
MANTHAN

A General Awareness Weekly

11th October to 17th October, 2021

PREFACE

Dear Students,

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

Happy Reading

Team CL



Career
Launcher

National



PM Narendra Modi launched first ever National Infrastructure Masterplan ‘PM Gati Shakti’

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the first ever National Infrastructure Masterplan, Pradhan Mantri Gati Shakti. The Gati Shakti scheme was announced by Mr Modi on Independence Day this year.
- This will bring together 16 Ministries, including seven core infrastructure sectors, on one platform to synergise project planning across stakeholder ministries to avoid duplication, expedite clearances and plug gaps at the right time. The Gati Shakti platform will provide information instantaneously, allowing for better coordination.
- The plan is aimed at achieving three basic goals - seamless multimodal connectivity to facilitate easy movement of goods and people, improved prioritisation, optimal usage of resources, timely creation of capacities, and resolution of issues such as disjointed planning, standardisation and clearances.
- The Gati Shakti Master Plan will provide the framework for the National Infrastructure Pipeline program and is aimed at making Indian products more competitive by cutting down the logistics costs and improving the supply chains.
- Pradhan Mantri Gati Shakti scheme is aimed at giving a foundation for holistic infrastructure and an integrated pathway to the economy. It will help the country's local manufacturers turn globally competitive. The new initiative worth over one hundred lakh crore rupees will also bring employment opportunities to the youth.
- The plan is to attract investment from all over the world for improving the infrastructure of the country. The scheme will also give a new direction and a fresh momentum to the overall infrastructure development of the country. The seamless multi-modal connectivity will ensure seamless movement of goods and people and enhance ease of living as well as ease of doing business.
- There exists a wide gap between macro planning and micro implementation due to the lack of coordination and advanced information sharing as departments think and work in silos. According to a study, the logistical cost in India is about 13% of GDP, which is higher than developed countries. Due to this high logistical cost, the competitiveness of India's exports is greatly reduced.
- The scheme is in synergy with the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP). The NMP has been announced to provide a clear framework for monetisation and give potential investors a ready list of assets to generate investment interest.

The Gati Shakti scheme will subsume the Rs 110 lakh crore National Infrastructure Pipeline that was launched in 2019. Besides cutting logistics costs, the scheme is also aimed at increasing cargo handling capacity and reducing the turnaround time at ports to boost trade. It also aims to have 11 industrial corridors and two new defence corridors - one in Tamil Nadu and other in Uttar Pradesh. Extending 4G connectivity to all villages is another aim. Adding 17,000 kms to the gas pipeline network is being planned. It will help in fulfilling the ambitious targets set by the government for 2024-25, including expanding the length of the national highway network to 2 lakh kms, creation of more than 200 new airports, heliports and water aerodromes.

Government notifies transfer of Justice Akil Kureshi as Rajasthan HC Chief Justice

- The Centre notified the **transfer of Justice Akil Kureshi, Chief Justice of the Tripura High Court**, who was at the centre of a two-year impasse within the Supreme Court collegium over the appointment of judges, as the Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court.
- Moreover, eight judges were elevated as chief justices of various high courts. Meanwhile, Justice Indrajit Mahanty, heading the Rajasthan High Court has been posted as chief justice of the Tripura High Court. Moreover, Justice Mohammed Rafiq, heading the Madhya Pradesh High Court has been sent to Himachal Pradesh High Court as its new chief justice.
- Justice Biswanath Somadder heading the Meghalaya High Court has been posted as chief justice of the Sikkim High Court. Justice A K Goswami, heading the Andhra Pradesh High Court has been sent to head the Chhattisgarh High Court.
- Eight judges were also elevated as chief justices of various high courts. Justice Rajesh Bindal, acting chief justice of the Calcutta High Court, was elevated as chief justice of the Allahabad High Court.
- Justice Ranjit V More of Meghalaya was made chief justice of the same high court, according to a list published by the Department of Justice in the Law Ministry. Acting chief justice of the Karnataka High Court, Justice Satish Chandra Sharma has been elevated as chief justice of the Telangana High Court.
- Justice Prakash Shrivastava of the Madhya Pradesh High Court has been made chief justice of the Calcutta High Court. Acting chief justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court Justice R V Malimath will now head the Madhya Pradesh High Court.
- Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi of the Allahabad High Court will head the Karnataka High Court. Similarly, Justice Arvind Kumar of the Karnataka High Court had been elevated as chief justice of the Gujarat High Court. Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra of the Chhattisgarh High Court has been made chief justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court.

Article 124(2) of the Indian Constitution provides that the Judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President after consultation with such a number of the Judges of the Supreme Court and of the High Courts in the States as the President may deem necessary for the purpose. As per Article 217, the Judge of a High Court shall be appointed by the President in consultation with the CJI and the State Governor, and, in the case of appointment of a Judge other than the Chief Justice, the Chief Justice of the High Court. The names are recommended by the Collegium. Collegium System is the system of appointment and transfer of judges that has evolved through judgments of the Supreme Court, and not by an Act of Parliament or by a provision of the Constitution. The Supreme Court collegium is headed by the CJI and comprises four other senior most judges of the court. A HC collegium is led by its Chief Justice and four other senior most judges of that court. The collegium sends its final recommendation to the President of India for approval. The President can either accept it or reject it. In the case it is rejected, the recommendation comes back to the collegium. If the collegium reiterates its recommendation to the President, then he/she is bound by that recommendation.

Centre to constitute National Road Safety Board

- Aimed at promoting road safety, innovation, and the adoption of new technology, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has notified the constitution of the National Road Safety Board.
- The rules specify provisions regarding its composition, eligibility for Chairman and Members of the Board, selection process, term of office, the procedure for resignation and removal, powers and functions of the Board, meetings of the Board, etc.
- As per the rules specified by the ministry, the head office of the board would be in the National Capital Region and the board may establish offices at other places in India.

Nitin Jairam Gadkari was served as the President of the BJP from 2010-2013. He is the current Minister for Road Transport & Highways of India. Gadkari represents Lok Sabha from Nagpur constituency, Maharashtra. During the cabinet reshuffle on 7th July 2021 the portfolio for Ministry of MSME which was under him was reassigned to Narayan Rane, another BJP MP from Maharashtra as a part of cabinet expansion.

Thanjavur's Kalamkari paintings get GI tag

- The traditional Karuppur Kalamkari Painting done using pens, brushes made of bamboo stick, palm stem, date tree and coconut tree stems, received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. The certificate was issued recently by the Geographical Indications Registry based on an application filed by Tamil Nadu Handicrafts Development Corporation (Poompuhar).
- The Kalamkari in Thanjavur region is the traditional dye-painted figurative and patterned clothes, made for temples such as ceiling cloth, umbrella covers, cylindrical hangings and chariot covers.

GI tag for Rataul mango variety of Baghpat in Uttar Pradesh

- The Rataul mango, grown in large numbers in Baghpat in Uttar Pradesh, received its GI tag. Interestingly, the tussle for the GI tag has been going on between India and neighboring Pakistan as the latter also claims proprietorship over this variety of mango. The claims are that the variety was taken by relatives of the Uttar Pradesh farmers and carried to Pakistan where it is cultivated too and widely exported to Middle Eastern countries.
- Named after the village Rataul in Baghpat district, the variety of mango has a distinctive smell and flavour. While the mango is not widely known in other parts of the country, it is a great favourite with the inhabitants of western Uttar Pradesh.

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

International Energy Agency invites India to become full-time member

- International Energy Agency (IEA) has invited India, the world's third-largest energy consumer, to become its full-time member - a proposal if accepted will require New Delhi to raise strategic oil reserves to 90 days requirement.
- India in March 2017 became an associate member of the Paris-based body which advises industrialised nations on energy policies. In January this year, IEA members and India agreed to enter into a strategic partnership, strengthening their collaboration across a range of vital areas including energy security and clean energy transition.
- Starting in 2015, the IEA has been opening its doors to major emerging economies that are at the centre of the global conversation on energy. Since then, eight countries have joined the IEA's Association programme: Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Morocco, Singapore, South Africa and Thailand. Along with the 30 members and the countries formally seeking accession, this expanded IEA now represents 75% of global energy demand.

The IEA was founded in Paris in 1974 by industrialised countries - within the framework of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) - in response to the oil embargo. According to IEA, a member country must maintain "crude oil and/or product reserves equivalent to 90 days of the previous year's net imports, to which the government has immediate access (even if it does not own them directly) and could be used to address disruptions to global oil supply." India's current strategic oil reserves equal 9.5 days of its requirement. Also, a member of IEA has to show "a demand restraint programme to reduce national oil consumption by up to 10%." India has the fastest-growing energy market in the world. IEA is made up of 30 member countries and eight associate nations.

Hunar Haat organised in Rampur, UP from 16th to 25th October

- **Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi** has said that **Hunar Haat** is being organised in Rampur, Uttar Pradesh from 16th to 25th October this year. **This Hunar Haat is being organised as a part of series of 75 Hunar Haat going to be organised across the country under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.**
- **Artisans and craftsmen from more than 30 States and Union Territories** will bring their indigenous exquisite handmade products for sale and display at the Hunar Haat. **Vishwakarma Vatika** will be one of the main attractions in Hunar Haat to be organised across the country. It will be helpful in preserving and promoting the traditional art and craft of the country.

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

Railways successfully operated two long haul freight trains Trishul, Garuda for first time

- **Railways has successfully operated two long haul freight trains Trishul and Garuda for the first time over South Central Railway.** Information and Broadcasting Minister, Anurag Thakur said the trains provide a very effective solution to the problem of capacity constraints in critical sections. **Trishul is the first long haul of South Central Railway comprising three freight trains of 177 wagons.**
- **This train was started from Kondapalli station of Vijayawada division to Khurda division of East Coast Railway.** South Central Railway followed it up with running of yet another similar one named Garuda from Raichur of Guntakal division to Manuguru of Secunderabad division.

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

Union Cabinet approves AMRUT 2.0 till 2025-26

- **The Union Cabinet approved the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation 2.0 (AMRUT 2.0) till 2025-26.** The Cabinet said, **providing reliable and affordable water supply and sanitation services to urban households is a national priority.**
- **The decision is a step towards AatmaNirbhar Bharat and with aim of making the cities water-secure and self-sustainable through a circular economy of water.** This will be achieved by providing functional tap connections to all households, undertaking water source conservation, rejuvenation of water bodies and wells, recycle and re-use of treated used water and rainwater harvesting.
- **AMRUT Mission was launched in June 2015 to facilitate ease of living to citizens in 500 cities by providing tap connections and sewer connections.** So far, more than one crore ten lakh household tap connections and 85 lakh sewer connections have been provided. Taking forward the remarkable strides made under AMRUT, **AMRUT 2.0, targets universal coverage of water supply by providing household tap connections in all four thousand 378 statutory towns.** The mission targets to provide two crore 68 lakh tap connections and two crore 64 lakh sewer and septage connections to achieve the intended outcomes. **The total indicative outlay for AMRUT 2.0 is two lakh 77 thousand crore rupees including a central share of 76 thousand 760 crore rupees for five years from 2021-22 to 2025-26.**

Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission was renamed to **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)** and then relaunched by Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi in June 2015 with the focus to establish infrastructure that could ensure adequate robust sewage networks and water supply for urban transformation by implementing urban revival projects. Rajasthan was the first state in the country to submit State Annual Action Plan under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT). The scheme Housing for All by 2022 and Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) were launched on the same day. The scheme is dependent with public-private partnership (PPP) model. If required, various other schemes like Swachh Bharat Mission, Housing for All 2022, along with the local state schemes like that related to water supply and sewerage and other infrastructure related schemes can be linked to AMRUT.

