
MANTHAN

A General Awareness Weekly

9th August to 15th August, 2021

PREFACE

Dear Students,

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

Happy Reading

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The Rajya Sabha passed the Constitution (One hundredth and twenty-seventh amendment) Bill 2021

- The Rajya Sabha passed the **Constitution (One hundredth and twenty-seventh amendment) Bill 2021** to restore the power of State Governments to identify and specify Socially and Economically Backward Classes (SEBCs), which was lost after the Supreme Court's 3:2 judgment in the Maratha quota case.
- **The Lok Sabha had passed the amendment bill.** The opposition supported the bill. The bill was passed with 187 votes favouring it and no vote against it in the upper house.
- **In the Maratha quota case, a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court had held by 3:2 majority that States lacked the power to identify and specify SEBCs after the 102nd Constitutional Amendment, and that such power was with the President of India.**
- Notably, the Supreme Court's majority verdict was **against the stand taken by the Union Government that the 102nd Constitutional Amendment did not affect the power of the states.** The review petition filed by the Union Government seeking a review of the judicial interpretation given to the 102nd amendment was also dismissed.
- **The Bill seeks to restore the power of State governments to identify OBCs that are socially and educationally backward after a Supreme Court order in May 2021 empowered only the Centre to do so. The legislation aims at restoring the power of the States and the Union Territories to make their own OBC list.**
- **According to the Constitution of India, Articles 15(4), 15(5), and 16(4) confer power on a state to identify and declare the list of socially and educationally backward classes. It inserted Articles 338B and 342 A (with two clauses) after Article 342, which said the President of India, in consultation with the Governors, would specify socially and educationally backward classes, taking away the powers of State governments to do so. The bill should be considered as the 105th Constitution Amendment bill after being renumbered.**
- **National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) is made under 102nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2018. It had inserted Articles 338B and Article 342A (with two clauses) after Article 342. Articles 338B deals with the structure, duties and powers of the National Commission for Backward Classes. Article 342A says that the president, in consultation with the governor, would specify the socially and educationally backward classes.**

An amendment of the Constitution can be initiated only by the introduction of a bill in either House of Parliament. The bill must then be passed in each House by a majority of the total membership of that House and by a special majority of not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting. In case of disagreement between the two Houses, there is no provision for a joint sitting. If the amendment seeks to make any change in any of the provisions mentioned in the provision to Article 368, it must be ratified by the Legislatures of not less than one-half of the states. Although there is no prescribed time limit for ratification, it must be completed before the amending bill is presented to the President for his assent.

Indian Navy undertakes bilateral exercise 'Zayed Talwar 2021' with UAE Navy

- Indian Navy undertook bilateral exercise 'Zayed Talwar 2021' with UAE Navy off the coast of Abu Dhabi. INS Kochi, with two integral Sea King MK 42B helicopters, deployed in the Persian Gulf, participated in the exercise.
- UAE participated with UAES AL – Dhafra, a Baynunah class guided missile corvette and one AS – 565B Panther helicopter. As part of the exercise, the ships undertook tactical manoeuvres, Over the Horizon Targeting, Search and Rescue and Electronic Warfare exercises to **enhance interoperability and synergy between the two navies**. Helicopters were extensively used all through the exercise ranging from Search and Rescue serial to passing of targeting data to ships for simulated missile engagement drills.

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 Indian Navy traces its origins back to the East India Company's Marine which was founded in 1612 to protect British merchant shipping in the region. In 1793, the British East India Company established its rule over eastern part of the Indian subcontinent i.e. Bengal, but it was not until 1830 that the colonial navy was titled as His Majesty's Indian Navy. When India became a republic in 1950, the Royal Indian Navy as it had been named since 1934 was renamed to Indian Navy. Admiral Karambir Singh is the current Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) of the Indian Navy.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Ujjwala 2.0 from Mahoba on August 10

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the second phase of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana - Ujjwala 2.0 by handing over LPG connections, at Mahoba, Uttar Pradesh through video conferencing. During the event, the Prime Minister interacted with beneficiaries of the Ujjwala and also addressed the nation.
- During Ujjwala 1.0, launched in 2016, a target was set to provide LPG connections to 5 crore women members of BPL households. Subsequently, the scheme was expanded in April 2018 to include women beneficiaries from seven more categories including SC, ST, most backward classes, tea garden, forest dwellers and Islands.
- Later, the target was revised to 8 Crore LPG connections which was achieved in August 2019, seven months ahead of the target date. In the Union budget for Financial Year 2021-22, a provision for an additional one crore LPG connection under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana was announced.
- These one crore additional connections under Ujjwala 2.0 aim to provide deposit-free LPG connections to those low-income families who could not be covered under the earlier phase of this scheme. The scheme provides a financial support of Rs 1600 for each LPG connection to the BPL households. Along with a deposit free LPG connection, Ujjwala 2.0 will provide first refill and hotplate free of cost to the beneficiaries.
- Also, the enrollment procedure will require minimum paperwork. In Ujjwala 2.0, migrants will not be required to submit ration cards or address proof. A self-declaration for both 'family declaration' and as a 'proof of address' will be sufficient. Ujjwala 2.0 will help achieve the Prime Minister's vision of universal access to LPG.

Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) is the nodal ministry for implementing this scheme. Government has also fixed a target of providing piped gas to 21 lakh homes in 50 districts. Ujjwala is part of the ambitious agenda for behavioural change that will help India transit to a \$5 trillion economy by 2024. Prime Minister mentioned plans to promote "gobar dhan" – tapping cow dung for energy on the occasion of World Bio Fuel Day (10th August). Objectives of the scheme are: 1. Empowering women and protecting their health. 2. Reducing the number of deaths in India due to unclean cooking fuel. 3. Preventing young children from a significant number of acute respiratory illnesses caused due to indoor air pollution by burning fossil fuel.

Government launched 'PM-DAKSH' portal, app to make skill development schemes accessible

- The government launched 'PM-DAKSH' portal and app to make the skill development schemes accessible to the target groups of Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Safai Karamcharis.

- The Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry, in a statement issued said the **Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi (PM-DAKSH) Yojana** is being implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment from the year 2020-21.
- Under the scheme, **eligible target groups are being provided skill development training programmes** on upskilling/reskilling, short term training programme, long term training programme and entrepreneurship development program (EDP).
- **Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Dr Virendra Kumar** launched ‘PM-DAKSH’ portal and ‘PM-DAKSH’ mobile app. The portal is developed by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, in collaboration with the National e-Governance Division. The major aim of the portal is to make skill development schemes accessible to the target groups.

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is a Government of India ministry. It is responsible for welfare, social justice and empowerment of disadvantaged and marginalised sections of society, including scheduled castes (SC), Other Backward Classes (OBC), trans-people and LGBTQ people, the disabled, the elderly, and the victims of drug abuse. Dr. Virendra Kumar Khatik is serving as the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment. He is a Member of Parliament in the 17th Lok Sabha from Tikamgarh.

Parliament passed Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2021

- Parliament has passed the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2021 with the Rajya Sabha approving it. The Lok Sabha has already cleared it.
- The bill seeks to establish a new Central University in Ladakh to ensure an increase in accessibility and quality of higher education and research for the people of the Union territory. The new university will be named as Sindhu Central University.
- The government has allocated Rs. 750 crore for the development of this university in which 2,500 students will be benefited. The Centre had announced the establishment of a new university after scrapping Article 370 with regard to Jammu and Kashmir.
- The Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2021 was passed in the Lok Sabha. It amends the Central Universities Act, 2009. The 2009 Act provides for the establishment of Central Universities for teaching and research in various states. These states include: (i) Andhra Pradesh, (ii) Bihar, (iii) Kerala, and (iv) Haryana.

The Parliament of India (Hindi: Bharatiya Sansad) is the supreme legislative body of the Republic of India. It is a bicameral legislature composed of the President of India and the two houses: the Rajya Sabha (Council of States) and the Lok Sabha (House of the People). The President in his role as head of legislature has full powers to summon and prorogue either house of Parliament or to dissolve Lok Sabha. The President can exercise these powers only upon the advice of the Prime Minister and his Union Council of Ministers. Those elected or nominated (by the President) to either house of Parliament are referred to as Members of Parliament (MP). The Members of Parliament, Lok Sabha are directly elected by the Indian public voting in Single-member districts and the Members of Parliament, Rajya Sabha are elected by the members of all State Legislative Assembly by proportional representation. The Parliament has a sanctioned strength of 543 in Lok Sabha and 245 in Rajya Sabha including the 12 nominees from the expertise of different fields of science, culture, art and history. The Parliament meets at Sansad Bhavan in New Delhi.

World’s highest motorable road built in Ladakh at 19,300 feet by BRO

- World’s highest motorable road has been built in Ladakh at 19, 300 feet by Border Roads Organization (BRO). The organisation has constructed the 52 kilometre long tarmac road in Eastern Ladakh. It passes through Umlingla pass, much above the altitude of Siachen Glacier.
- Umling La Pass will be more challenging for drivers than the famous Khardung La Pass. According to the Defence Ministry, the temperature at this pass can drop to as much as -40 degrees Celsius during peak winter season. Also, the oxygen level at this altitude is about 50 per cent less than at normal places, making it very difficult for anyone to stay here for too long. Umling La Pass has now eclipsed the previous record of 18,953 feet, located in Bolivia. The road connects to a volcano called Uturuncu.

The **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** is a road construction executive force in India that provides support to and is a part of the Indian Armed Forces. BRO develops and maintains road networks in India's border areas and friendly neighboring countries. This includes infrastructure operations in 19 states and three union territories (including Andaman and Nicobar Islands) and neighboring countries such as Afghanistan, Bhutan, Myanmar, Tajikistan and Sri Lanka. Lt Gen Rajeev Chaudhry is the current Director General of Border Roads (DGBR).

Air Force builds one of world's highest mobile ATC towers in Ladakh

- **The Indian Air Force (IAF)** has built one of the world's highest mobile air traffic control towers at the **Advanced Landing Ground in Nyoma, Ladakh**. The ATC controls operations of the fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters operating in the eastern Ladakh region.
- Meanwhile, **India has been considering multiple options of developing airfields in eastern Ladakh including Daulat Beg Oldi (DBO), Fukche and Nyoma** which are at a distance of few minutes from the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China. The Air Force also has deployed the **Igla man-portable air defence missiles** to tackle any aerial incursion by any adversary aircraft.

The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** is the air arm of the Indian Armed Forces. Its complement of personnel and aircraft assets ranks fourth amongst the air forces of the world. Its primary mission is to secure Indian airspace and to conduct aerial warfare during armed conflict. It was officially established on 8 October 1932 as an auxiliary air force of the British Empire which honoured India's aviation service during World War II with the prefix Royal. After India gained independence from United Kingdom in 1947, the name Royal Indian Air Force was kept and served in the name of Dominion of India. With the government's transition to a Republic in 1950, the prefix Royal was removed. The President of India holds the rank of Supreme Commander of the IAF. The rank of Marshal of the Air Force has been conferred by the President of India on one occasion in history, to Arjan Singh. On 26 January 2002, Arjan Singh became the first and so far, only five-star rank officer of the IAF. Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria is the current Chief of the Air Staff of the Indian Air Force, having assumed office on 30 September 2019.

