
MANTHAN

A General Awareness Weekly

28th June to 4th July, 2021

PREFACE

Dear Students,

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

Happy Reading

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Career
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National



Denmark signs framework agreement on International Solar Alliance with India

- **Denmark signed the framework agreement of the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement (ISA FA) and Instrument of Ratification with India.**
- **Meanwhile, Denmark becomes first country to ratify International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement (ISA FA) after amendments to it entered into force on January 8, 2021 opening its Membership to all Member States of the United Nations”.**
- **Under the revised framework, membership of the ISA is open to all member states of the United Nations.** Previously, it was open to countries that were located partly or wholly within the tropics. **Italy joined the ISA after the signing of the Revised ISA Framework Agreement on March 17, 2021.**
- **Its purpose is to work for efficient consumption of solar energy to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and contribute to the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement through large-scale deployment of solar energy. The Ministry of External Affairs is the depository of the ISA Framework Agreement.**

The **International Solar Alliance** is a common platform for cooperation among sun-rich countries lying fully or partially between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn. The initiative was launched at the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris at the end of 2015 by the then, President of France and the Prime Minister of India. In January 2016, Narendra Modi, and the then, French President François Hollande jointly laid the foundation stone of the International Solar Alliance headquarters and inaugurated the interim Secretariat at the National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) in Gwalpahari, Gurugram, India. Ajay Mathuri is the current Director General of ISA.

First ‘green & safe highway’ partly funded by World Bank to be built in Rajasthan

- **The first stretch of green highway being built under the Green National Highways Corridor Project (GNHCP) is expected to be completed by December 2021 in Rajasthan.**
- **The Government of India had signed an agreement for a \$500 million project with the World Bank, to develop the GNHCP across 781 km in four states – Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.**
- **The plan is to construct five-six ‘green and safe national highways’ – which have been divided into 23 stretches – as part of the corridor. The entire project is expected to be completed by the end of the 2023-2024 financial year.**
- **The total cost of the project was estimated to be around Rs 7,662 crores, of which the World Bank is contributing Rs 3,500 crore. The USP of a green highway is in its construction. Compared to a normal highway, a ‘green highway’ uses greener construction technologies, officials explained.**
- **The GNHCP is being overseen directly by the ministry and the World Bank. “Neither the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) nor any state PWD is involved in the execution of this project”, explained the above-mentioned official. Usually, the NHAI or the state PWDs are the executing agencies for the construction of highways, he said.**

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) had launched a National Green Highways Mission (NGHM) following the promulgation of 'Green Highways Policy' in September 2015. The Green National Highways Corridor Projects (GNHCP) supports the implementation of the NGHM and the provision of green and safe transport. The objective of the Project is to demonstrate safe and green National Highway corridors in selected States and enhance the institutional capacity of the MoRTH in mainstreaming safety and green technologies.

EAM S Jaishankar attended G20 ministerial meetings in Italy

- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar attended the G20 ministerial meetings in Italy. Italy holds the Presidency of the G20. The Foreign Affairs Ministers' Meeting is one of the ministerial meetings organized as part of the G20 Leaders Summit 2021.
- Dr Jaishankar arrived in Italy on the second leg of his two nation visit. On the first leg of his visit, he visited Greece. It was the first visit to Greece at the level of the external affairs minister since 2003. The G20 summit is scheduled to be held in Italy in October. India is expected to hold the presidency of the G20 in 2022.

The G20 (or Group of Twenty) is an intergovernmental forum comprising 19 countries and the European Union (EU). The G20 was founded in 1999 in response to several world economic crises. The G20 is an influential bloc that brings together the world's major economies. The G20 member countries collectively account for more than 80 per cent of world GDP, 75 per cent of the global trade and 60 per cent of the population of the planet. The G20 member countries are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Japan, India, Indonesia, Italy, Mexico, Russia, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union.

A Zen Garden and Kaizen Academy inaugurated by Prime Minister at Ahmedabad in Gujarat

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated a Japanese Zen garden and Kaizen academy at the Ahmedabad Management Association (AMA). Zen-Kaizen' at AMA will showcase several elements of Japanese art, culture, landscape and architecture.
- It is a joint endeavour of the Japan Information and Study Centre at AMA and Indo-Japan Friendship Association (IJFA), Gujarat, supported by the Hyogo International Association (HIA), Japan.
- Zen Garden and Kaizen Academy is a symbol of spontaneity and modernity of relations between Indian and Japan, said PM Modi as he thanked the leaders of Hyogo Prefecture, especially Governor Toshizo Ido and Hyogo International association for their contribution to the establishment of Zen Garden and Kaizen Academy.

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

Centre announces stimulus package of Rs. 6,28,993 crore to boost economy

- In a first set of measures to mitigate the economic impact of the devastating second Covid wave, Finance Ministry announced a series of steps aimed to push credit off-take in priority areas such as health infrastructure and the severely hit tourism sector by providing interest-rate concessions.
- The Union Government announced stimulus package of Rs. 6,28,993 crore to boost economy during the fight against COVID-19 pandemic. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced several economic relief measures amid COVID pandemic including eight economic relief measures, of which four are absolutely new and one is specific to health infrastructure.
- The Finance Minister announced Rs. 1.1 lakh crore Loan Guarantee Scheme for COVID affected sectors. She said, of them Rs. 50 thousand crore will be for health sector. The scheme aimed at upscaling medical infrastructure targeting unreserved areas.

- Ms. Sitharaman said that the guarantee cover will be for expansion and **new projects related to medical infrastructure in cities other than eight metropolitan cities.**
- **The 50 per cent of the guarantee coverage will for expansion and 75 per cent for new projects.** She announced that for Aspirational Districts, the guarantee cover of 75 per cent for the new projects and expansion.
- The Finance Minister also announced **Rs. 1.5 lakh crore for Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme, ECLGS which was launched as part of Atmanirbhar Bharat Package in May, 2020.**
- She said, **ECLGS- 1, 2 and 3 have resulted in credit disbursal of 2.69 lakh crore rupees to 1.1 crore units by 12 Public Sector Banks, 25 private banks and 31 Non- Banking Financial Companies.**
- She said that the **overall cap of admissible guarantee has been raised from Rs. three lakh crore to Rs. 4.5 lakh crore will be beneficial to the people doing business.**
- In another relief measure, Ms. Sitharaman announced **Credit Guarantee Scheme which is a new scheme to facilitate loans to 25 lakh people through Micro Finance Institutions, MFI.**
- She said, the guarantee will be **provided to Scheduled Commercial Banks for loans to new or existing NBFC-MFIs for on lending upto Rs. 1.25 lakh to about 25 lakh to small borrowers.**
- In yet another decision related to reviving the tourism sector, Ms Sitharaman announced **financial support to more than 11 thousand Registered Tourist Guides and Travel and Tourism Stakeholders.**
- She said that under it loan will be **provided with 100 per cent guarantee with the limits of Rs. 10 lakh to Travel and Tourism Stakeholders per agency and Rs. one lakh for tourist guides licenced at Regional or State Level.**
- The Finance Minister also announced **free tourist visa to five lakh tourists.** The scheme will be applicable till 31st March 2022 or till five lakh visas are issued whichever is earlier. **The benefit will be available only once per tourist. The total financial implication over it will be 100 crore rupees.**
- Ms Sitharaman announced **extension of Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana** from 30th of June, 2021 to 31st of March, 2022. The scheme had been launched in October last year with a view to incentivize employers for creation of new employment and restoration of loss of employment through EPFO.

Atmanirbhar Bharat which translates to ‘self-reliant India’, is a Hindi phrase used and popularized by the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi and the Government of India in relation to economic development in the country during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. In this context, the term is used as an umbrella concept in relation to making India “a bigger and more important part of the global economy”, pursuing policies that are efficient, competitive and resilient, and being self-sustaining and self-generating. The phrase has been used by Modi since 2014 in relation to national security, poverty and digital India. The first popular mention of this came in the form of the ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan’ or ‘Self-Reliant India Mission’ during the announcement of India’s COVID–19 pandemic related economic package on 12 May 2020, 12 October and 12 November 2020. A total of three Atmanirbhar Bharat packages worth Rs. 29.87 lakh crore (US\$420 billion) were announced by the government on 12 May, 12 October and 12 November 2020. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, in an address to the National Development Council in 1976, used the phrase self-reliance a number of times including in relation to “self-reliance in food and energy” and “economic self-reliance”. The Fifth Five-Year Plan of India (1974–1978) used the phrase “achievement of self-reliance” as a goal in itself.

MSME minister Nitin Gadkari launches integrated services of Udyam Registration Portal

- **Union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Nitin Gadkari has launched the integrated services of Udyam Registration Portal with Common Service Centre Portal.**
- He launched it in a **Virtual Conference titled ‘Indian MSMEs- Growth Engines of Economy’.** It has been launched to **increase the penetration of benefits of various government schemes amongst MSMEs in far-flung areas.**

Nitin Jairam Gadkari was served as the President of the BJP from 2010-2013. He is the **current Minister for Road Transport & Highways of India and Shipping Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises** in the Government of India. **Gadkari represents Lok Sabha from Nagpur constituency, Maharashtra.**

India's first Urban Wildlife Corridor Being Planned In Delhi-NCR

- Forest departments of Delhi and Haryana are working on an interstate plan to build a wildlife corridor on a busy road stretch near the Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary to provide safe passage to leopards and other animals. This will be the first such corridor for wildlife management in an urban setting in the country.
- The wildlife sanctuary covering 32.71 sqkm area on the Southern Delhi Ridge of Aravalli hill range lies in southern Delhi and northern parts of Faridabad and Gurugram districts of Haryana. It is part of the Northern Aravalli leopard wildlife corridor, which extends from the Sariska National Park in Rajasthan to Delhi Ridge.

Delhi bordered by Haryana on three sides and by Uttar Pradesh to the east. According to the 2011 census, Delhi city proper's population was over 11 million, the second-highest in India after Mumbai. Anil Baijal is the current & 21st Lieutenant Governor of Delhi. Arvind Kejriwal is the current and 7th Chief Minister of Delhi. The Constitution (Sixty-ninth Amendment) Act, 1991 declared the Union Territory of Delhi to be formally known as the National Capital Territory of Delhi. Delhi is a Union Territory with a legislature, and it came into being in 1991 under Article 239AA of the Constitution inserted by the Constitution (Sixty-ninth Amendment) Act, 1991.

Jammu and Kashmir LG Manoj Sinha launches "HAUSLA" for Catalysing Women Entrepreneurship at KICC in Srinagar

- In a historic effort aimed at harnessing the energy, enthusiasm and exuberant dreams of the Women of Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha launched the "HAUSLA", a comprehensive programme for Catalysing Women Entrepreneurship at Kashmir International Convention Centre (KICC) in Srinagar.
- It was informed that under the leadership of JKTPPO and in collaboration with Industry stakeholders and India SME Forum, a not-for-profit organization for Small & Medium Enterprises, the first batch of 'Hausla' five-month programme with 100 women entrepreneurs on board will start from July this year, giving wings to women entrepreneurs to fly higher, make their own identity in business and promote their products.

Jammu and Kashmir is a region administered by India as a union territory and consists of the southern portion of the larger Kashmir region, which has been the subject of a dispute between India and Pakistan since 1947 and between India and China since 1962. The region of Jammu and Kashmir is separated by the Line of Control from the Pakistani-administered territories of Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan in the west and north, respectively. Provisions for the formation of the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir were contained within the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, which was passed by both houses of the Parliament of India in August 2019. The act re-constituted the former state of Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories, 'Jammu and Kashmir' and 'Ladakh', with effect from 31 October 2019. Manoj Sinha is the current Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir. Girish Chandra Murmu was the first Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir till August 2020.