Second phase of Multilateral Maritime Exercise Malabar to commence on Oct 12

- Indian Navy has participated in the second phase of Multilateral Maritime Exercise Malabar along with the Japan Maritime Self Defence Force, Royal Australian Navy and the United States Navy.
- The exercise is conducted in the Bay of Bengal from 12th to 15th of this month. First Phase of the exercise was conducted in the Philippines Sea. The Indian Navy's participation includes INS Ranvijay, INS Satpura and a Submarine.
- The US Navy was represented by the Aircraft Carrier USS Carl Vinson along with two destroyers, USS Lake Champlain and USS Stockdale. The Japan Maritime Self Defence Force was represented by JS Kaga and JS Murasame. The Royal Australian Navy was represented by HMAS Ballarat and HMAS Sirius.
- The Second Phase of the exercise was built upon the synergy, coordination and inter-operability developed during the First Phase of the exercise. It would focus on advanced surface and anti-submarine warfare exercises, seamanship evolutions and weapon firings.

Exercise Malabar is a trilateral naval exercise involving the United States, Japan and India as permanent partners. The annual Malabar exercises includes diverse activities, ranging from fighter combat operations from aircraft carriers through maritime interdiction operations, anti-submarine warfare, diving salvage operations, amphibious operations, counter-piracy operations, cross-deck helicopter landings and anti-air warfare operations. Originally begun in 1992 as a bilateral exercise between India and the United States, the exercise was expanded in 2007 with the participation of Japan, Singapore and Australia. Japan became a permanent partner in 2015. Australia participated in the exercise again in 2020, marking the second time that the Quad will be jointly participating in a military exercise.

New Pragati Maidan to host G-20 summit in 2023

- Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said that the new Pragati Maidan will host the G-20 summit in 2023. "PM GatiShakti-National Master Plan will give a push and direction to various development plans. It will also encourage investments. Under the leadership of PM Modi, the G-20 summit will be held at Pragati Maidan in 2023 for the first time".
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched PM GatiShakti-National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity on Wednesday at Pragati Maidan. During the event, he also inaugurated the new exhibition complex (Exhibition Halls 2 to 5) at Pragati Maidan. The India International Trade Fair (IITF), the flagship event of the India Trade Promotion Organisation, will be held in these new exhibition halls from November 14 to 27.

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

India, US to raise 100 billion dollar annually to fight climate change

- India and the US reaffirmed their commitment to raising \$100 billion annually from public and private sector sources to help develop the two countries' efforts to tackle climate change.
- The climate crisis was the first topic of discussion at a meeting of the India-US Economic and Financial Partnership under the leadership of India's finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman and US treasury secretary Janet Yellen.
- The India-US Economic and Financial Partnership was launched in 2010 as a framework to cement economic bonds between the two countries and build a foundation for greater cooperation and economic growth in the future.

United States of America (USA) is a federal republic composed of 50 states and capital is Washington, D.C., Donald John Trump served as 45th President of the United States. He became the oldest and wealthiest person ever to assume the presidency, the first without prior military or government service, and the fifth to have won the election while losing the popular vote. Joseph Robinette Biden served as the 47th vice president of the United States from 2009 to 2017. In January 2017, Barak Obama awarded Biden the Presidential Medal of Freedom with distinction. He is current and 46 the President of the United States and he is the oldest President of America.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in G20 Extraordinary Leaders' Summit on Afghanistan in virtual format

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the G20 Extraordinary Leaders' Summit on Afghanistan in virtual format at the invitation of the Italian Presidency of the G-20.
- Prime Minister had earlier participated in the SCO - CSTO outreach Summit on Afghanistan. External Affairs Minister, Dr. S Jaishankar, participated in the meeting of G20 Foreign Ministers on Afghanistan on the margins of the UN General Assembly in New York.
- The G20 comprises twenty of the world's major economies and is an important platform to help build international consensus and facilitate a coordinated approach between multilateral organizations, including the UN and its agencies, and global and regional actors to address the worsening humanitarian crisis 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. The twenty-year-long war between the government and the Taliban reached a climax with the 2021 Taliban offensive and the resulting fall of Kabul which returned the Taliban to power.

India's first Atal Community Innovation Center launched by Vivekananda Global University

- India's 1st Atal Community Innovation Center (ACIC) was inaugurated at Vivekananda Global University, Jaipur (VGU). It will be the first center in the country to be set up by the Government of India, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and NITI Aayog.
- This center, started under the joint aegis of Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog and VGU, will benefit the hardworking, passionate and courageous businessmen of Rajasthan who want to take their business towards heights.

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is a flagship initiative set up by the NITI Aayog to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country. Its objective is to develop new programmes and policies for fostering innovation in different sectors of the economy, provide platform and collaboration opportunities for different stakeholders, create awareness and create an umbrella structure to oversee the innovation ecosystem of the country.

India hosts first ever SCO Seminar on Role of Women in Armed Forces

- **India hosted the first ever SCO Seminar on Role of Women in Armed Forces.** India has been an active participant in the deliberations on issues focusing on women empowerment and gender mainstreaming at various UN bodies. **The Indian Army has contributed women officers as Military Observers and Staff Officers apart from them forming part of Medical Units being deployed in UN Missions.**
- **In 1960, women of the Indian Armed Forces Medical Services headed the UN Peacekeeping mission in the Republic of Congo to assist with the setting up of a 400-bed hospital. In 2007, India created history by deploying the first ever all-female Formed Police Unit for UN Peacekeeping in Liberia.**
- **In 2019, India deployed a Female Engagement Team as part of the UN Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.** This female engagement team deployed in Congo has played a critical role in peacekeeping and inspiring women in local communities.

The SCO was formed on the basis of the agreements on confidence-building in the military sphere and on mutual reduction of armed forces in the border area signed by the Republic of Kazakhstan, the People's Republic of China, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan in Shanghai and Moscow in 1996 and 1997 respectively. The need to make efforts to transform the Shanghai Five into a regional structure of multilateral cooperation in various spheres was noted in the Dushanbe Declaration of 4 July 2000 by the heads of State of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the People's Republic of China, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan. The original five members, with the exclusion of Uzbekistan, were previously members of the Shanghai Five group, founded on 26 April 1996. Since then, the organization has expanded its membership to eight states when India and Pakistan joined SCO as full members on 9 June 2017 at a summit in Astana, Kazakhstan. SCO is headquartered in Shanghai.

Karuppur kalamkari paintings, Kallakurichi wood carvings get geographical indication (GI) tags

- **In Tamil Nadu, the Karuppur kalamkari paintings and the Kallakurichi wood carvings recently received the geographical indication (GI) tags.** Both of these art forms are traditional in nature.
- **While the paintings are intricately made on a cotton cloth using pens or brushes made out of bamboo tree and coconut tree stems, the wood carving is essentially one wherein the craftsmen are specialised in carving temple-related items and also furniture, using traditional designs.**
- **Kalamkari means creating something with a 'kalam', or a brush. Traditionally, only three colours are used — black, red and yellow. But lately, 'pale blue' has also started being used, states the Tamil Nadu Weatherman.** Several other innovations and traditions from the state have also received the coveted tag, like the Kanyakumari cloves, Dindigul locks, Mahabalipuram stone sculpture, Nilgiri (orthodox) tea, Virupakshi hill banana, Thanjavur doll, Thanjavur paintings, Coimbatore wet grinder, Kancheepuram silk and saree, to name a few.

BSF now has uniform 50 km jurisdiction to arrest, search, seize in border states

- **The Centre has empowered the Border Security Force to conduct searches, arrest suspects and make seizures up to 50 km from India-Pakistan and India-Bangladesh borders.** Effectively, the move reduces the BSF jurisdiction in a few states, increases in some others and makes no difference in Rajasthan.
- **The move might raise administrative and political issues in the affected states allowing the BSF to take action to curb illegal activities linked to national security in 10 states and two Union Territories.**
- **As per the fresh order, the BSF, which was empowered to take action only up to 15 km in Punjab, West Bengal and Assam, has now been authorised to spread its reach up to 50 km.**

The Border Security Force (BSF) is India's border guarding organisation on its border with Pakistan and Bangladesh. It is one of the five Central Armed Police Forces of India, and was raised in the wake of the 1965 War on 1 December 1965, "for ensuring the security of the borders of India and for matters connected there with". It currently stands as the world's largest border guarding force. BSF has been termed as the First Line of Defence of Indian Territories. Pankaj Kumar Singh is the current Director General of BSF.



Austria's Sebastian Kurz steps down over corruption probe to save coalition

- Austria's conservative Chancellor Sebastian Kurz resigned to pull his coalition government back from the brink of collapse after the junior party demanded his head because he has been placed under investigation on suspicion of corruption.
- The move by Kurz, who denies wrongdoing, satisfied his coalition partner, the Greens, and came just three days before a special session of parliament at which they were preparing to back a motion of no-confidence that would have forced him out.
- Sebastian Kurz is an Austrian politician currently serving as chairman and parliamentary leader of the Austrian People's Party (ÖVP). He was twice chancellor of Austria, initially from December 2017 to May 2019 and then a second time from January 2020 to October 2021. For about four years, Kurz was the youngest head of government in the world as well as the youngest chancellor in Austrian history, being first elected into office at age 31.

Austria is a landlocked East Alpine country in the southern part of Central Europe. It is composed of nine federated states, one of which is Vienna, Austria's capital and largest city. Alexander Van der Bellen is the current President of Austria. Alexander Schallenberg is serving as Chancellor of Austria since 11 October 2021. Euro is the official currency of it.

Abolhassan Banisadr, Iran's first president after 1979 revolution, dies

- Abolhassan Banisadr, Iran's first president after the country's 1979 Islamic Revolution who fled Tehran after being impeached for challenging the growing power of clerics as the nation became a theocracy, died.
- Among a sea of black-robed Shiite clerics, Banisadr stood out for his Western-style suits and a background so French that it was in philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre that he confided his belief he'd be Iran's first president some 15 years before it happened.
- Those differences only isolated him as the nationalist sought to instill a socialist-style economy in Iran underpinned by his deep Shiite faith instilled by his cleric father.

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

Germany unveils world's first automated, driverless train

- German rail operator Deutsche Bahn and industrial group Siemens unveiled the world's first automated, driverless train in the city of Hamburg, billing it as more punctual and energy efficient than traditional trains.
- The project, which Siemens and Deutsche Bahn called a "world first", is part of a 60 million euro (\$70 million) modernisation of Hamburg's rapid urban rail system.
- It would be the first time that a fully automated Hamburg train will run on sharing tracks with other regular trains. While other cities in Europe, for instance, Paris, already have driverless metros and the airports often have automated monorail trains plying terminals, those are operated on exclusive single tracks, according to local German reports.

