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# MANTHAN

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**A General Awareness Weekly**

**4<sup>th</sup> October to 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2021**

# PREFACE

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**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



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

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

Namami Gange Programme is an **Integrated Conservation Mission**, approved as a 'Flagship Programme' by the Union Government in **June 2014** to accomplish the twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution and conservation and rejuvenation of National River Ganga. It is being operated under the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti. The program is being implemented by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), and its state counterpart organizations i.e State Program Management Groups (SPMGs). NMCG is the implementation wing of National Ganga Council (set in 2016; which replaced the National Ganga River Basin Authority - NGRBA). National Ganga Council is under chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. It has a **Rs. 20,000-crore, centrally-funded, non-lapsable corpus** and consists of nearly 288 projects.

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

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

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

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

- Government of India has taken a monumental step towards addressing the challenges and problems the elderly population face, through country's first Pan-India toll-free helpline - 14567 – called 'Elder Line'.
- The helpline provides free information and guidance on pension issues, legal issues, extends emotional support, and even intervenes on field in cases of abuse, and rescues homeless elderly. Till date, 17 states have already opened the Elder line and others are in the pipeline to be opened.
- In the last 4 months alone, over 2 lakh calls have been received, and over 30 thousand seniors have already been serviced. Of these, nearly 40 percent calls were related to guidance required in the vaccine and queries related to it and nearly 23 percent of calls were related to pension. India is expected to have nearly 20 percent elderly population which amounts to over 300 million senior citizens by 2050. This age group faces various mental, emotional, financial, legal and physical challenges.
- The intent of 'Elder Line' is to provide all senior citizens with one platform across the country to connect and share their concerns, get information and guidance on problems that they face on a day-to-day basis.

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

### Edayur Chilli and Kuttiaattoor Mango gets G.I. tag

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

### Maharashtra's Famed White Onion Gets Geographical Indication Tag

- The famed white onion of Alibag in Maharashtra's Raigad district has earned itself a 'Geographical Indication', giving the crop a unique identity and wider markets. They pointed out that Alibag's white onion, which has medicinal qualities and is used for the treatment of heart ailments, controlling cholesterol and creation of insulin, has been mentioned in the official gazette as long back as 1883.

- “The agriculture department and Konkan Agriculture University had jointly submitted the GI application on January 15, 2019. On September 29 this year, the proposal was scrutinised in the Mumbai office of the Registrar of Patents and it was decided to confer GI tag on Alibag’s white onion,” an official said.

## GI tag for 7 indigenous products of Uttarakhand

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

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

## PM Narendra Modi inaugurated 3-day Urban conclave in Lucknow

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

Uttar Pradesh is the most populous state in India as well as the most populous country subdivision in the world. It was created on 1 April 1956 as the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh during British rule, and was renamed Uttar Pradesh in 1956, giving the acronym UP. The state is divided into 18 divisions and 75 districts with the capital being Lucknow. On 9 November 2000, a new state, Uttarakhand, was carved out from the state’s Himalayan hill region. The two major rivers of the state, the Ganges and Yamuna, join at Allahabad and flow further east as Ganges. The state contributes 80 seats to the lower house of the Indian Parliament, Lok Sabha and 31 seats to the upper house of the Indian Parliament, Rajya Sabha.

## 5<sup>th</sup> edition of India - Japan Maritime Bilateral Exercise held in Arabian Sea

- The fifth edition of India - Japan Maritime Bilateral Exercise JIMEX between the Indian Navy and the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force was held in Arabian Sea. JIMEX series of exercises commenced in January 2012 with special focus on maritime security cooperation. The last edition of JIMEX was conducted in September 2020.

- **JIMEX-21 aims to develop common understanding of operational procedures** and enhance inter-operability through conduct of a multitude of advanced exercises, across the entire spectrum of maritime operations. **Multi-faceted tactical exercises involving weapon firings, cross-deck helicopter operations and complex surface, anti-submarine and air warfare drills will consolidate coordination developed by the two navies.**
- **Naval cooperation between India and Japan has increased in scope and complexity over years.** JIMEX-21 will further **enhance the cooperation and mutual confidence between the two navies and fortify the long-standing bond of friendship between the two countries.**

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

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

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

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

### India Joins High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People

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

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

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

Mumbai (also known as Bombay, the official name until 1995) is the capital city of the Indian state of Maharashtra. According to the United Nations, as of 2018, Mumbai is the second-most populous city in the country after Delhi and the seventh-most populous city in the world with a population of roughly 20 million. As

per the Indian government population census of 2011, Mumbai was the most populous city in India with an estimated city proper population of 12.5 million living under Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai. Mumbai lies on the Konkan coast on the west coast of India and has a deep natural harbour. In 2008, Mumbai was named an alpha world city. It has the highest number of millionaires and billionaires among all cities in India. Mumbai is home to three UNESCO World Heritage Sites: the Elephanta Caves, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, and the city's distinctive ensemble of Victorian and Art Deco buildings. The seven islands that constitute Mumbai were originally home to communities of Marathi language speaking Koli people.

