms. Meenakshi Lekhi** accompanied by other women members of parliament visit 'My Handloom My Pride Expo' at Dilli Haat.
- They interacted with weavers and bought the exquisite handloom products. **Ms. Darshana Jardosh had invited all the women Members of Parliament to visit the Expo at Dilli Haat** and see the rich handloom heritage in order to encourage the weavers and promote the industry.

Sonu Sood Launches India's First Rural B2B Travel Tech Platform 'Travel Union'

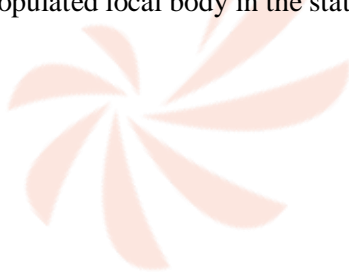
- **Travel Union, India's first rural B2B travel tech platform, was launched. Travel Union, a Sonu Sood initiative,** will democratize travel services by providing a platform to Travel Union members (travel agents) towards serving the travel needs of rural customers at every district, block and gram panchayat level.
- **With a mission to support, digitally empower and build a leading travel agent business community in rural India at zero investment,** Travel Union aims to be the largest rural digital travel services platform serving the 1 billion Bharat population.

Textile Ministry celebrated 7th National Handloom Day

- **Textile Ministry celebrated the 7th National Handloom Day on 7th August.** The handloom weaving community will be **honoured for its contribution in the socio-economic development of this country.**
- It is a sector that directly **addresses women's empowerment with over 70 percent of all weavers and allied workers being female. Three Handloom Craft Villages at Kovalam in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, Mohpara Village, District Golaghat in Assam and Kanihama, Budgam in Srinagar** are being set up by the Ministry in collaboration with the State governments.
- The aim behind setting up the craft villages is to provide additional attraction for domestic and international tourists and promote the well-known Handloom and Handicraft Products of the region. **In the 75th year of independence, Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged the people to buy Indian Handloom products and showcase their grandeur.**
- **August 7 was chosen as the National Handloom Day to commemorate the Swadeshi Movement** which was launched on this day in 1905 in Calcutta Town Hall to protest against the partition of Bengal by the British Government. The movement had aimed at reviving domestic products and production processes.

A tribal village in Kerala's Wayanad is India's first fully vaccinated hamlet

- **Noolpuzha in Wayanad district in north Kerala has achieved the distinction of being the first tribal panchayat in the state to be fully vaccinated.** Home to four primitive tribes, Noolpuzha is the second largest tribal-populated local body in the state and it now flaunts cent per cent vaccination status.



PERSONS IN NEWS

Padma Shri awardee Dogri writer and poet Padma Sachdev passes away at 81

- **Noted author and Padma Shri awardee Padma Sachdev, the first modern woman poet of Dogri language, passed away at a Mumbai hospital.**
- She authored many books in Dogri and Hindi, and her poetry collections, **including ‘Meri Kavita Mere Geet’, won her the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1971.**
- **She received the Padma Shri, the country’s fourth-highest civilian award, in 2001** and was awarded the Kabir Samman for poetry for 2007-08 by the Madhya Pradesh government.

Adi Godrej quits GCPL board

- **Packaged consumer goods company Godrej Consumer Products Ltd (GCPL) announced that Godrej Group chairman Adi Godrej will step down from the board of directors of GCPL effective September 30, 2021. Godrej will remain chairman emeritus at the maker of Cinthol soaps and Goodknight mosquito repellents.**

Dhriti Banerjee becomes 1st woman director in 100 years of Zoological Survey of India history

- **Dhriti Banerjee has become the first woman to be appointed as director of the 105-year-old Zoological Survey of India (ZSI).**
- **ZSI, headquartered in Kolkata with 16 regional centres under the ministry of environment, forests and climate change, started hiring women scientists as late as 1949, after more than three decades since its inception on 1 July 1916. Mira Mansukhani thus created history in an organization which until then was largely dominated by men.**

Deepak Das takes charge as new Controller General of Accounts

- **Deepak Das took charge as the new Controller General of Accounts.** Mr Deepak Das is the 25th officer to hold the position of Controller General of Accounts (CGA). He is a 1986-batch Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) officer. Prior to assuming the charge, Mr Das has served as the Principal Chief Controller of Accounts in the Central Board of Direct Taxes.

