
MANTHAN

A General Awareness Weekly

30th August to 5th September, 2021

PREFACE

Dear Students,

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

Happy Reading

Team CL



Career
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National



25th edition of the Malabar Exercise held in the Pacific Ocean

- Navies of the four member nations of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, or the Quad — India, the United States, Japan, and Australia — were participated in the 25th edition of the Malabar Exercise, which began off the coast of Guam in the Pacific Ocean.
- Malabar, which began as a bilateral exercise, is now one of the cornerstones of military interoperability of the Quad forces, and Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat said that the Quad's charter is to ensure freedom of navigation for all nations.
- Malabar is a multilateral war-gaming naval exercise that was started in 1992. It began as a bilateral exercise between the navies of India and the United States. Two more editions of the exercise were carried out in 1995 and 1996, after which there was a break until 2002 in the aftermath of India's nuclear tests. From 2002 onward, the exercise has been conducted every year. Japan and Australia first participated in 2007, and since 2014, India, the US and Japan have participated in the exercise every year.
- Japan joined the naval exercise in 2015 as a permanent member, and Malabar became a trilateral exercise. But last year was an important milestone. For the first time in over a decade, the exercise saw the participation of all four Quad members. It was the second time that Australia participated in the Malabar series of Naval exercises.
- The Malabar exercise is aimed to support free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific and remain committed to a rules based international order. Malabar 2021 is the first joint maritime exercise within the framework of Quad in the Western Pacific and apparently aims to frighten China. It is being hosted by the US.

The 12th Edition of Indo-Russia joint military Exercise INDRA was held at Volgograd, Russia in August 2021. The exercise was entailed conduct of counter terror operations under the United Nations mandate by a joint force against international terror groups. The INDRA series of exercises began in 2003 and was conducted as a bilateral naval exercise alternately between the two countries. However, the first joint Tri-Services Exercise was conducted in 2017. The last joint, tri-services exercise between India and Russia was conducted in India in December 2019. It was held simultaneously at Babina (near Jhansi), Pune, and Goa. Other Exercises with Quad Countries: **India- Japan:** JIMEX (naval exercise), SHINYUU Maitri (air force exercise), and Dharma Guardian (military exercise). **India-US:** Yudha Abhyas (Army), Vajra Prahar (Military), Spitting Cobra, SANGAM, RED FLAG, COPE INDIA. **India-Australia:** AUSINDEX (Maritime), AUSTRALIA HIND, Pitch Black, Passage Exercises (PASSEX).

BrahMos Aerospace proposes facility in Lucknow for next-gen missile project

- India's premier defense establishment, 'Defence Research and Development Organization, (DRDO)' will produce the BrahMos next generation missile in Lucknow under the Uttar Pradesh Defense Industrial Corridor in the near future. Welcoming the initiative of DRDO, the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh has assured to provide all the facilities including land required for this project.

- **The BrahMos supersonic cruise missile is being designed, developed and produced by BrahMos Aerospace, a joint venture between DRDO, Government of India and NPOM, Russia.** Presently it is being used by the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force.
- The facility comes under the **aerospace firm's expansion for the BrahMos Next Generation (BrahMos-NG) Missile project.** The establishment of the facility will **make UP an aerospace and defence hub of India** as it will bring in niche technologies. It will also put Lucknow prominently on the world map as a manufacturing hub for top-notch technologies, the statement said.
- **The plant would come up with an approximate investment of Rs. 300 crore** and provide direct employment to 500 engineers and technical staff. Besides, around 10,000 people will get indirect employment. In three years, the plant will have the capacity to manufacture 100 BrahMos missiles.
- According to BrahMos Aerospace, **the company has a production facility in Hyderabad, Nagpur and Pilani. It was formed on February 12, 1998, as a joint venture between DRDO and joint stock company 'Military Industrial Consortium' of Russia.**
- According to government officials, **the proposal also mentioned about the order of 400 BrahMos missiles (worth Rs. 8000 crore) by the Indian Air Force.** The company wants to **execute this order at its proposed manufacturing unit in Lucknow.** At the Lucknow unit, BrahMos Aerospace will also execute its export orders in future.
- **The Defence Corridor has six nodes, including Aligarh, Agra, Jhansi, Chitrakoot, Kanpur and Lucknow.** On February 21, 2018, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced the Rs. 20,000 crore Defence Industrial Corridor in Bundelkhand region,** which was considered as one of the most backward regions of UP.

The BrahMos (designated PJ-10) is a medium-range ramjet supersonic cruise missile that can be launched from submarine, ships, aircraft, or land. It is the fastest supersonic cruise missile in the world. It is a joint venture between the Russian Federation's NPO Mashinostroyeniya and India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), who together have formed BrahMos Aerospace. It is based on the Russian P-800 Oniks cruise missile and other similar sea-skimming Russian cruise missile technology. The name BrahMos is a portmanteau formed from the names of two rivers, the Brahmaputra of India and the Moskva of Russia. It is the world's fastest anti-ship cruise missile in operation.

India elected to Council of Administration at 27th UPU Congress in Abidjan

- **India has been elected to the Council of Administration (CA) at 27th Universal Postal Union (UPU) Congress in Abidjan. India with 134 votes got highest votes in CA elections from South Asia and Oceania region. India was also elected with 106 votes out of 156 countries to the Postal Operations Council (POC) at the 27th UPU Congress in Abidjan.**
- **External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar has said India's election to the Council of Administration and the Postal Operations Council of Universal Postal Union is noteworthy.** In a tweet, the Minister congratulated External Affairs Ministry team and said they will work with all to strengthen cooperation in the Universal Postal Union.

Established in 1874, the Universal Postal Union (UPU), with its headquarters in the Swiss capital Berne, is the second oldest international organization worldwide. With its 192 member countries, the UPU is the primary forum for cooperation between postal sector players. It helps to ensure a truly universal network of up-to-date products and services. The Council of Administration (CA) consists of 41 member countries and meets annually at UPU headquarters in Berne. The Council ensures the continuity of the UPU's work between Congresses, supervises its activities and studies regulatory, administrative, legislative and legal issues.

Govt to launch special incentive scheme to support 75 start-ups

- **Government will soon launch a Special Incentives scheme to support 75 Start-Ups in areas of Telemedicine, Digital Health and Artificial Intelligence to coincide with the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.**
- **The scheme will be launched by the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council, BIRAC, a Public Sector Enterprise under the Department of Biotechnology.**

- **BIRAC** has been **promoting and supporting new ventures under the Startup India and Make in India programmes in the areas of Biotechnology ecosystem growth.** The BIRAC has lent funding support of over two thousand 128 crore rupees to more than one thousand 500 Startups, and Small and Medium-sized enterprises.

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is a series of events to be organised by the Government of India to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of India's Independence. The Mahotsav will be celebrated as a Jan-Utsav in the spirit of Jan-Bhagidari throughout the length and breadth of the country. The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi flagged off the 'Padyatra' (Freedom March) from Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad and inaugurated the curtain raiser activities of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' (India@75). Addressing the gathering at Sabarmati Ashram, the Prime Minister stated that the launch of the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' 75 weeks before 15 August 2022 will continue till 15 August, 2023. The Prime Minister reiterated five pillars i.e. Freedom Struggle, Ideas at 75, Achievements at 75, Actions at 75 and Resolves at 75 as guiding force for moving forward keeping dreams and duties as inspiration. The Prime Minister asserted that **Azadi Amrit Mahotsav means elixir of energy of independence.** It means elixir of inspirations of the warriors of freedom struggle; elixir of new ideas and pledges and nectar of Aatmnirbharta.

Rajnath Singh commissioned indigenously built Indian Coast Guard Ship Vighraha

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has commissioned indigenously built Indian Coast Guard Ship Vighraha in Chennai. Indian Coast Guard Ship Vighraha is the seventh in the series of Offshore Patrol Vessels, OPV.
- The ship will be based in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh and operate on the eastern seaboard under the Operational and Administrative Control of the Commander, Coast Guard Region (East).
- The 98-meter OPV, with a complement of 11 officers and 110 sailors, has been **designed and built indigenously by Larsen and Toubro Ship Building Limited.** It is fitted with advanced technology radars, navigation and communication equipment, sensors and machinery capable of operating in tropical sea conditions.
- The ship is also equipped with integrated bridge system, integrated platform management system, automated power management system and high-power external fire-fighting system. **Vighraha is seventh in the series of OPVs, starting from 'Vikram', 'Vijay', 'Veer', 'Varaha', 'Varad' and 'Vajra'.**
- It is fitted with advanced technology radars, navigation and communication equipment, sensors and machinery capable of operating in tropical sea conditions. The vessel is armed with a 40/60 Bofors gun and fitted with two 12.7 mm Stabilised Remote Control Gun with fire control system.

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) is a maritime law enforcement and search and rescue agency of India with jurisdiction over its territorial waters including its contiguous zone and exclusive economic zone. The Indian Coast Guard was formally established on 1 February 1977 by the Coast Guard Act, 1978 of the Parliament. It operates under the Ministry of Defence. Krishnaswamy Natarajan is the current Director General of ICG.

India hosted International Climate Summit 2020-21 on Sep 3, 2021

- India hosted a key conference as part of the International Climate Summit (ICS) 2020-21. The aim is to build a dialogue for India's transition to clean energy. ICS 2021 is an initiative by the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Environment Committee, that has partnered with Invest India. It is one of the world's most awarded investment promotion agencies and a co-organiser for the hybrid event held.
- Prime Minister Modi, while announcing the hydrogen policy, said that **India aims to become a global hub for green hydrogen production and exports.** The conference intends to discuss strategies to power India's budding hydrogen ecosystem, among other agendas. The summit **allows worldwide collaboration in establishing sustainable routes for production, storage, transportation, distribution, and ambitious deployment of hydrogen technologies by 2040,** with the goal of moving towards a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable future.
- Deepak Bagla, Managing Director and CEO, Invest India, said, "Our Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has set the objective to reduce the emissions intensity of GDP by 33% - 35% below the 2005 levels and increase the share of non-fossil fuel to 40% by 2030 during COP 21.
- India is on its way to achieving the set targets and is the only country among the G-20 nations to be on track to meet its climate change mitigation commitments made in 2015 under the Paris Climate

Agreement. The International Climate Summit 2021 on the theme of Green Hydrogen would be a marquee event bringing together investors, policy makers, technology players and academia leaders and bring us one step closer to our aim of a sustainable and green India.”

- **The International Climate Summit 2021 is supported by the Government of Norway as the Partner Country.** In addition, 40 leading organisations, including Reliance Industries Limited, Hindustan Zinc Ltd, ONGC Ltd, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd, GAIL (India) Ltd, Nayara Energy Limited, Bharat Oman Refineries Ltd, OIL India Ltd etc, have confirmed their support as sponsors of the summit.
- **The summit will position India as a leader in the field of renewable energy, specifically Green Hydrogen.** In addition, the event will offer a platform for deliberating on India’s issues with hydrogen introduction and adoption as a preferred alternative energy source.

Hydrogen when produced by electrolysis using renewable energy is known as Green Hydrogen which has no carbon footprint. During the budget speech in February 2021, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the launch of the Hydrogen Energy Mission to produce hydrogen from renewable sources. Recently, India and the US have set up a task force under the aegis of the Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP) to mobilise finance and speed up green energy development. Green hydrogen energy is vital for India to meet its Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) Targets and ensure regional and national energy security, access and availability. Grey Hydrogen is hydrogen produced using fossil fuels such as natural gas. Unfortunately this accounts from roughly 95% of the hydrogen produced in the world today.

Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurates Web Portal for registrations of units under New Central Sector Scheme 2021 for J&K

- Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the Web Portal for registrations of units under the New Central Sector Scheme 2021 for Jammu and Kashmir. In Jammu and Kashmir and investment of more than 50 thousand crore rupees is now expected to take place.
- This on-line portal has been designed and developed for effective implementation of the scheme in transparent manner and with the objective of ease of doing business. He said that the new industrial policy is the fulfilment of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s promise after revocation of Article 370 and 35A and that the Centre aims to create a new horizon for the overall development of the Union Territory.
- The minister said that the government will provide financial assistance and subsidy for the already existing industry in J&K and that as part of the Rs 80,000 crore package announced by the PM, 96% of the central money has already been provided. “Article 370 was the biggest roadblock in the development of the union territory. A new environment was created after August 5 2019, when it was revoked,” Amit Shah said.
- J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said that there is a paradigm shift in the region and an environment has been created for industrial development and foreign investments. “Because of the environment created in the state, by June-July more than 10 lakh visitors came to the state and we are expecting Rs 50,000 crore in investments and working for the creation of 10 lakh jobs,” Manoj Sinha said.

