
MANTHAN

A General Awareness Weekly

8th November to 14th November, 2021

PREFACE

Dear Students,

The 'Current Affairs' section is an integral part of any examination. This edition of Manthan has been developed by our team to help you cover all the important events of the Week. This comprehensive bulletin will help you prepare the section in a vivid manner. We hope that our sincere efforts will serve you in a better way to fulfill aspirations.

Happy Reading

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Manipur: ‘Black Rice’ of Kakching Gets GI Tag

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

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

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

Centre declares Srinagar airport as ‘Major Airport’

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

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

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

- In a major recognition of the crafts and arts of Jammu and Kashmir, Srinagar has joined the UNESCO Creative Cities Network 2021, under the crafts and folk arts category.
- The inclusion of Srinagar in the creative city network for the arts and crafts has paved a way for the city to represent its handicrafts on the global stage through UNESCO.
- The UNESCO creative city network involves seven creative fields- arts and folk art, media, film, literature, design, gastronomy and media arts. Only two cities Hyderabad for Gastronomy and Mumbai for Film were chosen during that year.
- Prior to year 2019 only three Indian cities have been recognised as members of UCCN for creative cities namely - Jaipur (Crafts and Folk Arts) in 2015, Varanasi (Creative city of Music) in 2015 and Chennai (Creative city of Music) in 2017. For the year 2020 UNESCO did not call for applications for creative city network.

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

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

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

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

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

- Centre has amended the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules 2011 for enhanced protection of Consumer Rights. The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has omitted the Rule 5 defining the Schedule II prescribing the pack sizes of various types of commodities.
- A new provision has been introduced to indicate the unit sale price on pre-packed commodities, which will allow easier comparison of the prices of the commodities at the time of purchase. The amendments will come into effect from 1st April next year.
- The declaration of date of manufacture on the pre-packed commodities is made mandatory for pre packed commodities under the revised rules. The provisions of declarations of MRP has been simplified by removing illustration and providing for making the mandatory declaration of MRP in Indian currency inclusive of all taxes. This has allowed the manufacturer to declare the MRP on the pre-packed commodities in a simplified manner.
- Pre-packed commodity means any commodity which is placed in a package without the purchaser being present and the product contained therein has a predetermined quantity.
- Companies will be required to print 'unit sale price' on the packaged commodities. For example, a packaged wheat flour of 2.5 kg should have a unit sale price per kg along with the total MRP. This will make it easier for the consumers to ascertain the cost in unit terms.
- The Ministry has scrapped the Schedule 2 of the rules under which 19 types of commodities were to be packed in quantities by weight, measure or number in a specified manner. Now the companies can sell the commodities in any quantity.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NITI Aayog announces five top aspirational districts in education sector

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

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

Union Cabinet approves restoration and continuation of MPLADS

- **The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the restoration and continuation of Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) during the remaining part of Financial Year 2021-22 and up to Financial Year 2025-26 co-terminus with the period of 15th Finance Commission.**

- The annual MPLADS fund entitlement per Member of Parliament (MP) constituency is Rs.5 crore, released in two instalments of Rs.2.5 crore each, subject to the fulfilment of conditions as per the MPLADS Guidelines.
- The MPLADS is a Central Sector Scheme fully funded by Government of India. The objective of the scheme is to enable MPs to recommend works of developmental nature with emphasis on the creation of durable community assets in the areas of drinking water, primary education, public health, sanitation and roads, etc. primarily in their Constituencies.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the first operationalised Private Sector Defence Manufacturing facility in Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor in Lucknow. The facility, run by Aerolloy Technologies, a wholly owned subsidiary of PTC industries, will manufacture parts for Aircraft Engines, Helicopter Engines, Structural parts for aircrafts, Drones and UAV, Submarines, Ultra-Light Artillery Guns, Space Launch Vehicles and Strategy Systems.

- The Minister also laid the foundation stone for an Integrated Metal Manufacturing Facility under PTC industries that will produce key Raw Materials in Titanium and other Exotic Alloys for aerospace applications.
- This plant will significantly reduce the country's dependence on imports for all platforms which require Titanium and Nickel Super Alloys and help in building a strong and Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
- The Defence Minister expressed confidence of increased investments by private companies in the near future and hoped that city of Lucknow and the state will make a mark in the manufacturing domain of defence and aerospace sector.