Jawhar Sircar elected unopposed to Rajya Sabha from West Bengal

- **Former Chief Executive Officer of Prasar Bharati Jawhar Sircar was declared elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from West Bengal as the BJP decided not to contest for the seat.**

AWARDS

Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award renamed Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award will now be known as the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award.** The Prime Minister said that this was being done for “respecting the sentiments of citizens across the country”. The Khel Ratna award is the highest sporting honour in the nation.
- **“Major Dhyan Chand was among India’s foremost sportspersons who brought honour and pride for India.** Our nation’s highest sporting honour should be named after him,” the Prime Minister said.
- **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award (Major Dhyan Chand Sport Jewel Award), formerly known as Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award in Sports and Games, is the highest sporting honour of the Republic 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. Instituted in 1991–1992, the award was given for the performance by a sportsperson in a year. 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**
- **The most recent recipients of the award are Rohit Sharma (Cricket), Mariyappan Thangavelu (Para Athletics), Manika Batra (Table Tennis), Vinesh Phogat (Wrestling), and Rani Rampal (Hockey).**

Telangana’s AI-based crowd management tool selected for NASSCOM award

- **An innovative and pathbreaking artificial intelligence driven crowd monitoring programme used by Telangana police during Asia’s biggest biennial tribal festival – the Medaram jatara has been awarded the AI Gamechanger Exemplar Award by the NASSCOM.**
- **The AI-based application was also used during the India Vs West Indies T20 match played at Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad two years ago.**

Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project in Bhutan gets Brunel Medal

- **Bhutan’s India-assisted Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project was conferred with the Brunel Medal awarded by the London-based Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE).** The award was given as a mark of excellence in civil engineering within the industry and was handed over by the Indian envoy to Bhutan Ruchira Kamboj to the Chairman of Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project Authority, Lyonpo Loknath Sharma. **One of the reasons the Mangdechhu project was awarded was because of its social and environmental credentials.**

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Hepatitis Day

- **World Hepatitis Day, observed on July 28 every year, aims to raise global awareness of hepatitis** — a group of **infectious diseases known as Hepatitis A, B, C, D, and E** — and encourage prevention, diagnosis and treatment. **Currently, there is no vaccination for hepatitis C.** Hepatitis affects hundreds of millions of people worldwide, causing acute and chronic disease and killing close to 1.34 million people every year.
- In 2021, the theme is ‘**Hepatitis Can’t Wait**’, conveying the urgency of efforts needed to eliminate hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030.

World Lung Cancer Day 2021

- **World Lung Cancer Day is observed on August 1.** The day, as the name suggests, is meant to raise and create awareness about lung cancer.
- **The disease is the second most common form of cancer across the globe and is one of the major causes of death among men and women.** The main purpose of the day is to sensitise people about the habits and the factors that can lead to lung cancer.

Hiroshima Day 2021

- **Hiroshima Day is observed on August 6 every year.** It aims to promote peace politics against the war. **This day is a reminder of the bombing attack on Hiroshima by the United States during World War II.**

References:

The Hindu
The Economics Times
Indian Express
Press Information Bureau of India
The Times of India
Business Standard
News on AIR
Hindustan Times