Germany is a country in Central Europe. It is the **second-most populous country in Europe after Russia**, and the most populous member state of the European Union. **The nation's capital and largest city is Berlin**, and its financial centre is Frankfurt; the largest urban area is the Ruhr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier is serving as the President of Germany since 19 March 2017. Euro is the official currency of it. Angela Dorothea Merkel is serving as the chancellor of Germany since 2005.

Iraq: Cleric Moqtada al-Sadr's party 'biggest winner' in parliamentary election

- **In Iraq, Shi'ite Muslim cleric Moqtada al-Sadr's party is the biggest winner in an Iraqi parliamentary election.** His party has increased the number of its seats from 54 in 2018 to 73 this time in the 329-member parliament, according to initial results.
- However, **with 94 percent of the ballot boxes counted, none of the competing political blocs appeared on track to win a majority in parliament and consequently name a Prime Minister.** Kurdish parties have won 61 seats. Sunni parliament speaker Mohammed al-Halbousi's Taqaddum coalition won 38 seats. **Former Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's State Of Law coalition came third overall with 37.**

Iraq is a country in Western Asia, bordered by Turkey to the north, Iran to the east, Kuwait to the southeast, Saudi Arabia to the south, Jordan to the southwest and Syria to the west. **The capital and largest city is Baghdad.** The **Iraqi dinar is the currency of Iraq.** **Mustafa al-Kadhimi** is currently serving as the Prime Minister of Iraq since May 2020. **Barham Salih is the current President of Iraq.**

China, Russia launch joint naval drills in Russian Far East

- **China and Russia are holding joint naval drills off the Russian Far East** in the latest sign of their growing political and military alignment. **The exercises Joint Sea 2021 kicked off with a ceremony in Russia's Peter the Great Gulf.**
- Chinese state media say the drills encompass communications, anti-mine, anti-air and anti-submarine operations, joint maneuvering and firing on seaborne targets. While such exercises have been held before, the reports say **this is the first time China has sent anti-submarine warfare planes and destroyers for exercises abroad.** **China and Russia are united in opposing U.S. influence and are harsh critics of Washington's foreign policy stumbles in Afghanistan and elsewhere.**

China is a country in East Asia and the world's most populous country, with a **population of around 1.404 billion.** **Beijing is the capital** of the People's Republic of China. **Xi Jinping is serving as president** of the People's Republic of China. **National People's Congress is the national legislature** of the People's Republic of China. **With 2,980 members in 2018, it is the largest parliamentary body in the world.** **China's currency yuan joins the International Monetary Fund's basket of reserve currencies.** China claims sovereignty over all of the South China Sea, a huge source of hydrocarbons. **However, several ASEAN member countries, including Vietnam, Philippines and Brunei, have made counterclaims.** **Chinese claims in the South China Sea are described in part by the nine-dash line.** **China and India are the two neighbouring countries in Asia.** **India shares 3488 km of border with China that runs along the states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand and Arunachal Pradesh.** **The Belt and Road Initiative, known in Chinese and formerly in English as One Belt One Road or OBOR for short, is a global infrastructure development strategy adopted by the Chinese government in 2013 to invest in nearly 70 countries and international organizations.**

Indian Army contingent departs for Indo-US Joint Military Exercise "Ex Yudh Abhyas 2021" in Alaska

- **The 17th edition of the joint military training exercise "Ex Yudh Abhyas 2021" was conducted at Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, Alaska, the United States as part of the ongoing Indo-US Defence Cooperation.** The contingent, comprising of 350 personnel of an Infantry Battalion Group departed on October 14.
- **The Exercise YudhAbhyas is the largest running joint military training and defense cooperation endeavour between India and the US.** The earlier version of this exercise was **held in India at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Bikaner, Rajasthan earlier this year** in the month of February. **This exercise is a milestone in the growing military cooperation between the two countries.**

- The exercise is from **October 15-29** and aims at enhancing interoperability, cooperation and understanding. During the exercise the two sides will work on combined arms manoeuvres in cold climatic conditions. And the primary aim is learning best practices from each other and sharing tactical level drills. The Indian Army has deployed 350 soldiers of the 7 Madras infantry battalion. And the US side has sent in 300 soldiers belonging to the First Squadron (Airborne) of the 40th Cavalry Regiment. The exercise was started in 2004 under the US Army Pacific Partnership Program.

Norway's Labor and Center parties to form a minority government

- Norway's leftwing Labour Party and the rural Centre Party have agreed to form a minority government. The deal paves the way for Labour leader Jonas Gahr Støre to become prime minister, replacing Conservative Prime Minister Erna Solberg who said after losing the election that she plans to step down.

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

Moscow Metro Introduces 'World's First' Pay-by-Face System

- The Moscow Metro rolled out what authorities have touted as the world's first fare payment system based on facial recognition technology. The cashless, cardless and phone-less system, called "Face Pay," has been fitted at special turnstiles across the Russian capital's more than 240 metro stations.

8th Edition of joint military exercise MITRA SHAKTI between Indian, Sri Lanka culminates

- The 8th Edition of joint military exercise MITRA SHAKTI between the Indian Army and the Sri Lankan Army culminated in Ampara, Sri Lanka. Exercise Mitra Shakti, based on counter insurgency and counter terrorism operations in semi urban terrain is the largest bilateral exercise being undertaken by the Sri Lankan Army and it forms a major part of India and Sri Lanka's growing defence partnership.

Global Hunger Index 2021: India slips to 101st spot, behind Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal

- India has slipped to the 101st position among 116 countries in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2021 from its 2020 ranking (94), to be placed behind Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal. Eighteen countries, including China, Brazil and Kuwait, shared the top rank with GHI score of less than five, the website of the Global Hunger Index that tracks hunger and malnutrition said.
- With this, only 15 countries — Papua New Guinea (102), Afghanistan (103), Nigeria (103), Congo (105), Mozambique (106), Sierra Leone (106), Timor-Leste (108), Haiti (109), Liberia (110), Madagascar (111), Democratic Republic of Congo (112), Chad (113), Central African Republic (114), Yemen (115) and Somalia (116) — fared worse than India this year.
- The report, prepared jointly by Irish aid agency Concern Worldwide and German organisation Welt Hunger Hilfe, mentioned the level of hunger in India as "alarming" with its GHI score decelerating from 38.8 in 2000 to the range of 28.8 – 27.5 between 2012 and 2021.
- The GHI score is calculated on four indicators — undernourishment; child wasting (the share of children under the age of five who have low weight for their height, reflecting acute under nutrition); child stunting (children under the age of five who have low height for their age, reflecting chronic under nutrition); child mortality (the mortality rate of children under the age of five).

The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is published annually as part of a partnership between Concern Worldwide, Ireland's largest aid and humanitarian agency and Welthungerhilfe. The first GHI report was published in 2006. The GHI is intended to be "a tool designed to comprehensively measure and track hunger at global, regional, and national levels".



IMPS limit raised to Rs 5L from Rs 2L

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has raised the transaction limit in Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 5 lakh. IMPS offers instant domestic funds transfer facility 24x7 through banking channels.
- The RBI has also proposed to introduce a framework for retail digital payments in offline mode across the country. This will further expand the reach of digital payments and open up new opportunities for individuals and businesses. A scheme to test technologies that enable digital payments even in remote places where internet connectivity is either absent or barely available was announced in August 2020.

Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) is an instant payment inter-bank electronic funds transfer system in India. IMPS offers an inter-bank electronic fund transfer service through mobile phones. The service is available 24x7 throughout the year including bank holidays. NEFT was also made available 24x7 from December 2019. RTGS was also made available 24x7 from 14th December 2020. It is managed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and is built upon the existing National Financial Switch network. IMPS was publicly launched on 22 November 2010.

Mukesh Ambani joins Jeff Bezos, Elon Musk in world's exclusive \$100 billion club

- Mukesh Ambani, Asia's richest person, joined Jeff Bezos and Elon Musk in the world's most exclusive wealth club with a fortune of at least \$100 billion. The chairman of India's Reliance Industries Ltd. entered the rarefied group of 11 men as his conglomerate's stock climbed to a record.
- He's now worth \$100.6 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, after his wealth increased by \$23.8 billion this year. India's billionaires are some of the largest gainers on the world's rich list, as Asia's best-performing major stock market this year gets a boost from a surge in initial public offerings.
- Earlier, Mukesh Ambani retained his top spot in the 2021 Forbes list of 100 richest Indians in 2021 for the 14th year in a row. His wealth growth can be attributed to RIL's steady rise in the stock market due to gains in the telecom, digital and retail businesses.
- Elon Musk topped the list with a net worth of \$222 billion. Musk is the founder, CEO, and Chief Engineer at SpaceX. He is also the CEO, and product architect at Tesla.; SpaceX's Starlink broadband will focus on 10 rural Lok Sabha constituencies in India to provide internet services.

Nearly 52,000 apprentices hired in Skill India's 'National Apprenticeship Mela' 2021

- Skill India with due support from Directorate General of Training (DGT) and National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) organized a day-long 'Apprenticeship Mela' across the country in over 660 locations.
- Under the initiative, nearly 52,000 apprentices were hired. The event witnessed participation from more than five thousand organisations, operating in more than 30 sectors such as Power, Retail, Telecom, Electronics, Automotive and more. Additionally, country's aspiring youth received the opportunity to engage and select prospects from more than 500 trades including posts for Welder, Electrician, Housekeeper, Beautician, Mechanic and more.

IMF says India will be fastest growing economy; expects 9.5 % growth this year

- **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has projected that India will continue to be the world's fastest growing major economy, clocking a growth rate of 9.5 per cent in 2021. As per latest IMF projections, Indian economy will grow at 8.5 percent in 2022.
- India's growth projection released by the latest World Economic Outlook remains unchanged from its previous WEO (World Economic Outlook) update of July this summer but is a three-percentage point in 2021 and 1.6 percentage point drop from its April projections.
- The world economy is expected to grow at 5.9 per cent in 2021 and 4.9 per cent in 2022, according to IMF. The United States is projected to grow at six per cent this year and 5.2 per cent the next year.
- China, on the other hand, is projected to grow at 8 per cent in 2021 and 5.6 per cent in 2022. IMF said, global recovery continues, but the momentum has weakened and uncertainty has increased.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is an organization of 190 countries, working to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduce poverty around the world. Created in 1945, the IMF is governed by and accountable to the 190 countries that make up its near-global membership. Ms. Kristalina Georgieva, from Bulgaria, is Managing Director and Chairman of the Executive Board of International Monetary Fund (IMF) from October 1, 2019. Prominent Indian-American economist Gita Gopinath has joined as the chief economist of the International Monetary Fund, becoming the first woman to occupy the top post at the global lender. The latest currency that was added to the basket of currencies by the International Monetary Fund to determine the value of XDR is the Chinese renminbi in 2016. The other international currencies in the basket of currencies are British Pound, Japanese Yen, US Dollar, and Euro. XDR is the currency code of Special Drawing Rights. Andorra has joined the International Monetary Fund (IMF), to become its 190th member.