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

US becomes part of India-led International Solar Alliance

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

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

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

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

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

- Union Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office and MoS for Earth Sciences, Science & Technology as well as Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated DBT - APSCS&T Centre of Excellence for Bioresources and Sustainable Development and Rural Technology Demonstration Centre at Kimin in Papum Pare District of Arunachal Pradesh.

- The Union Government brought an amendment in the North East Council Act that the deprived and neglected section of the society will get special attention and special grants. With this motive for development, the Centre for Excellence has been established in this territorial and north-eastern-most State of Arunachal Pradesh so that the benefits reach the tribal areas.

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

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

- The 6th Edition of Indo France Joint Military Exercise- EX SHAKTI 2021 is being conducted from 15 to 26 November 2021 in Frejus, France. A platoon strength of a Gorkha Rifles Infantry Battalion is representing the Indian Army in this bilateral exercise. The French side is being represented by troops of 21st Marine Infantry Regiment of 6th Light Armoured Brigade.
- Exercise SHAKTI will focus on Counter-Terrorism operations in backdrop of semi-urban terrain under United Nations Mandate with an aim to enhance military cooperation and inter-operability between the two Armies. India and France carry out three biennial training exercises namely, Exercise GARUDA with Indian Airforce, Exercise VARUNA with Indian Navy and Exercise SHAKTI with Indian Army.

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

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

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

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

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



UK unveils commemorative Mahatma Gandhi coin to mark Diwali

- Britain unveiled a new commemorative coin to mark Diwali, celebrating the life and legacy of Indian independence leader Mahatma Gandhi. The special coin, available in gold and silver, features an image of India's national flower, the lotus, and one of Gandhi's most famous quotes: "My life is my message."
- Gandhi, a figurehead for civil rights movements across the world, led the campaign against British rule in India, helping to secure independence in 1947. The coin is designed by Heena Glover. The £5 coin, is part of the Royal Mint's wider Diwali collection, which includes a gold bar depicting the Hindu goddess of wealth, Lakshmi.

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

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

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

Global Drug Index shows how most countries fail drug policy test

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

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

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

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

Egypt to host COP27 international climate conference next year

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

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

Chilean President impeached over Pandora Papers revelation

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

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

Czech PM, government formally resigns after election defeat

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

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

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

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

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

CO2 emissions to rebound in 2022

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

Jonas Gahr Stoere becomes new Prime Minister of Norway

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

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



PM Narendra Modi launches two innovative customer centric initiatives of RBI

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually launched two innovative customer centric initiatives of RBI namely, the Retail Direct Scheme and the Reserve Bank - Integrated Ombudsman Scheme.
- In the presence of Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, the Prime Minister said these schemes will expand the scope of investment in the country and make access to capital markets easier and more secure for investors.
- Emphasizing the citizen centric nature of these schemes, Mr. Modi said the biggest touchstone of any democracy is the strength and proactiveness of its grievance redressal system, adding that the Integrated Ombudsman Scheme will go a long way in that direction.
- Stating that the Retail Direct Scheme will ensure easier and safer access for smaller investors in government securities, the Prime Minister said the provision of guaranteed settlement for government securities gives assurance of safety to citizens to invest their small savings. The account can also be linked to the investor's savings bank account. It may be noted that there will be no charges for opening the Retail Direct Gilt Account.
- The Reserve Bank- Integrated Ombudsman Scheme aims to further improve the grievance redress mechanism for resolving customer complaints against entities regulated by RBI. The central theme of the scheme is based on 'One Nation-One Ombudsman' with one portal, one email and one address for the customers to lodge their complaints. There will be a single point of reference for customers to file their complaints, submit the documents, track status and provide feedback.
- The banking and insurance facilities that were beyond the reach of many have been made accessible to all, including farmers, small traders, women, the deprived and poorer sections of society. He added that more than 1.25 crore beneficiaries, especially MSMEs and small entrepreneurs have strengthened their enterprises by availing loans worth two lakh ninety thousand crore rupees under the Credit Guarantee Scheme.

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

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

- Wipro founder Azim Premji has, for a second straight year, emerged as the country's "most generous" philanthropist billionaire, as he topped the Edelgive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2021, ahead of the likes of Mukesh Ambani, Shiv Nadar, Nandan Nilekani, Kumar Mangalam Birla, Gautam Adani, among others. With a total donation of ₹9713 crore in FY 2021, amounting to ₹27 crore per day, Premji, 76, saw his contribution increase by nearly a fourth.