Jammu and Kashmir is a region administered by India as a union territory and consisting 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 Line of Control separates Jammu and Kashmir from the Pakistani-administered territories of Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan in the west and north. It lies to the north of the Indian states of Himachal Pradesh and Punjab and to the west of Ladakh. 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. On 5 August 2019, the President of India issued a presidential order, namely, The Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 2019 under Article 370 making all the provisions of Constitution of India applicable to the State of Jammu and Kashmir and this has rendered the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir infructuous from that date. Now the Constitution of India is applicable to Jammu and Kashmir, like all other states and union territories of India. Girish Chandra Murmu was the Inaugural Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of J & K till 6 August 2020.

Petroleum Minister visited Russia to participate in 6th EEF Summit in Vladivostok

- **Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri led an official and business delegation to Russia to participate in the 6th Eastern Economic Forum (EEF) Summit in Vladivostok.** Mr Puri was present at the EEF Summit during Prime Minister's address. It may be recalled that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was the Chief Guest at the EEF in 2019.
- **This was the first overseas visit of Minister Mr Puri since the assumption of the office as the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas. Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually addressed the Plenary Session of the EEF Summit, in which President of Russia Vladimir Putin was present.** The PM highlighted the **importance of India-Russia relations** and potential areas of cooperation in line with the **'Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership'**.

EEF was established by the decree of the President of the Russian Federation in the year 2015. It takes place each year in Vladivostok, a city in Russia. It serves as a platform for the discussion of key issues in the world economy, regional integration, and the development of new industrial and technological sectors, as well as of the global challenges facing Russia and other nations.

India virtually hosts 8th meeting of agriculture experts of BIMSTEC countries

- **India hosted the 8th Meeting of Agriculture Experts of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Countries** virtually. Experts of Agricultural Ministries from **Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand** participated in the meeting.
- The BIMSTEC Member States appreciated the **greater engagement of India offering six slots of scholarships each for Master and PhD programmes in agriculture** and its other initiatives for capacity development and training including the development of seed sectors.
- **The cooperation in the areas of high impact transboundary diseases of livestock and poultry; aquatic animal diseases and bio-security in aquaculture and digitalization to promote precision farming** was also discussed in the meeting.

The **Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)** is an **international organisation of seven South Asian and Southeast Asian nations**, housing 1.73 billion people and having a combined gross domestic product of \$3.8 trillion (2021). **The BIMSTEC member states – Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand– are among the countries dependent on the Bay of Bengal.** Fourteen priority sectors of cooperation have been identified and several BIMSTEC centres have been established to focus on those sectors. A BIMSTEC free trade agreement is under negotiation (c. 2018), also referred to as the mini SAARC. **Leadership is rotated in alphabetical order of country names. The permanent secretariat is in Dhaka, Bangladesh.**

Indian Army to participate in Multilateral Exercise ZAPAD, 2021 in Russia

- **A 200 personnel contingent of Indian Army will participate in Exercise ZAPAD, 2021, a Multi Nation exercise being held at Nizhniy, Russia.** Ministry of Defence said that **Exercise ZAPAD is one of the theatre level exercises of Russian Armed Forces and will focus primarily on operations against terrorists.**
- **Over a dozen countries from Eurasian and South Asian Region will participate in this signature event.** The exercise **aims to enhance military and strategic ties** amongst the participating nations while they plan and execute this exercise. **The Ministry said that the NAGA Battalion group participating in the exercise will feature an all Arms combined task force.**
- The Indian Contingent has been put through a strenuous **training schedule which encompasses all facets of conventional operations including mechanised, airborne and heliborne, counter-terrorism, combat conditioning and firing.**

The Indian Army is the land-based branch and the largest component of the Indian Armed Forces. The President of India is the Supreme Commander of the Indian Army, and its professional head is the Chief of Army Staff (COAS), who is a four-star general. Two officers have been conferred with the rank of field marshal, a five-star rank, which is a ceremonial position of great honour. **The Indian Army originated from the armies of the East**

India Company, which eventually became the British Indian Army, and the armies of the princely states, which were merged into the national army after independence. General Bipin Rawat is the first and current Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) of India. General Manoj Mukund Naravane is the current and 28th Chief of the Army Staff (COAS).

India, Kazakhstan joint military exercise 'KAZIND-21' begins

- **The India – Kazakhstan joint military exercise KAZIND-21 commenced at Training Node Aisha Bibi, Kazakhstan. This is the 5th Edition of Annual bilateral joint exercise of both Armies and will continue till 10th of September. The fourth edition of the exercise was held at Pithoragarh, India in September 2019.**
- **Defence Ministry said, the contingent comprises 120 troops from Kazakhstan and 90 soldiers from the Indian Army. Both the contingents will share their expertise and skills in the field of counter-terror operations.**
- **The validation exercise will be a test bed for the soldiers of both Armies as they would be undergoing challenges of actual operations in such scenarios. This exercise will provide impetus to the ever growing military and diplomatic ties between the two nations. The joint exercise also reflects the strong resolve of both nations to counter terrorism and will stand shoulder to shoulder to combat the same.**

Kazakhstan is a country in Central Asia, it has borders with Russia in the north, China in the east, and Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan in the south. The capital is Nur-Sultan, formerly known as Astana. Kazakhstan is the world's largest landlocked country, and the ninth-largest in the world. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has been serving as the President of Kazakhstan since 20 March 2019. The tenge is the currency of Kazakhstan.

Union Ministers launch Yoga Break Mobile Application as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'

- **As a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations to commemorate 75th Year of Independence, Union Minister of Ayush Sarbananda Sonowal, along with Union Ministers Kiren Rijiju, Jitendra Singh, Meenakshi Lekhi and Dr. Munjpara Mahendrabhai launched the Yoga Break (Y-Break) mobile application in New Delhi.**
- **The concept of Yoga Break is relevant to working professionals across the world. It has been carefully developed by eminent experts under a tested protocol. About 600 participants including eminent Yoga Practitioners, Scholars, Policy Makers, Bureaucrats, Yoga Enthusiasts and Experts of Allied Sciences participated in the launch of the App.**

The International Day of Yoga has been celebrated annually on 21 June since 2015, following its inception in the United Nations General Assembly in 2014. Yoga is a physical, mental and spiritual practice which originated in India. The Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, in his UN address in 2014, had suggested the date of 21 June, as it is the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere and shares a special significance in many parts of the world.

INS Tabar takes part in Maiden Maritime Partnership Exercise with Algerian Navy

- **As part of her ongoing goodwill visit to Europe and Africa, INS Tabar took part in the Maiden Maritime Partnership Exercise with Algerian Navy.**
- **The landmark exercise, held off the Algerian coast, saw participation of a frontline Algerian Naval Ship ANS Ezzadjer. As part of the exercise, diverse activities including coordinated maneuvering, communication procedures and steam past were undertaken between the Indian and Algerian warships.**
- **The exercise enabled the two navies to understand the concept of operations followed by each other, enhanced interoperability and opened the possibility of increasing interaction and collaboration in the future.**

INS Tabar is the third of the Talwar-class frigate of the Indian Navy. The frigate was commissioned on 19 April 2004 in Kaliningrad, Russia with Captain (later Vice Admiral) Biswajit Dasgupta. The current Commanding Officer (CO) of INS Tabar is Captain Mahesh Mangipudi.

Maharashtra Government to set up 'Rajiv Gandhi Science City' in Pune

- Maharashtra Cabinet has decided to set up a Science City in Pune. The complex will be known as 'Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi Science City' in Pimpri- Chinchwad Municipal Corporation in Pune.
- The project, named Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi Science Invention City, aims to promote scientific temper among students in Maharashtra and train them to effectively use science and technology to address society's problems. The project is estimated to cost Rs 190 crore.
- Pune was selected for this proposed world-class city as the city has many national-level scientific and research institutions recognised by the Department of Science and Technology, Department of Biotechnology and Ministry of Defence.
- After the state government has announced the IT Awards in the name of Rajiv Gandhi and earlier, Assam Cabinet decided to rename Rajiv Gandhi National Park as Orang National Park, now the Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has decided to set up Science City after Rajiv Gandhi's name.

Maharashtra is India's second-most populous state and third-largest state by area. Nagpur is Maharashtra's second capital and hosts the winter session of the state legislature. Pune is its cultural capital. Shiv Sena President Uddhav Thackeray takes oath as the Chief Minister of Maharashtra. Uddhav Thackeray is the first of his family to be the chief minister of Maharashtra. His father Bal Thackeray founded the Shiv Sena over five decades ago. Bhagat Singh Koshiyari is serving as the current Governor of Maharashtra.

Ladakh adopts State animal and bird

- Ladakh adopted two endangered species, snow leopard and black-necked crane, as State animal and State bird, two years after it was carved out as a separate Union Territory (UT) from the erstwhile State of J&K.
- Snow leopards (*Panthera uncia*) act as an indicator of the health of the mountain ecosystem in which they live, due to their position as the top predator in the food web. Hemis National Park is the biggest national park in India and also has a good presence of Snow Leopard.
- The black-necked crane (*Grus nigricollis*), also known as Tibetan crane, is a large bird and medium-sized crane. Both the sexes are almost of the same size but male is slightly bigger than female. A conspicuous red crown adorns the head.
- The high altitude wetlands of the Tibetan plateau, Sichuan (China), and eastern Ladakh (India) are the main breeding ground of the species; the birds spend winter at lower altitudes. In Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh, it only comes during the winters.

Ladakh was established as a Union Territory (UT) of India on 31st October 2019, following the enactment of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act. Before that, it was part of the Jammu and Kashmir state. It is the largest and the second least populous union territory of India. It extends from the Siachen Glacier in the Karakoram Range to the north to the main Great Himalayas to the south. The eastern end, consisting of the uninhabited Aksai Chin Plains, is claimed by the Indian Government as part of Ladakh, and has been under Chinese control since 1962. The largest town in Ladakh is Leh, followed by Kargil, each of which headquarters a district. Earlier, in 2020 Indian and Chinese troops were engaged in a temporary and short duration face-off along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) at Naku La (Sikkim) and near Pangong Tso Lake (Eastern Ladakh). However, recently India and China have agreed in principle to disengage at a key patrol point in eastern Ladakh. Radha Krishna Mathur is serving as the 1st Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh. He retired as the Chief Information Commissioner of India (CIC) in November 2018.

Arunachal Pradesh launches two schemes for development of agriculture & horticulture

- Arunachal Pradesh government has launched two ambitious schemes, one in agriculture sector called 'AtmaNirbhar Krishi Yojna' and the other for horticulture named 'AtmaNirbhar Bagwani Yojna'. The schemes are part of the AtmaNirbhar program announced during the Budget session. After launching the schemes in Itanagar, Chief Minister Pema Khandu said that the schemes will immensely benefit farmers and Self Help Groups (SHGs) across the state, and appealed all to get in touch with their respective district administrations to get the details and avail the schemes.

Arunachal Pradesh (“land of dawn-lit mountains”) is a state in Northeast India. It borders the states of Assam and Nagaland to the south. It shares international borders with Bhutan in the west, Myanmar in the east, and a disputed border with China in the north at the McMahon Line. Itanagar is the state capital of Arunachal Pradesh. B. D. Mishra is a former brigadier of the Indian Army. He is the present governor.

India Pavilion in Expo-2020 Dubai to start on October 1

- The India Pavilion in Expo-2020 Dubai starting on 1st of October is set to showcase a resurgent India’s march to becoming a five Trillion dollar economy in the post-COVID world.
- The Pavilion which is a technology marvel will not only capture the vibrant Indian culture and its past but also the capabilities and opportunities that it presents as a global economic hub to the domestic as well as the foreign investors.
- As India celebrates 75 years of its independence, the India Pavilion will mirror the celebrations of Amrit Mahotsav, which was launched by the Prime Minister and will bring to the world the New India through many activities and cultural extravaganza.
- The zones are identified based on 11 primary themes – Climate and Biodiversity, Space, Urban and Rural Development, Tolerance and Inclusivity, Golden Jubilee, Knowledge and Learning, Travel and Connectivity, Global Goals, Health and Wellness, Food Agriculture and Livelihoods and Water.

