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# MANTHAN

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*A General Awareness Weekly*

*15<sup>th</sup> November to 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2021*

# PREFACE

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**Dear Students,**

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

**Happy Reading**

**Team CL**



Career  
Launcher

## National



### Swachh 2021 rankings: Surat still in 2<sup>nd</sup> spot, Vijayawada follows

- Gujarat's Surat maintained its position as the second cleanest city in India with a population over 10 lakh after Madhya Pradesh's Indore in the Swachh Survekshan 2021, the Centre's annual cleanliness survey to promote sanitation in urban centres under the Swachh Bharat Mission. Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh, swapped places with Navi Mumbai to move to the third spot from last year's fourth.
- Among states, Karnataka and Mizoram were the 'fastest mover states' in the rankings in the big (more than 100 Urban Local Bodies) and small (less than 100 ULBs) state category, respectively.
- "Hoshangabad (Madhya Pradesh) emerged as the 'Fastest Mover City' (in the 'more than 1 lakh population' category) with a jump of 274 ranks from 361<sup>st</sup> position in the 2020 rankings to the 87<sup>th</sup> position this year, thus securing a place among the top 100 cities,".
- In the state awards, Chhattisgarh emerged as the 'Cleanest State' for the third consecutive year in the category of "more than 100 Urban Local Bodies" while Jharkhand, for the second time, won the cleanest state award in the 'less than 100 ULBs category'.
- The findings were released by President Ram Nath Kovind. The second session of the event focused on commemorating World Toilet Day (November 19) and saw the top performers in the first-ever Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge being recognised.
- Indore, Navi Mumbai, Nellore and Dewas emerged as the top performers, across different population categories among 246 participating cities in the Challenge, launched last year by the Ministry to eradicate human fatalities from hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks. Chhattisgarh and Chandigarh bagged the award for best performing State and Union Territory respectively under the Challenge.

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

### India's first Assembly Session for children held in Rajasthan to mark Bal Diwas

- To commemorate Bal Diwas, India's first Assembly Session for Children was held in Rajasthan. The children asked questions, sought answers, were assertive and aggressive all at the same time, and took the responsibility of donning the mantle of young netas seriously.
- Their eyes sparkling with hope, 200 children from 15 Indian states were in for a treat when they got the opportunity to be part of a 'Children's Session' of the Rajasthan Assembly in Jaipur to commemorate Children's day, the birthday of Jawaharlal Nehru.

Rajasthan ('Land of Kings') is a state in northern India. It is the largest Indian state by area and the seventh largest by population. It is on India's northwestern side, where it comprises most of the wide and inhospitable Thar Desert (also known as the Great Indian Desert). Its major features include the ruins of the Indus Valley Civilisation at Kalibangan and Balathal, the Dilwara Temples, a Jain pilgrimage site at Rajasthan's only hill station, Mount Abu, in the ancient Aravalli mountain range and in eastern Rajasthan. Jaipur is the capital city of the Indian state of Rajasthan. On 6 July 2019, UNESCO World Heritage Committee inscribed Jaipur the "Pink City of India" among its World Heritage Sites. Kalraj Mishra is serving as the Governor of Rajasthan. Ashok Gehlot is serving as the current Chief Minister of Rajasthan.

### India's first grass conservatory developed in Ranikhet

- India's first 'grass conservatory' or 'germplasm conservation centre' spread over an area of 2 acres was inaugurated at Ranikhet in Almora district of Uttarakhand. Around 90 different grass species of significant scientific, ecological, medicinal, and cultural import have been grown in the conservation area.
- This conservatory is funded under the Central Government's CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority) scheme and is developed by the research wing of the Uttarakhand Forest Department. To create awareness about the importance of grass species, promote their conservation, and facilitate research in the field.

Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act was passed by the centre in 2016 and the related rules were notified in 2018. The CAF Act was enacted to manage the funds collected for compensatory afforestation which till then was managed by ad hoc Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA). Compensatory afforestation means that every time forest land is diverted for non-forest purposes such as mining or industry, the user agency pays for planting forests over an equal area of non-forest land, or when such land is not available, twice the area of degraded forest land. As per the rules, 90% of the CAF money is to be given to the states while 10% is to be retained by the Centre.

### Union minister Piyush Goyal launches India's first Food Museum in Tamil Nadu's Thanjavur

- Union Minister for Commerce, Industry, Food and Public Distribution Piyush Goyal virtually launched India's first Food Museum and said measures were on to make the country go up the ladder from currently being the fifth-largest agricultural exporter in the world.
- It is a 1,860-sqft museum co-developed by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museums, Bengaluru (Karnataka) with an estimated outlay of Rs 1.1 crore. The museum is the first one-of-its-kind effort to depict India's food story from the beginning to India becoming the largest food grain exporter in the country.
- "Tamil Nadu will now be home to the agricultural history of India. Thanjavur is the cultural capital of Tamil Nadu. Now it will be home to the agricultural history of India".

Piyush Goyal is the cabinet minister of the Government of India having portfolios such as Minister of Textiles, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. Currently a Member of Parliament for Rajya Sabha from the state of Maharashtra, he is also the current Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha.

### INS Karmuk takes part in India, Singapore, Thailand Trilateral Maritime Exercise 'SITMEX'

- Indian Naval Ship INS Karmuk and an indigenously built Missile Corvette is participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of India, Singapore and Thailand Trilateral two day Maritime Exercise SITMEX - 21 in Andaman Sea. Republic of Singapore Navy, RSN is being represented by RSS Tenacious, a Formidable Class Frigate and Royal Thai Navy, RTN by His Majesty's Thailand Ship HTMS Thayanchon, a Khamrosin Class Anti-submarine Patrol Craft.
- SITMEX is being conducted annually since 2019 with an aim to enhance mutual inter-operability and imbibing best practices between Indian Navy, Republic of Singapore Navy and Royal Thai Navy. The maiden edition of SITMEX was hosted by Indian Navy off Port Blair in September 2019. RSN hosted the second edition of the exercise in November 2020. The 2021 edition of the exercise is hosted by RTN in Andaman Sea.

## PM Narendra Modi inaugurated First Global Innovation Summit of Pharmaceuticals sector

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the First Global Innovation Summit of the Pharmaceuticals sector** through video conferencing. Chemical and Fertilizers Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya also be presented on the occasion.
- This is a distinctive initiative that **aims to bring together key Indian and international stakeholders from the government, industry, academia, investors, and researchers** to discuss and strategize priorities to foster a thriving innovation ecosystem in the pharmaceuticals industry in India.
- The two-day Summit had 12 Sessions and over 40 national and international speakers deliberating **on a range of subjects including the regulatory environment, funding for innovation, industry-academia collaboration and innovation infrastructure.**
- In his speech, the prime minister emphasised on the fact that **Indian healthcare sector has earned global trust to the extent of being called the pharmacy of the world.**

The **pharmaceutical industry in India, US\$40 billion by value, world's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest by overall volume and world's largest as provider of generic medicines globally**, with 20% and 3.5% share of total global pharmaceutical exports by volume and value respectively to more than 200 countries and territories in 2021. As of 2021, most of pharmaceuticals made in India are low cost generic drug which comprise most of pharmaceutical export of India. **In terms of the global market, India currently holds an accountable share and is known as the pharmacy of the world and as the biggest generic supplier.**

## World's largest solar park in Bhadla, India

- Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis, **IWFA, out of 10 largest parks being constructed in the world, 5 are in India. World's largest solar park is being constructed in Rajasthan and is known as Bhadla Solar Park, India.**
- **Bhadla Solar Power Plant is a 2245 Megawatts plant** and situated on 14000 acres of land. This project has been constructed in 4 different phases. This solar park is located in Bhadla, Rajasthan. **Earlier China was the leading producer of solar energy** but now India even though the late joiner of the race is way ahead of China.
- In December 2019, Mercom reported on the **then largest solar park being fully operational in Pavagada, Karnataka, with a capacity of 2,050 MW. Now, with 2,245 MW of solar project, Bhadla solar park housing has become the largest solar park in the world.**
- Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation Limited (RRECL), through its subsidiary, **Rajasthan Solar Park Development Company Limited (RSPDCL), has constructed 745 MW of projects.** Saurya Urja Company of Rajasthan, a joint venture company of the **government of Rajasthan and IL&FS Energy Development Company, has developed infrastructure for 1,000 MW of solar projects.** Adani Renewable Energy Park Rajasthan, a joint venture between the government of Rajasthan and Adani Renewable Energy Park, (a subsidiary of Adani Enterprises) has developed 500 MW of solar projects.

## Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurates "Tech NEEV/@75" as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav

- **Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated "Tech NEEV/@75" as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav** and interacted with successful start-ups including those from the tribal communities **on the occasion of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas.**
- Referring to Prime Minister's historic decision to **celebrate 15<sup>th</sup> November i.e. the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda as "Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas"** Dr Jitendra Singh informed that the Government will be setting up 30 Science Technology and Innovation (STI) Hubs in different parts of the country for Scheduled Tribes (STs) by end of 2022 to promote scientific talent among tribal communities and for their overall socio-economic development.
- Out of 75 proposed STI Hubs for SCs/STs, 20 have already been **established by Department of Science and Technology** which will **directly benefit 20,000 people** through various interventions spreading across farm, non-farm and other allied livelihood sectors.

## Bengal launches 'Duare Ration' scheme for doorstep delivery of ration

- West Bengal government-led by Mamata Banerjee launched the 'Duare Ration' scheme which will benefit 10 crore people in Bengal. The ration at doorstep – 'duare ration' scheme was part of AITC's manifesto in recently concluded assembly polls.
- Based on the success of "Duare Sarkar", a social welfare scheme introduced by the state government which yielded good results during polls, the state government planned to introduce 'Duare Ration', or ration at doorstep, to reach out to the grassroots and avoid corruption. A vehicle carrying ration will reach the neighbourhood, where people will collect ration.

West Bengal is a state in the eastern region of India along the Bay of Bengal. Part of the Bengal region of the Indian subcontinent, it borders Bangladesh in the east, and Nepal and Bhutan in the north. The state capital is Kolkata. Under the East India Company rule and later under the British Raj, Calcutta served as the capital of British-held territories in India until 1911, when its perceived geographical disadvantages, combined with growing nationalism in Bengal, led to a shift of the capital to New Delhi. Mamata Banerjee is serving as the current Chief Minister of West Bengal since 2011, the first woman to hold the office. Jagdeep Dhankhar is serving as the current Governor of West Bengal.