- **Azim Premji** was followed by HCL's **Shiv Nadar** who was placed on second position with contributions amounting to Rs 1,263 crore for upliftment causes. **Meanwhile, India's richest man, Mukesh Ambani of Reliance Industries came third with Rs 577 crore contribution.** Next up is Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chairman of the Aditya Birla Group with a donation of Rs 377 crore.
- **Nine women found place on the rankings, led by Rohini Nilekani of Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies (₹69 crore),** USV's Leena Gandhi Tewari (₹24 crore) and Anu Aga of Thermax (₹20 crore). Also, Mumbai had the highest number of people on the list (31 per cent), followed by Delhi (17 per cent) and Bengaluru (10 per cent).

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

SBI launches video life certificate for pensioners

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lava becomes first Indian brand to launch 5G smartphone

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

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

India on top of Facebook's 2021 Integrity Prioritisation List

- India came on top of Facebook's Integrity Country Prioritisation list for 2021 — which is an internal list of countries that are at the highest risk of violence, hate speech and misinformation among other harms drawn by the company, now renamed Meta.
- In the Tier I category, India was followed by Pakistan, Syria, Iraq and Ethiopia. The other countries on the list include the Philippines, Yemen, Egypt, Russia and Myanmar, according to disclosures disclosed to the US Securities and Exchange Commission and provided to the U.S. Parliament in a form edited by a legal adviser to former Facebook employee Frances Haugen., Myanmar is included.

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

- India Post Payments Bank has entered into a tie-up with Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company to enable customers, particularly from weaker sections and living in unbanked and underserved areas, to become financially secure and empowered.
- Bajaj Allianz Life Smart Protect Goal and Bajaj Allianz Life Guaranteed Pension Goal are the term and annuity products, which will be offered as per this strategic alliance. Both the products will be available to customers in addition to the Department of Posts' existing Postal Life Insurance and Rural Postal Life Insurance products.

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

Johnson & Johnson announces split, to form two public companies

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

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



Inventions/Discoveries

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

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

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

Astronaut Wang Yaping becomes first Chinese woman to walk in space

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

Lakshadweep becomes the first in India to achieve full COVID vaccination

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

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

COP26: Maharashtra bags top leadership award in Glasgow

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

In a first, rare pink leopard sighted in Rajasthan

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

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

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

Earth’s first landmass emerged in Singhbhum: study

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



Sports Personalities in News

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Oinam Bembem Devi became the first Indian woman footballer, and the seventh overall to receive the prestigious Padma Shri Award. In the process, Bembem joins the elite club of Late Gostho Paul, Late Sailen Manna, Chuni Goswami, PK Banerjee, Bhaichung Bhutia and current Indian Men’s National Team captain Sunil Chhetri as Indian Footballers who won the prestigious Padma Shri Award.

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

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

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

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

Sunil Chhetri becomes first Indian footballer to receive Khel Ratna Award

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

MISCELLANEOUS

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

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

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

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

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

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

'Kumkum Bhindi': UP's new wonder crop

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

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Redeveloped Rani Kamlapati Railway Station in Bhopal

