
MANTHAN

A General Awareness Weekly

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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.

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India gets its 40th World Heritage Site Dholavira, Harappan City in Gujarat inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List

- India's nomination of Dholavira, the Harappan City in the Rann of Kutch, Gujarat has been inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage list. India submitted the nomination dossier for Dholavira: A Harappan City to the World Heritage Centre in January, 2020. The site was on the UNESCO's tentative list since 2014. Dholavira: a Harappan city is one of the very few well preserved urban settlements in South Asia dating from the 3rd to mid-2nd millennium BCE.
- Dholavira, a Harappan-era metropolis situated in Gujarat, has been accorded the World Heritage tag by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
- Gujarat so far has three world heritage sites - Champaner near Pavagadh, Rani ki Vav in Patan and the historic city of Ahmedabad. The current session of the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO is being held online in China's Fuzhou.
- The Union Minister of Culture, Tourism and Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) Sri G Kishan Reddy shared this news on Twitter shortly after the announcement. This follows a few days after the Rudreswara Temple, (also known as the Ramappa Temple) at Palampet, Mulugu district, Telangana State becoming the 39th World Heritage Centre in India.
- Shri G Kishan Reddy tweeted, "It gives immense pride to share with my fellow Indians that Dholavira is now the 40th treasure in India to be given @UNESCO World Heritage tag. Another feather in India's cap as we now enter the Super-40 club for World Heritage Site inscriptions."
- With this successful nomination, India has 40 world heritage properties overall, which includes 32 cultural, 7 natural and one mixed property. The Union Minister for Culture was referring to the countries that have 40 or more World Heritage sites and apart from India, this now contains Italy, Spain, Germany, China and France. The Minister also observed in his tweet how India has added 10 new world Heritage sites since 2014, and this is testimony to the Prime Minister's steadfast commitment in promoting Indian culture, heritage and the Indian way of life.

Dholavira: a Harappan city is one of the very few well preserved urban settlements in South Asia dating from the 3rd to mid-2nd millennium BCE. Being the 6th largest of more than 1,000 Harappan sites discovered so far, and occupied for over 1,500 years, Dholavira not only witnesses the entire trajectory of the rise and fall of this early civilization of humankind, but also demonstrates its multifaceted achievements in terms of urban planning, construction techniques, water management, social governance and development, art, manufacturing, trading, and belief system. With extremely rich artefacts, the well preserved urban settlement of Dholavira depicts a vivid picture of a regional centre with its distinct characteristics that also contributes significantly to the existing knowledge of Harappan Civilization as a whole. Dholavira is an exceptional example of a proto-historic Bronze Age urban settlement pertaining to the Harappan Civilization (early, mature and late Harappan phases) and bears evidence of a multi-cultural and stratified society during the 3rd and 2nd millennia BCE.

Telangana's iconic Kakatiya Rudreshwara Temple was inscribed as a World Heritage site

- **India gets its 39th World Heritage Site. The Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple, Telangana** has been inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The decision was taken at the 44th session of the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has congratulated everyone, specially the people of Telangana. In a tweet, **Mr Modi said, the iconic Ramappa Temple showcases the outstanding craftsmanship of great Kakatiya dynasty.**
- **Ramappa temple, a 13th century engineering marvel named after its architect, Ramappa, was proposed by the government as its only nomination for the UNESCO World Heritage site tag for the year 2019.**
- **The temple complexes of Kakatiyas have a distinct style, technology and decoration exhibiting the influence of the Kakatiyan sculptor.** The temple stands on a six feet high star-shaped platform with walls, pillars and ceilings.
- Overall, more than 1100 properties from various countries are on the World Heritage List. **The Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, Qutub Minar, Ajanta Caves, Ellora Caves, Fatehpur Sikri etc. are among the monuments from India which feature on this list.**

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

India plans more power islands to counter cyber, terrorist threats

- **India is discussing a plan to create so-called power islanding systems in several cities to protect critical infrastructure from potential attacks** on the electricity grid, power minister Raj Kumar Singh said.
- **Cities including Bengaluru, known as India's Silicon Valley, and Jamnagar, which has two of India's largest oil refineries, are among cities being assessed for an islanding system.**
- **Islanding systems feature generation capacity and can isolate automatically** from the main grid in the event of an outage. For the new systems, provinces need to submit proposals for setting up generation and storage capacities.

Bangalore, officially known as Bengaluru is the capital and the largest city of the Indian state of Karnataka. Bangalore is widely regarded as the "Silicon Valley of India" (or "IT capital of India") because of its role as the nation's leading information technology (IT) exporter. Indian technological organisations are headquartered in the city. ISRO is also headquartered in Bengaluru.