### Geographical Indication Tag for Kanniyakumari clove

- The spices growers of Kanniyakumari have obtained the Geographical Indication Tag for the clove being grown in the hilly regions of the district as it is known for its rich aromatic oil content.
- Clove, one of the prominent spice crops of the district, is grown on 760 hectares in the densely wooded areas of Maaramalai, Blackrock and Velimalai in the Western Ghats of the Veerapuli Reserve Forests and Mahendragiri.
- The district represents about 73% of the area under clove in Tamil Nadu. Of the total production of 1,100 tonnes of cloves in India, Tamil Nadu accounts for close to 1,000 tonnes, of which over 65% is grown in the district. “The climate in the hilly regions of Kanniyakumari district is ideal for clove cultivation. This region benefits from both the south-west and north-east monsoons.

### Parliament Panels Reconstituted, Congress Leaders Retained As Chairmen

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

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

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

### New Pamban Bridge, India's first vertical lift sea bridge

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

Indian Railways (IR) is the fourth-largest railway network in the world by size. There are a total of 18 Railway zones. South Coast Railway Zone is the newest and 18<sup>th</sup> railway zone, headquartered at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. Ashwini Vaishnaw is currently serving as the Minister of Railways in the Government of India. He was elected as the BJP candidate from Maharashtra for the Rajya Sabha on 3 June 2016. The practice of a

separate **Railway Budget** was started by the British in 1924 under the recommendation of a 10-member Acworth Committee headed by British economist William Mitchell Acworth in 1920-21. On 21 September 2016, Government of India approved the merger of the Railway Budget with the Union budget of India, and thus came to end — a 92-year-old practice of separate rail and general budgets.

### Centre plans major infrastructure push for Buddhist Circuit

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

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

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

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

### 8<sup>th</sup> edition of India-Sri Lanka bilateral joint exercise ‘Mitra Shakti’ commences in Sri Lanka

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

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



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

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

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

### Colonel Mamady Doumbouya sworn in as interim President of Guinea

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

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

### Fumio Kishida sworn-in as new Prime Minister of Japan

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

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

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

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

## Mahalaya celebrated in Bangladesh

- **Mahalaya festival was celebrated across Bangladesh with devotion and piety**. Special puja programmes were organised across temples in the capital city Dhaka and other cities of Bangladesh.
- **Mahanagar Sarbajanin Puja Committee organised a programme marking the Mahalaya at Dhakeshwari National temple** early in the morning to observe Mahalaya.

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

## Oxford University ranked first in the world for Computer Science

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

## Russian film crew in orbit to make first movie in space

- **A Russian actor and a film director rocketed to space on a mission to make the world's first movie in orbit**, a project the Kremlin said will help the nation's space glory.

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

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

### Germany’s Greens meet conservatives for crunch coalition talks

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

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

### Mansukh Mandaviya releases UNICEF’s publication ‘The State of the World’s Children 2021’

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

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



## Tata Sons wins bid for acquiring national carrier Air India

- **Tata Sons will regain control of Air India as it takes over 100 per cent of the government's stake in the national carrier**, marking the end of a protracted struggle to sell the airline and the first step in the Centre's mega privatisation push.
- **The Mumbai-based conglomerate placed a winning bid of Rs 18,000 crore, of which Rs 2,700 crore will be paid in cash and the remaining Rs 15,300 crore will be absorbed from the over Rs 60,000 crore debt the airline had as of August 31, 2021.**
- **The government, in 1953, had taken control of the airline from the Tata Group, which founded the carrier as Tata Airlines in 1932.**
- **Talace Pvt Ltd, a unit of Tata Sons, the holding company for the conglomerate, will acquire 100 per cent of Air India**, said Secretary, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management, Tuhin Kanta Pandey. "In the next steps, the letter of intent will be issued and the share-purchase agreement will be signed, and the transaction is expected to close by the end of December 2021," he said.
- **'Welcome back, Air India,' tweeted Ratan Tata, Chairman Emeritus, Tata Sons.** "On an emotional note," Tata's statement said, "Air India, under the leadership of Mr J R D Tata had...gained the reputation of being one of the most prestigious airlines in the world. Tatas will have the opportunity of regaining the image and reputation."
- Civil Aviation Secretary Rajiv Bansal said the **bidding conditions provide for the Tatas to retain all employees of Air India for one year from the close of the transaction. They can offer a voluntary retirement scheme (VRS) in the second year. Air India has 12,085 employees — 8,084 permanent, and 4,001 contractual. In addition, Air India Express has 1,434 staffers.**
- **The Tata Group cannot transfer the Air India brand or logo for five years and thereafter, can do so only to an Indian entity. The scope of the sale includes 100% of the government's stake in Air India and 100% of the airline's shareholding in low-cost airline Air India Express Ltd and 50% in Air India SATS Airport Services Private Ltd.**

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

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

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

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

## Textiles Ministry approves continuation of Comprehensive Handicrafts Cluster Development Scheme

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

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

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

## After DHFL, Srei becomes 2<sup>nd</sup> NBFC to be taken to NCLT

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

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

- **Axis Bank** has become the first Indian private sector bank to arrange a term **Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) linked trade financing deal**, joining a select group of banks and financial institutions globally who have executed similar transactions.
- The transaction was executed for **Hindalco Industries Ltd**, the world's largest aluminium company by revenue, and linked to **90-day SOFR** financed by Axis Bank's **GIFT City IBU** branch.