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

PERSONS IN NEWS

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

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

France's Audrey Azoulay Re-Elected As UNESCO Chief

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

Imtiaz Ali appointed as ambassador of Russian Film Festival in India

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

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

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

Justice Ashok Bhushan takes charge as NCLAT Chairperson

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AWARDS

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

- Tokyo 2020 medallists Neeraj Chopra, PR Sreejesh, Lovlina Borgohain and Ravi Kumar Dahiya were among 12 sportspersons honoured with the country's highest sporting honour - the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award. The other Khel Ratna awardees were Indian men's hockey team captain Manpreet Singh, footballer Sunil Chhetri and cricketer Mithali Raj.
- Tokyo Paralympics medallists Avani Lekhara, Pramod Bhagat, Krishna Nagar, Sumit Antil and Manish Narwal also received the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna award for 2021.
- The Khel Ratna Award, officially known as the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award (transl. Major Dhyan Chand Sport Jewel Award), formerly known as the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award in Sports and Games, is the highest sporting honour of India. It is awarded annually by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- The recipient(s) is/are selected by a committee constituted by the Ministry and is honoured for their "spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports over a period of four years" at international level. As of 2020, the award comprises a medallion, a certificate, and a cash prize of Rs.25 lakh (US\$33,000).
- Instituted in 1991–1992, the award was given for the performance by a sportsperson in a year. Based on the suggestions provided by 2014 award selection committee, the Ministry revised the criteria in February 2015 to consider the performance over a period of four years. The nominations for a given year are accepted till 30 April or last working day of April with not more than two sportspersons nominated for each sports discipline. A twelve-member committee evaluates the performances of a sportsperson at various International events like Olympic Games, Paralympic Games, Asian Games, and Commonwealth Games. The committee later submits their recommendations to the Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports for further approval. The award from 1991-2021 was named after Rajiv Gandhi (1944-1991), former Prime Minister of India.
- The award since August 6, 2021 is named after Major Dhyan Chand (1905–79), an Indian field hockey player, widely regarded as one of the greatest field hockey players of all time, who scored more than 1000 goals over a career that spanned over 20 years from 1926 to 1948. The first recipient of the award was Chess Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand, who was honoured for the performance in the year 1991–92. In 2001, sport shooter Abhinav Bindra, then aged 18, became the youngest recipient of the award.
- As many as 35 athletes - including history-making fencer Bhavani Devi, hockey player Vandana Katariya and Tokyo Paralympics medallist Bhavina Patel and Cricketer Shikhar Dhawan - were given the Arjuna Award. Arjuna Award for outstanding performance in Sports and Games is given for good performance over a period of previous four years and showing qualities of leadership, sportsmanship and a sense of discipline.
- Those received the award in this category include Para-Paddler Bhavina Patel, Para-Archer Harvinder Singh, Athlete Arpinder Singh, Sabre Fencer Bhavani Devi, Cricketer Shikhar Dhawan, Tennis Player Ankita Raina, Shooter Abhishek Verma, Mallakhamb player Himani Uttam Parab and Boxer Simranjit Kaur. Eighteen Hockey players including Birendra Lakra, Rupinder Pal Singh, Amit Rohidas, Vandana Katariya and Monika and Para-Badminton player Suhash Yathiraj.
- Besides, Athletics Coach T. P. Oushep and Radhakrishnan Nair P, Cricket Coach Sarkar Talwar, Hockey Coach Sarpal Singh and Pritam Siwach, Kabaddi Coach Ashan Kumar, Swimming Coach Tapan Kumar Panigrahi, Boxing Coach Sandhya Gurung, Para- Shooting Coach Jai Prakash Nautiyal and Table Tennis Coach Subramanian Raman have been conferred with Dronacharya Award by the President.
- Dhyan Chand Award for Lifetime Achievement in Sports and Games has been given to Lekha K. C. for Boxing, Abhijeet Kunte for Chess, Davinder Singh Garcha for Hockey, Vikas Kumar for Kabaddi and Sajjan Singh for Wrestling. Indian Oil Corporation Limited and Manav Rachna Educational Institution have been awarded with Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar for sports promotion and development.
- Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy for 2021 has been given to Punjab University, Chandigarh. President Kovind also gave away Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards-2020 at this juncture.

- Those awarded include Priyanka Mohite and Lt. Col. Jay Prakash Kumar and Col. Amit Bisht for land adventure. Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur and Law Minister Kiren Rijju also attended the function.
- The National Sports Awards are announced by the Indian Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports. The awards are generally given on the occasion of National Sports Day - August 29 (Dhyan Chand's birth anniversary) - but were deferred this year due to the Olympics and Paralympics.

