

---

# MANTHAN

---

*A General Awareness Weekly*

*20<sup>th</sup> September to 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2021*

# PREFACE

---

**Dear Students,**

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

**Happy Reading**

**Team CL**



Career  
Launcher



## National



### Assam becomes the first state to adopt the Model Tenancy Act

- Assam has become the first state to adopt the Model Tenancy Act. With this Assam Urban Areas Rent Control Act, 1972 gets repealed. New Act will spur growth & development of transparent & accountable rental market & balance the interests of tenants & landlords. It will provide ecosystem for rapid dispute resolution.
- The Union Cabinet, in June 2021, approved the Model Tenancy Act (MTA). States and Union territories can now adopt the Model Tenancy Act by enacting fresh legislation or they can amend their existing rental laws suitably.
- Highlights of the Model Law: **Applicable prospectively and will not affect the existing tenancies. Written agreement is a must for all new tenancies. The agreement will have to be submitted to the concerned district 'Rent Authority'.**
- The law also speaks about roles and responsibilities of landlord and tenants. **No landlord or property manager can withhold any essential supply to the premises occupied by the tenant.**
- **If tenancy has not been renewed, the tenancy shall be deemed to be renewed on a month-to-month basis on the same terms and conditions as were in the expired tenancy agreement, for a maximum period of six months.**
- Compensation in case of non-vacancy: **On the expiry of extended period of six months of agreed tenancy period or the termination of tenancy by order or notice, the tenant shall be a tenant in default and liable to pay compensation of double of the monthly rent for two months and four times of the monthly rent thereafter.** A landowner or property manager may enter a premise in accordance with written notice or notice through electronic medium served to the tenant at least twenty-four hours before the time of entry.
- It is an important piece of legislation that promises to ease the burden on civil courts, unlock rental properties stuck in legal disputes, and prevent future tangles by balancing the interests of tenants and landlords.

Assam is a state in northeastern India, south of the eastern Himalayas along the Brahmaputra and Barak River valleys. The state is bordered by Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh to the north; Nagaland and Manipur to the east; Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram and Bangladesh to the south; and West Bengal to the west via the Siliguri Corridor, a 22 kilometres (14 mi) wide strip of land that connects the state to the rest of India. Assam is known for Assam tea and Assam silk. The state was the first site for oil drilling in Asia. Assam is home to the one-horned Indian rhinoceros, Assamese economy is aided by wildlife tourism to Kaziranga National Park and Manas National Park, which are World Heritage Sites. Dibru-Saikhowa National Park is famed for its feral horses. Himanta Biswa Sarma serves as the current Chief Minister of Assam. Jagdish Mukhi is the Governor of Assam.

### Hathei chilli and Tamenglong orange of Manipur get GI tag

- Hathei chilli, which is found in Manipur's Ukhrul district and is known for its unique flavour, and Tamenglong mandarin orange have been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

- **Hathei chilly, commonly known as the Sirarakhong chilly, thrives well only in climatic condition** of the Sirarakhong village, which is situated about 66 km from Imphal.
- It has over 200 households and farming is the main occupation of the villagers. **The major chunk of their income comes from the unique chilly.** The chillies are grown organically across 300 hectares of the hills surrounding Sirarakhong village.
- **The Tamenglong mandarin orange is bigger in size,** weighing 232.76 grams on average. **It is a unique sweet and sour flavour.** It has high juice content (around 45 per cent) and is rich in ascorbic acid (48.12 mg/100 ml).

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

## UN appoints Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi Sustainable Development Goals advocate to push child rights issues

- In a significant step aimed at bolstering the outreach on critical child rights issues like combatting child labour, UN Secretary General António Guterres has appointed Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi as one of its 17 Sustainable Development Goals advocates, a role that is integral to advancing the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.
- Other new advocates appointed by the UN include STEM activist Valentina Muñoz Rabanal, at 19 years-old, who has helped write the first Artificial Intelligence policy in her home country, Chile. Brad Smith, Microsoft’s president as an advocate will focus on bridging the digital skills gap and highlight the importance of setting bold goals focused on environmental sustainability.
- Pop super stars BLACKPINK is also a new SDG advocate. As the most subscribed pop artist on YouTube with more than 65 million subscribers globally, phenomenon, BLACKPINK has engaged with COP26 to encourage young people to take climate action to protect the planet.

Formerly known as the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED), the mission of the Brundtland Commission is to unite countries to pursue sustainable development together. The Chairperson of the Commission, Gro Harlem Brundtland, was appointed by then United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar in December 1983. At the time, the UN General Assembly realized that there was a heavy deterioration of the human environment and natural resources. In India, at the Central Government level, NITI Aayog has been assigned the role of overseeing the implementation of SDGs in the country. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or Global Goals are a collection of 17 interlinked global goals designed to be a “blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all”. The SDGs were set up in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly and are intended to be achieved by the year 2030. They are included in a UN Resolution called the 2030 Agenda or what is colloquially known as Agenda 2030. The SDGs were developed in the Post-2015 Development Agenda as the future global development framework to succeed the Millennium Development Goals which ended in 2015. The 17 SDGs are: (1) No Poverty, (2) Zero Hunger, (3) Good Health and Well-being, (4) Quality Education, (5) Gender Equality, (6) Clean Water and Sanitation, (7) Affordable and Clean Energy, (8) Decent Work and Economic Growth, (9) Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, (10) Reducing Inequality, (11) Sustainable Cities and Communities, (12) Responsible Consumption and Production, (13) Climate Action, (14) Life Below Water, (15) Life On Land, (16) Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions, (17) Partnerships for the Goals.

## Railways launches Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana

- **Railways has launched Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana**, a programme under the aegis of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana. It empowers youth by way of providing entry-level training in industry relevant skills through Railway Training Institutes as part of 75 years of independence 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- The training will be provided to **50 thousand candidates over a period of three years**. Initially, the training will be provided to one thousand candidates in four trades - **Electrician, Welder, Machinist and Fitter**. It will comprise of initial basic training of 100 hours.
- **Candidates who are 10<sup>th</sup> pass and between 18 to 35 years shall be eligible to apply**. Participants in the scheme will, however, **have no claim to seek employment in Railways on the basis of this training**. 75 Railway Training Institutes spread across the country have been shortlisted to provide training in aforesaid trades, to cover youth from all over the country.

**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.

## Home Minister Amit Shah launched Ujjwala 2.0 scheme

- **Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched the Ujjwala 2.0 scheme** during his day-long visit to Madhya Pradesh. Mr. Shah also addressed the tribal community of the state and participate in various other programs.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the second phase of the Ujjwala cooking gas scheme** on 10 August this year. Ujjwala 2.0 scheme aims to cover 10 million more beneficiaries in the second phase of the scheme.
- Under Ujjwala 2.0, migrant workers can avail a free cooking gas connection on the basis of a self-declaration without any need for documents like address proof. Ujjwala 2.0 aims to provide deposit-free LPG connections to low-income families who could not be covered under the first phase of PMUY.
- In Ujjwala 2.0, the beneficiaries are also being provided with a stove free of cost. Under the scheme, the first gas cylinder is free worth over Rs 800. More than 8.16 crore gas connections have been provided under Ujjwala yojana, while around 16.66 lakh connections have been issued till date under Ujjwala 2.0. In Madhya Pradesh too, around 71 lakh gas connections are provided under Ujjwala scheme.

**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.

## Education Ministry forms National Steering Committee for development of National Curriculum Frameworks

- **The Ministry of Education has formed the National Steering Committee for the development of National Curriculum Frameworks**. The committee will be chaired by former ISRO Chairman Dr K Kasturirangan.
- **Chancellor of National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration Mahesh Chandra Pant**, Chairman of National Book Trust Govind Prasad Sharma, Vice-Chancellor of the Jamia Millia Islamia University Najma Akhtar, First Vice-Chancellor of Central Tribal University of Andhra Pradesh T V Kattimani, guest professor at IIT Gandhinagar and Indian author of French origin Michel Danino and American mathematician of Indian origin Manjul Bhargava are part of the 12 member committee.

- As per the perspectives of the NEP 2020, the Committee will develop four National Curriculum Frameworks - the National Curriculum Framework for School Education, National Curriculum for Early Childhood Care and Education, National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education and National Curriculum Framework for Adult Education.
- The Committee will discuss different aspects of School Education, Early Childhood Care and Education, Teacher Education and Adult Education keeping in focus all the recommendations of NEP 2020 related to these four areas for proposing curriculum reforms.
- The Committee will discuss the position papers finalised by the National Focus Groups on different aspects of all the four areas. The Committee will draw inputs from State Curriculum Frameworks received on the Tech Platform for the National Curriculum Frameworks.

The National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020), which was approved by the Union Cabinet of India on 29 July 2020, outlines the vision of India's new education system. The new policy replaces the previous National Policy on Education, 1986. The NEP 2020 replaces the National Policy on Education of 1986. In January 2015, a committee under former Cabinet Secretary T. S. R. Subramanian started the consultation process for the New Education Policy. Based on the committee report, in June 2017, the draft NEP was submitted in 2019 by a panel led by former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chief Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan. The policy is a comprehensive framework for elementary education to higher education as well as vocational training in both rural and urban India. The policy aims to transform India's education system by 2040. Shortly after the release of the policy, the government clarified that no one will be forced to study any particular language and that the medium of instruction will not be shifted from English to any regional language. The language policy in NEP is a broad guideline and advisory in nature; and it is up to the states, institutions, and schools to decide on the implementation. Education in India is a Concurrent List subject.

### SC collegium recommends names to Centre, 13 HCs to get new Chief Justices

- Thirteen high courts in the country will get new Chief Justices (CJs) as the Supreme Court collegium headed by CJI N V Ramana has recommended to the Centre eight names, including acting Calcutta High Court CJ, Justice Rajesh Bindal, for elevation and transfer of five sitting CJs to other high courts.
- Besides Justice Bindal, the Collegium has recommended names of Justices Ranjit V More, Satish Chandra Sharma, Prakash Srivastava, R V Malimath, Ritu Raj Awasthi, Aravind Kumar and Prashant Kumar Mishra for elevation as CJ of the high courts of Meghalaya, Telangana, Calcutta, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh respectively.

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

### EC organises virtual National Conference on Accessible Elections 2021

- The Election Commission organised a virtual National Conference on Accessible Elections 2021 with the objective to assess the present accessibility policies and discuss strategies for addressing barriers to enhance participation in electoral process for voters with disabilities.
- The virtual conference was attended by Chief Electoral Officers, Civil Society Organisations representing various disabilities and representatives from Government Ministries and Institutions.

- Reaffirming Election Commission's commitment to make elections more inclusive, accessible, and voter friendly for Persons With Disabilities, **Chief Election Commissioner, Sushil Chandra said that the Commission values the decision making role of primary stakeholders - the voters including persons with disabilities, who can and should play a key role in electoral process.**
- **Recognising that a strong and vibrant democracy is founded on the bedrock of inclusion and participation,** deliberations focused on themes of Identification or mapping of Persons With Disabilities, Accessible Registration, Facilitation at Polling Stations, Efficient use of Technology for Accessible elections, Accessible Voter Education and Leveraging Partnerships and Collaborations and Media Outreach.

**The Election Commission of India (ECI) is a permanent and independent body established by the Constitution of India directly to ensure free and fair elections in the country. Article 324 of the Constitution provides that the power of superintendence, direction, and control of elections to parliament, state legislatures, the office of the president of India, and the office of vice-president of India shall be vested in the election commission. The body administers elections to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, State Legislative Councils and the offices of the President and Vice President of the country. The Election Commission operates under the authority of Constitution per Article 324, and subsequently enacted Representation of the People Act. It was established in accordance with the Constitution on 25<sup>th</sup> January 1950 (celebrated as national voters' day). The secretariat of the commission is located in New Delhi. Originally the commission had only one election commissioner but after the Election Commissioner Amendment Act 1989, it has been made a multi-member body The Election Commission shall consist of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and such number of other election commissioners, if any, as the President may from time to time fix. Presently, it consists of the CEC and two Election Commissioners. The President appoints CEC and Election Commissioners. They have a fixed tenure of six years, or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier. The CEC can be removed from office only through a process of removal similar to that of a SC judge by Parliament. Sushil Chandra is the current Chief Election Commissioner of India. He previously served as the Chairperson of the Central Board of Direct Taxes.**

## **Indian Naval Ships Shivalik and Kadmatt arrived at Jakarta, Indonesia to participate in the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of Bilateral Exercise 'Samudra Shakti'**

- **Indian Naval Ships Shivalik and Kadmatt arrived at Jakarta, Indonesia on 18 Sep 21 to participate in the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of Bilateral Exercise 'Samudra Shakti'** with the Indonesian Navy scheduled off the approaches to Sunda Strait.
- **The exercise aims to strengthen the bilateral relationship, enhance mutual understanding and interoperability in maritime operations between the two navies.** The exercise will also provide an appropriate platform to share best practices and develop a common understanding of Maritime Security Operations.
- **The participating Indian Navy ships Shivalik and Kadmatt are amongst the latest indigenously designed and built multi-role Guided Missile Stealth Frigate and Anti-Submarine Corvette respectively,** and form part of the Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet, based at Visakhapatnam, under the Eastern Naval Command.
- **Indian Navy's Anti-Submarine Warfare capable Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance Aircraft P8I is also participating in the exercise.** KRI Bung Tomo, KRI Malahayati and Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Aircraft CN-235 are representing Indonesian Navy.