Department of Justice launches Enforcing Contracts Portal

- The Department of Justice has launched Enforcing Contracts Portal. The portal aims to promote ease of doing business and improve the 'Contract Enforcement Regime' in the country.
- The portal will provide easy access to latest information on commercial cases in Dedicated Commercial Courts of Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Kolkata. The portal will also provide access to a repository of commercial laws.
- The portal is envisioned to be a comprehensive source of information pertaining to the legislative and policy reforms being undertaken on the Enforcing Contracts parameters. The Department of Justice under the Ministry of Law and Justice has been monitoring legislative and policy reforms to strengthen the Enforcing Contracts regime for Ease of Doing Business in India.
- The Enforcing Contracts is an essential area that measures time and cost to resolve a standardized commercial dispute as well as a series of good practices in the judiciary.

India presents 10 translated books of modern Indian literature to SCO

- **India's Ambassador to China Vikram Misri presented a translated version of 10 peerless collections of Modern Indian Literature to Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Secretary General Vladimir Norov.** This is in realization of the **commitment made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Bishkek SCO Summit** that India will **translate 10 great creations of Indian regional literature into Russian and Chinese.** Ambassador Misri also discussed important issues with the SCO Secretary General.
- **India presented English, Russian and Chinese translations of 10 classic works of modern literature written by prominent Indian authors in different languages to the headquarters of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).**
- This was an **important outcome of India's presidency of SCO Heads of Government in 2020** which will bring a better understanding of literary vastness of India especially for the interested readers of SCO region. **The project was commissioned by India's premier literary institution, Sahitya Akademi.** SG Norov said that this was one of the **greatest gifts of India to SCO during the 20th Anniversary of the Organization.**

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), or Shanghai Pact, is a Eurasian political, economic, and security alliance, the creation of which was announced on 15 June 2001 in Shanghai, China by the leaders of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan; the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Charter, formally establishing the organization, was signed in June 2002 and entered into force on 19 September 2003. The original five members, with the exclusion of Uzbekistan, were previously members of the Shanghai Five group, founded on 26 April 1996. Since then, the organization has expanded its membership to eight states when India and Pakistan joined SCO as full members on 9 June 2017 at a summit in Astana, Kazakhstan. SCO is headquartered in Shanghai.

India's first tunnel aquarium opens at KSR railway station

- Passengers awaiting their **trains at Bengaluru's Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna (KSR) railway station** now have something exciting to look forward to. **A first-of-its kind movable tunnel aquarium was opened to the public on July 1.** The tunnel can be **entirely dismantled and reassembled at a different location.** It also has a **paludarium, which is modelled around the Amazon rainforest.**
- **For, a first of its kind aquatic kingdom set up in any railway station in India will be launched in the concourse portion at the entry of the station.**
- The joint venture by the Indian Railway Station Development Corporation (IRSDC) and HNI Enterprises was planned for an April launch, but **the Covid second wave delayed it.** "The cynosure of all eyes is expected to be the tunnel aquarium, which will be the **first of its kind in India to be set up permanently in a railway station.**

Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises Minister Prakash Javdekar virtually launches six technology innovation platforms

- **The Union Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises and Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javdekar virtually launched six technology innovation platforms.**
- These platforms will focus on **certain identified mother technologies which will cover manufacturing sector, capital goods and mobility together for current and future needs.** Innovation and hi-end technology is imperative for development.

Prakash Javdekar served as the Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Minister of Information and Broadcasting and Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises until, 7, July 2021. He is currently elected to the upper house **Rajya Sabha** as a Member of Parliament from Maharashtra in 2018.

West Bengal government launches 'Students Credit Card' to provide soft loan upto Rs. 10 lakh for higher studies

- **The Government of West Bengal has launched an education loan scheme for the students aiming for higher studies.** The scheme, titled 'Students Credit Card' has been launched by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in Kolkata.

- The scheme will **provide soft loan upto Rs. 10 lakh with simple annual interest**. The loan will be available for undergraduate, postgraduate, doctoral and postdoctoral studies within the country or abroad.
- The loan will also be available to provide support to the students who want to prepare themselves for top central and state government jobs like UPSC and PSC. **Students residing in the state for at least 10 years will be eligible for the scheme till 40 years of age and can repay the loan in 15 years.**

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

Govt clears BharatNet implementation through PPP Model in 16 States

- **Union Cabinet has given approval to provide additional 19 thousand 41 crore rupees for BharatNet for broadband facility to each village through BharatNet PPP Model.**
- **The Union Cabinet has accorded approval for revised implementation strategy of BharatNet through Public Private Partnership mode in 16 States of the country with optical fibre connectivity to all inhabited villages.**
- **It has been given in principal approval with a total expenses of 29 thousand 432 crore rupees out of which the viability gap funding of the government of India will be 19 thousand 41 crore rupees.**
- **The States covered under it are Kerala, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh. An estimated 3.61 lakh villages including Gram Panchayats will be covered through PPP Model.**

BharatNet, also known as Bharat Broadband Network Limited, is a government-owned telecom infrastructure provider, set up by the Department of Telecommunications, a department of Ministry of Communications of the Government of India for the establishment, management, and operation of the National Optical Fibre Network to provide a minimum of 100 Mbit/s broadband connectivity to all 250,000-gram panchayats in the country, covering nearly 625,000 villages, to improve telecommunications in India and reach the campaign goal of Digital India. BharatNet is the world's largest rural broadband connectivity program.

Uttar Pradesh plans to establish Health ATMs to provide better health facilities

- **In Uttar Pradesh, the government is planning to establish Health ATMs to provide better health facilities to the people in state. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath while reviewing a high-level Covid19 meeting at Lucknow instructed to find out possibilities in this direction so that poor and stranded people are benefitted.**
- **Through most advance health ATMs machines people would be able to get measured their Body Mass Index, Blood Pressure, Metabolic Age, Body Fat, Hydration, Pulse Rate, Height, Muscle Mass, Body Temperature, Weight and Oxygen level parameters.**
- **Definitely, these ATMs would be very much helpful to keep people health-conscious and fit. This plan will play a measure role in the field of health during Corona times. Meanwhile, in wake of possible third wave of Covid19, the government is increasing health facilities in hospitals.**

Uttar Pradesh is the most populous state in India as well as the most populous country subdivision in the world. It was created on 1 April 1956 as the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh during British rule, and was renamed Uttar Pradesh in 1956, giving the acronym UP. The state is divided into 18 divisions and 75 districts with the capital being Lucknow. On 9 November 2000, a new state, Uttarakhand, was carved out from the state's Himalayan hill region. The two major rivers of the state, the Ganges and Yamuna, join at Allahabad and flow further east as Ganges. The state contributes 80 seats to the lower house of the Indian Parliament, Lok Sabha and 31 seats to the upper house of the Indian Parliament, Rajya Sabha.

Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launched the National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat)

- Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launched the National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat) for ensuring that every child in the country necessarily attains foundational literacy and numeracy by the end of grade 3, by 2026-27. The mission planned as per the new National Education Policy (NEP) has been launched under the aegis of the centrally sponsored scheme of Samagra Shiksha.
- It will focus on providing access and retaining children in foundational years of schooling, teacher capacity building; development of high quality and diversified student and teacher resources and tracking the progress of each child in achieving learning outcomes. The success of NIPUN Bharat will primarily depend on teachers, so, there will be a special emphasis on capacity building of teachers. A special package for foundational literacy and Numeracy under NISHTHA is being developed by NCERT and around 25 lakh teachers teaching at pre-primary to primary grade will be trained this year on FLN.
- "NIPUN Bharat aims to cover the learning needs of children in the age group of 3 to 9 years. Teachers need to focus on every child for developing basic language, literacy and numeracy skills which will help them develop into better readers and writers. Thus, NIPUN Bharat envisages making the experience of learning at the foundational stage Holistic, Integrated, Inclusive, Enjoyable, and Engaging," Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank said.

Following outcomes have been envisaged from implementation of the goals and objectives of NIPUN Bharat Mission: 1. Foundational skills enable to keep children in class thereby reducing the dropouts and improve transition rate from primary to upper primary and secondary stages. 2. Activity based learning and conducive learning environment will improve quality of education. 3. Innovative pedagogies such as toy-based and experiential learning will be used in classroom transaction thereby making learning a joyful and engaging activity. 4. Intensive capacity building of teachers will make them empowered and provide greater autonomy for choosing the pedagogy. 5. Holistic development of the child by focusing on different domains of development like physical and motor development, socio-emotional development, literacy and numeracy development, cognitive development, life skills etc. which are interrelated and interdependent, which will be reflected in a Holistic Progress Card. 6. Children to achieve steeper learning trajectory which may have positive impacts on later life outcomes and employment. 7. Since almost every child attends early grades, therefore, focus at that stage will also benefit the socio-economic disadvantaged group thus ensuring access to equitable and inclusive quality education. Thus, NIPUN Bharat is envisaged to support and encourage students, along with their schools, teachers, parents, and communities, in every way possible, to help realise the true potential of our children and propel the country to new heights. The current Union Minister for Education is Dharmendra Pradhan since 7 July 2021.

CM launches 'Jan Sahayak-Aapka Sahayak' app

- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched 'Jan Sahayak Aapka Sahayak' mobile app for Government to Citizen (G2C) and Business to Citizen (B2C) services. He also announced a scheme for providing ownership rights to Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) property holders.
- The app is a single platform for availing government services, emergency helplines and other services which included information on tenders and jobs, and payment of bills. The helplines included 112 for emergency calls, 100 for police, 108 for ambulances, 101 for fire, 104 for health, 1091 for women, 1098 for children and 1075 for Covid.

Haryana is a land locked state in India located in the northern part of the country. It was carved out of the former state of East Punjab on 1 November 1966 on a linguistic basis. Chandigarh is the state capital. Bandaru Dattatreya is serving as the current Governor of the State of Haryana since 2021.



FATF retains Pakistan in 'grey list'

- In a setback to Pakistan, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), a global terror financing watchdog, retained the country on its “grey list”. Continuation on the ‘grey list’ for Pakistan means that it will not get any respite in trying to access finances in the form of investments and aid from international bodies including the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- Pakistan is facing the difficult task of getting its name off from the FATF grey list. As things stand, Islamabad is finding it difficult to shield terror perpetrators and implement the FATF action plan at the same time.
- It has been three years since Islamabad was put on the anti-terror financing body’s grey list. The FATF has been holding a virtual session in Paris since June 21, which concludes June 25. The task force reviewed the Asia Pacific Group’s report on Pakistan’s compliance with the watchdog’s prescribed action items.
- Early June month, a regional affiliate of the FATF retained Pakistan on the “Enhanced Follow-up” list and asked the country to strengthen its implementation of anti-money laundering and combating terror financing measures.
- The FATF Asia Pacific Group released a second Follow up Report (FUR) on the Mutual Evaluation of Pakistan on the compliance of 40 technical recommendations. The report said Pakistan was re-rated to “compliant” status on five counts and on 15 others to ‘largely compliant’ and on yet another count to ‘partially compliant’.
- The FATF, in February this year, had retained Pakistan on its “grey list” till June after concluding that Islamabad failed to address its strategically important deficiencies, to fully implement the 27 point action plan that the watchdog had drawn up for Pakistan.
- The global watchdog had in October last year asked Pakistan, which has been on its grey list over issues related to terror financing, to deliver on all 27 points by this February. Early this year, Islamabad-based think tank Tabadlab revealed that Pakistan sustained a total of USD 38 billion in economic losses due to FATF’ decision to thrice place the country on its grey list since 2008.
- Countries that are considered safe haven for supporting terror funding and money laundering are put in the FATF grey list. This inclusion serves as a warning to the country that it may enter the blacklist. At present, North Korea and Iran have placed under the Black List.