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

## Kotak Mahindra Bank becomes 1<sup>st</sup> scheduled private sector bank to collect direct, indirect taxes

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

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

## Visa launches India's first card-on-file tokenization service

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

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

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

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

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

## The world's most powerful passports in 2021

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

## 40<sup>th</sup> edition of India International Trade Fair 2021 to be held at Pragati Maidan

- **The 40<sup>th</sup> edition of India International Trade Fair 2021 will be held from 14<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> November at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi. This year the theme of the fair is Atmanirbhar Bharat which will focus on economy, export potential, infrastructure supply chain, demand and vibrant demography.**
- **The event is being organised as integral part of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsava"- commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> year celebration of India's Independence in newly built halls of International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC) as well as in the existing halls at Pragati Maidan. Apart from trade and industry related conference and seminars, the fair offers branding opportunity on large LED screens installed at strategic locations in fair premises.**
- **Branding sites available at specific locations inside Pragati Maidan on payment basis Besides, other major attractions and promotional facilities include, Mobile application, investment and joint-venture opportunities, transfer of technology option, startups and SMEs cultural and State Day celebrations. The fair will be organised as per the preventive measures to contain spread of the pandemic.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Shifting Gears: South Asia Economic Focus, fall 2021**

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

### **Tesla moving headquarters to Texas from California**

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

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



## Inventions/Discoveries

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

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

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

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

- Pathogen reduction technology (PRT), a proactive approach for improving blood transfusion safety, will soon be available at the King George’s Medical University, which will be the first medical institute in the country to introduce this technology.
- Prof Tulika Chandra, HoD, transfusion medicine at the KGMU made an announcement to this effect during a programme on National Voluntary Blood Donation Day. “PRT is currently in use in Europe and US, and the KGMU will be the first in India to use this technology, which can kill viruses that we currently may not even be aware of,” said Chandra. She said the use of this technology will ensure higher safety levels for patients undergoing blood transfusion with blood issued from the KGMU.

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

- The Sun in our solar system fuels everything, and Earth is just at the perfect spot to support life in the habitable zone, but there is a planet in the distant universe that has not one but three suns. Astronomers have for the first time discovered a planet that is orbiting three stars in its system.

- Located at a distance of 1300 light-years from Earth, the planet has been identified by astronomers from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, in the system GW Ori. Astronomers had so far observed planets with unitary star systems and dual star systems, however, this is the first such discovery of a novel phenomenon.
- Researchers used the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA) telescope to analyse the three observed dust rings around the three stars, which are critical to forming planets.
- However, while studying the data they found a substantial, yet the puzzling gap in the circum-triple disc. They speculated that the gap was created by gravitational torque from the three stars and studied the different origins of the system.
- Jeremy Smallwood, lead author and a recent PhD graduate in astronomy from UNLV said that after constructing a comprehensive model of GW Ori, they found that the more likely, and fascinating, explanation for the space in the disc is the presence of one or more massive planets, Jupiter-like in nature.

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

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

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

### Centre permits 100% FDI in telecom sector

- The Centre informed that it has permitted 100% FDI under automatic route in the telecom services sector. DPIIT states that a “non-resident entity can invest in India, subject to the FDI Policy except in those sectors/activities which are prohibited.
- However, an entity of a country, which shares land border with India or where the beneficial owner of an investment into India is situated in or is a citizen of any such country, can invest only under the Government route.”
- Till now, only 49 per cent of FDI was allowed through the automatic route and anything beyond that had to come via the government route. Telcos, including infrastructure providers, will be covered under the new FDI regime.

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

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

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

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

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

## India's newest Tiger Reserve, No. 4 in Chhattisgarh

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

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

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

## Bharat Biotech to produce world's first malaria vaccine

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

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



## Sports Personalities in News

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

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

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

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

### Nagaland to host 56<sup>th</sup> National Cross Country Championship in January 2022

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

### Hockey India withdraws from 2022 Birmingham CWG, cites Covid concerns

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

### Anshu creates history, becomes first Indian woman wrestler to reach World Ch'ship final

- Anshu Malik created history by becoming the first Indian woman wrestler to reach the World Championship final when she outclassed junior European champion Solomiia Vynnyk even as Sarita Mor lost her semifinal after shocking world champion and will fight for a bronze.
- Only four Indian women wrestlers have won medals at the Worlds and all of them – Geeta Phogat (2012), Babita Phogat (2012), Pooja Dhanda (2018) and Vinesh Phogat (2019) – have clinched bronze.

## Germany unveils logo for soccer's Euro 2024 tournament

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

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

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

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

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



## MISCELLANEOUS

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

- In Uttarakhand, the joint military exercise Surya Kiran-15 between the armies of India and Nepal ended in Pithoragarh. 300 soldiers from both each side took part in the exercise, which started on September 21.
- During the exercise, soldiers of both countries shared counter-insurgency tactics, information about weapons, expertise in the field of counter-terrorism operations, and technical know-how to combat IEDs and booby traps. During the exercise, the soldiers of both countries also destroyed the hideouts of the terrorists. Lt Gen SS Mahal said that the soldiers of both countries learned a lot from the joint exercise.