Government accords “Maharatna” status to PFC

- Govt. of India accorded ‘Maharatna’ status to the state-owned Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC), thus giving PFC greater operational and financial autonomy. An order to this effect was issued by the Department of Public Enterprises, under the Ministry of Finance.
- Incorporated in 1986, PFC is the largest Infrastructure Finance Company exclusively dedicated to Power Sector under the administrative control of the Ministry of Power. The grant of ‘Maharatna’ status to PFC will impart enhanced powers to the PFC Board while taking financial decisions.
- The Board of a ‘Maharatna’ CPSE can make equity investments to undertake financial joint ventures and wholly-owned subsidiaries and undertake mergers and acquisitions in India and abroad, subject to a ceiling of 15% of the Net Worth of the concerned CPSE, limited to Rs.5,000 crore in one project.
- The Board can also structure and implement schemes relating to personnel and Human Resource Management and Training. They can also enter into technology Joint Ventures or other strategic alliances among others.

Power Finance Corporation Ltd. (P. F. C.) is an Indian financial institution under the ownership of Ministry of Power, Government of India. Established in 1986, it is the financial backbone of Indian Power Sector. PFC is India's largest NBFC and also India's largest infrastructure finance company. Government has raised status of PFC from ‘Navratna’ to ‘Maharatna’ company on 12 October 2021. The corporation is headed by the chairman and managing director, who at present is Ravinder Singh Dhillon. It is based in New Delhi.

BharatPe appoints former SBI chairman Rajnish Kumar as its chairman

- BharatPe has appointed former SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar as chairman of the board. In his role as BharatPe chairman, Kumar will be involved in formulating the firm's short-term and long-term strategy, as well as work closely with the board and executives on regulatory matters.
- He will also advise and counsel the management on corporate governance. Kumar became SBI chairman in October 2017 and attained superannuation in October 2020. He is currently an independent non-executive director at HSBC Bank Asia and L&T Infotech Ltd.

BharatPe is a fintech company that caters to the small merchants and kirana store owners of India. The company offers a range of fintech products including interoperable QR code for UPI payments, Bharat Swipe (POS machine) for card acceptance, and small business financing. It facilitates small merchants to accept payments via UPI (Unified Payments Interface) for free, through the BharatPe QR code. **The firm was co-founded by Ashneer Grover and Shashvrat Nakrani in 2018, with its headquarters in New Delhi, India.**

Centrum-BharatPe gets licence for small finance bank

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued a Small Finance Bank (SFB) license to the consortium of Centrum Financial Services, and Digital payments platform BharatPe.**
- **A new bank license has been issued after a gap of nearly 6 years, and we thank the RBI for the confidence shown in the abilities of Centrum and BharatPe.**

Small Finance Banks are the financial institutions which provide financial services to the unserved and unbanked region of the country. They are registered as a public limited company under the Companies Act, 2013. Needs to open at least 25% of its banking outlets in unbanked rural centres. Required to extend 75% of its adjusted net bank credit to the Priority Sector Lending (PSL). The RBI mandates banks to lend a certain portion of their funds to specified sectors, like agriculture, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), export credit, education, housing, social infrastructure, renewable energy among others. At least 50% of its loan portfolio should constitute loans and advances of up to Rs. 25 lakhs. The maximum loan size and investment limit exposure to a single and group debtor would be restricted to 10% and 15% of its capital funds, respectively. They cannot extend large loans. If the initial shareholding by promoters in the bank is in excess of 40% of paid-up voting equity capital, it should be brought down to 40% within a period of 5 years. The minimum paid-up voting equity capital / net worth requirement shall be Rs. 200 crores. For Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks (UCBs), desirous of voluntarily transiting into SFBs, initial requirement of net worth shall be at Rs. 100 crores, which will have to be increased to Rs. 200 crores within 5 years from the date of commencement of business.

Rich List: India's wealthiest self-made entrepreneurs under 40

- **IIFL Wealth and Hurun India released the 'IIFL Wealth Hurun India 40 and Under Self-Made Rich List 2021' ranking the self-made entrepreneurs of India with a wealth of over Rs 1,000 crore.**
- **Indian-born businessman and founder of Media.net Divyank Turakhia topped the list with a wealth of Rs 12,500 crore, followed by co-founders of Browser Stack Nakul Aggarwal and Ritesh Arora with a wealth of Rs 12,400 crore each.**
- **42 of the 45 entrepreneurs reside in India, with Bengaluru having the highest number of IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich Listers aged under 40.** Software, services, transportation and logistics are the major contributors of wealth for entrepreneurs under the age of 40.

Pakistan among top 10 countries in list of largest external debt stocks

- **Pakistan is among the top 10 countries that possess the largest external debt stocks and became eligible for the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, said World Bank report.**
- **The combined external debt stock of the 10 largest DSSI-eligible borrowers (Angola, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mongolia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, and Zambia) was 509 billion dollars at end-2020, 12 per cent higher than the comparable figure at end-2019 and equivalent to 59 per cent of the external debt obligations of all DSSI-eligible countries combined.**
- **They also accounted for 65 per cent of the end-2020 private non-guaranteed external debt of DSSI-eligible countries.** The rate at which debt accumulated in individual countries varied considerably.

Settlement orders: Sebi forms high-powered advisory panel

- **The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has constituted a four-member high-powered advisory committee on settlement orders and compounding of offences.** The committee will be chaired by Vijay C Daga, retired judge of High Court of Bombay.

- The other members of the panel are —former law secretary in Ministry of Law & Justice, PK Malhotra; ex-chairman of Deloitte Haskins & Sells LLP PR Ramesh and DN Raval, partner at Raval & Raval Associates.

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

UCO Bank CEO Atul Kumar Goel appointed chairman of Indian Banks' Association

- UCO Bank CEO Atul Kumar Goel has been appointed as chairman of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) for 2021-22 succeeding Union Bank of India CEO Rajkiran Rai.
- In the managing committee meeting, IBA members also elected State Bank of India chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara, Canara Bank CEO L V Prabhakar and IDBI Bank CEO Rakesh Sharma as deputy chairmen of the IBA.

Indian Banks' Association (IBA), formed on (26 September 1946) as a representative body of management of banking in India operating in India - an association of Indian banks and financial institutions based in Mumbai. With an initial membership representing 22 banks in India in 1946, IBA currently represents 247 banking companies operating in India. IBA was formed for development, coordination and strengthening of Indian banking, and assist the member banks in various ways including implementation of new systems and adoption of standards among the members.

Crypto assets pose financial stability challenges: IMF report

- The rapid growth of the crypto ecosystem presents new opportunities, the IMF has said, but also cautioned that the digital currency assets pose financial stability challenges. Cryptocurrencies are digital or virtual currencies in which encryption techniques are used to regulate the generation of units and verify the transfer of funds, operating independently of a central bank.
- “The rapid growth of the crypto ecosystem presents new opportunities. Technological innovation is ushering in a new era that makes payments and other financial services cheaper, faster, more accessible, and allows them to flow across borders swiftly,” it said in a chapter of its latest report Global Financial Stability Report.

World Steel Association elects Sajjan Jindal as Chairman; becomes first Indian to hold the post

- The World Steel Association (WSA) has elected JSW Steel Chairman and Managing Director Sajjan Jindal as its Chairman for the 2021-22 period.
- With this, Jindal becomes the first representative from India to serve as Chairman of the WSA. The association has also appointed Tata Steel CEO T V Narendran and Arcelor Mittal chief L N Mittal to the Executive Committee.

World Steel Association is the international trade body for the iron and steel industry. The association is one of the largest and most dynamic industry associations in the world, with members in every major steel-producing country. Members represent around 85% of global steel production. It is a non-profit organisation with its headquarters in Brussels, Belgium and a second office in Beijing, China, whose purpose is to promote steel and the steel industry to customers, the industry, media and the general public.



Inventions/Discoveries

PM Narendra Modi launched Indian Space Association

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Indian Space Association (ISpA)** via video conferencing. He also interacted with representatives of the Space Industry on this landmark occasion.
- **Indian Space Association is the Premier Industry Association of Space and Satellite companies**, which aspires to be the collective voice of the Indian Space industry. It will undertake policy advocacy and engage with all stakeholders in the Indian Space domain, including the Government and its agencies.
- **Echoing the Prime Minister’s vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, ISpA will help in making India self-reliant, technologically advanced and a leading player in the space arena. ISpA is represented by leading home grown and global corporations** with advanced capabilities in space and satellite technologies.
- **Its founding members include Larson and Toubro, Nelco, OneWeb, Bharti Airtel, Mapmyindia, Walchandnagar Industries and Ananth Technology Limited.** Other core members include Godrej, Hughes India, Azista-BST Aerospace Private Limited, BEL, Centum Electronics and Maxar India.
- **Mr. Jayant Patil, Whole time Director - Defence & Smart Technologies, is the first Chairman of ISpA** and Mr. Rahul Vatts, Chief Regulatory Officer Bharti Airtel and Director – OneWeb India is the Vice Chairman. Lt Gen. A.K. Bhatt (Retd) is the Director General of the Association. **ISpA aims to be a forum of the space industry in the Indian private sector and partner the Government of India** and other key stakeholders across space industry segments in making the nation self-reliant in the area as well as to become a global service provider. We thank the Hon’ble Prime Minister for his blessings to this initiative.”
- According to ISRO, **the current size of the global space economy stands at about USD 360 billion.** However, **India accounts for only about 2% of the space economy with a potential to capture 9% of the global market share by 2030.**

Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) was approved in 2020 to provide a level playing field for private companies to use Indian space infrastructure. In the 2019 Budget, the government had announced the setting up of a New Space India Limited (NSIL), a public sector company that would serve as a marketing arm of ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation). Its main purpose is to market the technologies developed by ISRO and bring it more clients that need space-based services. That role, incidentally, was already being performed by Antrix Corporation, another public sector undertaking working under the Department of Space, and which still exists.

NASA launched its Lucy spacecraft for 12-year mission on Trojan asteroids

- **NASA launched a spacecraft called Lucy on a 12-year mission to explore Jupiter’s Trojan asteroids for the first time**, gathering new insights into the solar system’s formation.
- **The Atlas V rocket responsible for propelling the probe took off from Cape Canaveral. Named after an ancient fossil of a pre-human ancestor, Lucy will become the first solar-powered spacecraft to venture so far from the Sun**, and will observe more asteroids than any probe before it – eight in all.

- **Lucy will also make three Earth flybys for gravity assists, making it the first spacecraft to return to our planet's vicinity from the outer solar system.** "Each one of those asteroids, each one of those pristine samples, provide a part of the story of the solar system, the story of us," Thomas Zurbuchen, associate administrator of NASA's Science Mission, told reporters on a call.
- **Lucy's first encounter will be in 2025 with asteroid Donaldjohanson in the Main Belt, between Mars and Jupiter. The asteroid is named after the discoverer of the Lucy fossil. Between 2027 and 2033, it will encounter seven Trojan asteroids – five in the swarm that leads Jupiter, and two in the swarm that trails the gas giant. The largest of them is about 60 miles (95 kilometers) in diameter.**
- **Lucy will fly by its target objects within 250 miles (400 kilometers) of their surfaces, and use its onboard instruments and large antenna to investigate their geology, including composition, mass, density and volume.**
- **Lucy will explore ancient asteroids, known as Trojan asteroids that are said to circle the Sun. NASA has described Trojan asteroids as the "time capsules from the birth of our solar system".**
- **Trojan asteroids "circle the Sun in two swarms, with one group leading ahead of Jupiter in its path, the other trailing behind it." They have been named after characters in Greek mythology.**
- **The Trojan asteroids are said to orbit in the same path as the largest planet in our solar system which is Jupiter. Lucy is set to be the first spacecraft to visit these asteroids in this region of our solar system. The spacecraft will aid in procuring data, which will in turn help scientists delve deep into the solar system's ancient history.**

Lucy the fossil was discovered in Ethiopia in 1974 and helped shed light on human evolution. The space mission's name was chosen with the hope that it will shed light on the solar system's evolution. The paleoanthropologists who discovered the hominin remains named her after the Beatles' song "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds", which they were playing loudly at the expedition camp. Lucy the probe is carrying a diamond beam splitter into the sky – the Lucy Thermal Emission Spectrometer, which detects far infrared radiation, to map asteroid surface temperatures.