India's first woman Air Marshal awarded Padma Shri

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

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

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

Film festival in Canada honours filmmaker Ali Kazimi with retrospective

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

Mountaineer Priyanka Mohite gets Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award

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

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Radiography Day 2021

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

World Science Day for Peace and Development, 10 November

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

National Legal Services Day

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

National Education Day

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

World Diabetes Day 14 November

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



QUESTIONS

1. Recently, Black Rice of Kakching of _____ has recently been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag under agricultural products of the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act of 1999.
(a) Mizoram (b) Sikkim (c) Manipur (d) Nagaland
2. Recently, the Ministry of Civil Aviation declared the _____ as a “Major Airport”.
(a) Srinagar International airport
(b) Leh International airport
(c) Pakyong International airport
(d) Ahilyabai Holkar International airport
3. Which of the following has become the first among states and Union Territories to achieve complete vaccination coverage of its eligible population?
(a) Lakshadweep (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Jammu & Kashmir (d) Ladakh
4. Which of the following countries unveiled a new commemorative coin to mark Diwali, celebrating the life and legacy of Indian independence leader Mahatma Gandhi, recently?
(a) Britain (b) Canada (c) USA (d) France
5. Name the British Sikh Army officer and physiotherapist who is on a mission to become the first Indian-origin female to complete a solo, unsupported trek to the South Pole.
(a) Captain Harpreet Chandi (b) Captain Manpreet Brar
(c) Captain Sonalika Mintoo (d) Captain Aisha Dhillon
6. Which of the following banks has launched a video life certificate service for pensioners, which will allow pensioners to submit their life certificates via video from their homes?
(a) Punjab National Bank (b) State Bank of India (c) Union Bank of India (d) Canara Bank
7. Name the Director-producer who has been roped in as the ambassador of the Russian Film Festival in India.
(a) Imtiaz Ali (b) Anurag Kashyap (c) Anurag Basu (d) Farhan Akhtar
8. Name the new red variety of ladyfinger, aptly known as _____, which is a wonder crop grown in Uttar Pradesh that will also double farmers’ income.
(a) ‘Kumkum Bhindi’ (b) ‘Laal Bhindi’ (c) ‘Sindoori Bhindi’ (d) ‘Chamko Bhindi’
9. Who is the first undisputed world super middleweight champion who unified all four major belts in less than 12 months?
(a) Saul ‘Canelo’ Alvarez (b) Caleb Plant
(c) Alexander Grant (d) Thomas Yuley
10. Name the Indian mountaineer who was bestowed with the prestigious ‘Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award 2020’ for her outstanding contribution in the field of land adventure.
(a) Shweta Basu (b) Anamuka Jain (c) Priyanka Mohite (d) Atulya Marathe
11. Which of the following cities has recently joined the UNESCO Creative Cities Network 2021, under the crafts and folk arts category?
(a) Indore (b) Madhubani (c) Srinagar (d) Chandigarh
12. Name the former Supreme Court judge who took over as the chairperson of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal.
(a) Justice Ashok Bhushan (b) Justice Nagesh Mahajan
(c) Justice Jasti Chamleshwar (d) Justice Atul Pradhan

13. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's First 'World-class' Rly Station with Airport-like Amenities at _____.
(a) Gujarat Gandhinagar (b) Rajasthan Udaipur (c) Haryana Bhiwani (d) Madhya Pradesh's Habibganj
14. Which of the following was the first movie to be screened at the country's first rooftop drive-in movie theatre, which opened in Maharashtra's Mumbai?
(a) Jai Bhim (b) Sooryavanshi (c) Drishyam 4 (d) Singham 4
15. Which of the following universities has ranked on top above all state-run universities in the country in the QS Asia University Rankings 2022?
(a) Mumbai University (b) Calcutta University
(c) Delhi University (d) Jaipur University
16. Recently, Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal launched the 3rd edition of the Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) report, 2021. Which of the following has been adjudged as the Best Performing State?
(a) Chhattisgarh (b) Gujarat (c) Rajasthan (d) Assam
17. The first Chinese woman to walk in space is
(a) Wang Yaping (b) Zhang Ziang (c) Wang Hais (d) Hening Jepin
18. The first Physical National Yogasana Championships is held in _____.
(a) Bhopal (b) Bhubaneswar (c) Patna (d) Guwahati
19. The first South Indian actress to be invited as a speaker at IFFI is
(a) Samantha Ruth Prabhu (b) Ramya Krishnan
(c) Kajal Agarwal (d) Hanshika Motwani
20. Who won sixth Paris title and record 37th Masters crown?
(a) Andy Murray (b) Roger Federer (c) Daniil Medvedev (d) Novak Djokovic
21. Which of the following recently announced its first global hackathon 'HARBINGER 2021 – Innovation for Transformation' with the theme 'smarter digital payments'?
(a) Ministry of Finance (b) NABARD
(c) SIDBI (d) Reserve Bank of India
22. In the third edition of the Goa Maritime Conclave how many maritime forces will participate in the event?
(a) 5 (b) 7 (c) 9 (d) 12
23. The Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL), which is the world's first fully solar-powered airport, will commission its own hydroelectric project. CIAL constructed a weir dam across the _____ River.
(a) Iruvazhinji (b) Pampa (c) Kallada (d) Neyyar
24. Recently, In a first of its kind global drug policy index 2021, what is the rank of India in this index?
(a) 4 (b) 6 (c) 13 (d) 18
25. Which of the following companies has become the first Indian brand to launch 5G smartphones for domestic consumers?
(a) Micromax (b) Lava (c) Zenn (d) Mobizone
26. Recently, In Table Tennis, Indian pair of _____ and Archana Girish Kamath clinched the women's doubles title in the WTT Contender tournament in Lasko, Slovenia.
(a) Siya Jha (b) Manika Batra
(c) Amrita Kumari (d) Hitakshi Nayyar