Parliament passes Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2021

- **Parliament has passed the Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2021** with the Rajya Sabha approving it amid din. The Lok Sabha has already passed the Bill. **The bill seeks to dissolve certain existing appellate bodies and transfer their functions to other existing judicial bodies.** It replaces a similar ordinance promulgated in April this year.
- **Parliament has also passed the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2021** with the Lok Sabha clearing it amid din with voice vote. The Rajya Sabha has already approved it. **The Bill seeks to amend the constitutional list of Scheduled Tribes as recommended by Arunachal Pradesh.**
- **It removes the Abor tribe from the list of identified STs in that state and also replaces certain STs with other tribes.**
- **Parliament has passed the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2021** with the Lok Sabha clearing it amid din. The Rajya Sabha has already approved the Bill. **It seeks to amend the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961.** The Lok Sabha passed a bill that seeks to ensure that account holders will get up to Rs 5 lakh within 90 days of the RBI imposing moratorium on their banks from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC).
- **The Bill seeks to provide depositors time-bound access to their insured deposit amount, in case they are restricted from accessing their bank deposits.** It provides that the Corporation will be liable to pay the insured deposit amount to depositors on an interim basis.
- The Bill mandates the Corporation to pay the insured amount to the depositors within 90 days of the date such liability arises. **Parliament has also passed the Limited Liability Partnership (Amendment) Bill, 2021** with the Lok Sabha approving it amid din.
- The Rajya Sabha has already cleared the Bill. **The Bill seeks to amend the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008. The Bill converts certain offences into civil defaults and changes the nature of punishment for these offences.**

World's first Bio-Bank in Ayurveda at AIIA

- **Ayush Minister Sarbananda Sonowal** has assured all help for establishing the first Bio-Bank of the world in Ayurveda at All India Institute of Ayurveda in New Delhi.
- **Mr Sonowal and Minister of State for Ayush, Dr. Munjapara Mahendrabhai** visited the Institute and inaugurated **Multi-Purpose Yoga Hall and Mini Auditorium** on August 08, 2021. Mr Sonowal appreciated the work done by the institute and assured their **full-fledged support for further development of the Institute to make it world's best Ayurveda Institute.**

The Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa and Homoeopathy (abbreviated as AYUSH) is purposed with developing education, research and propagation of indigenous alternative medicine systems in India. As per a recent notification published in the Gazette of India on 13 April 2021, **the Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy), will now be known as the Ministry of Ayush.** The Ministry of Ayush includes the seven traditional systems of healthcare. **Sarbananda Sonowal is the current Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and Minister of AYUSH in the Government of India. He is a former Chief Minister of Assam.**

Census 2021 will be country's first digital census

- **The Union Home Ministry informed that India's upcoming 2021 Census will be the first-ever digital Census in the country** and there is a provision for self-enumeration as well. So, India is going all digital where technology is playing an important role in shaping the new India.
- **The country's 16th Census (Census 2021) will be done digitally. Till now, the process involved visiting every household and filling up forms.** This year, workers going door-to-door will have tablets or smartphones that will let them enter information digitally. For this, there is a provision for self-enumeration, a mobile app for the collection of data and a census portal for management and monitoring of various Census related activities.
- **On February 1 2021, Nirmala Sitharaman, who presented the first paperless Union Budget 2021-22, said the forthcoming census – an exercise to determine the population of the country – would be the first digital census in the history of India.**
- **A mobile app will be launched for the collection of the data.** The Government is also planning to launch a census portal for the management and monitoring of census related activities.
- **The new census portal will need the mobile phone numbers and other details of individuals for logging in. The citizens will be allowed to self-register themselves** and in case of self-enrollment, the individual will have to fill in the required details with the help of relevant codes for each field. After enrollment, an identification number will be sent on the registered number provided by the individual. The same number can be shared with the enumerator to help officials sync the data automatically.

The decennial Census of India has been conducted 15 times, as of 2011. While it has been undertaken every 10 years, beginning in 1872 under British Viceroy Lord Mayo, the first complete census was taken in 1881. Post 1949, it has been conducted by the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. **All the censuses since 1951 were conducted under the 1948 Census of India Act.** The last census was held in 2011, whilst the next will be held in 2021. **But it is postponed due to the covid-19 pandemic.** Vivek Joshi is the current Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India.

Anurag Thakur launched nationwide programme of Fit India Freedom Runs 2.0

- **Fit India Freedom Run being organized as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.** Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports **Anurag Singh Thakur** launched the Nationwide programme of **Fit India Freedom Runs 2.0 to celebrate 75 years of India's Independence.** Fit India Freedom Runs will be organized in **744 Districts, 75 villages in each of the 744 Districts and 30 thousand Educational Institutions across the country.** Through this initiative, more than 7.50 Crore youth and citizen will be reached to take part in the run.

Anurag Singh Thakur is a Member of Parliament in the Lok Sabha from Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh. He is the current Minister of Sports, Youth Affairs and Minister of Information and Broadcasting.

Cleanest city of country Indore now declared as first Water Plus city of country

- **Cleanest city of the country Indore** has now been **declared as the first ‘Water Plus’ city of the country under the Swachh Survekshan 2021**, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said. The results were released by the Central Government.
- **Indore is the number one city in the country for four times in the cleanliness category.** 84 cities of the country had applied in the selection process of Water Plus, out of which only 33 cities were found suitable for ground verification.
- The hard work of the residents of Indore has once again created history in ground verification. **Under the Swachh Bharat Mission Urban, the cities of the country are tested on the basis of various parameters of cleanliness in various categories which includes ODF Plus, ODF Double Plus and Water Plus.**
- **The Water Plus certificate is awarded to cities that have met all the standards of ODF Double Plus.** Also, the residual sewage from residential and commercial establishments is released into the environment only after treatment. Re-use of treated waste water is also ensured for this award.

Swachh Survekshan (Cleanliness survey) is an annual survey of cleanliness, hygiene and sanitation in villages, cities and towns across India. It was launched as part of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, which aimed to make India clean and free of open defecation by 2 October 2019. The first survey was undertaken in 2016 and covered 73 cities (53 cities with a population of over a million, and all state capitals); by 2020 the survey had grown to cover 4242 cities and was said to be the largest cleanliness survey in the world. The surveys are carried out by Quality Council of India. According to the 2020 survey, Swachh Survekshan Results 2020: Indore in Madhya Pradesh retained its position as the cleanest city in India for the fourth consecutive year, according to the Swachh Survekshan 2020 survey results.

India, Saudi Arabia begin first naval exercise

- In a sign of growing defence ties between the two nations, **the naval army of India and Saudi Arabia started their first-ever joint exercise, called the Al-Mohed Al-Hindi Exercise.**
- The Navy said in a statement that its **“visit to Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was set rolling with the Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet (FOCWF), Rear Adm Ajay Kochhar visiting the Fleet Cdr of Royal Saudi Navy’s Eastern Fleet, Rear Adm Majid Al Qahtani”** on August 10, which was held at the King Abdul Aziz Naval Base, “the Headquarters for Saudi Eastern Fleet”.
- **A frontline Indian warship is currently participating in the first naval exercise with Saudi Arabia,** reflecting the growing defence ties between the two sides in the wake of the Indian Army chief’s first visit to the West Asian country. The Navy mentioned that **“on the operational front, gearing up for the maiden bilateral exercise ‘AL-Mohed AL-Hindi’, the team of Indian Navy met with counterparts of the Royal Saudi Navy for a co-ordinating conference at King Abdulaziz Naval base in Al Jubail, Saudi Arabia”.**
- **INS Kochi, the flagship destroyer of the Indian Western Naval Fleet, arrived at Port Al-Jubail for the “Al-Mohed Al-Hindi 2021” exercise. The warship sailed to Saudi Arabia after conducting the “Zayed Talwar” drill with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) off the coast of Abu Dhabi.**

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

First flight to Tezu, India’s easternmost tip, on August 16

- **The easternmost tip of the country in Arunachal Pradesh will finally get its first civilian air connectivity on the 75th year of Independence. Tezu, one of the oldest towns in the frontier state bordering China, will be connected by passenger flights with the rest of the country from August 16. The airline introduced the launch of the maiden flight to hill station in Lohit district from Guwahati.**

Arunachal Pradesh ('Land of Dawn-Lit Mountains') is an Indian state in Northeast India. It was formed from the erstwhile North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA) region, and became a state on 20 February 1987. It borders the states of Assam and Nagaland to the south. It shares international borders with Bhutan in the west, Myanmar in the east, and a disputed border with China in the north at the McMahon Line. Itanagar is the state capital of Arunachal Pradesh. Arunachal Pradesh is the largest of the Seven Sister States of Northeast India by area. Pema Khandu is the current Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh. He is son of former Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh Dorjee Khandu. B. D. Mishra is a former brigadier of the Indian Army. He is the present governor of Arunachal Pradesh.

In a first, Chhattisgarh recognises forest resource rights in an urban area

- Chhattisgarh became the first state to recognise Community Forest Resource Rights in an urban area, with the state government recognising rights of residents of Dhamtari district over 4,127 hectares of forests.
- Community resource rights over 5,544 hectares of forest within the core area of the tiger reserve area were also recognised. Under Forest Rights Act, 2006, Community Forest Resource Right gives gram sabhas the right to protect, regenerate or conserve or manage any forest resources used by the entire community, or village.
- For the first time, forest rights of three wards in Nagari nagar panchayat of Dhamtari district were recognised. The rights recognised in municipal areas are spread over 707.41 hectares for Nagari ward, 678.18 hectares for Churiyara, and 2,746.74 hectares for Tumbahara ward.

The Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006 recognizes the rights of the forest dwelling tribal communities and other traditional forest dwellers to forest resources, on which these communities were dependent for a variety of needs, including livelihood, habitation and other socio-cultural needs. The forest management policies, including the Acts, Rules and Forest Policies of Participatory Forest Management policies in both colonial and post-colonial India, did not, till the enactment of this Act, recognize the symbiotic relationship of the STs with the forests, reflected in their dependence on the forest as well as in their traditional wisdom regarding conservation of the forests. The Act further enjoins upon the Gram Sabha and rights holders the responsibility of conservation and protection of biodiversity, wildlife, forests, adjoining catchment areas, water sources and other ecologically sensitive areas as well as to stop any destructive practices affecting these resources or cultural and natural heritage of the tribals. The Gram Sabha is also a highly empowered body under the Act, enabling the tribal population to have a decisive say in the determination of local policies and schemes impacting them.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi sets 2047 target for becoming 'energy independent'

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi set a target of becoming 'energy independent' by 2047 through a mix of electric mobility, gas-based economy, doping ethanol in petrol and making the country a hub for hydrogen production.
- Highlighting that the country has achieved a milestone of 100 gigawatts of renewable energy capacity ahead of the target of 450 gigawatts by 2030, the Prime Minister said, "The world believes in India's leadership in environmental issues and International Solar Alliance is an example of that." "India is not energy independent. It spends over ₹ 12 lakh crore every year on importing energy. As we celebrate 75 years of Independence, we have to ensure that India becomes self-reliant in energy production, too," PM Modi said.
- Modi said India gives equal emphasis to environmental security as to national security. "Be it biodiversity or land neutrality, climate change or waste recycling, organic farming, India is progressing in all these sectors," the Prime Minister told the nation from the Red Fort. The roadmap for that is to increase usage of natural gas in the economy, setting up a network of CNG and piped natural gas network across the country, blending 20 per cent ethanol in petrol and electric mobility.
- He also said the country aims to become a net-zero carbon emitter by 2030 and highlighted that work was underway for 100% electrification of Indian Railways. "Our actions today will determine our future. Our today will set the theme of our 100 years of India's Independence," said the Prime Minister to conclude his speech.

Narendra Damodardas Modi is serving as the 14th and current Prime Minister of India since 2014. He was the Chief Minister of Gujarat from 2001 to 2014 and is the Member of Parliament for Varanasi. Modi is a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its National Democratic Alliance (NDA). He is also a member of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), a Hindu nationalist volunteer organisation. He is the first Prime Minister born after India's independence in 1947, the second non-Congress one to win two consecutive terms after Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the first from outside the Congress to win both terms with a majority in the Lok Sabha. He was born and raised in Vadnagar, a small town in northeastern Gujarat.

Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu launches State Wide Area Network promoting digital connectivity

- Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu launched the State Wide Area Network (SWAN) providing secure digital connectivity to all district headquarters and local administrative centres across the state.
- The launching ceremony, held live digitally on virtual mode on the SWAN platform for the first time, was joined by 17 district administrations and 98 block level administrations.
- A Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Govt of India funded scheme, Arunachal SWAN (ArSWAN) envisages establishing 184 SWAN Point of Presence (PoPs) in the State. The 184 sites include 1 State Head Quarter, 17 District Head Quarters, and 166 Block & Horizontal Offices.

A State Wide Area Network (SWAN) is one of the core infrastructure components under the National e-Governance Plan of the Government of India. The main purpose of this network is to create a dedicated Closed User Group (CUG) network and provide a secured and high speed connectivity for Government functioning and connecting State Headquarters, District Headquarters, Blocks Headquarters. The SWAN project, which forms a strategic component of the National eGovernance Plan, was approved in March 2005. SWAN is an approved scheme of Department of IT of Government of India claimed to bring speed, efficiency, reliability and accountability of Government-to-government functions.

