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# MANTHAN

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A General Awareness Weekly

23<sup>rd</sup> August to 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2021

# PREFACE

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**Dear Students,**

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

**Happy Reading**

**Team CL**



Career  
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## National



### Malabar Rebellion leaders to be removed from India's dictionary of martyrs: Report

- **Variyamkunnath Kunjahammed Haji and Ali Musailiar, popular leaders of the Malabar Rebellion, along with 387 other leaders of the pre-independence agitation, are set to be removed from the 'Dictionary of Martyrs of India's Freedom Struggle', jointly published by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India and Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR). The decision came after review of a three member panel, which reportedly stated that the Malabar Rebellion was not an independence struggle but focused on 'religious conversion'.**
- **The Malabar Rebellion, also known as Moplah Rebellion or Mappila Rebellion, which took place in 1921 has been acknowledged as a freedom struggle against the British by the Kerala government, while a section including right wing parties, consider the agitation communal in nature. Last year, the state witnessed a heated debate over the 1921 agitation after Malayalam filmmaker Aashiq Abu and actor Prithviraj said that they were coming up with a new film on Variyamkunnath Kunjahammed Haji.**
- **The names which were included as entries in the fifth volume of the Dictionary of Martyrs of India's Freedom Struggle, were reviewed by a three-member committee, which recommended the ouster of the names. The committee is reported to have observed that Variyamkunnath Kunjahammed Haji was not a freedom fighter, but a 'rioter' who established a 'Sharia court'. It is also reported to have said that many leaders of the Malabar Rebellion died due to various diseases and hence cannot be considered as 'martyrs'. Variyamkunnath Kunjahammed Haji was however executed by the British.**
- **The Malabar Rebellion (also called the Mappila or Moplah Rebellion by the British) broke out in the southern taluks of Malabar in August 1921. By the time the government troops captured Haji in January 1922, the rebellion had fizzled out. It largely took the shape of guerrilla-type attacks on janmis (feudal landlords, who were mostly upper caste Hindus) and the police and troops.**

**August 20, 2021, marks the centenary of the Malabar rebellion, which is also known as the Moplah (Muslim) riots. It had been an uprising of Muslim tenants against British rulers and local Hindu landlords. The uprising, which began on August 20, 1921, went on for several months marked by many bouts of bloodstained events. Some historical accounts state the uprising led to the loss of around 10,000 lives, including 2,339 rebels. The Khilafat movement launched in 1919 provided a fresh stimulus to the grievances of Mappilas. Now their sense of local injustice was sought to be linked with the pan-Islamic sentiments created in the aftermath of the collapse of the Ottoman Empire that rendered the Ottoman caliphate irrelevant. Haji was among those in the Malabar region inspired by the zeal of the agitation. The Lord Reading was Viceroy of India during the time Malabar Rebellion occurred in 1921**

### Hyderabad to get India's second international arbitration centre

- **Hyderabad is set to soon become the first city in India to establish an International Arbitration and Mediation Centre. The centre would resolve domestic disputes between local investors, and not just international arbitrations. Hyderabad to get India's second international arbitration centre.**

- **International Arbitration and Mediation Centre** would help investors, both foreign and domestic, settle disputes through arbitration in the shortest possible time. India already has more than 30 arbitral institutions including the Delhi International Arbitration Centre (DIAC), the Mumbai Centre for International Arbitration (MCIA) and the Gujarat Mediation and Arbitration Centre (GMAC).

In June 2021 a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Gujarat Maritime University and International Financial Services Centres Authority in GIFT (Gujarat International Finance Tec-City) City. The objective of the MoU is to jointly support the establishment of the Gujarat International Maritime Arbitration Centre (GIMAC). This will be the first centre of its kind in the country that will manage arbitration and mediation proceedings with disputes related to the maritime and shipping sector. The former Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on 8 October 2016 inaugurated India's first centre for international arbitration in Mumbai. It is the result of a joint effort between the domestic and international arbitration community, the business community and the Government of Maharashtra.

Hyderabad is the capital and largest city of the Indian state of Telangana and the de jure capital of Andhra Pradesh. It is on the Deccan Plateau along the banks of the Musi River, in the northern part of South India. Until the 19<sup>th</sup> century Hyderabad was known for the pearl industry and was nicknamed the "City of Pearls", and was the only Golconda Diamonds trading centre in the world. Operation Polo was the code name of the Hyderabad "police action" in September 1948, by the then newly independent Dominion of India against Hyderabad State. It was a military operation in which the Indian Armed Forces invaded the Nizam-ruled princely state, annexing it into the Indian Union.

### La Ganesan made Manipur Governor

- **Former Rajya Sabha member and BJP leader from Tamil Nadu La. Ganesan**, who was appointed as **Governor of Manipur**, has been sworn in as 17<sup>th</sup> Governor of the state at the Durbar Hall of Raj Bhavan in Imphal. Manipur high court chief justice PV Sanjay Kumar administered the oath of office and secrecy to Ganesan.
- **Chief minister Nongthombam Biren Singh**, deputy chief minister Yumnam Joykumar Singh, Speaker of Manipur assembly Y Khemchand Singh, council of ministers, Chief Secretary Dr Rajesh Kumar led other officials and senior citizens were present during the ceremony. **The Governor's post fell vacant after Najma Heptulla's retirement earlier August.**

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

### Wanchuwa festival

- **The Wanchuwa festival** is one of the most important celebrations in the life of the Tiwa tribe of Assam — a community that centers itself around a traditional form of agriculture.
- **The Tiwas practice Jhum or shifting cultivation**, where the land is first cleared of any vegetation that is later set on fire (slash-and-burn). The result is a more fertile soil that is freshly enriched with potash, all the more useful for a bountiful crop. As with most tribal cultures, with every harvest comes song and dance, and a handful of rituals, as these two girls clad in their native attire would show you.

Some of the major North East tribal festivals in India are: **Hornbill Festival, Nagaland, Bihu Festival, Assam, Ambubachi Mela, Assam, Wangala Festival, Meghalaya, Nongkrem Dance Festival, Meghalaya, Losar Festival, Arunachal Pradesh, Myoko Festival, Arunachal Pradesh, Torgya Festival, Arunachal Pradesh, Saga Dawa, Sikkim, Kharchi Puja, Tripura, Cheiraoba, Manipur and Chapchar Kut, Mizoram.**

## INA Ezhimala to conduct 8<sup>th</sup> edition of annual Dilli Series Sea Power Seminar

- **Indian Naval Academy (INA), Ezhimala will conduct the eighth edition of the prestigious annual Dilli Series Sea Power Seminar** on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of October.
- This year, the event will be hosted in the webinar format and will be streamed live on popular social media platforms. **The theme for this year's webinar is 'Maritime History of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)'**.
- The webinar is aimed to provide exposure to cadets on the maritime history of the Indian Ocean Region, under **three sub- themes, Early Maritime Interactions and relevance, India's Maritime Journey - From 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> Century and Takeaways in 21<sup>st</sup> Century.**

The **Indian Ocean** is the **third-largest of the world's oceanic divisions, covering 70,560,000 km<sup>2</sup> or 19.8% of the water on Earth's surface.** It is bounded by **Asia to the north, Africa to the west and Australia to the east.** To the south it is bounded by the Southern Ocean or Antarctica, depending on the definition in use. Along its core, the Indian Ocean has **some large marginal or regional seas such as the Arabian Sea, the Laccadive Sea, the Somali Sea, Bay of Bengal, and the Andaman Sea.** The **Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)** is an intergovernmental body created in 1984 to protect the interests of the Western Indian Ocean islands. **It consists of Madagascar, Comoros, La Réunion (French overseas territory), Mauritius and Seychelles.** The Commission has **five observers — India, China, European Union (EU), Malta and International Organisation of La Francophonie (OIF).**

## India's first eco-habitat gated community in Nizamabad

- **Realising the need to preserve the green cover and live amidst nature, people are creating Rurban Nest, touted to be the first eco-habitat gated community in the country, designed by Hyderabad-based Organo Rurban Living.**
- **The project, which aims to create a 'prosumer' (who produce and consume) community, is being developed in 9.2 acres of land, with ground coverage of 5,800 sq m. A total of 22 farm villas are being built to foster quintessential green living.** Each villa will have about 3,700-4,000 sq ft space. The Rs 78-crore project is targeted for completion by December 2022 and will be built by an independent developer as per Organo's design.

## Indian Navy with INS Ranvijay & INS Kora carries out Maritime Partnership Exercise with Philippine Navy

- **Two ships of the Indian Navy, namely INS Ranvijay and INS Kora who are on deployment to the Western Pacific carried out a Maritime Partnership Exercise with Frigate BRP Antonio Luna of the Philippine Navy in the West Philippine Sea.**
- **The joint evolutions conducted during the exercise included several operational manoeuvres and the participating ships of both navies were satisfied with the consolidation of interoperability achieved through this operational interaction at sea. INS Ranvijay and INS Kora are currently deployed to the Western Pacific with an aim to strengthen maritime security collaboration with partner nations.** Both navies remain committed to further strengthening bilateral collaboration in the maritime domain towards a collective aim of ensuring a stable, peaceful and prosperous Indo-Pacific.

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

## Govt launches new geospatial planning portal, 'Yuktdhara'

- **The Government has launched a new geospatial planning portal, 'Yuktdhara', that will help in facilitating new MGNREGA assets using remote sensing and geographic information system-based data.** The portal was launched by **Union Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Giriraj Singh.**

- The name given is very apt as the initiative is a culmination of **untiring joint efforts of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Ministry of Rural development made towards realising a Government to Government (G2G) service** for rural planning in support of decentralized decision making.
- **Yuktdhara based plans will be prepared by grassroot functionary and verified by appropriate authorities for relevance and resource allocation.** This will ensure quality of plan and enable a long term monitoring of the assets created over the years. Geo-tagging is a process of adding geographical information such as latitude and longitude to various media such as photos or videos.

**Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and MapmyIndia have partnered to come up with an indigenous geospatial portal known as ‘Bhuvan’.** This is in line with the above discussed new guidelines for the Geo-Spatial Sector in India. **Geospatial Portal (Bhuvan) is a type of web portal used to find and access geographic information (geospatial information) and associated geographic services (display, editing, analysis, etc.) via the Internet.**

### **1183 mobilisation camps organised across the country under the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**

- **As part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) celebrations, around 1183 ‘mobilisation camps’ were organised across the country under the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) programme** between 13<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> August, 2021, with much fervour commemorating 75 years of Indian independence.
- **State Rural Livelihood Missions (SRLMs), State Skills Missions (SSM) came together with various Project Implementation Agencies (PIAs) to make the all-India event a grand success.**
- **More than 371 PIAs successfully mobilised close to 83795 candidates during the week-long camps through the length and breadth of the country. The camps not only succeeded in generating interest in the DDU-GKY programme but also succeeded in enrolling close to 75660 candidates for upcoming trainings. The camps were organized both virtually and physically by the PIAs following all Covid safety protocols.**

**Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) launched on the 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2014, is a nationwide placement-linked skill training program funded by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India (GoI). DDUGKY seeks to build the placement-linked skills of the poor rural youth and place them in wage employment across various sectors of the economy. The programme has an outcome led design with guaranteed placements for at least 70% trained candidates. The DDU-GKY programme is being implemented in 27 states and 3 UTs for rural poor youth with an emphasis on placements.**