27. Recently, The Bangla version of the book _____ about the naval commando operation jointly launched by the Indian Navy and the Mukti Bahini of Bangladesh was launched in Dhaka.
 (a) 'Operation V' (b) 'Operation X' (c) 'Operation Y' (d) 'Operation Z'
28. Which of the following states received "high commendations" in two categories - Climate Partnerships and Creative Climate Solutions?
 (a) Gujarat (b) Maharashtra (c) Rajasthan (d) Uttar Pradesh
29. Every year, World Radiography Day is observed on:
 (a) November 3 (b) November 5 (c) November 7 (d) November 8
30. Recently, A biopic on legendary Kathak danseuse _____ is in the works, the makers announced on account of her 101st birth anniversary.
 (a) Sitara Devi (b) Aparna Devi (c) Janaki Kumari (d) Lila Mehta
31. Recently, NITI Aayog has announced the top five most improved aspirational districts in the education sector for the month of September. Which of the following places tops the ranking?
 (a) Sahibganj in Jharkhand (b) Jaisalmer in Rajasthan
 (c) Bhoopalpalli in Telangana (d) Nuapada in Odisha
32. Recently, Government of India has appointed Vice Admiral _____ as the next Chief of the Naval Staff.
 (a) R. Hari Kumar (b) M Mohan Jha (c) K Manish Gowtham (d) P. Manoj Luthra
33. Recently, President Ram Nath Kovind conferred the honorary rank of General of Indian Army to _____ at a special function at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
 (a) Bhutan Army Chief (b) Bangladesh Army Chief
 (c) Nepal Army Chief (d) Sri Lanka Army Chief
34. For the third year in a row in the global Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) released by Germanwatch on the side-lines of the COP26, India is at _____ position.
 (a) Fifth (b) Seventh (c) Eighth (d) Tenth
35. Recently, The UN cultural agency UNESCO re-elected France's _____ as its director-general for a second mandate, with the former French culture minister hailing a new confidence and unity in the organisation.
 (a) Michail Michi (b) Mithre Gaougale (c) Audrey Azoulay (d) Kerster Kithly
36. Recently, In a first in India, the rare 'pink' leopard was recently sighted in Ranakpur region, located in the Aravalli hills of _____.
 (a) Rajasthan (b) Gujarat (c) Haryana (d) Punjab
37. The first Indian woman footballer, and the seventh overall to receive the prestigious Padma Shri Award is
 (a) Sandhiya Ranganathan (b) Oinam Bembem Devi
 (c) Indumathi Kathiresan (d) Soumya Guguloth
38. Name India's first woman Air Marshall who received the Padma Shri award in the field of medicine by President Ram Nath Kovind.
 (a) Air Marshal Dr Anita Kakkad (Retd.)
 (b) Air Marshal Dr Aditi Thapa (Retd.)
 (c) Air Marshal Dr Padma Bandopadhyay (Retd.)
 (d) Air Marshal Dr Pooja Luthra (Retd.)
39. Name the Indian batsman who completed 3000 T20I runs and became the third cricketer in the world to achieve this feat.
 (a) Virat Kohli (b) Ravindra Jadeja (c) Rohit Sharma (d) K L Rahul