Government of India notifies plastic waste management amendment rules 2021 prohibiting identified single use plastic items by 2022

- The government on 13 August, 2021, notified the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021, prohibiting identified single-use plastic items by 2022.
- “Thickness of plastic carry bags is to increase from 50 to 75 microns from 30 September 2021 and to 120 microns with effect from 31 December 2022,” a release from the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change said. The Gazette notification for the same that was issued also has ‘Guidelines for Extended Producer Responsibility given legal force.’
- The ministry claimed that the development is in line with the call given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to phase out single-use plastic by 2022. The manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of single-use plastic, including polystyrene and expanded polystyrene, commodities shall be prohibited with effect from the 1 July 2022.
- “Therefore, keeping in view the adverse impact of littered plastic on both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, the ministry has notified the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021, which prohibits identified single-use plastic items which have low utility and high littering potential by 2022,” the release said.
- Single-use plastic is a form of plastic that is disposable, which is only used once and then has to be thrown away or recycled like water bottles, straw, cups etc. The Central Pollution Control Board, along with state pollution bodies, will monitor the ban, identify violations, and impose penalties already prescribed under the Environmental Protection Act, 1986. The plastic packaging waste, which is not covered under the phase out of identified single use plastic items, shall be collected and managed in an environmentally sustainable way through the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) of the Producer, importer and Brand owner (PIBO), as per Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016. The ban will not apply to commodities made of compostable plastic. For banning other plastic commodities in the future, other than those that have been listed in this notification, the government has given industry ten years from the date of notification for compliance.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) of India is a statutory organisation under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (Mo.E.F.C.C.). It was established in 1974 under the Water (Prevention and Control of pollution) Act, 1974. The CPCB is also entrusted with the powers and functions under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. It serves as a field formation and also provides technical services to the Ministry of Environment and Forests under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) is currently held by Bhupender Yadav, Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Bhupender Yadav is an Indian politician from Rajasthan. He is a Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha, representing the state of Rajasthan.

India added four more sites recognised as wetlands of international importance under Ramsar

- India added another feather in its cap when four more sites - two each from Haryana and Gujarat - were recognised as wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. After the latest addition, India now has 46 such sites, the Union environment ministry said.
- Haryana's Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary is a human-made freshwater wetland. It is also the largest in Haryana. The Sultanpur National Park supports more than 220 species of resident, winter migratory and local migratory waterbirds at critical stages of their life cycles.
- The Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary in Gujarat lies on the Central Asian Flyway and more than 320 bird species can be found here. Meanwhile, the Wadhvana Wetland in Gujarat is internationally important for its birdlife as it provides wintering ground to migratory waterbirds, including over 80 species that migrate on the Central Asian Flyway.
- According to environment ministry, the aim of the Ramsar list is to develop and maintain an international network of wetlands which are important for the conservation of global biological diversity and for sustaining human life through the maintenance of their ecosystem components, processes and benefits.
- The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands is an intergovernmental treaty adopted on February 2, 1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar, on the southern shore of the Caspian Sea. It came into force for India on February 1, 1982. Those wetlands which are of international importance are declared as Ramsar sites. Last year, Ramsar declared 10 more wetland sites from India as sites of international importance.
- India has maximum wetlands in South Asia - 7.7 lakh - covering the country's 4.6 per cent geographical area, according to a report of NGO Wetland International. The 46 Ramsar sites in India include the Chilika Lake in Odisha, Keoladeo National Park in Rajasthan, Harike Lake in Punjab, Loktak Lake in Manipur and Wular Lake in Jammu and Kashmir. The World's largest Mangrove forest is located in Sundarbans Reserve Forest.

PM Narendra Modi announces national infrastructure plan worth Rs 100 lakh crore

- Gati Shakti will be a National Infrastructure Master Plan for our country which will lay the foundation of holistic Infrastructure announced by PM Modi on the eve of Independence day. This scheme of more than 100 lakh crores rupees will result in new employment opportunities for lakhs of youth.
- The plan will help raise the global profile of local manufacturers and help them compete with their counterparts worldwide. It also raises possibilities of new future economic zones. He said, 100 lakh crore rupees Gati Shakti initiative will bring employment opportunities for youth and help in holistic infrastructure growth.

A similar plan, called the National Infrastructure Pipeline was previously announced. In the budget speech of 2019-2020, Finance Minister announced an outlay of Rs 100 lakh Crore for infrastructure projects over the next 5 years. NIP is a first-of-its-kind initiative to provide world-class infrastructure across the country and improve the quality of life for all citizens. It will improve project preparation, attract investments (both domestic & foreign) into infrastructure, and will be crucial for attaining the target of becoming a \$5 trillion economy by FY 2025. It covers both economic and social infrastructure projects. The task force headed by Atanu Chakraborty on National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP), in May 2020, submitted its final report to the Finance Minister. The centre (39 percent) and state (40 percent) are expected to have an almost equal share in implementing the projects, while the private sector has 21 percent share.



UN's Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change releases its 6th assessment report

- The United Nation's Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change, of which India is one of the 195 members, has released its sixth assessment report. IPCC released its Sixth Assessment Report "Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science".
- The Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the sixth in a series of reports intended to assess scientific, technical, and socio-economic information concerning climate change. This report evaluates the physical science of climate change – looking at the past, present, and future climate. It reveals how human-caused emissions are altering our planet and what that means for our collective future.
- United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres called the IPCC's assessment, the most detailed review of climate science ever conducted and code red for humanity. Countries should also end all new fossil fuel exploration and production and shift fossil fuel subsidies into renewable energy.
- In its first major scientific assessment since 2014, the IPCC said that Earth's average surface temperature is projected to hit 1.5 or 1.6 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels at around 2030, no matter what trajectory greenhouse gas emissions take in the meantime.
- Carbon dioxide has been and will continue to be the dominant cause of global warming under all greenhouse gas emissions scenarios. It says, if greenhouse gas emissions are halved by 2030 and net zero by 2050, global warming can be stopped.
- Also, IPCC report vindicates India's position that historical cumulative emissions are the source of the climate crisis that the World faces today.
- Mr Guterres said, the alarm bells are deafening and the evidence is irrefutable; greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel burning and deforestation are choking our planet and putting billions of people at immediate risk.
- He called on world leaders to ensure the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow, UK in November leads to ramped up emissions cuts and finance to countries already dealing with the fallout from global heating.
- The report highlights that our climate is rapidly changing due to human influence and is already altering our planet in drastic ways –Arctic Sea ice is at its lowest level in more than 150 years; Sea levels are rising faster than at any time in at least the last 3,000 years; and Glaciers are declining at a rate unprecedented in at least 2,000 years.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is an intergovernmental body of the United Nations mandated to provide objective scientific information relevant to understanding human-induced climate change, its natural, political, and economic impacts and risks, and possible response options. It was established in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), with subsequent endorsement by the United Nations General Assembly the same year. Membership is open to all member states of the WMO and UN, and currently comprises 195 countries.

Indian Army contingent to participate in International Army Games – 2021 in Russia

- A 101 member contingent of the Indian Army will proceed to Russia to participate in International Army Games – 2021 from 22 August to 4th September 2021.

- **The contingent will participate in Army Scout Masters Competition**, Elbrus Ring, Polar Star, Sniper Frontier and Safe Route games showcasing various drills in High Altitude Area terrain, operations in snow, sniper actions, combat engineering skills in obstacle ridden terrain in the various competitions.
- **Participation in these annual games is a reflection of the level of professionalism of the Indian Army amongst the world Armies.** The competition also fosters military to military cooperation while building upon the best practices of participating nations. It may be recalled that **India stood first amongst the eight countries that had participated in Army Scouts Master Competition 2019 in Jaisalmer.**

India ranked 122nd in 2020 Global Youth Development Index

- **India is ranked 122nd in the 2020 Global Youth Development Index**, which measures the status of young people in 181 countries around the world. **Singapore ranked top for the first time followed by Slovenia, Norway, Malta and Denmark.**
- **Singapore ranked top for the first time followed by Slovenia, Norway, Malta and Denmark. Chad, the Central African Republic, South Sudan, Afghanistan and Niger finished at the bottom, respectively.**
- **The 2020 Global Youth Development Index reveals that the conditions of young people have improved around the world by 3.1 per cent between 2010 and 2018, but the progress remains slow.**
- **The Commonwealth Secretariat released its triennial rankings of youth development in 181 countries**, with 156 of them recording at least slight improvements in their scores.
- **The YDI is a resource for researchers, policy-makers and civil society**, including young people, to track progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) associated with youth development.

Putin suggests creation of maritime security body in UNSC

- **Russian President Vladimir Putin suggested the creation of a maritime security body in the United Nations Security Council to address maritime crimes, piracy and maritime terrorism.**
- **UNSC maritime security conference chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Putin vowed that Moscow will ensure security in the Persian Gulf and the Atlantic Ocean** amid a surge across the globe in piracy-related incidents including robbery at sea accompanied by taking of hostages.
- **The Russian president added that the proposed structure could rely on the support of UN member states** and that it could actively cooperate with experts, representatives of civil society, scientists, and even business people.
- He said **Russia is also interested in building productive relations with the Indian Ocean Rim Association and the Indian Ocean Commission.** The high-level debate on 'Enhancing Maritime Security - A Case for International Cooperation' at the UNSC held through video conference was chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations. Under the Charter, the Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It has 15 Members, and each Member has one vote. Under the Charter, all Member States are obligated to comply with Council decisions. The permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (also known as the Permanent Five, Big Five, or P5) are China (formerly the Republic of China), Russia (formerly the Soviet Union), France, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Antonio Guterres is a Portuguese politician and diplomat who is serving as the ninth Secretary-General of the United Nations. Previously, he was the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees between 2005 and 2015.

China's Hotan most polluted city in 2020, Ghaziabad at 2nd place: Report

- **Bangladesh was the most polluted country across the world in 2020, followed by Pakistan, India and Mongolia**, according to a report prepared by British company HouseFresh.
- While the Chinese city of Hotan in Xinjiang province has been named the most polluted city, Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh took the second spot on the list with an average PM2.5 concentration of 106.6 µg/m³. PM2.5 refers to fine particulate matter suspended in the air that is two and a half microns or less in width.

- **The air pollution in China's Hotan, with a PM2.5 of 110.2 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, was largely attributed to local sandstorms given its proximity to the Taklimakan Desert, the world's largest shifting sand desert. In the case of Ghaziabad, the report says massive traffic volumes in the "gateway" to Uttar Pradesh were likely the cause of the high levels of air pollution.**
- **Of the 50 most polluted cities worldwide, 49 are in Bangladesh, China, Pakistan, and India.** The report on the world's best and worst places for clean air in 2020 was prepared based on the average value of PM2.5 concentration in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ by collecting data from Swiss air quality expert IQAir. Countries with less than five cities were not included in the list.
- **The Tasmanian city of Judbury in Australia topped the list of cities with the cleanest air with a PM2.5 level of 2.4 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.** Kailua Kona in Hawaii, US, and Muonio in Finland were the next best places in 2020 for clean air, with PM2.5 concentrations of 2.6 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and 2.8 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ respectively.

Canada's parliament dissolved, snap polls on Sept 20

- **Canada will have snap polls on September 20 over two years before the tenure of the ruling Liberal Party government was to end. Canada's governor-general Mary Simon agreed to dissolve parliament following a request from the country's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.** However, with Trudeau's holding a lead in opinion surveys, he will seek to convert the present minority for his ruling Liberal Party into a majority. **Canada is the world's second-largest country by total area.**

History came full circle on August 15 when the Taliban captured Kabul

- **History came full circle on August 15 when the Taliban captured Kabul, almost 20 years after the U.S. launched its global war on terror. The city of roughly 5 million people fell to the Islamist insurgents without even a fight while Afghan President Ashraf Ghani fled the country, and the Americans abandoned their Embassy and rushed to Kabul airport.** It was a surreal moment for the U.S., which had pledged to defeat the Taliban in every corner of Afghanistan, and a tragedy for the Afghans, who were left at the mercy of a murderous militia.
- **The last time the Taliban were in power, women were not allowed to work. They had to cover their faces and be accompanied by a male relative outside their homes. Girls were not allowed to go to school.** The Taliban had also banned TV, music, painting and photography, handed out brutal forms of punishment to those violating their Islamic code, and persecuted minorities. The chaotic scenes from Kabul airport, where people are desperately trying to cling on to airplanes hoping to leave the country, bear testimony to their fear of the Taliban.
- **This is a historic development that will have lasting implications for global geopolitics. Unlike 1996, this is not only about the Taliban taking power. This is also about an Islamist group with a medieval mindset and modern weapons defeating the world's most powerful country. The U.S. can say in its defence that its mission was to fight al-Qaeda and that it met its strategic objectives. But in reality, after spending 20 years in Afghanistan to fight terrorism and rebuild the Afghan state, the U.S. ran away from the battlefield, embarrassing itself and leaving its allies helpless.** The images from Arg, the presidential palace in Kabul, and the airport will continue to haunt President Joe Biden and the U.S. for a long time. In 1996, when the Taliban took Kabul, the government did not flee the country. Ahmad Shah Massoud and Burhanuddin Rabbani retreated to the Panjshir valley from where they regrouped the Northern Alliance and continued resistance against the Taliban. This time, there is no Northern Alliance. There is no government. The whole country, except some pockets, is now firmly under the Taliban's control. The Taliban are also more receptive to regional players such as China and Russia, while Pakistan is openly celebrating their triumph. It remains to be seen what kind of a regime a stronger Taliban will install in Kabul. If the 1990s are anything to go by, darker days are ahead in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan is a landlocked country at the crossroads of Central and South Asia. It is bordered by Pakistan and India to the east and south, Iran to the west, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan to the north, and China to the northeast. It is inhabited by 31.4 million people as of 2020, with 4.6 million living in the capital and largest city, Kabul. Hibatullah Akhundzada is the third Supreme Commander of the Taliban and the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. Abdul Ghani Baradar is the First Vice Emir of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. The afghani is the currency of it.