**In pursuance of India's Act East Policy, Exercise 'Samudra Shakti' was conceived in 2018 as a bilateral IN-IDN exercise. The exercise aims to strengthen the bilateral relationship, enhance mutual understanding and interoperability in maritime operations between the two navies.**

## **Gujarat retains top spot on food safety index**

- **Gujarat has retained the best performing state recognition by topping the State Food Safety Index 2020-21.**
- **The index is made by Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).** Gujarat had been adjudged best state in the 2019-20 ranking as well. With an overall score of 72%, Gujarat has been adjudged the best performing state among major states of the country.

- As per the ranking of the 20 large states, Gujarat was the best state in the country in terms of food safety with 72 points out of 100, highest across all the categories. Southern states of Kerala and Tamil Nadu bagged the second and the third places respectively for ensuring food safety in the regions.
- Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Karnataka and Telangana formed the rest of the top-10 states in this category of states. Among the large states, Bihar ranked last at 20<sup>th</sup> position, while Andhra Pradesh was placed 19<sup>th</sup> and Rajasthan was 18<sup>th</sup>. Meanwhile, in the small states, Goa topped the list, followed by Meghalaya and Manipur. Among the eight small states, Mizoram ranked last.
- As far as the eight UTs are concerned, Jammu and Kashmir was ranked as the UT with highest food safety, while Andaman and Nicobar Islands were ranked second and national capital of Delhi was ranked third. Lakshadweep was ranked as the UT with the lowest standards of food safety, securing only 18 points out of 100, the lowest among all categories.
- The states and UTs were ranked on the basis of five parameters – Human Resources and Institutional Data having 20% of the weightage, Compliance with 30% weightage, Food Testing – Infrastructure and Surveillance being given 20% weightage, Training and Capacity Building having 10% weightage and Consumer Empowerment being given 20% weightage.

**Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is a statutory body established under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India. The FSSAI has been established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, which is a consolidating statute related to food safety and regulation in India. FSSAI is responsible for protecting and promoting public health through the regulation and supervision of food safety. Rita Teotia is the current Chairperson for FSSAI and Shri Arun Singhal is the current Chief Executive Officer for FSSAI. It is headquartered in New Delhi.**

### NCW launches its 1<sup>st</sup> program in collaboration with Central University of Haryana

- In an endeavour to make women independent and employment-ready, the National Commission for Women has launched a country-wide capacity building and personality development program for women Undergraduate and Post graduate students.
- The Commission is collaborating with Central and State universities for organizing sessions on Personal Capacity Building, Professional Career Skills and Digital Literacy and Effective Use of Social Media to prep women students for entering the job market.
- NCW launched its first program in collaboration with the Central University of Haryana. The third session on Digital Literacy and Effective Use of Social Media aims to generate awareness among women on safe usage of internet and social media platforms. It will raise awareness about cyber-crimes among women and advise them about the resources/recourse available to them for preventing and handling cyber-crimes.

**The National Commission for Women (NCW) is the statutory body of the Government of India, generally concerned with advising the government on all policy matters affecting women. It was established on 31 January 1992 under the provisions of the Indian Constitution, as defined in the 1990 National Commission for Women Act. The first head of the commission was Jayanti Patnaik. In a notification, the Women and Child Development Ministry said, “Central Government hereby nominates Rekha Sharma as Chairperson of the National Commission for Women, for another term of three years wef 07.08.2021, or till the age of 65 years or until further orders whichever is the earliest.” Sharma assumed the charge of NCW chairperson on August 7, 2018.**

### India, Nepal begin joint military exercise in Uttarakhand

- India and Nepal began a 14-day combined battalion-level military exercise, called ‘Surya Kiran’, in Uttarakhand’s Pithoragarh. During the exercise, an Infantry Battalion each from the Indian Army and the Nepali Army will be training together to develop inter-operability and share their experience of counter-terrorism and disaster relief operations.
- Each year, the Surya Kiran series of exercises is conducted in either Nepal or India. In 2019, the last edition of the Surya Kiran exercise was concluded in Nepal.

## Amit Shah to address first national cooperative conference in Delhi

- Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "Sahakar se Samridhhi," India's first cooperative conference was held at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi on September 25 where Union Home Minister and Minister for Cooperation Amit Shah addressed more than 2,000 cooperative members.
- Under the leadership of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Cooperation has been formed and the reins of the ministry were handed over to Amit Shah. The core mantra of the Ministry of Cooperation is to strengthen the cooperative movement in the country, provide a separate administrative, legal and policy framework and streamline the processes to enable the development of Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCS).

The Ministry of Co-operation is a ministry under the Government of India which was formed in July 2021. The ministry provides a separate administrative, legal and policy framework for strengthening the cooperative movement in the country. The ministry's creation was announced on 6 July 2021 along with its vision statement of "Sahkar se samridhhi" (Prosperity from cooperation). Before the creation of this ministry, the objectives of this ministry were looked after by the Ministry of Agriculture. The ministry works in strengthening co-operatives at the grassroot level, working to streamline processes for 'Ease of doing business' for co-operatives and enabling the development of Multi-State Co-operatives (MSCS). Amit Shah is the first and current minister of it.

## India hosts first India-United Kingdom Consular Dialogue through video conferencing

- India hosted the first India-United Kingdom Consular Dialogue through video conferencing. At this inaugural Consular Dialogue, the two sides discussed ways to further strengthen people-to-people contacts between the two countries as part of the India-UK 2030 roadmap.
- They also discussed ways to facilitate consular access and early resolution of consular grievances including through systematic information sharing, and cooperation on visas, extradition cases and mutual legal assistance. Both sides agreed to hold the next round of this Dialogue in 2022, in London, at a mutually convenient date.

## PM Narendra Modi and Mark Widmar, CEO of First Solar agree on enhancement of manufacturing of Solar in India

- Prime minister Narendra Modi and Mark Widmar, CEO of First Solar agreed on enhancement of the manufacturing of Solar in India. Mr Widmar expressed happiness with the Indian policies for climate change and related industries.
- Mr Modi spoke about the one world, one sun and one grid initiative and its potential. He referred to India's ambitious target of 450 GW of renewable energy. Emphasizing on India's focus on manufacturing for solar energy, Mr Modi said, companies in the field of solar energy can take maximum advantage our Production Linked Incentive, PLI schemes. The Prime minister also spoke about India's green hydrogen mission.

Recently, the Union cabinet has approved the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for the textile sector. In order to boost domestic manufacturing and cut down on import bills, the union government in March 2020 introduced a PLI scheme that aims to give companies incentives on incremental sales from products manufactured in domestic units. Apart from inviting foreign companies to set shop in India, the scheme also aims to encourage local companies to set up or expand existing manufacturing units. The Scheme has also been approved for sectors such as automobiles, pharmaceuticals, IT hardware including laptops, mobile phones & telecom equipment, white goods, chemical cells, food processing, etc.

## India's largest floating solar power plant commissioned in Andhra Pradesh

- Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has successfully commissioned India's largest Floating Solar PV plant. Located at NTPC Simhadri in Andhra Pradesh, the 25 MW floating SPV project covers an area of 100 acres.
- Besides producing clean power, the project will also reduce water evaporation by providing shade to the covered area. It will also have a higher yield as compared to conventional ground-mounted projects due to the cooling effect. The floating solar project is to be set up under the Flexibilisation Scheme, notified by the Government of India in 2018.

Andhra Pradesh is the first state in India to have Five Deputy Chief Ministers one each from Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, backward, minority and Kapu communities. YS Jagan Mohan Reddy is the current Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. Andhra Pradesh is the first state in India to have three capital cities; there are Visakhapatnam (Executive capital), Amaravati (Legislative capital) and Kurnool (Judiciary). Andhra Pradesh High Court imposed a stay on implementation of 3 capitals. Andhra Pradesh is the first state to be formed on a linguistic basis in India on 1 October 1953. On 2 June 2014, Telangana was separated from the northwestern part of Andhra Pradesh as the newly formed state with Hyderabad as its capital.

### High power transmitters at world's highest radio station at Humbatingla in Kargil inaugurated

- Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur **inaugurated high power transmitters at world's highest radio station at Humbatingla in Kargil.**
- **At an altitude of 13 thousand 300 feet from mean sea level, each 10 kW High Power Transmitters of All India Radio FM radio station and Doordarshan** will improve the transmission and the reach in the region especially in Kargil and Batalik sectors.
- **With the inauguration of highest elevated transmitters, people in the mountainous region would get better quality services of AIR and DD.** The new transmitters are part of Government's efforts to improve information reach to the public, especially to the bordering villages in Ladakh.

### PM Narendra Modi addresses 76<sup>th</sup> session of UN General Assembly in New York

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the 76<sup>th</sup> session of UN General Assembly in New York.** It was a message of hope, caution and earnestly. **He warned the global community to be aware of the challenges of terrorism.**
- The prime minister spent the **first two days of the three-day visit in Washington DC** where he participated in the **Quad Leaders' Summit and held separate bilateral meetings as well.** PM Modi met US vice president Kamala Harris followed by meetings with Australian and Japanese counterparts.
- The Prime Minister said that those who use it as a political tool must understand that terrorism is a double edged sword and can be a threat for them as well. **Mr. Modi announced that India is developing the world's largest Green Hydrogen hub.**
- According to the Ministry of External Affairs, the **theme for the event is 'Building Resilience through hope to recover from COVID-19, rebuild sustainably, respond to the needs of the planet, respect the rights of people, and revitalize the United Nations.'**

### BJP MLA Nimaben Acharya becomes Gujarat Assembly's first woman Speaker

- **Senior BJP MLA Nimaben Acharya has become the first woman Speaker of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly** as the opposition Congress has supported her nomination for the post.
- **She is elected unopposed to the post** when the Assembly meets for two days on September 27 and 28 for the monsoon session. Leader of Opposition Paresh Dhanani has also supported Nimaben's nomination for the post.

The Office of the Speaker of Legislative Assembly is a constitutional one. Under Article 178 of the Indian Constitution every Legislative Assembly of a State shall, choose one of its Members as Speaker. It is the Speaker who determines what matters are 'money' matters as these fall within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Legislative Assembly. If the Speaker certifies a Bill as a Money Bill, his decision is final. Under the Constitution, the Speaker exercises only a casting vote in the case of equality of votes in any matter. The Speaker holds the Office from the date of his election till immediately before the first meeting of the Legislative Assembly after the dissolution of the one to which he was elected, unless he ceases to be a member by any of the reasons specified in Article 179 of the Indian Constitution.



### India beats Germany, UK and Turkey to bag IAEA external auditor job

- **India** has been elected as the external auditor to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), a prestigious institution that promotes peaceful use of nuclear energy, for a period of six years from 2022 to 2027 after beating Germany and the United Kingdom among other countries. **India's comptroller and auditor General GC Murmu** was selected as the external auditor of IAEA and the ministry of external affairs (MEA) said his candidature received majority support of the IAEA general conference.
- The MEA has said that the election is a “**recognition**” of **India's standing in the international community and global acknowledgement of the CAG's credentials, professionalism and experience.** “**The CAG's bid received majority support of the IAEA General Conference for the position** for which several competing bids were submitted from different countries,” it said in a statement.
- **In the first round of voting for the post, Germany got 36 votes, India 30, the UK eight, Russia 11, Turkey 9, Egypt 20, Republic of Korea 2 and the Philippines 7 votes.** The second round boiled down to the race between India and Germany with India managing to beat the European country. **Russia and the United Kingdom along with China, France, and the United States are the five permanent members of the UNSC with India among the 10 non-permanent members elected for two-year terms by the General Assembly.**
- The total number of ballots cast was 125 as there were 2 abstentions, 123 were present and voting with the required majority being 62. **India was the IAEA external auditor from 2012 to 2015.**
- **Murmu took charge as the comptroller and auditor general of India on August 8 last year.** Before that, he served as the first Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir. Murmu also served in various capacities in the government—as secretary of the department of expenditure, special and additional secretary in the department of financial services and department of revenue.