QUESTIONS

1. Recently, Union Home Affairs Minister Amit Shah laid the foundation of a forensic sciences institute in _____.
(a) Gorakhpur (b) Ghaziabad (c) Meerut (d) Lucknow
2. Who took charge as the new Controller General of Accounts?
(a) Amrit Prasad (b) Deepak Das (c) Shantanu Misra (d) Amitosh Jha
3. Who is /was the first Indian Prime Minister to preside over a meeting during India's presidency of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)?
(a) Narendra Modi (b) Jawaharlal Nehru (c) Indra Kumar Gujaral (d) Atal Bihari Vajpayee
4. The world's first project to produce commercial volumes of an uninterrupted water supply from a sustainable source will launch in _____.
(a) Masdar City in Abu Dhabi (b) Jeddah City, Saudi Arabia
(c) Jakarta City, Indonesia (d) Munich City, Germany
5. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched _____ a cashless and contactless instrument for digital payment through video conferencing.
(a) e-RUPI (b) e-RUPIYA (c) e-RUPEE (d) e-PAISA
6. Recently, Union Home Minister Amit Shah laid the foundation stone for the Vindhyachal Corridor in _____.
(a) Gorakhpur (b) Ballia (c) Mirzapur (d) Moradabad
7. Which of the following has become the first city in India to achieve 100 per cent vaccination coverage against Covid-19?
(a) Odisha's Bhubaneswar (b) West Bengal Puruliya
(c) Chhattisgarh Bilai (d) Madhya Pradesh Raisen
8. Recently, the world's first commercial fully re-programmable satellite lifted off from French Guiana on board an Ariane 5 rocket, with the hope of a new era of more flexible communications is _____.
(a) Onelsat Quantum (b) Quasat Quantum
(c) Mukelsat Quantum (d) Eutelsat Quantum
9. Who has become the first Indian woman to win 2 Olympic medals recently?
(a) Sania Mirza (b) Saina Nehwal (c) P.V. Sindhu (d) Vinesh Phogat
10. World Hepatitis Day is observed every year on _____.
(a) July 18 (b) July 21 (c) July 24 (d) July 28
11. Recently, who was declared elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from West Bengal?
(a) Jawhar Sircar (b) Ajay Bannerjee
(c) Manoj Bhattacharya (d) Atul Pradhan
12. Recently, Parliament has passed the Inland Vessels Bill, 2021 with Rajya Sabha approving it amid din. The legislation is to replace the _____.
(a) Inland Vessels Act, 1917 (b) Inland Vessels Act, 1935
(c) Inland Vessels Act, 1943 (d) Inland Vessels Act, 1955
13. The edition of the Malabar exercise will take part alongside the navies of India, Japan, _____ and the US in the Western Pacific.
(a) Australia (b) Mexico (c) Germany (d) South Korea

14. Name the former Australian Prime Minister who visited the country as Prime Minister Scott Morrison's special trade envoy for India to deepen trade and investment ties?
 (a) Malcolm Turnbull (b) Tony Abbott (c) Kevin Rudd (d) Julia Gillard
15. Who has been recently appointed as the new Prime Minister of Myanmar?
 (a) General Jin Htao (b) General Kin Rose
 (c) General Min Aung Hlaing (d) General Soe Win
16. Who is the founder of World's First Blockchain Based Payment Application?
 (a) Mahesh Jain (b) Vivek Luthra (c) Jitin Makheja (d) Bibin Babu
17. Which of the following banks entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE) an initiative of Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay for extending exclusive credit facility to Start-ups and MSMEs?
 (a) Bank of Maharashtra (b) Indian Bank (c) Union Bank of India (d) Punjab National Bank
18. Which of the following IIT's announced the launch of India's first consortium for virtual reality called 'Consortium for VR/AR/MR Engineering Mission in India' (CAVE)?
 (a) Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M)
 (b) Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT-B)
 (c) Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT-K)
 (d) Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT-D)
19. Who is the first openly transgender woman to compete at the Olympic Games?
 (a) Mitchell Jod (b) Laurel Hubbard (c) Matt Yardy (d) Kitchell Freih
20. World Lung Cancer Day is observed on:
 (a) 23rd July (b) 26th July (c) 1st August (d) 5th August
21. The 36th edition of _____ coordinated patrol (CORPAT) between the Indian Navy and the _____ was organised.
 (a) India-Indonesia (b) India-Malaysia (c) India-Israel (d) India-Seychelles
22. Which of the following IIT's has recently launched seven new academic programmes in select areas of engineering, architecture, economics, and management along with specialization in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence to cater to the rising demand for new-age technologies?
 (a) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras (b) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee
 (c) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi (d) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay
23. Recently, Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) has launched _____ to act as a central repository of all training programs conducted by Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
 (a) 'Adi-Prashikshan Portal' (b) 'Adi-VAN Portal'
 (c) 'Adi-Survekshan Portal' (d) 'Adi-Prasharam Portal'
24. The Eighth Meeting of Ministers of Justice of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Member States will be attended by _____.
 (a) Shri Narendra Modi (b) Shri Anurag Thakur (c) Shri Rajnath Singh (d) Shri Kiren Rijiju
25. India's flagship military exhibition, DefExpo 2022 will be held in:
 (a) Gandhinagar (b) Surat (c) Nagpur (d) Ambala
26. Which of the following topped the 2021 Fortune Global 500 list?
 (a) China's State Grid (b) Amazon (c) Walmart (d) HSBC Bank