### **Govt launches major initiatives of National Education Policy 2020 to make education more inclusive**

- **The Government launched various initiatives of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 to make education more inclusive and prepare students for 21<sup>st</sup> century.** Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan along with Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Dr Virender Kumar launched these initiatives in New Delhi.
- **A booklet on one-year achievements of the National Education Policy Implementation was unveiled. The Ministers also launched the National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy Bharat FLN tools.**
- **Along with, ‘Priya’- Accessibility booklet, resources on DIKSHA platform, virtual school on National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), Alternate Academic Calendar 2021-22 of NCERT, were also launched to mark the occasion. The book “Priya -The Accessibility Warrior”, released will sensitize the students on accessibility related issues for Divyangs.**
- **While launching the Virtual School of NIOS, the education minister, said that this school is a new model of learning and is an example of how leveraging technology and innovation can facilitate greater inclusion in education. The school is the first-of-its-kind initiative in the country that will provide advanced digital learning platforms through Virtual Live Classrooms and Virtual Labs. The Government is working towards digitalization of education and strengthening the sector.**

- Some of the main features of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 are given below:
- **Universalization of education from preschool to secondary level with 100% Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in school education by 2030. To bring 2 crore out of school children back into the mainstream through an open schooling system.**
- **The current 10+2 system to be replaced by a new 5+3+3+4 curricular structure corresponding to ages 3-8, 8-11, 11-14, and 14-18 years respectively.**
- **It will bring the uncovered age group of 3-6 years under school curriculum, which has been recognized globally as the crucial stage for development of mental faculties of a child.**
- **It will also have 12 years of schooling with three years of Anganwadi/ pre schooling.**
- **Class 10 and 12 board examinations to be made easier, to test core competencies rather than memorised facts, with all students allowed to take the exam twice.**
- **School governance is set to change, with a new accreditation framework and an independent authority to regulate both public and private schools.**
- **Emphasis on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, no rigid separation between academic streams, extracurricular, vocational streams in schools.**
- **Vocational Education to start from Class 6 with Internships. Teaching up to at least Grade 5 to be in mother tongue/regional language. No language will be imposed on any student.**
- **Assessment reforms with 360 degree Holistic Progress Card, tracking Student Progress for achieving Learning Outcomes.**
- **Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education to be raised to 50% by 2035. The current Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education is 26.3%.**
- **Also, 3.5 crore seats to be added in higher education. Holistic Undergraduate education with a flexible curriculum can be of 3 or 4 years with multiple exit options and appropriate certification within this period.**
- **A new and comprehensive National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education (NCFTE) 2021, will be formulated by the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) in consultation with National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).**
- **By 2030, the minimum degree qualification for teaching will be a 4-year integrated B.Ed. degree.**
- **M.Phil courses will be discontinued and all the courses at undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD level will now be interdisciplinary.**
- **Academic Bank of Credits to be established to facilitate Transfer of Credits.**
- **Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) will be set up as a single umbrella body for the entire higher education, excluding medical and legal education. Public and private higher education institutions will be governed by the same set of norms for regulation, accreditation and academic standards. Also, HECI will be having four independent verticals namely,**
- **National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC) for regulation, General Education Council (GEC) for standard setting, Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC) for funding, and National Accreditation Council (NAC) for accreditation.**
- **Affiliation of colleges is to be phased out in 15 years and a stage-wise mechanism to be established for granting graded autonomy to colleges.**
- **Over a period of time, every college is expected to develop into either an autonomous degree-granting College, or a constituent college of a university.**
- **An autonomous body, the National Educational Technology Forum (NETF), will be created to provide a platform for the free exchange of ideas on the use of technology to enhance learning, assessment, planning, administration.**
- **National Assessment Centre- 'PARAKH' has been created to assess the students.**

- It also paves the way for foreign universities to set up campuses in India.
- It emphasizes setting up of Gender Inclusion Fund, Special Education Zones for disadvantaged regions and groups.
- National Institute for Pali, Persian and Prakrit, Indian Institute of Translation and Interpretation to be set up.
- It also aims to increase the public investment in the Education sector to reach 6% of GDP at the earliest. Currently, India spends around 4.6 % of its total GDP on education.

In July 2020, the Union Cabinet has approved the new National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 with an aim to introduce several changes in the Indian education system - from the school to college level. The NEP 2020 aims at making “India a global knowledge superpower”. The Cabinet has also approved the renaming of the Ministry of Human Resource Development to the Ministry of Education. The NEP cleared by the Cabinet is only the third major revamp of the framework of education in India since independence. The two earlier education policies were brought in 1968 and 1986.

### 1<sup>st</sup> edition of NERDSD Goal Index Report & Dashboard 2021-22 launched

- First edition of the North Eastern Region District Sustainable Development Goal Index Report and Dashboard 2021-22 was launched by NITI Aayog and Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region. This is the first of its kind region-wide district SDG index in the country.
- It is also a milestone in the efforts towards localising the Sustainable Development Goals in the 120 Districts of the eight States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.
- The index will facilitate in identifying crucial gaps and inform interventions to fast track progress towards achieving the SDGs. The North Eastern Region District SDG Index Report and Dashboard is a collaborative effort by NITI Aayog and DoNER Ministry.
- United Nation Development Programme is providing technical support. It measures the performance of the districts of the eight States of the North Eastern Region. The index is based on NITI Aayog’s SDG India Index.

Northeast India (officially North Eastern Region, NER) is the easternmost region of India representing both a geographic and political administrative division of the country. It comprises eight states – Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim. The states of North Eastern Region are officially recognised under the North Eastern Council (NEC), constituted in 1971 as the acting agency for the development of the north eastern states. Long after induction of NEC, Sikkim formed part of the North Eastern Region as the eighth state in 2002.

### India to host second UNWGIC next year

- India will host the second United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC) in October 2022, at Hyderabad, and the theme decided for the next year is- “Towards Geo-enabling the Global Village.”
- The global geospatial information community was informed that the second United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC), will be hosted by India, and their input was used for designing the content of the event. The curtain raiser was held on the sidelines of the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), eleventh session, which took place at the end of August.

The United Nation Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) organizes the United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC) every four years with the objectives of enhancing international collaboration among the Member States and relevant stakeholders in Geospatial information management and capacities. The first UNWGIC was organized by China in October 2018. The UNGGIM has entrusted the responsibility of organizing the second UNWGIC to India during October 2022. India will organize the event as a part of the “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (75 years of Indian Independence)”.

## ‘Operation Devi Shakti’: India evacuates more than 800 people from Afghanistan

- **India gave a name to its operation to evacuate its citizens from war-torn Afghanistan.** External affairs minister S Jaishankar called it ‘Operation Devi Shakti’ and saluted the efforts of Indian Air Force and Air India.
- **The Taliban seized control of Kabul on August 15.** Within two days of the Taliban’s capture of Kabul, **India evacuated 200 people**, including the Indian envoy and other staffers of its embassy in the Afghan capital. India has so far evacuated more than 800 people since the Taliban seized power in Afghanistan. Nearly 200 more Afghan Sikhs and Hindus are still stranded in Afghanistan.

**Operation Raahat (2015) - Operation by the Indian Armed Forces to evacuate Indian citizens and other foreign nationals from Yemen during the 2015 military intervention by Saudi Arabia and its allies in that country during the Yemeni Crisis. Operation Nistar(India) (2018) - Operation by the Indian Navy using INS Sunayna to evacuate Indian citizens from Yemen Island of Socotra who were stranded by Cyclone Mekenu. Operation Madad (2018) - Indian Navy had launched Operation Madad, major rescue, and relief operation in flood-hit Kerala. The operation was launched to assist state administration and undertake disaster relief operations due to flooding in many parts of Kerala.**

## Four-day Naval Exercise Malabar-2021 begins

- **Indian Navy is participating in the sea phase of Exercise Malabar-2021 along with the US Navy (USN), Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF) and the Royal Australian Navy (RAN).** The four-day exercise beginning includes **participation of INS Shivalik and INS Kadmatt and P8I patrol aircraft.**
- **MALABAR-21 would witness complex exercises including anti-surface, anti-air and anti-submarine warfare drill and other manoeuvres and tactical exercises.** The exercise will provide an opportunity for participating navies to derive benefit from each other’s expertise and experiences.
- The conduct of the exercise while observing health protocols during the COVID-19 global pandemic is a testimony to the synergy between the **participating navies and shared vision for a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region.**

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

## Kerala to get India’s first solar fishing boats

- **India’s first sea-going solar fishing boats will be ready by Dec 2021 at Vypeen and Munambam in Kerala.** **Funded by Shell Foundation, the charity arm of British-Dutch petroleum company,** five boats are in various stages of development and the works are done by a startup named NavAlt Solar and Electric Boats.
- **NavAlt made headlines when it launched a solar water taxi and the country’s first solar ferry in Kerala.** “As per estimates, a conventional small boat will consume 2,500 litres of fuel/year, which results in 5-6 tonnes of carbon emissions/year.

**Kerala is a state on the southwestern, Malabar Coast of India. It was formed on 1 November 1956 following the States Reorganisation Act by combining Malayalam-speaking regions. Kerala has the highest literacy rate 93.91% in the 2011 census; the highest life expectancy, 77 years; and the highest sex ratio, 1,084 women per 1,000 men. Arif Mohammad Khan is the current Governor of Kerala. Kerala is known as “God’s own country” and is one of the popular tourist destinations in India. Pinarayi Vijayan is the current Chief Minister of Kerala, in office since 25 May 2016. As per the census 2011, Haryana has the lowest child sex ratio i.e.834 per thousand males. Kerala is the largest producer of the rubber in the India.**

## PM Modi dedicates renovated complex of Jallianwala Bagh Smarak to nation

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi has dedicated to the nation the renovated complex of Jallianwala Bagh Smarak in Punjab's Amritsar, to mark 102 years of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.** The historic garden is a memorial of national importance, preserved in the memory of countless revolutionaries, sacrificers, fighters, who were killed in the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre, which occurred on the festival of Baisakhi on 13 April 1919.
- **Apart from this, PM Modi also inaugurated four museum galleries developed at the Smarak, to showcase the historical value of events that unfolded in Punjab in 1919.** PM also announced multiple development initiatives taken by the government to upgrade the complex.
- **The Jallianwala Bagh massacre, in which several hundreds of people were killed on this day in 1919 as a result of indiscriminate firing by the colonial forces, completed 102 years on 13 April 2021.** The Britishers had banned gatherings at the time and to punish civilians for their 'disobedience', **Brigadier-General Reginald Dyer ordered the army to fire into a crowd of thousands of unarmed Indians who had come together to celebrate the festival of Baisakhi, unaware of the order.**
- **The massacre of April 1919 wasn't an isolated incident, rather an incident that happened with a multitude of factors working in the background. To understand what transpired on April 13, 1919, one must look at the events preceding it.** The Indian National Congress had assumed self-governance would be granted once WWI ended but the Imperial bureaucracy had other plans.
- **The Rowlatt Act (Black Act) was passed on March 10, 1919, authorizing the government to imprison or confine, without a trial, any person associated with seditious activities. This led to nationwide unrest.**
- **Gandhi initiated Satyagraha to protest against the Rowlatt Act.** On April 7, 1919, Gandhi published an article called Satyagrahi, describing ways to oppose the Rowlatt Act.
- **The British authorities discussed amongst themselves the actions to be taken against Gandhi and any other leaders who were participating in the Satyagraha. Orders were issued to prohibit Gandhi from entering Punjab and to arrest him if he disobeyed the orders.**
- **Sir Michael O' Dwyer, the Lieutenant Governor of Punjab (1912-1919), suggested that Gandhi be deported to Burma but this was opposed by his fellow officials as they felt it might instigate the public.**
- **Dr Saifuddin Kitchlew and Dr Satyapal, the two prominent leaders who were a symbol of Hindu-Muslim unity, organised a peaceful protest against the Rowlatt Act in Amritsar. On April 9, 1919, Ram Naumi was being celebrated when O' Dwyer issued orders to the Deputy Commissioner, Mr Irving to arrest Dr Satyapal and Dr Kitchlew. On April 10, 1919, the infuriated protestors marched to the Deputy Commissioner's residence to demand the release of their two leaders. Here they were fired upon without any provocation. Many people were wounded and killed.**
- **On April 13, 1919, the public had gathered to celebrate Baisakhi. However, the British point of view, as seen from the documents present in the National Archives of India, indicates that it was a political gathering.**
- **In spite of General Dyer's orders prohibiting unlawful assembly, people gathered at Jallianwala Bagh, where two resolutions were to be discussed, one condemning the firing on April 10 and the other requesting the authorities to release their leaders.**
- **When the news reached him Brigadier-General Dyer, headed to the Bagh with his troops. He entered the Bagh, deployed his troops and ordered them to open fire without giving any warning. People rushed to the exits but Dyer directed his soldiers to fire at the exit.**
- **The firing continued for 10-15 minutes. 1650 rounds were fired. The firing ceased only after the ammunition had ran out. The total estimated figure of the dead as given by General Dyer and Mr Irving was 291. However, other reports including that of a committee headed by Madan Mohan Malviya put the figure of dead at over 500.**

The state capital of Punjab is Chandigarh, a Union Territory and also the capital of the neighboring state of Haryana. The five rivers from which the region took its name were Sutlej, Ravi, Beas, Chenab and Jhelum; Sutlej, Ravi and Beas are part of the Indian Punjab. Captain Amarinder Singh is currently the 26<sup>th</sup> Chief Minister of Punjab and Vijayendrapal Singh Badnore is the current Governor of Punjab.