**The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is an international organization that seeks to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and to inhibit its use for any military purpose, including nuclear weapons. The IAEA was established as an autonomous organisation on 29 July 1957. Though established independently of the United Nations through its own international treaty, the IAEA Statute, the IAEA reports to both the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council. The IAEA has its headquarters in Vienna, Austria. Rafael Mariano Grossi has served as Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency since December 3 2019.**

### Bahamas PM Minnis concedes defeat in general election

- **Bahamian Prime Minister Hubert Minnis conceded defeat in the general elections** on the Atlantic island chain reeling from a surge in COVID-19 cases and slump in the tourism-dependent economy due to the pandemic.
- **Minnis called his challenger Philip Davis to congratulate him and his Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) on winning the poll.** “I offered him my best wishes as his government now faces the continued fight against COVID-19, and the restoration of our economy,” Minnis, the leader of the Free National Movement (FNM) party, said in a statement.
- **Minnis had been hoping to become the first prime minister in 24 years to win a second five-year term.** But Davis' PLP gained momentum with a campaign focused on what it termed the government's mishandling of the COVID-19 outbreak and the economy, which has seen unemployment surge to an estimated 20% and the fiscal deficit balloon during the pandemic.

The Bahamas is a country within the Lucayan Archipelago of the West Indies in the Atlantic. It takes up 97% of the Lucayan Archipelago's land area and is home to 88% of the archipelago's population. Nassau is the capital and largest city of The Bahamas. The dollar has been the currency of The Bahamas since 1966.

### Ukraine holds military drills with U.S. forces, NATO allies

- Ukraine began joint military exercises with U.S. and other NATO troops at a time when neighbouring Russia and Belarus have been holding large-scale drills that alarmed the West.
- Ukraine, at war with Russia-backed separatists since 2014, has long sought closer integration with Western militaries in the hope of one day joining NATO. 4,000 Ukrainian troops and 2,000 foreigners would participate in the "RAPID TRIDENT – 2021" drill, due to run until Oct. 1.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), also called the North Atlantic Alliance, is an intergovernmental military alliance between 30 European and North American countries. Since its founding, the admission of new member states has increased the alliance from the original 12 countries to 30. The most recent member state to be added to NATO was North Macedonia on 27 March 2020. NATO constitutes a system of collective defence whereby its independent member states agree to mutual defence in response to an attack by any external party. NATO's Headquarters are located in Haren, Brussels, Belgium, while the headquarters of Allied Command Operations is near Mons, Belgium. Jens Stoltenberg is a Norwegian politician who has served as the 13<sup>th</sup> Secretary General of NATO since 2014.

### 6<sup>th</sup> Edition of SCO Exercise Peaceful Mission: 2021

- The 6<sup>th</sup> Edition of SCO Exercise Peaceful Mission: 2021 hosted by Russia started at Orenburg Region of South West Russia. The aim of the exercise is to foster close relations between SCO Member States and to enhance abilities of the military leaders to command multinational military contingents.
- An Indian military contingent comprising of an all arms combined force of 200 personnel from Indian Army and Indian Air force is participating in the exercise. The opening ceremony commenced with an impressive parade by all participating contingents.
- The Exercise Peaceful Mission: 2021 is based on joint counter terrorism operations at operational and tactical level in an urban environment in which Armies and Air Forces of all SCO member states are participating.

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

### Adani takes on Ambani, to invest \$20 billion in renewable energy; make foray into hydrogen

- Unveiling his infrastructure conglomerate's green vision, billionaire Gautam Adani said his group will invest \$20 billion over the next 10 years in renewable energy generation and component manufacturing and will produce the world's cheapest green electron.
- The port-to-energy conglomerate plans to triple its renewable power generation capacity over the next four years, foray into green hydrogen production, power all data centres with renewable energy, turn its ports into net carbon zero by 2025, and plans to spend over 75 per cent of capital expenditure until 2025 in green technologies.

## Somalia hosts first public film-screening in 30 years

- **Somalia has hosted its first public film-screening in 30 years - raising hopes of a cultural revival in the war-ravaged country.** Two short films by Somali director Ibrahim C.M. were shown at the National Theatre in the capital Mogadishu, where heavy security was in place. **The theatre was built by Chinese engineers as a gift from China's leader Mao Zedong in 1967.** It was seen as an important driver for Somalia's cultural development in the 1970s and 80s.
- **It closed in 1991 at the start of the civil war and was used as a base for warlords fighting over the capital.** The theatre fell into disrepair as a result. When it reopened in 2012 - after repairs carried out by the African Union Mission in Somalia (Amisom) - the building was immediately blown up by al-Shabab militants who considered live entertainment and films to be morally corrupt.

**Somalia is a country in the Horn of Africa. Mogadishu is the capital city and most populous city of Somalia. Mohamed Hussein Roble is the current Prime Minister of Somalia. The Somali shilling is the official currency of Somalia.**

## UNWTO introduces first World Sports Tourism Congress

- **Zurab Pololikashvili, the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), and Roger Torrent, Minister of Business and Labour of the Government of Catalonia, together, presented the first World Sports Tourism Congress and its programme, within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.**
- **The Congress, which previously had to be postponed due to the pandemic, will take place on 25 and 26 November at the Olympic Conference Centre in the Catalan town of Lloret de Mar.** The Congress will have a total of 62 speakers from different countries.

## Pakistan, China launch joint anti-terror exercise

- **Troops from China and Pakistan launched a joint anti-terror exercise as part of SCO Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure (RATS). The opening ceremony of the Joint Anti-Terrorist Exercise (JATE)-2021 was held at the National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC) Pabbi in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa.**
- **“JATE is being conducted with a view to practice and master various drills and procedures involved in Counter Terrorism operations.**

## 76<sup>th</sup> Session United Nations General Assembly held in New York

- **This year marked the 76<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 76), opening in New York on September 14, 2021.** UNGA High-Level Week took place September 20-24. The United States viewed UNGA 76 as an opportunity for the world to come together to address the most pressing global challenges of today, and to demonstrate the U.S. commitment to multilateral action in advancing global health, combating the climate crisis, promoting human rights and defending the rules-based international order. **The theme for the event is ‘Building Resilience through hope to recover from COVID-19, rebuild sustainably, respond to the needs of the planet, respect the rights of people, and revitalize the United Nations.’**

**The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations (UN), serving as the main deliberative, policymaking, and representative organ of the UN. Its powers, composition, functions, and procedures are set out in Chapter IV of the United Nations Charter. The UNGA is responsible for the UN budget, appointing the non-permanent members to the Security Council, appointing the Secretary-General of the United Nations, receiving reports from other parts of the UN system, and making recommendations through resolutions. It also establishes numerous subsidiary organs to advance or assist in its broad mandate. The UNGA is the only UN organ wherein all member states have equal representation. The General Assembly meets under its president or the UN Secretary-General in annual sessions at UN headquarters in New York City. The first session was convened on 10 January 1946 in the Methodist Central Hall in London and included representatives of the 51 founding nations. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit was 8<sup>th</sup> President of the United Nations General Assembly. Abdulla Shahid is the current president since 14 September 2021.**



## World Bank to stop 'ease of doing business' report as probe finds 'data juggling'

- The World Bank would discontinue the practice of issuing Doing Business report following an investigation prompted by internal reports of “data irregularities” in its 2018 and 2020 editions (released in 2017 and 2019, respectively) and possible “ethical matters” involving bank staff.
- According to an investigation conducted by Washington-based law firm WilmerHale, World Bank staff members changed data on China to improve its ranking on the ease of doing business, under pressure from the office of the then-World Bank president Jim Yong Kim and the then-chief executive Kristalina Georgieva and one of her advisers.
- Georgieva is the current MD of the International Monetary Fund. The reports were flagged by the World Bank for certain “improper data changes” made in case of four countries — China, Azerbaijan, Saudi Arabia and the UAE — at the behest of senior executives at the bank.
- Notably, in three reports, released in 2017, 2018 and 2019, India ranked among the top 10 economies showing “the most notable improvement”. The latest report, published in October 2019, placed India at 63<sup>rd</sup> in Doing Business, compared with 77<sup>th</sup> in 2018 and 100 in 2017.
- Of the 79 positions in the Bank’s Doing Business rankings that India gained between 2014 and 2019, 67 rank improvements happened 2017 onwards, with the biggest 30-rank jump happening in the Doing Business 2018 report, released in October 2017.
- The report published in 2019, which mentioned India and China being among the top 10 improvers, stated that the leaders of these countries adopted the Doing Business indicators as a core component of their reform strategies. The scores for India used to be based on coverage of just two cities, with Mumbai carrying a weight of 47 per cent and Delhi a weight of 53 per cent.

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.

## LIC launches mobile app “PRAGATI” for use by Development Officers

- Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) launched a new mobile app “PRAGATI” (Performance Review Application, Growth And Trend Indicator) for use by its Development Officers.
- Pragati app will give various information which are updated in near real-time about the performance of their agency force in critical areas of business performance like premium collection, and agency activation, etc apart from monitoring team.

**Life Insurance Corporation of India (abbreviated as LIC)** is an **Indian government owned insurance and investment corporation under the ownership of Ministry of Finance, Government of India.** The Life insurance Corporation of India was **established on September 1, 1956**, when the Parliament of India passed the Life Insurance of India Act that nationalized the insurance industry in India. **Over 245 insurance companies and provident societies were merged to create the state-owned Life Insurance Corporation of India. It is based in Mumbai.**

## Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying signs MoU with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

- **Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying signed Memorandum of Understanding with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to support India's livestock sector.**
- **Both will work together on sustainably improving India's livestock sector to support the nation's food and nutritional security, and protect the economic wellbeing of small-scale livestock producers.** This partnership with the Gates Foundation will **provide technical assistance to the Department to ensure sustainable growth and prosperity of India's livestock sector.**

**The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), a merging of the William H. Gates Foundation and the Gates Learning Foundation, is an American private foundation founded by Bill Gates and Melinda French Gates. Based in Seattle, Washington, it was launched in 2000 and is reported as of 2020 to be the second largest charitable foundation in the world, holding \$49.8 billion in assets.** The primary stated goals of the foundation are to **enhance healthcare and reduce extreme poverty across the world, and to expand educational opportunities and access to information technology in the U.S.** Key individuals of the foundation include **Bill Gates, Melinda French Gates, Warren Buffett, chief executive officer Mark Suzman, and Michael Larson.**

## India jumps 2 places to rank 46 on Global Innovation Index

- **India has climbed two spots to 46 in the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2021 prepared by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).** The country's rank has been consistently rising in the last few years. **From 81 in 2015, it has moved to 46 in 2021.**
- **"India (at 46) moves further ahead, by two spots (48 in GII 2020), after making it into the top 50 last year.** It takes second place in the lower middle-income group. India held the third position in its income group in 2019 and 2020, having entered the top three in 2019," the GII report said.
- **India improved its ranking by two places and stood at 46 on the Global Innovation Index 2021** on the back of a vibrant start-up ecosystem and research by public and private organisations, NITI Aayog said.
- It added that India has been portrayed as successful in developing sophisticated services that are technologically dynamic and can be traded internationally. **It continues to lead the world in the information and communication technology services exports indicator (1) and holds top ranks in other indicators, such as domestic industry diversification (12) and graduates in science and engineering (12).**

**The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is one of the 15 specialized agencies of the United Nations (UN). Pursuant to the 1967 Convention Establishing the World Intellectual Property Organization, WIPO was created to promote and protect intellectual property (IP) across the world by cooperating with countries as well as international organizations. It began operations on 26 April 1970 when the convention entered into force. The current Director General is Singaporean Daren Tang, former head of the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore, who began his term on 1 October 2020. It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland and WIPO currently has 193 member states.**

## Facebook India appoints former IAS officer Rajiv Aggarwal as Head of Public Policy

- **Facebook India has appointed ex-IAS officer and former Uber executive Rajiv Aggarwal as the Director of Public Policy.** He succeeds Ankhi Das, who quit in October last year. **She was embroiled in a controversy for opposing enforcement of hate-speech rules against right-wing leaders in the country.** Aggarwal, in this role, will define and lead important policy development initiatives for Facebook in India on an agenda that covers user safety, data protection and privacy, inclusion and internet governance.