In a world first, South Africa grants patent to an artificial intelligence system

- At first glance, a recently granted South African patent relating to a “food container based on fractal geometry” seems fairly mundane. The innovation in question involves interlocking food containers that are easy for robots to grasp and stack.
- On closer inspection, the patent is anything but mundane. That’s because the inventor is not a human being – it is an artificial intelligence (AI) system called DABUS. DABUS (which stands for “device for the autonomous bootstrapping of unified sentience”) is an AI system created by Stephen Thaler, a pioneer in the field of AI and programming.
- The system simulates human brainstorming and creates new inventions. DABUS is a particular type of AI, often referred to as “creativity machines” because they are capable of independent and complex functioning.
- The patent application listing DABUS as the inventor was filed in patent offices around the world, including the US, Europe, Australia, and South Africa. **But only South Africa granted the patent (Australia followed suit a few days later after a court judgment gave the go-ahead).**

Artificial Intelligence System (AIS) was a distributed computing project undertaken by Intelligence Realm, Inc. with the long-term goal of simulating the human brain in real time, complete with artificial consciousness and artificial general intelligence. They claimed to have found, in research, the “mechanisms of knowledge representation in the brain which is equivalent to finding artificial intelligence”, before moving into the developmental phase. In the year 1956, American computer scientist John McCarthy organised the Dartmouth Conference, at which the term ‘Artificial Intelligence’ was first adopted. From then on, the world discovered the ideas of the ability of machines to look at social problems using knowledge data and competition.

Government buries retrospective tax, introduces Bill to amend Income Tax Act

- Putting an end to the contentious retrospective tax law that hit the confidence of foreign investors, including Vodafone and Cairn, for years, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced a Bill in Parliament to nullify the provision in the Income Tax Act.
- The government has also proposed to refund the amount paid in litigation by companies without any interest thereon. Finance Secretary T V Somanathan told, the total amount involved for all cases is about Rs 8,100 crore, of which about Rs 7,900 crore is related to the Cairn dispute. The Bill would withdraw the retrospective amendments to the Income Tax Act that had raised demands on Vodafone, Cairn and some others, indicating a move to attract foreign investments.
- The retrospective tax law was passed in 2012 following a Supreme Court verdict in favour of US-based Vodafone. The then UPA government amended provisions of the Income-tax Act, 1961, through the Finance Act, 2012, with retrospective effect, to clarify that gains arising from sale of share of a foreign company is taxable in India if such share, directly or indirectly, derives its value substantially from the assets located in India. Apart from India, many countries including the USA, the UK, the Netherlands, Canada, Belgium, Australia and Italy have retrospectively taxed companies.

Retrospective Taxation allows a country to pass a rule on taxing certain products, items or services and deals and charge companies from a time behind the date on which the law is passed. Countries use this route to correct any anomalies in their taxation policies that have, in the past, allowed companies to take advantage of such loopholes. Retrospective Taxation hurts companies that had knowingly or unknowingly interpreted the tax rules differently.

India's tax collections on goods sold and services rendered returned to over Rs 1 lakh crore in July.

- In what can be seen as a sign that economic activity is picking up pace in the country, **India's tax collections on goods sold and services rendered returned to over Rs 1 lakh crore in July. The figures are an improvement from the previous month** when lockdown-like restrictions were imposed in most states to contain the second wave of Covid-19.
- **Goods and Services Tax (GST) mop-up grew 33 per cent year-on-year in July to over Rs 1.16 lakh crore, indicating that the economy is recovering at a fast pace. In July 2020**, the collection was Rs 87,422 crore. This is the second highest collection so far this fiscal after a record Rs 1.41 lakh crore mop-up in April.
- In the current fiscal, GST mop-up touched a record high of over Rs 1.41 lakh crore in April, but fell to over Rs 1.02 lakh crore in May after the outbreak of the second wave. **In June, collection slipped below the psychological Rs 1 lakh crore mark to Rs 92,849 crore followed by a sharp rebound in July to Rs 1.16 lakh crore.**
- In a statement, the Union Finance Ministry said robust GST revenues are likely to continue even in the coming months. **The gross GST revenue collected in the month of July 2021 is Rs 1,16,393 crore of which Central GST (CGST) is Rs 22,197 crore, State GST (SGST) is Rs 28,541 crore, Integrated GST (IGST) is Rs 57,864 crore (including Rs 27,900 crore collected on import of goods) and cess is Rs 7,790 crore (including Rs 815 crore collected on import of goods).**

Goods and Services Tax (GST) is an indirect tax (or consumption tax) used in India on the supply of goods and services. It is a **comprehensive, multistage, destination-based tax**: comprehensive because it has subsumed almost all the indirect taxes except a few state taxes. Multi-staged as it is, **the GST is imposed at every step in the production process**, but is meant to be refunded to all parties in the various stages of production other than the final consumer and as a destination-based tax, it is collected from point of consumption and not point of origin like previous taxes. **The tax came into effect from 1 July 2017 through the implementation of the One Hundred and First Amendment of the Constitution of India** by the Indian government. **The GST replaced existing multiple taxes levied by the central and state governments. Goods and services are divided into five different tax slabs for collection of tax: 0%, 5%, 12%, 18% and 28%. However, petroleum products, alcoholic drinks, and electricity are not taxed under GST and instead are taxed separately by the individual state governments, as per the previous tax system. The Goods and Services Tax (GST) is governed by the GST Council. Article 279 (1) of the amended Indian Constitution states that the GST Council has to be constituted by the President within 60 days of the commencement of the Article 279A. It's Chairman is Union Finance Minister of India.**

First India Internet Governance Forum will start From October 20

- The Government of India has announced **its plan to host the first India Internet Governance Forum (IIGF), organized at Electronics Niketan, New Delhi.**
- Scheduled for three days, commencing from October 20, 2021, **the theme of 2021 event is 'Inclusive Internet for Digital India'**. Over 10,000 participants are expected to participate in this 3-day event.
- **The coordination committee of India Internet Governance 2021 features Anil Kumar Jain as Chairman, TV Ramchandran as Vice-Chairman, Jaijeet Bhattacharya as Vice Chairman, Dr Rajat Moona as Vice-Chairman and approximately 12 members representing Government, Civil Society, Industries, Trust, Associations etc.**
- **The prime objective of the forum is to generate discussions about policy formation related to the Internet.** Further, the forum will also become a starting point for identifying something that retards or halts the free movement and progress of Internet policies and trying to resolve this one by one.

Four Indian airports in Skytrax in top 100 airport list for 2021; Mumbai falls & Delhi rises in rankings

- **Four Indian airports — Delhi, Hyderabad, Mumbai and Bengaluru — found a place in the world's 100 best airports** by UK-based airline and airport review consultancy Skytrax.
- **The list — World's Top 100 Airports 2021 — has Delhi at number 45 (up five places from number 50 in 2020), Hyderabad at 64 (up seven from 71 in 2020), Mumbai at 65 (down 13 from 52nd rank in 2020) and Bengaluru at 71 (down three places from 68th rank in 2020).**
- **The top five in Skytrax's World's Top 100 Airports 2021 list are — Doha Hamad (number 3 in 2020), Tokyo Haneda (second spot in 2020 also). The Hamad International Airport in Doha, Qatar, has been named the "Best Airport in the World".**

The Skytrax World Airport Awards list is compiled by UK-based Skytrax, a consultancy firm that runs an airline and airport review and ranking site, featuring 100 airports. The Skytrax World Airport Awards are voted for by customers in a global airport customer satisfaction survey.

In a first, India's NSE IFSC to introduce trading in US stocks

- **NSE International Exchange, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the National Stock Exchange of India, has announced that trading in select US Stocks will soon be facilitated through the NSE IFSC platform.** The offering will be in the form of unsponsored depository receipts.
- **IFSCA has facilitated the same under the Regulatory Sandbox. The entire trading, clearing, settlement and holding of US Stocks will be under the regulatory structure of IFSC Authority.**
- **This initiative is a first of its kind at IFSC where Indian retail investors will be able to transact on the NSE IFSC platform under the Liberalized Remittance Scheme limits prescribed by the Reserve Bank of India.**

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

IDFC FIRST Bank signs up with Indian Navy to offer Honour FIRST banking solutions

- **IDFC FIRST Bank announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Navy to offer Honour FIRST, a premium banking solution, to serving personnel and veterans of the Indian Navy.**
- **Keeping in mind the needs of the Armed Forces and its veterans, the bank claims that the Honour FIRST Defence account was specially designed.** Account-holders of Honour FIRST is supported by a dedicated team of defence veterans.
- **The MoU for Honour FIRST was signed at the Naval Headquarters in New Delhi between Commodore Neeraj Malhotra, Commodore – Pay and Allowances, Indian Navy and senior officials of IDFC FIRST Bank. This defence account comes with a range of features such as a zero-balance salary account that earns up to 5 per cent interest per annum.**
- **Account-holders also get a free enhanced Personal Accident Insurance Cover of Rs 46 lakhs for both on-duty and off-duty incidents.** This not only covers accidental death but also total and partial permanent disability. This Personal Accident Insurance Cover includes a Child Education Grant of Rs 4 lakhs, and a marriage cover of Rs 2 lakh.

IDFC First Bank (formerly IDFC Bank) in Mumbai that forms part of IDFC, an integrated infrastructure finance company. The bank started operations on 1 October 2015. IDFC FIRST received a universal banking licence from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in July 2015.

TikTok replaces Facebook as most downloaded app of 2020

- **TikTok was the world's most downloaded app last year, overtaking Facebook** and its messaging platforms, market tracker App Annie.
- **The Chinese-owned video app surged in popularity despite efforts by former president Donald Trump to ban it** or force a sale to US-based investors, according to the research firm.
- **TikTok, owned by China-based ByteDance, is believed to have one billion users worldwide including more than 100 million in the United States**, and its short-form videos are especially popular with young smartphone users.

TikTok, known in China as Douyin is a video-sharing focused social networking service owned by Chinese company ByteDance. ByteDance was founded by Zhang Yiming in 2012. The social media platform is used to make a variety of short-form videos, from genres like dance, comedy, and education, that have a duration from fifteen seconds to three minutes. TikTok is an international version of Douyin, which was originally released in the Chinese market in September 2016. Later, TikTok was launched in 2017 for iOS and Android in most markets outside of mainland China; however, it only became available worldwide after merging with another Chinese social media service, Musical.ly, on 2 August 2018. The app has been banned by the government of India since June 2020 along with 223 other Chinese apps in response to a border clash with China.