## Navies of India and Germany carry out joint exercise in Gulf of Aden

- Navies of India and Germany carried out a joint exercise, which included helicopter landings and search and seizure operations, in Gulf of Aden near Yemen.
- The Indian Navy's frigate "Trikanth" exercised with German frigate "Bayern" in the Gulf of Aden. "The exercise included cross deck helo (helicopter) landings and visit board search and seizure operations,".
- The exercise between both the navies in the Indian Ocean leg of Indo-Pacific Deployment 2021 enhanced the interoperability and facilitated exchange of best practices between them in the maritime domain.

Navies of India and Germany conducted the first ever joint exercises in 2008 after both the nations signed an 'anti-piracy co-operation agreement' in 2006. Both the countries currently maintain an ongoing dialogue in the arena of commercial maritime security and cooperation in the area of anti-terrorism. In Europe, Germany is India's largest trading partner.

## Three cities in Andhra Pradesh certified 'Water Plus' tag

- The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has recognised three municipal corporations in Andhra Pradesh with 'Water Plus' certification. With this, Andhra Pradesh has become the first state to be recognized with more than one 'Water Plus' certified municipal corporation. Overall, nine municipalities across the country were awarded the 'Water Plus' certification.
- Tirupati Municipal corporation, Vijayawada Municipal corporation, and Greater Vishakhapatnam Municipal corporation (GVMC) were certified as 'Water Plus' under the Swachh Bharat Mission and Swachh Survekshan Assessment.
- As per the existing protocols prescribed by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, the Water plus certification is the next step after receiving Open Defecation Free (ODF/ODF+ /ODF++) status.
- The municipal corporations were awarded the 'Water Plus' tag for following practices such as safe discharge of sewage and faecal sludge along with septage, safe cleaning of sewer and septic tanks through mechanized equipment and availability of PPEs, sufficient capacity of desludging vehicles and jetting machines for cleaning of septic tanks, among others.

## President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurates Ramayana conclave in Ayodhya

- With the arrival of the Special presidential train at beautifully decorated Ayodhya railway station President Ram Nath Kovind become the first Indian President to visit the temple town. He Inaugurated the Ramayana conclave which will continue till 1<sup>st</sup> November this year in different parts of state.
- The President said that the projects related to the Ramayana circuit being developed under the 'Swadesh Darshan Scheme' of the Government of India which were inaugurated today, would provide various facilities to the tourists and devotees. The foundation stone for the expansion and renovation of the Tulsi Smarak Bhawan is also an important initiative.

## Ladakh gets its first highest mobile theatre in world at altitude of 11,562 ft

- Ladakh had its first mobile digital movie theatre at an altitude of 11,562 feet which makes it the highest theatre in the world. To bring cinema watching experience to most remote areas, a mobile theatre situated at an altitude of 11,562 feet was introduced in the Paldan area of Leh in Ladakh.

Ladakh is a region administered by India as a union territory, and constitutes a part of the larger Kashmir region, which has been the subject of dispute between India, Pakistan, and China since 1947. It was established on 31 October 2019, following the passage of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act. The largest town in Ladakh is Leh, followed by Kargil, each of which headquarters a district. The Leh district contains the Indus, Shyok and Nubra river valleys. The Kargil district contains the Suru, Dras and Zaskar river valleys. Radha Krishna Mathur is a retired Indian IAS officer who is serving as the first Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh. He retired as the Chief Information Commissioner of India (CIC) in November 2018.



### Malaysia's Ismail Sabri Yaakob sworn in as new PM

- Malaysia's Ismail Sabri Yaakob was sworn in as the country's ninth prime minister capping a week of political turmoil that forced his predecessor to resign amid a continuing health emergency because of the raging COVID-19 pandemic.
- Ismail Sabri is a veteran politician from the country's longest-ruling party United Malays National Organisation (UMNO), but analysts say he is a stop-gap leader with little chance of ending long-running turbulence.

Malaysia is a country in Southeast Asia. The federal constitutional monarchy consists of thirteen states and three federal territories, separated by the South China Sea into two regions, Peninsular Malaysia and Borneo's East Malaysia. Peninsular Malaysia shares a land and maritime border with Thailand and maritime borders with Singapore, Vietnam, and Indonesia. East Malaysia shares land and maritime borders with Brunei and Indonesia and a maritime border with the Philippines and Vietnam. Kuala Lumpur is the national capital. The Malaysian ringgit is the currency of Malaysia.

### India and Qatar conduct joint naval exercise in Persian Gulf

- The second edition of the joint naval exercise, Zair-Al-Bahr, between the Indian Navy and Qatar Emiri Naval Force (QENF) was conducted between August 9 and 14 in the Persian Gulf.
- This edition of the exercise included a three-day harbour phase followed by a two-day sea phase. The sea phase comprised of tactical maritime exercises involving surface action, anti-piracy exercises, air defence, maritime surveillance, boarding operations and SAR exercises.
- In the sea phase of the exercise, the Indian Navy's Stealth Frigate INS Trikand, QENF's missile boats of Barzan and Damsah class, fast-attack crafts of MRTTP 34 class and Rafale fighter aircraft participated.

Qatar is a country located in Western Asia, occupying the small Qatar Peninsula on the northeastern coast of the Arabian Peninsula. Doha is the capital and most populous city of Qatar. The Qatari riyal is the currency of the State of Qatar. Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdul Aziz al-Thani has been serving as Prime Minister of Qatar and Minister of the Interior since 28 January 2020.

### Bangladesh ranks first in the world for breastfeeding

- In a silver lining in the pandemic era, Bangladesh has ranked first in the world in supporting lactating women. The World Breastfeeding Trends Initiative (WBTi) has congratulated Bangladesh for having achieved the status of "green" nation, along with Sri Lanka.
- Only two countries out of 98 have achieved this status so far. Bangladesh got rank number one by scoring 91.5 out of 100. This is based on its performance on 10 indicators of policies and programs the WBTi uses to colour-code and rank countries. In an ascending order of performance, the colour codes are red, yellow, blue and green.
- "Bangladesh that scored 91.5/100 earned a green colour code, which implies the best level of performance. Launched in 2004, WBTi assists countries to assess the status of and benchmark the progress in implementation of the Global Strategy for Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) in a standard way.

Bangladesh is a country in South Asia. It shares land borders with India and Myanmar (Burma). Nepal, Bhutan and China are located near Bangladesh but do not share a border with it. Dhaka is its capital and largest city, followed by Chittagong, which has the country's largest port. Bangladeshi taka is the currency of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman often shortened as Sheikh Mujib or Mujib, was a Bangladeshi politician, statesman and Founding Father of Bangladesh who served as the first President and later as the Prime Minister of Bangladesh from 17 April 1971 until his assassination on 15 August 1975. Mohammad Abdul Hamid is the 16<sup>th</sup> and current President of Bangladesh, in office since April 2013. Sheikh Hasina is the current Prime Minister of the Bangladesh. India shares its longest international border with Bangladesh (4,096-kilometer) (2,545-mile).

### China, Pakistan, Thailand, Mongolia to hold military exercise

- The militaries of China, Pakistan, Mongolia and Thailand will take part in a multinational peacekeeping exercise to be organised by the People's Liberation Army in the country's central Henan province next month.
- The four countries will take part in the first multinational peacekeeping live exercise "Shared Destiny-2021" at the combined-arms tactical training base of the PLA in Henan's Queshan county.

### World's first crewless, zero emissions cargo ship will set sail in Norway

- A Norwegian company has created what it calls the world's first zero-emission, autonomous cargo ship. If all goes to plan, the ship will make its first journey between two Norwegian towns before the end of the year, with no crew onboard. Instead, its movements will be monitored from three onshore data control centers.
- It's not the first autonomous ship -- an autonomous ferry launched in Finland in 2018 -- but it is the first fully electric container ship, say its makers. Developed by chemical company Yara International, the Yara Birkeland was designed to reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides, which are toxic pollutants and greenhouse gases, and carbon dioxide, as well as moving freight away from roads to the sea.

### Expedition discovers island believed worlds northernmost

- The yet-to-be-named island is 780 meters north of Oodaaq, an island off Cape Morris Jesup, the northernmost point of Greenland and one of the most northerly points of land on Earth. A team of Arctic researchers from Denmark say they accidentally discovered what they believe is the world's northernmost island located off Greenland's coast.
- The scientists from the University of Copenhagen initially thought they had arrived at Oodaaq, an island discovered by a Danish survey team in 1978, to collect samples during an expedition that was conducted in July. They instead wound up on an undiscovered island further north.

Cape Morris Jesup is the northernmost point of mainland Greenland. It is 712 kilometres (442 mi) from the geographic North Pole. It is located in Johannes V. Jensen Land, about 20 km (12 mi) east of the mouth of Sands Fjord and west of Constable Bay.

### India, Maldives to sign pact on Greater Male Connectivity Project

- India and Maldives will sign a contract on the mega Greater Male Connectivity project (GMCP), the largest infrastructure project in the country. The project, funded by an Indian grant of \$100 m and a Line of Credit of \$400 m is also the biggest new development project by India in its neighbourhood in recent years.
- The project, the largest in the Indian Ocean atoll nation, will begin with the signing of the contract between the Maldives government and Indian infrastructure company AFCONS in Male. Called the Greater Male Connectivity Project, it will involve the construction of a 6.74 km long bridge and causeway link connecting the capital Male with the adjoining islands of Villingli, Gulhifalhu and Thilafushi.

Maldives is a South Asian country, located in the Indian Ocean, situated in the Arabian Sea. Male is the capital and most populated city, traditionally called the "King's Island" for its central location. Maldivian rufiyaa is the currency of the Maldives. Ibrahim Mohamed Solih is the current President of the Maldives.