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

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

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

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

### Defence Secretary launched website [www.indianrdc.mod.gov.in](http://www.indianrdc.mod.gov.in) for Republic Day Celebrations

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

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

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

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

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

## PERSONS IN NEWS

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

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

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

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

### CEA steps down as 3-yr tenure ends

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

### 400 Days book by Chetan Bhagat

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

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

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

# AWARDS

## Abdulrazak Gurnah wins the 2021 Nobel Prize in literature

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

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

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

- Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu has conferred Assam Government’s biennial Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi Award for National Integration and National Contribution at a special function in Guwahati for the year 2021, on October 03, 2021, to three recipients.
- The awardees are Assam branch of Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust, German based Assamese litterateur Dr. Nirod Kumar Barooah and Shillong Chamber Choir at Srimanta Sankardeva Kalakshetra.
- The biennial Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi Award was instituted by the Government of Assam in 1993 in memory of the first Chief Minister of Assam Bharat Ratna Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi. The award carries five lakh rupees each, a citation and an angavastram.
- The Vice President said that Gopinath Bordoloi was a true statesman and we must take inspiration from his works. **The Gopinath Bordoloi Award is named after the first chief minister of Assam after independence and He was a freedom fighter. He was awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1999 posthumously.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Trio win physics Nobel for work that helps understand changing climate

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

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

# IMPORTANT DAYS

## International Day of Older Persons 1 October

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

## World Habitat Day 4 October

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

## World Teachers’ Day

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

## World Cotton Day 7 October

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

## World Post Day 9 October

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

## World Mental Health Day

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

## International Day of the Girl Child 11 October

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

# QUESTIONS

- According to the Ministry of Jal Shakti, which of the following has been declared as the mascot of the Namami Gange Programme?  
(a) Chacha Chaudhary (b) Dogaa (c) Tausi (d) Billu
- Recently, Uttar Pradesh government named who among following actors as the brand ambassador of its ambitious 'one district-one product' programme?  
(a) Priyanka Chopra (b) Kangana Ranaut (c) Hema Malini (d) Deepika Padukone
- Recently, Colonel Mamady Doumbouya was sworn in as Interim President of \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Zambia (b) Gambia (c) Turkey (d) Guinea
- According to a report released by IIFL Wealth and Hurun India, who among the following has retained the title of being the richest Indian for the 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive year?  
(a) Gautam Adani (b) Mukesh Ambani (c) Azim Premji (d) Shiv Nadar
- For the first time in the World, India conducted a practical field trial of Drone for Spraying of Nano Liquid Urea at \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Jaipur in Rajasthan (b) Bhavnagar in Gujarat  
(c) Hisar in Haryana (d) Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh
- Which of the following will be the first medical institute in India to have pathogen reduction technology?  
(a) AFMC (b) King George's Medical University  
(c) AIIMS, Delhi (d) JIPMER
- Recently, In Uttarakhand, the joint military exercise Surya Kiran-15 between the armies of \_\_\_\_\_, that ended in Pithoragarh.  
(a) India and Sri Lanka (b) India and Nepal (c) India and Mauritius (d) India and Maldives
- Name the first woman cricketer who has achieved the double of 5,000 runs and 300 wickets in international cricket.  
(a) Alysse Healey (b) Ellyse Perry (c) Bill Mooney (d) Mithali Raj
- Who among the following author released the trailer of his upcoming book "400 Days"?  
(a) Amish Tripathi (b) Chetan Bhagat (c) Aditya Shergill (d) Dhanraj Kartik
- Recently, The International Day of Older Persons was observed on \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) October 1 (b) October 3 (c) October 5 (d) October 7
- Recently, David Julius and Ardem Patapoutian, from the \_\_\_\_\_, share the 2021 Nobel prize in Medicine or Physiology for their work on sensing touch and temperature.  
(a) United Kingdom (b) Switzerland (c) Norway (d) United States of America
- Recently, Edayur Chilli and Kuttiaattoor Mango became the latest to receive the Geographical Indication status from \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Karnataka (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Lakshadweep (d) Kerala
- The 40<sup>th</sup> edition of India International Trade Fair 2021 will be held from 14<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> November in \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) New Delhi (b) Kolkata (c) Chennai (d) Hyderabad
- The Urban conclave named 'New Urban India: Transforming Urban Landscape' is inaugurated by Prime Minister at:  
(a) Indore (b) Lucknow (c) Patna (d) Guwahati