Parliament passes General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2021

- **Parliament has passed the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2021** with the Rajya Sabha approving it. The Lok Sabha has already passed the bill. The Bill seeks to amend the **General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972. It provides a greater private sector participation** in the public sector insurance companies.
- **The Bill removes the mandatory provision of 51 percent shareholding of the central government in General Insurance Corporation of India, National Insurance, New India Assurance, Oriental Insurance and United India Insurance companies.**

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

Gautam Adani, Nita Ambani & KM Birla top philanthropic leaders in India

- **Indian business tycoons Gautam Adani, Nita Ambani and Kumar Mangalam are among 100 Indians in the list of corporate leaders** who have made a mark through their philanthropic activities across the world.
- **The list, which is first of its kind, was released by Indiaspora, a US-based diaspora body**, with guidance from nine jurors and drawing from multiple sources, including reputed studies, earlier verified lists and publicly shared documents.
- **“Topping the list are industrialist Gautam Adani, Nita Ambani and Kumar Mangalam Birla from India; Monte Ahuja, Ajay Banga and Manoj Bhargava from US; Sonam Ajmera, Bob Dhillon and Aditya Jha from Canada; Mohamed Amersi, Manoj Badale and Kujinder Bahia from the United Kingdom.”**
- **Gautam Adani is the chairman and founder of the Adani Group — an Ahmedabad-based multinational conglomerate. Nita Amabani is the chairperson and founder of the Reliance Foundation a director of Reliance Industries while Kumar Mangalam is the chairman of the Aditya Birla Group, one of the largest conglomerates in India.**
- **The Indiaspora 2021 Philanthropy Leaders List aims to recognize Indian and diaspora leaders across the globe for their philanthropic contributions and engagements.**

Nadir Godrej to take over as chairman of Godrej Industries, Adi Godrej to step down

- Godrej Industries Limited (GIL) announced that Nadir Godrej will take over as the Chairman and Managing Director of Godrej Industries. Adi Godrej will step down as the Chairman and from the Board of Directors of GIL. The aforementioned changes will be effective from October 1.
- According to the GIL regulatory filing, Adi Godrej will continue to serve as Chairman of the Godrej Group and Chairman Emeritus of GIL. While Nadir Godrej who is currently the Managing Director of GIL, will take over as Chairman and Managing Director of the company.

Godrej Group is an Indian multinational conglomerate headquartered in Mumbai, which is managed and largely owned by the Godrej family. It was founded by Ardeshir Godrej and Pirojsha Burjorji Godrej in 1897, and operates in sectors as diverse as real estate, consumer products, industrial engineering, appliances, furniture, security and agricultural products. Its subsidiaries and affiliated companies include Godrej Industries and its subsidiaries Godrej Consumer Products, Godrej Agrovet, and Godrej Properties, as well as the private holding company Godrej & Boyce Mfg. Co. Ltd.

UNICEF India, Facebook collaborate to make a safer digital world for children

- Facebook was launching a one-year joint initiative with UNICEF India on ending violence against children with a special focus on online safety.
- The company said the partnership seeks to create a safe environment for children online as well as offline, and that it aims to improve the ‘resilience’ and ‘capacity’ of children to access the digital world safely, increase awareness on violence against children and its impact on children, families, and communities, as well as increase skills of communities and frontline workers to better prevent and respond to violence.
- The partnership will include a nation-wide social media awareness campaign, and capacity building for 100,000 school children on online safety, digital literacy, and psychosocial support.

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

Indian Railways to get first aluminium coaches by early 2022

- Indian Railways is likely to get its first batch of aluminium bodied coaches by February 2022. In a technological shift for railways, the Modern Coach Factory (MCF) in Raebareli is looking to manufacture aluminium coaches.
- The first sets of 3 coaches for Kolkata Metro are expected to be ready by early next year. These Rajdhani style sleeper coaches will have speed potential of 160 kmph. Of these 8 coaches, 4 will come fully assembled and the rest will be received in knocked-down condition and assembled.

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 and Commerce 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.



Inventions/Discoveries

ISRO launched earth observation satellite

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

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

UN science panel to release key report on climate change

- A UN-appointed panel of experts is releasing a key report summarizing the latest authoritative scientific information on climate change. The report will provide governments with up-to-date facts on the current impacts and future risks of global warming ahead of a UN climate summit in November in Glasgow. It will also examine how various options to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will affect the pace of climate change over the coming decades.
- Almost 200 countries have signed up to the landmark Paris climate accord, which aims to keep global warming below 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit), ideally no more than 1.5 degrees C (2.7 F), by the end of the century compared to pre-industrial times.
- Previous reports by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change found that those goals were achievable if drastic changes are made to the world economy in the coming decades.

- But since the last report was published in 2013, scientists have increasingly been **saying that the 1.5-degree C goal is probably out of reach now because warming of more than 1 degree C** has already taken place and further rises in temperature are “locked in” due to the emissions already in the atmosphere.

BRICS for partnership in strengthening agro-biodiversity for food security

- **BRICS nations have pitched for closer ties in strengthening agro-biodiversity to ensure food and nutrition security.** The issue was discussed in the working group of agriculture represented by top agriculture officials from **Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS)** virtually. The group stressed on having closer ties in strengthening cooperation and research in the field of agriculture.

BRICS is the acronym for an association of five major emerging national economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. Originally the first four were grouped as “BRIC” (China, Brazil, Russia and India), before the induction of South Africa in 2010. In 2009, the first BRIC Summit was held in Yekaterinburg, Russia.

IIT Guwahati invents biodegradable low-cost composite wound dressing film

- **Indian Institute Of Technology (IIT) Guwahati researchers have invented a Biodegradable low-cost Composite Transparent Wound Dressing Film.**
- This material, based on the integration of a synthetic polymer, is **non-toxic in nature and will create a moist environment that would enable the body to heal on its own through the endogenous enzymes**, according to recent research. The laboratory-scale development was found to be at least 50 percent economical in comparison with similar commercial materials.
- **IIT Guwahati has created the knowledge framework and associated protocols** for successful identification and optimization of polymer hydrogel films for the probable wound dressing applications.

About 96,000 salmon die after chlorine leak in Arctic Norway

- **About 96,000 farmed salmon are believed to have died when a leak in a nearby tank sent 15,000 liters (4,000 gallons) of chlorine into a fjord in Arctic Norway.** The chlorine is used to disinfect the water after the slaughtering.
- **Roger Pedersen, a spokesman for the salmon farming company Grieg Seafood, said the leak happened at one of its fish slaughterhouses in the town of Alta and the fish were in a waiting cage nearby at the time.**

Delhi gets its first animal DNA lab set up in Rohini

- **In a first, the Capital got an “Animal DNA Laboratory” set up at the Forensic Science Laboratory in Rohini.**
- **Before this, samples used to be sent to other States that have animal DNA testing facilities for the test results.** Sometimes, the process delayed investigations. Now, the laboratory can examine and identify the animal species of meat products, frozen meat packing, slaughter cases and more.

Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) is a molecule composed of two polynucleotide chains that coil around each other to form a double helix carrying genetic instructions for the development, functioning, growth and reproduction of all known organisms and many viruses. DNA and ribonucleic acid (RNA) are nucleic acids. Alongside proteins, lipids and complex carbohydrates (polysaccharides), nucleic acids are one of the four major types of macromolecules that are essential for all known forms of life.

Kaziranga becomes India’s first national park to be equipped with satellite phones

- **Assam’s Kaziranga National Park (KNP) became the first national park in India to be equipped with satellite phones.** An official of the Kaziranga National Park said that the step to equip the forest personnel with satellite phones would boost anti-poaching measures in the park.
- **The Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) procured the ten satellite phones for the National Park at an estimated cost of Rs 16 lakh.** BSNL will be the service provider and the park authorities will bear the monthly expenses.

DMK government presents exclusive farm budget, first in TN

- In sync with its poll promise, the DMK government presented a budget in the Tamil Nadu Assembly exclusively for agriculture featuring schemes for the overall development of the farm sector, including one for self-sufficiency and farm growth in villages.
- Presenting the budget, Minister for agriculture and farmer's welfare, M R K Panneerselvam said the views of farmers and experts were sought and the budget was prepared based on their views. "The agriculture budget is the aspiration of farmers. It is a dream of nature lovers." This is the first time a separate budget for agriculture is presented in Tamil Nadu.
- The government cut tax on petrol by Rs. 3 a litre, costing the exchequer Rs. 1,160 crore, and waived loans worth Rs. 2,756 crore to self-help groups from co-operative credit societies.

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

New species of snake with 'bindi' on body discovered in Assam

- A team of scientists from India, the United Kingdom, and the United States have discovered a new species of snake in Assam – the first such find from the state in over a century – that is characterised by a red mark on its body that resembles a "bindi".
- The new species has been named 'Rhabdophis bindi' as it has "a distinct roughly rhomboidal red-coloured nuchal spot/blotch which is absent from all other species" of the genus Rhabdophis, which has 27 species found across south, east and south-east Asia. "The species is named due to its unique red marking on the back of the neck reminiscent of the 'red beauty spot' adorning foreheads of Indian women called 'bindi'."

2 new species of dinosaurs, as big as the blue whale, found in China

- Scientists have discovered two new species of dinosaurs in northwest China, a region where dinosaur fossils had never been found before. The study said the fossils from three different dinosaurs about 130 to 120 million years ago were found in China's Turpan-Hami Basin about 2 to 5 km apart.
- Scientists named the species *Silutitan sinensis* or "silu" and *Hamititan xinjiangensis* named for where the fossil specimen was found in Xinjiang. They have said that "silu" means the "Silk Road" in Chinese Mandarin pinyin, "in memory the great trade routes which connected the East and West". "Hami" refers to the Hami city where the specimen was found.

The Silk Road Economic Belt is the 'Belt' part of the One Belt One Road initiative (also known as the BRI). It is part of an ambitious plan by the Chinese government to promote infrastructural development and connectivity and stimulate economic integration across the Eurasian region. It is expected that both the land-based Silk Road Economic Belt and the sea-based 21st Century Maritime Silk Road both will play a crucial role in this regard.



Sports Personalities in News

Neeraj Chopra wins Gold in Javelin Throw at Tokyo Olympics

- In Tokyo Olympics, **India's Javelin throw star Neeraj Chopra created history by winning the first ever Gold Medal in Olympic track and field event.**
- **Neeraj Chopra became only the second Indian to win an individual gold in the Olympics**, out-performing the field by quite a distance to notch up the first track-and-field Games medal for the country.
- The 23-year-old farmer's son **from Khandra village near Panipat in Haryana produced the second throw of 87.58m in the finals to stun the athletics world and end India's 100-year wait for a track and field medal in the Olympics.**
- **Chopra won the country's seventh medal and first gold in this Olympics and joined shooter Abhinav Bindra (2008 Beijing Games) as India's individual gold winners in the showpiece.** With this, the country surpassed the previous best haul of six medals achieved in the 2012 London Games.
- **Neeraj Chopra took the flag for India at the Tokyo Olympics closing ceremony.** Earlier, **Abhinav Apjit Bindra won gold in the 10-meter air rifle event at the 2008 Summer Olympics** and that was also **India's first Olympic gold medal since 1980.**
- **On 19 February 2021, it was announced that Russia would compete under the acronym "ROC" after the name of the Russian Olympic Committee** although the name of the committee itself in full could not be used to refer to the delegation. The ROC team would be represented by the flag of the Russian Olympic Committee.
- **On 6 April 2021, North Korea announced that it would not participate in the 2020 Summer Olympics because of COVID-19 concerns.** This marks North Korea's first absence from the Summer Olympics since 1988.
- **The opening ceremony was held on 23 July 2021 in the Olympic Stadium in Tokyo.** It included the traditional Parade of Nations. **Emperor Naruhito formally opened the Games, and at the end of the torch relay the Olympic cauldron was lit by Japanese tennis player Naomi Osaka.**
- **For the first time in the 2020 Olympic Games, it was decided that one male and one female in each country would take turns holding flags and serve as two of them.** This was done by **embodying the "Agenda 2020"** set during President Bach's term.
- **Overall, India finished with seven medals — one gold, two silver and four bronze — the country's best ever finish at the Games.** **Wrestler Bajrang Punia who bagged a Bronze in Tokyo Olympics, led the Indian contingent out during the parade of athletes at the closing ceremony.**
- **For the first time ever in a handover ceremony at the Olympic Games, the national anthem of the next host country was delivered on film as part of Paris 2024's presentation.**
- **Overall, India finished 48th in the medals table.** **USA took the top spot with 113 medals, China (88) came second and hosts Japan (58) are third.**

Wrestler Bajrang Punia bags Bronze Medal in 65 kg category

- **Wrestler Bajrang Punia won the bronze medal in the men's freestyle 65 Kg category at the Tokyo Olympics 2020.** He defeated Kazakhstan's Daut Niyazbekov 8-0 in the bronze medal match. This was India's sixth medal in the Tokyo Olympics thus equaling the London Olympic record of six medals.