Financial Action Task Force is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 during the G7 Summit in Paris. The FATF assesses the strength of a country’s anti-money laundering and anti-terror financing frameworks, however it does not go by individual cases. Its Secretariat is located at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) headquarters in Paris. The FATF currently has 39 members including two regional organisations — the European Commission and Gulf Cooperation Council. India is a member of the FATF. The FATF Plenary is the decision making body of the FATF. It meets three times per year.

New edition of British 5-pound coin commemorates Prince Philip’s life

- Britain’s Treasury has unveiled a new special edition coin to commemorate the life of Prince Philip, who died in April at the age of 99. The design of the 5-pound coin had been approved by Philip in 2008. It features an original portrait of Philip, drawn by artist Ian Rank-Broadley.

- **Though it is legal tender, the coin has been designed as a limited-edition collectable or gift** and will not be entering general circulation. **Britain issues a >5 banknote, known as a “fiver,”** the lowest-denomination note in circulation.
- **Philip was married to Queen Elizabeth II for 73 years.** The other side of the coin features the 95-year-old monarch, as is custom on British coins. The coin has been **launched on what is Armed Forces Day in the U.K.** **Philip had a distinguished naval career.**

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, commonly known as the United Kingdom (UK or U.K.), or Britain, is a **sovereign country in north-western Europe**, off the north–western coast of the European mainland. **The United Kingdom includes the island of Great Britain**, the north–eastern part of the island of Ireland, and many smaller islands within the British Isles. **The United Kingdom’s capital is London.** **Boris Johnson** has been **Prime Minister of the United Kingdom** and **Leader of the Conservative Party** since July 2019. **Elizabeth II** (Elizabeth Alexandra Mary) is **Queen of the United Kingdom** and **15 other Commonwealth realms.** **Pound sterling** is the official currency of the United Kingdom.

China turns on world’s second-biggest hydropower dam

- **The first two generating units of the world’s second-biggest hydroelectric dam** were **officially turned in southwestern China.**
- **The Baihetan Dam on the Jinsha River, a tributary of the Yangtze, is part of Chinese efforts to curb surging fossil fuel demand by building more hydropower capacity** at a time when dams have fallen out of favor in other countries due to environmental complaints.

Sweden’s PM Stefan Lofven resigns

- **Sweden’s Prime Minister Stefan Lofven resigned one week after he lost a vote of confidence**, leaving it up to the Speaker of Parliament to begin the search for a replacement. **Mr Lofven could have either called a snap election or resigned** following the no-confidence vote.
- **Sweden’s parliament has backed the return of Stefan Lofven as prime minister, weeks after he became the first Swedish leader to lose a no-confidence vote.** Under the Swedish system, a prime minister is accepted as long a majority of MPs do not vote against him.

Sweden is a Nordic country in Northern Europe. The Nordic countries, or the Nordics, are a **geographical and cultural region in Northern Europe and the North Atlantic**, where they are **most commonly known as Norden** (literally “the North”). The region **includes the sovereign states of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden**, as well as the autonomous countries of the Faroe Islands and Greenland, which are both part of the Kingdom of Denmark. **The capital and largest city is Stockholm.** **Carl XVI Gustaf is King of Sweden.** **The krona is the official currency of Sweden.**

US House passes bill to remove Confederate statues from Capitol

- **The Democratic-controlled U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill to remove statues honoring those who upheld slavery or backed the Confederacy from the Capitol building**, which displays statues selected by all 50 states.
- The bill will **remove a bust of the former Supreme Court chief justice who wrote the 1857 Dred Scott decision that denied enslaved people the right to be citizens.** The bill passed by a vote of 285 to 120. Every Democrat present and 67 Republicans voted for it. The bill heads to the Senate for consideration, where it would need 10 Republican senators to join every Democrat to pass the upper chamber.

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

South Africa's former President Jacob Zuma sentenced to 15 months in jail

- **South Africa's former President Jacob Zuma has been sentenced to 15 months in jail by the country's highest court.** He has been given five days to hand himself in to police. **Failing that, the Police Minister must order his arrest.**
- **The sentence comes after the Constitutional Court found him guilty of contempt for defying its order to appear at an inquiry into corruption** while he was president. Mr Zuma's time in power, which ended in 2018, was dogged by graft allegations. Businessmen were accused of conspiring with politicians to influence the decision-making process. The former President made one appearance at the inquiry into what has become known as state capture but then refused to appear subsequently.

South Africa is a country in Southern Africa. With over 59 million people, it is the **world's 23rd-most populous nation** and **South Africa has three capital cities: executive Pretoria, judicial Bloemfontein and legislative Cape Town.** The rand is the official currency of South Africa. **Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa is a South African politician serving as President of South Africa since 2018.**

Matera Declaration by G20 reflects Indian concern for farmer welfare, agri-diversity

- **The first joint meeting of Foreign Affairs and Development Ministers ended with the adoption of the "Matera Declaration", which calls upon the international community to step up efforts to contain the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on lives and livelihoods,** and build inclusive and resilient food chains and ensure adequate nutrition for all, **in line with the "Zero Hunger" goal set for 2030.**
- **In the Matera Declaration, the G20 ministers recognised that poverty alleviation, food security and sustainable food systems, are key to ending hunger, encouraging social cohesion and community development,** reducing socio-economic inequalities, and promoting overall inclusive economic growth and sustainable development.
- They also called for **implementing effective actions for the empowerment of women and youth in the rural-urban continuum.** The ministers also stressed on enhancing social-protection measures and programmes, with a focus on people living in vulnerable situations, of which large shares depend on the agriculture and food sector for their livelihoods.
- **The declaration underlined the need for increasing catalytic investments for food security, nutrition, and sustainable food systems and territorial development,** as part of the substantial COVID-19 emergency funding and longer-term national recovery plans and packages.
- It stressed on **accelerating the adaptation of agriculture and food systems to climate change, as increased climate variability and extreme weather events impact agriculture output** and are among the forces driving the rise in global hunger while recognising the importance of sustainable agriculture.

China to celebrate 100th anniversary of founding of its ruling Communist Party

- **On, July 1st 2021, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) marked its centenary** amid much fanfare and glitzy shows even as the rest of the world will continue fighting the pandemic that is claiming lives and livelihoods.
- **India, additionally, has been engaged in a bitter border standoff with China** in the eastern Ladakh sector of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) since April 2020. So far, both sides have been **able to disengage only in the Pangong Tso region.**
- **The CCP is one of the world's largest political organisations** — it claims to have an estimated 90 million members, but was surpassed a few years ago by India's Bharatiya Janata Party. China follows a system of democratic socialism — the CPC is in total control of the country, from the government to the police to the military.
- **Since its foundation in 1921 in Shanghai, the CPC was mired in deep differences, until a civil war erupted with rival Kuomintang. The Communists finally grasped power in 1949 under the leadership of Mao Zedong.** The Central Committee, the Politburo and the Politburo Standing Committee (PSC) are its three key pillars. **However, the main power rests with Politburo Standing Committee (PSC),** which comprises seven top-ranking leaders — **President Xi Jinping; Premier (Prime Minister) Li Keqiang; NPC chairman Li Zhanshu; Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference chairman Wang Yang** etc.

- **The National Party Congress selects the Central Committee members.** The Central Committee selects the Politburo, which has about 200 members. **The Politburo selects the 24-member Politburo Standing Committee (PSC).** These 24 are regarded as the most powerful members of the party.
- **The NPC amended the constitution in March 2018 and changed the tenure of the president, “paving the way for Xi to remain officially in power beyond 2022”,** according to the Council on Foreign Relations’ report.

India and China mark the 1st April 2020 as the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between them starting from 1950 till now. India and China established diplomatic relations on 1st April 1950. **India was the first non-socialist country to establish relations with the People’s Republic of China and the catchphrase ‘Hindi Chini Bhai Bhai’ became famous.** In 2008, **“A Shared Vision for the 21st Century”** was agreed upon by the two governments. **Since the beginning of the 21st century, trade between China and India has grown from less than \$3 billion to nearly \$100 billion, an increase of about 32 times.**

Rishi Sunak lays out plans for UK’s ‘world-first’ Green Savings Bonds

- **UK Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak delivered a major speech** in which he laid out his plans for the country’s green sovereign and savings bonds to be launched later this year. The senior Indian-origin Cabinet minister said the bonds are part of his financial strategy to strengthen the UK’s position as the best place in the world for green finance.
- Under the framework, **green projects like zero-emissions buses, offshore wind and schemes to decarbonise homes and buildings will be eligible for funding, with at least 15 billion pounds of green gilts issued this financial year alone.**
- **The Sovereign Green Bond, also known as a Green Gilt, is planned as giving both investors and savers across the UK the opportunity to join the “collective fight against climate change”.**

USA celebrates 245th Independence Day

- **The United States of America is celebrating its 245th Independence day on 4th July. The celebration of Fourth of July honours the signing of the American Declaration of Independence by the founding fathers of the US on 4 July, 1776.**
- **The Congress had approved independence from Great Britain on July 2 but the process of revising the Declaration of Independence was completed two days later. The declaration was originally drafted by Thomas Jefferson in consultation with fellow committee members John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman, and William Livingston, as per the Britannica.**
- **It declared that the 13 American colonies were no longer part of the British Empire.** Among the many names Thomas Jefferson, who was a renowned statesman and diplomat along with political philosopher Benjamin Franklin, renounced the British Empire and pronounced the North American colonies as free states.

Grenada named world’s first ‘culinary capital’

- **The World Food Travel Association (WFTA) has named Grenada and its sister islands of Carriacou and Petite Martinique as the world’s first Culinary Capital.**
- According to the WFTA, **the Culinary Capitals program aims to focus on culinary cultures around the world as the tourism sector starts to recover after the long pandemic-induced hiatus.**
- **The WFTA, which is regarded as the world’s leading authority on food and beverage tourism, said the integration of spices into the nation’s cuisine has resulted in an overall robust and flavourful Grenada food profile.**

Grenada is an island country in the West Indies in the Caribbean Sea at the southern end of the Grenadines island chain. Its capital is St. George’s. Grenada is also known as the “Island of Spice” due to its production of nutmeg and mace crops. The Eastern Caribbean dollar is the currency of it. Keith Claudius Issac Mitchell is the current Prime Minister of Grenada. Dame Cecile La Grenade has been serving as the governor-general of Grenada.



GST collection slipped below Rs 1 lakh crore in June for the first time in eight months

- **GST collection slipped below Rs 1 lakh crore in June for the first time in eight months** as the second wave of the Covid pandemic and the resultant lockdowns hit businesses and the economy. At Rs 92,849 crore, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection is the lowest in 10 months since August 2020, when it was Rs 86,449 crore, official numbers released showed.
- The GST collections in June 2021 are primarily for supplies made in May — a month when **most states were under different levels of lockdown, reducing business activity. With significant relaxations in lockdown and business supplies picking up**, the collections should see a definite uptick in the coming months, experts said.
- **The gross GST revenue collected in the month of June 2021 is Rs 92,849 crore**, of which Central GST is Rs 16,424 crore, State GST is Rs 20,397, Integrated GST is Rs 49,079 crore (including Rs 25,762 crore collected on import of goods) and Cess is Rs 6,949 crore (including Rs 809 crore collected on import of goods), the finance ministry said.
- **It said that e-way bill generation data for the month of June suggests that uptick in revenue is expected in the coming months.** The e-way bills generated during June 2021 has gone up to 5.5 crore, indicating recovery of trade and business, up from 3.99 crore in May. As many as 5.88 crore e-way bill were generated in April, 2021.
- Under the GST regime, **a registered supplier cannot transport goods over Rs 50,000 without generation of an e-way bill.** The bill is therefore an instrument for tracking the supply.