Gujarat to host 12th Defence Expo-2022 in Gandhinagar

- The Gujarat Government will host 12th Defence Expo-2022 in Gandhinagar next year. This was announced by Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani after meeting with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at Kevadiya.
- According to official sources, the Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the Department of Defence Production and Gujarat Government in this regard. About 100 countries are expected to participate in this biannual event. Defence Expo-2022 will be held in Gandhinagar from 10th to 13th March next year.
- Chief Minister Vijay Rupani said that the state is the best investment destination and after the Defence Expo-2022, it will be the top investment destination in the Defence sector also. He said that Dholera Special Investment Region has potential of becoming the best destination for Defence Equipment Production Units.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has said that the Defence Expo-2022 will focus on making India Defence manufacturing hub. He said that our aim is to move from Make in India to make for the world.

Gujarat is a state on the western coast of India with a longest coastline of India 1,600 km (990 mi). Its capital city is Gandhinagar, while its largest city is Ahmedabad. Gujarat International Finance Tec-City is a business district promoted by the Government of Gujarat through a joint venture company. GIFT City is India’s first operational smart city in the Ahmedabad and international financial services centre. Acharya Devvrat is Governor of Gujarat and Vijay Rupani is the current Chief Minister of Gujarat. Gujarat has become the first state to implement newly-introduced 10 per cent reservations in government jobs and higher education for the economically weaker sections in the general category and followed by Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh.

Mansukh Mandaviya participates in G-20 Health Ministers Meeting 2021 hosted by Italy

- Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya participated in G-20 Health Ministers Meeting 2021 hosted by Italian Presidency on the theme – People, Planet and Prosperity. He shared India’s response to monitor Global Health Impact of COVID19 pandemic with a detailed assessment of its consequences in implementing Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs.
- Mr Mandaviya said that he invited the UK Health Minister for a visit to India and discussed a roadmap for a new health dialogue between the two countries. He added that UK appreciated India’s management of COVID and congratulated on administering first COVID19 vaccine dose to more than half the population of the country.
- In a tweet, Mr Mandaviya also said that he had an excellent discussion with Minister of Health for Brazil Marcelo Queiroga for better cooperation in healthcare. They also talked about One Health and the introduction of Nano-Urea for better results. During the interaction, Mr Mandaviya offered India’s full support to aid Brazil’s fight against TB.

The G20 (or Group of Twenty) is an intergovernmental forum comprising 19 countries and the European Union (EU). It works to address major issues related to the global economy, such as international financial stability, climate change mitigation, and sustainable development. The G20 is composed of most of the world's largest economies, including both industrialized and developing nations. As of 2021 there are 20 members of the group: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, the European Union, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Spain is a permanent guest invitee.

World Coconut Day

- **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare celebrated World Coconut Day to commemorate the foundation day of the International Coconut Community, an inter-governmental organization of coconut producing countries under the aegis of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, UN-ESCAP. Speaking on this occasion, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said, India has made great progress in the field of coconut and it is at the fore in production and productivity and ranks third in the world.**
- He said, the **production of coconut in the country stood at 21 thousand 207 million nuts during 2020-21, which is 34 per cent of the global production. Every year, September 2, 2021, is observed as World Coconut Day. This day is celebrated to emphasize and raise awareness about the importance as well as benefits of coconuts. Coconut, also known as 'Nariyal' in Hindi, is one of the most loved and versatile fruits.**
- **The theme for the 23rd World Coconut Day celebrations this year is Building a safe, inclusive resilient and sustainable coconut community amid COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.**

Centre signs tripartite Karbi Anglong agreement, announces funds for development

- **The Centre signed the tripartite Karbi Anglong agreement promising to fulfil all the conditions for development of the Karbi people within the stipulated time. The agreement was signed in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Union Minister of Shipping and Waterways, Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and the representatives of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council in New Delhi.**
- **The agreement mainly promised to invest ₹1,000 crore by the Assam government for development of the Karbi Anglong area in the next five years, provide reservation for the people of Karbi for the first time, rehabilitation for the surrendered militants, setting up of Karbi Welfare Council by the Assam government, supplementing resources of Karbi Autonomous Council by augmenting consolidated fund of the state, along with protection of their language and culture etc.**
- Referring to previous agreements, **Shah said that they had signed the Bodoland Peace Accord (Assam), Bru Rehabilitation Agreement and National Liberation Front of Tripura (Tripura) and 80 per cent of the conditions mentioned in those agreements have been fulfilled.**
- **A total of 1,040 militants of five militant groups surrendered along with their weapons during an event at Guwahati in Assam on February 25. The five groups are Karbi Longri NC Hills Liberation Front (KLNLFF), People's Democratic Council of Karbi Longri (PDCK), Kuki Liberation Front (KLF), United Peoples Liberation Army (UPLA) and Karbi People's Liberation Tiger (KPLT).**
- **A major ethnic community of Assam – Karbis are dotted by many factions, and marked by ethnic violence, killings, abductions, taxation since the late 1980s.**

Jagdish Mukhi is the current Governor of Assam and Assam is known for Assam tea and Assam silk. Dispur is the capital of the state of Assam. Guwahati is the largest city of Assam and Northeastern India. Himanta Biswa Sarma is current the Chief Minister of Assam. In 1874, on the formation of Assam as the Chief Commissioner's Province, it was chosen as the headquarters of the new administration because of its convenient location between the Brahmaputra and Surma valleys and more so because the climate of Shillong was much cooler than tropical India. Shillong remained the capital of undivided Assam until the creation of the new state of Meghalaya on 21 January 1972, when Shillong became the capital of Meghalaya, and Assam moved its capital to Dispur in Guwahati.



Yoshihide Suga to step down as Japanese PM over his govt's handling of COVID-19

- **Yoshihide Suga will step down as Japanese Prime Minister amid increasing anger over his government's handling of COVID-19.** Mr. Suga announced that he would not seek re-election for leadership race for the ruling Liberal Democratic party. The winner of that contest will lead the party in a general election that must be held by November 30.
- **Suga became Prime Minister just one year ago after long-serving Prime Minister Shinzo Abe stepped down over health concerns.** He said during a party meeting that he wanted to focus on the coronavirus pandemic instead of continuing on as the head of the LDP.

Naruhito is the Emperor of Japan. He acceded to the Chrysanthemum Throne on 1 May 2019, beginning the Reiwa era, following the abdication of his father, Emperor Akihito, on 30 April 2019. He is the 126th monarch according to Japan's traditional order of succession. Tokyo is the capital city of Japan and yen is the official currency of Japan and it is the third most traded currency in the foreign exchange market after the United States dollar and the euro. The current Prime Minister is Yoshihide Suga.

Water World Becomes First Colorado Theme Park Designated As Certified Autism Center

- **Hyland Hills Water World has earned the Certified Autism Center (CAC) designation, granted by the International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards (IBCCES).** The certification demonstrates the park's commitment to **providing a welcoming environment for guests with autism and other sensory sensitivities.**
- **To receive the CAC designation, Hyland Hills Water World staff completed a training and certification program to learn how to better communicate and engage with guests** with sensory needs and their family members, as well as safety concerns and protocols. The park also received an onsite review provided by IBCCES which included sensory guides for rides and recommendations to ensure guest experience is as positive as possible.
- **Water World is a beloved place for many Coloradans with a long and rich history of serving the community.** The park is full of fun summer sounds, tastes and smells and it has plenty of things to touch and see.

Hakainde Hichilema: Zambia's new President

- **Zambia's veteran opposition leader Hakainde Hichilema has been sworn in as president in front of a packed stadium in the capital, Lusaka.** His election has raised the hopes of his counterparts in other African states that they too can overcome state repression and one day rise to power.
- **During a long political career that saw him fail in five previous bids to become president, Mr Hichilema was brutalised, tear-gassed and even detained for a traffic offence in 2017** that was deemed treasonous after his convoy failed to give way to the motorcade of outgoing President Edgar Lungu. But in an extraordinary reversal of his fortunes, **the man once declared an enemy of the state was sworn in as Zambia's seventh president after defeating Mr Lungu in their latest election duel on 12 August.**

Zambia is a landlocked country at the crossroads of Central, Southern and East Africa. The capital city of Zambia is Lusaka. The kwacha is the currency of Zambia.

India launches soft skills training programme for women entrepreneurs in Bangladesh

- The High Commission of India in association with the ICT Ministry of Bangladesh and Women & E-commerce and SilkOak global limited launched a yearlong soft skills training programme in Dhaka.
- The training programme will help the women entrepreneurs of Bangladesh to develop communication skills and presentation skills among other soft skills beneficial to facilitate their business efforts. More than 700 women entrepreneurs have already registered for the training series. The programme will be run in hybrid mode with physical workshops and virtual learning elements.

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

El Salvador top court rules presidents can serve two consecutive terms

- El Salvador's top court has ruled that the country's president can serve two consecutive terms, opening the door for incumbent Nayib Bukele to stand for re-election in 2024. In 2014, the same court ruled that Presidents would have to wait 10 years after leaving office to be re-elected.
- The constitutional chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice ordered the Supreme Electoral Tribunal to enable a president who had not been in office in the immediately preceding period to participate in the electoral contest for a second occasion.

El Salvador is a country in Central America. El Salvador's capital and largest city is San Salvador. The currency is United States dollar. Nayib Bukele is the current President of it.

Australia, Malaysia, Singapore and South Africa launch central bank digital currency scheme

- Central banks in Australia, Singapore, Malaysia and South Africa will conduct a cross border payments trial using different central bank digital currencies (CBDC) to assess if this allows transactions to be settled more cheaply and easily.
- Many governments and central banks around the world are exploring the use of CBDCs, which are digital forms of existing currencies. Some, like China, are trialing retail-focused CBDCs designed to replicate cash in circulation, while others are considering using so-called wholesale CBDCs to improve the internal workings of their financial systems.
- Most projects are still in the early stages and are domestically focused, but developing global rules and frameworks for how CBDCs can be used internationally is complicated technically, and potentially politically.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is working on a phased implementation strategy for its own digital currency and is in the process of launching it in wholesale and retail segments in the near future. A high-level inter-ministerial committee set up by the Finance Ministry had recommended Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) with changes in the legal framework including the RBI Act, which currently empowers the RBI to regulate issuance of bank notes. Digital Currency is a payment method which exists only in electronic form and is not tangible. It can be transferred between entities or users with the help of technology like computers, smartphones and the internet. Although it is similar to physical currencies, digital money allows borderless transfer of ownership as well as instantaneous transactions. Digital currency is also known as digital money and cybercash.



New Development Bank approves Bangladesh as a new member

- The New Development Bank (NDB) established by the BRICS ((Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) countries in 2015 has approved Bangladesh as its new member. The NDB Board of Governors initiated the negotiation to expand its membership in 2020. It has now approved the United Arab Emirates, Uruguay and Bangladesh as its first new member countries.
- Minister of Finance of Bangladesh A H M Mustafa Kamal said that Membership of Bangladesh to NDB has paved way for a new partnership at a momentous time of 50th anniversary of its independence.
- Since the beginning of its operations, NDB has approved about 80 projects totaling a portfolio of USD 30 billion. Projects in areas such as transport, water and sanitation, clean energy, digital infrastructure, social infrastructure and urban development are within the scope of the Bank.

The New Development Bank (NDB), formerly referred to as the BRICS Development Bank, is a multilateral development bank established by the BRICS states (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa). According to the Agreement on the NDB, “the Bank shall support public or private projects through loans, guarantees, equity participation and other financial instruments.” Moreover, the NDB “shall cooperate with international organizations and other financial entities, and provide technical assistance for projects to be supported by the Bank.” The initial authorized capital of the bank is \$100 billion divided into 1 million shares having a par value of \$100,000 each. The initial subscribed capital of the NDB is \$50 billion divided into paid-in shares (\$10 billion) and callable shares (\$40 billion). The initial subscribed capital of the bank was equally distributed among the founding members. The Agreement on the NDB specifies that every member will have one vote no one would have any veto powers. The bank is headquartered in Shanghai, China. Marcos Troyjo is President of the New Development Bank (NDB).

Indian Oil to build India’s first green hydrogen plant at Mathura Refinery

- Indian Oil plans to expand more into hydrogen technologies and develop India’s first green hydrogen plant. This will be in addition to expanding existing crude oil refining capacity by 25 million tonnes per annum and more biofuel production plants.
- Addressing shareholders at the company’s 62nd Annual General Meeting, IndianOil Chairman, Shrikant Madhav Vaidya said, “IndianOil will build the nation’s first ‘Green Hydrogen’ plant at Mathura Refinery. While your Company has been working on various hydrogen production pathways, the current project at Mathura Refinery will be pioneering the introduction of green Hydrogen in India.”
- “Forecasts by various agencies see Indian fuel demand climbing to 400-450 million tonnes by 2040 from the present 250 million tonnes. There is enough legroom for all forms of energy to co-exist,” Vaidya said.

Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) or IndianOil, is an Indian government corporation. It is under the ownership of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India headquartered in New Delhi. The government corporation is ranked 212th on the Fortune Global 500 list of the world’s biggest corporations as of 2021.

Central govt's flagship financial inclusion programme, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana completes seven years

- **Central government's flagship financial inclusion programme, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana completes seven years.** The scheme was launched on this day in 2014 with an aim to provide universal access to banking facilities to the people across the country.
- **While launching the programme on 28th August 2014, the Prime Minister had described the occasion as a festival to celebrate the liberation of the poor from a vicious cycle of poverty.** Under this scheme, bank accounts are being opened with minimal paperwork and zero balance.
- **Indigenous Debit cards are being issued for cash withdrawal and payment at merchant locations with free accident insurance coverage of two lakh rupees.** Besides, other financial facilities including micro-insurance, overdraft for consumption and micro-pension are also being offered.
- **One of the biggest financial inclusion schemes in the world, the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna has made remarkable progress in providing banking and other financial services to the marginalized and poor sections of the society.**
- **In the last seven years, it has not only helped the poor in bringing their savings into the formal financial system but also provided an avenue to remit money to their families in villages besides taking them out of the clutches of the usurious money lenders.**
- **Basic savings bank accounts with overdraft facility of Rs. 10,000/- to every household. Insurance – Accident cover up to Rs. 1,00,000 and life cover of Rs. 30,000 on account opened between 15 Aug 2014 to 31 January 2015.**

Extension of PMJDY with New features: 1. Focus shift from Every Household to Every Unbanked Adult. 2. RuPay Card Insurance – Free accidental insurance cover on RuPay cards increased from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 2 lakhs for PMJDY accounts opened after 28.8.2018. 3. Enhancement in overdraft facilities – OD limit doubled from Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000; OD upto Rs 2,000 (without conditions). 4. Increase in upper age limit for OD from 60 to 65 years.

India launches 'BharatCaller', an equivalent of TrueCaller

- **India has come up with its own version of the caller ID and blocking application TrueCaller, called BharatCaller.** The creators have said the application will provide a better experience to users and is ahead of TrueCaller in some aspects. "Bharat Caller ID has more than 50 million user databases and over 1 billion numbers data from the global community.
- **BharatCaller was developed by Prajwal Sinha, an alumnus of the reputed Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Bangalore. Kunal Pasricha is a co-founder of BharatCaller.** And also, both of them were winners of the National Startup Awards 2020.

IIT Madras to Develop Online Marketplace called e-Source to Tackle e-Waste

- **IIT Madras is developing an online platform to tackle electronic wastes (e-waste) by linking stakeholders in the formal and informal economy.** This initiative can become a critical resource by enabling reverse logistics supply chains and can help recycle 53.6 million tonnes of e-waste generated annually around the world and is potentially a \$50 billion market, says a press release.
- **The product, named e-source, will be an exchange platform that will serve as an online marketplace for Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) and facilitate a formal supply chain between various stakeholders, who are buyers and sellers.**
- **e-waste is one of the pressing issues in India as well, with the country being the world's third largest producer. Further, between 2019 and 2020, Indians generated 38 per cent more e-waste.** However, what is more worrying is that only five percent of e-waste is recycled responsibly in the country. **The initiative is being spearheaded by the Indo-German Centre for Sustainability (IGCS).** The IGCS team believes that the problem of e-waste could be resolved by connecting different buyers and sellers of used and waste electronic equipment and components without compromising their interests.

GIFT City becomes India's first IGBC Platinum rated city, gets highest certification as Greenfield smart city

- India's only operational smart city and International Financial Services Centre (IFSC), GIFT City has received the Green Cities Platinum certification for 'Green Master planning & design and Implementation of GIFT City's phase I development' by CII's Indian Green Building Council (IGBC).
- With this, GIFT City has become India's first Greenfield Smart City to achieve the IGBC Green Cities Platinum rating. The platinum-rated city under the IGBC green city rating system is a testimony to the cutting-edge infrastructure, design, and project implementation of the city, which will attract global companies to establish their base in GIFT city. IGBC provides a wide range of services. The IGBC is a portion of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

On 26th July 26, 2021 Kandla SEZ (KASEZ) became the first green SEZ to achieve the IGBC Green Cities Platinum Rating for Existing Cities after it was awarded the IGBC Platinum Rating. CII's Indian Green Building Council awards the IGBC Platinum rating for policy initiatives, green master planning and implementation of green infrastructures. This recognition will inspire all the other SEZs in the country to emulate the efforts and green initiative that has been achieved by Kandla SEZ.

South Korea becomes world's first market to force Apple, Google to allow third-party app store payments

- South Korea has become the world's first market to challenge the duopoly of Apple and Google over app store payments by approving a bill that forces them to allow third-party payments in the country.
- Waiting to be rubber-stamped by President Moon Jae-in, the legislation forces both Apple and Google to change their policies for app marketplaces that currently reject payments systems from third parties.

Govt sets up 12-member panel to review Journalist Welfare Scheme

- The government set up a 12-member committee to review the existing guidelines of the Journalist Welfare Scheme (JWS). The committee, headed by Prasar Bharti Board member Ashok Tandon, is expected to give its report in two months.
- The committee will examine the need for revision of the quantum of ex-gratia payment in death as well as other cases under the JWS. It will also look into the aspect of differentiation and parity between accredited and non-accredited journalists for availing benefits under the scheme.

Finance Minister attends 11th UK-India Economic and Financial Dialogue

- The 11th India-United Kingdom Economic and Financial Dialogue was held virtually. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and the UK Treasury Chancellor Rishi Sunak co-chaired the meeting.
- The Indian delegation included Governor of Reserve Bank of India Governor, Chairman of Securities and Exchange Board of India, Chairman of International Financial Services Centres Authority, Secretary of Department of Economic Affairs and other representatives from Ministry of Finance, Ministry of External Affairs and Indian High Commission, UK. The UK delegation included Governor Bank of England, Chief Executive Officer of Financial Conduct Authority, Economic Secretary and other representatives from UK, HMT. The Dialogue covered discussions on economic cooperation on multilateral issues, including G-20 and COP-26.
- Both sides deliberated on furthering of Financial Services collaboration with special emphasis on Fin-Tech and GIFT City, annual India-UK Financial Market Dialogue and measures underway to reform financial markets. Infrastructure development and promotion of sustainable finance and climate finance were also discussed.

World Social Protection Report 2020-22

- The new International Labour Organization (ILO) report on social protection exposes the huge gaps in social protection coverage around the world, with 47% of people having no social protection at all, and a further 22% lacking full protection in line with international labour standards.

- As per report, **more than half of the world population are not getting any form of social protection.** This trend of no social protection is there even after expansion of social protections amidst the global outbreak of COVID-19. **Only 47 per cent of the global population had effective access to one social protection benefit, in 2020 while 53 per cent (4.1 billion people) had no protection at all.**
- **People in Europe and Central Asia are among the best covered population. 84 per cent of populations in Europe and Central Asia are having access to at least one benefit.** In America, the rate of social protection is 64.3 per cent. In Asia, the Pacific and the Arab States, lesser than half of people are covered under protection. **In Africa, only 17.4 per cent of the people are getting at least one social protection.** Most children across the globe had no social protection.

Coal India Ltd launches new software for enhanced assessment of coal resources

- **Coal India Limited under the Ministry of Coal has launched a new software named Spectral Enhancement SPE which will help in identifying thin coal seams under the earth crust and improve assessment of coal resources using seismic survey during coal exploration process.**
- **The launch of SPE software assumes significance as the present seismic survey techniques for coal resource exploration have limitations in identifying the thin coal seams under the earth, which will now be possible as this new software helps in enhancing resolution of seismic signals leading to delineation of thinnest coal seams.**
- **Coal India Limited's research and development arm Central Mine Planning and Design Institute has developed this first of its kind software in association with Gujarat Energy Research and Management Institute and the company will also file for its copyright protection. The Made in India software will also help to save time and cost of coal exploration and thus boost the mission of Atmanirbhar Bharat in coal production.**

Coal India Limited (CIL) is an Indian government-owned coal mining and refining corporation. It is under the ownership of Ministry of Coal, Government of India headquartered in Kolkata, West Bengal, India. It is the largest coal-producing company in the world and a Maharatna public sector undertaking.

RBI to set up five-member panel on NUE licences

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will set up a committee to scrutinise applications and give recommendations on new umbrella entity (NUE) licences.**
- **The five-member committee will be headed by RBI chief general manager P Vasudevan. NUEs will establish their own payment infrastructure to compete with National Payments Corp. of India (NPCI).**
- **The government hopes to build a settlement system similar to the unified payments interface (UPI) with the NUEs. The system will be focussed on small and medium enterprises, merchants and consumers. The RBI had in August 2020 issued guidelines for creating "for-profit NUEs".**
- **"The committee will be responsible for looking into several aspects of NUE, from the macroeconomic impact of such a step to the security risks," said one of the persons cited above. "The committee's recommendations will be taken into consideration before doling out the licences."**

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



Inventions/Discoveries

Dhruv, India's first missile tracking ship

- **India is inducted the Dhruv surveillance ship** which can **track nuclear missiles and satellites from a distance**. The **indigenously-built 15,000-ton ocean surveillance ship** is equipped with active electronically scanned array radars.
- **The Rs 730 crore ship will help India collect accurate data on adversaries' missile range and capabilities**. It would be able to detect ballistic missile test launches carried out by other nations. Besides tracking nuclear missiles, Dhruv, with a crew of 300 personnel on board, will also be deployed for scanning the ocean beds for research and tracking down hostile submarines.
- **The ship, built by the Hindustan Shipyard in collaboration with the DRDO and NTRO, will be commissioned from Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh**. The **INS Dhruv is equipped with the DRDO developed state-of-the-art active scanned array radar or AESA** that can scan monitor spy satellites watching over India as well as monitor missile tests in the entire region.
- **INS Dhruv will also be able to map ocean beds for research and detection of enemy submarines**. **INS Dhruv will also monitor seas to detect spy satellites**. With this, the Indian Navy would be able to keep **an eye on out in the entire region from the Gulf of Aden to the South China Sea via Malacca, Sunda, Lombok, Ombai, and Wetar straits**.
- **Since both China and Pakistan have nuclear ballistic capabilities and land disputes with India**, therefore, the **INS Dhruv will help Indian Navy to strategise its military operations better across all three dimensions of naval warfare – sub-surface, surface, and aerial**. **With the induction of Dhruv vessel, India will join an elite list of countries that presently consists of only France, the US, the UK, Russia, and China, who possess and operate such ships**.

Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) is a shipyard located in Visakhapatnam on the east coast of India. **Founded as the Scindia Shipyard, it was built by industrialist Walchand Hirachand as a part of The Scindia Steam Navigation Company Ltd.**

Ayush Minister Sarbananda Sonowal Announces Campaigns under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

- **Union Ayush Minister Shri Sarbananda Sonowal has announced a bouquet of activities and campaigns of Ministry of Ayush to commemorate Azadi ka Amrit Mahaotsav**.
- **This includes national launch of Y Break App from Vigyan Bhawan, yearlong campaigns of cultivation of medicinal plants in farmland and distribution of medicinal plants to households, sensitisation of School and College going students on Ayush systems**.
- **Shri Sonowal said that the week-long activities and campaigns, from August 30 to September 5, will aim at ultimately reaching to remote areas of the country and address all categories of our population, from children to our old people, from farmers to corporate**.

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 Shri Sarbananda Sonowal.

Karnataka to set up spices park in Chikkamagaluru

- The Karnataka government is going to set up a spice park at Ambale in Chikkamagaluru district. The people of Malnad region were demanding this for a long time. The decision was taken after a meeting between Industries Minister Murugesh Nirani and Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shobha Karandlaje on 27 August.
- To promote agricultural exports, Karandlaje had urged Nirani to set up a spice park on 10 acres of government land in Ambale. Karandlaje represents the Udupi-Chikkamagaluru Lok Sabha constituency. He agreed to set up Masal Park after urging Nirani to set up a special cell to promote agricultural exports. The Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) will develop the facility on a 10-acre plot at the earliest.
- The union minister requested Nirani to set up a spices park in her district to promote agriculture exports. The district is known for spices apart from coffee. Karnataka is the largest producer of spices in India. Turmeric, chilli, black pepper, small cardamom, curry leaves, tamarind, herbal spices, cloves, nutmeg, coriander etc. are produced in abundance in the state.