15. Recently, To showcase the Republic Day Celebrations, which will mark the \_\_\_\_\_ year of Independence-Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, Ministry of Defence has created a new website: www.indianrdc.mod.gov.in.  
(a) 72<sup>nd</sup> (b) 75<sup>th</sup> (c) 76<sup>th</sup> (d) 77<sup>th</sup>
16. Recently, Japan's Parliament elected former Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida as the Prime Minister. He is the \_\_\_\_\_ Prime Minister in the country's political history.  
(a) 50<sup>th</sup> (b) 75<sup>th</sup> (c) 100<sup>th</sup> (d) 120<sup>th</sup>
17. Recently, Astronomers have for the first time discovered a planet that is orbiting \_\_\_\_\_ stars in its system.  
(a) Two (b) Three (c) Four (d) Six
18. Who is the first Indian-American to win the crown of Miss World America 2021?  
(a) Aditi Deshpande (b) Kavita Mohapatra (c) Shree Saini (d) Ananya Paridhi
19. Which of the following Indian states will be hosting the 56<sup>th</sup> National Cross Country Championship in January next year?  
(a) Tripura (b) Nagaland (c) Meghalaya (d) Assam
20. World Habitat Day is celebrated every year on:  
(a) First Sunday of October (b) First Monday of October  
(c) First Saturday of October (d) First Wednesday of October
21. Japanese-born American Syukuro Manabe, German Klaus Hasselmann and Italian Giorgio Parisi won the 2021 Nobel Prize for Physics for work that helps understand complex physical systems such as \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Earth's changing climate (b) Earth's global warming  
(c) Earth's rotation on its own axis (d) Earth's revolution around the sun
22. Recently, The 8<sup>th</sup> edition of bilateral joint exercise Mitra Shakti commenced between \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) India-Sri Lanka (b) India-Maldives (c) India-Mauritius (d) India-Nepal
23. Recently, The famed white onion of \_\_\_\_\_ has earned itself a 'Geographical Indication', giving the crop a unique identity and wider markets.  
(a) Gujarat (b) Maharashtra (c) Rajasthan (d) Madhya Pradesh
24. Which of the following countries had successfully tested launched a Tsirkon (Zircon) hypersonic cruise missile from a submarine for the first time?  
(a) China (b) Russia (c) South Korea (d) North Korea
25. Which of the following countries Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed sworn in for a second five-year term running a country in the grip of a nearly year-long war?  
(a) Eritrea (b) Ethiopia (c) Yemen (d) Turkey
26. Which of the following banks becomes 1<sup>st</sup> scheduled private sector bank to collect direct, indirect taxes?  
(a) Yes Bank (b) RBL bank (c) HDFC Bank (d) Kotak Mahindra Bank
27. World Teachers' Day is held annually on \_\_\_\_\_ to celebrate all teachers around the globe.  
(a) 1 October (b) 2 October (c) 5 October (d) 8 October
28. The world's first tree and plant clinic and hospital with an ambulance has been set up in:  
(a) Hisar (b) Amritsar (c) Lucknow (d) Chandigarh
29. Recently, Hockey India withdraws from 2022 \_\_\_\_\_, cites Covid concerns.  
(a) Birmingham CWG (b) Gold Coast CWG (c) Berlin CWG (d) London CWG

30. Which of the following banks has become the first Indian private sector bank to arrange a term Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) linked trade financing deal, joining a select group of banks and financial institutions globally who have executed similar transactions?  
(a) IDFC First Bank (b) Kotak Mahindra Bank (c) Bandhan Bank (d) Axis Bank
31. Which of the following states has developed India's first smartphone-based e-Voting solution?  
(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Telangana (c) Karnataka (d) Goa
32. Recently, Mahalaya festival was celebrated across \_\_\_\_\_ with devotion and piety.  
(a) Myanmar (b) Bangladesh (c) Mauritius (d) Maldives
33. Recently, Digital payments firm, \_\_\_\_\_ has launched India's card-on-file (CoF) tokenization services in India, in line with the recently issued Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines.  
(a) Mastercard (b) Maestro (c) Visa (d) Rupay
34. Recently, geographical indication (GI) tag has been awarded to \_\_\_\_\_ indigenous products from Uttarakhand.  
(a) Three (b) Four (c) Six (d) Seven
35. Recently, International ratings agency Moody's has upgraded the outlook on India's sovereign rating to \_\_\_\_\_ from Negative.  
(a) Unstable (b) Positive (c) Stable (d) Neutral
36. The fifth edition of \_\_\_\_\_ Maritime Bilateral Exercise JIMEX will be held in Arabian Sea.  
(a) India – Japan (b) India-Mexico (c) India – China (d) India – South Korea
37. Recently, The Centre informed that it has permitted \_\_\_\_\_ FDI under automatic route in the telecom services sector.  
(a) 49% (b) 51% (c) 75% (d) 100%
38. How many scientists have been awarded the 2021 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for their work on building molecules that are mirror images of one another?  
(a) Two (b) Three (c) Four (d) Six
39. Who among the following has created history by becoming the first Indian woman wrestler to reach the World Championship final?  
(a) Deepa Malik (b) Anshu Malik (c) Naina Malik (d) Aditi Thapa
40. Four cotton producers in sub-Saharan Africa– Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali, known as the Cotton Four - proposed the World Trade Organization a World Cotton Day celebration on \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) October 2 (b) October 4 (c) October 7 (d) October 9
41. Which of the following Asian countries officially joined the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People, a group of more than 70 countries encouraging the adoption of the global goal to protect 30x30?  
(a) Bangladesh (b) Japan (c) India (d) Nepal
42. Which of the following Indian cities has logged its name as the first city in India to join the Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative (TUMI) E-Bus Mission?  
(a) Hyderabad (b) Bengaluru (c) Mumbai (d) Kolkata
43. For the second year running the \_\_\_\_\_ has been ranked first in the world for Computer Science in the Times Higher Education 2022 World University Rankings.  
(a) University of Oxford (b) University of Cambridge  
(c) University of California (d) University of Philadelphia