## India has become third-largest domestic aviation market in the world

- Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said that India has become the third-largest domestic aviation market in the world. Civil Aviation is emerging as one of the major pillars providing fillip to economic growth.
- Mr Scindia inaugurated a curtain raiser event on Wings India, 2022 which is Asia's largest event on Civil Aviation (Commercial, General and Business Aviation). India's civil aviation industry is the pride of the nation as it is playing a key role in connecting Indians to the remotest corners of the country and to the world.

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

## Indian Railways' first pod hotel inaugurated in Mumbai

- Raosaheb Dadarao Patil Danve, Minister of State of Railways, Coal and Mines, Government of India inaugurated the state of the art POD concept retiring room at Mumbai Central railway station.
- The unique facility at Mumbai Central station consists of a total Pod inventory of 48, comprising of 3 categories, namely 30 Classic Pods, 7 Ladies only, 10 Private Pods and One for Differently Abled as well.
- While the Classic Pods and Ladies only Pods will comfortably fit One guest, the Private Pod will also have a private space within the room, whereas the Room for Differently abled will comfortably fit 2 guests with space for free movement of Wheelchair. The passenger can avail all modern facilities at comparatively cheaper rates.

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

## India re-elected to UNESCO executive board for 2021-25 term

- India has been reelected to the UNESCO Executive Board, one of the three constitutional organs of the United Nations, for the 2021-25 term.

- **“India gets reelected to the Executive Board of UNESCO with 164 votes for the term 2021-25,”**. Apart from India, Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Cook Islands and China have also been elected in Group IV Asian and Pacific States category. UNESCO Executive Board consists of 58 member-states each with a four-year term of office.

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

### Mission Paani unveils India’s first-ever pledge for clean water and sustainable sanitation

- **Harpic Mission Paani launched India’s first-ever ‘Sanitation for All Pledge and Preamble: Clean Water, Sustainable Sanitation’** with Minister of Jal Shakti - Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and five prominent women leaders - Kausar Munir (Lyricist), Savita Punia (Indian Hockey Player), Smriti Mandhana (Indian Cricketer), Bhavina Patel (Indian par athlete and table tennis player) and Lovlina Borgohain (Indian Boxer, Olympian) **at the Mission Paani Sanitation Forum on World Toilet Day.**
- **Mission Paani, a path-breaking initiative by Network 18 and Harpic India to promote water conservation, safe sanitation and hygiene, on the occasion of World Toilet Day** brought the country together including celebrities, sportspersons and activists to **take a pledge to uphold India’s first-ever Preamble for safe water and sustainable sanitation for all.** Access to clean water and safe sanitation is important for a healthier nation and this would become the most critical human rights component in the country’s development in future.
- The event also witnessed the **unveiling of a first-of-its-kind Coffee Table Book ‘101 Stories of Inspiration’ endorsed by Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu.** The book is a showcase of hope and inspiration stories of sanitation workers in India. **The book compiled by the Integrated Health and Wellbeing Council** is a tribute to these workers who have risked their lives to create a cleaner and more hygienic environment by taking care of our cleanliness and sanitation needs.

**World Toilet Day (WTD)** is an official United Nations international observance day on **19 November** to inspire action to tackle the global sanitation crisis. Worldwide, 4.2 billion people live without “safely managed sanitation” and around 673 million people practice open defecation. **Sustainable Development Goal 6 aims to “Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”.** This year’s theme is ‘Valuing Toilets’.

### Operation Hercules: Army, IAF prepare for winter deployment amid Ladakh standoff

- **The exercise named ‘Operation Hercules’ was undertaken by the Indian Air Force and Indian Army** on November 15 with transport aircraft of the IAF being pressed into action. **The platforms utilised for the airlift were C-17, IL-76 and An-32 aircraft, which took off from one of the forward bases of Western Air Command.**
- This exercise was held at a time when the Indian armed forces are preparing for another winter of enhanced deployment of over **50,000 troops in Ladakh amid continuing tensions with China.** **The aim of this high intensity airlift was to strengthen the supply chain in the Northern sector and augment winter stocking in operational areas.**

### 6<sup>th</sup> edition of Indo-France joint military exercise Ex SHAKTI 2021 commences at Draguignan, France

- **The Sixth Edition of Indo - France joint military exercise Ex SHAKTI 2021 has commenced at the Military School of Draguignan, France.**
- The Indian Army contingent is being represented by a composite team of three Officers, three Junior Commissioned Officers and 37 soldiers from a battalion of Gorkha Rifles and support Arms.

- The training so far has **focused on aspects of joint planning, mutual understanding of conduct of operations and identification of coordination aspects required for jointly operating in a Counter-Terrorism environment under United Nations mandate.**

**France is a transcontinental country spanning Western Europe and overseas regions and territories in South America and the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans. France is a unitary semi-presidential republic with its capital in Paris. Euro is the official currency of France and CFP franc is the currency used in the French overseas collectivities of French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Wallis and Futuna. Greece is a country located in Southeast Europe. Athens is its largest and capital city. Euro is the official currency of it.**

## **Home Minister Amit Shah lays foundation Stone of Rani Gaidinliu Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum in Manipur**

- **Home Minister Amit Shah laid the Foundation Stone for setting up the Rani Gaidinliu Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum at Luangkao village in Manipur's Tamenglong district via video-conferencing. The project has been sanctioned by the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs at an estimated cost of 15 crore rupees.**
- **The State Cabinet had decided to set up the Museum at Luangkao Village in Tamenglong District which is the birthplace of renowned freedom fighter Rani Gaidinliu and decided to name the Museum as Rani Gaidinliu Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum.**

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

## **Indian Navy commissioned first of four Visakhapatnam class destroyers**

- **INS Visakhapatnam, a P15B stealth guided-missile destroyer was commissioned into the Indian Navy in the presence of Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai.**
- **The ship measures 163 metres in length, 17 metres in breadth with a displacement of 7,400 tonnes and can be regarded as one of the most potent warships to have been constructed in India. The ship is propelled by four powerful gas turbines, in a Combined Gas and Gas (COGAG) configuration, which is capable of achieving speeds in excess of 30 knots.**
- **The ship has enhanced stealth features resulting in a reduced Radar Cross Section (RCS) achieved through efficient shaping of its hull, full beam superstructure design, plated masts and use of radar transparent materials on exposed decks.**
- **Visakhapatnam is packed with sophisticated state of the art weapons and sensors, such as Surface to Surface Missile and Surface to Air Missiles. The ship is fitted with a modern surveillance radar, which provides target data to the gunnery weapon systems of the ship. INS Visakhapatnam measures 163m in length, 17m in breadth with a displacement of 7,400 tonnes.**

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



### Sudan's army chief appoints new ruling council, led by him

- **Sudan's army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan** was sworn in as head of a new transitional council he appointed to lead the country following the military takeover late last month, shrugging off domestic and international pressure to reverse the coup.
- **The new 14-member Sovereign Council**, for which one member is yet to be confirmed, includes civilians representing Sudan's regions but none from the Forces of Freedom and Change (FFC) political coalition that had been sharing power with the military in a democratic transition since 2019.

**Sudan is a country in Northeast Africa.** It borders the countries of Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Libya, South Sudan, and the Red Sea. **Its capital is Khartoum.** The Sudanese pound is the basic unit of the Republic of the Sudan. **General Abdel Fattah Abdelrahman al-Burhan is a Sudanese politician and Sudanese Army general** who is the de facto head of state of Sudan as the Commander-In-Chief of the Sudanese Armed Forces after leading a coup d'état in October 2021 that deposed Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok.

### Bulgaria: Incumbent President Rumen Radev leads Presidential Elections

- **In Bulgaria, incumbent President Rumen Radev is leading in the first round of the country's Presidential Elections.** The GERB-UDF coalition and Continue the Change coalition are neck-and-neck in the Parliamentary polls.
- **Radev led his challenger Anastas Gerdzhikov by 64 to 66 percent in the presidential run-off** after nearly winning outright in the first round on November 14, exit polls by Alpha Research and Gallup International showed amid a record low voter turnout.

**Bulgaria is a country in Southeast Europe.** Sofia is the nation's capital and largest city. The lev is the currency of Bulgaria. **Rumen Georgiev Radev is a Bulgarian politician and former major general** who is the **current President of Bulgaria** since 22 January 2017.

### Barbados establishes world's first metaverse embassy

- **A virtual city hall, where citizens can meet avatars of public officials and file complaints,** will be set up in 2023, it said in a statement. **Barbados will open what it says will be the world's first metaverse embassy in the virtual reality platform Decentraland,** with embassies on other platforms also planned.
- **The Metaverse is a term used to describe a virtual space within digital environments such as online games, social media, and virtual reality.** It is a combination of the prefix "meta", meaning beyond, and stem "universe".
- **Barbados, the tiny Caribbean island nation, has decided to extend its diplomatic outreach by becoming the first country to establish a digital embassy after an agreement with metaverse platform Decentraland.** Barbados' Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade officially signed an agreement to establish a digital embassy in Decentraland, a user-owned, Ethereum-based digital environment.

**Barbados is an island country in the Lesser Antilles of the West Indies, in the Caribbean region of the Americas,** and the **most easterly of the Caribbean Islands.** Bridgetown is the capital and largest city of Barbados. The **Dollar** has been the currency of Barbados since 1935.