Karnataka is a state in the south western region of India. It was formed on 1 November 1956, with the passage of the States Reorganisation Act. Originally known as the State of Mysore, it was renamed Karnataka in 1973. The capital and largest city is Bengaluru. Basavaraj Bommai is serving as the current Chief Minister of Karnataka. Thaawarchand Gehlot is currently serving as the Governor of Karnataka. Coffee production in India is dominated in the hill tracts of South Indian states, with Karnataka accounting for 71%, followed by Kerala with 21% and Tamil Nadu (5% of overall production with 8,200 tonnes).

Mumbai first South Asian city to work on climate action plan

- Iqbal Singh Chahal, Commissioner of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said that Mumbai is the first city in South Asia to launch the Mumbai Climate Action Plan, which is rolling in now.
- Mumbai is the first city in South Asia to launch the Mumbai Climate Action Plan, which is rolling in now. The plan was launched by state environment minister Aaditya Thackeray at the BMC headquarters.
- Mumbai became a part of the C40 Cities climate leadership group in December 2020. "Cities like Los Angeles, London, New York are also part of the group. Mumbai joined the group a few months back. The basic aim of this group is to learn from one another and use technology to fight and offset climate change. And based on this, Mumbai has launched the MCAP," the BMC chief said.
- Elaborating on the steps taken in Mumbai, he said that several implementations have been initiated, including introduction of electric buses and desalination plants, no felling of trees for dams, sewage treatment plant to recycle water, plantation of 2,000 trees, Miyawaki forest development in Mumbai and so on.

Mumbai (also known as Bombay -the official name until 1995) is the capital city of the Indian state of Maharashtra. According to the United Nations, as of 2018, Mumbai is the second-most populous city in the country after Delhi and the seventh-most populous city in the world with a population of roughly 20 million. As per Indian government population census of 2011, Mumbai was the most populous city in India with an estimated city proper population of 12.5 million living under Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai. In 2008, Mumbai was named an alpha world city. It has the highest number of millionaires and billionaires among all cities in India. It is also known as financial capital of India. Mumbai is home to three UNESCO World Heritage Sites: the Elephanta Caves, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, and the city's distinctive ensemble of Victorian and Art Deco buildings.

BRICS Environment Ministers adopt New Delhi Statement aimed at furthering spirit of cooperation in environment among BRICS Nations

- The BRICS Environment Ministers have adopted the New Delhi Statement which is aimed at furthering the spirit of cooperation for continuity, consolidation and consensus in the environment among the BRICS Nations.
- The 7th meeting of the Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) Environment Ministerial was held virtually. During the meeting, India stressed on the need for taking concrete collective global actions against the global environment and climate challenge.
- India gives great importance to BRICS and emphasized that BRICS countries can play a very significant role in addressing the contemporary global challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, air pollution and marine plastic litter.

BRICS is the acronym for an association of five major emerging national economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. Originally the first four were grouped as “BRIC” (China, Brazil, Russia and India), before the induction of South Africa in 2010. In 2009, the first BRIC Summit was held in Yekaterinburg, Russia.

Odisha district only place in India to have all three crocodile species

- Odisha’s Kendrapara district, crisscrossed by rivers, creeks and water inlets, has earned the distinction of being the only district in India where all three species of crocodiles – salt-water, gharial and mugger – are found.
- The district has already claimed fame for its successful conservation programme for salt-water or estuarine crocodiles at the Bhitarkanika National Park. The national park, having 1,768 estuarine crocodiles, is home to 70 per cent of India’s such crocodiles, the conservation of which was started way back in 1975.

IIT Ropar startup claims developing world’s first plant-based smart air-purifier

- A startup company of IIT Ropar has claimed that it has developed the world’s first, state-of-the-art ‘Smart Bio-Filter’ that can make breathing fresh. Urban Air Laboratory says that its living-plant-based air purifier “Ubreathe Life” amplifies the air purification process in indoor spaces.
- “The technology works through the air-purifying natural leafy plant. The room-air interacts with leaves and goes to the soil-root zone where maximum pollutants are purified. The novel technology used in this product is ‘Urban Munnar Effect’ along with patent-pending “Breathing Roots” to exponentially amplify the phytoremediation process of the plants. Phytoremediation is a process by which plants effectively remove pollutants from the air”.

Wellington city ranks first in the world for environmental security

- Wellington has been named the number one city worldwide for environmental security. The Safe Cities Index 2021 ranks 60 cities across 76 indicators covering digital, health, and infrastructure, personal and environmental security.
- Environmental security considers how the city has incorporated sustainability parameters into its urban planning to reduce carbon emissions and manage climate risks. Wellington sits at the top of the table with 91.7, just above Toronto with 90.3, and far above the average of 68.5.

India’s first bio-brick based building inaugurated at IIT-H

- India’s first bio-brick based building was inaugurated at Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad (IIT-H) by Director B.S. Murthy. Calling it a perfect illustration of ‘Wealth from Waste’, IIT-H Director BS Murthy said the institute will submit a proposal to the Ministry of Agriculture to promote its wider adoption by the rural community.
- Researchers at the IIT demonstrated that agricultural waste can be converted into sustainable materials which, in turn, can be used to build eco-friendly, cost-effective structures. In April this year, the team secured a patent for the bio-brick material and its manufacturing technology.

- The technology has been developed by research scholar Priyabrata Rautray under the supervision of Professor Deepak John Mathew at the Department of Design.

Assam Cabinet has decided to rename Rajiv Gandhi National Park as Orang National Park

- Assam Cabinet has decided to rename Rajiv Gandhi National Park as Orang National Park. There was a demand to restore the original name of the Orang Wildlife Sanctuary.
- In 1985 former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's name was added. In 1999 the original name was restored and it was upgraded to Orang National Park. In 2001 Tarun Gogoi led government included the name of former Prime minister in the park.

Govt launches AYUSH AAPKE DWAR campaign from more than 45 locations across country

- Ayush Ministry has launched the campaign AYUSH AAPKE DWAR from more than 45 locations across the country. The campaign aims to distribute medicinal plant saplings to 75 lakh households in one year.
- The medicinal plants include Tejpatta, Stevia, Ashoka, Giloy, Ashwagandha, Lemongrass, Tulsi, Sarpagandha and Amla. Minister of State for Ayush Dr Mahendra Munjapara launched the campaign from Ayush Bhawan in New Delhi by distributing medicinal plants to staff.
- On this occasion, Dr. Munjapara appealed to adopt medicinal plants and take care of these as a part of their family. Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal launched 'AYUSH AAPKE DWAR' campaign from Mumbai.

Hansa New Generation trainer aircraft developed by CSIR-NAL makes maiden flight

- Hansa New Generation trainer aircraft designed and developed by CSIR-NAL in Bengaluru has successfully made its maiden flight. The aircraft took off from HAL airport in the city and flew at an altitude of 4000 feet and gained a speed of 80 knots before making a successful landing after about 20 minutes. In a significant step the National Aerospace Laboratories NAL has designed, developed the two-seater trainer aircraft, the Hansa New Generation (NG) trainer successfully.
- The test pilot Captain Amit Dahiya who flew the plane has said that the flight parameters were found normal and that it was a text book flight. Hansa-NG aircraft developed indigenously has glass cockpit with cabin comfort, highly efficient digitally controlled engine, electrically operated flaps, long endurance, low acquisition and low operating cost.

NASA's newest Mars rover snags first rock sample for return

- NASA's newest Mars rover may have successfully collected its first rock sample for return to Earth, after last month's attempt came up empty.
- The Perseverance rover's chief engineer, Adam Stelzner, called it a perfect core sample. Perseverance drilled into much softer rock, and the sample crumbled and didn't get in the titanium tube. The rover drove a half-mile to a better spot to try again.
- Perseverance arrived in February at Mars' Jezero Crater believed to be the home of a lush lakebed and river delta billions of years ago in search of rocks that might hold evidence of ancient life. NASA plans to launch more spacecraft to retrieve the samples collected by Perseverance; engineers are hoping to return as many as three dozen samples in about a decade. Perseverance, sometimes called *Percy*, is a Mars rover manufactured by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory for use in NASA's Mars 2020 mission. Ingenuity will be the first helicopter to attempt flight on another planet.

The Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM), also called Mangalyaan is a space probe orbiting Mars since 24 September 2014. It was launched on 5 November 2013 by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). It is India's first interplanetary mission and it made it the fourth space agency to reach Mars, after Roscosmos, NASA, and the European Space Agency. It made India the first Asian nation to reach Martian orbit and the first nation in the world to do so on its maiden attempt. On 1 July 2020, ISRO's space probe Mangalyaan was able to capture a photo of the Mars satellite Phobos from 4200 kms away. The Mars Colour Camera (MCC) onboard ISRO's Mars Orbiter Mission has captured the image of Phobos, the closest and biggest moon of Mars.



Sports Personalities in News

National Sports Day

- The day is celebrated on 29th August every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of legendary hockey player Major Dhyhan Chand.
- The Government had announced that India's highest sporting honour Khel Ratna Award has been named as Major Dhyhan Chand Khel Ratna Award in the honour of the hockey wizard.

Chess: Indian Grandmaster Sethuraman wins Barcelona Open

- Indian Grandmaster S P Sethuraman won the Barcelona Open chess tournament title while compatriot Karthikeyan Murali finished third. Sethuraman, who was the top seed, remained unbeaten through the nine rounds, winning six matches and drawing three.

Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur launches FIT India Mobile Application

- To celebrate the second anniversary of Fit India Movement and as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur launched the Fit India Mobile Application.
- The Fit India Movement was launched on this day in 2019 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the vision of making India a Fit and Healthy Nation.
- Over the past two years, the Fit India Movement has reached millions of people across the country through its various fitness campaigns such as Fit India School Week, Fit India Freedom Run, Fit India Cyclothon and many others.
- Currently, the Fit India Movement is also conducting Fit India Freedom Run 2.0 in celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of India's Independence.

Manchester United re-signs Cristiano Ronaldo from Juventus

- Manchester United have completed the signing of Cristiano Ronaldo from Juventus on a two-year deal, the Premier League side confirmed as the Portuguese forward returns to the club where he won eight major trophies from 2003-2009.

India's Avni Lekhara wins Gold medal in Women's 10 meter Air Rifle Shooting at Tokyo Paralympics

- Indian shooter Avani Lekhara has won Gold medal in Women's 10 metre Air Rifle Shooting at Tokyo Paralympics. She has won the first Gold for the country at the Tokyo Paralympic Games.
- The 19-year-old became the first woman from India to win a Paralympics gold medal. Avani finished with a Paralympic Record and in-process equalled the World Record with 249.6 points.
- India's para table tennis player Bhavina won silver as she lost the gold medal match to China's Zhou Ying 3-0 in the women's singles - Class 4.

- With the silver medal, Bhavina became the first table tennis player ever to win a medal at the Paralympics for India and the second female athlete after PCI chief Deepa Malik to achieve this feat. Deepa had won silver at Rio 2016 in women's shot put.
- Yogesh Kathuniya won Silver medal in Discus Throw. This is the fifth medal for the country at the Tokyo Paralympics.

Tokyo Paralympics: Mariyappan, Sharad win silver and bronze respectively in men's high jump, India's medal tally hits double-digit

- Double delight for India, in Men's High Jump T42 event this evening at Tokyo Paralympics, Mariyappan Thangavelu has won silver medal while Sharad Kumar clinched bronze. With this, India's medal tally at the Paralympics touched an unprecedented 10.

Ronaldo sets world record, becomes highest international goal-scorer

- Cristiano Ronaldo set the world record for most international goals, surpassing Iran's Ali Daei tally of 109 goals in international football. The Portugal captain reached the mark during his side's World Cup Group A qualifying match against Ireland.
- The historic moment, one that was being eagerly looked forward to since the commencement of the tournament, arrived in the 89th minute when the Portuguese striker struck a goal to level the scores 1-1 in the match.

130th edition of Durand Cup kicks off in Kolkata

- The 130th edition of the Durand Cup kicked off at the Vivekananda Yubabharati Krirangan in Kolkata. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee kicked the ball and inaugurated the tournament.
- 16 teams are playing in this edition of the oldest club football tournament in Asia while two renowned clubs of Kolkata, East Bengal and Mohun Bagan are not participating.