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

## RBI conducted open market purchase of Government Securities under G-SAP 2.0

- Reserve Bank of India conducted open market purchase of Government Securities under the G-Sec Acquisition Programme (G-SAP 2.0) for an aggregate amount of 15,000 crore rupees.
- On a review of current liquidity conditions, the central bank also decided to conduct a simultaneous sale of government securities under open market operations (OMO) for an aggregate amount of Rs 15,000 crore.
- In a statement, the RBI said it purchased three government securities of different maturity dates amounting to Rs 15,000 crore. It will also sell three government securities amounting to Rs 15,000 on September 23.
- The e-Kuber is the Core Banking Solution of the RBI which enables each bank to connect their single current account across the country. Utility of e-kuber is that it is used to conduct exercises like auctioning of government securities. The e-kuber is used by the RBI to execute various transactions with banks.

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. Shashikant Das is the current Governor of RBI.

## India to be 3<sup>rd</sup> largest importer by 2050: UK report

- With a growing middle class and its rising discretionary spending, India will become the world's third largest importer by 2050 with a share of 5.9% of global imports, right behind China and the US.
- At present, India is ranked eighth among largest importing nations with a 2.8% import share and is set to become the fourth largest importer by 2030. "The US's and the EU's share of most import sectors is expected to decline out to 2030 as the growing purchasing power of Asia's middle-class accounts for a rising share of global import demand.
- This change is particularly marked in the food, travel and digital services sectors where larger and increasingly wealthy populations in the Indo Pacific are expected to consume more discretionary goods and services," the latest Global Trade Outlook issued by the UK's Department of International Trade said.

## BPCL, SBI Card launch co-branded RuPay contactless credit card

- Fuel retailer BPCL and SBI Card announced the launch of a co-branded RuPay contactless credit card, offering fuel and other benefits. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and SBI Card have joined hands to launch the 'BPCL SBI Card co-branded RuPay Contactless Credit Card.
- The card will provide rewarding fuel savings and other benefits to the customers, it said. The card will offer 13X reward points on every Rs 100 spent on fuel purchases at BPCL petrol pumps and a 1 per cent fuel surcharge waiver on every transaction up to Rs 4,000, translating to 4.25 per cent value back. Cardholders will also get accelerated savings on other categories of spends, which include groceries, departmental stores, dining, and movies.

**RuPay (Rupee and Payment) is an Indian multinational financial services and payment service system, conceived and launched by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) on 26 March 2012. It was created to fulfil the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) vision of establishing a domestic, open and multilateral system of payments. RuPay facilitates electronic payment at all Indian banks and financial institutions. NPCI maintains ties with Discover Financial, JCB to enable RuPay card scheme to gain international acceptance.**

**Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched e-RUPI, a person and purpose specific digital payment solution on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2021. e-RUPI is a cashless and contactless instrument for digital payment. It is a QR code or SMS string-based e-Voucher, which is delivered to the mobile of the beneficiaries. The users of this seamless one-time payment mechanism will be able to redeem the voucher without a card, digital payments app or internet banking access, at the service provider. It has been developed by National Payments Corporation of India on its UPI platform, in collaboration with the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and National Health Authority. e-RUPI connects the sponsors of the services with the beneficiaries and service providers in a digital manner without any physical interface. It also ensures that the payment to the service provider is made only after the transaction is completed. Being pre-paid in nature, it assures timely payment to the service provider without involvement of any intermediary.**

### **In a world's first, EU plans universal charging port for all mobile phones**

- **The EU aims to have a common charging port for mobile phones, tablets and headphones under a European Commission proposal presented in a world first, with the move impacting iPhone maker Apple more than its rivals.**
- **The move has been more than 10 years in the making, with the European Union executive touting environmental benefits and ₹250 million in annual savings for users.**
- **Under the Commission's proposal, a USB-C connector will become the standard port for all smartphones, tablets, cameras, headphones, portable speakers and handheld videogame consoles. Chargers will also be sold separately from electronic devices.**

**The European Union (EU) is a political and economic union of 27 member states that are located primarily in Europe. A monetary union was established in 1999, coming into full force in 2002, and is composed of 19 member states which use the euro currency. The union and EU citizenship were established when the Maastricht Treaty came into force in 1993. The EU traces its origins to the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) and the European Economic Community (EEC), established, respectively, by the 1951 Treaty of Paris and 1957 Treaty of Rome. The original member states of what came to be known as the European Communities were the Inner Six: Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and West Germany. The United Kingdom became the first member state to leave the EU on 31 January 2020. Ursula Gertrud von der Leyen is a German politician and physician who has been President of the European Commission since 1 December 2019. Charles Michel is a Belgian politician serving as President of the European Council.**

### **Norway hikes rates, becoming the first central bank in the developed world to do so**

- **The Norges Bank becomes the first major Western central bank to raise interest rates following the onset of the coronavirus pandemic. After cutting rates three times in 2020 due to the economic fallout from the crisis, Norway's central bank unanimously decided to raise rates to 0.25% from zero.**
- **The reopening of society has led to a marked upswing in the Norwegian economy, and activity is now higher than its pre-pandemic level. Unemployment has fallen further, and capacity utilisation appears to be close to a normal level.**

### **NHPC's 510 MW Teesta-V Power Station conferred with 'Blue Planet Prize' by IHA**

- **NHPC's 510 MW Teesta-V Power Station located in the Himalayan State of Sikkim has been conferred with the prestigious Blue Planet Prize by International Hydropower Association (IHA), a London based non-profit membership association operating in 120 countries.**

- **The power station has been built, owned and being operated by NHPC.** The award for Teesta-V Power Station was announced during the World Hydropower Congress, 2021. **The award had been conferred to Teesta-V Power Station based on its sustainability assessment** undertaken by a team of accredited lead assessors of IHA in 2019 using the Operation Stage tool of the Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Protocol (HSAP) of IHA.
- **The IHA membership includes leading hydropower owners and operators, developers, designers, suppliers and consultants.** The IHA Blue Planet Prize is awarded to hydropower projects that demonstrate excellence in sustainable development.
- **The Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Protocol (HSAP) is the leading international tool for measuring the sustainability of hydropower projects.** It offers a way to benchmark the performance of a hydropower project against a comprehensive range of environmental, social, technical and governance criteria. Assessments are based on objective evidence and the results are presented in a standardized report.

**NHPC Limited (erstwhile National Hydroelectric Power Corporation) is an Indian government hydropower board under the ownership of Ministry of Power, Government of India that was incorporated in the year 1975 with an authorised capital of Rs.2000 million and with an objective to plan, promote and organise an integrated and efficient development of hydroelectric power in all aspects. Later on NHPC expanded its objects to include other sources of energy like Solar, Geothermal, Tidal, Wind etc. At present, NHPC is a Mini Ratna Category-I Enterprise of the Govt. of India with an authorised share capital of Rs.150,000 Million.**

## **Union Minister of Steel Shri Ram Chandra Prasad Singh Launches Dashboard 2.0 of Ministry of Steel**

- **The Union Steel Minister, Shri Ram Chandra Prasad Singh launched the Dashboard 2.0 of the Ministry of Steel developed by the NISCI.**
- **The Dashboard is an interactive and dynamic online platform that captures the performance on various parameters related to steel sector** such as steel capacity utilisation, production and consumption, prices, raw material production, trade, stocks and rail production etc.
- **The Dashboard will help to monitor and analyse the performance of steel Companies on real time basis for different KPIs of Steel sector.** The portal has been designed by NIC Steel Informatics Division in association with NISCI-CEDA team. Hosting Infrastructure is provided by NIC on Meghraj Cloud.

## **RBI allows banks to sell 'fraud loans' to ARCs**

- **Stressed loans, which are in default for more than 60 days or classified as non-performing assets (NPA), can be transferred to ARCs.** The Reserve Bank of India allowed loan exposures classified as fraud to be transferred to Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs). This comes in the wake of banks reporting frauds aggregating Rs. 3.95-lakh crore between FY19 and FY21.
- **Stressed loans, which are in default for more than 60 days or classified as non-performing assets (NPA), can be transferred to ARCs.** This shall include loan exposures classified as fraud as on the date of transfer.
- **Until now, when an account is declared fraud, banks had to set aside 100 per cent of the outstanding loan as provision.** Under the new rules, banks can hope to recover a part of the loan. **For ARCs, this will allow them to buy debt cheaper than regular loan accounts.**

**Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC) is a specialized financial institution that buys the Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) from banks and financial institutions so that they can clean up their balance sheets. This helps banks to concentrate in normal banking activities. Banks rather than going after the defaulters by wasting their time and effort, can sell the bad assets to the ARCs at a mutually agreed value.**



## Inventions/Discoveries

### Findings on Sun's atmosphere to aid India's first solar mission

- A study by Indian scientists has shown how conditions and events in the solar atmosphere like coronal mass ejections influence the accuracy of space weather prediction, which is crucial for the health of our satellites. This understanding will aid the interpretation of data from the upcoming Aditya-L1, India's first solar mission.
- Space weather refers to the conditions in the solar wind and near-Earth space, which can adversely affect the performance of space-borne and ground-based technological systems. The space weather near the Earth is mainly due to Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs), which are frequent explosive expulsions of huge magnetized plasma from the Sun into its surroundings that can blow past the Earth.
- In the present work, astronomers led by Dr. Wageesh Mishra of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science & Technology, Govt. Of India showed that plasma properties and Earth arrival times of CMEs from the Sun can vary substantially with longitudinal locations in the interplanetary space. This research is published in the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomy journal and is co-authored by Kunjal Dave from C.U. Shah University, Gujarat, Prof. Nandita Srivastava from Physical Research Laboratory, Udaipur, and Prof. Luca Teriaca from the Max Planck Institute of for the Solar System Research, Germany.
- The team explains Sun emits a continuous stream of charged particles called the Solar Wind. The two selected events were ideal for studying the effects of the CME shocks moving through the solar wind.

Aditya (Sun) or Aditya-L1 is a planned corobagrophy spacecraft to study solar atmosphere, currently being designed and developed by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and various other Indian research institutes. It will be inserted in a halo orbit around the L1 point between earth and sun where it will study solar atmosphere, solar magnetic storms and it's impact on environment around earth. The spacecraft will study coronal heating, solar wind acceleration, coronal magnetometry, origin and monitoring of near-UV solar radiation and continuously observe photosphere, chromosphere and corona, solar energetic particles and magnetic field of the sun. It is the first dedicated Indian mission to observe Sun, it is planned to be launched in third quarter of 2022 aboard a PSLV-XL rocket.

### Moroccan cave provides oldest clues about origin of human clothing

- Scientists said artifacts unearthed in a cave in Morocco dating back as far as 120,000 years ago indicate that humans were making specialized bone tools, skinning animals and then using tools to process these skins for fur and leather.
- The items from Contrebandiers Cave, located roughly 800 feet (250 meters) from the Atlantic coastline in the town of Temara, appear to be the oldest-known evidence for clothing in the archaeological record, they added. Our species, Homo sapiens, first appeared more than 300,000 years ago in Africa, later spreading worldwide. The advent of clothing was a milestone for humankind, reflecting cultural and cognitive evolution.

## Sikkim declares 'Katley' as state fish

- The Sikkim government has declared 'Cooper Mahseer' locally named 'Katley' as the state fish. State government has declared *Neolissochilus hexagonolepis* commonly known as Copper Mahseer and locally named as 'Katley' as a state fish to highlight the importance of the fish and to give emphasis to its conservation measures.
- "In Sikkim, Katley is found in varied altitudes covering entire state predominantly confined in Teesta and Rangit rivers and their tributaries. In the year 1992, ICAR-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (ICAR-NBFGR), Lucknow had categorized Katley fish as endangered species. Later on, in the year 2014 the fish was also categorized as endangered by the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)".

## India now has 10 International Blue Flag beaches

- Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav announced that India now has 10 International Blue Flag beaches with the addition of Kovalam and Eden beaches this year and recertification for 8 beaches which got the tag last year.
- The Foundation for Environment Education in Denmark (FEE), which accords the globally recognised eco-label - the Blue Flag certification has also given re-certification for eight nominated beaches—Shivrajpur (Gujarat), Ghoghla (Diu), Kasarkod and Padubidri (Karnataka), Kappad (Kerala), Rushikonda (Andhra Pradesh), Golden (Odisha), and Radhanagar (Andaman and Nicobar Islands), which were awarded the Blue Flag certificate last year.
- FEE Denmark conducts regular monitoring and audits for strict compliance with the 33 criteria at all times. A waving "Blue Flag" is an indication of 100 per cent compliance to these 33 stringent criteria and sound health of the beach, the release said.
- The objective of the BEAMS programme is to abate pollution in coastal waters, promote sustainable development of beach facilities, protect and conserve coastal ecosystems and natural resources, and seriously challenge local authorities & stakeholders to strive and maintain high standards of cleanliness, hygiene, and safety for beachgoers in accordance with coastal environment and regulations.