## Kamala Harris becomes first woman to get US presidential powers briefly as Joe Biden undergoes medical

- **President Joe Biden transfers power briefly to Vice President Kamala Harris while he is under anesthesia for a routine colonoscopy for one hour and 25 minutes, making her the first woman to hold presidential power in US history.**
- **On November 19, 2021, Kamala Harris served as acting president from 10:10 to 11:35 am EST, while President Biden underwent a colonoscopy. She became the first woman, and the third person overall, to assume the powers and duties of the U.S. presidency under Section 3 of the Twenty-fifth Amendment.**
- Biden is undergoing his annual physical at the Walter Reed military hospital outside of Washington. **Harris is the first woman to serve as vice president of the United States; no woman has ever been president in the country's nearly 250-year history.** "The Vice President will work from her office in the West Wing during this time," Psaki said.
- **Presidential power has been transferred to the vice president before, when President George W. Bush had colonoscopies in 2002 and 2007. Biden, who turns 79, is the oldest person to take office as US president.**
- **Section 3 of the 25<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the US Constitution says the President can send a letter to the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate declaring they are "unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, and until he transmits to them a written declaration to the contrary, such powers and duties shall be discharged by the Vice President as Acting President."**
- **In order to transfer the powers back to Biden, a separate letter was sent after the procedure. "In accordance with the provisions of section 3 of the Twenty-Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution, I hereby transmit to you my written declaration that I am able to discharge the powers and duties of the Office of the President of the United States and that I am resuming those powers and duties," the letter, which was sent to both Pelosi and Leahy, reads.**

**Kamala Devi Harris is an American politician and attorney who is the 49<sup>th</sup> and current vice president of the United States. She is the first female vice president and the highest-ranking female official in U.S. history, as well as the first African American and first Asian American vice president. A member of the Democratic Party, she served as the attorney general of California from 2011 to 2017 and as a United States senator representing California from 2017 to 2021. Harris became vice president upon being inaugurated in January 2021 alongside President Joe Biden, having defeated the incumbent president, Donald Trump, and vice president, Mike Pence, in the 2020 election.**

## Two shades of blue: France changes colour of national flag and it went unnoticed for 3 years

- It's a change so subtle it went unnoticed for almost three years. **But President Emmanuel Macron ordered a change to the colour of the French flag to find echoes of heroism in France's past.** Keen-eyed observers can see that the **French red-white-and-blue tricolour flying above the Elysee Palace and also placed behind Macron at news conferences and speeches now has a darker navy blue rather than the previous bright blue.**
- **The navy blue colour marks a return to tradition -- it had been then President Valery Giscard d'Estaing who switched the brighter blue in 1976 so that it matched the colour of the European flag, which displays yellow stars on a blue background.**

## World's First Electric Autonomous Cargo Ship Launched In Norway

- Zero emissions and, soon, zero crew: **the world's first fully electric autonomous cargo vessel was unveiled in Norway,** a small but promising step toward reducing the maritime industry's climate footprint.
- On board the Yara Birkeland, the traditional machine room has been replaced by eight battery compartments, giving the vessel a capacity of 6.8 MWh -- sourced from renewable hydroelectricity. **The maritime sector, which is responsible for almost three percent of all man-made emissions, aims to reduce its emissions by 40 per cent by 2030 and 50 per cent by 2050.**



## SEBI allows Invesco MF to launch India's first blockchain feeder fund

- Markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has approved the Invesco CoinShares Global Blockchain ETF Fund of Fund (FoF), which will be the first scheme in India to offer exposure to global companies participating in the blockchain ecosystem.
- The feeder fund will invest in Ireland-domiciled Invesco CoinShares Global Blockchain UCITS Exchange-traded Fund (ETF). The fund holds investments such as Canadian bitcoin miner Bitfarms Ltd, US crypto exchange Coinbase Global Inc and the world's biggest corporate crypto holder MicroStrategy Inc.
- The underlying fund was earlier called Invesco Elwood Global Blockchain UCITS ETF, with the name changed after digital asset manager CoinShares International Ltd acquired the ETF index business from Elwood Technologies.

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.

## RBI directs NBFCs to appoint Internal Ombudsman within 6 months

- Reserve Bank of India has directed Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) to appoint an Internal Ombudsman within 6 months. Deposit-taking NBFCs with more than 10 branches and non-deposit-taking NBFCs with an asset size of a minimum of 5 thousand Crore rupees have been asked to appoint an internal ombudsman within 6 months. It will be an apex of their internal grievance redress mechanism.
- All complaints that are partly or wholly rejected by the NBFC will be reviewed by the Internal Ombudsman before the final decision of the NBFC is conveyed to the complainant. The Internal Ombudsman will not entertain any complaints directly from members of public. NBFCs not having a public customer interface have been excluded from the requirement for appointment of an Internal Ombudsman.
- Ombudsman is a government official who deals with complaints made by ordinary people against public organizations. This concept of Ombudsman arrived from Sweden. It means an officer appointed by the Legislature to handle complaints against a service or administrative authority.

A Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) is a company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 engaged in the business of loans and advances, acquisition of shares/stocks/bonds/debentures/securities issued by Government or local authority or other marketable securities of a like nature, leasing, hire-purchase, insurance business, chit business but does not include any institution whose principal business is that of agriculture activity, industrial activity, purchase or sale of any goods (other than securities) or providing any services and sale / purchase / construction of immovable property. NBFC cannot accept demand deposits. NBFCs do not form part of the payment and settlement system and cannot issue cheques drawn on itself. Deposit insurance facility of Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation is not available to depositors of NBFCs.

## UP ranks first in India for establishing MSME units

- **Uttar Pradesh ranks first in the country in terms of establishment of MSME units**, Chief Secretary Rajendra Kumar Tiwari said and asserted an investment-friendly environment has been created by the state government. Tiwari made the remarks after inaugurating the Uttar Pradesh Pavilion at the India International Trade Fair-2021 at the Pragati Maidan, Delhi.

As per the latest classification of MSME: **1. Micro enterprises would be those with investments not exceeding Rs one crore and turnover of Rs 5 crore. 2. Small enterprises would be those with investment up to Rs 10 crore and turnover of up to Rs 50 crore. 3. Medium enterprises – as those with investments not exceeding Rs 50 crore and turnover of Rs 250 crore.**

## Paytm Money offers voice-based trading

- **Paytm Money has launched voice trading powered by artificial intelligence (AI)**, which allows users to explore, buy and sell securities by speaking out the commands. **Paytm Money is a group company of Paytm, which recently concluded its initial public offering (IPO).** The announcement comes three days before the planned listing on. “The voice trading feature enables a single voice command, with the use of neural networks and natural language processing (NLP), to allow instant processing.

**Paytm (“pay through mobile”)** is an Indian multinational technology company that specialises in digital wallet, e-commerce, payment system and financial technology company, based in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India. **Paytm was founded in August 2010 with an initial investment of \$2 million by its founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma in Noida, a region adjacent to India’s capital New Delhi. It started off as a prepaid mobile and DTH recharge platform, and later added data card, postpaid mobile and landline bill payments in 2013.**

## Fitch affirms India’s sovereign rating, retains negative outlook

- **Fitch Ratings says it has affirmed India’s long-term foreign-currency issuer default rating (IDR) at ‘BBB-’ with a negative outlook**, unchanged from its previous review. It also said that the rating balances a still-string medium-term growth outlook and external resilience from solid foreign-reserve buffers against high public debt, a weak financial sector, and some lagging structural issues.
- “The medium-term debt trajectory remains core to our rating assessment, as higher debt levels constrain the government’s ability to respond to shocks and could lead to a crowding out of financing for the private sector, in our view. **General government debt rose to 89.6% of GDP in FY21, the highest of ‘BBB’ emerging-market sovereigns. We forecast the ratio to decline slightly to 89.0%, still well above the 60.3% ‘BBB’ median in 2021,**” the rating agency said in its assessment.
- “**We forecast robust GDP growth of 8.7 per cent in the fiscal year ending March 2022 (FY22) and 10 per cent in FY23 (ending March 2023),** supported by the resilience of India’s economy, which has facilitated a swift cyclical recovery from the Delta Covid-19 variant wave in 2Q21,” Fitch said.
- Last month, **Moody’s Investors Service had affirmed India’s sovereign rating and upgraded its outlook to ‘stable’, from ‘negative’ citing receding downside risks to economy and financial system.**

**A credit rating agency (CRA) assesses an entity’s (group, company, government, etc.) creditworthiness in general terms or relating to particular debt or financial obligation. These agencies help lenders and investors determine the potential risk involved in lending money to a particular borrowing entity and gauge the entity’s repayment ability based on its past credit behaviour. SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) authorizes and regulates all credit rating agencies in India as per SEBI Regulations, 1999 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992. There are seven credit rating agencies in India including CRISIL, ICRA, CARE, India Ratings and Research Pvt Ltd, Acuite Ratings & Research, Brickwork Ratings India Pvt. Ltd. and Infomeries Valuation and Rating Pvt. Ltd. that are authorised by SEBI to assess credit ratings.**

## China overtakes US as world’s richest nation as global wealth surges

- **China has surpassed the United States to become the richest nation in the world as global wealth tripled over the past two decades**, according to a new report by the research arm of consultants McKinsey & Co.

- **The worldwide net worth rose to \$514 trillion in 2020, from \$156 trillion in 2000**, according to research conducted by McKinsey & Co. China emerged at the top of the worldwide list, accounting for almost one-third of the increase.
- **China's wealth jumped to \$120 trillion in 2020 from just \$7 trillion in 2000. This marks a jump of \$113 trillion in 20 years, helping the nation surpass the United States in terms of net worth.** During the same period, the US saw its net worth more than double to \$90 trillion. However, the nation could not beat China due to muted increases in property prices.
- It is worth noting that in **both the US and China, more than two-thirds of the wealth is held by the richest 10 per cent of households**, and their share has been increasing, according to the McKinsey & Co report quoted by Bloomberg.

### NSDL e-Governance gets RBI's in-principle approval as Account Aggregator

- **NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure, IT-enabled services provider, has received an in-principle approval from RBI to set up an account aggregator business under its wholly owned subsidiary, NSDL e-Governance Account Aggregator Ltd.**
- **NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure issues PAN cards and helps government agencies in e-governance projects.** It has been at the forefront in laying out the e-governance infrastructure for the country and providing citizen-centric services at population scale. The account aggregator (AA) model has the potential to transform the way financial services are delivered through a unique architecture for consent-based data sharing.

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

### India, world's largest recipient of remittances, received USD 87 bn in 2021: World Bank

- **According to the World Bank's Migration and Development Brief, India has become the world's largest recipient of Remittances, receiving USD 87 billion (a gain of 4.6 % from previous year) with the United States being the biggest source, in 2021. The United States is accounting for over 20% of all Remittances.**
- **India is followed by China, Mexico, the Philippines, and Egypt**, the Washington-based global lender. **In India, remittances are projected to grow three per cent in 2022 to USD 89.6 billion**, reflecting a drop in overall migrant stock, as a large proportion of returnees from the Arab countries await return, it said.
- **Remittances are usually understood as financial or in-kind transfers made by migrants to friends and relatives back in communities of origin.** These are basically sum of two main components - **Personal Transfers in cash or in kind between resident and non-resident households and Compensation of Employees**, which refers to the income of workers who work in another country for a limited period of time. **Remittances help in stimulating economic development in recipient countries**, but this can also make such countries over-reliant on them.

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

## RBI-led panel suggests reining in lending apps

- A committee set up by the central bank has suggested reining in controversial digital loan apps through a mix of regulations, including creating a nodal agency to verify their credentials and legislation to prevent “illegal lending”.
- The report’s thrust is on enhancing customer protection and making the digital lending ecosystem safe while encouraging innovation. **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had set up a working group on digital lending, including online platforms and mobile apps, headed by its executive director Jayant Kumar Dash in January after allegations of coercive debt recovery tactics.**
- The committee, in its report, has now suggested that a nodal agency be set up which will verify the technological credentials of digital apps of balance sheet lenders and lending service providers. It will also maintain a public register of verified apps on its website.