## Finance minister Sitharaman launched National Monetisation Pipeline

- The government unveiled a four-year National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) worth Rs 6 lakh crore to unlock value in brownfield projects by engaging the private sector, transferring to them the rights but not the ownership in projects; and using the funds for infrastructure creation across the country.
- Roads, railways and power sector assets will comprise over 66 per cent of the total estimated value of the assets to be monetised, with the balance coming from sectors including telecom, mining, aviation, ports, natural gas and petroleum product pipelines, warehouses and stadiums. “The ownership of the assets remain with the Government (and) there should be mandatory handback,” the Finance Minister highlighted.
- Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched the National Monetisation pipeline (NMP), which will list out the government’s infrastructure assets to be sold over the next four-years.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said monetisation will create further value for infrastructure creation in the country and explore innovative ways of private participation without transfer of government ownership. “There is no land here, this entire (NMP) is talking about brownfield projects where investments have already been made, where there is a completed asset which is either languishing or it is not fully monetised or is under-utilised. So by bringing in private participation in this, you will be able to monetise it better and ensure further investment in infrastructure building,” she said.
- The NMP will run co-terminus with the National Infrastructure Pipeline of Rs 100 lakh crore announced in December 2019. The estimated amount to be raised through monetisation is around 14 per cent of the proposed outlay for Centre of Rs 43 lakh crore under NIP.
- NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar said infrastructure growth in India will be private sector-led and “this is the next step in mobilising private capital” without transferring ownership to private corporations or resorting to fire sale of assets.
- The top five sectors in terms of value capture around 83 per cent of the aggregate pipeline value, with roads covering 27 per cent, followed by railways 25 per cent, power 15 per cent, oil & gas pipelines 8 per cent and telecom 6 per cent. In terms of annual phasing by value, 15 per cent of assets with an indicative value of Rs 88,000 crore are envisaged to be rolled out in the current financial year.

In a monetisation transaction, the government is basically transferring revenue rights to private parties for a specified transaction period in return for upfront money, a revenue share, and commitment of investments in the assets. Real Estate Investment Trusts (Reits) and Infrastructure Investment Trusts (Invits), for instance, are the key structures used to monetise assets in the roads and power sectors. These are also listed on stock exchanges, providing investors liquidity through secondary markets as well. While these are a structured financing vehicle, other monetisation models on PPP (Public Private Partnership) basis include: Operate Maintain Transfer (OMT), Toll Operate Transfer (TOT), and Operations, Maintenance & Development (OMD). Greenfield Investment refers to investment in a manufacturing, office, or other physical company-related structure or group of structures in an area where no previous facilities exist. Brownfield investment term is used for purchasing or leasing existing production facilities to launch a new production activity. The projects which are modified or upgraded are called brownfield projects.

## Web version of e-GOPALA app unveiled to aid dairy farmers

- The web version of e-GOPALA application developed by National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has been launched on Saturday to aid dairy farmers. The App provides real-time information to dairy farmers for better productivity of dairy animals.
- The e-GOPALA platform helps farmers manage their livestock including buying and selling of disease-free germplasm in all forms (semen, embryos, etc); informs about availability of quality breeding services and guides farmers for animal nutrition, treatment of animals using appropriate Ayurvedic ethno veterinary medicine.

The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) is a statutory body set up by an Act of Parliament of India. It is under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India. The Board was created in 1965 to finance, support and support producer-owned and controlled organisations. Its programmes and activities seek to strengthen farmer cooperatives and support national policies that are favourable to the growth of such institutions. Cooperative principles and cooperative strategies are fundamental to the board's efforts. Parshottam Khodabhai Rupala is the current Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying in the Second Modi ministry. He is a member of Rajya Sabha, representing the Indian state of Gujarat.

## Paytm, HDFC Bank in payments tie-up

- Fintech major Paytm and the country's largest private bank HDFC Bank Ltd have entered into a strategic partnership for delivering financial solutions to end consumers and merchants across India.
- The fusion of HDFC Bank's network, products, and credit appraisal capabilities and Patym's technological platform will accelerate digital transformation in semi urban and rural India, while bringing more people into formal banking channels.
- The strategic partnership with the country's largest private bank comes ahead of the proposed initial public offering (IPO) of Paytm, through which the company plans to raise ₹ 16,600 crore before the end of the calendar year. The strategic partnership will see the two institutions launch innovative products across digital payments, lending and point of sale (POS) solutions.

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

## Mashreq Bank and NIPL to offer acceptance of UPI in the UAE

- NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL), the International arm of National Payment Corporation of India has partnered with Mashreq, one of the leading financial institutions in the UAE, to offer acceptance of its mobile-based real-time payment system, Unified Payments Interface (UPI), in the UAE.
- UPI is an instant real-time payment system developed by National Payments Corporation of India facilitating inter-bank transactions. This partnership will enable over 2 million Indians who travel to UAE for business or leisure purposes every year to pay for their purchases seamlessly using UPI-based mobile applications across shops and merchant stores in the UAE.

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) is an umbrella organisation for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India. Founded in 2008, the NPCI is a not-for-profit organisation registered under section 8 of the Companies Act 2013, established by Reserve Bank of India & IBA. It is headquartered in Mumbai.

## Infosys becomes 4<sup>th</sup> most valued company in India to join \$100 billion market cap club

- Infosys Ltd became the fourth Indian company to touch a market valuation of \$100 billion. The IT services major has joined the league of TCS, Reliance Industries and HDFC Bank for crossing the \$100 billion-mark in terms of market capitalisation (m-cap).

- According to the latest m-cap data, **RIL is the most-valued firm at Rs 13.7 trillion**, followed by **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) at Rs 13.4 trillion** and **HDFC Bank at Rs 8.42 trillion**.

### RBI to put in place a “PRISM” to strengthen compliance by lenders

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is putting in place a Platform for Regulated Entities for Integrated Supervision and Monitoring (PRISM)**, a web-based end-to-end workflow automation system, to strengthen compliance by supervised entities (SEs).
- This comes in the **backdrop of continuous engagement and more frequent reviews of risk profiles and supervisory assessments** being envisaged for supervised entities, including banks and non-banking financial companies.

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.

### Colgate-Palmolive launches the first-ever recyclable toothpaste tubes in India; aims to achieve 100% recyclability across its oral care portfolio

- **Colgate-Palmolive has launched the first-of-its-kind recyclable toothpaste tubes in India** that will be available nationally. Launching the initiative in partnership with **EPL Limited (Formerly known as Essel Propack Limited)**, Colgate is manufacturing recyclable tubes for its **Colgate Active Salt and Colgate Vedshakti toothpaste portfolio**.
- **Colgate Active Salt, combines salt with calcium and minerals to make teeth strong and gums healthy**. Whereas the premium Ayurvedic toothpaste Colgate Vedshakti offers the goodness of a unique blend of powerful Ayurvedic ingredients.
- These toothpaste tubes launched nationally with recyclable packaging will **contain the identifiable Recyclable logo to help its customers differentiate between the packaging effectively**.

### ReNew Power becomes first Indian renewable company to list on Nasdaq

- **ReNew Power Pvt Ltd (ReNew Power) has completed “business combination” with US-based RMG Acquisition Corporation II (RMG II)**. “As a result of the business combination, RMG II has become a wholly-owned subsidiary of ReNew Energy Global plc (the post-combination entity referred...as ReNew,” ReNew Power said in a statement.
- **ReNew Power in February had announced merger with blank-check company RMG II, giving India’s biggest renewable power producer an enterprise value of \$8 billion and listing on NASDAQ**.

The Nasdaq Stock Market is an American stock exchange based in New York City. It is ranked second on the list of stock exchanges by market capitalization of shares traded, behind the New York Stock Exchange. The exchange platform is owned by Nasdaq, Inc., which also owns the Nasdaq Nordic stock market network and several U.S. stock and options exchanges.

### Centre approves IBA’s proposal to increase family pension to 30% of last salary drawn

- **The Central Government has approved to increase the family pension of bank employees to 30 per cent of last salary drawn**.
- This move would **make family pension go up to as much as 30,000 rupees to 35,000 rupees per family of bank employees**. This proposal was given by the **Indian Banks’ Association’s proposal in order to provide relief to families of Bank Employees**.

**Indian Banks' Association (IBA), formed on 26 September 1946 as a representative body of management of banking in India operating in India - an association of Indian banks and financial institutions based in Mumbai. With an initial membership representing 22 banks in India in 1946, IBA currently represents 247 banking companies operating in India. IBA was formed for development, coordination and strengthening of Indian banking, and assist the member banks in various ways including implementation of new systems and adoption of standards among the members. On 20 November 2020, Union Bank of India's MD & CEO Rajkiran Rai was elected as the new Chairman of IBA.**

### **RBI panel suggests 4-tier structure for urban co-op banks**

- **A committee set up by the Reserve Bank of India to look into the functioning of urban cooperative banks (UCB) has suggested a four-tiered structure to regulate them based on their size of deposits and has prescribed different capital adequacy and regulatory norms for them.**
- **The committee has also suggested setting up an umbrella organisation with a minimum capital of Rs 300 crore to oversee UCBs, besides suggesting that the entities be allowed to open more branches if they meet all regulatory requirements.**
- **In February, the RBI had constituted the expert committee on primary (urban) co-operative banks under the chairmanship of N. S. Vishwanathan, former RBI deputy governor.**
- **On consolidation of UCBs, the panel said the RBI should be largely neutral to voluntary on consolidation except where it is suggested as a supervisory action. The powers to order compulsory amalgamation should be used as the backstop.**

### **Labour Ministry launched National Database for Unorganised Workers**

- **The labour ministry launched the National Database for Unorganised Workers (NDUW) or e-Sharm portal on August 26, bringing millions of unorganised workers in the country on a common platform.**
- **It is estimated that 92% of India's workforce of 500 million is unorganised, often deprived of minimum wages and any form of social security. This will be a single-point reference to help authorities reach out to and track workers in the informal sector, and offer welfare in times of crisis.**
- **The labour minister Bhupinder Yadav reached out to all trade unions to mobilise support and awareness about the portal among workers. The database will include construction workers, migrant workers, gig and platform workers, street vendors, domestic workers, agriculture workers, migrant workers and similar other sub-groups of unorganised workers.**

### **FM Nirmala Sitharaman launches EASE 4.0, reviews performance of public sector banks**

- **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman undertook the annual performance review of the public sector banks (PSBs) and launched the EASE 4.0 or Enhanced Access and Service Excellence – a common reform agenda for PSBs aimed at institutionalising clean and smart banking.**
- **The proposal for enhancement of family pension and employer's contribution under the NPS is approved by the finance minister. The benefits would now accrue to family pensioners.**
- **The cap on pay is removed and a uniform slab of 30 per cent will be in force. The pension can go as high as Rs 35,000. There will also be a 40 per cent rise in the contribution of employer (Banks) in NPS. It will go up from 10 per cent to 14 per cent.**

### **NE Region District SDG Index: East Sikkim amongst 103 districts across eight states**

- **East Sikkim has stood first amongst 103 districts across eight north-eastern states followed by districts Gomati and north Tripura in the second position in the North Eastern Region District SDG Index, the NITI Aayog said.**
- **In the composite index, all districts in Sikkim and Tripura fall in the front runner category and there are no districts in the aspirant or achiever categories, the index unveiled by NITI Aayog and ministry of DoNER with technical support from UNDP showed.**

## HDFC Bank becomes India's first lender to exclusively list \$1 billion AT1 bonds in IFSC

- **HDFC Bank** became India's first lender to exclusively list its 3.7 percent \$1 billion foreign currency additional tier-I (AT1) bonds in International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) of Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT).
- "The primary listing of HDFC AT 1 Bonds demonstrates the competitiveness of both the IFSC Exchanges; India INX and NSE IFSC internationally. Global rating agency Moody's Investors Service has given a Ba3 rating to the bond issue, three notches above baseline for the largest private sector lender by assets.

**HDFC Bank Limited** is an Indian banking and financial services company headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra. **HDFC Bank** is India's largest private sector lender by assets. In 1994 HDFC Bank was incorporated, with its registered office in Mumbai, India. It is the largest bank in India by market capitalisation as of March 2020. Sashidhar Jagdishan is the MD of HDFC Bank.

## 76 firms get land at UP's first handicrafts park near Noida airport

- In line with the Uttar Pradesh government's 'One District One Product' initiative, the state's first handicrafts park is planned near the upcoming Noida International Airport and 76 firms have been allotted land for setting up their factories and outlets.
- Fifty acres of land under the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) area in Sector 29 has been allotted against an investment of Rs 403 crore. The maiden handicrafts park of UP will feature workshops, factories and outlets making, showcasing and selling a wide variety of handicrafts to domestic and global visitors. It is aimed at conserving the traditional crafts and providing employment to artisans of the state.