AFI to celebrate August 7, Neeraj's Olympic gold winning day, as National Javelin Day

- **The day Neeraj Chopra scripted history by winning Olympic gold medal at Tokyo Olympics, August 7, will be celebrated as National Javelin Day by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI).** The 23-year-old Chopra became only the second Indian to win an individual Olympic gold in Tokyo on August 7, when he clinched the yellow metal in javelin throw with a best effort of 87.58m.

James Anderson Becomes first fast bowler in the world to bowl more than 35,000 balls in Test Cricket

- **James Anderson Record: England pacer James Anderson has become the first fast bowler in the world to bowl more than 35,000 balls in Test cricket.** The list also includes Sri Lanka's Muttiah Muralitharan (44,039 balls), India's Anil Kumble (40,850 balls) and Australia's Shane Warne (40,705 balls). Anderson is followed by West Indies' Courtney Walsh (30,019 balls), England's Stuart Broad (29,863) and Australia's Glenn McGrath (29,248).

130th Edition of Durand Cup Football Tournament scheduled to be held at Kolkata

- **130th Edition of Durand Cup Football Tournament is scheduled to be held at Kolkata** from 5th of September to 3rd of October this year.
- **Durand Cup is the world's third oldest and Asia's oldest football tournament.** It was first held in 1888, at Dagshai, Himachal Pradesh. It is named after Mortimer Durand, who was then the Foreign Secretary in- Charge of India.
- **The tournament was a conscious way to initially maintain health and fitness amongst the British troops, but was later opened to civilians.** Currently, it is one of the leading sports event in the world.

Geeta Samota becomes first CAPF officer to scale Europe's highest peak

- **Sub Inspector Geeta Samota has scaled Mount Elbrus in Russia, the highest peak in Europe.** With this, the 31-year-old became the first Central Armed Police Forces officer to achieve the feat. "Conquered Mount Elbrus, 5642 mtrs / 18,510 ft, the highest peak of Russia and of European Continent.

Nehru Yuva Kedra organises Fit India Freedom Run 2.0 in Hyderabad

- **As part of Fit India Freedom Run 2.0 launched** by the Union Youth Affairs Sports Ministry across the country, the Nehru Yuva Kedra, Telangana region held the Fit India Run from Charminar in Hyderabad.

Giorgi knocks out Pliskova to win title at Montreal

- **Camila Giorgi completed a stunning run at the National Bank Open, beating Wimbledon finalist Karolina Pliskova to win the title in her first WTA 1000 final.**
- **Pliskova was playing in her first tournament since a three-set loss to top-ranked Ash Barty in the Wimbledon final.**

Chhattisgarh to have 4 new districts

- Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel greeted people on the country's 75th Independence Day and announced the creation of four new districts in the state as well as development of parks exclusively for women in all districts of the state.
- "Taking the process of decentralisation further, **four new districts will be created - namely Mohla-Manpur, Sakti, Sarangarh-Bilaigarh and Manendragarh**, while 18 new tehsils will also be formed."

Project Vijayak of BRO restores road communication between Kargil & remote Zaskar valley

- In Kargil Ladakh, Project Vijayak of Border Roads Organization has restored the road communication between Kargil and remote Zaskar valley by launching a 100 feet Class 40R Bailey Bridge at Sangrah on NH 301.
- Brigadier Ashish Ghambir Chief Engineer Project Vijayak of BRO said that the Karmayogis of BRO worked tirelessly from morning till late night for 96 hours to complete the bridge and open it for traffic thus bringing much needed relief and succour to the **commuters between Kargil and Zaskar**.

J&K: LG Manoj Sinha inaugurates "Bungus Awaam Mela" at Bungus Valley

- In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha inaugurated the "Bungus Awaam Mela" at Bungus Valley in north Kashmir's Kupwara district amidst grand arrangements for village games, exhilarating local performances, and other activities to celebrate the 75th year of Independence Day at Bungus valley.
- Mr Sinha observed that J&K is progressing rapidly in every sphere of life and the administration is working continuously towards achieving the goal of building a sustainable and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir.

Ladakh to host the first edition of Himalayan film festival from September 24

- The union territory of Ladakh is hosting the first edition of The Himalayan Film Festival 2021 (THFF) from September 24 to 28 in Leh capital city. The five-day festival also aims to create an interactive and exposure platform to promote aspiring local filmmakers and to showcase Ladakh as an attractive film destination.
- Popular films from the Himalayan states viz Assam, Sikkim, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh besides Indian panorama selected films will be showcased during the festival.

PM Modi releases ₹1,625 crore for women entrepreneurs

- The Prime Minister was participating in the 'Atmanirbhar Nari Shakti se Samvad' programme through video conferencing where he spoke to members of women's SHGs associated with Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM). He also declared that the loan limit for self-help groups (SHGs) have been raised from ₹10 lakh to ₹20 lakh.

Andhra Pradesh sets its sights on first Neerman awards

- The Bureau of Energy Efficiency launched 'national energy efficiency roadmap to move towards affordable and natural habitat' (NEERMAN) awards aimed at encouraging efficient building designs that comply with the Energy Conservation Building Codes (ECBC). The initiative is expected to become an instrument to prepare case studies to showcase the exemplary energy efficiency building designs.

AIIMS to become India's first hospital to have fire station inside premises

- The All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS), Delhi, has become the first hospital in India to house a fire station inside the hospital premises. The fire station, meant for quick response in case of fire emergency, will have its infrastructure developed by the AIIMS, while the fire tender, equipment, and manpower will be managed by the DFS.

Justice Ayesha Malik to become first woman chief justice of Pakistan

- **Justice Ayesha Malik is set to become the first woman chief justice of Pakistan after outgoing CJP Mushir Alam recommended her for the elevation in the Supreme court. She is currently at the Lahore High Court and ranks four on the seniority list.**

5 Indian-origin women in 2021 Forbes list of 'America's Richest Self Made Women'

- **The Forbes list of America's Richest Self-Made Women featured five women of Indian origin including Pepsico's former chairman and CEO Indra Nooyi, Neerja Sethi, co-founder, Syntel, Neha Narkhede, co-founder and former chief technology officer of Confluent, Jayshree Ullal, president and CEO of Arista Networks and Reshma Shetty, co-founder of Gingko Bioworks.**

Rekha Sharma gets 3-year extension as National Commission for Women Chairperson

- **Rekha Sharma was given a three-year extension as the Chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW). The Women and Child Development Ministry said, "Central Government hereby nominates Rekha Sharma as Chairperson of the National Commission for Women, for another term of three years or till the age of 65 years or until further orders whichever is the earliest."**
- **The National Commission for Women (NCW) is the statutory body of the Government of India, generally concerned with advising the government on all policy matters affecting women. It was established on 31 January 1992 under the provisions of the Indian Constitution, as defined in the 1990 National Commission for Women Act. The first head of the commission was Jayanti Patnaik.**

AWARDS

President Kovind confers Shaurya Chakra awards to gallant defence personnel

- **President Ram Nath Kovind has conferred the Shaurya Chakra on Wing Commander Varun Singh Flying (Pilot)** who is a pilot in a Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Squadron for the act of exceptional gallantry.
- **Group Captain Perminder Antil Flying (Pilot)** who is the **Commanding Officer of a Su-30 MKI Squadron** since January 2020 has also been conferred with **Shaurya Chakra**.
- For the act of exceptional courage, **Squadron Leader Deepak Mohanan and Wing Commander Uttar Kumar have been conferred with the Vayu Sena Medal (Gallantry)**.
- The **Shaurya Chakra** is an **Indian military decoration awarded for valour, courageous action or self-sacrifice while not engaged in direct action with the enemy**. It may be awarded to civilians as well as military personnel, sometimes posthumously. It is **third in order of precedence of peacetime gallantry awards and comes after the Ashoka Chakra and the Kirti Chakra**. It precedes the **Yudh Seva Medal**.

Vandana Katariya among 23 women achievers given Tilu Rauteli awards

- **Uttarakhand chief minister Pushkar Singh Dharami conferred 23 women, including hockey player Vandana Katariya, with the Tilu Rauteli award**. The annual award is given to women for their exemplary performances in their field of work in Uttarakhand.

Govt announces Prime Minister's Shram Awards for year 2018

- **Government announced the Prime Minister's Shram Awards for the year 2018**. These awards are to be given to **69 workers employed in the Departmental Undertakings and Public Sector Undertakings of the Central and State Governments and Private Sector Units** employing 500 or more workers.
- These awards are in recognition of their **distinguished performance, innovative abilities, outstanding contribution in the field of productivity and exhibition of exceptional courage and presence of mind**.
- **This year Prime Minister's Shram Awards are given in three categories**. These are – **Shram Bhushan Awards** which carry a cash prize of one lakh rupees each, **Shram Vir/Shram Veerangana Awards** which carry a cash prize of 60 thousand rupees each and **Shram Shree/Shram Devi Awards** which carry a cash prize of 40 thousand each.

Chhattisgarh gets 10 national awards for procurement, processing and marketing of forest produce

- **Chhattisgarh has got national awards in eight sub-categories for its excellent performance in procurement, processing and marketing of minor forest produces** and for implementation of Van Dhan Yojana under Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's leadership.
- Besides, under the 'new product and innovation category', **Chhattisgarh was awarded for the innovative manufacturing of sanitiser from Mahua and for producing new products from tamarind**.
- Under the awards announced by TRIFED, **Chhattisgarh has secured the first prize for including the maximum number of new forest products under the Minimum Support Price Scheme for Minor Forest Produce in 2020-21**.

Nagaland wins 7 National Awards under Van Dhan Yojana Scheme

- **Nagaland has been conferred with seven national awards on the first Van Dhan Annual Awards 2020-21, during the celebration of the 34th foundation day of the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED)**. The awards were presented by Union tribal minister, Arjun Munda through a Zoom webinar.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 9 August

- **August 9, International Day of Indigenous Peoples**, we must demand indigenous peoples' inclusion, participation and approval in the constitution of a system with social and economic benefits for all.
- **That is why the 2021 theme is "Leaving no one behind: Indigenous peoples and the call for a new social contract."** But, what does it mean?

World Biofuel Day 2021

- **August 10 is observed as World Biofuel Day in honour of Sir Rudolf Diesel**, inventor of the diesel engine. It was just one day before, on August 9 in 1893 that Sir Diesel, first successfully operated the mechanical engine with peanut oil.
- **The theme for World Biofuel Day 2021 is based on "the promotion of biofuels for a better environment.** "The day is to raise awareness to replace the traditional fossil fuels with non-fossil fuels. The aim is not to replace fossil fuels completely but to form a balanced policy.

World Elephant Day

- **World Elephant Day is an international annual event on August 12**, dedicated to the preservation and protection of the world's elephants.

International Youth Day

- **In the year 1999, in its resolution, the United Nations General Assembly endorsed the recommendation** made by the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth that **12 August be declared International Youth Day**. The day provides an opportunity for governments and others to draw attention to youth issues worldwide.
- **The theme of the International Youth Day 2021 is - Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health** which highlights the success of such a global effort will not be achieved without the meaningful participation of young people.

World Lion Day

- **World Lion Day is celebrated on August 10 of every year** to raise awareness about lions and to mobilise support for their protection and conservation.

Prime Minister declares 14th August as Partition Horrors Remembrance Day

- In a fitting tribute to all those who lost their lives due to the partition of the nation and were displaced from their roots, **the Government has decided to observe 14th August every year as the day to commemorate their sacrifice**. Declaration of such a day would remind present and future generations of Indians of the pain and suffering faced by the people during the partition. Accordingly, **the Government declares 14th August as Partition Horrors Remembrance Day**.