## Defy raises \$5.5 million to build India’s first social crypto exchange

- Fintech startup Defy has raised \$5.5 million (around Rs 40.79 crore) in a funding round to build India’s first social crypto exchange that allows users to create their profiles and share portfolios with friends and followers.
- A social crypto exchange is a platform where investors can observe and follow the investing strategies undertaken by experts in the field, influencers and even friends. Defy, founded by entrepreneurs Bhagaban Behera, Sriharsha Setty and Nakul Kelkar, has received Seed funding worth \$5.5 million.
- In August, CoinDCX raised \$90 million in its Series C round led by Facebook founder Eduardo Saverin’s B Capital group, valuing the company at \$1.1 billion. CoinSwitch Kuber announced a Series C funding round worth over \$260 million, led by American venture capital firm a16z and Coinbase Ventures.

## Foreign Direct Investment: India has become a more important source of FDI into US

- **India has become a more important source of FDI into US**, said US-India Business Council chief ahead of the maiden visit of US Trade Representative Katherine Tai to India.
- **“India has become a much more imp source of FDI into US because of the amount of Indian investment and Indian manufacturing that is coming into the United States of America. One of the major concerns that Indian companies have brought has been around labour and immigration policies that allowed Indian companies to be able to source from India through H1B1 visa.”**

**Foreign direct investment (FDI) is when a company takes controlling ownership in a business entity in another country.** With FDI, foreign companies are directly involved with day-to-day operations in the other country. This means they aren’t just bringing money with them, but also knowledge, skills and technology. Generally, FDI takes place when an investor establishes foreign business operations or acquires foreign business assets, including establishing ownership or controlling interest in a foreign company. **Routes through which India gets FDI:**  
**Automatic Route:** In this, the foreign entity does not require the prior approval of the government or the RBI.  
**Government Route:** In this, the foreign entity has to take the approval of the government. The Foreign Investment Facilitation Portal (FIFP) facilitates the single window clearance of applications which are through approval route. It is administered by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry.



## Inventions/Discoveries

### Kaiser-i-Hind is Arunachal's State butterfly

- **State Cabinet of Arunachal Pradesh, headed by Chief Minister Pema Khandu, approved “Kaiser-i-Hind” as the state butterfly. Kaiser-i-Hind is scientifically known as Teinopalpus imperialis.** In literal terms, it means Emperor of India. The butterfly is having a wingspan of 90-120 mm. It is found across six States along Eastern Himalayas at elevations from 6,000-10,000 feet in a well-wooded terrain.
- **The Kaiser-i-Hind is protected under Schedule II of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.** Despite that, they are hunted for the supply to butterfly collectors. **International Union for Conservation of Nature has red-listed the Kaiser-i-Hind.**
- **The insect with a 90-120 mm wingspan is found in the eastern Himalayas.** An elusive swallowtail butterfly carrying ‘India’ in its name and found in next-door China will **become the State butterfly of Arunachal Pradesh.** The butterfly carries ‘India’ in its name and it is found in southern China, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal and Bhutan. **Kaiser-e-Hind is a very rare and elusive swallowtail butterfly.**

### India's first museum on earth sciences to be set up in UP

- **Uttar Pradesh now has the first Museum in India dedicated to Earth, The Indian Museum of Earth.** The Museum will have exhibits from the world of palaeosciences, geology, tectonics and Earth processes and will be a world-class iconic museum with collections from palaeosciences, geology, tectonics, earth processes and whatnot.
- “The museum, which will be a geo treasure of the country, will **become a reality with the joint efforts of Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (BSIP),** ministry of earth sciences, ministry of mines, ministry of environment, forest and climate change, ministry of science and technology and the ministry of culture.”

### India launches the 41<sup>st</sup> Scientific Expedition to Antarctica

- **India has successfully launched the 41<sup>st</sup> Scientific Expedition to Antarctica** with the arrival of the first batch of its contingent at the southern white continent. **The first batch comprising of 23 scientists and support staff reached the Indian Antarctic station Maitri.**
- Four more batches shall be **landing in Antarctica by air using DROMLAN facility and onboard chartered ice-class vessel MV VasilyGolovnin** by mid-January 2022. The 41<sup>st</sup> expedition has two major programs. **The first program encompasses geological exploration of the Amery ice shelf at Bharati station.**
- This will help explore the link between India and Antarctica in the past. **The second program involves reconnaissance surveys and preparatory work for drilling of 500 meters of ice core near Maitri.**
- It will **help in improving the understanding of Antarctic climate, westerly winds, sea-ice and greenhouse gases from a single climate archive for past 10,000 years.** The ice core drilling will be done in collaboration with the British Antarctic Survey and the Norwegian Polar Institute.
- In addition to accomplishing scientific programs, it will **replenish the annual supplies of food, fuel, provisions, and spares for operations and maintenance of life support systems at Maitri and Bharati.**

## India's first fisheries business incubator launched in Haryana's Gurugram costing Rs. 3.23 crore

- **Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Shri Parshottam Rupala inaugurated the country's first-of-its kind, dedicated business incubator to be known as LINAC- NCDC Fisheries Business Incubation Centre (LIFIC) in Haryana's Gurugram costing Rs. 3.23 crore to nurture fisheries start-ups under real market-led conditions.**
- **To begin with, the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), an implementing agency for the LIFIC, has identified the first batch of ten incubatees from four states—Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra.** Out of them, 6 are from newly-created Fish Farmers Producer Organizations with the support of the financial grant under the PMMSY.
- **Stating that the Centre will serve as a 'milestone' in the future for the fisheries sector which is being given a big push under the central flagship Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) launched last year by Prime Minister Narendra Modi,** Rupala said that the incubation unit will provide handholding such as training, converting entrepreneurial ideas into business models and doling out seed money to the new as well as existing business entrepreneurs keen to make big in the segment.
- **To begin with, the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), an implementing agency for the LIFIC, has identified the first batch of ten incubates from 4 states—Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, and Maharashtra.** Out of them, 6 are from newly-created Fish Farmers Producer Organizations with the support of the financial grant under the PMMSY.

## White House sends Kigali amendment on climate-warming gases to Senate

- **The White House sent an international agreement that requires countries to phase down greenhouse gases frequently found in refrigerators and air conditioners to the U.S. Senate for ratification. The so-called Kigali amendment to the Montreal Protocol is a global treaty to reduce hydro fluorocarbons, or HFCs, that was adopted in 2016 but that the United States has not yet ratified.** The amendment calls for the phase-down of HFCs, gases that are significantly more potent than carbon dioxide in contributing to global warming.
- **The move comes shortly after President Joe Biden's trip to Glasgow, Scotland, for the U.N. climate conference. Biden has pledged that the United States will cut its greenhouse gas emissions by 50%-52% by 2030 compared with 2005 levels.** Worldwide implementation of the amendment could prevent as much as a half degree Celsius (0.9 F) in warming by the end of the century.
- **In September, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency finalized a rule that would slash the use of HFCs by 85 percent over the next 15 years.** The rule carries out legislation that was passed with bipartisan support by Congress last year and would make the United States compliant with the Kigali amendment.
- **Administration officials noted bipartisan support for tackling the issue in the past. The request for the Senate to ratify comes shortly after Biden on Monday signed a \$1 trillion infrastructure bill into law that passed with support from his fellow Democrats and some Republicans.**

## Indian scientists discover star-planet bigger than Jupiter

- **The exoplanet search and study group at the Ahmedabad-based Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), has discovered a new exoplanet orbiting too close to an evolved or aging star with a mass of 1.5 times that of Sun and located 725 light years away.**
- **This discovery was made using PRL Advanced Radial-velocity Abu-sky Search optical fiber-fed spectrograph, the first of its kind in India, on the 1.2 metre Telescope of PRL at its Mt. Abu Observatory, the Bengaluru-headquartered space agency.**
- **The star is known as HD 82139 as per the Henry Draper catalogue and TOI 1789 as per the TESS catalogue. Hence, the planet is known as TOI 1789b or HD 82139b as per the IAU nomenclature.**

## 225 hectare Maharashtra land handed over for first LIGO project in India

- **The Hingoli revenue department has handed over 225 hectare of land in Maharashtra to authorities of the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) project for setting up the first such facility in the country.**

- **There are currently a couple of such labs in the US - at Hanford in Washington and Livingston in Louisiana - which study the gravitational waves.** In 2016, the central government had given an 'in principle' approval to the LIGO-India mega science proposal for research on gravitational waves.
- The project will provide opportunities to scientists and engineers to dig deeper into the realm of gravitational waves. **A few years back, scientists had for the first time observed ripples in the fabric of spacetime called gravitational waves, arriving at the earth from a cataclysmic event in the distant universe.**

**INDIGO or IndIGO (Indian Initiative in Gravitational-wave Observations) is a consortium of Indian gravitational-wave physicists. This is an initiative to set up advanced experimental facilities for a multi-institutional observatory project in gravitational-wave astronomy located near Aundha Nagnath, Hingoli District, Maharashtra, India. Predicted date of commission is in 2024. LIGO-India is a planned advanced gravitational-wave detector to be located in India, whose concept proposal is now under active consideration by the science funding agencies in India and US.**

## **IIT Delhi and IIIT Delhi tech innovation hubs join hands to build India's first medical cobotics centre**

- **The technology innovation hubs of IIT Delhi and IIIT Delhi have signed an MoU to set up India's first medical cobotics centre.** I-Hub Foundation for Cobotics (IHFC), the Technology Innovation Hub (TIH) of IIT Delhi and iHub Anubhuti, the TIH of Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi (IIITD) joined hands to build India's first Medical Cobotics Centre (MCC) at IIIT-Delhi.
- **The TIHs are funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India under its National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS).** IIT Delhi and IIIT Delhi have strong expertise in engineering and have strong linkages with researchers and medical professionals from various institutions in India such as AIIMS and others.

## **Scientists in Ahmedabad discover exoplanet 1.4 times bigger than Jupiter**

- **Scientists from the Ahmedabad-based Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) have discovered an exoplanet that is 725 light years away from us and orbiting an ageing star that has 1.5 times the mass of our Sun,** according to the department of space.
- **The exoplanet is 1.4 times the size of Jupiter and it is orbiting unusually close to a star, completing one orbit in just 3.2 Earth days.** Despite being bigger than Jupiter, **its mass is 70% that of the solar system's largest planet.** Exoplanets are planetary bodies that are outside our solar system and they usually orbit a star.
- **The distance between the newly discovered exoplanet and its star is nearly one-tenth the distance between the Sun and Mercury.** Due to the proximity of the exoplanet to its star, it is extremely hot with surface temperatures reaching up to 2,000 degrees Kelvin (1726.85 degrees Celsius) and an inflated radius with very low density.