27. Recently, Ebrahim Raisi has been elected as President of _____.
 (a) Syria (b) Iraq (c) Indonesia (d) Iran
28. The government will implement the Deep Ocean Mission at a total budget of over 4,077 crore rupees for five years. All the components of the Mission will commence in year _____.
 (a) 2021 (b) 2022 (c) 2023 (d) 2025
29. Every Year, Hiroshima Day is observed on:
 (a) 2nd August (b) 4th August (c) 6th August (d) 8th August
30. Recently, Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Shri Anurag Thakur launched the theme song _____ for the Indian Paralympic contingent in New Delhi.
 (a) “Kar De Kamaal Tu” (b) “Kar De Kamaal Hindustan”
 (c) “Hausla Rakh Aagey Badh” (d) “Rock the Olympics 2021”
31. Which of the following states recently launched the country’s first early warning mobile application which can alert users before an earthquake?
 (a) Himachal Pradesh (b) Aruachal Pradesh (c) Uttarakhand (d) Manipur
32. Recently, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal launched _____ an initiative that aims at fostering partnerships with the private sector, CSR initiatives and philanthropic organisations to achieve the vision for Delhi.
 (a) Delhi@2026 (b) Delhi@2032 (c) Delhi@2039 (d) Delhi@2047
33. Who has been recently appointed as the special envoy to facilitate the mediation of the dialogue process in Myanmar by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)?
 (a) Shajid Fatehi (b) Haroon Mehmood (c) Erywan Yusof (d) Mohammad Jawwad
34. Which is the 5th country to sign International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement after amendments to it entered into force opening its Membership to all Member States of the United Nations?
 (a) Germany (b) Italy (c) Bulgaria (d) Norway
35. Which of the following Asian countries has joined the Community of Portuguese Language Countries, CPLP as Associate Observer in July?
 (a) China (b) India (c) Indonesia (d) Malaysia
36. Name India’s first indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC), which will be reincarnated as _____ once it is commissioned in August next year.
 (a) INS Vikram (b) INS Vikrant (c) INS Vibhuti (d) INS Vaibhav
37. Recently, Scientists in _____ have developed the world’s first high-resolution, 3D image of a monkey brain, which can one day lead to treatments for diseases such as Parkinson’s.
 (a) India (b) USA (c) Russia (d) China
38. Recently, Noted author and Padma Shri awardee Padma Sachdev passed away at a Mumbai hospital. She was the first modern woman poet of _____ language.
 (a) Dogri (b) Odia (c) Bengali (d) Gujarati
39. Name the Indian boxer who signed off with a bronze medal in the Olympic Games recently.
 (a) Lovlina Borgohain (b) Babby U Longloth (c) Meenakshi Cheema (d) Sushmita Rana
40. Name the Indian Naval Ship that became the first Indian Navy ship to call at the heritage coastal port of Gopalpur in Odisha.
 (a) Kalinjar (b) Khanjar (c) Shamsheer (d) Chetak