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

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

68. Recently, A new study has challenged the widely accepted view that the continents rose from the oceans about 2.5 billion years ago. The recent research suggests that the earliest continental landmass to emerge may have been in _____ region.
(a) Jharkhand's Singhbhum (b) Odisha Mayurbhanj
(c) Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur (d) Bihar's Darbhanga
69. Recently, UN General Assembly adopted resolution designating _____ as World Diabetes Day.
(a) 4th November (b) 7th November (c) 11th November (d) 14th November
70. Recently, India's first state-based education technology forum has been created in _____.
(a) Gujarat (b) Maharashtra (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Jharkhand



Career
Launcher

ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATION

1. c The Black Rice of Kakching has recently been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag under agricultural products of the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act of 1999. Black Rice is famous for its high nutrient value and gluten-free nature along with its use in traditional medicinal purposes.
2. a The Ministry of Civil Aviation declared the Srinagar International airport as a “Major Airport”.
3. a Lakshadweep has become the first among states and Union Territories to achieve complete vaccination coverage of its eligible population.
4. a Britain unveiled a new commemorative coin to mark Diwali, celebrating the life and legacy of Indian independence leader Mahatma Gandhi.
5. a Captain Harpreet Chandi, known as Polar Preet, will be travelling 700 miles while pulling a pulk or sledge with all of her kit, battling temperatures of minus 50 degrees Celsius and wind speeds of up to 60 mph.
6. b The State Bank of India (SBI) has launched a video life certificate service for pensioners. This new facility will allow pensioners to submit their life certificates via video from their homes.
7. a Director-producer Imtiaz Ali has been roped in as the ambassador of the Russian Film Festival in India.
8. a When ladyfinger goes ‘red’, it also becomes beneficial and nutritious. The new red variety of ladyfinger, aptly known as ‘Kumkum Bhindi’, is a wonder crop grown in Uttar Pradesh that will also double farmers’ income.
9. a Saul ‘Canelo’ Alvarez made history knocking out Caleb Plant in the 11th round to become the first undisputed world super middleweight champion, unifying all four major belts in less than 12 months.
10. c Maharashtra-based mountaineer Priyanka Mohite was bestowed with the prestigious ‘Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award 2020’ for her outstanding contribution in the field of land adventure.
11. c In a major recognition of the crafts and arts of Jammu and Kashmir, Srinagar has joined the UNESCO Creative Cities Network 2021, under the crafts and folk arts category.
12. a Former Supreme Court judge Justice Ashok Bhushan took over as the chairperson of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal.
13. d PM Modi inaugurated India’s First ‘World-class’ Rly Station with Airport-like Amenities at MP’s Habibganj.
14. b Akshay Kumar’s Sooryavanshi was the first movie to be screened at the country’s first rooftop drive-in movie theatre, which opened in Maharashtra’s Mumbai.
15. b Calcutta University has ranked on top above all state-run universities in the country in the QS Asia University Rankings 2022.
16. b As per the report, Gujarat has been adjudged as the Best Performing State while Uttar Pradesh is the top improver.
17. a Astronaut Wang Yaping became the first woman to walk in space after she took part in Shenzhou-13 mission’s first extravehicular activity with mission commander Zhai Zhigang.
18. b Over 500 competitors will take part in the first Physical National Yogasana Championships is held in Bhubaneswar from November 11 to 13.