## **World's most sophisticated MRI facility launched at National Brain Research Centre in Manesar Haryana**

- Union Minister for Science and Technology **Dr. Jitendra Singh launched first of its kind, latest, world's most sophisticated MRI facility at the National Brain Research Centre (NBRC), Manesar in Haryana.** It is India's premier institute dedicated to Neuroscience Research and Education.
- On the occasion, the Minister said, with this facility, India embarks on new frontiers of human Neuroscience with a unique and powerful 3-T MRI platform of outstanding performance. **He informed that MRI Scanner Prisma from Siemens, Germany, is being used by several international initiatives, like Brain initiative of USA, the European human brain project.**



## Sports Personalities in News

### Pakistan to host 2025 Champions Trophy, India get 3 ICC events in next cycle including 2026 World T20

- Major cricket event will return to Pakistan after more than two decades with the country set to host the 2025 Champions Trophy, an ICC flagship tournament. The ICC board awarded the hosting rights of the 2025 Champions Trophy to Pakistan, while picking United States and West Indies as co-host of the 2024 T20 World Cup. This will be the first ever global event hosted in North America.
- India will get to host three ICC events in the next in the next cycle, including the 2026 T20 World Cup and 2031 50-over World Cup, where the country will be Co-hosts along with Sri Lanka and Bangladesh respectively. India will also host the 2029 Champions Trophy singularly.

### ICC Men's T-20 Cricket World Cup: Australia lift ICC T-20 World Cup by beating New Zealand in Dubai

- Australia lifted their maiden T20 World Cup title as they defeated New Zealand in the final by 8 wickets at Dubai International stadium. Australia scored 173/2 to win the tournament, the highest total in seven finals of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup. That was in reply to New Zealand's score of 172/4 in the first innings.
- Mitchell Marsh was named Player of the Match for his unbeaten 77 off 50 balls in the final against New Zealand. It was the sixth half-century of his T20I career, all coming in 2021.
- Australia opener David Warner was named Player of the Tournament for racking up 289 runs at an average of 48.16 and an impressive strike-rate of 146.70.
- Having won ICC Cricket World Cups (in the ODI format) in 1987, 1999, 2003, 2007, 2015, Australia have now pocketed one in the T20 format as well. The next team with most men's World Cup titles is West Indies (four), followed by India (three), Pakistan, Sri Lanka and England (two each).

### Rahul Dravid takes charge as new Indian Cricket team coach

- Rahul Dravid has taken charge as the new Indian Cricket team coach. BCCI tweets 'say hello to new coach' Rahul Dravid has taken charge as the new Indian Cricket team coach.

### USA to co-host T20 Cricket World Cup in 2024

- The United States will co-host its first major cricket tournament in 2024 when it stages part of the men's T20 World Cup.
- The baseball-loving country, which has never appeared at either a T20 or a 50-over World Cup, will host the event along with the more established cricket nations of the West Indies.

### Ganguly replaces Kumble as ICC Cricket's Committee chairman

- BCCI president Sourav Ganguly has been appointed as the Chairman of the ICC men's Cricket Committee, the game's governing body.

- **Ganguly will replace fellow Indian Anil Kumble**, who stepped down after serving a maximum of three, three-year terms. **Johnny Grave, CEO of Cricket West Indies has been appointed to the ICC Women's Cricket Committee.**

### **WBBL07: Smriti Mandhana becomes first from India to score a hundred**

- **Smriti Mandhana became the first Indian to score a hundred in the Women's Big Bash League** when she hit one for Sydney Thunder against Melbourne Renegades. **Sydney Thunder's Smriti Mandhana scored an unbeaten 114 off 64 balls in the match against the Melbourne Renegades.**

### **India Named Participant in First-ever 'FIH Hockey5s Lausanne' to Be Held in June 2022**

- **The International Hockey Federation (FIH) is delighted to announce that its first ever senior World Hockey5s event** - which was initially scheduled in September this year but postponed due to COVID-related issues - **will take place on 4-5 June 2022, in Lausanne, Switzerland.**
- **Ten teams from four continents**, including some of the powerhouses of international hockey, will **compete: Switzerland, India, Malaysia, Pakistan and Poland (Men) and Switzerland, India, Poland, South Africa and Uruguay (Women).**
- **Hockey5s is played with 5 athletes per team. It is particularly known for its non-stop end to end action**, since the ball is in play for about 90% of a match, thanks to rebound-boards placed against the outside of the side-lines and back-lines.

### **Garbine Muguruza defeats Anett Kontaveit for first WTA Finals title**

- **Spain's Garbine Muguruza claimed her first WTA Finals title defeating Estonian Anett Kontaveit 6-3 7-5** in Guadalajara, Mexico.
- **It was Muguruza's fourth appearance at the season-ending finals and her first in the championship match. Her win gave Spain its first-ever WTA Finals title** and will see her end the year as the world number three when the rankings are updated.

### **Formula 1: Lewis Hamilton wins in Qatar with Max Verstappen second**

- **Seven-times world champion Lewis Hamilton won the inaugural Qatar Grand Prix for Mercedes to cut Max Verstappen's overall Formula One lead to eight points** with two races remaining.
- **Red Bull's Verstappen was second**, after starting seventh following a five-place grid drop for failing to respect warning flags in Saturday's qualifying, but took a bonus point for fastest lap. **Double world champion Fernando Alonso was third for Renault-owned Alpine, the 40-year-old Spaniard's first podium finish since 2014.**

### **Kento Momota clinches Indonesia Masters badminton tournament men's singles title**

- **In Badminton, World No. 1 Japan's Kento Momota clinched the Indonesia Masters badminton tournament men's singles title** after beating Denmark's Anders Antonsen in the final, in Bali.
- In the women's singles final, **Japan's Akane Yamaguchi, who had beaten India's PV Sindhu in the semi-final, was defeated by An Se-Young.** In the men's doubles, **Hoki Takuro and Kobayashi Yugo beat home favorites Marcus Fernaldi Gideon and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo.**
- Japan's great day continued in the women's doubles as **Matsuyama Nami and Shida Chiharu outclassed South Korea's Jeong Na-eun and Korea Kim Hye-jeong.**

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## MISCELLANEOUS

### Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurates Centres for nano technology and Indian Knowledge System at IIT Guwahati

- Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated the state-of-the-art Centre for Nanotechnology (CNT) and Centre for Indian Knowledge System (CIKS) at IIT Guwahati. He also released a book on NEP 2020 implementation.
- Mr Pradhan congratulated IIT Guwahati for achieving excellent rankings in various national and international ranking systems. He also appreciated the efforts of IIT Guwahati for creating an ecosystem for research and education as well as focusing on the overall development of the northeastern region.

### Defence Secretary releases a book titled 'FORCE IN STATECRAFT'

- Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar released a book titled 'FORCE IN STATECRAFT'. The book is a compilation of essays on topics including counter-insurgency operations, conflict in North East, air power and nuclear posture which give conceptual understanding and facets of India's national security. The contributors of the book are all stalwarts of the Armed Forces, who have vast operational experience and understanding of several important cornerstones of forces and its application.

### PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Kashi Corridor project

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Kashi Vishwanath Temple Corridor project in Varanasi, his parliamentary constituency, alongside families of those who had been displaced due to the project.

### Delhi gears up for India's first sustained car-free citizen initiative

- Delhi's pollution levels have gone back to an all-time rise with the Air Quality Index docked at 446 plunging to the 'severe' category. Every year, as the Capital faces the deadly smog due to burning of firecrackers on Diwali and crop residue, a task as simple as breathing becomes difficult for citizens.
- Keeping this in mind, the Dialogue and Development Commission (DDC) of Delhi, a think tank of the Delhi Government, is organising six 'Raahgiri Days', India's first sustained car-free citizen initiative.

### IRCTC to get 'sattvik certificate' for some trains to religious sites

- The IRCTC will promote "vegetarian-friendly travel" by getting some trains "sattvik certified", especially those running on routes connecting religious sites, according to a statement by Sattvik Council of India which is involved with the certification.

### PM Modi launched NCC alumni association, become first member on Nov 19 in Jhansi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the National Cadet Corps (NCC) Alumni Association in Uttar Pradesh's Jhansi on November 19.
- He will also become the first member of the alumni association. Additionally, NCC will be started in 1,283 schools in the border and coastal districts of the country. This includes 896 schools in border areas, 255 in coastal areas and 132 in stations where the Indian Air Force is present.

### Shuttler's Flick: Making Every Match Count

- Ahead of the launch of his autobiography 'Shuttler's Flick', badminton coach and former player Pullela Gopichand reveals how he channelled his hurt to devise a winning strategy and bounce back stronger.
- The seeds for the book were sown in 2016 when Gopichand served as the official Indian Olympic badminton team coach. P V Sindhu won her first Olympic silver at Rio.

### Vice President releases the book 'Srimadramayanam' in Hyderabad

- Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu called upon youth to draw inspiration from Lord Rama's life in fulfilling their duty towards motherland.
- The book 'Srimadramayanam' is written by Sasikiranacharya in Hyderabad.

## CROWN to be India's first ever female superhero 3D film

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- **Superheros are popular in India but little does a woman get that part to play, actually bringing up a female super hero to light.** But, with the changing narrative of Indian cinema, women oriented films are getting popular. **Director Narein Praneas Rao, along with producers Abhay Kumar and Dr. Aravind K are all set to join the league of this reformation.**
- **They are coming up with this woman centric film, titled CROWN.** Keeping it more iconic, this film will be a 3D film becoming India's first ever. One of its kind! The film is currently in its nascent stage and will commence shooting from January 2022. The team plans to release by the end of 2022. **Former Miss India, Aditi Vats will be playing the protagonist.**

## Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurates Health Pavilion at India International Trade Fair in New Delhi

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- **Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated the Health Pavilion** at India International Trade Fair at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.
- The Minister reached the venue by driving bicycle to generate awareness and promote a healthy active lifestyle in view of the rising burden of Non-Communicable Diseases, NCDs in the country.
- **The theme of this year's Health Pavilion is to create awareness about lifestyle diseases, and importance of total health.** Dr Mandaviya announced a month long campaign as part of "Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav" to create awareness about preventive health.
- "During the month long campaign, we have set ourselves a target of conducting 7.5 lakh Wellness Sessions and 75 lakh NCD screenings across the country through the Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres.
- He also observed that Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission is a revolution and will help us in keeping records digitally. **Dr Mandaviya stated that Jan Bhagidari" has played a very critical role in India's fight against COVID. 64 thousand crore rupees have been sanctioned with the aim that every district will be covered to strengthen health Infrastructure of the country.**



## UN appoints Shombi Sharp as resident coordinator in India

- **Shombi Sharp of the United States** has been appointed as the United Nations resident coordinator in India with the host government's approval.
- **He will serve as the secretary-general's representative for development at the country level and lead the UN team on the ground**, including for support to India's Covid-19 response plans to recover better for the Sustainable Development Goals. Sharp has more than 25 years of experience in promoting inclusive and sustainable development globally.