41. Who has become the first woman to be appointed as director of the 105-year-old Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)?
 (a) Deepa Chattopadhyay (b) Amrita Gera
 (c) Dhriti Banerjee (d) Sonam Ganguly
42. According to Union Law Ministry, the judge-population ratio in India stood at _____ judges per million people in 2020.
 (a) 17.08 (b) 18.56 (c) 21.03 (d) 24.86
43. Recently, India and _____ have signed 250 million dollar project to make existing dams safe and resilient.
 (a) World Bank (b) IMF
 (c) Asian Development Bank (d) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
44. Name India's ace grappler who got silver medal in 57 kg freestyle wrestling in Tokyo Olympics.
 (a) Ravi Kumar Dahiya (b) Gagan Makhija (c) Rajkumar Narula (d) Yashwant Gaurang
45. Name the Asian country which recently banned sunscreens containing chemicals that damage coral from all of its marine national parks.
 (a) Thailand (b) Seychelles (c) Mauritius (d) Maldives
46. Recently, the world's first 'Meme Museum' has been opened in:
 (a) Paris (b) London (c) Hong Kong (d) Brussels
47. Recently, Parliament has passed the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Bill, 2021. Which of the following states is not among the adjoining areas where any source of pollution may cause adverse impact on air quality in the NCR?
 (a) Haryana (b) Rajasthan (c) Uttarakhand (d) Uttar Pradesh
48. Recently, the Indo – Russia joint training Exercise _____ commenced at Prudboy Ranges, Volgograd in Russia.
 (a) Nomadic Elephant 2021 (b) Surya Kiran 2021
 (c) INDRA 2021 (d) MAITRAYI 2021
49. India is currently holding the presidency of UN Security Council for the month of August. As part of India's presidency, country is organising signature events on three focus areas. Which is not among three focus areas?
 (a) Maritime Security (b) Economic Cooperation
 (c) Counter Terrorism (d) Peacekeeping Operations
50. Recently, Nikol Pashinyan has been officially appointed as the Prime Minister of:
 (a) Armenia (b) Bulgaria (c) Belarus (d) Kazakhstan
51. Recently, A parliamentary panel has recommended renegotiating the Indus Water Treaty with Pakistan. As per the Indus Waters Treaty between India and Pakistan in 1960, all water of _____ river is not allocated to India.
 (a) Ravi (b) Sutlej (c) Chenab (d) Beas
52. Recently, Minister of State for Education Subhas Sarkar participated in the G20 Research Ministers' meeting which was hosted in blended mode by _____.
 (a) Belgium (b) Italy (c) Russia (d) Canada
53. Which of the following countries has recently joined the Coalition on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), an initiative that was launched by India in 2019?
 (a) Germany (b) Canada (c) France (d) Italy
54. Name the chairperson and chief executive of the French luxury conglomerate LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton who is now the world's richest person.
 (a) Bernard Arnault (b) Warren Buffett (c) Mark Zuckerberg (d) Bill Gates

55. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch an Earth Observation Satellite _____ from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, SHAR, at Sriharikota.
 (a) EOS-02 (b) EOS-03 (c) EOS-06 (d) EOS-09
56. The Scientists from India, China, Russia and _____ will carry out genomic sequencing of the novel coronavirus, and also studies on epidemiology and mathematical modelling of the COVID-19 pandemic.
 (a) Brazil (b) South Africa (c) Bulgaria (d) Bangladesh
57. Recently, World champion Ryo Kiyuna beat Spain's Damian Quintero in the final of the men's kata to give _____ their first gold in the new Olympic sport of karate.
 (a) China (b) Japan (c) South Korea (d) Vietnam
58. The Textile Ministry celebrated the 7th National Handloom Day on _____.
 (a) 3rd August (b) 5th August (c) 7th August (d) 9th August
59. Recently, The Khel Ratna Award has been named as _____ Khel Ratna Award.
 (a) Major Dhyan Chand (b) Sachin Tendulkar (c) Pargat Singh (d) Milkha Singh
60. The Travel Union, a _____ initiative, will democratize travel services by providing a platform to Travel Union members (travel agents) towards serving the travel needs of rural customers at every district, block and gram panchayat level.
 (a) Sonu Sood (b) Amitabh Bachchan (c) Akshay Kumar (d) Ajay Devgan
61. Which of the following states has launched eNagar mobile application and portal recently?
 (a) Uttarakhand (b) Rajasthan (c) Gujarat (d) Madhya Pradesh
62. Which of the following states has recently become the first state in the country to issue an order to implement the new Education policy?
 (a) Kerala (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Karnataka
63. Who is to chair the High-level Open Debate on Enhancing Maritime Security – A Case for International Cooperation?
 (a) President Ramnath Kovind (b) Prime Minister Narendra Modi
 (c) Defence Minister Rajnah Singh (d) Home Minister Amit Shah
64. Which of the following in partnership with Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, UK (FCDO UK) has launched 'Swavalamban Challenge Fund' (SCF) recently?
 (a) NABARD (b) SIDBI (c) EXIM Bank (d) State Bank of India
65. The Union Minister of Culture G Kishan Reddy inaugurated an exhibition on the Quit India Movement in New Delhi which has been organised on its _____ anniversary.
 (a) 70th (b) 73rd (c) 75th (d) 79th
66. Recently, Astronomers have spotted a spectacular set of rings around a _____ in an image captured using Nasa's Chandra X-ray Observatory and Neil Gehrels Swift Observatory.
 (a) Black Hole (b) Jupiter (c) Uranus (d) Pulsars
67. Prime Minister Narendra Modi put forward the vision of SAGAR – an acronym for 'Security and Growth for all in the Region' in _____.
 (a) 2014 (b) 2015 (c) 2016 (d) 2018
68. Recently, curtains came down on World's biggest sporting event, the _____ Summer Games with a closing ceremony at the Olympic Stadium in Tokyo.
 (a) 27th (b) 32nd (c) 35th (d) 39th

69. Name the Kerala village that has achieved the distinction of being the first tribal panchayat in the state to be fully vaccinated.
(a) Noolpuzha (b) Wayaans (c) Alipuzak (d) Narayaapur
70. Recently, which of the following states has been awarded the AI Gamechanger Exemplar Award by the NASSCOM?
(a) Karnataka (b) Kerala (c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Telangana



Career
Launcher



ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATION

1. **d** Union home affairs minister Amit Shah laid the foundation of a forensic sciences institute in Lucknow.
2. **b** Deepak Das took charge as the new Controller General of Accounts.
3. **a** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be the first Indian PM to preside over a meeting during India's presidency of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), said Syed Akbaruddin, India's former envoy to UN.
4. **a** The world's first project to produce commercial volumes of an uninterrupted water supply from a sustainable source will launch in Masdar City in Abu Dhabi.
5. **a** Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched e-RUPI, a cashless and contactless instrument for digital payment through video conferencing.
6. **c** Union home minister Amit Shah visited Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh to lay the foundation stone for the Vindhyachal Corridor, dubbed a 'dream project' of the state's chief minister Yogi Adityanath.
7. **a** Odisha's Bhubaneswar has become the first city in India to achieve 100 per cent vaccination coverage against Covid-19.
8. **d** Eutelsat Quantum, the world's first commercial fully re-programmable satellite lifted off from French Guiana on board an Ariane 5 rocket, with the hope of a new era of more flexible communications.
9. **c** Sindhu defeated He Bingjiao of China in the women's singles bronze medal match at the Tokyo Olympics scripting history.
10. **d** World Hepatitis Day, observed on July 28 every year, aims to raise global awareness of hepatitis — a group of infectious diseases known as Hepatitis A, B, C, D, and E — and encourage prevention, diagnosis and treatment.
11. **a** Former Chief Executive Officer of Prasar Bharati Jawhar Sircar was declared elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from West Bengal as the BJP decided not to contest for the seat.
12. **a** The Parliament has passed the Inland Vessels Bill, 2021 with Rajya Sabha approving it amid din. The Lok Sabha has already passed the bill. The legislation is to replace the Inland Vessels Act, 1917.
13. **a** Edition of the Malabar exercise alongside the navies of Japan, Australia, the US in the Western Pacific.
14. **b** Former Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott visited the country during August 2-6 as Prime Minister Scott Morrison's special trade envoy for India to deepen trade and investment ties.
15. **c** The State Administration Council of Myanmar has been reformed as 'Caretaker government of Myanmar' headed by the Chief of the Myanmar military Senior General Min Aung Hlaing as the Prime Minister.
16. **d** Bibin Babu is the Founder of World's First Blockchain Based Payment Application
17. **b** Indian Bank entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE) – an initiative of Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay – for extending exclusive credit facility to Start-ups and MSMEs.
18. **a** Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) announced the launch of the country's first consortium for virtual reality called 'Consortium for VR/AR/MR Engineering Mission in India' (CAVE).