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

- 37. b** Oinam Bembem Devi became the first Indian woman footballer, and the seventh overall to receive the prestigious Padma Shri Award.
- 38. c** Air Marshal Dr Padma Bandopadhyay (Retd.) received the Padma Shri award in the field of medicine at Rashtrapati Bhavan. India's first woman Air Marshall received the award by President Ram Nath Kovind.
- 39. c** Indian batter Rohit Sharma completed 3000 T20I runs and became the third cricketer in the world to achieve this feat.
- 40. d** World Science Day for Peace and Development is being celebrated on 10th November. The theme of this year is 'Building Climate-Ready Communities'.
- 41. d** The UN climate change conference COP26 in Glasgow has announced that Egypt was chosen to host the upcoming session of the conference in 2022 (COP27).
- 42. b** Union Minister of State Civil Aviation General V K Singh (retd.) launched India's first Centre for Excellence in Research on Drone/UAV Technology and Artificial Intelligence at Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati.
- 43. b** President Sebastian Pinera was impeached by the lower house of Chile's congress, setting up a trial in the nation's Senate over whether to remove him due to allegations he favoured the sale of a family property while in office.
- 44. b** India came on top of Facebook's Integrity Country Prioritisation list for 2021 — which is an internal list of countries that are at the highest risk of violence, hate speech and misinformation among other harms drawn by the company, now renamed Meta.
- 45. a** Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched two innovative customer-centric initiatives of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). "These initiatives are the RBI Retail Direct Scheme and the Reserve Bank - Integrated Ombudsman Scheme".
- 46. b** India Post Payments Bank has entered into a tie-up with Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company to enable customers, particularly from weaker sections and living in unbanked and underserved areas, to become financially secure and empowered.
- 47. d** National Legal Services Day is marked across the country annually on 9 November.
- 48. b** NASA's ambitious Parker Solar Probe spacecraft, studying the Sun at close proximity, is being bombarded with space dust and debris on its way to the Sun.
- 49. c** Star Pakistan wicketkeeper-batsman Mohammad Rizwan is having a sensational run in T20 Internationals in the year 2021.
- 50. a** F.W. de Klerk, who shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Nelson Mandela and as South Africa's last apartheid president oversaw the end of the country's white minority rule, has died at the age of 85.
- 51. c** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the first operationalised Private Sector Defence Manufacturing facility in Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor in Lucknow.
- 52. c** The US became the 101st member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), an inter-governmental organisation formed by India and France to accelerate the global adoption of solar power.
- 53. a** Shri G. Kishan Reddy has conveyed his regards and congratulated the Ministry of Railways and IRCTC for the successful launch of Ramayana Circuit Train. The train will start from New Delhi to Rameswaram and stop at various important places associated with the life of Lord Sri Rama.

- 54. b** India's first state-based education technology forum created in Maharashtra.
- 55. d** Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated DBT - APSCS&T Centre of Excellence for Bioresources and Sustainable Development and Rural Technology Demonstration Centre at Kimin in Papum Pare District of Arunachal Pradesh.
- 56. c** Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babis and his government have resigned in a formal step required by the Constitution following last month's parliamentary election.
- 57. c** After becoming the first Indian footballer to receive the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna award captain Sunil Chhetri said playing for 19 years is the primary reason why he was named for the prestigious award.
- 58. d** President Ram Nath Kovind gave away the National Sports Awards-2021 and Adventure Awards at Rashtrapati Bhavan. This year Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award has been given to 12 sportspersons.
- 59. d** Every year, November 11 is celebrated as National Education day, which commemorates the birth anniversary of independent India's first education minister, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.
- 60. c** Bangladeshi film 'Paayer Tolay Mati Nai' (No Ground Beneath the Feet) directed by Mohammad Rabby Mridha has been included in the international competition section of the 52nd International Film Festival of India (IFFI) to be held at Goa between 20-28 November.
- 61. c** Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the redeveloped Rani Kamalapati Railway Station in Bhopal.
- 62. b** President Ram Nath Kovind promulgated two Ordinances to extend the tenure of Directors of probe agencies Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED) up to five years.
- 63. b** The 6th Edition of Indo France Joint Military Exercise- EX SHAKTI 2021 is being conducted from 15 to 26 November 2021 in Frejus, France.
- 64. c** As part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju launched Citizens' Tele Law Mobile App and felicitated frontline functionaries at a function in New Delhi.
- 65. a** The new centre-left Cabinet of Norway formally took over power after the newly-elected Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Stoere presented a centre-left minority government.
- 66. a** Israel began a nationwide drill to test its readiness in the event of an outbreak of a new, more lethal Covid-19 variant. The 'Omega Drill', deemed as the world's first such exercise.
- 67. b** Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually launched two innovative customer centric initiatives of RBI namely, the Retail Direct Scheme and the Reserve Bank - Integrated Ombudsman Scheme.
- 68. a** A new study has challenged the widely accepted view that the continents rose from the oceans about 2.5 billion years ago. It suggests this happened 700 million years earlier about 3.2 billion years ago and that the earliest continental landmass to emerge may have been Jharkhand's Singhbhum region. The study, by researchers from India, Australia and the US.
- 69. d** In 2007 UN General Assembly adopted resolution designating 14 November as World Diabetes Day.
- 70. b** India's first state-based education technology forum created in Maharashtra.