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

China is now second largest export partner of India

- **China replaced the UAE as the second largest export destination for India in fiscal 2021**, with outbound shipments to the **neighbouring country rising 27.53% to \$21.18 billion** in the pandemic year.
- **The US remained the country's top export partner**, according to government data, **but shipments declined 2.78% to \$51.63 billion in a year** when **India's merchandise trade** — both exports and imports — fell amid global lockdowns and disruption to logistics due to the pandemic.

The latest round of meetings among the OPEC+ group of oil-exporting countries has stalled as the UAE has pushed back proposals making an increase in crude oil supply conditional

- **The latest round of meetings among the OPEC+ group of oil-exporting countries has stalled as the UAE has pushed back proposals making an increase in crude oil supply conditional** on an extension to an output agreement. Another round of discussions between OPEC+ countries was reportedly called off as key players failed to make any progress in resolving key issues.
- **The OPEC+ group of countries had, in April 2020, entered into a two-year agreement, which entailed steep cuts in crude production to deal with a sharp fall in the price of oil as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.** The price of Brent crude hit an 18-year low of under \$20 per barrel in April 2020 as economic activity around the world crashed as countries dealt with the pandemic. The initial production cut by OPEC+ was about 10 million barrels per day or about 22 per cent of the reference production of OPEC+ nations.
- **The price of petrol was decontrolled in 2010 while the price of diesel was decontrolled in 2014. Increasing central and state taxes on petrol and diesel are the key reason for the prices of petrol and diesel being at record highs, even though the price of crude oil is only 3.5 per cent higher than at the beginning of 2020, before the Covid-19 pandemic led to a sharp fall in the demand for crude oil.**
- **Impact on India: Current Account Deficit: The increase in oil prices will increase the country's import bill, and further disturb its current account deficit (excess of imports of goods and services over exports).** According to estimates, a one-dollar increase in crude oil price increases the oil bill by around USD 1.6 billion per year. **India imports 80% of its crude oil requirements and the average price of Indian basket of crude oil has already risen to USD 54.8 barrel for January 2021. Inflation:** The increase in crude prices could also further increase inflationary pressures that have been building up over the past few months. This will decrease the space for the monetary policy committee to ease policy rates further. The government had hiked central taxes on petrol and diesel by Rs. 13 per litre and Rs. 11 per litre in 2020 to boost revenues amid lower economic activity. **Fiscal Health:** If oil prices continue to increase, the government shall be forced to cut taxes on petroleum and diesel which may cause loss of revenue and deteriorate its fiscal balance.

Generally, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) used to work as a cartel and fix prices in a favourable band. OPEC is led by Saudi Arabia, which is the largest exporter of crude oil in the world (single-handedly exporting 10% of the global demand). OPEC has a total of 13 Member Countries viz. Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Libya, Nigeria, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Republic of Congo, Angola, and Venezuela. Recently, OPEC has been working with Russia, as OPEC+ to fix the global prices and supply. In 2016, OPEC allied with other top non-OPEC oil-exporting nations to form an even more powerful entity named OPEC+ or OPEC Plus. OPEC is headquartered in Kuwait. Brent crude oil originates from oil fields in the North Sea between the Shetland Islands and Norway. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) is sourced from US oil fields, primarily in Texas, Louisiana, and North Dakota. Brent crude price is the international benchmark price used by the OPEC while WTI crude price is a benchmark for US oil prices. Since India imports primarily from OPEC countries, Brent is the benchmark for oil prices in India.

LIC chairman inaugurates Go Live of e-PGS project

- **LIC of India crossed another milestone by embarking upon a new Centralized Web-based Work-flow-based IT platform for its Group Business operations. Chairman of LIC of India, MR Kumar inaugurated the Go Live of the project e-PGS.** The inaugural ceremony was joined online from 204 locations across the entire country.
- **Rakesh Sharma, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of IDBI Bank received the first digital receipt, generated on new IT platform, to the Bank as Master Policy Holder in one of its group policies from M R Kumar as a part of the inaugural function.**
- **The new system, e-PGS, is capable of providing comprehensive self-servicing capabilities** through customer portal where corporate customers will be able to view their data, initiate actionable processes, lodge and track claims.
- **Some of the services will be launched on green channel with end-to-end processing at customer level itself** without manual intervention from Insurer's Office.

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

MOIL, Madhya Pradesh government, MPSMCL sign pact to explore manganese ore reserves

- **State-owned MOIL has signed a pact with the Madhya Pradesh government and the Madhya Pradesh State Mining Corporation Ltd (MPSMCL) to explore the options of manganese ore mining in four districts of the state. The four districts of Madhya Pradesh are Balaghat, Jabalpur, Jhabua, and Chhindwara.**
- **MOIL has carried out detailed distant sensing research with the assistance of the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) ISRO, Hyderabad, so as to determine the manganese-bearing areas.**
- **Based on the research carried out by NRSC, MOIL mentioned it has additionally carried out in depth fieldwork, adopted by geological mapping, sampling, and their petrological and chemical evaluation for delineation of manganese ore-bearing areas within the web site specified by NRSC.**

Turkmenistan's secretive capital of Ashgabat is named most expensive city for expats in the world

- **Turkmenistan's capital Ashgabat has been named the most expensive city to live in for expatriates, dethroning Hong Kong, according to Mercer's 2021 Cost of Living city ranking.**
- **Ashgabat, which came in second last year, owes its ranking "primarily due to a continuing socio-economic crisis which has led to food shortages and hyperinflation," said Mercer's Asia Pacific global mobility leader Julia Radchenko in a statement.**
- **In a similar economic predicament is the Lebanese capital Beirut, which was named the third most expensive city to live in - a leap from 45th in last year's ranking.**
- **Meanwhile, the others in the top 10 costliest cities to live in should come as no surprise, with Hong Kong, Tokyo, Zurich, and Shanghai coming in at second, fourth, fifth, and sixth place, respectively.**

Binance: Watchdog clamps down on cryptocurrency exchange

- **Binance, the world's biggest cryptocurrency exchange, has been issued a warning by the UK's financial regulator. The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) has ruled that the firm cannot conduct any "regulated activity" in the UK. It also advised people to be wary of adverts promising high returns on cryptoasset investments.**
- **Binance said the FCA notice would have no "direct impact" on the services it provides from its website Binance.com. Binance's existing crypto exchange is not UK-based so despite the FCA ruling, there will be no impact on UK residents who use the website to purchase and sell cryptocurrencies.**

A blockchain originally block chain, is a growing list of records, called blocks that are linked using cryptography. Each block contains a cryptographic hash of the previous block, a timestamp, and transaction data (generally represented as a Merkle tree). The blockchain was invented by a person (or group of people) using the name Satoshi Nakamoto in 2008 to serve as the public transaction ledger of the cryptocurrency bitcoin.

SEBI approves proposal to introduce framework for 'Accredited Investors'

- **Securities and exchange board of India (SEBI) has approved a proposal to introduce a framework for 'Accredited Investors' in the Indian securities market. It will be a class of investors who may be considered to be well informed or well advised about investment products.**
- **Accredited investors may be Individuals, Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs), Family Trusts, Sole Proprietorships, Partnership Firms, Trusts and Body Corporates based on financial parameters and information as may be specified by SEBI.**

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

Singapore Precious Metals Exchange Officially Launches the World's First End-to-End Platform that Democratizes Precious Metals Investment

- Singapore Precious Metals Exchange (SGPMX), the world's first 100 percent physically-backed precious metals exchange, has teamed up with Scottsdale Mint, a manufacturer of precious metal products to 20+ foreign governments, private banks, investors, collectors, and 3rd party bullion dealers to officially launch its Stacker Market platform.
- The platform will allow account holders to buy and sell physically backed, fractionalized gold and silver. Stacker Market will feature free storage, transfers in/out, trade, redemption, monetization and collateralization of gold and silver holdings, while instantly preserving client wealth in physical bullion.

Saudi Arabia announces plan to launch second national airline

- Saudi Arabian Airlines faces growing competition from other Gulf carriers, including Dubai's Emirates Airline and the Doha-based Qatar Airways, which offer a wider network.
- Under Prince Mohammed, the kingdom's de facto ruler, OPEC kingpin Saudi Arabia is currently in the midst of a major push to boost investments to fund ambitious plans to diversify the oil-reliant economy.
- The kingdom is considering building a new airport in the capital Riyadh – a base for a new airline – to cater to international tourists and business travellers. The airline, part of a push to turn the kingdom into a logistics hub, would be in addition to state-owned Saudi Arabian Airlines, which has suffered losses for years.

India ranks among top 10 in ITU's Global Cyber security Index

- India has made it to the top 10 in Global Cyber security Index (GCI) 2020 by ITU, moving up 37 places to rank as the tenth best country in the world on key cyber safety parameters.
- The affirmation by the UN body of India's efforts on cyber security comes just ahead of the sixth anniversary of Digital India on July 1. India is emerging as a global IT superpower, asserting its digital sovereignty with firm measures to safeguard data privacy and online rights of citizens.
- As per the ranking, India has moved up by 37 places to rank as the tenth best country in the world in the Global Cyber security Index (GCI) 2020 launched by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

NITI Aayog recommends privatising United India Insurance Company

- The NITI Aayog has recommended privatisation of state-owned insurer United India Insurance Company as the government aims to move ahead with its new public sector enterprise (PSE) policy for Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- The policy think tank has suggested that the public sector insurer be considered for privatisation in the banking, insurance and financial services sector, which has been classified as 'strategic' in the PSE policy.

United India Insurance Company is a leading Indian government owned general insurance company. It is under the ownership of Ministry of Finance, Government of India is headquartered in Chennai. It was incorporated on 18 February 1938, and nationalised in 1972.

India joins OECD, G20 Inclusive Framework tax deal

- India has joined Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and G20 Inclusive Framework tax deal.
- Majority of the members of OECD and G20 countries adopted a high-level statement containing an outline of a consensus solution to address the tax challenges arising from the digitalisation of the economy.

- **The proposed solution consists of two components- reallocation of additional share of profit to the market jurisdictions and minimum tax subject to tax rules.** However, the technical details of the proposal will be worked out in the coming months and a consensus agreement is expected by October.
- The principles underlying the solution vindicates **India's stand for a greater share of profits for the markets. India is in favour of a consensus solution** which is simple to implement and simple to comply. At the same time, the solution should result in allocation of meaningful and sustainable revenue to market jurisdictions, particularly for developing and emerging economies.

India's first Agriculture Export Facilitation Centre launched in Pune

- **India's first Agriculture Export Facilitation Centre (AFEC) established by the Mahratta Chamber of Commerce Industries and Agriculture (MCCIA) in association with the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) was formally inaugurated in Pune.**

India jumps 3 spots up in global start-up ranking

- **The country is at the 20th spot among the top 100 countries.** India has jumped three spots up in the global start-up ranking this year, a possible silver lining amid the chaos that the pandemic has wrought upon us. **India stands at the 20th spot among the top 100 countries that have been ranked in the Global Startup Ecosystem Index 2021 by Startup Blink.**

GIFT City joins hands with BRTSIF to accelerate fintech innovation

- **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) has collaborated with the Ryerson Technology Startups Incubator Foundation (BRTSIF) to accelerate fintech innovation.**
- **GIFT City is India's first smart city and international financial services centre (IFSC), and BRTSIF is a joint venture among BSE Institute Mumbai, Ryerson University and Simon Fraser University, Canada.** As part of the collaboration, Zone Startups India, a part of BRTSIF, will explore avenues to set up and promote a fintech hub in GIFT SEZ.