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QUESTIONS

- Indian Navy undertook bilateral exercise 'Zayed Talwar 2021' with _____ Navy off the coast of Abu Dhabi.
(a) UAE (b) Oman (c) Jordan (d) Saudi Arabia
- Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the second phase of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana - Ujjwala 2.0 by handing over LPG connections, at _____ through video conferencing.
(a) Rewa, Madhya Pradesh (b) Panaji, Goa
(c) Mahoba, Uttar Pradesh (d) Kapurthala, Punjab
- The government of India launched _____ portal and app to make the skill development schemes accessible to the target groups of Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Safai Karamcharis.
(a) 'PM-PAKSH' (b) 'PM-DAKSH' (c) 'PM-MARSH' (d) 'PM-AKARSH'
- Recently, Putting an end to the contentious retrospective tax law that hit the confidence of foreign investors, including _____ and Cairn, for years, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced a Bill in Parliament to nullify the provision in the Income Tax Act.
(a) Vodafone (b) Idea (c) BSNL (d) Reliance Jio
- In a world first, which of the following countries grants patent to an artificial intelligence system?
(a) South Africa (b) West Indies (c) South Korea (d) New Zealand
- A UN-appointed panel of experts is releasing a key report summarizing the latest authoritative scientific information on climate change. A UN climate summit is to be organized in November in _____.
(a) Glasgow (b) Christchurch (c) London (d) Paris
- Who among the following created history by winning the first ever Gold Medal in Olympic track and field event?
(a) Bajrang Puniya (b) Deepak Kumar (c) Neeraj Chopra (d) Vijay Dahiya
- Who among the following won a Bronze Medal in 65 kilogram category of wrestling at 2020 Tokyo Olympics?
(a) Bajrang Puniya (b) Abhay Paranjape (c) Atul Kulkarni (d) Vijay Dahiya
- Who was recently given a three-year extension as the Chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW)?
(a) Deepika Sood (b) Rekha Sharma (c) Mudita Javeri (d) Anamika Luthra
- This year International Day of Indigenous Peoples is celebrated on:
(a) August 5 (b) August 9 (c) August 11 (d) August 16
- Recently, Parliament has passed the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2021. The bill seeks to establish a new Central University in Ladakh. The new university will be named as _____.
(a) Ladakh Central University (b) Atal Bihari Vajpayee Central University
(c) Sindhu Central University (d) Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyay Central University
- Recently, The United Nation's Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change, of which India is one of the _____ members, has released its sixth assessment report.
(a) 125 (b) 149 (c) 177 (d) 195
- The World's highest motorable road has been built in _____ at 19 thousand 300 feet by Border Roads Organization (BRO).
(a) Ladakh (b) Jammu & Kashmir (c) Himachal Pradesh (d) Uttarakhand

14. Recently, Parliament has passed the Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2021. The Bill seeks to amend the constitutional list of Scheduled Tribes as recommended by _____.
- (a) Tripura (b) Sikkim (c) Nagaland (d) Arunachal Pradesh
15. International Army Games – 2021 will be held in:
- (a) Japan (b) India (c) Russia (d) China
16. Recently, Four Indian airports found a place in the world's 100 best airports by UK-based airline and airport review consultancy Skytrax. Which is not among the four airports?
- (a) Delhi (b) Kolkata (c) Hyderabad (d) Bengaluru
17. The Government of India has announced its plan to host the first India Internet Governance Forum (IIGF), organized at Electronics Niketan in _____.
- (a) New Delhi (b) Mumbai (c) Kolkata (d) Chennai
18. Which of the following was launching a one-year joint initiative with UNICEF India on ending violence against children with a special focus on online safety?
- (a) Google (b) Facebook (c) HCL (d) Wipro
19. Which of the following IIT's researchers have invented a Biodegradable low-cost Composite Transparent Wound Dressing Film?
- (a) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi (b) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay
(c) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras (d) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati
20. Which of the following Indian states has got national awards in eight sub-categories for its excellent performance in procurement, processing and marketing of minor forest produces and for implementation of Van Dhan Yojana?
- (a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Jharkhand (c) Chhattisgarh (d) Haryana
21. Recently, the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty Seventh Amendment) Bill, 2021 was introduced in the Lok Sabha. The bill seeks to restore the power of States and Union Territories to make their own _____ lists.
- (a) General (b) OBC (c) SC (d) ST
22. Recently, Ayush Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has assured all help for establishing the first Bio-Bank of the world in Ayurveda at _____.
- (a) All India Institute of Ayurveda in New Delhi (b) All India Institute of Ayurveda in Ahmadabad
(c) All India Institute of Ayurveda in Lucknow (d) All India Institute of Ayurveda in Mumbai
23. In Kargil Ladakh, Project _____ of Border Roads Organization has restored the road communication between Kargil and remote Zaskar valley by launching a 100 feet Class 40R Bailey Bridge at Sangrah on NH 301.
- (a) Vinayak (b) Vijayak (c) Vibhuti (d) Vimal
24. Recently, India is ranked _____ in the 2020 Global Youth Development Index, which measures the status of young people in 181 countries around the world.
- (a) 117th (b) 119th (c) 122nd (d) 126th
25. Who among the following recently suggested the creation of a maritime security body in the United Nations Security Council to address maritime crimes, piracy and maritime terrorism?
- (a) Russian President Vladimir Putin (b) Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi
(c) France President Emmanuel Macron (d) German Chancellor Angela Merkel
26. Recently, _____ International Exchange, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the National Stock Exchange of India, has announced that trading in select US Stocks will soon be facilitated through the _____ IFSC platform.
- (a) BSE (b) NSE (c) GIFT City INX (d) DSE

27. About 96,000 farmed salmon are believed to have died when a leak in a nearby tank sent 15,000 liters (4,000 gallons) of chlorine into a fjord in _____.
 (a) Arctic Sweden (b) Arctic Norway
 (c) Arctic United Kingdom (d) Arctic Finland
28. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency launched _____ awards aimed at encouraging efficient building designs that comply with the Energy Conservation Building Codes (ECBC).
 (a) MEERWAN (b) NEERMAN (c) DESPERATE (d) ADHAAR
29. Recently, Delhi's got an "Animal DNA Laboratory" set up at the Forensic Science Laboratory in _____.
 (a) Rohini (b) Jasola (c) Sarita Vihar (d) Mukherjee Nagar
30. Recently, World Biofuel Day in honour of Sir Rudolf Diesel, inventor of the diesel engine is observed on:
 (a) August 8 (b) August 9 (c) August 10 (d) August 12
31. Which of the following Indian cities has been recently declared as the first Water Plus city of the country?
 (a) Bhopal (b) Nasik (c) Aurangabad (d) Indore
32. Which is the first Indian state to recognise Community Forest Resource Rights in an urban area?
 (a) Jharkhand (b) Chhattisgarh (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Odisha
33. The "Al-Mohed Al-Hindi 2021" is the first ever naval exercise between:
 (a) India- Oman (b) India- Jordan (c) India-Saudi Arabia (d) India- Maldives
34. Recently, The Indian Air Force (IAF) has built one of the world's highest mobile air traffic control towers at the Advanced Landing Ground in _____.
 (a) Nyoma, Ladakh (b) Dimapur, Nagaland
 (c) Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh (d) Pahalgam, Jammu & Kashmir
35. Who among the following launched the nationwide programme of Fit India Freedom Runs 2.0?
 (a) Shashi Tharoor (b) Anurag Singh Thakur
 (c) Kiren Rijiju (d) Sarbananda Sonowal
36. According to a report prepared by British company HouseFresh, which of the following was the most polluted country across the world in 2020?
 (a) Pakistan (b) Bangladesh (c) Mongolia (d) India
37. Recently, The Forbes list of America's Richest Self-Made Women featured five women of Indian origin. Who among the following is not included in the list?
 (a) Roshani Nadar (b) Indra Nooyi (c) Neerja Sethi (d) Neha Narkhede
38. Which of the following will be hosting the first edition of The Himalayan Film Festival 2021 (THFF)?
 (a) Jammu & Kashmir (b) Ladakh (c) Uttarakhand (d) Himachal Pradesh
39. The ISRO launcher GSLV F10 launched Earth Observation Satellite _____ from the second launch pad of Satish Dhawan Space Centre, SHAR in Sriharikota.
 (a) EOS-01 (b) EOS-03 (c) EOS-06 (d) EOS-09
40. Recently, the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) has decided to celebrate National Javelin Day on:
 (a) 2nd August (b) 5th August (c) 7th August (d) 9th August
41. Which of the following became the first national park in India to be equipped with satellite phones?
 (a) Kaziranga National Park (b) Balphakram National Park
 (c) Gugamal National Park (d) Nagarahole National Park

42. Name the easternmost tip of the country which will finally get its first civilian air connectivity on the 75th year of Independence.
 (a) Tezu (b) Higo (c) Shillo (d) Milang
43. Which of the following banks announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Navy to offer Honour FIRST, a premium banking solution, to serving personnel and veterans of the Indian Navy?
 (a) Bandhan Bank (b) IDFC FIRST Bank (c) Kotak Mahindra Bank (d) HDFC Bank
44. Which is the world's most downloaded app of 2020?
 (a) Facebook (b) TikTok (c) Annie (d) Pubgee
45. Who has become the first fast bowler in the world to bowl more than 35,000 balls in Test cricket?
 (a) Stuart Broad (b) Tim Southee (c) Trent Boult (d) James Anderson
46. Durand Cup Tournament is associated with which of the following sports?
 (a) Hockey (b) Volleyball (c) Football (d) Badminton
47. World Elephant Day is an international annual event on _____ dedicated to the preservation and protection of the world's elephants.
 (a) August 5 (b) August 8 (c) August 12 (d) August 14
48. Recently, Prime Minister was participated in the _____ programme through video conferencing.
 (a) 'Atmanirbhar Nari Shakti se Samvad' (b) 'Atmanirbhar Mahila Shakti se Vichar'
 (c) 'Swanirbhar Nari Shakti se Samvad' (d) 'Swanirbhar Mahila Vichardhara se Samvad'
49. International Youth Day is celebrated on:
 (a) 7th August (b) 10th August (c) 12th August (d) 14th August
50. Recently, Government announced the Prime Minister's Shram Awards for the year 2018. This year Prime Minister's Shram Awards are given in _____ categories.
 (a) Two (b) Three (c) Five (d) Eight
51. Every Year, World Lion Day is celebrated on _____.
 (a) August 5 (b) August 8 (c) August 10 (d) August 14
52. Who among the following scaled Mount Elbrus in Russia, the highest peak in Europe and became the first Central Armed Police Forces officer to achieve the feat?
 (a) Aditi Kapadia (b) Geeta Samota (c) Alankrita Tripathi (d) Komal Bhadauria
53. Which of the following Indian North Eastern states recently launched the State Wide Area Network (SWAN) providing secure digital connectivity to all district headquarters and local administrative centres across the state?
 (a) Arunachal Pradesh (b) Manipur (c) Nagaland (d) Mizoram
54. Which of the following South Indian states recently for the first time presented a separate budget for agriculture?
 (a) Karnataka (b) Kerala (c) Tamil Nadu (d) Maharashtra
55. Who among the following will take over as the Chairman and Managing Director of Godrej Industries?
 (a) Adil Godrej (b) Nadir Godrej (c) Pamela Godrej (d) Himansh Arora
56. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi set a target of becoming 'energy independent' by _____ through a mix of electric mobility, gas-based economy, doping ethanol in petrol and making the country a hub for hydrogen production.
 (a) 2025 (b) 2032 (c) 2039 (d) 2047

57. According to the list, which is first of its kind, was released by Indiaspora, a US-based diaspora body, who among the following is not among 100 Indians in the list of corporate leaders who have made a mark through their philanthropic activities across the world?
(a) Nita Ambani (b) Gautam Adani
(c) Sanjay Kapur (d) Kumar Mangalam Birla
58. Justice Ayesha Malik is set to become the first woman chief justice of _____.
(a) Bangladesh (b) Maldives (c) Pakistan (d) Iran
59. Recently, The Government of India has notified the plastic waste management amendment rules 2021 prohibiting identified single-use plastic items by _____.
(a) 2022 (b) 2023 (c) 2024 (d) 2026
60. The sea phases of the three day long maiden bilateral exercise _____ between Indian Navy and Royal Saudi Naval Force commenced off the coast of Al Jubail.
(a) 'Al-Mohed Al – Hindustan' (b) 'Al-Mohed Al – Hindi'
(c) 'Milan 2021' (d) 'Saath Saath 2021'
61. India is going to launch Pradhan Mantri Gatishakti National Master Plan. The Gatishakti initiative is of _____ lakh crore rupees.
(a) 50 (b) 100 (c) 150 (d) 200
62. Recently, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel announced the creation of four new districts in the state. Which is not among the four newly created districts?
(a) Ambikapur (b) Manendragarh
(c) Sarangarh-Bilairgarh (d) Mohla-Manpur
63. Who has been recently conferred the Shaurya Chakra by President Ram Nath Kovind?
(a) Wing Commander Varun Singh
(b) Wing Commander Vivek Bora
(c) Wing Commander Vineet Gupta
(d) Wing Commander Amrit Nagar
64. Which of the following countries will have snap polls on September 20 over two years before the tenure of the ruling Liberal Party government was to end?
(a) Mexico (b) France (c) Canada (d) Russia
65. Which of the following group of nations is to partnership in strengthening agro-biodiversity for food security?
(a) ASEAN (b) BRICS (c) UNSC (d) SAARC
66. Indian Railways is likely to get its first batch of aluminium bodied coaches by February 2022. In a technological shift for railways, the Modern Coach Factory (MCF) in _____ is looking to manufacture aluminium coaches.
(a) Chhitaranjan (b) Varanasi (c) Raebareli (d) Kapoorthala
67. Recently, Scientists have discovered two new species of dinosaurs in _____, a region where dinosaur fossils had never been found before.
(a) Northwest Japan (b) Northwest China
(c) Southwest Korea (d) Southwest Australia
68. Recently, A team of scientists have discovered a new species of snake in _____ the first such find from the state in over a century – that is characterised by a red mark on its body that resembles a "bindi".
(a) Meghalaya (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Goa (d) Assam