## Bollywood singer Sonu Nigam launches the Indian music industry's first-ever NFT series

- **After Amitabh Bachchan and Salman Khan**, the latest Bollywood celebrity to join the crypto frenzy is **Sonu Nigam**, who is embracing non fungible tokens (NFTs) in partnership with new age digital entertainment and technology company JetSynthesys.
- **NFTs allow artists to create unique digital works, in whatever form can be imagined, and sell these direct to fans and collectors via Blockchain. The NFT collection was launched in London** to appeal to the thriving diaspora looking to stay connected to their roots, featuring the popular music icon's journey and work. **The NFT series will include Nigam's single 'Hall of fame'.**

## CBI gets three new Joint Directors

- **Senior IPS officers Vidya Jayant Kulkarni, Ghanshyam Upadhyay and Nawal Bajaj appointed as the Joint Directors in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).** Kulkarni, a 1998-batch IPS officer of Tamil Nadu cadre, has been appointed for a period of five years on a deputation basis. Upadhyay, a 1999-batch IPS officer of Odisha cadre, will have his tenure till June 29, 2026. Bajaj, who is from a 1995-batch and belongs to the Maharashtra cadre, will have a combined tenure of five years, i.e. up to June 6, 2026.



# AWARDS

## Civil society organisation 'Pratham' to get Indira Gandhi Peace Prize for 2021

- Pratham, a civil society organisation, has been awarded the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for the year 2021.
- Set up in 1995 in Mumbai by Dr Madhav Chavan and Farida Lambay, Pratham is dedicated to improving the quality of education for underprivileged children in India and across the world.
- The organisation started its work in the Mumbai slums, setting up community-based pre-schools. Its outreach in India has now expanded to an average 1 million children directly and 5 million through government partnerships annually.
- Its Annual Status of Education Report (ASER), based on surveying 6 lakh rural Indian children, is now used as a model to assess education outcomes and learning deficiencies in 14 countries.

The Indira Gandhi Peace Prize is an annual prestigious award. It has been named after former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. It is conferred every year since 1986 by Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust. It consists of a monetary award of Rs. 25 lakh along with a citation. Parliamentarians for Global Action is the first recipient of the award in 1986 and Mikhail Gorbachev is a Russian and former Soviet politician, he is the second and first person to receive Indira Gandhi Peace Prize in 1987.

## Union Minister Anurag Thakur confers 246 athletes and coaches with first-ever Sports Authority of India's Institutional Awards

- Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur conferred the first-ever Sports Authority of India's Institutional Awards to 246 athletes and coaches in New Delhi.
- A total of 162 athletes and 84 coaches have been conferred awards in the Outstanding Award and Best Award category for their performance in national and international competitions with cash awards.
- The awards acknowledge the exceptional performance of the SAI athletes and coaches under the various sports promotion schemes at the national and international level from 2016. Mr. Thakur emphasized the importance of Sports being an integral part of the National Education Policy. He said, when the sporting achievements of a student are announced in his or her school, it inspires other students to look beyond just academics and include sports in their life.
- He expressed happiness that sport has become an integral part of the National Education Policy and therefore is a part of every student's life now. Minister of State Nisith Pramanik said it's a momentous occasion to see the awards given out in the year of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. He said these awards are a way of assuring our athletes and coaches that the Sports Authority of India is always there to support them.

## Indian Film Personality Award to be given to Hema Malini & Prasoon Joshi at IFFI

- Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur has announced that the Indian Film Personality Award for the year 2021 will be given to Hema Malini and Prasoon Joshi. The award will be given in the 52<sup>nd</sup> International Film Festival of India in Goa. The Film Festival will run from November 20 to 28.

## IIT Gandhinagar PhD scholars win Gandhian Young Technological Innovation Awards 2021

- Harini Gunda, a PhD student of Chemical Engineering, Dr Chandan Kumar Jha, a PhD alumnus and postdoctoral fellow in Electrical Engineering won the award.
- Gandhian Young Technological Innovation (GYTI) Awards celebrate the spirit of student innovation in all the fields of engineering, science, technology and design through extremely affordable/frugal solutions or the ones that push the technological edge for various areas of social and industrial applications. Harini has received this award for developing 'Novel Boron Nano-additives for Improving the Performance of Solid Propellants'.

# IMPORTANT DAYS

## The Nation celebrates birth anniversary of tribal freedom fighter Bhagwan Birsa Munda as Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas on 15<sup>th</sup> November

- The Nation celebrated the **birth anniversary of tribal freedom fighter Bhagwan Birsa Munda as Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas on 15 November 2021**. The Government of India has declared 15<sup>th</sup> November as the ‘**Janjatiya Gaurav Divas**’ which also coincides with the **146<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda**. The Bhagwan Birsa Munda Tribal Freedom Fighter Museum has been built in association with the State Government of Jharkhand at the Old Central Jail location in Ranchi, where the legendary Birsa Munda had sacrificed his life.

## World Antimicrobial Awareness Week

- **Celebrated annually, the World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) aims to increase awareness of global antimicrobial resistance and to encourage best practices** among the general public, health workers and policy makers to avoid the further emergence and spread of drug-resistant infections.
- **18 to 24 November is World Antimicrobial Awareness Week. The 2021 theme is ‘Spread Awareness, Stop Resistance’**, calls on One Health stakeholders, policymakers, health care providers, and the general public to be Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Awareness champions.

## International Day for Tolerance 16 November

- In 1996, the UN General Assembly invited UN Member States to **observe the International Day for Tolerance on 16 November**. This action followed up on the United Nations Year for Tolerance, 1995, proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 1993 at the initiative of UNESCO, as outlined in the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance and Follow-up Plan of Action for the Year.
- **The theme for International Day of Tolerance** is based upon the basic premise that ‘**Tolerance is respect, acceptance, and appreciation of the rich diversity of our world’s cultures, our forms of expression and ways of being human**’.

## World Philosophy Day 18 November

- In 2005 the UNESCO General Conference proclaimed that **World Philosophy Day would be celebrated every third Thursday of November**. In establishing World Philosophy Day UNESCO strives to promote an international culture of philosophical debate that respects human dignity and diversity.
- **The theme for World Philosophy Day 2021** is intended to be based on “**different interactions of human beings with their social, cultural, geographical and political environment**, with the underlying objective of better understanding the contribution of philosophy in our contemporary societies and the challenges they face”.

## World Television Day 21 November

- **The United Nations devised a committee on December 17, 1996, and recognized the importance of television as a medium of global exchanges of information pertaining to economic, social, and cultural aspects** deeply etched in the fabric of society. As a result, the committee decided to celebrate November 21 as World Television Day.

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# QUESTIONS

1. Recently, India's first 'grass conservatory' spread over an area of two acres was inaugurated at \_\_\_\_\_ district.  
(a) Almora (b) Varanasi (c) Patna (d) Udaipur
2. Which of the following states/ union territory has organising six 'Raahgiri Days', India's first sustained car-free citizen initiative?  
(a) Delhi (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Punjab (d) Goa
3. To commemorate Bal Diwas, India's first Assembly Session for Children was held in \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Gujarat (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Rajasthan
4. Recently, which of the following has approved the Invesco CoinShares Global Blockchain ETF Fund of Fund (FoF), which of the following will be the first scheme in India to offer exposure to global companies participating in the blockchain ecosystem?  
(a) SIDBI (b) SEBI (c) NABARD (d) RBI
5. Recently, Abdel Fattah al-Burhan was sworn in as head of a new transitional council of \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Egypt (b) Sudan (c) Indonesia (d) Malaysia
6. Which of the following states will soon have India's first museum dedicated to earth, aptly named 'The Indian Museum of Earth (TIME)'?  
(a) Jharkhand (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Odisha (d) Madhya Pradesh
7. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Kashi Vishwanath Temple Corridor project in \_\_\_\_\_ alongside families of those who had been displaced due to the project.  
(a) New Delhi (b) Varanasi (c) Lucknow (d) Shimla
8. Which of the following teams lifted their maiden T20 World Cup title?  
(a) New Zealand (b) Australia (c) India (d) Pakistan
9. Recently, The Nation celebrated the birth anniversary of tribal freedom fighter Bhagwan Birsa Munda as Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas on \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) November 10 (b) November 12 (c) November 15 (d) November 18
10. Name the IIT Gandhinagar PhD scholar who won Gandhian Young Technological Innovation Awards 2021.  
(a) Mridul Yadav (b) Harini Gunda (c) Mrinal Jain (d) Meenakshi Jha
11. Recently, Piyush Goyal virtually launched India's first Food Museum in:  
(a) Indore (b) Kochi (c) Kanpur (d) Thanjavur
12. India's Bhadla Solar Park is the largest solar power park in the world located in:  
(a) Gujarat (b) Rajasthan  
(c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Jharkhand
13. Recently, The navies of India, Singapore and Thailand carried out a series of complex military drills in the Andaman Sea named:  
(a) Royal King 21 (b) SIT 21  
(c) SITMEX 21 (d) Nomadic Deer 2021
14. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the National Cadet Corps (NCC) Alumni Association in Uttar Pradesh's \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Kanpur (b) Varanasi (c) Jhansi (d) Lucknow