Tokyo Paralympics: Shuttlers Pramod Bhagat wins gold, Manoj Sarkar wins bronze in men's singles SL3 category

- At the Tokyo Paralympics Indian shuttler Pramod Bhagat has won the gold medal in the men's singles SL3 category while in the same event, Manoj Sarkar has won a bronze medal for India.
- Manish Narwal finished on top of the podium in Mixed 50m Pistol SH1 final and Singhraj followed him at the second place for a silver medal. With this India has won total 17 medals so far which include, four Gold, seven Silver and six bronze.
- The 2020 Summer Paralympics branded as Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, were a major international multi-sport parasports event governed by the International Paralympic Committee. It was the 16th Summer Paralympic Games and was held in Tokyo, Japan between 24 August and 5 September 2021.
- Someity is a figure with pink chequered patterns inspired by the Games' official logo and mascot, as well as cherry blossom flowers.
- The event was formerly planned to take place on 25 August to 6 September 2020, but postponed to 2021 along with the 2020 Summer Olympics in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Like in the Olympics, the state of emergency happening in Tokyo and the event was held entirely behind closed doors with no physical audience permitted. For marketing purposes, the event was branded as Tokyo 2020 despite taking place in 2021.
- This was the second Summer Paralympics hosted by Tokyo since the 1964 Games, and the third time the Paralympics were ever held so far in Japan since the 1998 Winter Paralympics.
- Tokyo was the first city to host the Paralympics more than once. The Paralympics replaced sailing and 7-a-side football with badminton and taekwondo. The 2020 Summer Olympics were largely held behind closed doors due to the COVID-19 pandemic in Japan and a state of emergency in Tokyo issued by Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, though events in some regions could be held with up to 10,000 spectators or 50% capacity (whichever is smaller).

- **The 2020 Summer Paralympics featured 539 events in 22 sports. Badminton and taekwondo made their Paralympic debut in Tokyo**, while classifications were added or realigned in **other sports; canoe, shooting, table tennis, track cycling, and wheelchair fencing saw increases in the number of medal events held**, while there were reductions in athletics and swimming.
- **China topped the medal table for the fifth consecutive games, with 96 golds and 207 total medals. Great Britain finished second for the ninth time, with 41 golds and 124 total medals. The United States finished third, with 37 golds, their best finish since the 2008 games, and 104 total medals. The Russian Paralympic Committee finished fourth**, with a total of 36 golds and 118 total medals, putting them in third place when ranked by total medals. Iralympics team. (Photo credit: Prime Minister’s Office).
- **Indian Paralympians produced a historic show at Paralympics 2020 - where the team won 19 medals - five gold, eight silver, and six bronze.** Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted the Indian Paralympics contingent on September 9. Earlier, Modi had hosted Indian contingent that participated in Tokyo Olympics 2020.
- **Before Tokyo Paralympics 2020, India had won 12 medals (4 medals of each colour) in all previous Paralympics appearances combined.** While India returned with 19 medals from Paralympics 2020, the total number of Indian Paralympians who participated at Rio Paralympics 2016 was 19. **India ranked 24 in the overall ranking at Tokyo Paralympics 2020.**



Career
Launcher

MISCELLANEOUS

Himachal Pradesh becomes first state to administer first dose of Corona vaccine

- **Himachal Pradesh has achieved a unique distinction of achieving cent percent target of first dose of Covid-19 vaccination above the age of 18 years.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has congratulated the State Government and has agreed to virtually address the people of the State on 6th of September

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a contagious disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The first case was identified in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. It has since spread worldwide, leading to an ongoing pandemic. WHO first learned of this new virus on 31 December 2019, following a report of a cluster of cases of 'viral pneumonia' in Wuhan, People's Republic of China. The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are, Fever, Dry cough and Fatigue. The standard diagnosis method is by real-time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (rRT-PCR) from a nasopharyngeal swab. In India, the first case was reported in Kerala.

Guwahati: Sarbananda Sonowal announces Skill Institute on Marine Studies

- **Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal announced the setting up of a Skill Institute on Marine Studies at Guwahati in Assam under Indian Maritime University, Chennai.** Sonowal unveiled his strategies to boost inland waterways in Assam for a rejuvenated economy and trade resurgence for the Northeast India.

24x7 Mental Health Helpline 'SUKOON' inaugurated at SDRF Headquarters, Jammu

- **In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Commandant General, Home Guards and SDRF, V.K Singh and Principal Government Medical College, Jammu, Dr. Shashi Sudan inaugurated SUKOON, a 24x7 Mental Health Helpline at SDRF Headquarters, Jammu.**

Assam govt inks MOU with Microfinance Institutions for implementation of Assam Micro Finance Incentive & Relief Scheme 2021

- **With a view to provide succour to poor women borrowers who are not able to return the loan amount of Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs), the Assam government signed an MOU with Microfinance Institutions for implementation of Assam Micro Finance Incentive and Relief Scheme 2021 in Guwahati.** Altogether 38 MFIs and banks signed the MoU with the state government, which will remain in force till 31st March, 2023.

LG RK Mathur inaugurates 2-Day Ladakh Nomadic Festival at Korzok Phu

- **Ladakh Lieutenant Governor RK Mathur inaugurated a 2-Day Ladakh Nomadic Festival at Korzok Phu, Changthang region of eastern Ladakh.**
- **The festival is organised by Ladakh Cultural Academy in collaboration with Ladakh Tourism Department, aims to bring the distinctive culture of Changthang region on the tourism map of Ladakh.**

Indian Nutritional Week

- **In India, the National Nutrition Week is observed every year from September 1 to September 7 to raise public awareness about nutrition and healthy eating habits.** The week is observed to make people understand the importance of nutritional and adaptive eating habits so that they can maintain a healthy lifestyle.
- **In the year 1982 National Nutrition week celebration was started by the Central Government in India.** The campaign was started to spread awareness and encourage people as a society to understand the importance of nutrition and adopt a healthy, sustainable lifestyle. We all know that **malnutrition is one of the main hurdles in the overall development of the country** which is necessary to overcome it and curb it National Nutrition Week is celebrated. **The theme for National Nutrition Week 2021 is "Feeding smart right from start".**

Ladakh based engineer first Indian to be inducted as Honorary Member of the International Astronomical Union

- A Ladakh-based engineer has become the only Indian Honorary Member of the International Astronomical Union, along with ten others from around the world, joining a select list of 20 international experts.
- Dorje Angchuk of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Govt. of India, is also the first Indian to bag the position in the prestigious body.
- This honour is meant to officially recognise those individuals who have significantly contributed to the progress of astronomical research and culture in their country.
- This recognition by the International Astronomical Union is for 'his passionate promotion of astronomy in the Ladakh region, through his excellent astrophotography'. Angchuk is the Engineer in charge of the IIA's Indian Astronomical Observatory in Hanle, Ladakh. But his involvement in astronomy is much more than that.

Amitabh Bachchan 1st Indian star to roll out NFT collection

- Amitabh Bachchan has launched his own NFTs (Non-fungible tokens), becoming the first Indian actor to do so at a time when the world is warming up to digital assets. These NFTs will be a collection of unique and limited artworks themed around Amitabh Bachchan and his life.
- The NFTs up for grabs will include the mega star's recital of poems from Madhushala, the renowned collection of poems by his father Harivansh Rai Bachchan. He will also share anecdotes from his much-celebrated career. Amitabh Bachchan will roll out his NFT collection on the BeyondLife.club platform.
- In simple terms, NFTs are digital assets, backed by blockchain technology, representing things such as art, collectibles such as photos, videos and music, or even real estate. These assets are non-fungible, which means each token is unique and one cannot get a like-for-like replacement when they are traded.

Virat Kohli became the first Indian to cross the 150 million followers' landmark on Instagram.

- In the overall list, Kohli is the fourth sporting celebrity to reach the 150 million mark on the photo-blogging platform. Ronaldo tops the chart with 337 million followers, while Lionel Messi and Brazil's Neymar stand second and third in the list with 260 million, 160 million followers respectively. Kohli had earlier become the first Asian to reach 75 million followers on Instagram.

Prime Minister to release commemorative coin in honour of Iskon founder

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the year-long 125th birth anniversary celebrations of Iskon founder Srila Prabhupada on September 1 and release a commemorative silver coin of Rs 125 value in his honour.

Sonu Sood is the brand ambassador of Delhi govt's 'Desh ka mentors' programme

- Bollywood actor Sonu Sood met Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in the national capital. Kejriwal confirmed that Sonu Sood agreed to become the brand ambassador of Delhi govt's 'Desh Ke Mentors' program which will be launched soon.

Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla to Chair UN Security Council meeting

- Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla Chaired the UN Security Council meeting on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. India currently holds the rotating presidency of the United Nations Security Council for the month of August. The Foreign Secretary will attend events relating to the wrap up session of India's UNSC Presidency.

AWARDS

Tajikistan honours Lion of Panjshir Ahmad Shah Massoud after two decades

- In a significant development, Tajikistan awarded the country's highest distinction to former Afghan defence minister Ahmad Shah Massoud and former Afghan president Burhanuddin Rabbani. Massoud was known as the Lion of Panjshir and led the strongest resistance against the Taliban from his stronghold in the valley until he was assassinated two days before 9/11.
- His son Ahmad Massoud is currently leading the resistance against Taliban along with former vice president of Afghanistan Amrullah Saleh and former defence minister Bismillah Khan Mohammadi in Panjshir valley. Panjshir is separated from Tajikistan by Badakhshan province where Tajiks and Uzbeks are a majority rather than Pashtuns, who form the core of the Taliban.
- This is the only region which was not captured by the Soviets or the Taliban in the 1980 and 1990s. Rabbani, meanwhile, served as the political head of the Northern Alliance, when it took on the Taliban in the 1990s.
- Tajik President Emomali Rahmon issued the decree awarding the Order of Ismoili Somoni 1st Class on both the leaders posthumously. According to the president's official website, the award has been given to Massoud and Rabbani "for their assistance and mediation in organising inter-Tajik peace negotiations in 1993-1996". The honour is a recognition of the role the two leaders played in ending the civil war in Tajikistan.

Operation Devi Shakti (Operation Goddess Shakti) was an operation of the Indian Armed Forces to evacuate Indian citizens and foreign nationals from Afghanistan after the collapse of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the fall of Kabul, the capital city, to the Taliban. Panjshir (literally meaning "Five Lions", also spelled as Panjsher and Panjsheer) is one of the thirty-four provinces of Afghanistan, located in the northeastern part of the country containing the Panjshir Valley. Bazarak serves as the provincial capital. It is currently controlled by the National Resistance Front of Afghanistan, and with Baghlan is one of two provinces reportedly not controlled by the Taliban following the 2021 Taliban offensive.

'Arrangements of Love' only Asian title selected at TIFF among 41 films picked across the world

- 'Arrangements of Love', produced by Sunitha Tati of Telugu hit "Oh! Baby" fame, has been selected in the International Financing Forum (IFF) by 'Ontario Creates' at the prestigious Toronto International Film Festival 2021.
- The English language international film is the sole Asian title among 41 films from across the world in the IFF, which will be held virtually on September 13-14. Adapted from the acclaimed novelist Timeri N Murari's bestselling novel, the film will be directed by Philip John, best known for his work on "Outlander" and "Downton Abbey".

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan confers AICTE- Visvesvaraya Best Teacher Award

- Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan conferred AICTE- Visvesvaraya Best Teacher Award on 17 faculty members in Engineering and Technology at a function in New Delhi.
- Three faculty members were awarded the AICTE-Dr. Pritam Singh Best Teacher Award in Management Education. The Minister also conferred Chhatra Vishwakarma Award and Clean and Smart Campus Award, 2020 to the selected institutions. The new National Education Policy is expected to revolutionize the educational sector in India and lay the path for the next 25 years as per the Vision 2047 of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Small Industry Day

- **India observes National Small Industry Day on August 30**, every year to commemorate the contribution of small-scale industry to the country's growth.
- The day is marked to promote and support enterprises in the small scale industry for growth and setting up new businesses to generate employment opportunities.

International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances, 30 August

- **On 21 December 2010**, by its resolution the UN General Assembly expressed its deep concern about the increase in enforced or involuntary disappearances in various regions of the world, including arrest, detention and abduction, when these are part of or amount to enforced disappearances, and by the growing number of reports concerning harassment, ill-treatment and intimidation of witnesses of disappearances or relatives of persons who have disappeared.
- By the same resolution the Assembly welcomed the adoption of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and **decided to declare 30 August the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances, to be observed beginning in 2011.**

International Day of Charity

- **The International Day of Charity is an international day observed annually on 5 September.** It was declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 2012.