44. Who among the following has become the first Indian fashion designer to drop five NFTs in collaboration with Lakme Fashion Week?  
 (a) Manish Malhotra (b) Shyamak Dawar (c) Vaishnavi Merchant (d) Zoya Akhter
45. Who among the following will bring 7-Eleven Inc.'s convenience stores to India, adding to his burgeoning retail empire in the world's only billion-people-plus consumer market that's open to foreign firms?  
 (a) Gautam Adani (b) Anil Ambani (c) Anil Thadani (d) Mukesh Ambani
46. In a historic move, the \_\_\_\_\_ has endorsed the first anti-malarial vaccine.  
 (a) NITI Aayog (b) World Health Organization (WHO)  
 (c) Union Finance Ministry (d) Union Corporate Affairs Ministry
47. Recently, The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) approved the \_\_\_\_\_ government's proposal to declare the combined areas of the Guru Ghasidas National Park and Tamor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary as a Tiger Reserve.  
 (a) Jharkhand (b) Rajasthan (c) Chhattisgarh (d) Madhya Pradesh
48. Which of the following states becomes first Indian state to begin organised cultivation of Cinnamon?  
 (a) Himachal Pradesh (b) Uttarakhand (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Jharkhand
49. Name the Indian grappler who has scripted history as she became the first Indian woman to win a silver medal in the World Wrestling Championships.  
 (a) Anshu Malik (b) Deepa Malik (c) Anjan Kapadia (d) Manisha Jha
50. Recently, The Nobel prize in literature has been awarded to the novelist \_\_\_\_\_ for his "uncompromising and compassionate penetration of the effects of colonialism and the fate of the refugee in the gulf between cultures and continents".  
 (a) Marc Gram (b) Thomas Buchanan (c) Abdulrazak Gurnah (d) Himand Kutbuch
51. Who among the following won the 2021 Nobel Prize in literature?  
 (a) Alex Tudor (b) Max Buchman (c) Abdulrazak Gurnah (d) Frank Luthar
52. Who has been appointed as chairman of the panel on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice?  
 (a) Kaushik Basu (b) Sushil Kumar Modi (c) Ravi Shankar Prasad (d) Prakash Javadekar
53. Recently, The spices growers of Kanniyakumari have obtained the Geographical Indication Tag for the \_\_\_\_\_ being grown in the hilly regions of the district as it is known for its rich aromatic oil content.  
 (a) Clove (b) Black Pepper (c) Cinnamon (d) Cardamom
54. Uttar Pradesh's third international airport — after Lucknow and Varanasi — will be inaugurated in \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) Gorakhpur (b) Greater Noida (c) Kushinagar (d) Kanpur
55. According to South Asia Economic Focus, India's economy, South Asia's largest, is expected to grow by \_\_\_\_\_ percent in the fiscal year 2021-22.  
 (a) 4.2 (b) 5.5 (c) 6.7 (d) 8.3
56. Recently, Tesla Inc Chief Executive Elon Musk said the electric carmaker plans to move its headquarters from Silicon Valley's Palo Alto, California to \_\_\_\_\_ where it is building a massive car and battery manufacturing complex.  
 (a) Austin (b) Washington D.C. (c) Boston (d) New York
57. Reliance Industries' premium retail unit Jio World Drive announced the opening of its first commercial centre in \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) Kolkata (b) Chennai (c) New Delhi (d) Mumbai

58. India's \_\_\_\_\_ will be producing part of the world's only malaria vaccine that has been developed by Pharma major GSK, and was recently approved by WHO (World Health Organisation).  
(a) Bharat Biotech (b) Sun Pharma (c) Indian Biotech (d) Ranbaxy
59. Who among the following Indian cricketer's famous last-ball six become India's first sports NFT?  
(a) Rohit Sharma (b) Madanlal (c) Dinesh Karthik (d) Virat Kohli
60. World Mental Health Day is observed on:  
(a) 1 October (b) 4 October (c) 8 October (d) 10 October
61. Recently, Chinnor rice produced in Balaghat district of \_\_\_\_\_ has bagged the GI tag.  
(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Telangana
62. Which is India's first vertical lift Railway Sea Bridge?  
(a) New Howrah Bridge (b) New Rameshwaram Bridge  
(c) New Pamban Bridge (d) New Palk Strait Bridge
63. Which of the following ministries has approved continuation of Comprehensive Handicrafts Cluster Development Scheme with a total outlay of 160 crore rupees?  
(a) Ministry of Textiles (b) Ministry of Arts & Handicrafts  
(c) Ministry of Corporate Affairs (d) Ministry of Home Affairs
64. In Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, the plan is to further develop the sites of Bodh Gaya, Nalanda, Rajgir, Viashali, Sarnath, Shravasti, Kushinagar, Kaushambi, Sankisa and Kapilavastu. These sites are linked with:  
(a) Ramayana Circuit (b) Jain Circuit (c) Buddhist Circuit (d) Sufi Circuit
65. In a first-of-its-kind project, \_\_\_\_\_ will soon be home to the world's largest integrated freshwater Aqua Hub proposed to be constructed near Mid Manair Dam in Rajanna-Sircilla district.  
(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Karnataka (c) Telangana (d) Tamil Nadu
66. Which of the following will regain control of Air India as it takes over 100 per cent of the government's stake in the national carrier?  
(a) Tata Sons (b) Adani Wilmar (c) Reliance Industries (d) Godrej Properties
67. Recently, Chief Economic Adviser Krishnamurthy Subramanian announced returning to academia following completion of his \_\_\_\_\_ tenure.  
(a) one year (b) two year (c) three year (d) five year
68. Recently, who was appointed chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee for Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports?  
(a) Harish Dwivedi (b) Vinay P Sahasrabudhe  
(c) Achyut Ranjan (d) Rajeev Chandrashekhar
69. United Nations General Assembly declared \_\_\_\_\_ as the International Day of the Girl Child, to recognize girls' rights and the unique challenges girls face around the world.  
(a) October 1 (b) October 4 (c) October 9 (d) October 11
70. Who has won the best screenplay award for his Marathi-language feature 'The Disciple' at the 15<sup>th</sup> Asian Film Awards?  
(a) Deepak Mohapatra (b) Amit Misra (c) Chaitanya Tamhane (d) Balajeet Vibhuti

## ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATION

1. a In a bid to bring about a behavioural change amongst children towards Ganga and other rivers in the country, Chacha Chaudhary has been declared as the mascot of the Namami Gange Programme, the Ministry of Jal Shakti announced.
2. b The Uttar Pradesh government named actor Kangana Ranaut as the brand ambassador of its ambitious 'one district-one product' programme.
3. d Colonel Mamady Doumbouya was sworn in as Interim President of coastal West African country of Guinea.
4. b With a net worth of Rs 7,18,000 crore, Reliance chairman Mukesh Ambani has retained the title of being the richest Indian for the 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, a report released by IIFL Wealth and Hurun India has said.
5. b For the first time in the World, India conducted a practical field trial of Drone for Spraying of Nano Liquid Urea at Bhavnagar in Gujarat.
6. b Pathogen reduction technology (PRT), a proactive approach for improving blood transfusion safety, will soon be available at the King George's Medical University, which will be the first medical institute in the country to introduce this technology.
7. b In Uttarakhand, the joint military exercise Surya Kiran-15 between the armies of India and Nepal ended in Pithoragarh.
8. b Australia all-rounder Ellyse Perry picked her 300<sup>th</sup> wicket in international cricket – across all three formats of the game. As a result, Perry is now the first woman cricketer to have achieved the double of 5,000 runs and 300 wickets in international cricket.
9. b Bestselling author Chetan Bhagat released the trailer of his upcoming book "400 Days".
10. a The International Day of Older Persons is observed on October 1 each year.
11. d David Julius and Ardem Patapoutian, from the United States, share the 2021 prize in Medicine or Physiology for their work on sensing touch and temperature.
12. d Edayur Chilli and Kuttiaattoor Mango are the latest to receive the Geographical Indication status from Kerala.
13. a The 40<sup>th</sup> edition of India International Trade Fair 2021 will be held from 14<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> November at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.
14. b Prime Minister Narendra Modi was in Lucknow to inaugurate a three day Urban conclave named New Urban India: Transforming Urban Landscape.
15. b To showcase the Republic Day Celebrations, which will mark the 75<sup>th</sup> year of Independence-Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, Ministry of Defence has created a new website: [www.indianrdc.mod.gov.in](http://www.indianrdc.mod.gov.in).
16. c Japan's Parliament elected former Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida as the Prime Minister. He is the 100<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister in the country's political history.
17. b Astronomers have for the first time discovered a planet that is orbiting three stars in its system. Located at a distance of 1300 light-years from Earth, the planet has been identified by astronomers from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, in the system GW Ori.

- 18. c** The first Indian-American to win the crown of Miss World America 2021, Shree Saini of Washington State, is among the most unique pageant winners to be crowned.
- 19. b** Nagaland will be hosting the 56<sup>th</sup> National Cross Country Championship in January next year.
- 20. b** World Habitat Day is marked on the first Monday of October each year, and is recognized by the United Nations to reflect on the state of towns and cities, and on the basic right of all to adequate shelter.
- 21. a** Japanese-born American Syukuro Manabe, German Klaus Hasselmann and Italian Giorgio Parisi won the 2021 Nobel Prize for Physics for work that helps understand complex physical systems such as Earth's changing climate.
- 22. a** The 8<sup>th</sup> edition of India-Sri Lanka bilateral joint exercise Mitra Shakti commenced at the Combat Training School Ampara in Sri Lanka.
- 23. b** The famed white onion of Alibag in Maharashtra's Raigad district has earned itself a 'Geographical Indication', giving the crop a unique identity and wider markets.
- 24. b** Russia had successfully test launched a Tsirkon (Zircon) hypersonic cruise missile from a submarine for the first time, a weapon President Vladimir Putin has lauded as part of a new generation of unrivalled arms systems.
- 25. b** Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed sworn in for a second five-year term running a country in the grip of a nearly year-long war.
- 26. d** Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMBL) has received approval from the government for collection of direct and indirect taxes, such as income tax, Goods and Services Tax (GST) etc, through its banking network.
- 27. c** World Teachers' Day is held annually on 5 October to celebrate all teachers around the globe.
- 28. b** This Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer can crunch vast numbers. While wearing the mantle of Additional Commissioner Income Tax (Amritsar), Mehra is preoccupied with files and forms, but when he returns to his other love, he is busy setting up vertical gardens, micro-forests and spreading the word about his latest initiative - a free hospital for trees, the world's first tree and plant clinic and hospital with an ambulance.
- 29. a** Hockey India withdraws from 2022 Birmingham CWG, cites Covid concerns.
- 30. d** Axis Bank has become the first Indian private sector bank to arrange a term Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) linked trade financing deal, joining a select group of banks and financial institutions globally who have executed similar transactions.
- 31. b** The Telangana government has developed India's first smartphone-based e-Voting solution.
- 32. b** Mahalaya festival was celebrated across Bangladesh with devotion and piety.
- 33. c** Digital payments firm, Visa, has launched India's card-on-file (CoF) tokenization services in India, in line with the recently issued Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines.
- 34. d** Geographical indication (GI) tag has been awarded to seven indigenous products from Uttarakhand
- 35. c** International ratings agency Moody's has upgraded the outlook on India's sovereign rating to Stable from Negative.
- 36. a** The fifth edition of India - Japan Maritime Bilateral Exercise JIMEX between the Indian Navy and the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force will be held in Arabian Sea.