## Bengal's Sunderbans to get women tourist guides for the first time

- This is the first time that women guides will be placed on the boats that enter the tiger reserve with tourist guides. The Sunderbans, located at the southern tip of West Bengal is home to around 100 tigers.
- Around one million tourists visit the delta, which can be accessed only on boats, to see the tigers and crocodiles among other animals. The Sundarbans Reserve Forest (SRF), located in the south-west of Bangladesh between the river Baleswar in the East and the Harinbanga in the West, adjoining to the Bay of Bengal, is the largest contiguous mangrove forest in the world.
- The Sundarbans mangrove forest, one of the largest such forests in the world (140,000 ha), lies on the delta of the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna rivers on the Bay of Bengal. It is adjacent to the border of India's Sundarbans World Heritage site inscribed in 1987.

## India En route to a clean and sustainable energy future

- For every developing country, building sustainable resources of power is a must. On similar lines, India is working round the clock to uplift the power sector. In the coming days, the nation is planning to set up a 14GWh (Gigawatt hours) battery storage system in Kutch.
- The plan can give a strategic push to India's grid-scale battery storage programme and hence will be among one of the largest in the world. According to the available data, the Khavda renewable energy park in Kutch will be the world's largest and will finally generate around 30GW of clean energy and will be spread over 72,600 hectares.
- India's power grid stability is largely dependent on large battery storage. As 1GWh (1,000-MWh) of battery capacity is sufficient to power 1 million homes for an hour and around 30,000 electric cars. India has one of the largest unified grids in the world.

## India conducted first user trial of 5,000-km range Agni V Missile

- India conducted flight-test of the 5,000-km range Agni V missile with the 1<sup>st</sup> user trial of Intercontinental-Range Ballistic Missile (ICBM) indicating its early induction in the Armed Forces.
- Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) have developed the Agni-V Intercontinental Ballistic Missile. The Agni V missile can carry a nuclear payload of 1,500 kg.
- The country had planned to induct Intercontinental Ballistic Missile Agni-V in 2020 after the hat-trick pre-induction trials in 2018, however, the COVID-19 pandemic forced India to postpone the induction.
- Besides India, only seven countries, including the US, UK, Russia, China, France, Israel and North Korea possess Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles in their defence arsenal.
- Meanwhile, China questioned India's plan to conduct the trial of an intercontinental-range ballistic missile, citing the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1172.
- India has a series of Agni missiles in its armoury. Agni-1 has a range of 700 km, Agni-2 with a range of 2,000 km, Agni-3 and Agni-4 can strike targets between 2,500 km and 3,500 km.

Agni-V ("Fire") is an Indian nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation and Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL). The missile is believed to have a range of around 5,000 km. It is a three-stage, road-mobile and solid-fueled intercontinental ballistic missile which is transported by a truck and launched via a canister.

## 'Rare discovery': New species of hybodont shark of Jurassic age found in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer

- In a rare discovery, teeth of new species of hybodontshark of Jurassic age have been reported for the first time from Rajasthan's Jaisalmer.
- Hybodont sharks have been reported for the first time from the Jurassic rocks (approximately, between 160 and 168 million-years-old) of the Jaisalmer region of Rajasthan.
- Hybodonts, an extinct group of sharks, was a dominant group of fishes in both marine and fluvial environments during the Triassic and early Jurassic time.
- However, hybodont sharks started to decline in marine environments from the Middle Jurassic onwards until they formed a relatively minor component of open-marine shark assemblages. Hybodonts finally became extinct at the end of the Cretaceous time 65 million years ago.

## Exotic brown trout threatening native Himalayan fish species

- The exotic brown trout invasion is threatening the native Himalayan snow trout by restricting their distribution and movement in high-altitude river basins, according to a study.
- The research, published in the Journal of Applied Ecology, shows that snow trout highly prefer the river mainstem or the downstream segment for survival. However, the invasive brown trout is forcing the native species to move upstream towards headwaters or the source of the river. The brown trout is an exotic species, which is highly promoted due to its popularity for recreational angling and food delicacy, the researchers said.
- The fish was introduced under the British rule mostly for sport, they added. The researchers also emphasised the need to leave the headwaters free from dams. The researchers compared snow trout in two stream networks with and without invasive species, for assessing differences in their spatial distribution.

## Lunar Crater Named After Arctic Explorer Matthew Henson by International Astronomical Union

- The International Astronomical Union has named a crater at the Moon's South Pole after the Arctic explorer Matthew Henson, a Black man who in 1909 was one of the first people to stand at the very top of the world. The proposal to name the crater after Henson came from Jordan Bretzfelder, an Exploration Science summer intern with the Lunar and Planetary Institute, in Houston, TX, which is a member of the Solar System Exploration Research Virtual Institute, headquartered at NASA's Ames Research Center in California's Silicon Valley.

## Climate change: UN arm, ICRISAT ink pact on food security

- The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) have joined hands to take up programmes and research to improve food, nutrition security and livelihoods in the country against the impacts of climate change.
- Bishow Parajuli, WFP India Representative and Country Director, and Jacqueline Hughes, Director-General of ICRISAT, have signed a memorandum of understanding in this regard.

The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) is an international organization which conducts agricultural research for rural development, headquartered in Patancheru (Hyderabad, Telangana, India). It was founded in 1972 by a consortium of organisations convened by the Ford and the Rockefeller foundations. Its charter was signed by the FAO and the UNDP. Since its inception, host country India has granted a special status to ICRISAT as a UN Organization operating in the Indian territory making it eligible for special immunities and tax privileges.

## KVIC Set up Odisha's First Silk Yarn Production Centre to Boost Local Silk Industry & Create Employment

- For hundreds of years, Odisha has been known for its exquisite Silk, particularly the Tussar variety, which provides livelihood to thousands of tribal people, particularly women.
- But the Silk weavers in the state were totally dependent on states like West Bengal, Jharkhand and Karnataka for the Silk yarn, which increased the cost of the Silk fabric. Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has taken a historic initiative to set up Odisha's first ever Tussar Silk Yarn Production Centre at Choudwar in Cuttack district.
- This silk yarn production centre will ensure local availability of Tussar Silk yarn, create local employment and reduce the silk production cost. Tussar silk is one of the finest varieties of Silk that is distinguished by its coarseness and porous weave that give it a rugged and rustic appearance.

## Uttarakhand's Tehri Dam Achieves Full Capacity of 830 Metres for the First Time Ever

- The Tehri Dam Project in Uttarakhand reached a milestone, as it achieved its full capacity of 830 metres for the first time ever.
- The project has been providing the much-needed 1000 MW power and other benefits such as drinking and irrigation water, flood moderation, fishing, tourism etc. for the past 15 years, and yet its full potential had remained elusive.
- The Tehri reservoir could not be raised to Full Reservoir Level (FRL) of EL 830 metres due to different issues. However, with the Centre and the state governments' efforts, this mammoth task was achieved after the pending rehabilitation issues of the project were resolved by THDC India.

The Tehri Dam is the tallest dam in India. It is a multi-purpose rock and earth-fill embankment dam on the Bhagirathi River near Tehri in Uttarakhand, India. It is the primary dam of the THDC India Ltd. and the Tehri hydroelectric complex. Phase 1 was completed in 2006. The dam's 1,000 MW variable-speed pumped-storage scheme is currently under construction with expected commissioning in 2022.



## Sports Personalities in News

### ISL set to be first Indian sports league to launch unique digital collectibles

- The Indian Super League (ISL) is going to be the first Indian sports league to have its exclusive non-fungible tokens (NFTs) as digital collectibles.
- The league, co-owned by Reliance Industries (65%) and Star India (35%), has partnered with London-based entertainment-focussed collectible platform Terra Virtua to create unique digital collectibles featuring the league and all its 11 clubs.

A non-fungible token (NFT) is a unit of data stored on a digital ledger, called a blockchain, that certifies a digital asset to be unique and therefore not interchangeable. NFTs can be used to represent items such as photos, videos, audio, and other types of digital files. Access to any copy of the original file, however, is not restricted to the buyer of the NFT. While copies of these digital items are available for anyone to obtain, NFTs are tracked on blockchains to provide the owner with a proof of ownership that is separate from copyright.

### Raninder Singh re-elected NRAI president for fourth time

- Seasoned administrator **Raninder Singh** was re-elected as the president of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) for an unprecedented fourth term after he beat BSP MP Shyam Singh Yadav 56-3 in the elections. Odisha MP Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo will continue to be the federation's senior vice-president besides the eighth VP.

### Pankaj Advani wins his 24<sup>th</sup> world title in Doha

- Star Indian cueist **Pankaj Advani** grabbed his 24<sup>th</sup> world title when he triumphed at the IBSF 6-Red Snooker World Cup with a victory over Pakistan's Babar Masih in the final. Pankaj ensured a clean slate of wins over the last fortnight in Qatar across two international championships – Asian Snooker and 6-red Snooker World Cup.

### D Gukesh wins gold at European Club Cup

- Days after clinching the Norway Open event – the 15-year-old won gold at the European Club Cup which concluded in Macedonia. **Gukesh**, India's youngest-ever Grandmaster, will have little time to celebrate as he heads for his next event in Bulgaria. He will be featuring at the U-21 Junior Open event which will be held in Plovdiv, Bulgaria.

### Hamilton wins 100<sup>th</sup> F1 race to take lead over Verstappen

- **Lewis Hamilton** became the first Formula One driver to win 100 races with victory in the Russian Grand Prix to retake the championship lead from Max Verstappen.
- Hamilton dropped to seventh place when he was boxed in at the first corner but fought back and passed **Lando Norris** for the win when the McLaren driver stayed out on slick tires in late rain and slid off the track.

# MISCELLANEOUS

## First edition of Himalayan Film Festival will begin from September 24 in Ladakh

- **The first edition of the Himalayan Film Festival begins in the Leh, capital city of Ladakh** from September 24. Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur was the chief guest at the event.
- **The five-days-long film festival, which is being organised by the administration of union territory of Ladakh in collaboration with the Directorate of Film Festivals (DIFF) and Ministry of Information and Broadcasting,** concluded on September 28.

## IIT Bombay stands among top 22 % in 2022 QS Graduate Employability Rankings

- **Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay stands among top 22 per cent in the 2022 QS Graduate Employability Rankings.**
- As per the release, in last one year, **IIT Bombay has moved up in the range from 111-120 to 101-110 rankings in QS Graduate Employability Rankings 2022.** On employer reputation indicator, with a score of 73.9, IIT, Bombay ranked at 70<sup>th</sup> place globally.

## Nitin Gadkari reviews Mumbai-Delhi expressway progress

- Union minister for road transport and highways, **Nitin Gadkari, concluded a 2-day aerial survey of a mammoth project - an expressway connecting India's political capital with the financial one.**
- The BJP leader called it the **world's first such expressway which would cut travel time between Delhi and Mumbai from 48 hours to 12 hours.**

## Prasar Bharati CEO Shashi Shekhar Vempati launches e-Office Hindi portal

- **Prasar Bharati Chief Executive Officer Shashi Shekhar Vempati launched e-Office Hindi portal at a function in New Delhi** for the benefit of the staff for their use in the daily routine work.

## Uttar Pradesh to set up 'Electronic Park' near Noida

- **After Toy Park, Film City, Medical Device Park and Leather Park, the Uttar Pradesh government is gearing up to develop an 'Electronic Park' for electronic devices and accessories along the Yamuna Expressway near Noida.** "The park is likely to be developed in an area of 250 acres either in Sector 14 or Sector 10 of the YEIDA near Jewar Airport,".

## Government to launch a month-long nationwide Clean India Drive to clean waste from Oct 1

- **The Government will launch a month-long nationwide Clean India Drive to clean waste, mainly single-use plastic from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> October this year.**
- Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Thakur has said that it is our resolve to create a plastic-free India, an India of Gandhiji's dreams and as per the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in which Swachhta occupies the topmost priority. **The Minister has urged everybody to join the drive with fervor and help achieve the goal of Sankalp Se Siddhi.**
- Mr. Thakur said, it will be the **largest cleanliness drive of the world in which more than 75 lakh tonnes of waste, primarily plastic waste, from different parts of the country will be collected and further processed in a Waste to Wealth model.** He said, the drive aims to propagate the mantra of Clean India: Safe India.