15. In which of the following countries the incumbent President Rumen Radev is leading in the first round of the country's Presidential Elections?  
 (a) Portugal (b) Sweden (c) Finland (d) Bulgaria
16. Which of the following has recently directed Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) to appoint an Internal Ombudsman within 6 months?  
 (a) SIDBI (b) NABARD  
 (c) Reserve Bank of India (d) NITI Aayog
17. Which of the following Indian states ranks first in the country in terms of establishment of MSME units?  
 (a) Gujarat (b) Maharashtra (c) Rajasthan (d) Uttar Pradesh
18. Recently, Kaiser-i-Hind has been declared the state butterfly of:  
 (a) Sikkim (b) Manipur (c) Arunachal Pradesh (d) Mizoram
19. Which of the following Asian countries has successfully launched the 41<sup>st</sup> Scientific Expedition to Antarctica recently?  
 (a) China (b) India (c) Japan (d) South Korea
20. The UN General Assembly invited UN Member States to observe the International Day for Tolerance on \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) 5<sup>th</sup> November (b) 8<sup>th</sup> November (c) 11<sup>th</sup> November (d) 16<sup>th</sup> November
21. The Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated the Health Pavilion at \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) India International Trade Fair at Gandhi Maidan in Patna  
 (b) India International Trade Fair at Subhash Maidan in Kolkata  
 (c) India International Trade Fair at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi  
 (d) India International Trade Fair at Azad Maidan in Lucknow
22. Recently, Shombi Sharp of the United States has been appointed as the United Nations resident coordinator in \_\_\_\_\_ with the host government's approval.  
 (a) India (b) USA (c) Japan (d) South Korea
23. Recently which of the following establishes world's first metaverse embassy?  
 (a) Fiji (b) Barbados (c) Argentina (d) Brazil
24. Which of the following has launched voice trading powered by artificial intelligence (AI), which allows users to explore, buy and sell securities by speaking out the commands?  
 (a) Airtel Money (b) Paytm Money (c) Flipkart Money (d) Amazon Money
25. Recently, Fitch Ratings says it has affirmed India's long-term foreign-currency issuer default rating (IDR) at \_\_\_\_\_ with a negative outlook, unchanged from its previous review.  
 (a) AAA+ (b) AAA- (c) BBB+ (d) BBB-
26. Recently, Shri Parshottam Rupala inaugurated the country's first-of-its kind, dedicated business incubator to be known as LINAC- NCDC Fisheries Business Incubation Centre (LIFIC) in \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) Chhattisgarh's Raipur (b) Punjab's Kapurthala (c) Haryana's Gurugram (d) Madhya Pradesh's Indore
27. Recently, who has taken charge as the new Indian Cricket team coach?  
 (a) Rahul Dravid (b) Virender Sehwag (c) Sachin Tendulkar (d) VVS Laksman
28. The \_\_\_\_\_ a P15B stealth guided-missile destroyer will be commissioned into the Indian Navy in the presence of Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai.  
 (a) Bhopal (b) Mumbai (c) Visakhapatnam (d) Kolkata

29. Which of the following Asian countries is set to host 2025 Champions Trophy?  
 (a) Sri Lanka (b) India (c) Pakistan (d) Bangladesh
30. Name the shuttler whose autobiography is 'Shuttler's Flick'.  
 (a) Pullela Gopichand (b) Prakash Padukone (c) P V Sindhu (d) Saina Nehwal
31. Which of the following states launched the 'Duare Ration' scheme which will benefit 10 crore people in Bengal?  
 (a) Jharkhand (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) West Bengal (d) Odisha
32. Recently, US president Biden has pledged that the United States will cut its greenhouse gas emissions by \_\_\_\_\_ by 2030 compared with 2005 levels.  
 (a) 30%-32% (b) 40%-42% (c) 50%-52% (d) 60%-62%
33. According to a new report by the research arm of consultants McKinsey & Co, which of the following countries became the richest nation in the world?  
 (a) Japan (b) China (c) USA (d) India
34. Recently, The exoplanet search and study group at the Ahmedabad-based Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), has discovered a new exoplanet orbiting too close to an evolved or aging star with a mass of \_\_\_\_\_ times that of Sun and located 725 light years away.  
 (a) 1.25 (b) 1.5 (c) 2 (d) 3.5
35. Which of the following European countries has ordered a change to the colour of its national flag?  
 (a) France (b) Germany (c) Portugal (d) Greece
36. Recently, The technology innovation hubs of \_\_\_\_\_ and IIT Delhi have signed an MoU to set up India's first medical robotics centre.  
 (a) IIT Delhi (b) IIT Kanpur (c) IIT Madras (d) IIT Bombay
37. Recently, Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated \_\_\_\_\_ as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav and interacted with successful start-ups including those from the tribal communities on the occasion of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas.  
 (a) "Tech Aadhaar @75" (b) "Tech Suvidha @75" (c) "Tech NEEV/@75" (d) "Tech Vishesh @75"
38. Which of the following countries will co-host its first major cricket tournament in 2024 when it stages part of the men's T20 World Cup?  
 (a) Canada (b) USA (c) France (d) New Zealand
39. Who has been appointed as the Chairman of the ICC men's Cricket Committee, the game's governing body?  
 (a) Sourav Ganguly (b) Javagal Srinath (c) Rahul Dravid (d) Venkatesh Prasad
40. World Toilet Day is an official United Nations international observance day on \_\_\_\_\_ to inspire action to tackle the global sanitation crisis.  
 (a) 12 November (b) 17 November (c) 19 November (d) 23 November
41. Recently, Indian Railways' first pod hotel was inaugurated in \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) New Delhi (b) Lucknow (c) Varanasi (d) Mumbai
42. According to Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, India has become the \_\_\_\_\_ largest domestic aviation market in the world.  
 (a) Second (b) Third (c) Fourth (d) Fifth
43. Which of the following Asian countries has been reelected to the UNESCO Executive Board, one of the three constitutional organs of the United Nations, for the 2021-25 term?  
 (a) Bangladesh (b) India (c) Pakistan (d) Japan

44. Recently, NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure, IT-enabled services provider, has received an in-principle approval from \_\_\_\_\_ to set up an account aggregator business under its wholly owned subsidiary.  
(a) NABARD (b) SIDBI (c) RBI (d) NITI Aayog
45. According to the World Bank, which of the following countries is the world's largest recipient of remittances?  
(a) Japan (b) China (c) India (d) Pakistan
46. Recently, The Hingoli revenue department has handed over 225 hectare of land in \_\_\_\_\_ to authorities of the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) project for setting up the first such facility in the country.  
(a) Gujarat (b) Punjab (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Maharashtra
47. Recently, Fintech startup \_\_\_\_\_ has raised \$5.5 million (around Rs 40.79 crore) in a funding round to build India's first social crypto exchange.  
(a) WazirX (b) Giffy (c) Defy (d) Alkexandra
48. Recently, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur has announced that the Indian Film Personality Award for the year 2021 will be given to \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Asha Parekh and Manoj Muntasir (b) Hema Malini and Prasoon Joshi  
(c) Rekha and Jubin Nautiyal (d) Sharmila Tagore and Arijit Singh
49. Recently, Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur conferred the first ever Sports Authority of India's Institutional Awards to \_\_\_\_\_ athletes and coaches in New Delhi.  
(a) 199 (b) 206 (c) 219 (d) 246
50. Recently, Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu called upon youth to draw inspiration from Lord Rama's life in fulfilling their duty towards motherland. The book \_\_\_\_\_ is written by Sasikiranacharya in Hyderabad.  
(a) 'SriRam' (b) 'Ramaramayanam' (c) 'Sriramayanam' (d) 'Srimadramayanam'
51. Name the civil society organization which has been awarded the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for the year 2021.  
(a) Ekal (b) Pratham (c) Sakshya (d) Amrit
52. Recently, India's First Food Museum has been opened in:  
(a) Nellore (b) Bhopal (c) Thanjavur (d) Udaipur
53. Name the mission which unveils India's first-ever pledge for clean water and sustainable sanitation.  
(a) Mission Water (b) Mission Pyaas (c) Mission Jal (d) Mission Paani
54. What is the name of the joint exercise carried out to assess the logistics supply chain by the Indian Army and Air Force?  
(a) Operation Tiger (b) Operation Prithviraj (c) Operation Hercules (d) Operation Triumph
55. Recently, The world's first fully electric autonomous cargo vessel was unveiled in \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Russia (b) Norway (c) Sweden (d) Finland
56. Who has become the first woman to hold presidential power in US history?  
(a) Kamala Harris (b) Preeti Patel (c) Nikki Haley (d) Pramila Jaypal
57. A committee set up by the central bank has suggested reining in controversial digital loan apps through a mix of regulations. Who is the head of this working group?  
(a) Mahesh Dinakaran (b) Anita Meshram  
(c) Jayant Kumar Dash (d) Kirpal Singh Jagtara

58. Recently, Scientists from the Ahmedabad-based Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) have discovered an exoplanet that is 725 light years away from us and orbiting an ageing star that has \_\_\_\_\_ times the mass of our Sun.  
(a) 0.5 (b) 1 (c) 1.5 (d) 3
59. World Toilet Day is an official United Nations international observance day on \_\_\_\_\_ to inspire action to tackle the global sanitation crisis.  
(a) 15 November (b) 17 November (c) 19 November (d) 23 November
60. The International Hockey Federation (FIH) has announced that its first ever senior World Hockey5s event will take place in \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Brussels, Belgium (b) Lyon, France  
(c) Lausanne, Switzerland (d) New York, USA
61. Recently, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated the state-of-the-art Centre for Nanotechnology (CNT) and Centre for Indian Knowledge System (CIKS) at \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) IIT Bombay (b) IIT Madras (c) IIT Guwahati (d) IIT Delhi
62. Indian Home Minister Amit Shah laid the foundation stone for setting up the Rani Gaidinliu Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum in \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Jharkhand (b) Odisha (c) Mizoram (d) Manipur
63. According to the Swachh Survekshan 2021, which is not among the top four cleanest cities of India?  
(a) Indore (b) Vijayawada (c) Thane (d) Surat
64. Recently, The Sixth Edition of Indo - France joint military exercise \_\_\_\_\_ has been commenced.  
(a) Ex YUDH ABHYAS 2021 (b) Ex SHAKTI 2021  
(c) Ex SURAKSHA 2021 (d) Ex MITRA 2021
65. Which of the following is the first country to establish a digital embassy after an agreement with metaverse platform Decentraland?  
(a) Barbados (b) Fiji (c) Suriname (d) Maldives
66. Recently, Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh launched first of its kind, latest, world's most sophisticated MRI facility at the \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) National Brain Research Centre (NBRC), Manesar Haryana  
(b) AIIMS, Delhi  
(c) AFMC, Pune  
(d) JIPMER, Puducherry
67. Who won the inaugural Qatar Grand Prix Formula One?  
(a) Lewis Hamilton (b) Alex Tsipiras (c) Valtteri Bottas (d) Max Verstappen
68. Who recently clinched the Indonesia Masters badminton tournament men's singles title?  
(a) Kidambi Srikanth (b) Anders Antonsen (c) Kento Momota (d) Max Chiker
69. India's first ever female superhero 3D film is  
(a) CROWN (b) NEST (c) UNIQUE (d) KING
70. Every Year, World Television Day is celebrated on:  
(a) 19 November (b) 21 November (c) 23 November (d) 26 November

## ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATION

1. a India's first 'grass conservatory' spread over an area of two acres was inaugurated at Ranikhet in Almora district.
2. a Keeping this in mind, the Dialogue and Development Commission (DDC) of Delhi, a think tank of the Delhi Government, is organising six 'Raahgiri Days', India's first sustained car-free citizen initiative.
3. d To commemorate Bal Diwas, India's first Assembly Session for Children was held in Rajasthan.
4. b Markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has approved the Invesco CoinShares Global Blockchain ETF Fund of Fund (FoF), which will be the first scheme in India to offer exposure to global companies participating in the blockchain ecosystem.
5. b Sudan's army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan was sworn in as head of a new transitional council he appointed to lead the country following the military takeover
6. b Uttar Pradesh will soon have the country's first museum dedicated to earth, aptly named, The Indian Museum of Earth (TIME), and will be a world-class iconic museum with collections from palaeosciences, geology, tectonics, earth processes and whatnot.
7. b Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Kashi Vishwanath Temple Corridor project in Varanasi, his parliamentary constituency, alongside families of those who had been displaced due to the project.
8. b Australia lifted their maiden T20 World Cup title as they defeated New Zealand in the final by 8 wickets at Dubai International stadium.
9. c The Modi government has announced that Birsa Munda's birth anniversary – November 15 –celebrated as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas this year onwards.
10. b Harini Gunda, a PhD student of Chemical Engineering, Dr Chandan Kumar Jha, a PhD alumnus and postdoctoral fellow in Electrical Engineering won the award.
11. d Union Minister for Commerce, Industry, Food and Public Distribution Piyush Goyal virtually launched India's first Food Museum and said measures were on to make the country go up the ladder from currently being the fifth-largest agricultural exporter in the world.
12. b India's Bhadla Solar Park is the largest solar power park in the world. Bhadla Solar Park is located in Bhadla, a dry and sandy region in Rajasthan, and spans 14,000 acres.
13. c The maiden edition of SITMEX was hosted by the Indian Navy off Port Blair in September 2019 while it was organised in 2020 by the Republic of Singapore Navy.
14. c Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the National Cadet Corps (NCC) Alumni Association in Uttar Pradesh's Jhansi on November 19.
15. d In Bulgaria, incumbent President Rumen Radev is leading in the first round of the country's Presidential Elections.
16. c Reserve Bank of India has directed Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) to appoint an Internal Ombudsman within 6 months.
17. d Uttar Pradesh ranks first in the country in terms of establishment of MSME units.
18. c An elusive swallowtail butterfly carrying 'India' in its name and found in next-door China will become the State butterfly of Arunachal Pradesh.

- 19. b** India has successfully launched the 41<sup>st</sup> Scientific Expedition to Antarctica with the arrival of the first batch of its contingent at the southern white continent. The first batch comprising of 23 scientists and support staff reached the Indian Antarctic station Maitri.
- 20. d** The UN General Assembly invited UN Member States to observe the International Day for Tolerance on 16 November.
- 21. c** Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated the Health Pavilion at India International Trade Fair at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.
- 22. a** Shombi Sharp of the United States has been appointed as the United Nations resident coordinator in India with the host government's approval.
- 23. b** Barbados establishes world's first metaverse embassy.
- 24. b** Paytm Money has launched voice trading powered by artificial intelligence (AI), which allows users to explore, buy and sell securities by speaking out the commands. Paytm Money is a group company of Paytm, which recently concluded its initial public offering (IPO).
- 25. d** Fitch Ratings says it has affirmed India's long-term foreign-currency issuer default rating (IDR) at 'BBB-' with a negative outlook, unchanged from its previous review.
- 26. c** Shri Parshottam Rupala inaugurated the country's first-of-its kind, dedicated business incubator to be known as LINAC- NCDC Fisheries Business Incubation Centre (LIFIC) in Haryana's Gurugram.
- 27. a** Rahul Dravid has taken charge as the new Indian Cricket team coach.
- 28. c** Visakhapatnam, a P15B stealth guided-missile destroyer will be commissioned into the Indian Navy in the presence of Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai.
- 29. c** Major cricket event will return to Pakistan after more than two decades with the country set to host the 2025 Champions Trophy, an ICC flagship tournament.
- 30. a** Ahead of the launch of his autobiography 'Shuttler's Flick', badminton coach and former player Pullela Gopichand reveals how he channelled his hurt to devise a winning strategy and bounce back stronger.
- 31. c** West Bengal government-led by Mamata Banerjee launched the 'Duare Ration' scheme which will benefit 10 crore people in Bengal.
- 32. c** Biden has pledged that the United States will cut its greenhouse gas emissions by 50%-52% by 2030 compared with 2005 levels.
- 33. b** China has surpassed the United States to become the richest nation in the world as global wealth tripled over the past two decades, according to a new report by the research arm of consultants McKinsey & Co.
- 34. b** The exoplanet search and study group at the Ahmedabad-based Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), has discovered a new exoplanet orbiting too close to an evolved or aging star with a mass of 1.5 times that of Sun and located 725 light years away.
- 35. a** It's a change so subtle it went unnoticed for almost three years. But President Emmanuel Macron ordered a change to the colour of the French flag to find echoes of heroism in France's past.
- 36. a** The technology innovation hubs of IIT Delhi and IIIT Delhi have signed an MoU to set up India's first medical cobotics centre.

- 37. c** Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated “Tech NEEV/@75” as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav and interacted with successful start-ups including those from the tribal communities on the occasion of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas.
- 38. b** The United States will co-host its first major cricket tournament in 2024 when it stages part of the men’s T20 World Cup.
- 39. a** BCCI president Sourav Ganguly has been appointed as the Chairman of the ICC men’s Cricket Committee, the game’s governing body.
- 40. c** World Toilet Day is an official United Nations international observance day on 19 November to inspire action to tackle the global sanitation crisis.
- 41. d** Indian Railways’ first pod hotel inaugurated in Mumbai.
- 42. b** Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said that India has become the third-largest domestic aviation market in the world.
- 43. b** India has been reelected to the UNESCO Executive Board, one of the three constitutional organs of the United Nations, for the 2021-25 term.
- 44. c** NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure, IT-enabled services provider, has received an in-principle approval from RBI to set up an account aggregator business under its wholly owned subsidiary, NSDL e-Governance Account Aggregator Ltd.
- 45. c** India, the world’s largest recipient of remittances, received USD 87 billion in 2021 with the United States being the biggest source, accounting for over 20 per cent of these funds, according to the World Bank.
- 46. d** The Hingoli revenue department has handed over 225 hectare of land here in Maharashtra to authorities of the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) project for setting up the first such facility in the country.
- 47. c** Fintech startup Defy has raised \$5.5 million (around Rs 40.79 crore) in a funding round to build India’s first social crypto exchange.
- 48. b** Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur has announced that the Indian Film Personality Award for the year 2021 will be given to Hema Malini and Prasoon Joshi.
- 49. d** Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur conferred the first ever Sports Authority of India’s Institutional Awards to 246 athletes and coaches in New Delhi.
- 50. d** Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu called upon youth to draw inspiration from Lord Rama’s life in fulfilling their duty towards motherland. The book ‘Srimadramayanam’ is written by Sasikiranacharya in Hyderabad
- 51. b** Pratham, a civil society organisation, has been awarded the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for the year 2021.
- 52. c** Tamil Nadu will now be home to the agricultural history of India. Thanjavur is the cultural capital of Tamil Nadu.
- 53. d** Mission Paani, a path-breaking initiative by Network 18 and Harpic India to promote water conservation, safe sanitation and hygiene, on the occasion of World Toilet Day brought the country together including celebrities, sportspersons and activists to take a pledge to uphold India’s first-ever Preamble for safe water and sustainable sanitation for all.
- 54. c** The Indian Army and Air Force carried out a joint exercise to assess their logistics supply chain. This exercise was held at a time when the Indian armed forces are preparing for another winter of enhanced deployment of over 50,000 troops in Ladakh amid continuing tensions with China.

- 55. b** The world's first fully electric autonomous cargo vessel was unveiled in Norway, a small but promising step toward reducing the maritime industry's climate footprint.
- 56. a** President Joe Biden will transfer power briefly to Vice President Kamala Harris while he is under anesthesia for a routine colonoscopy, making her the first woman to hold presidential power in US history.
- 57. c** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had set up a working group on digital lending, including online platforms and mobile apps, headed by its executive director Jayant Kumar Dash in January after allegations of coercive debt recovery tactics.
- 58. c** Scientists from the Ahmedabad-based Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) have discovered an exoplanet that is 725 light years away from us and orbiting an ageing star that has 1.5 times the mass of our Sun.
- 59. c** World Toilet Day is an official United Nations international observance day on 19 November to inspire action to tackle the global sanitation crisis.
- 60. c** The International Hockey Federation (FIH) is delighted to announce that its first ever senior World Hockey5s event - which was initially scheduled in September this year but postponed due to COVID-related issues - will take place on 4-5 June 2022, in Lausanne, Switzerland.
- 61. c** Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated the state-of-the-art Centre for Nanotechnology (CNT) and Centre for Indian Knowledge System (CIKS) at IIT Guwahati.
- 62. d** Home Minister Amit Shah laid the foundation stone for setting up the Rani Gaidinliu Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum at Luangkao village in Manipur's Tamenglong district via video-conferencing.
- 63. c** Gujarat's Surat maintained its position as the second cleanest city in India with a population over 10 lakh after Madhya Pradesh's Indore in the Swachh Survekshan 2021, the Centre's annual cleanliness survey to promote sanitation in urban centres under the Swachh Bharat Mission. Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh, swapped places with Navi Mumbai to move to the third spot from last year's fourth.
- 64. b** The Sixth Edition of Indo - France joint military exercise Ex SHAKTI 2021 has commenced.
- 65. a** Barbados, the tiny Caribbean island nation, has decided to extend its diplomatic outreach by becoming the first country to establish a digital embassy after an agreement with metaverse platform Decentraland. Barbados' Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade officially signed an agreement to establish a digital embassy in Decentraland, a user-owned, Ethereum-based digital environment.
- 66. a** Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh launched first of its kind, latest, world's most sophisticated MRI facility at the National Brain Research Centre (NBRC), Manesar in Haryana.
- 67. a** Seven-times world champion Lewis Hamilton won the inaugural Qatar Grand Prix for Mercedes to cut Max Verstappen's overall Formula One lead to eight points with two races remaining.
- 68. c** In Badminton, World No. 1 Japan's Kento Momota clinched the Indonesia Masters badminton tournament men's singles title after beating Denmark's Anders Antonsen in the final, in Bali.
- 69. a** CROWN film will be a 3D film becoming India's first ever.
- 70. b** The General Assembly decided to proclaim 21 November as World Television Day.