- 37. d** The Centre informed that it has permitted 100% FDI under automatic route in the telecom services sector.
- 38. a** Two scientists have been awarded the 2021 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for their work on building molecules that are mirror images of one another. German-born Benjamin List and Briton David MacMillan were announced as the winners at an event in Stockholm.
- 39. b** Anshu Malik created history by becoming the first Indian woman wrestler to reach the World Championship final when she outclassed junior European champion Solomiia Vynnyk even as Sarita Mor lost her semifinal after shocking world champion and will fight for a bronze.
- 40. c** Four cotton producers in sub-Saharan Africa— Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali, known as the Cotton Four - proposed the World Trade Organization a World Cotton Day celebration on October 7.
- 41. c** India officially joined the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People, a group of more than 70 countries encouraging the adoption of the global goal to protect 30x30.
- 42. c** Mumbai has logged its name as the first city in India to join the Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative (TUMI) E-Bus Mission.
- 43. a** For the second year running the University of Oxford has been ranked first in the world for Computer Science in the Times Higher Education 2022 World University Rankings.
- 44. a** Manish Malhotra has become the first Indian fashion designer to drop five NFTs in collaboration with Lakme Fashion Week.
- 45. d** Mukesh Ambani, Asia's richest man, will bring 7-Eleven Inc.'s convenience stores to India, adding to his burgeoning retail empire in the world's only billion-people-plus consumer market that's open to foreign firms.
- 46. b** In a historic move, the World Health Organization (WHO) has endorsed the first anti-malarial vaccine.
- 47. c** The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) approved the Chhattisgarh government's proposal to declare the combined areas of the Guru Ghasidas National Park and Tamor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary as a Tiger Reserve.
- 48. a** Himachal Pradesh becomes first Indian state to begin organised cultivation of Cinnamon.
- 49. a** Indian grappler Anshu Malik has scripted history as she became the first Indian woman to win a silver medal in the World Wrestling Championships.
- 50. c** The Nobel prize in literature has been awarded to the novelist Abdulrazak Gurnah, for his "uncompromising and compassionate penetration of the effects of colonialism and the fate of the refugee in the gulf between cultures and continents".
- 51. c** Tanzanian Novelist Abdulrazak Gurnah has won the 2021 Nobel Prize in literature for his uncompromising and compassionate penetration of the effects of colonialism and the fate of the refugees in the gulf between cultures and continents.
- 52. b** BJP's Sushil Kumar Modi replaced Bhupender Yadav, now a minister, as chairman of the panel on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice.
- 53. a** The spices growers of Kanniyakumari have obtained the Geographical Indication Tag for the clove being grown in the hilly regions of the district as it is known for its rich aromatic oil content.
- 54. c** Uttar Pradesh's third international airport — after Lucknow and Varanasi — will be inaugurated in Kushinagar.

- 55. d** India's economy, South Asia's largest, is expected to grow by 8.3 percent in the fiscal year 2021-22, supported by increase in public investment to boost domestic demand and incentives schemes to boost manufacturing.
- 56. a** Tesla Inc Chief Executive Elon Musk said the electric carmaker plans to move its headquarters from Silicon Valley's Palo Alto, California to Austin, Texas, where it is building a massive car and battery manufacturing complex.
- 57. d** Reliance Industries' premium retail unit Jio World Drive announced the opening of its first commercial centre in Bandra Kurla Complex area of Mumbai.
- 58. a** India's Bharat Biotech will be producing part of the world's only malaria vaccine that has been developed by Pharma major GSK, and was recently approved by WHO (World Health Organisation)
- 59. c** Dinesh Karthik's famous last-ball six becomes India's first sports NFT.
- 60. d** 10 October is observed as World Mental Health Day.
- 61. c** As Madhya Pradesh continues to fight a legal battle to get Geographical Indication (GI) tag for basmati rice (PB1) produced in the state, Chinnor rice produced in Balaghat district has bagged the GI tag.
- 62. c** India's first vertical lift railway sea bridge, which is expected to be ready for use by March 2020." New Pamban Bridge, India's first vertical lift Railway sea bridge,".
- 63. a** Ministry of Textiles has approved continuation of Comprehensive Handicrafts Cluster Development Scheme with a total outlay of 160 crore rupees.
- 64. c** Centre plans major infrastructure push for Buddhist Circuit.
- 65. c** In a first-of-its-kind project, Telangana state will soon be home to the world's largest integrated freshwater Aqua Hub proposed to be constructed near Mid Manair Dam in Rajanna-Sircilla district.
- 66. a** Tata Sons will regain control of Air India as it takes over 100 per cent of the government's stake in the national carrier, marking the end of a protracted struggle to sell the airline and the first step in the Centre's mega privatisation push.
- 67. c** Chief Economic Adviser Krishnamurthy Subramanian announced returning to academia following completion of his three-year tenure.
- 68. b** Vinay P Sahasrabudhe was appointed chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee for Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports.
- 69. d** United Nations General Assembly declare October 11 as the International Day of the Girl Child, to recognize girls' rights and the unique challenges girls face around the world.
- 70. c** Director Chaitanya Tamhane has won the best screenplay award for his Marathi-language feature 'The Disciple' at the 15<sup>th</sup> Asian Film Awards.