Department of Biotechnology launches country's first 'One Health' consortium

- **Dr. Renu Swarup, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of launched the First 'One Health' project of DBT through video conferencing.** This programme envisages carrying out surveillance of important bacterial, viral and parasitic infections of zoonotic as well as transboundary pathogens in India, including the North-eastern part of the country. Use of existing diagnostic tests and the development of additional methodologies when required are mandated for the surveillance and for understanding the spread of emerging diseases.
- **Dr. Renu Swarup in her address during the launch of the programme remarked that this Consortium, consisting of 27 organisations led by DBT-National Institute of Animal Biotechnology, Hyderabad, is one of the biggest one health programs launched by Govt of India in post-COVID times.** The One health consortium consists of AIIMS, Delhi, AIIMS Jodhpur, IVRI, Bareilly, GADVASU, Ludhiana, TANUVAS, Chennai, MAFSU, Nagpur, Assam agricultural and veterinary university and many more ICAR, ICMR centres and wild life agencies.
- **Subsequently, Dr. Renu Swarup, Secretary, DBT inaugurated the International mini-symposium on "Essentials of One Health" through Video Conferencing.** Dr. Swarup in her inaugural address emphasized the need of a holistic approach to understand the health of human, animals and wildlife to minimize the damage caused by future pandemics. International and national speakers shared their views on initiating and nurturing the concept of 'One Health' where man, animal, plants and environment are needed to be considered complimentary to each other for maintaining health of all.

ITCA Bengaluru launches 75 Students' Satellites Consortium: Mission 2022

- **Indian Technology Congress Association in Bengaluru focuses on building synergies between academia, industry and research organisations.** It has initiated an ambitious programme to commemorate the 75 years of Indian Independence. It has launched 75 Students' Satellites Consortium: Mission 2022. Under the mission, a consortium of 75 students will build satellites to be launched by ISRO.

- The Indian Technology Congress Association has collaborated with various organisations such as TMISAT of Israel, CSPD Serbia and UNISEC of Japan to design and launch the student-built satellite by 2022 when India completes its 75 years of Independence.

ITCA is a dedicated Association for Technologists focused on facilitating collaboration between Professionals from the industry, R&D Laboratories, Government, Academic Institutions and professional bodies. Over the years, ITC has emerged as a leading forum for the confluence of thought leaders in technology, sciences and businesses working on deploying technology-intensive solutions for contemporary challenges.

Mozambique becomes first country to receive emission reductions payments from forest carbon partnership facility

- Mozambique has become the first country to receive payments from a World Bank trust fund for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation—commonly known as REDD+.
- The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) paid Mozambique \$6.4 million for reducing 1.28 million tons of carbon emissions since 2019. The payment is the first of four under the country's Emission Reductions Payment Agreement (ERPA) with the FCPF that could unlock up to \$50 million for reducing up to 10 million tons of CO₂ emissions in Mozambique's Zambézia Province by the end of 2024.

The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) is a global partnership of governments, businesses, civil society, and indigenous people's organizations focused on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, forest carbon stock conservation, the sustainable management of forests, and the enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries, activities commonly referred to as REDD+. Launched in 2008, the FCPF now works with 47 developing countries across Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean, along with 17 donors that have made contributions and commitments totaling \$1.3 billion.

First nuclear reactor pressure vessel installed at Bangladesh atomic power plant

- Russia's state-run nuclear power corporation has completed the installation of the reactor pressure vessel at Bangladesh's first atomic power plant, marking a significant step forward in the country's efforts to develop its nuclear power industry.
- India's Hindustan Construction Company has bagged a \$110 million contract for civil works at the Rooppur plant in a joint venture with Bangladesh's MAX Group. The Indian company holds a 40% share in the joint venture.
- Indian firms are able to participate in construction work and supply of non-critical equipment for the project under a trilateral agreement signed by India, Russia, and Bangladesh in 2018.

Hindustan Construction Company Limited or HCC Limited is a construction company headquartered in Mumbai, India whose businesses span the sectors of Engineering & Construction, Real Estate, Infrastructure, Urban development & Management.

Earth receives first radio signals from planet outside of Solar System

- In a major discovery, astronomers have for the first time detected stars that are blasting radio signals hinting at the presence of hidden planets around them. The signals were picked up using the world's most powerful radio antenna, the Low-Frequency Array (LOFAR) situated in the Netherlands.
- The new technique of spotting hidden planets could hint at the possibility of life in the system, which remains the biggest question in astronomy. Are we alone? The signals were detected by Dr Benjamin Pope from the University of Queensland and his colleagues at the Dutch national observatory ASTRON. The astronomers have been searching for planets using LOFAR.
- The astronomers have detected signals from 19 distant red dwarfs, four of which are best explained by the existence of planets orbiting them. "We've long known that the planets of our own solar system emit powerful radio waves as their magnetic fields interact with the solar wind, but radio signals from planets outside our solar system had yet to be picked up,".

Raman Gangakhedkar among WHO's scientific advisory group for origins of novel pathogens

- **Dr Raman Gangakhedkar**, a leading Indian epidemiologist, has been named to an expert group launched by the WHO that will examine origins of emerging and re-emerging pathogens of epidemic and pandemic potential, including SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19.
- **Gangakhedkar**, the former head of epidemiology and communicable diseases at the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), is the **Dr C.G. Pandit National Chair** at the ICMR. The SAGO will advise WHO on the development of a global framework to define and guide studies into the origins of emerging and re-emerging pathogens of epidemic and pandemic potential, including SARS-CoV-2.

The World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for international public health. The WHO Constitution states its main objective as “the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health”. Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, it has six regional offices and 150 field offices worldwide. The WHO was established on 7 April 1948. The first meeting of the World Health Assembly (WHA), the agency's governing body, took place on 24 July of that year. The director-general is **Tedros Adhanom** of Ethiopia.

China sent its first solar exploration satellite into space

- China sent its first solar exploration satellite into space from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in northern Shanxi Province. The satellite was launched aboard a Long March-2D rocket and entered its planned orbit successfully.
- Ten small satellites including an orbital atmospheric density detection experimental satellite and a commercial meteorological detection constellation experimental satellite were also sent into space using the same carrier rocket.

Madhya Pradesh: Jabalpur gets India's first Kids friendly COVID vaccination centre

- On the occasion of ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav 2021’ under the Nurturing Neighbourhood Challenge Jabalpur developed the country's first kids friendly COVID vaccination centre.
- The centre would cater to the children of 2 yr to 12 yr age and their vaccination process. The new kids friendly COVID vaccination centre has been given a catchy look and feel. The centre has been painted in a way that will help to reduce the injection-fear among the children. Equipped with popular cartoons and a park to play, this kids vaccination centre is getting a lot of praise from the residents.

In a rocky Israeli crater, scientists simulate life on Mars

- **AMADEE-20** habitat is tucked beneath a rocky outcrop. Inside they sleep, eat and conduct experiments. Outside they wear mock space suits fitted with cameras, microphones and self-contained breathing systems.
- The Austrian association is running the project together with the Israel Space Agency and local group **D-MARS**. A number of recent Mars probes have captivated astronomy fans across the world with robotic rovers like NASA's Perseverance and, for the first time, the helicopter Ingenuity, offering a glance of the planet's surface. But a manned mission is likely more than a decade off.

IIT researchers working on first-of-its kind geography based smart speed warning system

- Researchers at different Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) are working on development of a first-of-its kind “smart speed warning system” for vehicles which will alert the driver on the basis of road infrastructure and geographical location to avoid over-speeding related crashes.
- According to statistics available with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, about 70 per cent of road fatalities in India occur due to over-speeding. To minimise such fatalities, the government had mandated that all new cars sold from July 1, 2019, should include a speed governor device that will generate intermittent warning beeps for above 80 kmph and the constant beep for above 120 kmph for drivers. To further reduce damage to lives, the fine for speeding was increased by ten times under the new Motor Vehicles Act of 2019.



Sports Personalities in News

DRS to be used in men's T20 World Cup for the first time

- For the first time in an ICC men's T20I tournament the Decision Review System (DRS) will be in use as the governing body has announced that the system will be available at the T20 World Cup.
- The ICC has also decided to increase the minimum number of overs for delayed and rain-interrupted matches. During the group stages of the T20 World Cup, each team will need to bat for a minimum of five overs for the result to be decided by the DLS method. That's the norm for any T20I currently.
- But for the semi-finals and the final, each team will need to bat for a minimum of 10 overs to effect a result, as was the norm in the women's T20 World Cup last year, where it became a major talking point after the first semi-final, between England and India, was washed out in Sydney, and the absence of a reserve day saw England eliminated.

Germany becomes first team to qualify for 2022 World Cup

- Germany qualified for the 2022 World Cup by crushing North Macedonia 4-0 away to secure top spot in qualifying Group J with two games to spare.

Divya Deshmukh becomes India's latest Woman Grand Master

- Child prodigy Divya Deshmukh has become India's latest Woman Grand Master (WGM) at the Grandmaster chess tournament in Budapest, Hungary.

Indian women's team beat Spain 3-2 in Uber Cup Finals

- The Indian women's badminton team registered a 3-2 win over Spain in Group B of the 2020 Uber Cup Finals, at Aarhus in Denmark. Though Spain were without former World No 1 Carolina Marin, the Indians will take the 3-2 win as amorable booster as it was their first match of the event.

MS Dhoni becomes first T20 captain to lead in 300 matches

- Former Indian wicketkeeper-batter MS Dhoni has become the first captain to lead 300 matches in the T20 format. Dhoni has been at the helm for Chennai Super Kings, India, Rising Pune Supergiants in the - IPL, CL T20, Asia Cup, T20 World Cup - and has won every major T20 Trophy in the world.
- Second on the all-time list comes West Indian icon, Daren Sammy who has lead Peshawar Zalmi, Rajshahi Kings, St Lucia, St Lucia Stars, St Lucia Zouks, Sunrisers Hyderabad, Titans, West Indies, West Indies XI, and Windward Islands in the T20 format in 208 matches.

India beat Nepal 3-0 to clinch SAFF Championship title for 8th time

- India clinched the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship for eighth time defeating Nepal 3-0 in Male. India dominated possession in the first-half but they failed to score any goal. Notably, this is the Indian football team's first title victory under head coach Igor Stimac. The final was the 12th for India in 13 editions, which also shows their domination in this regional tournament.