LIC's Saral Pension scheme launched

- **The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has launched its Saral Pension, an Individual Immediate Annuity Plan, with effect from July 1, 2021. An annuity is a financial product that makes regular payment to its buyer as per the agreed terms and conditions.**
- **LIC Saral Pension is a non-linked, non-participating plan.** The buyer needs to buy this annuity with a single premium after which the annuity begins. **The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) had issued guidelines for standard products for various insurance categories and the Saral Pension scheme is one among them.**

Government of India decides to bring retail and wholesale trade under ambit of MSME

- **The government has decided to bring retail and wholesale trade under the ambit of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME). An MSME would hereafter be referred to as Udyam and the registration process as Udyam Registration.**
- **It has issued revised guidelines to include retail and wholesale trade as MSME and extend to them the benefit of priority sector lending under the RBI guidelines.** With the revised guidelines the **Retail and wholesale trades will now be allowed to register on Udyam Registration Portal.**
- **With around 63.4 million units throughout the geographical expanse of the country, MSMEs contribute around 6.11% of the manufacturing GDP and 24.63% of the GDP from service activities as well as 33.4% of India's manufacturing output.**

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



Inventions/Discoveries

China declared malaria-free by WHO

- China was officially certified 'malaria-free' by the World Health Organization (WHO) becoming the second country in the Asia Pacific region to get the tag, after Sri Lanka in 2016.
- The Asia Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance (APLMA), Asia Pacific Malaria Elimination Network (APMEN) and their partner The RBM Partnership welcomed China's achievement and noted the country's contributions in the fight against malaria.

Malaria is a mosquito-borne infectious disease that affects humans and other animals. Malaria causes symptoms that typically include fever, tiredness, vomiting, and headaches. Malaria is a life-threatening disease caused by parasites that are transmitted to people through the bites of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes. It is preventable and curable.

DRDO tests enhanced range Pinaka and 122 mm rockets

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test fired the enhanced range versions of the indigenously developed 122 mm calibre rocket as well as the extended range version of indigenously developed Pinaka rocket from a Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher (MBRL) at integrated test range, Chandipur in Odisha.
- According to a statement from the DRDO, the enhanced range versions were tested from a multi-barrel rocket launcher (MBRL). Four rockets were test-fired with full instrumentation and they met all mission objectives. These rockets have been developed for Army applications and can destroy targets 45 km away. These will replace the 122 mm Grad rockets.
- All flight articles of the two rockets were tracked by range instruments including telemetry, radar and the electro optical tracking system deployed by ITR & Proof and Experimental Establishment (PXE).
- They were developed jointly by Pune-based Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE) and High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL) with manufacturing support from Economic Explosives Limited, Nagpur.

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is an agency of the Republic of India, charged with the military's research and development, headquartered in New Delhi, India. It was formed in 1958 by the merger of the Technical Development Establishment and the Directorate of Technical Development and Production with the Defence Science Organisation. Dr G. Satheesh Reddy is the current Chairman of DRDO.

India successfully test-fires Agni P, a new missile in Agni series

- India successfully carried out the test-firing of a new missile in the Agni series known as Agni P off the coast of Odisha. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight tested the new generation nuclear-capable ballistic missile from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam island off the coast of Odisha. The missile has followed textbook trajectory, meeting all mission objectives with a high level of accuracy".

- **Agni P is the first of the new class of Agni missile to be launched by DRDO. The ballistic missile weighs 50% less than Agni 3 and has new guidance and a new generation of propulsion. Since the missile is canisterised, it can be launched from rail and road and stored for a longer period and transported all across the country as per operational requirements. Agni P is an advanced variant of the Agni class of missiles and is a canisterised missile with a range capability between 1000 km and 2000 km.**
- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) also **successfully test-fired an extended range version of indigenously-developed Pinaka rocket at Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.**
- **That day, 25 Enhanced Pinaka rockets, which can destroy targets at distances up to 45 kilometres, were test-fired in quick succession against targets at different ranges on Thursday and Friday. The 122 mm Caliber rockets were also launched from a Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher (MBRL).**

Scientists Confirm Black Hole and Neutron Star Collisions in World-First Discovery

- **Weeks after scientists confirmed that it was impossible for a black hole to decrease in size over time, signals from the collision of two neutron stars crashing into black holes have been detected for the first time.** The signals have been detected in the US and Europe from a collision that happened hundreds of millions of light-years ago.
- **For the first time, scientists have unambiguously confirmed the collision of a black hole and a neutron star:** The fateful moment two extreme objects come together in an event so immensely powerful, its ripples across the cosmos can still be discerned a billion years later. Amazingly enough, this astronomical discovery has now been made not once, but twice, as an international collaboration of thousands of scientist's reports.
- **"In January 2020, a pair of events, named GW200105 and GW200115 was detected by gravitational-wave observatories.** This will be the first detection of a hybrid pair seen in gravitational waves," LIGO India said.
- **Indian scientist Dr Shashvath Kapadia from the International Centre for Theoretical Sciences (ICTS) in Bengaluru helped with the estimation of the neutron star-black hole merger rate of the collision.** India has been contributing to the research around gravitation waves by its LIGO-India Scientific Collaboration (LISC).

The Big Bang theory is the prevailing cosmological model of the observable universe from the earliest known periods through its subsequent large-scale evolution. The model describes how the universe expanded from an initial state of high density and temperature, and offers a comprehensive explanation for a broad range of observed phenomena, including the abundance of light elements, the cosmic microwave background (CMB) radiation, and large-scale structure. Georges Lemaitre first noted in 1927 that an expanding universe could be traced back in time to an originating single point, which he called the "primeval atom". Edwin Hubble confirmed through analysis of galactic redshifts in 1929 that galaxies are indeed drifting apart; this is important observational evidence for an expanding universe. In 1964, the CMB was discovered, which convinced many cosmologists that the steady-state theory was falsified, since, unlike the steady-state theory, the hot Big Bang predicted a uniform background radiation throughout the universe caused by the high temperatures and densities in the distant past. A wide range of empirical evidence strongly favors the Big Bang, which is now essentially universally accepted.

Russian agency begins work on 5th reactor at Kudankulam nuclear power plant

- **Russia's state-run atomic energy corporation began work on the fifth of six nuclear reactors at the Kudankulam nuclear power plants and was ready to launch the construction of more advanced units at a new site in India.**
- **Russia is currently building the 6,000-MW project at Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu, which will have six VVER-1000 nuclear reactors, and is in talks with India to construct six more reactors at a new site that is yet to be identified. Two reactors at Kudankulam are currently operational, and India signed a framework agreement with Rosatom in 2017 for constructing the fifth and sixth units.**

New source of gravitational waves detected by scientists

- **Scientists have for the first time detected gravitational waves – ripples in the fabric of space-time – produced by the collision of a neutron star and a black hole.**

- **The finding confirms** that there are **systems consisting of a neutron star and a black hole**, and will help answer many questions about the cosmos, from star formation to the expansion rate of our universe.
- **Gravitational waves are produced when celestial objects collide and the ensuing energy creates ripples** in the fabric of space-time which carry all the way to detectors on Earth.
- **The reverberations from the two celestial objects were picked up using a global network of gravitational wave detectors**, the most sensitive scientific instruments ever built, according to the researchers from UK's Strathclyde University.

Gravitational waves are an invisible (yet incredibly fast) ripple in space that was first discovered by Albert Einstein over 100 years ago. Einstein predicted that something special happens when two bodies—such as planets or stars—orbit each other. He believed that this kind of movement could cause ripples in space. These ripples would spread out like the ripples in a pond when a stone is tossed in. According to Nasa, these waves travel at the speed of light, squeezing and stretching anything in their path as they pass by. The most powerful gravitational waves are created when a star explodes asymmetrically, known as a supernova, or when two big stars orbit each other or when two black holes orbit each other and merge.

Western Ghats record a new-to-science semi slug

- Researchers have **identified a new genus and species of land mollusc** in the northern Western Ghats, from Amboli village in Sindhudurg district. The new genus, Varadia, has been named after herpetologist Dr Varad Giri, while the species has been christened as Varadia amboliensis, in reference to the location where it was first discovered in 2017.
- The new genus is named after Dr Giri, whose contribution towards the study of Indian herpetofauna involves describing 56 new species and four new genera". The Western Ghats, also known as Sahyadri, is a mountain range that covers an area of 160,000 km² in a stretch of 1,600 km parallel to the western coast of the Indian peninsula, traversing the states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra, and Gujarat.

National Telemedicine Service 'e-Sanjeevani' completes seven million consultations

- Health Ministry's National Telemedicine Service - e-Sanjeevani has crossed another milestone by **completing seven million consultations**. Patients consult with doctors and specialists on a daily basis using this innovative digital medium to seek health services. In another significant milestone in June, it served around 12.5 lakh patients, which is the highest since the services were launched last year.
- Currently, the National Telemedicine Service is operational in 31 States and Union Territories. The doctor-to-doctor telemedicine platform has served over 32 lakh patients.

Ayurveda Dataset on CTRI Portal will be launched

- **Marking a significant step towards worldwide visibility for Ayurveda based clinical trials**, the Ayurveda dataset on CTRI Portal was launched online by Ayush Minister Shri Kiren Rijiju. This Ayurveda Dataset of CTRI has been jointly developed by ICMR and CCRAS, Ministry of Ayush. The Minister also launched four more Portals, all developed by the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS).
- CTRI is a primary register of Clinical Trials under WHO's International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (ICTRP) and creation of Ayurveda dataset in CTRI facilitates usages of Ayurveda terminologies to record clinical study meta data based on Ayurveda interventions. Until now the clinical trials in Ayurveda were dependent on terminology borrowed from modern medicine.

The Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) is purposed with developing education, research and propagation of indigenous alternative medicine systems in India. As per a recent notification published in the Gazette of India on 13 April 2021, the Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy), will now be known as the Ministry of Ayush. The Ministry of Ayush includes the seven traditional systems of healthcare. The Ministry is headed by a Minister of State (Independent Charge), which is currently held by Shripad Yesso Naik.



Sports Personalities in News

Zhang Zhizhen becomes first Chinese man to qualify for Wimbledon in Open era

- Zhang Zhizhen qualified for Wimbledon to become the first Chinese man in the Open era to play in the Grand Slam tournament. The 24-year-old is only the fourth Chinese man to play singles in the main draw of a Grand Slam since the Open era began in 1968.

ISSF WC shooting: India's Rahi Sarnobat wins gold in women's 25 mtr pistol event

- In ISSF World Cup shooting, India's Rahi Sarnobat won gold in women's 25 metres pistol event in Osijek, Croatia. Rahi shot 39 out of 50 in the 25m pistol final to win the first gold for India in the ongoing World Cup.

ICC confirms T20 World Cup to be held in UAE & Oman

- The International Cricket Council issued confirmation that the multi-nation tournament T20 World Cup will be held in the United Arab Emirates and Oman from October 17 to November 14. However, BCCI retains the hosting rights of the 16-team event.

Badminton Sudirman Cup moved to Finland, World Tour Finals to Indonesia

- In badminton, two key tournaments, the Sudirman Cup Finals 2021 and the BWF World Tour Finals, which were originally planned to take place in China this year, have now been moved to Vantaa, Finland and Bali, Indonesia respectively.
- Vantaa, Finland is the new host of the Sudirman Cup Finals 2021 from September 26 to October 3, followed by the Thomas and Uber Cup Finals 2020 in Aarhus, Denmark which had been postponed last year.

Abhimanyu Mishra becomes youngest Grandmaster in Chess

- In Chess, Abhimanyu Mishra made history by becoming the youngest chess Grandmaster, breaking the record of 12 years and seven months set by Sergey Karjakin in 2002. Abhimanyu reached the milestone in 12 years, four months, and 25 days. The 12-year-old player from New Jersey scored his third GM norm in Budapest, having already crossed the required 2500 ELO rating barrier.

Rewari body builder to head Asian body

- Body builder Amit Swami, a resident of Rewari, has been appointed as the Director-General of Asian Body Building and Physique Sports Federation. Swami is the first Indian to be appointed as the same.