- 19. b** Pioneering weightlifter Laurel Hubbard became the first openly transgender woman to compete at the Olympic Games, but her Tokyo dream was cut short when she crashed out of her final early.
- 20. c** World Lung Cancer Day is observed on August 1. The day, as the name suggests, is meant to raise and create awareness about lung cancer.
- 21. a** The 36th edition of India-Indonesia coordinated patrol (CORPAT) between the Indian Navy and the Indonesian Navy began, according to an official statement by the Indian Navy.
- 22. b** Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee has launched seven new academic programmes in select areas of engineering, architecture, economics, and management along with specialization in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence to cater to the rising demand for new-age technologies.
- 23. a** Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) has launched ‘Adi-Prashikshan Portal’ to act as a central repository of all training programs conducted by Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- 24. d** The Eighth Meeting of Ministers of Justice of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Member States will be attended by Shri Kiren Rijiju, Union Minister of Law & Justice.
- 25. a** India’s flagship military exhibition, DefExpo, will be held at Gandhinagar in Gujarat in March 2022, with a focus on projecting the country as an emerging defence manufacturing hub, one of the top priorities for the government in the defence sector.
- 26. c** Walmart continues to top the Fortune list with a revenue of \$524 billion, followed by China’s State Grid at \$384 billion.
- 27. d** Ebrahim Raisi inaugurated as president of Iran, a country whose hopes of shaking off a dire economic crisis hinges on reviving a nuclear deal with world powers.
- 28. a** The government will implement the Deep Ocean Mission at a total budget of over 4,077 crore rupees for five years. All the components of the Mission will commence in 2021.
- 29. c** Hiroshima Day is observed on August 6 every year. It aims to promote peace politics against the war.
- 30. a** Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Shri Anurag Thakur launched the theme song “Kar De Kamaal Tu” for the Indian Paralympic contingent in New Delhi.
- 31. c** Uttarakhand chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami launched the country’s first early warning mobile application which can alert users before an earthquake.
- 32. d** Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal launched Delhi@2047, an initiative that aims at fostering partnerships with the private sector, CSR initiatives and philanthropic organisations to achieve the vision for Delhi by 2047.
- 33. c** The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has appointed Brunei’s Second Minister for Foreign Affairs Erywan Yusof as its special envoy to facilitate the mediation of the dialogue process in Myanmar.
- 34. a** Germany became the 5th country to sign International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement after amendments to it entered into force opening its Membership to all Member States of the United Nations.
- 35. b** Minister of State for External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi said that India has joined the Community of Portuguese Language Countries, CPLP as Associate Observer in July.
- 36. b** The much-awaited sea trials of India’s first indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC), which will be reincarnated as INS Vikrant once it is commissioned in August next year.