MISCELLANEOUS

Manipur CM launches “Chief Minister’s Health for All” scheme

- In Manipur, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh launched the “Chief Minister’s Health for All”. The scheme was already announced by him on the 71st Birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 17th September this year.
- The Chief Minister Gi Hakchel Gi Tengbal (CM Health Care Scheme) and Ayushman Bharat health cards will also be issued to the patients having severe and chronic illness, if eligible. The Chief Minister also distributed ASHA Plus devices, smartphones and tablets to CHOs, Nurses and ASHA workers for the newly launched campaign.

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

Himachal Pradesh’s Kinnaur becomes first fully vaccinated district in India

- Himachal Pradesh’s tribal district of Kinnaur, which shares international border with China, has become the first fully vaccinated district in the Country.
- The district has attained 100 percent vaccine coverage with all eligible citizens above 18 years getting both doses of Covid-19 vaccine.

I&B Minister Anurag Thakur launches MyParkings app in New Delhi

- Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur launched MyParkings app in New Delhi in presence of Mukesh Suryaam, Mayor South Delhi Municipal Corporation.
- Mr Thakur said, parking is a difficult issue and this app is an effort to reduce stress and help people plan their trips better. Smart parking solution through app or through card is an effortless solution towards hassle-free parking.
- Booking of online parking slots will enable people to park their vehicles without inconvenience. Ease of parking through the app will also help reduce pollution from vehicles by minimizing the time spent searching for parking spots.

India’s first Women Mission Rock Band performed in Kashmir on October 9-10

- India’s first female mission rock band, Meri Zindagi, was performing in the valleys of Kashmir on October 9 and 10. The band members was spreading awareness about girls’ education, menstrual hygiene, fundamental rights and self-dependency through the beautiful means of music.
- The Lucknow-based band will be performing at a musical concert to spread information and make the girls and women of the area conscious of the various dimensions of life that surround a female. The rock band will not just give a performance but will also hold a chat session, especially for young female students to talk about education, health and equality.

Abdul Qadeer Khan, father of Pakistan's nuclear bomb dies at 85

- Abdul Qadeer Khan, 85, known as the father of Pakistan's nuclear bomb died due to Covid-19 in Islamabad.
- AQ Khan had been living a secluded life since 2004 after he admitted to a role of massive global nuclear proliferation scam by Pakistan. He had accepted responsibility for illegal proliferation of N-technology to Iran, North Korea and Libya.

Directi founder Divyank Turakhia wealthiest Indian under-40 with Rs 12,500 cr net worth

- Divyank Turakhia of Media.Net has topped a list of the most-wealthy Indians under-40 years with a networth of Rs 12,500 crore.
- Most of the 45 entrants in the 'IIFL Wealth-Hurun India 40 and Under Self-Made Rich List 2021' are start-up entrepreneurs and each has a networth of over Rs 1,000 crore. Browserstack co-founders Nakul Aggarwal (38) and Ritesh Arora (37) with wealth of Rs 12,400 crore each are second on the list, which has 31 new entrants this year.

JK Rowling releases Christmas book about 'being lost and found' inspired by son's toy pigs

- Harry Potter author JK Rowling released her first children's Christmas book, inspired by lockdown and her son David's beloved cuddly toy pigs.
- 'The Christmas Pig' is a story about "being lost and being found, about loving and being loved, about what stays with us and what falls away."

Actress Divya Dutta's second book, 'The Stars in My Sky'

- From her impromptu improvisations on the sets with Irrfan Khan to her non-stop peals of laughter with Shah Rukh Khan, actress Divya Dutta tells it all in her upcoming book, "The Stars in My Sky: Those Who Brightened My Film Journey", slated to be released on October 25.
- In her second book, Dutta recounts her experiences with some of the stalwarts of Bollywood who played a significant role in her film journey.

Justice A.K. Goswami sworn-in as new Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh High Court

- Chief Justice A.K. Goswami was sworn in as the new Chief Justice of the Chhattisgarh High Court. He was earlier serving as the Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh.
- Governor Anusuiya Uikey administered the oath of office and secrecy at a function held at Raj Bhawan. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, members of the council of ministers, and senior officials were present on the occasion.

Harbhajan Singh conferred with honorary Ph.D. in Sports by renowned French university

- One of the greatest off-spinners India has ever produced, Harbhajan Singh, referred to by his fans as The Turbanator, has been conferred with an honorary Ph.D. in Sports by Ecole Superieure Robert de Sorbon, a renowned university in France, in a convocation ceremony. When it comes to the degree that Harbhajan has been conferred with, the university offers the doctorate degree to popular personalities, including the ones from the sports fraternity

Aravind Kumar sworn in as Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court

- Justice Aravind Kumar was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court. Governor Acharya Devvrat administered the oath of office to him at Raj Bhavan in Gandhinagar.
- Justice Aravind Kumar succeeds Justice Vikram Nath as the Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court. Before this assignment, he was working as a Judge of the Karnataka High Court.

AWARDS

Journalists Maria Ressa, Dmitry Muratov win Nobel Peace Prize

- **The Nobel Peace Prize awarded to journalists Maria Ressa of Philippines and Dmitry Muratov of Russia for their fight for freedom of expression in their countries.**
- **The pair were honoured for their efforts to safeguard freedom of expression**, which is a precondition for democracy and lasting peace, said the chairwoman of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, Berit Reiss-Andersen.
- **They are representatives of all fearless journalists who stand up for truth in a world** in which democracy and freedom of the press face increasingly adverse conditions, she said. 58 years old Ressa and 59 years old Rappler have also documented how social media is being used to spread fake news, harass opponents and manipulate public discourse.
- **Ressa, a former CNN correspondent who also holds US citizenship, is currently on bail pending an appeal against a conviction last year in a cyber-libel case, for which she faces up to six years in prison.** Muratov, has defended freedom of speech in Russia for decades, under increasingly challenging conditions.
- **The Nobel Peace Prize is one of the five Nobel Prizes established by the will of Swedish industrialist, inventor, and armaments (military weapons and equipment) manufacturer Alfred Nobel, along with the prizes in Chemistry, Physics, Physiology or Medicine, and Literature.** Since March 1901, it has been awarded annually (with some exceptions) to those who have “done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses”.

Three US-based economists win economics Nobel Prize for work on natural experiments

- **A U.S.-based Canadian David Card, Israeli-American Joshua Angrist and Dutch-American Guido Imbens won the Nobel Economics Prize for insights into the labour market and “natural experiments”.**
- The Nobel committee said in a statement that the researchers were **honoured for providing “new insights about the labour market” and showing “what conclusions about cause and effect can be drawn from natural experiments”.**
- **Half of the prize went to Card, a professor at the University of California, Berkeley “for his empirical contributions to labour economics.”** Card’s work has focused on labour market effects of minimum wages, immigration and education.
- **The other half went jointly to Angrist, a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and Imbens, a professor at Stanford, “for their methodological contributions to the analysis of causal relationship.**

Meghalaya Environment Minister to Get PETA Award for ‘Vegan Leather’ Initiative

- **PETA India has decided to confer on Meghalaya Environment Minister James P K Sangma the Progressive Business Concept Award for his plans to produce ‘vegan leather’ in the northeastern state.**
- **People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) volunteers in Meghalaya will soon hand over the award to the minister.**

IMPORTANT DAYS

28th NHRC Foundation Day

- **NHRC was set up on October 12, 1993 for the promotion and protection of human rights.**
- **The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India is a Statutory public body constituted on 12 October 1993 under the Protection of Human Rights Ordinance of 28 September 1993. It was given a statutory basis by the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 (PHRA).**

International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, 13 October

- **The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction is celebrated on 13 October; it is an opportunity to acknowledge the progress being made toward reducing disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health.**
- **The 2021 edition focuses on “International cooperation for developing countries to reduce their disaster risk and disaster losses.” This is the sixth of the Sendai Seven targets. Held every 13 October, the day celebrates how people and communities around the world are reducing their exposure to disasters and raising awareness about the importance of reining in the risks that they face.**

International Day of Rural Women 15 October

- **The United Nations’ International Day of Rural Women celebrates and honours women and girls living in rural areas on 15 October each year. It recognizes the huge role that rural mothers, daughters and grandmothers play in producing food, and building agricultural and rural development worldwide.**
- **This year, the theme is ‘Rural women cultivating good food for all’.**

World Food Day 2021

- **World Food Day is an international day celebrated every year worldwide on 16 October to commemorate the date of the founding of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in 1945.**
- **The day is celebrated widely by many other organizations concerned with hunger and food security, including the World Food Programme and the International Fund for Agricultural Development. WFP received the Nobel Prize in Peace for 2020 for their efforts to combat hunger, contribute to peace in conflict areas, and for playing a leading role in stopping the use of hunger in the form of a weapon for war and conflict.**
- **The theme for World Food Day this year is “Our actions are our future- Better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life,” as per the official website of FAO.**

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 17 October

- **The observance of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty can be traced back to 17 October 1987. On that day, over a hundred thousand people gathered at the Trocadéro in Paris, where the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was signed in 1948, to honour the victims of extreme poverty, violence and hunger.**
- **This year’s theme is “Building forward together: Ending Persistent Poverty, Respecting all People and our Planet.”**

World Students’ Day 2021

- **World Students’ Day is marked on A. P. J. Abdul Kalam’s birthday, 15 October. In 2010 the United Nations declared 15 October “World Students’ Day”.**
- **This year, the theme for World Students’ day is “Learning for people, planet, prosperity and peace”, which aims to reaffirm the role of education as a fundamental right of every person across the world.**

QUESTIONS

- Who was elevated as Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court recently?
(a) Justice Indrajit Mahanty (b) Justice Ranjit V More
(c) Justice Biswanath Somadder (d) Justice Rajesh Bindal
- Recently, Aimed at promoting road safety, innovation, and the adoption of new technology, the _____ has notified the constitution of the National Road Safety Board.
(a) Ministry of Home Affairs (b) Ministry of Law & Justice
(c) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (d) Ministry of Education (National
- Recently, Abolhassan Banisadr died. He was the first president of _____ after the country's 1979 Islamic Revolution.
(a) Iraq (b) Iran (c) Syria (d) Oman
- Which of the following countries Chancellor Sebastian Kurz resigned to pull his coalition government back from the brink of collapse after the junior party demanded his head because he has been placed under investigation on suspicion of corruption?
(a) Germany (b) Austria (c) France (d) Belgium
- Recently, The traditional Karuppur Kalamkari Painting of _____ done using pens, brushes made of bamboo stick, palm stem, date tree and coconut tree stems, received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
(a) Kerala (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Tamil Nadu (d) Andhra Pradesh
- Recently, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has raised the transaction limit in Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) from Rs 2 lakh to _____.
(a) Rs 2.5 lakh (b) Rs 3 lakh (c) Rs 5 lakh (d) Rs 10 lakh
- According to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, who among the following Asian recently joined the world's most exclusive wealth club with a fortune of at least \$100 billion?
(a) Shane Lee (b) Jack Ma (c) Mukesh Ambani (d) Tokohiko Nakau
- Who among the following launched Indian Space Association (ISpA) via video conferencing?
(a) K Sivan (b) Narendra Modi (c) Jitendra Singh (d) Bhupendra Yadav
- Name the Indian cricketer who has been recently conferred with an honorary Ph.D. in Sports by Ecole Superieure Robert de Sorbon, a renowned university in France.
(a) Yuvraj Singh (b) Rahul Dravid (c) Harbhajan Singh (d) Sachin Tendulkar
- The Nobel Peace Prize 2021 is awarded to journalists Maria Ressa of _____ and Dmitry Muratov of Russia for their fight for freedom of expression in their countries.
(a) Philippines (b) Myanmar (c) Columbia (d) Ghana
- Recently, The Rataul mango, grown in large numbers in _____, received its GI tag.
(a) Hisar in Haryana (b) Kapurthala in Punjab
(c) Baghat in Uttar Pradesh (d) Darbhanga in Bihar
- Which of the following Asian countries has been invited by International Energy Agency (IEA) to become its full-time member?
(a) India (b) South Korea (c) Singapore (d) Nepal
- Recently, Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi has said that the next Hunar Haat is being organised in _____ from 16th to 25th October this year.
(a) New Delhi (b) Jaipur (c) Bhopal (d) Rampur

14. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the first ever National Infrastructure Masterplan, Pradhan Mantri Gati Shakti. This will bring together _____ Ministries, including seven core infrastructure sectors, on one platform.
(a) 8 (b) 12 (c) 16 (d) 20
15. Recently, Railways has successfully operated two long haul freight trains _____ and Garuda for the first time over South Central Railway.
(a) Chakra (b) Trishul (c) Talwar (d) Spear
16. Which of the following countries unveiled the world's first automated, driverless train recently?
(a) France (b) South Korea (c) Germany (d) Japan
17. Recently, Abdul Qadeer Khan, known as the father of _____ nuclear bomb died due to Covid-19.
(a) Bangladesh's (b) Pakistan's (c) Iraq's (d) Iran's
18. Recently, A U.S.-based Canadian David Card, Israeli-American Joshua Angrist and Dutch-American Guido Imbens won the _____.
(a) Nobel Economics Prize (b) Nobel Literature Prize
(c) Nobel Chemistry Prize (d) Nobel Physics Prize
19. Recently, NASA has confirmed that it is set to launch its latest mission which will look to explore asteroids. The _____ spacecraft is currently scheduled to liftoff on October 16.
(a) Barbie (b) Lucy (c) Smith (d) Archie
20. Which of the following teams recently became first team to qualify for the 2022 Football World Cup?
(a) France (b) Belgium (c) Germany (d) Nigeria
21. Recently, Chief Justice A.K. Goswami was sworn in as the new Chief Justice of the _____ High Court.
(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Chhattisgarh (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Assam
22. Recently, International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction was observed on:
(a) 11 October (b) 13 October (c) 15 October (d) 17 October
23. Name the author who released her first children's Christmas book, 'The Christmas Pig' inspired by lockdown and her son David's beloved cuddly toy pigs.
(a) JK Rowling (b) Arundhati Roy (c) Monica George (d) Hillary Clinton
24. Recently, Indian Technology Congress Association in Bengaluru focuses on building synergies between academia, industry and research organisations. It has launched _____ Students' Satellites Consortium: Mission 2022.
(a) 35 (b) 40 (c) 55 (d) 75
25. Indian Navy would be participating in the second phase of Multilateral Maritime _____ along with the Japan Maritime Self Defence Force, Royal Australian Navy and the United States Navy.
(a) Exercise Malabar (b) Exercise Friendship (c) Exercise Dosti (d) Exercise Bay of Bengal
26. Recently, Govt. of India accorded _____ status to the state-owned Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC), thus giving PFC greater operational and financial autonomy.
(a) 'Maharatna' (b) 'Navratna' (c) 'Miniratna' (d) 'Vistarratna'
27. Recently, _____ has appointed former SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar as chairman of the board.
(a) BharatPe (b) PhonePe (c) Google Pay (d) BHIM
28. Recently, The Union Cabinet approved the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation 2.0 (AMRUT 2.0) till _____.
(a) 2022-23 (b) 2025-26 (c) 2028-29 (d) 2030-31

29. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has projected that India will continue to be the world's fastest growing major economy, clocking a growth rate of _____ per cent in 2021.
(a) 6.5 (b) 7.5 (c) 8.5 (d) 9.5
30. For the first time in an ICC men's T20I tournament the Decision _____ System (DRS) will be in use as the governing body has announced that the system will be available at the T20 World Cup.
(a) Response (b) Review (c) Replay (d) Recurrent
31. Who was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court recently?
(a) Justice Aravind Kumar (b) Justice Anoop Chandra
(c) Justice Vikas Mohapatra (d) Justice Mahesh Desmukh
32. Which of the following will host the G-20 summit in 2023?
(a) Shivaji Maidan (b) New Pragati Maidan (c) Gandhi Maidan (d) Bharat Maidan
33. Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the G20 Extraordinary Leaders' Summit on Afghanistan in virtual format at the invitation of the _____ Presidency of the G-20.
(a) Canadian (b) American (c) Italian (d) Chinese
34. Recently, IIFL Wealth and Hurun India released the 'IIFL Wealth Hurun India 40 and Under Self-Made Rich List 2021' ranking the self-made entrepreneurs of India with a wealth of over _____ crore.
(a) Rs 500 (b) Rs 1,000 (c) Rs 2,500 (d) Rs 5,000
35. Recently, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued a Small Finance Bank (SFB) license to the consortium of Centrum Financial Services, and Digital payments platform _____.
(a) BharatPe (b) Phone Pay (c) Amazon Pay (d) BHIM UPI
36. The combined external debt stock of the 10 largest DSSI-eligible borrowers (Angola, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mongolia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, and Zambia) was _____ dollars at end-2020.
(a) 389 billion (b) 467 billion (c) 509 billion (d) 666 billion
37. The world's most powerful radio antenna, the Low-Frequency Array (LOFAR) is situated in _____.
(a) Greenland (b) Netherlands (c) Sweden (d) Canada
38. The United Nations' International Day of Rural Women celebrates and honours women and girls living in rural areas on _____ each year.
(a) 13 October (b) 14 October (c) 15 October (d) 16 October
39. Who among the following has become India's latest Woman Grand Master (WGM) at the Grandmaster chess tournament in Budapest, Hungary?
(a) Divya Deshmukh (b) Geeta Mukherjee (c) Amrita Nagar (d) Deepa Luthra
40. The Indian women's badminton team registered over Spain in Group B of the 2020 Uber Cup Finals, at Aarhus in _____.
(a) Norway (b) Denmark (c) Sweden (d) Finland
41. India's first Atal Community Innovation Center (ACIC) was inaugurated at _____.
(a) Barkatullah University, Bhopal (b) Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh
(c) Lovely Professional University, Jalandhar (d) Vivekananda Global University, Jaipur
42. Recently, The World Steel Association (WSA) has elected _____ as its Chairman for the 2021-22 period.
(a) L N Mittal (b) Sajjan Jindal (c) Naveen Jindal (d) T V Narendran

43. Who among the following has topped a list of the most-wealthy Indians under-40 years with a networth of Rs 12,500 crore?
 (a) Sandeep Bindal (b) Amarendra Jha (c) Himanshu Tyagi (d) Divyank Turakhia
44. Recently, The exercises Joint Sea 2021 kicked off with a ceremony between _____.
 (a) India and Myanmar (b) Singapore and Malaysia
 (c) China and Russia (d) Japan and South Korea
45. Who has been appointed as chairman of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) for 2021-22?
 (a) Atul Kumar Goel (b) Rakesh Sharma (c) Dinesh Kumar Khara (d) Rajkiran Rai
46. Recently, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur launched _____ app in New Delhi.
 (a) MyParkings (b) MyStarting (c) MyVehicles (d) MyStands
47. Who has become the first captain to lead 300 matches in the T20 format?
 (a) Steve Smith (b) MS Dhoni (c) Virat Kohli (d) Rishabh Pant
48. The India-US Economic and Financial Partnership was launched in year _____.
 (a) 2005 (b) 2008 (c) 2010 (d) 2014
49. Recently, PETA India has decided to confer on the Progressive Business Concept Award to whom for his plans to produce 'vegan leather' in the northeastern state?
 (a) Atul Kumar Das (b) Mahesh G Saini (c) James P K Sangma (d) M K Nishan
50. International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is observed on:
 (a) 7 October (b) 12 October (c) 17 October (d) 19 October
51. What is the rank of India among 116 countries in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2021?
 (a) 56th (b) 75th (c) 94th (d) 101st
52. Which of the following Indian states, Karuppur kalamkari paintings and the Kallakurichi wood carvings recently received the geographical indication (GI) tags?
 (a) Kerala (b) Karnataka (c) Tamil Nadu (d) Andhra Pradesh
53. Which of the following districts has become the first fully vaccinated district in the Country?
 (a) Kinnaur (b) Darbhanga (c) Indore (d) Udaipur
54. Recently, The Centre has empowered the Border Security Force to conduct searches, arrest suspects and make seizures up to _____ from India-Pakistan and India-Bangladesh borders.
 (a) 20 km (b) 30 km (c) 50 km (d) 75 km
55. Which of the following metros rolled out as the world's first fare payment system based on facial recognition technology?
 (a) London (b) Moscow (c) Paris (d) Lisbon
56. The 17th edition of the joint military training exercise "Ex Yudh Abhyas 2021" will be conducted between _____.
 (a) India- UK (b) India-USA (c) India- Germany (d) India- Russia
57. Who has been named to an expert group launched by the WHO that will examine origins of emerging and re-emerging pathogens of epidemic and pandemic potential, including SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19?
 (a) Dr Raman Gangakhedkar (b) Dr Mukesh Gulgaonkar
 (c) Dr Tirath Singh (d) Dr Shailendra Tyagi

58. On the occasion of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav 2021' under the Nurturing Neighbourhood Challenge, _____ developed the country's first kids friendly COVID vaccination centre.
(a) Jaipur (b) Bhopal (c) Jabalpur (d) Patna
59. Name the Bollywood actress whose upcoming book, "The Stars in My Sky: Those Who Brightened My Film Journey", is slated to be released on October 25.
(a) Neena Gupta (b) Divya Dutta (c) Kajol (d) Mandira Bedi
60. World Food Day is an international day celebrated every year worldwide on _____.
(a) 6 October (b) 11 October (c) 16 October (d) 21 October
61. Which of the following has launched the country's first 'One Health' consortium?
(a) Department of Finance (b) Department of Technology
(c) Department of Biochemistry (d) Department of Biotechnology
62. Which of the following northeastern states recently launched the "Chief Minister's Health for All"?
(a) Manipur (b) Mizoram (c) Sikkim (d) Nagaland
63. Recently, Jonas Gahr Stoere took oath as the prime minister of:
(a) Sweden (b) Norway (c) Finland (d) Ireland
64. Recently, the 8th Edition of joint military exercise MITRA SHAKTI was held between _____.
(a) India and Mauritius (b) India and Maldives (c) India and Sri Lanka (d) India and Nepal
65. The Global Financial Stability Report is published by:
(a) World Bank (b) International Monetary Fund
(c) United Nations General Assembly (d) Asian Development Bank
66. Which of the following has become the first country to receive payments from a World Bank trust fund for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation—commonly known as REDD+?
(a) Mozambique (b) Senegal (c) Malaysia (d) Mauritius
67. World Students' Day is marked on A. P. J. Abdul Kalam's birthday, _____.
(a) 9 October (b) 12 October (c) 15 October (d) 18 October
68. According to statistics available with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, about _____ per cent of road fatalities in India occur due to over-speeding.
(a) 30 (b) 50 (c) 70 (d) 90
69. Recently, The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has constituted a four-member high-powered advisory committee on settlement orders and compounding of offences. The committee will be chaired by _____.
(a) Vijay C Daga (b) Deepak Luthra (c) Mukesh Jain (d) Aditya Pal
70. Which of the following countries clinched the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship for eighth time recently?
(a) India (b) Nepal (c) Maldives (d) Bangladesh

ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATION

1. **d** Justice Rajesh Bindal, acting chief justice of the Calcutta High Court, was elevated as chief justice of the Allahabad High Court.
2. **c** Aimed at promoting road safety, innovation, and the adoption of new technology, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has notified the constitution of the National Road Safety Board.
3. **b** Abolhassan Banisadr, Iran's first president after the country's 1979 Islamic Revolution who fled Tehran after being impeached for challenging the growing power of clerics as the nation became a theocracy, died.
4. **b** Austria's conservative Chancellor Sebastian Kurz resigned to pull his coalition government back from the brink of collapse after the junior party demanded his head because he has been placed under investigation on suspicion of corruption.
5. **c** The traditional Karuppur Kalamkari Painting done using pens, brushes made of bamboo stick, palm stem, date tree and coconut tree stems, received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. The certificate was issued recently by the Geographical Indications Registry based on an application filed by Tamil Nadu Handicrafts Development Corporation (Poompuhar).
6. **c** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has raised the transaction limit in Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 5 lakh. IMPS offers instant domestic funds transfer facility 24×7 through banking channels.
7. **c** Mukesh Ambani, Asia's richest person, joined Jeff Bezos and Elon Musk in the world's most exclusive wealth club with a fortune of at least \$100 billion.
8. **b** Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Indian Space Association (ISpA) via video conferencing. He will also interact with representatives of the Space Industry on this landmark occasion.
9. **c** One of the greatest off-spinners India has ever produced, Harbhajan Singh, referred to by his fans as The Turbanator, has been conferred with an honorary Ph.D. in Sports by Ecole Supérieure Robert de Sorbon, a renowned university in France, in a convocation ceremony.
10. **a** The Nobel Peace Prize awarded to journalists Maria Ressa of Philippines and Dmitry Muratov of Russia for their fight for freedom of expression in their countries.
11. **c** The Rataul mango, grown in large numbers in Baghpat in Uttar Pradesh, received its GI tag.
12. **a** International Energy Agency (IEA) has invited India, the world's third-largest energy consumer, to become its full-time member - a proposal if accepted will require New Delhi to raise strategic oil reserves to 90 days requirement.
13. **d** Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi has said that the next Hunar Haat will be organised in Rampur, Uttar Pradesh from 16th to 25th October this year.
14. **c** This will bring together 16 Ministries, including seven core infrastructure sectors, on one platform to synergise project planning across stakeholder ministries to avoid duplication, expedite clearances and plug gaps at the right time.
15. **b** Railways has successfully operated two long haul freight trains Trishul and Garuda for the first time over South Central Railway.
16. **c** German rail operator Deutsche Bahn and industrial group Siemens unveiled the world's first automated, driverless train in the city of Hamburg, billing it as more punctual and energy efficient than traditional trains.

- 17. b** Abdul Qadeer Khan, 85, known as the father of Pakistan's nuclear bomb died due to Covid-19 in Islamabad.
- 18. a** A U.S.-based Canadian David Card, Israeli-American Joshua Angrist and Dutch-American Guido Imbens won the Nobel Economics Prize for insights into the labour market and "natural experiments".
- 19. b** NASA has confirmed that it is set to launch its latest mission which will look to explore asteroids, to learn more about the early days of our solar system. The Lucy spacecraft is currently scheduled to liftoff on October 16.
- 20. c** Germany qualified for the 2022 World Cup by crushing North Macedonia 4-0 away to secure top spot in qualifying Group J with two games to spare.
- 21. b** Chief Justice A.K. Goswami was sworn in as the new Chief Justice of the Chhattisgarh High Court. He was earlier serving as the Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh.
- 22. b** The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction is observed every year on 13 October. The day is observed to promote a global culture of risk-awareness and disaster reduction.
- 23. a** Harry Potter author JK Rowling released her first children's Christmas book, inspired by lockdown and her son David's beloved cuddly toy pigs. 'The Christmas Pig' is a story about "being lost and being found, about loving and being loved, about what stays with us and what falls away,".
- 24. d** Indian Technology Congress Association in Bengaluru focuses on building synergies between academia, industry and research organisations. It has initiated an ambitious programme to commemorate the 75 years of Indian Independence. It has launched 75 Students' Satellites Consortium: Mission 2022.
- 25. a** Indian Navy would be participating in the second phase of Multilateral Maritime Exercise Malabar along with the Japan Maritime Self Defence Force, Royal Australian Navy and the United States Navy.
- 26. a** Govt. of India accorded 'Maharatna' status to the state-owned Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC), thus giving PFC greater operational and financial autonomy.
- 27. a** BharatPe has appointed former SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar as chairman of the board.
- 28. b** The Union Cabinet approved the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation 2.0 (AMRUT 2.0) till 2025-26.
- 29. d** International Monetary Fund (IMF) has projected that India will continue to be the world's fastest growing major economy, clocking a growth rate of 9.5 per cent in 2021.
- 30. b** For the first time in an ICC men's T20I tournament the Decision Review System (DRS) will be in use as the governing body has announced that the system will be available at the T20 World Cup.
- 31. a** Justice Aravind Kumar was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court.
- 32. b** Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said that the new Pragati Maidan will host the G-20 summit in 2023.
- 33. c** Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the G20 Extraordinary Leaders' Summit on Afghanistan in virtual format at the invitation of the Italian Presidency of the G-20.
- 34. b** IIFL Wealth and Hurun India released the 'IIFL Wealth Hurun India 40 and Under Self-Made Rich List 2021' ranking the self-made entrepreneurs of India with a wealth of over Rs 1,000 crore.

- 35. a** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued a Small Finance Bank (SFB) license to the consortium of Centrum Financial Services, and Digital payments platform BharatPe.
- 36. c** The combined external debt stock of the 10 largest DSSI-eligible borrowers (Angola, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mongolia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, and Zambia) was 509 billion dollars at end-2020
- 37. b** In a major discovery, astronomers have for the first time detected stars that are blasting radio signals hinting at the presence of hidden planets around them. The signals were picked up using the world's most powerful radio antenna, the Low-Frequency Array (LOFAR) situated in the Netherlands.
- 38. c** The United Nations' International Day of Rural Women celebrates and honours women and girls living in rural areas on 15 October each year.
- 39. a** Child prodigy Divya Deshmukh has become India's latest Woman Grand Master (WGM) at the Grandmaster chess tournament in Budapest, Hungary.
- 40. b** The Indian women's badminton team registered a 3-2 win over Spain in Group B of the 2020 Uber Cup Finals, at Aarhus in Denmark.
- 41. d** India's 1st Atal Community Innovation Center (ACIC) was inaugurated at Vivekananda Global University, Jaipur (VGU).
- 42. b** The World Steel Association (WSA) has elected JSW Steel Chairman and Managing Director Sajjan Jindal as its Chairman for the 2021-22 period.
- 43. d** Divyank Turakhia of Media.Net has topped a list of the most-wealthy Indians under-40 years with a networth of Rs 12,500 crore.
- 44. c** China and Russia are holding joint naval drills off the Russian Far East in the latest sign of their growing political and military alignment.
- 45. a** UCO Bank CEO Atul Kumar Goel has been appointed as chairman of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) for 2021-22 succeeding Union Bank of India CEO Rajkiran Rai.
- 46. a** Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur launched MyParkings app in New Delhi in presence of Mukesh Surya, Mayor South Delhi Municipal Corporation.
- 47. b** Former Indian wicketkeeper-batter MS Dhoni has become the first captain to lead 300 matches in the T20 format.
- 48. c** The India-US Economic and Financial Partnership was launched in 2010 as a framework to cement economic bonds between the two countries and build a foundation for greater cooperation and economic growth in the future.
- 49. c** PETA India has decided to confer on Meghalaya Environment Minister James P K Sangma the Progressive Business Concept Award for his plans to produce 'vegan leather' in the northeastern state.
- 50. c** The observance of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty can be traced back to 17 October 1987.
- 51. d** India has slipped to the 101st position among 116 countries in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2021 from its 2020 ranking (94), to be placed behind Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal.
- 52. c** In Tamil Nadu, the Karuppur kalamkari paintings and the Kallakurichi wood carvings recently received the geographical indication (GI) tags. Both of these art forms are traditional in nature.

- 53. a** Himachal Pradesh's tribal district of Kinnaur, which shares international border with China, has become the first fully vaccinated district in the Country.
- 54. c** The Centre has empowered the Border Security Force to conduct searches, arrest suspects and make seizures up to 50 km from India-Pakistan and India-Bangladesh borders.
- 55. b** The Moscow Metro rolled out what authorities have touted as the world's first fare payment system based on facial recognition technology.
- 56. b** The 17th edition of the joint military training exercise "Ex Yudh Abhyas 2021" will be conducted at Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, Alaska, the United States as part of the ongoing Indo-US Defence Cooperation.
- 57. a** Dr Raman Gangakhedkar, a leading Indian epidemiologist, has been named to an expert group launched by the WHO that will examine origins of emerging and re-emerging pathogens of epidemic and pandemic potential, including SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19.
- 58. c** On the occasion of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav 2021' under the Nurturing Neighbourhood Challenge Jabalpur developed the country's first kids friendly COVID vaccination centre.
- 59. b** From her impromptu improvisations on the sets with Irrfan Khan to her non-stop peals of laughter with Shah Rukh Khan, actress Divya Dutta tells it all in her upcoming book, "The Stars in My Sky: Those Who Brightened My Film Journey", slated to be released on October 25.
- 60. c** World Food Day is an international day celebrated every year worldwide on 16 October to commemorate the date of the founding of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in 1945.
- 61. d** Department of Biotechnology has launched the country's first 'One Health' consortium.
- 62. a** In Manipur, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh launched the "Chief Minister's Health for All".
- 63. b** Jonas Gahr Støre is a Norwegian politician who has served as the prime minister of Norway since 2021 and has been Leader of the Labour Party since 2014.
- 64. c** The 8th Edition of joint military exercise MITRA SHAKTI between the Indian Army and the Sri Lankan Army culminated in Ampara, Sri Lanka.
- 65. b** The Global Financial Stability Report is a semi-annual report published by the International Capital Markets division of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The report aims to provide a regular assessment of global financial markets and to identify potential systemic weaknesses that could lead to crises.
- 66. a** Mozambique has become the first country to receive payments from a World Bank trust fund for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation—commonly known as REDD+.
- 67. c** World Students' Day is marked on A. P. J. Abdul Kalam's birthday, 15 October.
- 68. c** According to statistics available with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, about 70 per cent of road fatalities in India occur due to over-speeding.
- 69. c** The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has constituted a four-member high-powered advisory committee on settlement orders and compounding of offences. The committee will be chaired by Vijay C Daga, retired judge of High Court of Bombay.
- 70. a** India clinched the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship for eighth time defeating Nepal 3-0 in Male. India dominated possession in the first-half but they failed to score any goal.