International Day of Clean Air for blue skies on 7 September

- **The 2021 theme for the International Day of Clean Air for blue skies is “Healthy Air, Healthy Planet”** which emphasizes the health aspects of air pollution, especially considering the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **This year's focus is on prioritizing the need for healthy air for all, while keeping the conversation broad enough to encompass other critical issues such as climate change, human and planetary health** as well as the Sustainable Development Goals. The day serves as a rallying call to action to align our efforts and claim our right to clean air.
- **The occasion, to be held on September 7, was established by UN resolution in 2019** at the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly, where UNEP was asked to facilitate all events moving forward. The first event, with the theme “Clean Air for All,” was held on September 7, 2020.

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QUESTIONS

- Which of the following countries has been elected to the Council of Administration (CA) at 27th Universal Postal Union (UPU) Congress in Abidjan recently?
(a) China (b) South Korea (c) Japan (d) India
- Indian Oil to build India's first green hydrogen plant at _____.
(a) Mathura Refinery (b) Barauni Refinery (c) Panipat Refinery (d) Bhopal Refinery
- Recently, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal announced the setting up of a Skill Institute on Marine Studies at _____ under Indian Maritime University, Chennai.
(a) Guwahati (b) Bhopal (c) Udaipur (d) Karnal
- Recently, the national launch of Y Break App was organized. This App is related with _____.
(a) Cultivation of bamboo in farmland (b) Cultivation of medicinal plants in farmland
(c) Cultivation of sugarcane in farmland (d) Cultivation of aromatic plants in farmland
- Recently, Karnataka government has decided to set up a spices park in _____ district.
(a) Shimoga (b) Chikkamagaluru (c) Mysuru (d) East Kannada
- National Sports Day is celebrated on 29th August every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of _____.
(a) Kapil Dev (b) Abhinav Bindra (c) Major Dhyhan Chand (d) Prakash Padukone
- Who among the following has chaired the UN Security Council meeting on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question?
(a) Harsh Vardhan Shringla (b) S Jaishankar
(c) Vikram Gokhale (d) Deepak Rathi
- Name the Indian Grandmaster who won the Barcelona Open chess tournament title recently.
(a) S P Sethuraman (b) Vipin Rawat (c) Abhimanyu Kumaran (d) Karthikeyan Murali
- India observes National Small Industry Day on _____.
(a) August 21 (b) August 24 (c) August 28 (d) August 30
- International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances is observed on:
(a) 21st August (b) 23rd August (c) 26th August (d) 30th August
- Which of the following Asian countries has hosted the International Climate Summit 2020-21 in physical and virtual mode?
(a) Malaysia (b) Indonesia (c) India (d) South Korea
- The Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has commissioned indigenously built Indian Coast Guard Ship _____ in Chennai.
(a) Virupaksha (b) Vighraha (c) Vineet (d) Viraat
- Indian Government will soon launch a Special Incentives scheme to support _____ Start-Ups in areas of Telemedicine, Digital Health and Artificial Intelligence to coincide with the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
(a) 25 (b) 38 (c) 49 (d) 75
- In which states / union territories SDRF Headquarters SUKON, a 24x7 Mental Health Helpline was inaugurated recently:
(a) Jammu & Kashmir (b) Ladakh (c) Uttarakhand (d) Himachal Pradesh

15. Recently, Hakainde Hichilema has been sworn in as the new President of:
 (a) The Gambia (b) Zambia (c) Senegal (d) Eritrea
16. Recently, India has come up with its own version of the caller ID and blocking application, called _____.
 (a) BharatCaller (b) IndiaCaller (c) HindustanCaller (d) DeshCaller
17. Recently, Central government's flagship financial inclusion programme, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana completes _____ years.
 (a) Three (b) Five (c) Six (d) Seven
18. Which is the first city in South Asia to launch its Climate Action Plan?
 (a) Singapore (b) Dhaka (c) Karachi (d) Mumbai
19. Recently, The BRICS Environment Ministers have adopted the _____ which is aimed at furthering the spirit of cooperation for continuity, consolidation and consensus in the environment among the BRICS Nations.
 (a) New Delhi Statement (b) Brasilia Statement
 (c) Beijing Statement (d) Durban Statement
20. Name the Bollywood actor who agreed to become the brand ambassador of Delhi govt's 'Desh Ke Mentors' program which will be launched soon.
 (a) Ajay Devgan (b) Shahrukh Khan (c) Salman Khan (d) Sonu Sood
21. In Uttar Pradesh, the state-of-the-art next-generation range of BrahMos missiles will be manufactured in _____.
 (a) Gorakhpur (b) Kanpur (c) Hapur (d) Lucknow
22. Name the only Asian title which has been selected in the International Financing Forum (IFF) by 'Ontario Creates' at the prestigious Toronto International Film Festival 2021.
 (a) 'Demand' (b) 'Attractive Feature'
 (c) 'Arrangements of Love' (d) 'Eternal Love'
23. The 6th Eastern Economic Forum EEF Summit is organized in:
 (a) Russia (b) Japan (c) China (d) Mongolia
24. Which of the following countries hosted the 8th Meeting of Agriculture Experts of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Countries virtually?
 (a) India (b) Myanmar (c) Nepal (d) Bhutan
25. Which of the following IIT's is developing an online platform to tackle electronic wastes (e-waste) by linking stakeholders in the formal and informal economy?
 (a) IIT Kanpur (b) IIT Delhi (c) IIT Madras (d) IIT Mandi
26. Name India's first IGBC Platinum rated city and which gets highest certification as greenfield smart city.
 (a) Chandigarh (b) GIFT City (c) Ambala (d) Darjeeling
27. Name the Bollywood actor who has launched his own NFTs (Non-fungible tokens), becoming the first Indian actor to do so at a time when the world is warming up to digital assets?
 (a) Akshay Kumar (b) Sanjay Dutt (c) Ajay Devgan (d) Amitabh Bachchan
28. Name the only district in India where all three species of crocodiles – salt-water, gharial and mugger – are found.
 (a) Puri (b) Bhubaneswar (c) Kendrapara (d) Cuttack
29. Which of the following football clubs has completed the signing of Cristiano Ronaldo on a two-year deal recently?
 (a) Manchester United (b) Bayern Munich (c) Chelsea (d) Juventus

30. Name the Indian shooter who has won Gold medal in Women's 10 metre Air Rifle Shooting at Tokyo Paralympics.
 (a) Deepa Sarnaout (b) Amita Gupta (c) Avani Lekhara (d) Anjali Rawat
31. According to Safe Cities Index 2021, which of the following cities has been named the number one city worldwide for environmental security?
 (a) Sydney (b) Dublin (c) Wellington (d) Napier
32. Which of the following Asian countries has become the world's first market to challenge the duopoly of Apple and Google over app store payments by approving a bill that forces them to allow third-party payments in the country?
 (a) South Korea (b) Japan (c) China (d) India
33. India recently launched soft skills training programme for women entrepreneurs with _____.
 (a) Nepal (b) Sri Lanka (c) Bhutan (d) Bangladesh
34. As part of her ongoing goodwill visit to Europe and Africa, _____ took part in the Maiden Maritime Partnership Exercise with Algerian Navy.
 (a) INS Tabar (b) INS Mahan (c) INS Virat (d) INS Vibhu
35. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the year-long birth anniversary celebrations of Iskcon founder Srila Prabhupada on September 1 and released a commemorative silver coin of _____ value in his honour.
 (a) Rs 100 (b) Rs 125 (c) Rs 150 (d) Rs 200
36. Recently, several union ministers launched the _____ mobile application in New Delhi as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations to commemorate 75th Year of Independence.
 (a) Y-Perform (b) Y-Stand (c) Y-Break (d) Y-Static
37. Recently, joint military exercise KAZIND-21 commenced. It is an exercise between _____.
 (a) India – Kazakhstan (b) India- Russia (c) India- Turkmenistan (d) India- Indonesia
38. A 200 personnel contingent of Indian Army will participate in Exercise _____ a Multi Nation exercise being held at Nizhniy, Russia.
 (a) MAAS, 21 (b) METHOD, 21 (c) ZAPAD, 2021 (d) JAPAS, 2021
39. Recently, A startup company of _____ has claimed that it has developed the world's first, state-of-the-art 'Smart Bio-Filter' that can make breathing fresh?
 (a) IIT Ropar (b) IIT Hyderabad (c) IIT Mandi (d) IIT Delhi
40. Which of the following states has recently achieved a unique distinction of achieving cent percent target of first dose of Covid-19 vaccination above the age of 18 years?
 (a) Gujarat (b) Haryana (c) Sikkim (d) Himachal Pradesh
41. Recently, Assam Cabinet has decided to rename _____ as Orang National Park.
 (a) Rajiv Gandhi National Park (b) Mahatma Gandhi National Park
 (c) Jawaharlal Nehru National Park (d) Indira Gandhi National Park
42. Tajikistan awarded the country's highest distinction to former Afghan defence minister Ahmad Shah Massoud and former Afghan President _____.
 (a) Abdullah Abdullah (b) Ashraf Ghani
 (c) Burhanuddin Rabbani (d) Hamid Karzai
43. Recently, India's first bio-brick based building was inaugurated at _____.
 (a) Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur (IIT-K)
 (b) Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad (IIT-H)
 (c) Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-M)
 (d) Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi (IIT-D)

44. The Central banks in Australia, Singapore, Malaysia and _____ will conduct a cross border payments trial using different central bank digital currencies (CBDC) to assess if this allows transactions to be settled more cheaply and easily.
 (a) South Africa (b) New Zealand (c) South Korea (d) Canada
45. Recently, Maharashtra Cabinet has decided to set up a Science City in _____.
 (a) Mumbai (b) Pune (c) Nagpur (d) Solapur
46. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will set up a committee to scrutinise applications and give recommendations on new umbrella entity (NUE) licences. The five-member committee will be headed by RBI chief general manager _____.
 (a) M Bharathari (b) P Vasudevan (c) Amit Panghal (d) Bhaskat Chhatterjee
47. Recently, New Development Bank (NDB) established by the BRICS ((Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) countries in 2015 has approved _____ as its new member.
 (a) Afghanistan (b) Brazil (c) Bangladesh (d) Canada
48. The Coconut Development Board celebrates Coconut Day every year on:
 (a) 31st August (b) 1st September (c) 2nd September (d) 4th September
49. Recently, The government of India set up a 12-member committee to review the existing guidelines of the Journalist Welfare Scheme (JWS). The committee is headed by Prasar Bharti Board member _____.
 (a) Deepak Bharadwaj (b) Amit Baghel (c) Ashok Tandon (d) Vipul Narang
50. Name the footballer who recently set the world record for most international goals in international football?
 (a) Ali Daei (b) Cristiano Ronaldo (c) Neymar Jr (d) Lionel Messi
51. Which of the following has adopted two endangered species, snow leopard and black-necked crane, as State animal and State bird?
 (a) Sikkim (b) Goa (c) Kerala (d) Ladakh
52. Who among the following is the fourth sporting celebrity to reach the 150 million mark on the photo-blogging platform?
 (a) Virat Kohli (b) MS Dhoni (c) Rohit Sharma (d) Sachin Tendulkar
53. Which of the following has launched two ambitious schemes, one in agriculture sector called 'AtmaNirbhar Krishi Yojna' and the other for horticulture named 'AtmaNirbhar Bagwani Yojna'?
 (a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Arunachal Pradesh (c) Haryana (d) Uttar Pradesh
54. The India Pavilion in Expo-2020 Dubai starting on 1st of October is set to showcase a resurgent India's march to becoming a _____ Trillion dollar economy in the post-COVID world.
 (a) Three (b) Four (c) Five (d) Ten
55. Which of the following will host 12th Defence Expo-2022 in Gandhinagar next year?
 (a) Gujarat (b) Andhra Pradesh (c) Haryana (d) Uttar Pradesh
56. Yoshihide Suga will step down as _____ Prime Minister amid increasing anger over his government's handling of COVID-19.
 (a) Japan (b) Brazil (c) China (d) Malaysia
57. The New Development Bank (NDB) set up by the _____ group of nations had admitted the United Arab Emirates, Uruguay and Bangladesh as members in its first expansion push.
 (a) BRICS (b) SCO (c) G7 (d) SAARC