- 37. d** Scientists in China have developed the world's first high-resolution, 3D image of a monkey brain, which can one day lead to treatments for diseases such as Parkinson's.
- 38. a** Noted author and Padma Shri awardee Padma Sachdev, the first modern woman poet of Dogri language, passed away at a Mumbai hospital.
- 39. a** Indian boxer Lovlina Borgohain (69 kg) signed off with a bronze medal in the Olympic Games after a comprehensive 0-5 loss to reigning world champion Busenaz Surmeneli.
- 40. b** Indian Naval Ship Khanjar becomes the first Indian Navy ship to call at the heritage coastal port of Gopalpur in Odisha.
- 41. c** Dhriti Banerjee has become the first woman to be appointed as director of the 105-year-old Zoological Survey of India (ZSI).
- 42. c** The judge-population ratio in India stood at 21.03 judges per million people in 2020. The judge-population ratio in 2018 stood at 19.78 judges per million people and 20.39 in 2019.
- 43. a** India and World Bank have signed 250 million dollar project to make existing dams safe and resilient.
- 44. a** India's ace grappler Ravi kumar Dahiya got silver medal in 57 kg freestyle wrestling.
- 45. a** Thailand has banned sunscreens containing chemicals that damage coral from all of its marine national parks.
- 46. c** The online platform has moved a level-up, and has opened the world's first 'Meme Museum' in Hong Kong.
- 47. c** Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh have been defined as adjoining areas where any source of pollution may cause adverse impact on air quality in the NCR.
- 48. c** The Indo – Russia joint training Exercise INDRA 2021 commenced at Prudboy Ranges, Volgograd in Russia.
- 49. b** These are maritime security, peacekeeping operations, and counter terrorism.
- 50. a** Armenia's acting Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has been officially appointed to the post by the country's president after Pashinyan's party won an early parliamentary election in June.
- 51. c** As per the Indus Waters Treaty between India and Pakistan in 1960, all the waters of the eastern rivers — Sutlej, Beas and Ravi — are allocated to India for unrestricted use. The waters of western rivers — Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab — have been assigned largely to Pakistan.
- 52. b** Minister of State for Education Subhas Sarkar participated in the G20 Research Ministers' meeting which was hosted in blended mode by Italy.
- 53. b** Canada has joined the Coalition on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), an initiative that was launched by India in 2019.
- 54. a** Bernard Arnault, the chairperson and chief executive of the French luxury conglomerate LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton, is now the world's richest person. Bernard Arnault pipped Jeff Bezos after the Amazon founder's net worth fell \$13.9 billion in a day.
- 55. b** The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch an Earth Observation Satellite on August 12 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, SHAR, at Sriharikota. The satellite, EOS-03, will be carried on board the 14th flight of the GSLV.

- 56. a** Scientists from India, China, Russia and Brazil will carry out genomic sequencing of the novel coronavirus, and also studies on epidemiology and mathematical modelling of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 57. b** World champion Ryo Kiyuna beat Spain's Damian Quintero in the final of the men's kata to give Japan their first gold in the new Olympic sport of karate.
- 58. c** Textile Ministry celebrated the 7th National Handloom Day on 7th August.
- 59. a** The Khel Ratna Award has been named as Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award.
- 60. a** Travel Union, a Sonu Sood initiative, will democratize travel services by providing a platform to Travel Union members (travel agents) towards serving the travel needs of rural customers at every district, block and gram panchayat level.
- 61. c** Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has launched eNagar mobile application and portal.
- 62. d** Karnataka Government has issued an order to implement the National Education Policy from the current academic year 2021-22. Karnataka has become the first state in the country to issue an order to implement the new Education policy.
- 63. b** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chair the High-level Open Debate on Enhancing Maritime Security – A Case for International Cooperation.
- 64. b** Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), the principal financial institution engaged in the promotion, financing and development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), in partnership with Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, UK (FCDO UK) has launched 'Swavalamban Challenge Fund' (SCF).
- 65. d** Union Minister of Culture G Kishan Reddy inaugurated an exhibition on the Quit India Movement in New Delhi which has been organised on its 79th anniversary.
- 66. a** Astronomers have spotted a spectacular set of rings around a black hole in an image captured using Nasa's Chandra X-ray Observatory and Neil Gehrels Swift Observatory.
- 67. b** Prime Minister Narendra Modi put forward the vision of SAGAR – an acronym for 'Security and Growth for all in the Region' in 2015.
- 68. b** Curtains came down on World's biggest sporting event, the 32nd Summer Games with a closing ceremony at the Olympic Stadium in Tokyo.
- 69. a** Noolpuzha in Wayanad district in north Kerala has achieved the distinction of being the first tribal panchayat in the state to be fully vaccinated.
- 70. d** An innovative and pathbreaking artificial intelligence driven crowd monitoring programme used by Telangana police during Asia's biggest biennial tribal festival – the Medaram jatara has been awarded the AI Gamechanger Exemplar Award by the NASSCOM.