69. Which of the following has become the first hospital in India to house a fire station inside the hospital premises?
(a) All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS), Delhi
(b) SGPGI, Lucknow
(c) AFMC Pune
(d) FORTIS, Gurugram
70. Who won the women's singles title in National Bank Open 2021?
(a) Camila Giorgi
(b) Karolina Pliskova
(c) Gabriela Dabrowski
(d) Luisa Stefany



Career
Launcher

ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATION

1. a Indian Navy undertook bilateral exercise 'Zayed Talwar 2021' with UAE Navy off the coast of Abu Dhabi.
2. c Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the second phase of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana - Ujjwala 2.0 by handing over LPG connections, at Mahoba, Uttar Pradesh through video conferencing.
3. b The government of India launched 'PM-DAKSH' portal and app to make the skill development schemes accessible to the target groups of Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Safai Karamcharis.
4. a Putting an end to the contentious retrospective tax law that hit the confidence of foreign investors, including Vodafone and Cairn, for years, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced a Bill in Parliament to nullify the provision in the Income Tax Act.
5. a In a world first, South Africa grants patent to an artificial intelligence system.
6. a The report will provide governments with up-to-date facts on the current impacts and future risks of global warming ahead of a UN climate summit in November in Glasgow.
7. c In Tokyo Olympics, India's Javelin throw star Neeraj Chopra created history by winning the first ever Gold Medal in Olympic track and field event.
8. a Wrestler Bajrang Punia fetched a Bronze Medal in 65 kilogram category.
9. b Rekha Sharma was given a three-year extension as the Chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW).
10. b August 9, International Day of Indigenous Peoples, we must demand indigenous peoples' inclusion, participation and approval in the constitution of a system with social and economic benefits for all.
11. c The bill seeks to establish a new Central University in Ladakh to ensure an increase in accessibility and quality of higher education and research for the people of the Union territory. The new university will be named as Sindhu Central University.
12. d The United Nation's Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change, of which India is one of the 195 members, has released its sixth assessment report.
13. a World's highest motorable road has been built in Ladakh at 19 thousand 300 feet by Border Roads Organization (BRO).
14. d The Bill seeks to amend the constitutional list of Scheduled Tribes as recommended by Arunachal Pradesh. It removes the Abor tribe from the list of identified STs in that state and also replaces certain STs with other tribes.
15. c A 101 member contingent of the Indian Army will proceed to Russia to participate in International Army Games – 2021 from 22 August to 4th September 2021.
16. b Four Indian airports — Delhi, Hyderabad, Mumbai and Bengaluru — found a place in the world's 100 best airports by UK-based airline and airport review consultancy Skytrax.
17. a The Government of India has announced its plan to host the first India Internet Governance Forum (IIGF), organized at Electronics Niketan, New Delhi.

- 18. b** Facebook was launching a one-year joint initiative with UNICEF India on ending violence against children with a special focus on online safety.
- 19. d** Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati researchers have invented a Biodegradable low-cost Composite Transparent Wound Dressing Film.
- 20. c** Chhattisgarh has got national awards in eight sub-categories for its excellent performance in procurement, processing and marketing of minor forest produces and for implementation of Van Dhan Yojana under Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's leadership.
- 21. b** The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty Seventh Amendment) Bill, 2021 was introduced in the Lok Sabha. The bill seeks to restore the power of States and Union Territories to make their own OBC lists.
- 22. a** Ayush Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has assured all help for establishing the first Bio-Bank of the world in Ayurveda at All India Institute of Ayurveda in New Delhi.
- 23. b** In Kargil Ladakh, Project Vijayak of Border Roads Organization has restored the road communication between Kargil and remote Zaskar valley by launching a 100 feet Class 40R Bailey Bridge at Sangrah on NH 301.
- 24. c** India is ranked 122nd in the 2020 Global Youth Development Index, which measures the status of young people in 181 countries around the world.
- 25. a** Russian President Vladimir Putin suggested the creation of a maritime security body in the United Nations Security Council to address maritime crimes, piracy and maritime terrorism.
- 26. b** NSE International Exchange, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the National Stock Exchange of India, has announced that trading in select US Stocks will soon be facilitated through the NSE IFSC platform. The offering will be in the form of unsponsored depository receipts.
- 27. b** About 96,000 farmed salmon are believed to have died when a leak in a nearby tank sent 15,000 liters (4,000 gallons) of chlorine into a fjord in Arctic Norway.
- 28. b** The Bureau of Energy Efficiency launched 'national energy efficiency roadmap to move towards affordable and natural habitat' (NEERMAN) awards aimed at encouraging efficient building designs that comply with the Energy Conservation Building Codes (ECBC).
- 29. a** In a first, the Capital got an "Animal DNA Laboratory" set up at the Forensic Science Laboratory in Rohini.
- 30. c** August 10 is observed as World Biofuel Day in honour of Sir Rudolf Diesel, inventor of the diesel engine.
- 31. d** Cleanest city of the country Indore has now been declared as the first Water Plus city of the country. The results were released by the Central Government. Indore is the number one city in the country for four times in the cleanliness category.
- 32. b** Chhattisgarh became the first state to recognise Community Forest Resource Rights in an urban area, with the state government recognising rights of residents of Dhamtari district over 4,127 hectares of forests.
- 33. c** Indian Navy's guided-missile destroyer INS Kochi reached Saudi Arabia on Monday for the 'Al-Mohed Al-Hindi 2021' exercise.
- 34. a** The Indian Air Force (IAF) has built one of the world's highest mobile air traffic control towers at the Advanced Landing Ground in Nyoma, Ladakh.

- 35. b** Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur launched the Nationwide programme of Fit India Freedom Runs 2.0.
- 36. b** Bangladesh was the most polluted country across the world in 2020, followed by Pakistan, India and Mongolia, according to a report prepared by British company HouseFresh.
- 37. a** The Forbes list of America's Richest Self-Made Women featured five women of Indian origin including Pepsico's former chairman and CEO Indra Nooyi, Neerja Sethi, co-founder, Syntel, Neha Narkhede, co-founder and former chief technology officer of Confluent, Jayshree Ullal, president and CEO of Arista Networks and Reshma Shetty, co-founder of Gingko Bioworks.
- 38. b** The union territory of Ladakh is hosting the first edition of The Himalayan Film Festival 2021 (THFF) from September 24 to 28 in Leh capital city.
- 39. b** The ISRO launcher GSLV F10 launched Earth Observation Satellite EOS-03 from the second launch pad of Satish Dhawan Space Centre, SHAR in Sriharikota.
- 40. c** The day Neeraj Chopra scripted history by winning Olympic gold medal at Tokyo Olympics, August 7, will be celebrated as National Javelin Day by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI).
- 41. a** Assam's Kaziranga National Park (KNP) became the first national park in India to be equipped with satellite phones.
- 42. a** The easternmost tip of the country in Arunachal Pradesh will finally get its first civilian air connectivity on the 75th year of Independence.
- 43. b** IDFC FIRST Bank announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Navy to offer Honour FIRST, a premium banking solution, to serving personnel and veterans of the Indian Navy.
- 44. b** TikTok was the world's most downloaded app last year, overtaking Facebook and its messaging platforms, market tracker App Annie.
- 45. d** James Anderson Record: England pacer James Anderson has become the first fast bowler in the world to bowl more than 35,000 balls in Test cricket.
- 46. c** 130th Edition of Durand Cup Football Tournament is scheduled to be held at Kolkata from 5th of September to 3rd of October this year.
- 47. c** World Elephant Day is an international annual event on August 12, dedicated to the preservation and protection of the world's elephants.
- 48. a** The Prime Minister was participated in the 'Atmanirbhar Nari Shakti se Samvad' programme through video conferencing.
- 49. c** In the year 1999, in its resolution, the United Nations General Assembly endorsed the recommendation made by the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth that 12 August is declared International Youth Day.
- 50. b** This year Prime Minister's Shram Awards are given in three categories. These are – Shram Bhushan Awards which carry a cash prize of one lakh rupees each, Shram Vir/Shram Veerangana Awards which carry a cash prize of 60 thousand rupees each and Shram Shree/Shram Devi Awards which carry a cash prize of 40 thousand each.
- 51. c** World Lion Day is celebrated on August 10 of every year to raise awareness about lions and to mobilise support for their protection and conservation.

- 52. b** Sub Inspector Geeta Samota has scaled Mount Elbrus in Russia, the highest peak in Europe. With this, the 31-year-old became the first Central Armed Police Forces officer to achieve the feat.
- 53. a** Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu launched the State Wide Area Network (SWAN) providing secure digital connectivity to all district headquarters and local administrative centres across the state.
- 54. c** The first time a separate budget for agriculture is presented in Tamil Nadu.
- 55. b** Godrej Industries Limited (GIL) announced that Nadir Godrej will take over as the Chairman and Managing Director of Godrej Industries.
- 56. d** Prime Minister Narendra Modi set a target of becoming 'energy independent' by 2047 through a mix of electric mobility, gas-based economy, doping ethanol in petrol and making the country a hub for hydrogen production.
- 57. c** Indian business tycoons Gautam Adani, Nita Ambani and Kumar Mangalam are among 100 Indians in the list of corporate leaders who have made a mark through their philanthropic activities across the world.
- 58. c** Justice Ayesha Malik is set to become the first woman chief justice of Pakistan after outgoing CJP Mushir Alam recommended her for the elevation in the Supreme Court.
- 59. a** The Government has notified the plastic waste management amendment rules 2021 prohibiting identified single-use plastic items by 2022.
- 60. b** The sea phases of the three day long maiden bilateral exercise 'Al-Mohed Al – Hindi' between Indian Navy and Royal Saudi Naval Force commenced off the coast of Al Jubail.
- 61. b** 100 lakh crore rupees Gatishakti initiative will bring employment opportunities for youth and help in holistic infrastructure growth.
- 62. a** "Taking the process of decentralisation further, four new districts will be created - namely Mohla-Manpur, Sakti, Sarangarh-Bilaigarh and Manendragarh, while 18 new tehsils will also be formed."
- 63. a** President Ram Nath Kovind has conferred the Shaurya Chakra on Wing Commander Varun Singh Flying (Pilot) who is a pilot in a Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Squadron for the act of exceptional gallantry.
- 64. c** Canada will have snap polls on September 20 over two years before the tenure of the ruling Liberal Party government was to end.
- 65. b** BRICS for partnership in strengthening agro-biodiversity for food security.
- 66. c** In a technological shift for railways, the Modern Coach Factory (MCF) in Raebareli is looking to manufacture aluminium coaches.
- 67. b** Scientists have discovered two new species of dinosaurs in northwest China, a region where dinosaur fossils had never been found before.
- 68. d** A team of scientists from India, the United Kingdom, and the United States have discovered a new species of snake in Assam – the first such find from the state in over a century – that is characterised by a red mark on its body that resembles a "bindi".
- 69. a** The All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS), Delhi, has become the first hospital in India to house a fire station inside the hospital premises.
- 70. a** Camila Giorgi completed a stunning run at the National Bank Open, beating Wimbledon finalist Karolina Pliskova to win the title in her first WTA 1000 final.