## Agriculture minister Tomar launches national food and nutrition campaign

- **Union agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar** launched a national food and nutrition campaign for farmers. "Efforts are also being made to make agriculture and farmers connected with new technology. We have expertise in production, but it is also important to manage this abundance. It is the responsibility of the farmers along with the government to ensure that our products should be of better quality, meet global standards.

## India pips US to rank second in list of most attractive manufacturing hub globally; China first

- **India** has overtaken the United States (US) to become the second-most sought-after manufacturing destination globally, driven mainly by cost competitiveness, according to real estate consultant Cushman & Wakefield. **China** remains at number one position, the consultant said in its 2021 Global Manufacturing Risk Index, which assessed the most advantageous locations for global manufacturing among 47 countries in Europe, the Americas and Asia-Pacific (APAC).

## RBI announces issue price for Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2021-22 - Series VI

- **Reserve Bank of India** has announced issue price for Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2021-22 - Series VI. RBI has fixed price of 4,732 Rupee per gram for bonds which will be available for subscription and will remain open till 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021.
- A discount of Rupees 50 will be given to investors applying in online mode. The nominal value of the bond is based on the simple average closing price published by India Bullion and Jewellers Association for gold of 999 purity of the last three business days.

**Sovereign gold bonds** are issued by the RBI on behalf of the government. They are government securities denominated in grams of gold. They are substitutes for holding physical gold. The sovereign gold bond scheme was launched in November 2015. Its objective is to reduce the demand for physical gold and shift a part of the domestic savings (used for the purchase of gold) into financial savings. The minimum permissible investment unit is 1 gram of gold. Sovereign gold bonds have a tenure of eight years, with exit options are available from the fifth year. The government will pay an interest at the rate of 2.5% per annum. The interest is payable semi-annually.



## Inventions/Discoveries

### IIT Madras develops India's first indigenous motorised wheelchair vehicle

- **Indian Institute of Technology, Madras** has developed India's first indigenous motorised wheelchair vehicle that can be used not only on roads but even on uneven terrains. Called 'NeoBolt', it has a maximum speed of 25 kmph and travels up to 25 km per charge.
- It empowers wheelchair users with a convenient, safe and low-cost mode of outdoor mobility when compared to cars, auto rickshaws or modified scooters. NeoBolt is powered by a Lithium-Ion Battery that will give 25 Kms for every charge.
- Throughout the development process, the IIT-M Researchers collaborated extensively with organisations and hospitals working among people with locomotor disability and built the products factoring in their experiences and making constant design adjustments.

A lithium-ion battery or Li-ion battery is a type of rechargeable battery. Lithium-ion batteries are commonly used for portable electronics and electric vehicles and are growing in popularity for military and aerospace applications. A prototype Li-ion battery was developed by Akira Yoshino in 1985, based on earlier research by John Goodenough, M. Stanley Whittingham, Rachid Yazami and Koichi Mizushima during the 1970s–1980s, and then a commercial Li-ion battery was developed by a Sony and Asahi Kasei team led by Yoshio Nishi in 1991

### India's highest herbal park inaugurated near Indo-China border in Uttarakhand

- India's highest altitude herbal park has been inaugurated at Mana village in the Chamoli district of Uttarakhand. The highest altitude herbal park is situated at a height of 11,000 feet and is close to the Indo-China border. Mana is the last Indian village in Chamoli bordering China and is adjacent to Badrinath temple. The herbal park has around 40 species found in high altitude alpine areas in the Himalayan region.
- The main aim of this high altitude herbal park is to conserve various medicinally and culturally important alpine species and to do research on their propagation and habitat ecology. It has been developed in three years under the central government's Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) scheme.

To compensate the loss of forest area and to maintain the sustainability, the Government of India came up with a well-defined Act, known as CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority). The law establishes the National Compensatory Afforestation Fund under the Public Account of India, and a State Compensatory Afforestation Fund under the Public Account of each state. These Funds will receive payments for: (i) compensatory afforestation, (ii) net present value of forest (NPV), and (iii) other project specific payments. The National Fund will receive 10% of these funds, and the State Funds will receive the remaining 90%. According to the Act's provision, a company diverting forest land must provide alternative land to take up compensatory afforestation. For afforestation, the company should pay to plant new trees in the alternative land provided to the state.

## Indian scientists discover 'mermaid' plant species

- **Indian scientists** have discovered a new plant species in India's Andaman's archipelago. Biologists found marine green algae during a trip to the island in 2019.
- **Identification is laborious**, and it took the scientists nearly two years to confirm that the species had been discovered for the first time. Scientists say first discovery of a species of algae in the islands in nearly four decades.

## Northern Coalfield Limited (NCL), has become the first public sector undertaking (PSU) in India to vaccinate its entire workforce against the novel coronavirus

- Companies have been moving quickly to vaccinate their employees so that normal operations can be restored. **Northern Coalfield Limited (NCL), a subsidiary of Coal India, has become the first public sector undertaking (PSU) in India to vaccinate its entire workforce and their family members against the novel coronavirus.**
- According to Ministry of Coal, NCL has a strength of around 50,000 people. It includes more than 13,000 full time employees, 16,000 contract workers and their 20,000 family members residing in and around its operation areas. **NCL is Singrauli based Miniratna company owned by the Government of India.** It operates with 10 highly mechanised opencast coal mines and accounts for 15 per cent of national coal production. The company had produced over 115 million tonnes of coal during the last financial year.

## Blue Origin launched New Shepard spacecraft

- **Jeff Bezos' space flight company Blue Origin has launched its New Shepard (NS) spacecraft from West Texas.** The spacecraft will fly a NASA lunar landing technology demonstration on the exterior of the booster, and commercial and NASA-supported payloads inside the crew capsule. Both elements of the vehicle had come back down to Earth for soft, parachute-aided touchdowns by about 11 minutes after liftoff. **This mission was the 17<sup>th</sup> overall for New Shepard and therefore carried the designation NS-17.**
- The company's reusable New Shepard rocket-capsule combo aced its latest mission on Aug. 26, an **uncrewed jaunt that carried a variety of scientific experiments, as well as some pioneering artwork, to and from suborbital space.**
- It was the **first flight for Blue Origin since July 20, when company founder Jeff Bezos and three other people launched on the first-ever crewed New Shepard mission.** Blue Origin also operates a second New Shepard, known as RSS First Step; that vehicle carried Bezos, his brother Mark, 18-year-old Dutch student Oliver Daemen and 82-year-old aviation pioneer Wally Funk on July 20.

Amazon.com, Inc. is an American multinational technology company based in Seattle, Washington, which focuses on e-commerce, cloud computing, digital streaming, and artificial intelligence. It is one of the Big Five companies in the U.S. information technology industry, along with Google, Apple, Microsoft, and Facebook. Amazon was founded by Jeff Bezos in Bellevue, Washington, on July 5, 1994. It started as an online marketplace for books but expanded to sell electronics, software, video games, apparel, furniture, food, toys, and jewelry.

## Fossil of previously unknown four-legged whale found in Egypt

- **Scientists had discovered the 43 million-year-old fossil of a previously unknown amphibious four-legged whale species in Egypt** that helps trace the transition of whales from land to sea. **The newly discovered whale belongs to the Protocetidae, a group of extinct whales that falls in the middle of that transition.**
- **Its fossil was unearthed from middle Eocene rocks in the Fayum Depression in Egypt's Western Desert** – an area once covered by sea that has provided a rich seam of discoveries showing the evolution of whales – before being studied at **Mansoura University Vertebrate Palaeontology Centre (MUVF).**
- **The new whale, named Phiomictetus anubis, had an estimated body length of some three metres and a body mass of about 600 kg,** and was likely a top predator, the researchers said. Its partial skeleton revealed it as the most primitive protocetid whale known from Africa.

## Defence Ministry signs contract with Mahindra Defence Systems Ltd for procurement of 14 Integrated Anti-Submarine Warfare Defence Suites

- Defence Ministry **signed contract with Mahindra Defence Systems Limited for procurement of 14 Integrated Anti-Submarine Warfare Defence Suites** at a cost of around **one thousand 350 crore rupees** in New Delhi.
- **The contract with an Indian firm under the Buy and Make (Indian) category of defence procurement** is an important **boost to country's Atmanirbhar Bharat mission**. It will provide a major fillip to indigenous defence industry in technology development and production. The system will enhance anti-submarine warfare capability of Indian Navy.

## IIM Ahmedabad and Bank of America partner to set up a Centre for Digital Transformation

- **Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA) has partnered with Bank of America to launch a Centre for Digital Transformation (CDT).**
- **The Centre aspires to become a knowledge hub for academia, policymaking, and the private sector** by facilitating cutting-edge research on digital transformation and innovation.

## Assam's Deepar Beel Wildlife Sanctuary breathes easy after eco-sensitive zone notification

- **The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change notified the eco-sensitive zone of the Deepar Beel Wildlife Sanctuary on the south-western edge of Guwahati. Deepar Beel is one of the largest freshwater lakes in Assam and the State's only Ramsar site** besides being an Important Bird Area.
- **The wetland has for decades been threatened by a railway track** — set to be doubled and electrified — on its southern rim, a garbage dump, and encroachment from human habitation and commercial units. The notification specified an area “to an extent varying from 294 metres to 16.32 km” as the eco-sensitive zone, with the total area being 148.9767 sq. km.

## Indian researchers discover three supermassive black holes

- **Indian researchers have discovered three supermassive black holes from three galaxies merging together to form a triple active galactic nucleus (AGN), that has a much-higher-than-normal luminosity. The rare occurrence in the nearby universe indicates that small merging groups are ideal laboratories to detect multiple accreting supermassive black holes and increases the possibility of detecting such occurrences.**
- **Supermassive black holes are difficult to detect because they do not emit any light, but can reveal their presence by interacting with their surroundings.** When the dust and gas from the surroundings fall onto a supermassive black hole, some of the mass is swallowed by the black hole, but some of it is converted into energy and emitted as electromagnetic radiation that makes the black hole appear very luminous.
- **A team of researchers from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics came upon the rare occurrence while studying a known interacting galaxy pair, NGC7733, and NGC7734. The researchers detected unusual emissions from the centre of NGC7734 and a large, bright clump along the northern arm of NGC7733. As they dug deeper, they found that the clump is moving with a different velocity compared to the galaxy NGC7733 itself indicating that it was not part of the galaxy instead it was a small separate galaxy behind the arm.**
- **Led by a team comprising Jyoti Yadav, Mousumi Das, and Sudhanshu Barway from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, researchers used data from the Ultra-Violet Imaging Telescope (UVIT) onboard the first Indian space observatory ASTROSAT, the European integral field optical telescope called MUSE mounted on the Very Large Telescope (VLT) in Chile and infrared images from the optical telescope (IRSF) in South Africa.**
- **“The UV and H-alpha images also supported the presence of the third galaxy by revealing star formation along with the tidal tails, which could have formed from the merger of NGC7733N with the larger galaxy,”** researchers said in a statement. The IIA team explains that **if the two galaxies collide, their black hole will also come closer by transferring the kinetic energy to the surrounding gas. The distance between the black holes decreases with time until the separation is around a parsec (3.26 light-years).**



## Sports Personalities in News

### Tokyo Paralympics: Bhavinaben Patel becomes first Indian to secure silver in TT

- Indian table tennis player Bhavinaben Patel signed off with a historic silver medal in her maiden Paralympic Games after going down 0-3 to world number one Chinese paddler Ying Zhou in the women's singles class 4 final.
- The 34-year-old Patel's impressive run at the Games ended with a 7-11 5-11 6-11 loss to Zhou, a two-time gold medallist, in the women's singles summit clash which lasted 19 minutes. Athletes in Class 4 category have fair sitting balance and fully functional arms and hands. Their impairment may be due to a lower spinal-cord lesion or cerebral palsy.