# PERSONS IN NEWS

## Government of India decides to appoint Air Marshal V R Chaudhari as next Chief of IAF

- Government has decided to **appoint Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari, presently Vice Chief of Air Staff, as the next Chief of the Indian Air Force.**
- **Air Marshal V R Chaudhari was commissioned into the Fighter stream of Indian Air Force on 29<sup>th</sup> December 1982** and has held various Command, Staff and Instructional Appointments at various levels including the present one as Vice Chief of Air Staff. **Air Marshal Chaudhari is decorated with Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal and Vayu Sena Medal.**

**The Chief of the Air Staff is the head of military staff of the Indian Air Force.** The CAS is the leader of the governing body of the Air Force, and is usually the highest ranking officer of the Air Force unless the Chief of Defence Staff of the Indian Armed Forces is taken as an officer of the aerial branch of the armed forces. **The position is abbreviated as CAS in the Indian Air Force cables and communication, and is always held by a full Air Chief Marshal since 1966.** The chief is directly responsible for leading the Indian Air Force as the chief military adviser on aerial affairs. They are responsible for coordinating and chairing the military air staff of the Air force and ultimately are subject to the Chief of Defence and the government of India. The current CAS is Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria who took office on 30 September 2019, following the retirement of Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa. Bhadauria will be succeeded by Vivek Ram Chaudhari after 30 September 2021.

## For the first time ever, BRO appoints woman Army officer as in-charge of road construction unit

- **The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has appointed a woman Army officer for the first as the Officer Commanding of its 75 road construction company (RCC) in Uttarakhand.**
- **The three platoon commanders under Major Aaina, Captain Anjana, AEE (Civ) Bhawana Joshi and AEE (Civ) Vishnumaya K became the first women RCC.**

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

## Debabrata Mukherjee elected chairman of Audit Bureau of Circulations

- **Debabrata Mukherjee, who is currently serving as Chief Marketing Officer at the United Breweries Group, has been elected as the chairman of Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC) for the year 2021-2022 the non-profit circulation-auditing organisation.**
- **He was a part of the Audit Bureau of Circulations, Council of Management, since 2011 and also served as Chairman of the Council.** Debabrata was awarded the "Beverage Marketer of the Year" award by the International Advertising Association (IAA) in the FMCG beverages category and is a management committee member of the prestigious Mumbai Ad Club.

## Ex-UN Envoy Syed Akbaruddin set to release his first book 'India Vs UK'

- **Syed Akbaruddin announced the release date of his first book, 'India vs UK: The Story of an Unprecedented Diplomatic Win'.** The book aims to tell all about India and UK relations, from the 1857 revolt to rivalry on the cricket pitch.

## Former UK PM Gordon Brown now WHO ambassador for global health financing

- **The World Health Organization (WHO) September 20, 2021, announced the appointment of Gordon Brown, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, as its ambassador for Global Health Financing.**

Brown, according to the WHO, has played an instrumental role in trying to get rich countries as well as the private sector to ensure equitable distribution of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccines.

### **Geeta Samota, CISF official, scripts history to become ‘fastest Indian’ to summit 2 peaks**

- **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) officer Geeta Samota created history as she became the “fastest Indian” to summit two peaks located in Africa and Russia.**
- **The 31-year-old successfully climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa, which is 5,895 meters (19,341 ft) above sea level. Earlier this month, Geeta scaled another highest peak situated in Europe – Mount Elbrus in Russia.**

### **India’s Shefali Juneja elected as first woman chairperson of ICAO Aviation Security Committee**

- **India’s Shefali Juneja has been elected as the first woman Chairperson of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Aviation Security Committee. India has taken up the responsibility of the ICAO Aviation Security Committee after a gap of 12 years.**

### **Pune team scales Mt Manda in Himalaya, becomes first from India to succeed on difficult route**

- **Climbers from Pune have scaled the 6,510-metre peak Mt Manda-I in Himalaya by a route that is considered highly difficult. The team of ‘Giripremi’, a mountaineering club, achieved the feat and became the first from India to summit the peak from the North Ridge, he said.**
- **Globally, it was only the second successful ascent by this route, said club member and the expedition’s mentor Umesh Zirpe. A Japanese team had succeeded in reaching the top by this route earlier.**

-----



# AWARDS

## Bangladeshi Fairouz Faizah Beether gets 2021 Changemaker Award

- **Fairooz Faizah Beether of Bangladesh** has been chosen for the **2021 Changemaker Award** for her work promoting good health and well-being by the **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation**.
- **The Award celebrates an individual who has inspired change using personal experience or from a position of leadership.** Fairouz Faizah is co-founder of Moner School which is an anonymous online platform active in the field of mental health.
- **It works with youth to educate them about the importance of mental health care through training, workshops, and a 24/7 online mental health first aid service in Bangladesh.**
- **The Changemaker Award is part of the Goalkeepers Global Goals award instituted by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation** to accelerate progress towards attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN.
- **Former United Nations under-secretary-general and executive director of UN Women, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, has been chosen as the winner of the 2021 Global Goalkeeper Award** for her ‘unwavering global leadership on gender equality and continued advocacy to address the COVID pandemic’s disproportionate impact on women and girls’.
- **The Goalkeepers is the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation’s campaign to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) announced by the UN in 2015** to achieve the objectives of ending poverty, fighting inequality and injustice and fixing climate change.

## President Shri Ram Nath Kovind gives away National Florence Nightingale Award 2020 to Brigadier S V Saraswati

- **Deputy Director General of Military Nursing Service Brig S V Saraswati** has been bestowed with the **National Florence Nightingale Award 2020**. President Shri Ram Nath Kovind conferred the award in a virtual ceremony for her immense contribution to the MNS as nurse administrator.
- **National Florence Nightingale Award is the highest national distinction a nurse can achieve for selfless devotion and exceptional professionalism.** Brig Saraswati hails from Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh and was commissioned in to the MNS on December 28, 1983. She has served in the MNS for more than three and half decades, especially in perioperative nursing.
- As a renowned operation theatre nurse, she has assisted in more than 3,000 lifesaving and emergency surgeries and has trained residents, operation room nursing trainees and auxiliary staff in her career. She has prepared patient teaching materials and improvised drape kits and suture packing for cardiac surgeries.

## President Ram Nath Kovind confers National Service Scheme Awards for 2019-20

- **President Ram Nath Kovind conferred the National Service Scheme Awards for 2019-20 from Rashtrapati Bhawan through virtual mode.** Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur and Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Nisith Pramanik attended the ceremony from Sushma Swaraj Bhawan in New Delhi.
- **The NSS awards was given to 42 awardees in three different categories like University/ +2 Councils, NSS Units and their Programme Officers and NSS volunteers.**
- **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Department of Youth Affairs confers every year the National Service Scheme awards to recognise and reward outstanding contributions towards voluntary community service made by the Universities/Colleges, (+2) Councils, Senior Secondary, NSS Units/ Programme Officers and NSS volunteers, with a view to further promote NSS in the country.**
- **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in an official statement said that NSS is a Centrally Sector Scheme that was launched in the year 1969** with the primary objective of developing the personality and character of the student youth through voluntary community service. **The ideological orientation of the NSS is inspired by the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi.**

## PM Sheikh Hasina conferred award for Bangladesh's steady progress in achieving UN SDGs

- **Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina** has been conferred with **SDG Progress award for Bangladesh's steady progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** by the UN sponsored Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN).
- **Prime Minister Hasina** is currently visiting the US to attend the 76<sup>th</sup> session of the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)**. The SDSN was set up in 2012 under the auspices of the UN Secretary General. Led by **development economist Jeoffery Sachs**, the SDSN seeks to mobilize global scientific and technological expertise to promote practical solutions for sustainable development.

## Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka bags 2021 Global Goalkeeper Award

- **Former United Nations under-secretary-general and executive director of UN Women, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka**, has been named this year's recipient of the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation 2021 Global Goalkeeper Award**. The award recognises a leader who has driven progress on a global scale toward achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

## Payal Kapadia's documentary, 'A Night of Knowing Nothing', bags Amplify Voices Award at TIFF

- **Indian filmmaker Payal Kapadia's documentary "A Night of Knowing Nothing"** has won the **Amplify Voices Award** at the **Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF)**.
- The documentary, which had also won the **Oeil d'or (Golden Eye) award** at the **Cannes Film Festival** in July, had its international premiere in the **Wavelengths Features** segment of TIFF.

## Ruskin Bond, Vinod Kumar Shukla and six others named for Sahitya Akademi Fellowship

- **Eminent English author Ruskin Bond, Hindi writer Vinod Kumar Shukla and six others** were selected for the **Sahitya Akademi Fellowship**. The others who received the Fellowship are **Sirshendu Mukhopadhyay (Bengali), M Leelavathy (Malayalam), Dr. Bhalchandra Nemade (Marathi), Dr Tejwant Singh Gill (Punjabi), Swami Rambhadracharya (Sanskrit), Indira Parthasarthy (Tamil)**.
- **Bond, who has written over 300 short stories, essays and novels** and more than 30 books for children besides several other works, is the **recipient of Sahitya Akademi Award, Sahitya Akademi's Bal Sahitya Puraskar, Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan among other prestigious awards**.

# IMPORTANT DAYS

## World Ozone Day 2021

- **September 16** was designated by the United Nations General Assembly as the **International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer**. This year's theme for the International Day for the Prevention of the Ozone Layer is 'Montreal Protocol — Keeping us, our food, and vaccines cool'. The Montreal Protocol started life as a global agreement to protect the ozone layer, a job it has done well, making it one of the most successful environmental agreements to date.

## International Day of Peace 21 September

- Each year the **International Day of Peace** is observed around the world on **21 September**. The UN General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire.
- **2021 Theme: Recovering better for an equitable and sustainable world.**

## International Day of Sign Languages 23 September

- The **International Day of Sign Languages** is unique opportunity to support and protect the linguistic identity and cultural diversity of all deaf people and other sign language users. The UN General Assembly has proclaimed **23 September** as the **International Day of Sign Languages** in order to raise awareness of the importance of sign language in the full realization of the human rights of people who are deaf.
- The **2021 theme**, declared by the World Federation of the Deaf, is “**We Sign For Human Rights,**” highlighting how each of us – deaf and hearing people around the world – can work together hand in hand to promote the recognition of our right to use sign languages in all areas of life.

## World Rhino Day 2021

- **World Rhino Day** is marked every year on **22 September** to create awareness about the different kinds of **Rhinoceros** species as well as the dangers they face. The day also aims to celebrate all five species of **Rhino** including greater one-horned, Sumatran, black, white, and Javan Rhinos that are found in Africa and Asia. With time, **Rhinoceros** have become critically endangered in the wild because people desire their unique horns.
- This year, the theme of World Rhino Day is “**Keep the Five Alive.**”

## World Pharmacist Day 2021 celebrated

- **World Pharmacist Day 2021** is being celebrated on September 25. The day has been marked to celebrate and recognize the role of pharmacists in the field of health sector. International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) first observed the World Pharmacist Day in 1912.
- The theme declared for World Pharmacist Day 2021 is “**Pharmacy: Always Trusted For Your Health**”.