Mithali Raj becomes leading run-getter in women's international cricket

- Mithali Raj became the leading run-getter in women's international cricket, going past Charlotte Edwards' tally of 10,273 runs. Raj and Edwards are the only players to scale the 10,000-run mark in women's international cricket. Mithali Raj crossed England's Charlotte Edwards as the highest scorer in women's international cricket in the 3rd ODI against England. Raj has 669 runs in Tests, 7244* runs in ODIs and 2364 runs in T20Is.

MISCELLANEOUS

Office of Principal Scientific Adviser launches Atmanirbhar Krishi App

- **Atmanirbhar Krishi App** was launched by the Office of Principal Scientific Adviser to the Union Government. The Atmanirbhar Krishi App was created to equip farmers with actionable agricultural insights and early weather. Data related to soil type, soil health, moisture, weather and water table were aggregated and analysed to generate personalized insights related to crop selection, fertilizers requirements and water needs for each farmer at the farm-holding level.

Tourism losses could cost World \$4 trillion in 2020 and 2021: UN report

- The collapse of international tourism due to COVID-19 could cost the world at least \$4 trillion in terms of global GDP for 2020 and 2021 according to a report from two United Nations (UN) institutions. India experienced a 54% drop in tourist arrivals in 2020 according to COVID-19 and Tourism: An Update, a joint report released by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the UN World Tourist Organisation (UNWTO).

N S Tomar launches Crop Insurance Awareness Campaign for Fasal Bima Yojana

- Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched the Crop Insurance Awareness Campaign for Fasal Bima Yojana during the Crop Insurance Week. Mr Tomar said that Fasal Bima Yojana aims to provide security cover to each farmer. He also announced that the scheme achieved milestone figure of 95 thousand crore of claims paid to farmers.

Bhubaneswar to become India's First City to Achieve 100% COVID Vaccination

- Odisha capital is likely to become the first city in the country to have 100% COVID-19 vaccination as the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has planned to administer 1st dose to all denizens by July 15 and 2nd dose by August-end.

President Kovind laid foundation stone of Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar cultural centre in Lucknow

- President Ram Nath Kovind laid the foundation stone of Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar cultural centre in Lucknow. The Cultural Centre will have a 750 seated auditorium, library, picture gallery, museum, multipurpose hall, dormitory, cafeteria, parking and other basic facilities.

Invest India won the most innovative Investment Promotion Agency 2021 award

- Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar have congratulated Invest India, which has been awarded the world's most innovative Investment Promotion Agency 2021 by OCO Global.

Gujarat first state to provide uniforms for anganwadi kids

- The Gujarat government has decided to provide uniforms to 14 lakh Anganwadi students, making it the first state to take such a decision. Chief Minister Vijay Rupani initiated a state-wide pre-school uniform distribution programme for students of 53,029 anganwadis in the state.
- However, with new instructions issued by the state government to keep the anganwadis closed until July 13, the local bodies have deferred the distribution of pre-school uniforms to the other students that were to be held following the symbolic event held in Gandhinagar by Rupani.

Hemis Festival of Ladakh

- Hemis Festival of Ladakh (now a Union Territory) is being observed with due religious fervour but sans the crowd it usually attracts from around the globe. While most monasteries in the region hold their festivals in winter, the Hemis Festival is usually held in June/July. The monastery's nearness to Leh (about 45 km away by road), the pleasant weather, and the extravagant play of colours (the monastery, the attire of the dancers, the blue sky) makes it one of the most photographed festivals of India.

NRI businessman Vedanta Baruah becomes first Assamese to get UAE's Golden Visa

- **Vedanta Baruah, an NRI entrepreneur who hails from Assam's Dibrugarh district, has been awarded the UAE's 10-year Golden Visa, which is mostly reserved for prominent global personalities. Baruah is the first Assamese to receive the UAE's Golden Visa.**

Biden nominates Indian-American Shalina D Kumar as federal judge

- **US President Joe Biden has nominated Indian-American circuit court chief judge Shalina D Kumar as a federal judge for the Eastern District of Michigan.**
- **Nominated by Biden to the US District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, Chief Judge Shalina has served on the Oakland County Sixth Circuit Court since 2007. She was appointed Chief Judge of the Circuit Court by the Michigan Supreme Court in January of 2018. Shalina would be the first federal judge of South Asian descent in Michigan.**

Atul Keshap takes charge as United States' new envoy to India

- **Atul Keshap took charge as United States' new envoy to India. He most recently served as the Ambassador to Sri Lanka and Maldives.** The US state department said, appointment of the Indian-American career diplomat, an old India-hand at the US state department will help reinforce the close US partnership with the Government and people of India.

Amitabh Kant gets one-year extension as NITI Aayog CEO

- **The central government has extended for another one year the tenure of Amitabh Kant, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) till June 2022 – third extension since he took charge of the public policy think tank in 2016.**
- **Amitabh Kant, an Indian Administrative Service official of the Kerala cadre, has been instrumental in several policy initiatives of the government, including 'Make in India', 'Start-up India', and 'Incredible India' and has recently been spearheading the ease of doing business initiatives of NITI Aayog.**

Shri Justice Ravi Vijaykumar Malimath appointed to perform the duties of the office of Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court

- **President of India, in exercise of the powers conferred by Article 223 of the Constitution of India, appointed Shri Justice Ravi Vijaykumar Malimath, senior-most Judge of Himachal Pradesh High Court, to perform the duties of the office of the Chief Justice of that High Court with effect from 1st July, 2021 consequent upon the retirement of Shri Justice Lingappa Narayana Swamy, Chief Justice, Himachal Pradesh High Court.**

AWARDS

Centre invites nominations for Subhas Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2022

- The central Government has invited nominations for the Subhas Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2022. The awards are given for excellence in the field of Disaster Management.
- Online application process is open till 31st August at dmawards.ndma.gov.in. The awards are announced every year on birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on 23 January.
- Nominated individual or institution should have worked in any area of disaster management, like Prevention, Mitigation, Preparedness, Rescue, Response, Relief, Rehabilitation, Research, Innovation or early warning.
- Along with a certificate the awards carry a cash award of 51 lakh rupees for an Institution and 5 lakh rupees for an individual. An individual can apply for the award and also nominate another person or institution.

'Son Rise' to represent India at the Festival of Feature and Television Films of the SCO

- The Ministry of External Affairs and Information & Broadcasting has selected Vibha Bakshi's National Award-winning documentary Son Rise to represent India at the Festival of Feature and Television Films of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Member States in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.
- Dushanbe will host the movie pageant presenting characteristic movies and documentaries from eight SCO member nations, 4 observer states, and 6 dialogue accomplice states of the Shanghai Company Organisation.

19 year-old social entrepreneur from Delhi wins Diana Award for fundraising activities

- Sana Mittar, a social entrepreneur from Delhi and a first-year undergraduate student at the University of Warwick, has received the prestigious Diana Award for her contribution in "advancing the UN sustainable development goals (SDG) and empowering young changemakers".
- The award was established in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales, and is given out by the charity of the same name supported by her sons, William, Duke of Cambridge and Harry, The Duke of Sussex.
- Mittar coordinated a digital campaign and worked with 150 volunteers to raise Rs 500,000 for vulnerable communities during the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic. She also raised funds for 40 disadvantaged children to buy mobile phones so they could continue learning from home during lockdowns.

Gita Gopinath, Kamlesh Lulla among 34 Immigrants Honoured By Prestigious US Foundation

- International Monetary Fund Chief Economist Gita Gopinath and NASA Scientist Kamlesh Lulla are among the 34 immigrants honoured by a prestigious American foundation ahead of the US Independence Day "who have enriched and strengthened" the US society and democracy through their contributions and actions.
- Gopinath and Lulla are among the '2021 Great Immigrants' honourees named by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, a non-profit organisation. The Great Immigrants initiative is intended to increase public awareness of immigration's role in the US, reflecting the priorities of Andrew Carnegie, a self-made industrialist.
- In 1911, he established Carnegie Corporation of New York, a grantmaking foundation dedicated to the causes of democracy, education, and international peace. To date, the Corporation has honoured more than 600 outstanding immigrants.

Vidya Balan, Ekta Kapoor & Shobha Kapoor join esteemed list of Oscar members

- Bollywood star Vidya Balan and film producers Ekta Kapoor and mother Shobha Kapoor are among 395 new members invited this year by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.
- The Academy said the list includes artistes and executives from 50 countries who have distinguished themselves by their contributions to theatrical motion pictures. From Indian film industry, Oscar-winner A R Rahman, megastar Amitabh Bachchan, superstars Shah Rukh Khan, Aamir Khan and Salman Khan, as well as producers Aditya Chopra and Guneet Monga are already the Academy members.

IMPORTANT DAYS

“Statistics Day” celebrated on 29th June, 2021

- **The Government has been celebrating the Statistics Day, to popularise the use of Statistics in everyday life and sensitise the public as to how Statistics helps in shaping and framing policies. It has been designated as one of the Special Days to be celebrated at the national level and is celebrated on the birth anniversary of Late Prof. P C Mahalanobis, on 29th June, in recognition of his invaluable contribution in establishing the National Statistical System.**
- **End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture (Sustainable Development Goal or SDG 2 of the UN) is the theme of this year’s National Statistics Day. Goal 2 seeks “sustainable solutions to end hunger in all its forms by 2030 and to achieve food security.”**

International Day of Parliamentarism on 30 June

- **The International Day of Parliamentarism is celebrated every year on 30 June, the date in 1889 on which the IPU was founded. The Day was established in 2018 through a United Nations General Assembly Resolution.**

International Asteroid Day on 30 June

- **In December 2016 the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution declaring 30 June International Asteroid Day in order to “observe each year at the international level the anniversary of the Tunguska impact over Siberia, Russian Federation, on 30 June 1908, and to raise public awareness about the asteroid impact hazard.”**
- **The day was co-founded by scientist Stephen Hawking, filmmaker Grigoriy Richters, B612 Foundation President, Danica Remy, Apollo 9 astronaut Rusty Schweickart, and Brian May, guitarist of the rock band Queen and astrophysicist.**

National Doctors’ Day 2021

- **Every year, July 1 is celebrated as National Doctors’ Day by the Indian Medical Association (IMA). The day is observed to commemorate the birth and death anniversary of former Bengal’s Chief Minister Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy. The day is dedicated to all the doctors and healthcare workers who have been serving the people by risking their lives. For the year 2021, the theme is “Save The Saviours.”**

International Day of Cooperatives on 3 July

- **This July 3rd, the International Day of Cooperatives (#CoopsDay) was celebrated as “Rebuild better together”. Cooperatives around the world will showcase how they are meeting the COVID-19 pandemic crisis with solidarity and resilience and offering communities a people-centred and environmentally just recovery.**
- **In the fields of health, agriculture, production, retail, finance, housing, employment, education, social services and many other spheres where cooperatives are found, the more than one billion cooperative members worldwide continue to prove that no one needs to face a crisis like the pandemic on their own.**
- **The theme for this year is “Rebuild Better Together.”**