### Tokyo Paralympics: Sumit Antil clinches Gold in Men's Javelin Throw F64 event

- In Tokyo Paralympics, India secured its 2<sup>nd</sup> Gold medal. India's Sumit Antil set a new world record to win the gold medal in the men's javelin throw (F64) event at Tokyo. With the best throw of 68.85 metres in the final, he took India's medal count to seven.
- The 23-year-old from Sonapat in Haryana, who lost his left leg below the knee after he was involved in a motorbike accident in 2015, sent the spear to 68.55m in his fifth attempt, which was the best of the day by quite a distance and a new world record.

### Shaili Singh wins Silver medal in Long Jump at U20 World Athletics Championships in Nairobi

- Long jumper Shaili Singh won the silver medal at the U-20 World Athletics Championships in Nairobi. She missed Gold medal by a mere 1 centimetre.

### G Sathiyam wins Czech International Open crown, third ITTF title in career

- India's top paddler G Sathiyam beat Yevhen Ryshchepa of Ukraine comprehensively in the final of the Czech International table tennis tournament at Olomouc in Czech Republic. This is only his third ITTF Challenger title following triumphs in Belgium Open 2016 and Spanish Open 2017.

### Rajnath Singh inaugurates Army Sports Institute's stadium in Pune named after Neeraj Chopra

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the Army Sports Institute's stadium in Pune named after Olympic gold medal winner Neeraj Chopra.

### MP govt announces state level sports awards

- Madhya Pradesh government announced state level sports awards. 28 sportspersons given Sports Awards in different categories. Tokyo Olympic bronze medal winner India hockey team's Vivek Sagar is among 10 sportspersons, who have been selected for Vikram award. The Life Time Achievement Award for the year 2020 is being given to Padmashri Mr Abhay Chhajlani. Director Sports and Youth Welfare Pawan Jain informed that for the year 2020, 13 Eklavya, 10 Vikram, 3 Vishwamitra, 1 Prabhas Joshi award and 1 Life Time Achievement Award have been announced.

# MISCELLANEOUS

## Keralites celebrate their biggest festival 'Thiruvonam' across the globe

- **Keralites all over the world celebrated Thiruvonam, the most important day of the Onam festival.** With Covid 19 cases showing no signs of abatement, the celebrations remained highly subdued. For the second consecutive year, Kerala celebrated Onam in the midst of a pandemic. The festival usually brings forth a multitude of colours and flavours, but this time, the exuberance and grandeur associated with it was clearly missing.
- The warnings by the state Health authorities made people to stay away from crowds and massive celebrations. Many confined themselves to their homes. **The festivities at the Thrikkakara Temple in Kochi, associated with the legend of Mahabali, remained low key.** The Onam feast, a regular feature of the festival held at the temple was cancelled due to the prevailing Covid 19 situation.

## UP govt names two medical institutions after Kalyan Singh

- **The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to name two medical institutes of the state after former chief minister Kalyan Singh** who died after a prolonged illness at Lucknow's Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS).
- "Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has decided to **name Bulandshahr's medical college and Lucknow's Super Speciality Cancer Institute after Kalyan Singh.** After the decision, the two institutes would now be known as **Kalyan Singh Rajkiya Medical College, Bulandshahr and Kalyan Singh Super Speciality Cancer Institute, Chak Ganjaria, Lucknow**".

## BHU starts India's first Hindu Studies course

- **Banaras Hindu University (BHU) started an MA course on Hindu Studies from this academic year. This is India's first such course** and it is being conducted at BHU's Bharat Adhyayan Kendra (BAK) in its Faculty of Arts. It will be run by the Philosophy, Sanskrit, Archaeology, and Vedic Veda Vigyan departments, and the Bharat Study Centre.

## Nityanand Rai attends UNESCAP Regional Conversation Series 2021

- **Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai attended the UNESCAP Regional Conversation Series 2021: Ministerial Panel on Disaster, Climate and Health Resilience,** through video conferencing. The conference was also attended by ministers from Australia, China, Indonesia, Japan, the Maldives, Papua New Guinea and Thailand.

## Gissar Military Aerodrome — India's first overseas base that came to the rescue in Afghan crisis

- **Gissar Military Aerodrome (GMA), India's first overseas base operated along with Tajikistan and aimed at giving a strategic heft to their military operations and training,** has come in handy in India's effort to evacuate hundreds of its citizens and Afghans from Kabul.

## India's First Centralised AC Railway Terminal in Bengaluru

- **Bengaluru's Byappanahali terminal, which will be India's first air-conditioned railway station,** is likely to begin operations from September 2021. **The work of the Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal (Byappanahalli third coaching terminal) was completed** nearly six months ago and **Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw is likely to visit it on September 1 for the inauguration,** reported the Times of India.

## Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu launches Vaccinate India Programme in Bengaluru

- **Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu has launched the Vaccinate India Programme in Bengaluru.** The programme is **organised by the Planning, Programme Implementation and Statistics department along with Sustainable Goals centre and Give India Foundation.** It aims at educating the masses about the necessity to vaccinate and clear misconceptions.

## Ajay Kumar appointed as new RBI ED

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Ajay Kumar as its executive director (ED) with effect from August 20, 2021. As ED Kumar will oversee the departments of currency management, foreign exchange and premises.**
- **Kumar has been with the RBI for over 30 years serving in different departments including foreign exchange, banking supervision, financial inclusion, currency management and other areas.** Prior to being promoted as ED, Kumar was heading the New Delhi regional office of the RBI as Regional Director.

## Former Uttar Pradesh chief minister Kalyan Singh dies at 89

- **Former Uttar Pradesh chief minister and former Rajasthan Governor Kalyan Singh passed away at Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences in Lucknow due to sepsis and multi-organ failure.**
- **Mr Singh was Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state, twice -- June 1991 to December 1992 and September 1997 to November 1999.** He also served as Governor of Rajasthan between 2014 and 2019.
- **His first term as Chief Minister is remembered for the demolition of the long-disputed Babri mosque in Ayodhya on December 6, 1992.** This incident sent shock waves across the country and is widely viewed as a milestone in modern India's socio-political history and in the rise of his party, the BJP.
- **Mr Singh resigned as Chief Minister immediately following the demolition while the then President Shankar Dayal Sharma also dismissed the Uttar Pradesh government on the same day.** Along with other BJP stalwarts like LK Advani and Murli Manohar Joshi, Mr Singh was charged with conspiracy over the incident.

## Kathy Hochul becomes New York's first female governor

- **Kathy Hochul became the first female governor of New York taking control of a state government desperate to get back to business after months of distractions over sexual harassment allegations against Andrew Cuomo.**
- **The Democrat from western New York was sworn in as governor in a brief, private ceremony overseen by the state's chief judge, Janet DiFiore.**

# AWARDS

## Resolution in US Congress to award highest civilian award to Mahatma Gandhi

- A US lawmaker from New York reintroduced a resolution in the US House of Representatives to posthumously award the country's highest civilian award to Mahatma Gandhi in recognition of his promotion of peace and nonviolence.
- The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest civilian award in the United States. Gandhi would be the first Indian to receive a Congressional Gold Medal, an honour bestowed upon such great figures as George Washington, Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King Jr., Mother Teresa, and Rosa Parks.

## Marion Cotillard to be honoured with lifetime achievement award at San Sebastian film festival

- Oscar-winning French actress Marion Cotillard will receive a lifetime achievement award at Spain's San Sebastian film festival next month.
- The 45-year-old, who won the Best Actress Academy Award for her role as Edith Piaf in 'La Vie en Rose' will collect the festival's Donostia award during the event's opening ceremony.

## Dr. B K Misra first Indian to receive AANS International Lifetime Achievement Award

- Well-known Mumbai-based neurosurgeon Dr. B.K. Misra has been conferred the prestigious American Association of Neurological Surgeons 'International Lifetime Achievement Award in Neurosurgery'.
- He becomes the first Indian to receive the AANS honour which was conferred on him at a virtual ceremony during the AANS Annual Scientific Meeting 2021 held in Orlando.

## Sri Basava International Award for seer of Bhalki Hiremath

- Karnataka government has selected Sri Basavalinga Pattaddevaru, senior seer of Bhalki Hiremath, for the prestigious Sri Basava International Award. Minister for Kannada and Culture V. Sunil Kumar will present the award at Ravindra Kalakshetra in Bengaluru. The septuagenarian seer has spent over five decades in the Lingayat religious institution in the Bidar district.
- The centre was set up in 2003 when an abandoned baby from Ujani village near Aurad in Bidar district was adopted. The seer moved the court to adopt the child. The Central and State governments later recognised the centre as an authorised Central adoption resource agency.

# IMPORTANT DAYS

## International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition

- **The night of 22 to 23 August 1791, in Santo Domingo (today Haiti and the Dominican Republic) saw the beginning of the uprising that would play a crucial role in the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade.**
- **It is against this background that the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is commemorated on 23 August each year. UN Secretary-General António Guterres said that while the transatlantic slave trade was abolished more than two centuries ago, the world continues “to live in its shadows of racial injustice”. He called upon the need to combat racism, dismantle racist structures, and reform institutions.**

## World Senior Citizen's Day

- **The World Senior Citizen's Day is celebrated on 21 August each year. The celebration took place for the first time in 1991. The day is intended to increase awareness of the factors and issues that affect older adults, such as health deterioration and elder abuse.**
- **World Senior Citizen's Day was officially founded by Ronald Reagan, former President of the United States of America, after he had signed the Proclamation on August 19, 1988. On December 14, 1990, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) proclaimed to observe 21 August as World Senior Citizens Day.**

## Women's Equality Day

- **Women's Equality Day is celebrated in the United States on August 26 to commemorate the 1920 adoption of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.**
- **The theme for Women's Equality Day 2021 is Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world, and it celebrates the role that millions of women have played in battling COVID in the past two years.**

## International Day against Nuclear Tests 29 August

- **On 2 December 2009, the 64<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly declared 29 August the International Day against Nuclear Tests by unanimously adopting resolution.**
- **The resolution calls for increasing awareness and education “about the effects of nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions and the need for their cessation as one of the means of achieving the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world.” The first nuclear test, called Trinity, was conducted by the United States Army in a desert site in New Mexico, on July 16, 1945. The test gave the US confidence to drop atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945.**