### References:

The Hindu  
The Economics Times  
Indian Express  
Press Information Bureau of India  
The Times of India  
Business Standard  
News on AIR  
Hindustan Times

# QUESTIONS

- Who has been appointed as one of its 17 Sustainable Development Goals advocates, a role that is integral to advancing the 2030 agenda for sustainable development by UN Secretary General António Guterres?  
(a) Shahrukh Khan (b) Kailash Satyarthi  
(c) Amartya Sen (d) Sachin Tendulkar
- Recently, Prasar Bharati Chief Executive Officer Shashi Shekhar Vempati launched \_\_\_\_\_ at a function in New Delhi for the benefit of the staff.  
(a) e-Office Hindi portal (b) e-Office Sanskrit portal  
(c) e-Office English portal (d) e-Office Urdu portal
- The ease of doing business' rankings report is published by \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) World Bank (b) International Monetary Fund  
(c) Asian Development Bank (d) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- Recently, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari concluded a 2-day aerial survey of a mammoth project - an expressway connecting \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Mumbai and Delhi (b) Jammu and Delhi  
(c) Kanyakumari and Kochi (d) Meerut and Balia
- Recently, Philip Edward Davis started serving as the new Prime Minister of \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Bahamas (b) Morocco (c) Panama (d) Chile
- Recently, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has successfully commissioned India's largest Floating Solar PV plant in \_\_\_\_\_, the 25 MW floating SPV project covers an area of 100 acres.  
(a) Telangana (b) Madhya Pradesh  
(c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Karnataka
- Who among the following launched a new mobile app "PRAGATI" (Performance Review Application, Growth And Trend Indicator) for use by its Development Officers?  
(a) State Bank of India (b) Life Insurance Corporation  
(c) NABARD (d) SIDBI
- Recently, Scientists said artifacts unearthed in a cave in \_\_\_\_\_ dating back as far as 120,000 years ago indicate that humans were making specialized bone tools, skinning animals and then using tools to process these skins for fur and leather.  
(a) Morocco (b) Bulgaria (c) Chile (d) Peru
- International Day of Peace is observed around the world on \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) 14 September (b) 18 September (c) 21 September (d) 24 September
- Recently, Indian filmmaker Payal Kapadia's documentary \_\_\_\_\_ has won the Amplify Voices Award at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF).  
(a) "A Dark Tale" (b) "A Night of Knowing Nothing"  
(c) "A Unique Philosophy" (d) "A Red Panda"
- Recently, Hathei chilli and Tamenglong mandarin orange of \_\_\_\_\_ have been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.  
(a) Nagaland (b) Sikkim (c) Manipur (d) Mizoram
- The Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched the Ujjwala 2.0 scheme in \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Bihar (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Karnataka

13. Name the former UK Prime Minister who has been announced as ambassador for Global Health Financing by the World Health Organization.  
(a) Gordon Brown (b) Theresa May (c) David Cameroon (d) Tony Blair
14. Which of the following countries is held "RAPID TRIDENT – 2021" joint military exercises with U.S. and other NATO troops?  
(a) Ukraine (b) Spain (c) Italy (d) Russia
15. According to NITI Aayog, India stood at \_\_\_\_\_ on the Global Innovation Index 2021 on the back of a vibrant start-up ecosystem and research by public and private organizations.  
(a) 32 (b) 37 (c) 42 (d) 46
16. The Reserve Bank of India conducted open market purchase of Government Securities under the G-Sec Acquisition Programme (G-SAP 2.0) for an aggregate amount of \_\_\_\_\_ crore rupees.  
(a) 8,000 (b) 10,000 (c) 15,000 (d) 20,000
17. According to the latest Global Trade Outlook issued by the UK's Department of International Trade, India is to be \_\_\_\_\_ largest importer by 2050.  
(a) 1<sup>st</sup> (b) 3<sup>rd</sup> (c) 5<sup>th</sup> (d) 7<sup>th</sup>
18. Which of the following state governments has declared 'Cooper Mahseer' locally named 'Katley' as the state fish recently?  
(a) West Bengal (b) Odisha (c) Sikkim (d) Bihar
19. Who among the following is not one among the eight eminent writers who were selected for the Sahitya Akademi Fellowship?  
(a) Vinod Kumar Shukla (b) Arundhati Roy (c) M Leelavathy (d) Sirshendu Mukhopadhyay
20. Who has been recently bestowed with the National Florence Nightingale Award 2020?  
(a) Brig A N Bharadwaj (b) Brig S V Saraswati (c) Major S N Sharma (d) Brig T D Singh
21. The Uttar Pradesh government is gearing up to develop an 'Electronic Park' for electronic devices and accessories near \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Mathura (b) Shimla (c) Karnal (d) Noida
22. The Ministry of Education has formed the National Steering Committee for the development of National Curriculum Frameworks. The committee will be chaired by \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Dr J K Puniya (b) Dr K Kasturirangan (c) Dr D Gopala (d) Dr M Mahajan
23. Who is to be the next Chief of the Indian Air Force?  
(a) V R Chaudhari (b) Atul K Malhotra (c) Deepak Luthra (d) Arun Kumar Gupta
24. Which of the following countries is participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of Bilateral Exercise 'Samudra Shakti'?  
(a) India and Nepal (b) India and Malaysia (c) India and Indonesia (d) India and Bangladesh
25. The 6<sup>th</sup> Edition of SCO Exercise \_\_\_\_\_ hosted by Russia started at Orenburg Region of South West Russia.  
(a) Peaceful Mission: 2021 (b) Peace 2021  
(c) Unity Mission 2021 (d) United 21
26. India's first solar mission is  
(a) Surya -M1 (b) Aditya-L1 (c) Sooraj-J3 (d) Diwakar-K9
27. India now has \_\_\_\_\_ International Blue Flag beaches with the addition of Kovalamand Eden beaches this year.  
(a) 4 (b) 6 (c) 10 (d) 14

28. Who has been recently re-elected as the president of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI)?  
 (a) Atul Yadav (b) Vikas Jha (c) Deepak Bharadwaj (d) Raninder Singh
29. Who has been elected as the first woman Chairperson of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Aviation Security Committee?  
 (a) Shefali Juneja (b) Anita Sharma (c) Apurva Gupta (d) Pooja Luthra
30. Recently, Climbers from Pune have scaled the 6,510-metre peak \_\_\_\_\_ in Himalaya and becomes first from India to succeed on difficult route.  
 (a) Mt Cho Oyu (b) Mt Manda-I (c) Mt Manaslu (d) Mt Lhotse
31. According to State Food Safety Index 2020-21 made by Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), which of the following states is the best performing state in India?  
 (a) Rajasthan (b) Gujarat (c) Maharashtra (d) Tamil Nadu
32. Recently, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying signed Memorandum of Understanding with \_\_\_\_\_ to support India's livestock sector.  
 (a) Azim Premji Foundation (b) Jamshetji Tata Foundation  
 (c) Warren Buffett Foundation (d) Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
33. Indian billionaire Gautam Adani group will invest \_\_\_\_\_ over the next 10 years in renewable energy generation and component manufacturing and will produce the world's cheapest green electron.  
 (a) \$10 billion (b) \$20 billion (c) \$30 billion (d) \$40 billion
34. Which of the following two countries began a 14-day combined battalion-level military exercise, called 'Surya Kiran'?  
 (a) India and Nepal (b) Mauritius and Maldives  
 (c) Nepal and Myanmar (d) India and Bangladesh
35. According to the available data, the Khavda renewable energy park in \_\_\_\_\_ will be the world's largest and will finally generate around 30GW of clean energy and will be spread over 72,600 hectares.  
 (a) Palk Strait (b) Gulf of Mannar  
 (c) Sunderbans (d) Kutch
36. Recently, The Union Steel Minister launched the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Ministry of Steel developed by the NISCI.  
 (a) Dashboard 1.0 (b) Dashboard 2.0 (c) Dashboard 3.0 (d) Dashboard 4.0
37. Who has been conferred with SDG Progress award for Bangladesh's steady progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the UN sponsored Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)?  
 (a) Shakib Al Hasan (b) Sheikh Hasina  
 (c) Kazi Nazrul Islam (d) Muhammad Yunus
38. Name the Indian snooker player who grabbed his 24<sup>th</sup> world title when he triumphed at the IBSF 6-Red Snooker World Cup.  
 (a) Aditya Mehta (b) Pankaj Advani (c) Yasin Merchant (d) Geet Sethi
39. The first edition of the Himalayan Film Festival is held in \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) Tawang (b) Leh (c) Jammu (d) Manali
40. The UN General Assembly has proclaimed \_\_\_\_\_ as the International Day of Sign Languages.  
 (a) 21 September (b) 22 September (c) 23 September (d) 25 September
41. India's first cooperative conference was held in \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) Gandhinagar (b) New Delhi (c) Hyderabad (d) Mumbai

42. Which of the following fuel retailers and SBI Card announced the launch of a co-branded RuPay contactless credit card, offering fuel and other benefits?  
 (a) HPCL (b) BPCL (c) Indian Oil (d) IOCL
43. Which of the following countries has hosted its first public film-screening in 30 years - raising hopes of a cultural revival in the war-ravaged country?  
 (a) Yemen (b) Somalia (c) Iraq (d) Syria
44. The first major Western central bank to raise interest rates following the onset of the coronavirus pandemic is  
 (a) Finnish Bank (b) Swedish Bank (c) Norges Bank (d) American Bank
45. The EU aims to have a common charging port under a European Commission proposal presented in a world first. Which charging point is not in the list?  
 (a) Mobile Phones (b) Tablets (c) Headphones (d) Electric Vehicles
46. Recently, India hosted the first \_\_\_\_\_ Consular Dialogue through video conferencing.  
 (a) India-United Kingdom (b) India-France  
 (c) India-Germany (d) India-United States of America
47. India has conducted flight-test of the \_\_\_\_\_ range Agni V missile with the 1<sup>st</sup> user trial of Intercontinental-Range Ballistic Missile (ICBM) indicating its early induction in the Armed Forces.  
 (a) 2,000-km (b) 3,000-km (c) 5,000-km (d) 8,000-km
48. Recently, In a rare discovery, teeth of new species of hybodontshark of Jurassic age have been reported for the first time from \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) Rajasthan's Jaisalmer (b) Gujarat's Dahod  
 (c) Uttar Pradesh's Kanpur (d) Madhya Pradesh's Indore
49. Who has been chosen for the 2021 Changemaker Award for her work promoting good health and well-being by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation?  
 (a) Fairouz Faizah Beether of Bangladesh  
 (b) Alexandra Marin of Finland  
 (c) Seema Vishwas of India  
 (d) Rukhsana Bilkis of Pakistan
50. World Rhino Day is marked every year on \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) 15<sup>th</sup> September (b) 17<sup>th</sup> September (c) 19<sup>th</sup> September (d) 22<sup>nd</sup> September
51. Who has been recently elected as the external auditor to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)?  
 (a) Nepal (b) Bangladesh (c) Pakistan (d) India
52. Who among the following has become the first woman Speaker of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly?  
 (a) Savitribai Jadeja (b) Nimaben Acharya (c) Aradhya Pandit (d) Geetaben Mehta
53. Recently, UNWTO introduces first World Sports Tourism Congress. The headquarters of UNWTO is at:  
 (a) Paris (b) Madrid (c) Lisbon (d) Munich
54. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the \_\_\_\_\_ session of UN General Assembly.  
 (a) 67<sup>th</sup> (b) 71<sup>st</sup> (c) 74<sup>th</sup> (d) 76<sup>th</sup>
55. Recently, NHPC's 510 MW Teesta-V Power Station located in the Himalayan State of \_\_\_\_\_ has been conferred with the prestigious Blue Planet Prize by International Hydropower Association (IHA), a London based non-profit membership association operating in 120 countries.  
 (a) Uttarakhand (b) Himachal Pradesh (c) Arunachal Pradesh (d) Sikkim

56. Who has been recently elected as the chairman of Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC) for the year 2021-2022 the non-profit circulation-auditing organization?  
 (a) Kumaran Reddy (b) Deepak Kulshrestha  
 (c) Debabrata Mukherjee (d) Atul Bhaskar
57. The International Astronomical Union has named a crater at the Moon's south pole after the Arctic explorer \_\_\_\_\_, man who in 1909 was one of the first people to stand at the very top of the world.  
 (a) Thomas Dawl (b) Matthew Henson  
 (c) Alex Grite (d) Luthar John
58. Name the Indian who recently won gold at European Club Cup chess tournament.  
 (a) D Gukesh (b) M Murugan (c) L Prathamesh (d) K Luthar
59. Name the CISF woman officer who created history as she became the "fastest Indian" to summit two peaks located in Africa and Russia.  
 (a) Anita Hasnandani (b) Manisha Kumar (c) Geeta Samota (d) Himani Jha
60. Name the Former United Nations under-secretary-general and executive director of UN Women who has been named this year's recipient of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation 2021 Global Goalkeeper Award.  
 (a) Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka (b) Kabo Mbeki  
 (c) Johnthony M Kutery (d) Kitter Desib Mubala
61. Which of the following IIT's stands among top 22 per cent in the 2022 QS Graduate Employability Rankings?  
 (a) Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay  
 (b) Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi  
 (c) Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur  
 (d) Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur
62. Recently, Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur inaugurated high power transmitters at world's highest radio station at Humbatingla in \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) Manali (b) Tawang (c) Kargil (d) Leh
63. The Government of India will launch a month-long nationwide Clean India Drive to clean waste, mainly single-use plastic from \_\_\_\_\_ this year.  
 (a) 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> October (b) 15<sup>th</sup> October to 15<sup>th</sup> November  
 (c) 1<sup>st</sup> November to 30<sup>th</sup> November (d) 1<sup>st</sup> December to 31<sup>st</sup> December
64. Recently, President Ram Nath Kovind conferred the \_\_\_\_\_ for 2019-20 from Rashtrapati Bhawan through virtual mode.  
 (a) National Social Scheme Awards (b) National Service Scheme Awards  
 (c) National Social Service Awards (d) Indian Service Scheme Prize
65. The opening ceremony of the Joint Anti-Terrorist Exercise (JATE)-2021 was held between the troops from:  
 (a) China and Pakistan (b) Afghanistan and Russia  
 (c) Japan and Bangladesh (d) India and Iraq
66. Recently, RBI has allowed Stressed loans, which are in default for more than \_\_\_\_\_ days or classified as non-performing assets (NPA), can be transferred to ARCs.  
 (a) 15 Days (b) 30 Days (c) 60 Days (d) 90 Days
67. Recently, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has taken a historic initiative to set up Odisha's first ever Tussar Silk Yarn Production Centre in \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) Puri district (b) Cuttack district  
 (c) Bhubaneswar district (d) Jajpur district