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

QUESTIONS

- Which is the first country to ratify International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement (ISA FA) after amendments opening its Membership to all Member States of the United Nations?
(a) Norway (b) Sweden (c) Denmark (d) Finland
- The first city in the country to have 100% COVID-19 vaccination by August-end is
(a) Raipur (b) Bhopal (c) Bengaluru (d) Bhubaneswar
- Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated a Japanese Zen garden and Kaizen academy at _____.
(a) Ahmedabad (b) Surat (c) Bhopal (d) New Delhi
- The global body against money laundering and terror financing FATF has retained Pakistan in _____ list.
(a) Blue (b) Black (c) Grey (d) Green
- Who is the present Chairman of LIC of India?
(a) Deepak Mahajan (b) Kirthan Rathore (c) Mukesh Jain (d) MR Kumar
- According to government data, which of the following countries is largest export destination for India in fiscal 2021?
(a) USA (b) Japan (c) South Africa (d) France
- Who recently became the first Chinese man to qualify for Wimbledon in Open era?
(a) Zhang Zhizhen (b) Zihang Bhaj (c) Nahanj Ghizen (d) Huang Join
- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test fired the extended range version of indigenously developed _____ rocket from a Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher (MBRL).
(a) Pinaka (b) Gandeev (c) Sahasra (d) Ripudaman
- Hemis Festival is celebrated every year in _____.
(a) Jammu & Kashmir (b) Sikkim (c) Ladakh (d) Arunachal Pradesh
- International Asteroid Day is observed every year on _____.
(a) 25th June (b) 27th June (c) 30th June (d) 2nd July
- Recently, Union Government announced stimulus package of _____ crore to boost economy during the fight against COVID-19 pandemic.
(a) Rs. 4, 26,323 crore (b) Rs. 5, 81,636 crore (c) Rs. 6, 28,993 crore (d) Rs. 7, 52,165 crore
- Which of the following countries holds the Presidency of the G20, 2021?
(a) France (b) Germany (c) Italy (d) Indonesia
- Recently, Britain's Treasury has unveiled a new special edition coin to commemorate the life of Prince Philip. The design of the _____ coin had been approved by Philip in 2008.
(a) 2-pound (b) 5-pound (c) 10-pound (d) 20-pound
- Recently, The first two generating units of the world's second-biggest hydroelectric dam were officially turned in _____.
(a) Japan (b) South Korea (c) China (d) India
- Prime Minister Stefan Lofven resigned one week after he lost a vote of confidence, he was Prime Minister of _____.
(a) Italy (b) Spain (c) Germany (d) Sweden

16. Name the world's biggest cryptocurrency exchange, which has been issued a warning by the UK's financial regulator.
(a) Polkadot (b) Bitcoin (c) Binance (d) Dogecoin
17. Name the advanced variant of the Agni class of missiles which is a canisterised missile with a range capability between 1000 km and 2000 km.
(a) Agni Q (b) Agni P (c) Agni M (d) Agni B
18. "Statistics Day" is celebrated on:
(a) 23rd June (b) 27th June (c) 29th June (d) 2nd July
19. In ISSF World Cup shooting, India's _____ won gold in women's 25 metres pistol event in Osijek, Croatia.
(a) Hina Sidhu (b) Deepa Diwan (c) Rahi Sarnobat (d) Alankrita Sharma
20. International Asteroid Day is observed every year on:
(a) 25th June (b) 27th June (c) 30th June (d) 3rd July
21. The India's First Urban Wildlife Corridor is being planned in _____.
(a) Karnataka (b) Delhi-NCR (c) West Bengal (d) Haryana
22. Which of the following has officially launched the World's first End-to-End platform that democratizes precious metals investment?
(a) Singapore Precious Metals Exchange
(b) Mauritius Precious Metals Exchange
(c) Maldives Precious Metals Exchange
(d) Seychelles Precious Metals Exchange
23. Which of the following has recently approved a proposal to introduce a framework for 'Accredited Investors' in the Indian securities market?
(a) Ministry of Finance (b) Reserve Bank of India
(c) Ministry of Corporate Affairs (d) Securities and exchange board of India
24. Recently, President Ram Nath Kovind laid the foundation stone of _____.
(a) Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar cultural centre in Lucknow
(b) Jawaharlal Nehru cultural centre in Kanpur
(c) Mahatma Gandhi cultural centre in Varanasi
(d) Lal Bahadur Shastri cultural centre in Prayagraj
25. The International Cricket Council issued confirmation that T20 World Cup tournament will be held in the _____ from October 17 to November 14.
(a) United Arab Emirates and Oman (b) Saudi Arabia and Jordan
(c) Mauritius and Seychelles (d) Malaysia and Singapore
26. Recently, which of the following countries former President Jacob Zuma has been sentenced to 15 months in jail by the country's highest court?
(a) Eritrea (b) Kenya (c) Zimbabwe (d) South Africa
27. In Sports, Sudirman Cup is associated with:
(a) Lawn Tennis (b) Badminton (c) Chess (d) Polo
28. Name the app which was launched by the Office of Principal Scientific Adviser to the Union Government?
(a) Atmanirbhar Kisan App (b) Atmanirbhar Krishak App
(c) Atmanirbhar Krishi App (d) Swanirbhar Krishi App

29. The International Day of Parliamentarism is celebrated every year on _____.
 (a) 21st June (b) 25th June (c) 30th June (d) 2nd July
30. The Democratic-controlled U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill to remove statues honoring those who upheld slavery or backed the Confederacy from the Capitol building, which displays statues selected by all _____ states.
 (a) 34 (b) 38 (c) 45 (d) 50
31. Which of the following countries was officially certified 'malaria-free' by the World Health Organization (WHO) becoming the second country in the Asia Pacific region to get the tag?
 (a) India (b) China (c) Bangladesh (d) Japan
32. Which of the following states has decided to provide uniforms to 14 lakh Anganwadi students, making it the first state to take such a decision?
 (a) Kerala (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Maharashtra (d) Gujarat
33. Which of the following gulf countries announces plan to launch second national airline recently?
 (a) Saudi Arabia (b) Oman (c) Jordan (d) UAE
34. The _____ has recently launched Enforcing Contracts Portal.
 (a) Department of Finance (b) Department of Home Affairs
 (c) Department of Justice (d) Department of Science & Technology
35. Recently, The World Food Travel Association has named _____ and its sister islands of Carriacou and Petite Martinique as the world's first Culinary Capital.
 (a) Maldives (b) Mauritius (c) Grenada (d) Fiji
36. In Global Cyber security Index (GCI) 2020 by ITU. The rank of India is:
 (a) Second (b) Fifth (c) Tenth (d) Fifteenth
37. Recently, the first joint meeting of Foreign Affairs and Development Ministers ended with the adoption of the _____ which calls upon the international community to step up efforts to contain the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on lives and livelihoods.
 (a) "Matera Declaration" (b) "Lyon Declaration"
 (c) "Paris Declaration" (d) "Milan Declaration"
38. Who among the following made history by becoming the youngest chess Grandmaster?
 (a) Aditya Thakral (b) Abhimanyu Mishra (c) Venkatesh Parashar (d) Shashank Bharadwaj
39. Which of the following countries state-run atomic energy corporation began work on the fifth of six nuclear reactors at the Kudankulam nuclear power plants recently?
 (a) Germany (b) Russia (c) France (d) USA
40. International Asteroid Day is observed every year on:
 (a) 25th June (b) 28th June (c) 30th June (d) 2nd July
41. Recently, The one-of-its-kind aquatic park has been developed by Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Ltd (IRSDC) in collaboration with HNi Aquatic Kingdom at _____.
 (a) Krantivira Sangolli Rayanna Railway Station (b) Kempegowda Railway Station
 (c) Anand Vihar Railway Station (d) Panvel Railway Station
42. Who among the following recently got one-year extension as NITI Aayog CEO?
 (a) Dr. Rajiv Kumar (b) Vipul Mehta (c) Nitesh Raheja (d) Amitabh Kant

43. According to COVID-19 and Tourism: An Update, a joint report released by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the UN World Tourist Organisation (UNWTO). India experienced a _____ drop in tourist arrivals in 2020.
(a) 23% (b) 32% (c) 47% (d) 54%
44. Recently, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched the Crop Insurance Awareness Campaign for _____ during the Crop Insurance Week.
(a) Fasal Bima Yojana (b) Agriculture Insurance Yojana
(c) Farmer Bima Yojana (d) Crop Bima Yojana
45. Name the Indian bodybuilder who has been appointed as the Director-General of Asian Body Building and Physique Sports Federation.
(a) Franklin Hieth (b) Amit Swami (c) Vineet Garg (d) Hitesh Mrigani
46. Recently, China's ruling party, the Communist Party of China celebrated the _____ anniversary of its founding on 1st July 2021.
(a) 50th (b) 75th (c) 100th (d) 150th
47. Recently, India presented English, Russian and Chinese translations of _____ classic works of modern literature written by prominent Indian authors in different languages to the headquarters of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).
(a) Three (b) Six (c) Eight (d) Ten
48. Recently, The _____ has recommended privatisation of state-owned insurer United India Insurance Company.
(a) Finance Ministry (b) IRDA (c) NITI Aayog (d) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
49. National Doctors' Day is celebrated by the Indian Medical Association (IMA) every year on _____.
(a) June 23rd (b) June 29th (c) July 1st (d) July 6th
50. US President Joe Biden has nominated Indian-American circuit court chief judge _____ as a federal judge for the Eastern District of Michigan.
(a) Meenakshi Raghavan (b) Shalina D Kumar
(c) Deepika L Luthra (d) Amruta J Lal
51. According to Mercer's 2021 Cost of Living city ranking, which of the following cities has been named the most expensive city to live in for expatriates?
(a) Ashgabat (b) Hong Kong (c) Mexico City (d) Madrid
52. Which of the following countries is to have 'world-first' Green Savings Bonds?
(a) United States of America (b) United Kingdom
(c) France (d) Belgium
53. Which of the following Indian state has recently launched an education loan scheme for the students aiming for higher studies, titled 'Students Credit Card'?
(a) Uttarakhand (b) Chhattisgarh (c) West Bengal (d) Jharkhand
54. Recently, India's first Agriculture Export Facilitation Centre (AFEC) is established by the Mahratta Chamber of Commerce Industries and Agriculture (MCCIA) in association with the _____ was formally inaugurated.
(a) SIDBI (b) NABARD (c) SEBI (d) Ministry of Finance
55. Which of the following Asian countries has recently joined Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and G20 Inclusive Framework tax deal?
(a) Bangladesh (b) Sri Lanka (c) India (d) Bhutan

56. Who among the following is not among 395 new members invited this year by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences?
 (a) Vidya Balan (b) Shobha Kapoor (c) Ekta Kapoor (d) Rani Mukherjee
57. In India, the awards for excellence in the field of Disaster Management is named after:
 (a) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (b) Lal Bahadur Shastri
 (c) Indira Gandhi (d) Subhash Chandra Bose
58. In the recent ranking India stands at the _____ spot among the top 100 countries that have been ranked in the Global Startup Ecosystem Index 2021 by Startup Blink.
 (a) 7th (b) 10th (c) 14th (d) 20th
59. Recently, The Union Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises and Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javdekar virtually launched _____ technology innovation platforms.
 (a) Three (b) Five (c) Six (d) Nine
60. Recently, The government of India has decided to bring retail and wholesale trade under the ambit of _____.
 (a) NITI Aayog (b) Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises
 (c) Ministry of Corporate Affairs (d) Ministry of Finance
61. In 2021, the International Day of Cooperatives is celebrated on:
 (a) 2nd July (b) 3rd July (c) 5th July (d) 7th July
62. Who among the following recently became leading run-getter in women's international cricket?
 (a) Mithali Raj (b) Charlotte Edwards (c) Suzie Bates (d) Ellyse Perry
63. Which of the following has launched its Saral Pension, an Individual Immediate Annuity Plan, with effect from July 1, 2021?
 (a) HDFC Ergo (b) ICICI Prudential (c) LIC (d) PNB Metlife
64. Who among the following took charge as United States' new envoy to India?
 (a) Mukul Rana (b) Atul Keshap (c) Dibakar Bhattacharya (d) Tullip Mahajan
65. Recently, Health Ministry's National Telemedicine Service _____ has crossed another milestone by completing seven million consultations.
 (a) e-Sanjeevani (b) e-Dawai (c) e-Booti (d) e-Sukani
66. On 4th July, The United States of America celebrated its _____ Independence Day.
 (a) 235th (b) 245th (c) 255th (d) 265th
67. Which of the following states is planning to establish Health ATMs to provide better health facilities to the people?
 (a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Odisha (c) Jharkhand (d) Uttar Pradesh
68. Which of the following states has launched 'Jan Sahayak Aapka Sahayak' mobile app for Government to Citizen (G2C) and Business to Citizen (B2C) services?
 (a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Jharkhand (c) Haryana (d) Odisha
69. Which of the following has been awarded the world's most innovative Investment Promotion Agency 2021 by OCO Global recently?
 (a) First India (b) Invest India (c) Go India (d) Divest India
70. Marking a significant step towards worldwide visibility for Ayurveda based clinical trials, the Ayurveda dataset on _____ was launched online by Ayush Minister Shri Kiren Rijiju.
 (a) CTRI Portal (b) RTYL Portal (c) DRTM Portal (d) MKLY Portal

ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATION

1. c Meanwhile, Denmark becomes first country to ratify International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement (ISA FA) after amendments to it entered into force on January 8 opening its Membership to all Member States of the United Nations.”
2. d Odisha capital is likely to become the first city in the country to have 100% COVID-19 vaccination as the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has planned to administer 1st dose to all denizens by July 15 and 2nd dose by August-end.
3. a Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated a Japanese Zen garden and Kaizen academy at the Ahmedabad Management Association (AMA).
4. c Noting that Pakistan has now completed 26 of the 27 action items given to it in 2018, Pleyer said the FATF has asked Pakistan to take action against UN designated terrorists.
5. d Chairman of LIC of India, MR Kumar inaugurated the Go Live of the project e-PGS.
6. a The US remained the country’s top export partner, according to government data, but shipments declined 2.78% to \$51.63 billion in a year when India’s merchandise trade — both exports and imports — fell amid global lockdowns and disruption to logistics due to the pandemic.
7. a Zhang Zhizhen becomes first Chinese man to qualify for Wimbledon in Open era.
8. a The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test fired the enhanced range versions of the indigenously developed 122 mm calibre rocket as well as the extended range version of indigenously developed Pinaka rocket from a Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher (MBRL) at integrated test range, Chandipur in Odisha.
9. c Hemis Festival of Ladakh (now a Union Territory) is being observed with due religious fervour but sans the crowd it usually attracts from around the globe.
10. c In December 2016 the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution declaring 30 June International Asteroid Day in order to “observe each year at the international level the anniversary of the Tunguska impact over Siberia, Russian Federation, on 30 June 1908, and to raise public awareness about the asteroid impact hazard.”
11. c The Union Government announced stimulus package of Rs. 6, 28,993 crore to boost economy during the fight against COVID-19 pandemic.
12. c External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will attend the G20 ministerial meetings in Italy. Italy holds the Presidency of the G20.
13. b Britain’s Treasury has unveiled a new special edition coin to commemorate the life of Prince Philip, who died in April at the age of 99. The design of the 5-pound coin had been approved by Philip in 2008. It features an original portrait of Philip, drawn by artist Ian Rank-Broadley.
14. c The Baihetan Dam on the Jinsha River, a tributary of the Yangtze, is part of Chinese efforts to curb surging fossil fuel demand by building more hydropower capacity at a time when dams have fallen out of favor in other countries due to environmental complaints.
15. d Sweden’s Prime Minister Stefan Lofven resigned one week after he lost a vote of confidence, leaving it up to the Speaker of Parliament to begin the search for a replacement.

- 16. c** Binance, the world's biggest cryptocurrency exchange, has been issued a warning by the UK's financial regulator.
- 17. b** Agni P is an advanced variant of the Agni class of missiles and is a canisterised missile with a range capability between 1000 km and 2000 km.
- 18. c** It has been designated as one of the Special Days to be celebrated at the national level and is celebrated on the birth anniversary of Late Prof. P C Mahalanobis, on 29th June, in recognition of his invaluable contribution in establishing the National Statistical System.
- 19. c** In ISSF World Cup shooting, India's Rahi Sarnobat won gold in women's 25 metres pistol event in Osijek, Croatia.
- 20. c** In December 2016 the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution declaring 30 June International Asteroid Day in order to "observe each year at the international level the anniversary of the Tunguska impact over Siberia, Russian Federation, on 30 June 1908, and to raise public awareness about the asteroid impact hazard."
- 21. b** India's First Urban Wildlife Corridor Being Planned In Delhi-NCR.
- 22. a** Singapore Precious Metals Exchange (SGPMX), the world's first 100 percent physically-backed precious metals exchange, has teamed up with Scottsdale Mint, a manufacturer of precious metal products to 20+ foreign governments, private banks, investors, collectors, and 3rd party bullion dealers to officially launch its Stacker Market platform.
- 23. d** Securities and exchange board of India (SEBI) has approved a proposal to introduce a framework for 'Accredited Investors' in the Indian securities market.
- 24. a** President Ram Nath Kovind laid the foundation stone of Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar cultural centre in Lucknow.
- 25. a** The International Cricket Council issued confirmation that the multi-nation tournament will be held in the United Arab Emirates and Oman from October 17 to November 14.
- 26. d** South Africa's former President Jacob Zuma has been sentenced to 15 months in jail by the country's highest court.
- 27. b** In badminton, two key tournaments, the Sudirman Cup Finals 2021 and the BWF World Tour Finals, which were originally planned to take place in China this year, have now been moved to Vantaa, Finland and Bali, Indonesia respectively.
- 28. c** Atmanirbhar Krishi App was launched by the Office of Principal Scientific Adviser to the Union Government.
- 29. c** The International Day of Parliamentarism is celebrated every year on 30 June, the date in 1889 on which the IPU was founded.
- 30. d** The Democratic-controlled U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill to remove statues honoring those who upheld slavery or backed the Confederacy from the Capitol building, which displays statues selected by all 50 states.
- 31. b** China was officially certified 'malaria-free' by the World Health Organization (WHO) becoming the second country in the Asia Pacific region to get the tag, after Sri Lanka in 2016.
- 32. d** The Gujarat government has decided to provide uniforms to 14 lakh Anganwadi students, making it the first state to take such a decision.
- 33. a** Saudi Arabian Airlines faces growing competition from other Gulf carriers, including Dubai's Emirates Airline and the Doha-based Qatar Airways, which offer a wider network.

- 34. c** The Department of Justice has launched Enforcing Contracts Portal. The portal aims to promote ease of doing business and improve the 'Contract Enforcement Regime' in the country.
- 35. c** The World Food Travel Association has named Grenada and its sister islands of Carriacou and Petite Martinique as the world's first Culinary Capital.
- 36. c** India has made it to the top 10 in Global Cyber security Index (GCI) 2020 by ITU, moving up 37 places to rank as the tenth best country in the world on key cyber safety parameters.
- 37. a** The first joint meeting of Foreign Affairs and Development Ministers ended with the adoption of the "Matera Declaration", which calls upon the international community to step up efforts to contain the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on lives and livelihoods
- 38. b** In Chess, Abhimanyu Mishra made history by becoming the youngest chess Grandmaster, breaking the record of 12 years and seven months set by Sergey Karjakin in 2002.
- 39. b** Russia's state-run atomic energy corporation began work on the fifth of six nuclear reactors at the Kudankulam nuclear power plants and was ready to launch the construction of more advanced units at a new site in India.
- 40. c** In December 2016 the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution declaring 30 June International Asteroid Day in order to "observe each year at the international level the anniversary of the Tunguska impact over Siberia, Russian Federation, on 30 June 1908, and to raise public awareness about the asteroid impact hazard."
- 41. a** The one-of-its-kind aquatic park at Krantivira Sangolli Rayanna Railway Station has been developed by Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Ltd(IRSDC) in collaboration with HNi Aquatic Kingdom.
- 42. d** Amitabh Kant, an Indian Administrative Service official of the Kerala cadre, has been instrumental in several policy initiatives of the government, including 'Make in India', 'Start-up India', and 'Incredible India' and has recently been spearheading the ease of doing business initiatives of NITI Aayog.
- 43. d** India experienced a 54% drop in tourist arrivals in 2020
- 44. a** Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched the Crop Insurance Awareness Campaign for Fasal Bima Yojana during the Crop Insurance Week.
- 45. b** Body builder Amit Swami, a resident of Rewari, has been appointed as the Director-General of Asian Body Building and Physique Sports Federation. Swami is the first Indian to be appointed as the same.
- 46. c** China's ruling party, the Communist Party of China will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its founding on 1st July 2021.
- 47. d** India presented English, Russian and Chinese translations of 10 classic works of modern literature written by prominent Indian authors in different languages to the headquarters of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).
- 48. c** The NITI Aayog has recommended privatisation of state-owned insurer United India Insurance Company as the government aims to move ahead with its new public sector enterprise (PSE) policy for Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- 49. c** Every year, July 1 is celebrated as National Doctors' Day by the Indian Medical Association (IMA).
- 50. b** US President Joe Biden has nominated Indian-American circuit court chief judge Shalina D Kumar as a federal judge for the Eastern District of Michigan.

- 51. a** Turkmenistan's capital Ashgabat has been named the most expensive city to live in for expatriates, dethroning Hong Kong, according to Mercer's 2021 Cost of Living city ranking.
- 52. b** UK Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak delivered a major speech in which he laid out his plans for the country's green sovereign and savings bonds to be launched later this year.
- 53. c** The Government of West Bengal has launched an education loan scheme for the students aiming for higher studies. The scheme, titled 'Students Credit Card' has been launched by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in Kolkata.
- 54. b** India's first Agriculture Export Facilitation Centre (AFEC) established by the Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce Industries and Agriculture (MCCIA) in association with the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) was formally inaugurated.
- 55. c** India has joined Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and G20 Inclusive Framework tax deal.
- 56. d** Bollywood star Vidya Balan and film producers Ekta Kapoor and mother Shobha Kapoor are among 395 new members invited this year by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.
- 57. d** The central Government has invited nominations for the Subhas Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2022. The awards are given for excellence in the field of Disaster Management.
- 58. d** India stands at the 20th spot among the top 100 countries that have been ranked in the Global Startup Ecosystem Index 2021 by Startup Blink.
- 59. c** The Union Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises and Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javdekar virtually launched six technology innovation platforms.
- 60. b** The government has decided to bring retail and wholesale trade under the ambit of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME).
- 61. b** This July 3rd, the International Day of Cooperatives (#CoopsDay) was celebrated as "Rebuild better together".
- 62. a** Mithali Raj crossed England's Charlotte Edwards as the highest scorer in women's international cricket in the 3rd ODI against England.
- 63. c** The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has launched its Saral Pension, an Individual Immediate Annuity Plan, with effect from July 1, 2021. An annuity is a financial product that makes regular payment to its buyer as per the agreed terms and conditions.
- 64. b** Atul Keshap took charge as United States' new envoy to India. He most recently served as the Ambassador to Sri Lanka and Maldives.
- 65. a** Health Ministry's National Telemedicine Service - e-Sanjeevani has crossed another milestone by completing seven million consultations.
- 66. b** The United States of America is celebrating its 245th Independence day on 4th July.
- 67. d** In Uttar Pradesh, the government is planning to establish Health ATMs to provide better health facilities to the people in state. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath while reviewing a high-level Covid19 meeting at Lucknow instructed to find out possibilities in this direction so that poor and stranded people are benefitted.
- 68. c** Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched 'Jan Sahayak Aapka Sahayak' mobile app for Government to Citizen (G2C) and Business to Citizen (B2C) services.

- 69. b** Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar have congratulated Invest India, which has been awarded the world's most innovative Investment Promotion Agency 2021 by OCO Global.
- 70. a** Marking a significant step towards worldwide visibility for Ayurveda based clinical trials, the Ayurveda dataset on CTRI Portal will be launched online by Ayush Minister Shri Kiren Rijiju.



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