### 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

- Which of the following is set to become the second city in India to establish an International Arbitration and Mediation Centre?  
(a) Pune (b) Bengaluru (c) Bhopal (d) Hyderabad
- Which of the following Indian Universities is to start MA course on Hindu Studies from this academic year?  
(a) Banaras Hindu University (BHU)  
(b) Delhi University (DU)  
(c) Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU)  
(d) Sampurnanand Sanskrit University (SSU)
- Recently, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s Tamil Nadu unit president La Ganesan became the new Governor of \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Sikkim (b) Nagaland (c) Manipur (d) Mizoram
- The Indian Naval Academy (INA), Ezhimala will conduct the eighth edition of the prestigious annual \_\_\_\_\_ on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of October.  
(a) Dilli Series Sea Power Seminar (b) Bombay Series Sea Power Seminar  
(c) Madras Series Sea Power Seminar (d) Khadakwasla Series Sea Power Seminar
- India's first eco-habitat gated community is to be in \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Nizamabad (b) Secunderabad (c) Indore (d) Bhopal
- Recently, Ismail Sabri Yaakob was sworn in as the new Prime Minister of:  
(a) Maldives (b) Philippines (c) Indonesia (d) Malaysia
- Indian Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched the National Monetisation pipeline (NMP), which will list out the government's infrastructure assets to be sold over the next \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Two Years (b) Four Years (c) Six Years (d) Eight Years
- The highest altitude herbal park of India, situated at a height of 11,000 feet, was recently inaugurated at \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Dhara village (b) Mana village (c) Vardha village (d) Luma village
- The International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is commemorated on \_\_\_\_\_ each year.  
(a) 17<sup>th</sup> August (b) 19<sup>th</sup> August (c) 21<sup>st</sup> August (d) 23 August
- Recently, Kalyan Singh passed away. He was the former Chief Minister of:  
(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Bihar (d) Jharkhand
- The Bengaluru's Byappanahali terminal, which will be India's first \_\_\_\_\_, begins operations from September 2021.  
(a) Air-conditioned railway station (b) Air-conditioned ISBT  
(c) Air-conditioned Metro Station (d) Air-conditioned Underground Railway Tunnel
- The Wanchuwa festival is one of the most important celebrations in the life of the Tiwa tribe of \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Nagaland (b) Assam (c) Nagaland (d) Arunachal Pradesh
- Recently, The second edition of the joint naval exercise, Zair-Al-Bahr, between \_\_\_\_\_ was conducted in the Persian Gulf.  
(a) India and Oman (b) India and Saudi Arabia  
(c) India and Qatar (d) India and UAE

14. Recently, Fintech major Paytm and India's largest private bank \_\_\_\_\_ have entered into a strategic partnership for delivering financial solutions to end consumers and merchants across India.  
 (a) HDFC Bank Ltd (b) ICICI Bank Ltd (c) Axis Bank (d) RBL Bank
15. Recently, NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL), the International arm of National Payment Corporation of India has partnered with Mashreq, one of the leading financial institutions in the \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) UAE (b) Mauritius (c) Bangladesh (d) Maldives
16. Which of the following IIT's has developed India's first indigenous motorised wheelchair vehicle that can be used not only on roads but even on uneven terrains?  
 (a) Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (b) Indian Institute of Technology, Madras  
 (c) Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (d) Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati
17. Recently, Indian scientists have discovered a new plant species in India's \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) Western Ghats (b) Eastern Ghats  
 (c) Andaman & Nicobar Islands (d) Lakshadweep
18. Name the Long jumper who won the silver medal at the U-20 World Athletics Championships in Nairobi.  
 (a) Aditi Bharatiya (b) Sulakshna Bhati (c) Priyanka Bawa (d) Shaili Singh
19. The World Senior Citizen's Day is celebrated on:  
 (a) 12 August (b) 16 August (c) 19 August (d) 21 August
20. Who among the following will be the first Indian to receive a Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian award in the United States?  
 (a) Jawaharlal Nehru (b) Mahatma Gandhi  
 (c) Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose (d) Smt Vijaylaxmi Pandit
21. The Government has launched a new geospatial planning portal \_\_\_\_\_ that will help in facilitating new MGNREGA assets using remote sensing and geographic information system-based data.  
 (a) Yuktdhara (b) Fuktgara (c) Jugtara (d) Karatar
22. The Government launched various initiatives of \_\_\_\_\_ to make education more inclusive and prepare students for 21<sup>st</sup> century.  
 (a) National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 (b) National Education Policy (NEP) 2019  
 (c) National Education Policy (NEP) 2021 (d) National Education Policy (NEP) 2022
23. Recently, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu has launched the Vaccinate India Programme in \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) Hyderabad (b) Bengaluru (c) Bhopal (d) Lucknow
24. The first edition of the North Eastern Region District Sustainable Development Goal Index Report and Dashboard 2021-22 will be launched by \_\_\_\_\_ and Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region.  
 (a) NITI Aayog (b) Ministry of Finance  
 (c) Ministry of Corporate Affairs (d) Ministry of Home Affairs
25. Which of the following Asian countries has been ranked first in the world in supporting lactating women?  
 (a) India (b) Pakistan (c) Bangladesh (d) Afghanistan
26. Recently, Kathy Hochul became the first female governor of US state of \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) New York (b) New Jersey (c) Alabama (d) Missouri
27. Recently, Infosys Ltd became the \_\_\_\_\_ Indian company to touch a market valuation of \$100 billion.  
 (a) First (b) Second (c) Fourth (d) Seventh

28. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is putting in place a \_\_\_\_\_ a web-based end-to-end workflow automation system, to strengthen compliance by supervised entities (SEs).  
(a) PRISM (b) TRANSPARENT (c) SIMPIFY (d) POTRAL
29. Which of the following has become the first public sector undertaking (PSU) in India to vaccinate its entire workforce and their family members against the novel coronavirus?  
(a) Northern Coalfield Limited (b) Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd.  
(c) Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (d) National Textile Corporation Ltd.
30. Which of the following companies has recently launched the first-of-its-kind recyclable toothpaste tubes in India that will be available nationally?  
(a) Patanjali (b) Dabur (c) Proctor & Gamble (d) Colgate-Palmolive
31. Which of the following countries will host the second United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC) in October 2022?  
(a) USA (b) China (c) India (d) Bangladesh
32. What is the name of the operation by India to evacuate its citizens from war-torn Afghanistan?  
(a) Operation Devi Shakti (b) Operation Madad  
(c) Operation Viraat (d) Operation Sewarath
33. Which has recently become first Indian renewable company to list on Nasdaq?  
(a) LNT Power Pvt Ltd (b) ReNew Power Pvt Ltd  
(c) Reliance Power Pvt Ltd (d) Adani Power Pvt Ltd
34. Recently, The Central Government has approved to increase the family pension of bank employees to \_\_\_\_\_ per cent of last salary drawn.  
(a) 20 (b) 30 (c) 40 (d) 50
35. What is the name of the chairman of the expert committee on primary (urban) co-operative banks?  
(a) N. S. Vishwanathan (b) H.R. Khan (c) T. V. Sundaram (d) Viral V Acharya
36. The labour ministry launched the National Database for Unorganised Workers (NDUW) or \_\_\_\_\_ bringing millions of unorganised workers in the country on a common platform.  
(a) e-Karmik portal (b) e-Sharm portal (c) e-Mazdoor portal (d) e-Shramik portal
37. Jeff Bezos' space flight company \_\_\_\_\_ is launched its New Shepard (NS) spacecraft from West Texas.  
(a) One Origin (b) Blue Origin (c) Sewa Origin (d) Orange Origin
38. The United Nations General Assembly declared \_\_\_\_\_ the International Day against Nuclear Tests.  
(a) 18<sup>th</sup> August (b) 21<sup>st</sup> August (c) 24<sup>th</sup> August (d) 29<sup>th</sup> August
39. Name the Oscar-winning French actress who will receive a lifetime achievement award at Spain's San Sebastian film festival.  
(a) Brigitte Bardot (b) Marion Cotillard (c) Audrey Tautou (d) Catherine Deneuve
40. Name India's first overseas base which has come in handy in India's effort to evacuate hundreds of its citizens and Afghans from Kabul.  
(a) Gissar Military Aerodrome (b) Aroma Military Aerodrome  
(c) Grest Military Aerodrome (d) Girnar Military Aerodrome
41. Name the Indian neurosurgeon who has been conferred the prestigious American Association of Neurological Surgeons 'International Lifetime Achievement Award in Neurosurgery'.  
(a) Dr Majid Hussain (b) Dr. B.K. Misra (c) Dr. Kamal Acharya (d) Dr. Aditya Sengupta

42. Four countries will take part in the first multinational peacekeeping live exercise “Shared Destiny-2021”. Which of the following countries is not among the four countries?  
 (a) Pakistan (b) Afghanistan (c) Mongolia (d) China
43. Which of the following districts has stood first amongst 103 districts across eight north-eastern states in the North Eastern Region District SDG Index recently?  
 (a) Gomati (b) North Tripura (c) West Sikkim (d) East Sikkim
44. The World’s first crewless, zero emissions cargo ship is to set sail in:  
 (a) Sweden (b) Norway (c) Finland (d) Greece
45. Who has been appointed as the executive director of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently?  
 (a) Bharat Upreti (b) Anil Bhaskar (c) Ajay Kumar (d) Vivek Kalyan
46. Which of the following banks became India’s first lender to exclusively list \$1 billion AT1 bonds in IFSC?  
 (a) Axis Bank (b) ICICI Bank (c) HDFC Bank (d) IDFC First Bank
47. Recently, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman undertook the annual performance review of the public sector banks (PSBs) and launched the \_\_\_\_\_ or Enhanced Access and Service Excellence – a common reform agenda for PSBs aimed at institutionalising clean and smart banking.  
 (a) EASE 1.0 (b) EASE 2.0 (c) EASE 4.0 (d) EASE 6.0
48. MALABAR-21 would witness complex exercises including anti-surface, anti-air and anti-submarine warfare drill and other manoeuvres and tactical exercises. Which of the following countries is not among the countries to take part in this exercise?  
 (a) Australia (b) USA (c) Canada (d) Japan
49. Recently, Scientists had discovered the 43 million-year-old fossil of a previously unknown amphibious four-legged whale species in \_\_\_\_\_ that helps trace the transition of whales from land to sea.  
 (a) Portugal (b) Egypt (c) Norway (d) China
50. Name the table tennis player who won Czech International Open crown in table tennis, third ITTF title in career recently.  
 (a) G Sathiyar (b) Anthony Amalraj  
 (c) Sharath Kamal Achanta (d) Manav Thakkar
51. Which of the following Indian states is to have India’s first sea-going solar fishing boats?  
 (a) Karnataka (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Gujarat (d) Kerala
52. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the renovated complex of Jallianwala Bagh Smarak to the nation. Jallianwala Bagh incident took place in:  
 (a) 1907 (b) 1909 (c) 1914 (d) 1919
53. Name the recently revealed platform that helps farmers to manage their livestock including buying and selling of disease-free germplasm in all forms.  
 (a) e-GOPALA (b) e-GAUSHALA (c) e-SHYAM (d) e-KRISHNA
54. Recently, Navies of India and Germany carried out a joint exercise. Name the Indian naval Frigate that took part in this exercise.  
 (a) “Gandeev” (b) “Trikanth” (c) “Tridev” (d) “Tribhuj”
55. Which of the following Asian countries and Maldives will sign a contract on the mega Greater Male Connectivity project (GMCP), the largest infrastructure project in the country?  
 (a) India (b) Japan (c) China (d) USA

56. Recently, Reserve Bank of India has announced issue price for Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2021-22 - \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) Series III (b) Series IV (c) Series V (d) Series VI
57. Who among the following launched a national food and nutrition campaign for farmers?  
 (a) Narendra Modi (b) Narendra Singh Tomar  
 (c) Mansukh Mandaviya (d) Purushottam Rupala
58. Recently, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the Army Sports Institute's stadium in Pune named after \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) M.C.Marykom (b) Meerabhai Chanu (c) Neeraj Chopra (d) Karnam Malleshwari
59. Name the first Indian table tennis player who secured a medal in the Paralympics recently.  
 (a) Bhavinaben Patel (b) Aditi Batra (c) Meenakshi Kwatra (d) Deepa Luthra
60. The International Day against Nuclear Tests is celebrated every year on:  
 (a) 23<sup>rd</sup> August (b) 25<sup>th</sup> August (c) 27<sup>th</sup> August (d) 29<sup>th</sup> August
61. Which is the only State in the country to have more than one Water Plus city?  
 (a) Karnataka (b) Kerala (c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Telangana
62. Recently, President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated Ramayana conclave in \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) Chitrakoot (b) Ayodhya (c) New Delhi (d) Rameshwaram
63. Recently, the highest theatre in the world is to come up in:  
 (a) Jammu & Kashmir (b) Ladakh (c) Arunachal Pradesh (d) Uttarakhand
64. Recently, Expedition discovered island believed to be world's northernmost island located off \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) Ireland's coast (b) Greenland's coast (c) Iceland's coast (d) Switzerland's coast
65. According to real estate consultant Cushman & Wakefield, which of the following countries ranked first in list of most attractive manufacturing hub globally?  
 (a) Japan (b) India (c) USA (d) China
66. Uttar Pradesh is to have its first Handicrafts Park in:  
 (a) Lucknow (b) Mathura (c) Gorakhpur (d) Noida
67. Deepar Beel is one of the largest freshwater lakes in \_\_\_\_\_ and the State's only Ramsar site besides being an Important Bird Area.  
 (a) Nagaland (b) Assam (c) Tripura (d) Sikkim
68. Recently, Indian researchers have discovered \_\_\_\_\_ supermassive black holes.  
 (a) Two (b) Three (c) Four (d) Seven
69. Recently, Uttar Pradesh government has decided to name two medical institutes of the state after former Chief Minister \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) Kalyan Singh (b) Narayan Dutt Tiwari (c) Veerbhadra Singh (d) Ram Naresh Yadav
70. Vikram award is a state level sports award associated with:  
 (a) Karnataka (b) Andhra Pradesh (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Uttar Pradesh

## ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATION

1. **d** Hyderabad is set to soon become the second city in India to establish an International Arbitration and Mediation Centre.
2. **a** Banaras Hindu University (BHU) started an MA course on Hindu Studies from this academic year. This is India's first such course and it is being conducted at BHU's Bharat Adhyayan Kendra (BAK) in its Faculty of Arts.
3. **c** The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s Tamil Nadu unit president La Ganesan became the new Governor of Manipur.
4. **a** Indian Naval Academy (INA), Ezhimala will conduct the eighth edition of the prestigious annual Dilli Series Sea Power Seminar on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of October.
5. **a** India's first eco-habitat gated community is to be in Nizamabad.
6. **d** Malaysia's Ismail Sabri Yaakob was sworn in as the country's ninth prime minister capping a week of political turmoil that forced his predecessor to resign amid a continuing health emergency because of the raging COVID-19 pandemic.
7. **b** Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman will launch the National Monetisation pipeline (NMP), which will list out the government's infrastructure assets to be sold over the next four-years.
8. **b** The highest altitude herbal park of India, situated at a height of 11,000 feet, was inaugurated at Mana village close to the Indo-China border in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district.
9. **d** The International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is commemorated on 23 August each year.
10. **a** Former Uttar Pradesh chief minister and former Rajasthan Governor Kalyan Singh passed away at Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences in Lucknow due to sepsis and multi-organ failure.
11. **a** Bengaluru's Byappanahali terminal, which will be India's first air-conditioned railway station, is likely to begin operations from September 2021.
12. **b** The Wanchuwa festival is one of the most important celebrations in the life of the Tiwa tribe of Assam — a community that centers itself around a traditional form of agriculture.
13. **c** The second edition of the joint naval exercise, Zair-Al-Bahr, between the Indian Navy and Qatar Emiri Naval Force (QENF) was conducted between August 9 and 14 in the Persian Gulf.
14. **a** Fintech major Paytm and the country's largest private bank HDFC Bank Ltd have entered into a strategic partnership for delivering financial solutions to end consumers and merchants across India.
15. **a** NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL), the International arm of National Payment Corporation of India has partnered with Mashreq, one of the leading financial institutions in the UAE, to offer acceptance of its mobile-based real-time payment system, Unified Payments Interface (UPI), in the UAE.
16. **b** Indian Institute of Technology, Madras has developed India's first indigenous motorised wheelchair vehicle that can be used not only on roads but even on uneven terrains.
17. **c** Indian scientists have discovered a new plant species in India's Andaman's archipelago. Biologists found marine green algae during a trip to the island in 2019.

- 18. d** Long jumper Shaili Singh won the silver medal at the U-20 World Athletics Championships in Nairobi.
- 19. d** The World Senior Citizen's Day is celebrated on 21 August each year.
- 20. b** Mahatma Gandhi would be the first Indian to receive a Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian award in the United States.
- 21. a** The Government has launched a new geospatial planning portal, 'Yuktdhara', that will help in facilitating new MGNREGA assets using remote sensing and geographic information system-based data.
- 22. a** The Government launched various initiatives of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 to make education more inclusive and prepare students for 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- 23. b** Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu has launched the Vaccinate India Programme in Bengaluru.
- 24. a** First edition of the North Eastern Region District Sustainable Development Goal Index Report and Dashboard 2021-22 will be launched on the 26<sup>th</sup> of this month by NITI Aayog and Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region.
- 25. c** Bangladesh has ranked first in the world in supporting lactating women.
- 26. a** Kathy Hochul became the first female governor of New York taking control of a state government desperate to get back to business after months of distractions over sexual harassment allegations against Andrew Cuomo.
- 27. c** Infosys Ltd became the fourth Indian company to touch a market valuation of \$100 billion.
- 28. a** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is putting in place a Platform for Regulated Entities for Integrated Supervision and Monitoring (PRISM), a web-based end-to-end workflow automation system, to strengthen compliance by supervised entities (SEs).
- 29. a** Companies have been moving quickly to vaccinate their employees so that normal operations can be restored. Northern Coalfield Limited (NCL), a subsidiary of Coal India, has become the first public sector undertaking (PSU) in India to vaccinate its entire workforce and their family members against the novel coronavirus.
- 30. d** Colgate-Palmolive has launched the first-of-its-kind recyclable toothpaste tubes in India that will be available nationally.
- 31. c** India will host the second United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC) in October 2022, at Hyderabad, and the theme decided for the next year is- "Towards Geo-enabling the Global Village."
- 32. a** India gave a name to its operation to evacuate its citizens from war-torn Afghanistan. External affairs minister S Jaishankar called it 'Operation Devi Shakti' and saluted the efforts of Indian Air Force and Air India.
- 33. b** ReNew Power Pvt Ltd (ReNew Power) has completed "business combination" with US-based RMG Acquisition Corporation II (RMG II). ReNew Power becomes first Indian renewable company to list on Nasdaq
- 34. b** The Central Government has approved to increase the family pension of bank employees to 30 per cent of last salary drawn.
- 35. a** In February, the RBI had constituted the expert committee on primary (urban) co-operative banks under the chairmanship of N. S. Vishwanathan, former RBI deputy governor.
- 36. b** The labour ministry launched the National Database for Unorganised Workers (NDUW) or e-Sharm portal on August 26, bringing millions of unorganised workers in the country on a common platform.

- 37. b** Jeff Bezos' space flight company Blue Origin is launched its New Shepard (NS) spacecraft from West Texas.
- 38. d** The United Nations General Assembly declared 29 August the International Day against Nuclear Tests by unanimously adopting resolution.
- 39. b** Oscar-winning French actress Marion Cotillard will receive a lifetime achievement award at Spain's San Sebastian film festival next month.
- 40. a** Gissar Military Aerodrome (GMA), India's first overseas base operated along with Tajikistan and aimed at giving a strategic heft to their military operations and training, has come in handy in India's effort to evacuate hundreds of its citizens and Afghans from Kabul.
- 41. b** Well-known Mumbai-based neurosurgeon Dr. B.K. Misra has been conferred the prestigious American Association of Neurological Surgeons 'International Lifetime Achievement Award in Neurosurgery'.
- 42. b** The militaries of China, Pakistan, Mongolia and Thailand will take part in a multinational peacekeeping exercise to be organised by the People's Liberation Army in the country's central Henan province next month.
- 43. d** East Sikkim has stood first amongst 103 districts across eight north-eastern states followed by districts Gomati and north Tripura in the second position in the North Eastern Region District SDG Index, the NITI Aayog said.
- 44. b** A Norwegian company has created what it calls the world's first zero-emission, autonomous cargo ship.
- 45. c** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Ajay Kumar as its executive director (ED) with effect from August 20, 2021. As ED Kumar will oversee the departments of currency management, foreign exchange and premises.
- 46. c** HDFC Bank becomes India's first lender to exclusively list \$1 billion AT1 bonds in IFSC.
- 47. c** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman undertook the annual performance review of the public sector banks (PSBs) and launched the EASE 4.0 or Enhanced Access and Service Excellence – a common reform agenda for PSBs aimed at institutionalising clean and smart banking.
- 48. c** Indian Navy is participating in the sea phase of Exercise Malabar-2021 along with the US Navy (USN), Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF) and the Royal Australian Navy (RAN). The four-day exercise beginning includes participation of INS Shivalik and INS Kadmat and P8I patrol aircraft.
- 49. b** Scientists had discovered the 43 million-year-old fossil of a previously unknown amphibious four-legged whale species in Egypt that helps trace the transition of whales from land to sea.
- 50. a** India's top paddler G Sathyan beat Yevhen Ryshepa of Ukraine comprehensively in the final of the Czech International table tennis tournament at Olomouc in Czech Republic.
- 51. d** India's first sea-going solar fishing boats will be ready by Dec 2021 at Vypeen and Munambam in Kerala.
- 52. d** Jallianwala Bagh is a historic garden and 'memorial of national importance' in Amritsar, India, preserved in the memory of those wounded and killed in the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre that occurred on the site on the festival of Baisakhi, 13 April 1919.
- 53. a** The e-GOPALA platform helps farmers manage their livestock including buying and selling of disease-free germplasm in all forms (semen, embryos, etc); informs about availability of quality breeding services and guides farmers for animal nutrition, treatment of animals using appropriate Ayurvedic ethno veterinary medicine.
- 54. b** The Indian Navy's frigate "Trikanth" exercised with German frigate "Bayern" in the Gulf of Aden.

- 55. a** India and Maldives will sign a contract on the mega Greater Male Connectivity project (GMCP), the largest infrastructure project in the country.
- 56. d** Reserve Bank of India has announced issue price for Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2021-22 - Series VI.
- 57. b** Union agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched a national food and nutrition campaign for farmers.
- 58. c** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the Army Sports Institute's stadium in Pune named after Olympic gold medal winner Neeraj Chopra.
- 59. a** Bhavinaben Patel scripted history by becoming the first Indian table tennis player to secure a medal in the Paralympics after she entered the semifinals with a stunning straight-game win over world number 5 Borislava Peric Rankovic of Serbia in the women's singles Class 4 event.
- 60. d** On 2 December 2009, the 64<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly declared 29 August the International Day against Nuclear Tests by unanimously adopting resolution.
- 61. c** Andhra Pradesh is the only State in the country to have more than one Water Plus city.
- 62. b** President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurates Ramayana conclave in Ayodhya.
- 63. b** Ladakh had its first mobile digital movie theatre at an altitude of 11,562 feet which makes it the highest theatre in the world.
- 64. b** A team of Arctic researchers from Denmark say they accidentally discovered what they believe is the world's northernmost island located off Greenland's coast.
- 65. d** India has overtaken the United States (US) to become the second-most sought-after manufacturing destination globally, driven mainly by cost competitiveness, according to real estate consultant Cushman & Wakefield.
- 66. d** In line with the Uttar Pradesh government's 'One District One Product' initiative, the state's first handicrafts park is planned near the upcoming Noida International Airport and 76 firms have been allotted land for setting up their factories and outlets.
- 67. b** Deepar Beel is one of the largest freshwater lakes in Assam and the State's only Ramsar site besides being an Important Bird Area.
- 68. b** Indian researchers have discovered three supermassive black holes from three galaxies merging together to form a triple active galactic nucleus (AGN), that has a much-higher-than-normal luminosity.
- 69. a** The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to name two medical institutes of the state after former chief minister Kalyan Singh who died after a prolonged illness at Lucknow's Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS).
- 70. c** Tokyo Olympic bronze medallist hockey player Vivek Sagar Prasad will get the Vikram award this year. Sports department announced the names of the players on Saturday who have been selected for the MP's highest sports awards