68. Recently, The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) have joined hands to take up programmes and research to improve food. World Food Programme is headquartered at:  
(a) Milan (b) Rome (c) Paris (d) Geneva
69. Who among the following has become the first Formula One driver to win 100 races with victory in the Russian Grand Prix?  
(a) Max Verstappen (b) Valtteri Bottas (c) Alex Trudeau (d) Lewis Hamilton
70. World Pharmacists Day is observed and celebrated across the world on \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) 21<sup>st</sup> September (b) 23<sup>rd</sup> September (c) 25<sup>th</sup> September (d) 27<sup>th</sup> September



Career  
Launcher

## ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATION

1. b In a significant step aimed at bolstering the outreach on critical child rights issues like combatting child labour, UN Secretary General António Guterres has appointed Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi as one of its 17 Sustainable Development Goals advocates, a role that is integral to advancing the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.
2. a Prasar Bharati Chief Executive Officer Shashi Shekhar Vempati launched e-Office Hindi portal at a function in New Delhi for the benefit of the staff for their use in the daily routine work.
3. a Doing Business, a World Bank Group flagship publication, is annual studies measuring the regulations that enhance business activity and those that constrain it.
4. a Union minister for road transport and highways, Nitin Gadkari, concluded a 2-day aerial survey of a mammoth project - an expressway connecting India's political capital with the financial one.
5. a Philip Edward "Brave" Davis QC MP is a Bahamian politician who is serving as Prime Minister of the Bahamas, since 17 September 2021 and Member of Parliament for Cat Island, Rum Cay & San Salvador since May 2002.
6. c Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has successfully commissioned India's largest Floating Solar PV plant. Located at NTPC Simhadri in Andhra Pradesh, the 25 MW floating SPV project covers an area of 100 acres.
7. b Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) launched a new mobile app "PRAGATI" (Performance Review Application, Growth And Trend Indicator) for use by its Development Officers.
8. a Scientists said artifacts unearthed in a cave in Morocco dating back as far as 120,000 years ago indicate that humans were making specialized bone tools, skinning animals and then using tools to process these skins for fur and leather.
9. c Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September.
10. b Indian filmmaker Payal Kapadia's documentary "A Night of Knowing Nothing" has won the Amplify Voices Award at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF).
11. c Hathei chilli, which is found in Manipur's Ukhrul district and is known for its unique flavour, and Tamenglong mandarin orange have been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
12. c Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched the Ujjwala 2.0 scheme during his day-long visit to Madhya Pradesh.
13. a The World Health Organization (WHO) September 20, 2021, announced the appointment of Gordon Brown, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, as its ambassador for Global Health Financing.
14. a Ukraine began joint military exercises with U.S. and other NATO troops at a time when neighbouring Russia and Belarus have been holding large-scale drills that alarmed the West.
15. d India improved its ranking by two places and stood at 46 on the Global Innovation Index 2021 on the back of a vibrant start-up ecosystem and research by public and private organizations.
16. c Reserve Bank of India conducted open market purchase of Government Securities under the G-Sec Acquisition Programme (G-SAP 2.0) for an aggregate amount of 15,000 crore rupees.
17. b India to be 3<sup>rd</sup> largest importer by 2050.
18. c The Sikkim government has declared 'Cooper Mahseer' locally named 'Katley' as the state fish.

- 19. b** Eminent English author Ruskin Bond, Hindi writer Vinod Kumar Shukla and six others were selected for the Sahitya Akademi Fellowship. The others who received the Fellowship are Sirshendu Mukhopadhyay (Bengali), M Leelavathy (Malayalam), Dr. Bhalchandra Nemade (Marathi), Dr Tejwant Singh Gill (Punjabi), Swami Rambhadracharya (Sanskrit), Indira Parthasarthy (Tamil).
- 20. b** Deputy Director General of Military Nursing Service Brig S V Saraswati has been bestowed with the National Florence Nightingale Award 2020.
- 21. d** The Uttar Pradesh government is gearing up to develop an 'Electronic Park' for electronic devices and accessories along the Yamuna Expressway near Noida.
- 22. b** The Ministry of Education has formed the National Steering Committee for the development of National Curriculum Frameworks. The committee will be chaired by former ISRO Chairman Dr K Kasturirangan.
- 23. a** Government has decided to appoint Air Marshal V R Chaudhari, presently Vice Chief of Air Staff, as the next Chief of the Indian Air Force.
- 24. c** Indian Naval Ships Shivalik and Kadmatt arrived at Jakarta, Indonesia on 18 Sep 21 to participate in the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of Bilateral Exercise 'Samudra Shakti' with the Indonesian Navy scheduled off the approaches to Sunda Strait.
- 25. a** The 6<sup>th</sup> Edition of SCO Exercise Peaceful Mission : 2021 hosted by Russia started at Orenburg Region of South West Russia.
- 26. b** A study by Indian scientists has shown how conditions and events in the solar atmosphere like coronal mass ejections influence the accuracy of space weather prediction, which is crucial for the health of our satellites. This understanding will aid the interpretation of data from the upcoming Aditya-L1, India's first solar mission.
- 27. c** Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav announced that India now has 10 International Blue Flag beaches with the addition of Kovalamand Eden beaches this year and recertification for 8 beaches which got the tag last year.
- 28. d** Seasoned administrator Raninder Singh was re-elected as the president of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI).
- 29. a** India's Shefali Juneja has been elected as the first woman Chairperson of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Aviation Security Committee.
- 30. b** Climbers from Pune have scaled the 6,510-metre peak Mt Manda-I in Himalaya by a route that is considered highly difficult.
- 31. b** Gujarat has retained the best performing state recognition by topping the State Food Safety Index 2020-21. The index is made by Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- 32. d** Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying signed Memorandum of Understanding with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to support India's livestock sector.
- 33. b** Billionaire Gautam Adani said his group will invest \$20 billion over the next 10 years in renewable energy generation and component manufacturing and will produce the world's cheapest green electron.
- 34. a** India and Nepal began a 14-day combined battalion-level military exercise, called 'Surya Kiran', in Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh.
- 35. d** According to the available data, the Khavda renewable energy park in Kutch will be the world's largest and will finally generate around 30GW of clean energy and will be spread over 72,600 hectares.

- 36. b** The Union Steel Minister, Shri Ram Chandra Prasad Singh launched the Dashboard 2.0 of the Ministry of Steel developed by the NICSI.
- 37. b** Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been conferred with SDG Progress award for Bangladesh's steady progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the UN sponsored Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN).
- 38. b** Star Indian cueist Pankaj Advani grabbed his 24<sup>th</sup> world title when he triumphed at the IBSF 6-Red Snooker World Cup with a victory over Pakistan's Babar Masih in the final.
- 39. b** The first edition of the Himalayan Film Festival is held in the Leh, capital city of Ladakh from September 24.
- 40. c** The UN General Assembly has proclaimed 23 September as the International Day of Sign Languages in order to raise awareness of the importance of sign language in the full realization of the human rights of people who are deaf.
- 41. b** India's first cooperative conference was held at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi on September 25 where Union Home Minister and Minister for Cooperation Amit Shah will address more than 2,000 cooperative members.
- 42. b** Fuel retailer BPCL and SBI Card announced the launch of a co-branded RuPay contactless credit card, offering fuel and other benefits.
- 43. b** Somalia has hosted its first public film-screening in 30 years - raising hopes of a cultural revival in the war-ravaged country.
- 44. c** The Norges Bank become the first major Western central bank to raise interest rates following the onset of the coronavirus pandemic.
- 45. d** The EU aims to have a common charging port for mobile phones, tablets and headphones under a European Commission proposal presented in a world first, with the move impacting iPhone maker Apple more than its rivals.
- 46. a** India hosted the first India-United Kingdom Consular Dialogue through video conferencing. At this inaugural Consular Dialogue, the two sides discussed ways to further strengthen people-to-people contacts between the two countries as part of the India-UK 2030 roadmap.
- 47. c** India has conducted flight-test of the 5,000-km range Agni V missile with the 1<sup>st</sup> user trial of Intercontinental-Range Ballistic Missile (ICBM) indicating its early induction in the Armed Forces.
- 48. a** In a rare discovery, teeth of new species of hybodontshark of Jurassic age have been reported for the first time from Rajasthan's Jaisalmer.
- 49. a** Fairouz Faizah Beether of Bangladesh has been chosen for the 2021 Changemaker Award for her work promoting good health and well-being by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
- 50. d** World Rhino Day is marked every year on 22 September to create awareness about the different kinds of Rhinoceros species as well as the dangers they face.
- 51. d** India has been elected as the external auditor to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), a prestigious institution that promotes peaceful use of nuclear energy, for a period of six years from 2022 to 2027 after beating Germany and the United Kingdom among other countries. India's comptroller and auditor general GC Murmu was selected as the external auditor of IAEA.
- 52. b** Senior BJP MLA Nimaben Acharya has become the first woman Speaker of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly as the opposition Congress has supported her nomination for the post.

- 53. b** The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) is the United Nations agency responsible for the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism. UNWTO Headquarters are based in Madrid, Spain since 1976.
- 54. d** Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the 76<sup>th</sup> session of UN General Assembly.
- 55. d** NHPC's 510 MW Teesta-V Power Station located in the Himalayan State of Sikkim has been conferred with the prestigious Blue Planet Prize by International Hydropower Association (IHA), a London based non-profit membership association operating in 120 countries.
- 56. c** Debabrata Mukherjee, who is currently serving as Chief Marketing Officer at the United Breweries Group, has been elected as the chairman of Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC) for the year 2021-2022 the non-profit circulation-auditing organisation.
- 57. b** The International Astronomical Union has named a crater at the Moon's south pole after the Arctic explorer Matthew Henson, a Black man who in 1909 was one of the first people to stand at the very top of the world.
- 58. a** Gukesh, India's youngest-ever Grandmaster, will have little time to celebrate as he heads for his next event in Bulgaria. He will be featuring at the U-21 Junior Open event which will be held in Plovdiv, Bulgaria.
- 59. c** Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) officer Geeta Samota created history as she became the "fastest Indian" to summit two peaks located in Africa and Russia.
- 60. a** Former United Nations under-secretary-general and executive director of UN Women, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, has been named this year's recipient of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation 2021 Global Goalkeeper Award.
- 61. a** Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay stands among top 22 per cent in the 2022 QS Graduate Employability Rankings. As per the release, in last one year, IIT Bombay has moved up in the range from 111-120 to 101-110 rankings in QS Graduate Employability Rankings 2022.
- 62. c** Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur will inaugurate high power transmitters at world's highest radio station at Humbatingla in Kargil.
- 63. a** The Government will launch a month-long nationwide Clean India Drive to clean waste, mainly single-use plastic from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> October this year.
- 64. b** President Ram Nath Kovind conferred the National Service Scheme Awards for 2019-20 from Rashtrapati Bhawan through virtual mode.
- 65. a** Troops from China and Pakistan launched a joint anti-terror exercise as part of SCO Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure (RATS). The opening ceremony of the Joint Anti-Terrorist Exercise (JATE)-2021 was held at the National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC) Pabbi in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa.
- 66. c** Stressed loans, which are in default for more than 60 days or classified as non-performing assets (NPA), can be transferred to ARCs.
- 67. b** Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has taken a historic initiative to set up Odisha's first ever Tussar Silk Yarn Production Centre at Choudwar in Cuttack district.
- 68. b** The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) have joined hands to take up programmes and research to improve food, nutrition security and livelihoods in the country against the impacts of climate change.
- 69. d** Lewis Hamilton became the first Formula One driver to win 100 races with victory in the Russian Grand Prix to retake the championship lead from Max Verstappen.
- 70. c** Every year on 25 September, World Pharmacists Day is observed and celebrated across the world.