58. The new International Labour Organization (ILO) report on social protection exposes the huge gaps in social protection coverage around the world, with _____% of people having no social protection at all, and a further 22% lacking full protection in line with international labour standards.
 (a) 32 (b) 39 (c) 47 (d) 57
59. Which of the following has launched the campaign AYUSH AAPKE DWAR from more than 45 locations?
 (a) Ministry of Ayush (b) NITI Aayog
 (c) NDC (d) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
60. Hansa New Generation trainer aircraft designed and developed by _____ in Bengaluru has successfully made its maiden flight.
 (a) DRDO (b) ISRO (c) CSIR-NAL (d) HAL
61. Recently, A Ladakh-based engineer has become the only Indian Honorary Member of the International Astronomical Union. What is the name of the Engineer?
 (a) Wangchuck Luth (b) Mitchell Dorchuk (c) Dorje Angchuk (d) Anail Mirch
62. Recently, The 130th edition of the Durand Cup kicked off at the Vivekananda Yubabharati Krirangan in Kolkata. Durand Cup is associated with:
 (a) Cricket (b) Hockey (c) Football (d) Lawn Tennis
63. NASA's newest _____ may have successfully collected its first rock sample for return to Earth, after last month's attempt came up empty.
 (a) Mars rover (b) Venus rover (c) Jupiter rover (d) Saturn rover
64. Recently, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya participated in G-20 Health Ministers Meeting 2021 hosted by _____ Presidency on the theme – People, Planet and Prosperity.
 (a) Italian (b) Indian (c) American (d) Canadian
65. India has inducted the _____ surveillance ship which can track nuclear missiles and satellites from a distance.
 (a) Tez (b) Virat (c) Dhruv (d) Nitant
66. Recently, The Centre signed the tripartite Karbi Anglong agreement promising to fulfil all the conditions for development of the Karbi people within the stipulated time. Karbi Anglong district is in _____.
 (a) Nagaland (b) Manipur (c) Mizoram (d) Assam
67. Coal India Limited under the Ministry of Coal has launched a new software named _____ which will help in identifying thin coal seams under the earth crust.
 (a) Earth Enhancement EEE (b) Crust Enhancement CE
 (c) Spectral Enhancement SPE (d) Coal Enhancement CoE
68. Recently, El Salvador's top court has ruled that the country's President can serve _____ consecutive terms.
 (a) Two (b) Three (c) Four (d) Five
69. Recently, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan conferred AICTE- _____ Best Teacher Award on 17 faculty members in Engineering and Technology at a function in New Delhi.
 (a) Ghosh (b) Tagore (c) Visvesvaraya (d) Radhakrishnan
70. International Day of Clean Air for blue skies is celebrated every year on:
 (a) 1st September (b) 4th September (c) 7th September (d) 9th September

ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATION

1. d India has been elected to the Council of Administration (CA) at 27th Universal Postal Union (UPU) Congress in Abidjan.
2. a Indian Oil to build India's first green hydrogen plant at Mathura Refinery.
3. a Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal announced the setting up of a Skill Institute on Marine Studies at Guwahati in Assam under Indian Maritime University, Chennai.
4. b This includes national launch of Y Break App from Vigyan Bhawan, yearlong campaigns of cultivation of medicinal plants in farmland and distribution of medicinal plants to households, sensitisation of School and College going students on Ayush systems.
5. b The Karnataka state government has decided to set up a spices park in Chikkamagaluru district.
6. c The day is celebrated on 29th August every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of legendary hockey player Major Dhyan Chand.
7. a Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla has chaired the UN Security Council meeting on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. India currently holds the rotating presidency of the United Nations Security Council for the month of August.
8. a Indian Grandmaster S P Sethuraman won the Barcelona Open chess tournament title while compatriot Karthikeyan Murali finished third.
9. d India observes National Small Industry Day on August 30, every year to commemorate the contribution of small-scale industry to the country's growth.
10. d 30 August the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances, to be observed beginning in 2011.
11. c India has hosted the International Climate Summit 2020-21 in physical and virtual mode.
12. b Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has commissioned indigenously built Indian Coast Guard Ship Vighraha in Chennai.
13. d Government will soon launch a Special Incentives scheme to support 75 Start-Ups in areas of Telemedicine, Digital Health and Artificial Intelligence to coincide with the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
14. a In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Commandant General, Home Guards and SDRF, V.K Singh and Principal Government Medical College, Jammu, Dr. Shashi Sudan inaugurated SUKON, a 24x7 Mental Health Helpline at SDRF Headquarters, Jammu.
15. b Zambia's veteran opposition leader Hakainde Hichilema has been sworn in as president in front of a packed stadium in the capital, Lusaka.
16. a India has come up with its own version of the caller ID and blocking application TrueCaller, called BharatCaller.
17. d Central government's flagship financial inclusion programme, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana completes seven years.
18. d Mumbai is the first city in South Asia to launch the Mumbai Climate Action Plan, which is rolling in now.

- 19. a** The BRICS Environment Ministers have adopted the New Delhi Statement which is aimed at furthering the spirit of cooperation for continuity, consolidation and consensus in the environment among the BRICS Nations.
- 20. d** Kejriwal confirmed that Sonu Sood agreed to become the brand ambassador of Delhi govt's 'Desh Ke Mentors' program which will be launched soon.
- 21. d** Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said that the state-of-the-art next-generation range of BrahMos missiles will be manufactured in Lucknow.
- 22. c** 'Arrangements of Love', produced by Sunitha Tati of Telugu hit "Oh! Baby" fame, has been selected in the International Financing Forum (IFF) by 'Ontario Creates' at the prestigious Toronto International Film Festival 2021.
- 23. a** Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri led an official and business delegation to Russia to participate in the 6th Eastern Economic Forum EEF Summit in Vladivostok.
- 24. a** India hosted the 8th Meeting of Agriculture Experts of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Countries virtually.
- 25. c** IIT Madras is developing an online platform to tackle electronic wastes (e-waste) by linking stakeholders in the formal and informal economy.
- 26. b** India's only operational smart city and International Financial Services Centre (IFSC), GIFT City has received the Green Cities Platinum certification for 'Green Master planning & design and Implementation of GIFT City's phase I development' by CII's Indian Green Building Council (IGBC).
- 27. d** Amitabh Bachchan has launched his own NFTs (Non-fungible tokens), becoming the first Indian actor to do so at a time when the world is warming up to digital assets.
- 28. c** Odisha's Kendrapara district, crisscrossed by rivers, creeks and water inlets, has earned the distinction of being the only district in India where all three species of crocodiles – salt-water, gharial and mugger – are found.
- 29. a** Manchester United have completed the signing of Cristiano Ronaldo from Juventus on a two-year deal, the Premier League side confirmed as the Portuguese forward returns to the club where he won eight major trophies from 2003-2009.
- 30. c** Indian shooter Avani Lekhara has won Gold medal in Women's 10 metre Air Rifle Shooting at Tokyo Paralympics.
- 31. c** Wellington has been named the number one city worldwide for environmental security.
- 32. a** South Korea has become the world's first market to challenge the duopoly of Apple and Google over app store payments by approving a bill that forces them to allow third-party payments in the country.
- 33. d** India launches soft skills training programme for women entrepreneurs in Bangladesh.
- 34. a** As part of her ongoing goodwill visit to Europe and Africa, INS Tabar took part in the Maiden Maritime Partnership Exercise with Algerian Navy.
- 35. b** Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the year-long 125th birth anniversary celebrations of Iskcon founder Srila Prabhupada on September 1 and release a commemorative silver coin of Rs 125 value in his honour.
- 36. c** As a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations to commemorate 75th Year of Independence, Union Minister of Ayush Sarbananda Sonowal, along with Union Ministers Kiren Rijiju, Jitendra Singh, Meenakshi Lekhi and Dr. Munjpara Mahendrabhai launched the Yoga Break (Y-Break) mobile application in New Delhi.

- 37. a** The India – Kazakhstan joint military exercise KAZIND-21 commenced at Training Node Aisha Bibi, Kazakhstan.
- 38. c** A 200 personnel contingent of Indian Army will participate in Exercise ZAPAD, 2021, a Multi Nation exercise being held at Nizhniy, Russia.
- 39. a** A startup company of IIT Ropar has claimed that it has developed the world’s first, state-of-the-art ‘Smart Bio-Filter’ that can make breathing fresh. Urban Air Laboratory says that its living-plant-based air purifier “Ubreathe Life” amplifies the air purification process in indoor spaces.
- 40. d** Himachal Pradesh has achieved a unique distinction of achieving cent percent target of first dose of Covid-19 vaccination above the age of 18 years.
- 41. a** Assam Cabinet has decided to rename Rajiv Gandhi National Park as Orang National Park. There was a demand to restore the original name of the Orang Wildlife Sanctuary.
- 42. c** Tajikistan awarded the country’s highest distinction to former Afghan defence minister Ahmad Shah Massoud and former Afghan president Burhanuddin Rabbani.
- 43. b** India’s first bio-brick based building was inaugurated at Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad (IIT-H) by Director B.S. Murty.
- 44. a** Central banks in Australia, Singapore, Malaysia and South Africa will conduct a cross border payments trial using different central bank digital currencies (CBDC) to assess if this allows transactions to be settled more cheaply and easily.
- 45. b** Maharashtra Cabinet has decided to set up a Science City in Pune.
- 46. b** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will set up a committee to scrutinise applications and give recommendations on new umbrella entity (NUE) licences. The five-member committee will be headed by RBI chief general manager P Vasudevan.
- 47. c** The New Development Bank (NDB) established by the BRICS ((Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) countries in 2015 has approved Bangladesh as its new member.
- 48. c** Every year, September 2, 2021, is observed as World Coconut Day. This day is celebrated to emphasize and raise awareness about the importance as well as benefits of coconuts. Coconut, also known as ‘Nariyal’ in Hindi, is one of the most loved and versatile fruits.
- 49. c** The government set up a 12-member committee to review the existing guidelines of the Journalist Welfare Scheme (JWS). The committee, headed by Prasar Bharti Board member Ashok Tandon, is expected to give its report in two months.
- 50. b** Cristiano Ronaldo set the world record for most international goals, surpassing Iran’s Ali Daei tally of 109 goals in international football.
- 51. d** Ladakh adopted two endangered species, snow leopard and black-necked crane, as State animal and State bird, two years after it was carved out as a separate Union Territory (UT) from the erstwhile State of J&K.
- 52. a** In the overall list, Virat Kohli is the fourth sporting celebrity to reach the 150 million mark on the photo-blogging platform.
- 53. b** Arunachal Pradesh government has launched two ambitious schemes, one in agriculture sector called ‘AtmaNirbhar Krishi Yojna’ and the other for horticulture named ‘AtmaNirbhar Bagwani Yojna’.

- 54. c** The India Pavilion in Expo-2020 Dubai starting on 1st of October is set to showcase a resurgent India's march to becoming a five Trillion dollar economy in the post-COVID world.
- 55. a** The Gujarat Government will host 12th Defence Expo-2022 in Gandhinagar next year.
- 56. a** Yoshihide Suga will step down as Japanese Prime Minister amid increasing anger over his government's handling of COVID-19.
- 57. a** The New Development Bank (NDB) set up by the BRICS group of nations had admitted the United Arab Emirates, Uruguay and Bangladesh as members in its first expansion push.
- 58. c** The new International Labour Organization (ILO) report on social protection exposes the huge gaps in social protection coverage around the world, with 47% of people having no social protection at all, and a further 22% lacking full protection in line with international labour standards.
- 59. a** Ayush Ministry has launched the campaign AYUSH AAPKE DWAR from more than 45 locations across the country.
- 60. c** Hansa New Generation trainer aircraft designed and developed by CSIR-NAL in Bengaluru has successfully made its maiden flight.
- 61. c** Dorje Angchuk of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Govt. of India, is also the first Indian to bag the position in the prestigious body.
- 62. c** 16 teams are playing in this edition of the oldest club football tournament in Asia while two renowned clubs of Kolkata, East Bengal and Mohun Bagan are not participating.
- 63. a** NASA's newest Mars rover may have successfully collected its first rock sample for return to Earth, after last month's attempt came up empty.
- 64. a** Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya participated in G-20 Health Ministers Meeting 2021 hosted by Italian Presidency on the theme – People, Planet and Prosperity.
- 65. c** India is set to induct the Dhruv surveillance ship which can track nuclear missiles and satellites from a distance.
- 66. a** Karbi Anglong district is one of the 34 administrative districts of Assam in India.
- 67. c** Coal India Limited under the Ministry of Coal has launched a new software named Spectral Enhancement SPE which will help in identifying thin coal seams under the earth crust.
- 68. a** El Salvador's top court has ruled that the country's president can serve two consecutive terms
- 69. c** Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan conferred AICTE- Visvesvaraya Best Teacher Award on 17 faculty members in Engineering and Technology at a function in New Delhi.
- 70. c** International Day of Clean Air for blue skies is celebrated on 7 September.