Puri first city in India to have safe drinking tap water

- **In a push for safe drinking water, Naveen Patnaik led Odisha government has declared Puri as the first city in the country to have city-wide safe drinking tap water.** The state government is also working on rolling out safe drinking tap water supplies in 16 more towns including Cuttack, Rourkela and Berhampur, with the move benefitting around a 4 million strong urban population.
- **"The State Government has planned to cover all urban areas of Odisha by March 2022, making it the state first to do so in India. Supplying drink-from-tap quality water to every home, similar to developed nations like USA, England, Japan, Singapore".** Odisha chief minister Naveen Patnaik on Monday dedicated the 'Sujal-Drink From Tap Mission' to the residents of Puri town to provide clean drinking water to the local residents," it said.

- The Odisha state government's scheme comes in the backdrop of 41.14% rural households provided with tap water connection since the marquee Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), launched in 2019 by the union government.
- While the Rs.3.6 trillion JJM scheme aims to ensure assured tap water supply or 'Har Ghar Jal' to all rural households by 2024, several states have presented their commitment to provide tap water connections to all rural households before 2024.

Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) envisages supply of 55 litres of water per person per day to every rural household through Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) by 2024. JJM focuses on integrated demand and supply-side management of water at the local level. The Mission is based on a community approach to water and includes extensive Information, Education and Communication as a key component of the mission. JJM looks to create a jan andolan for water, thereby making it everyone's priority. The fund sharing pattern between the Centre and states is 90:10 for Himalayan and North-Eastern States, 50:50 for other states, and 100% for Union Territories.

The modern state of Odisha was established on 1 April 1936, as a province in British India. The ancient kingdom of Kalinga, which was invaded by the Mauryan emperor Ashoka in 261 BCE resulting in the Kalinga War, coincides with the borders of modern-day Odisha. Konark Sun Temple is a 13th-century CE sun temple at Konark about 35 kilometres northeast from Puri on the coastline of Odisha, India. The temple is attributed to king Narasimhadeva I of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty about 1250 CE. Ganeshi Lal is current Governor of Odisha. Naveen Patnaik is the current and 14th Chief Minister of Odisha.

95% of Haryana's rural population have got access to potable drinking water under JJM

- In a push to the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), which envisages providing tap water connections to all rural households in the country, around 95% of Haryana's rural population have got access to potable drinking water. Also, a dozen of the state's 22 districts have met their targets under the Mission.
- The marquee scheme aims to ensure assured tap water supply or 'Har Ghar Jal' to all rural households by 2024. Around 4.4 crore households have been provided with tap water connections since the scheme's announcement on 15 August 2019.
- "Over 95% rural population in Haryana now have access to potable drinking water through domestic tap connection," the statement added. In July 2019, the government had formed a new ministry, Jal Shakti, to address all water issues in the country. The Jal Shakti ministry was formed by integrating it with other existing ministries, such as water resources and the ministry of drinking water and sanitation.
- "So far, 100% target has been achieved in Goa, Telangana, Andaman Nicobar and Puducherry. Total 67 districts of the country have also been fully covered till date under this scheme," the statement said.

Haryana is a state in India located in the northern part of the country. It was carved out of the former state of East Punjab on 1 November 1966 on a linguistic basis Chandigarh is the state capital, Faridabad in National Capital Region (NCR) is the most populous city of the state, and Gurgaon is a leading financial hub of the NCR, with major Fortune 500 companies located in it. Haryana is the lowest sex ratio state in India. Bandar Dattatreya is serving as the current Governor of the State of Haryana since 2021. Manohar Lal Khattar is serving as the 10th and current Chief Minister of Haryana.

Govt to set up National Centre of Excellence for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming & Comics

- The Union Government has decided to set up a National Centre of Excellence for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics for creating a world-class talent pool in India to cater to the Indian as well as global industry, Minister of Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur said.
- It will be set up in collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay. It is the largest South Asian Film Market and attracts investors from around the world by encouraging creative and financial collaboration between the South Asian and International Film communities.

Anurag Singh Thakur is an Indian politician from the Bharatiya Janata Party and a **Member of Parliament in the Lok Sabha from Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh**. He is the **current Minister of Sports, Youth Affairs and Minister of Information and Broadcasting** in the Second Modi ministry. Previously, **Thakur served as a Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs**.

Pegasus: West Bengal becomes first state to order probe

- **West Bengal has ordered an inquiry into the Pegasus snooping row that has rocked the nation since July 18, becoming the first state to do so.**
- **“The Cabinet has approved the appointment of a commission of inquiry comprising former Supreme Court judge, Justice (retd) MB Lokur and retired chief justice of Calcutta high court, Justice (retd) Jyotirmay Bhattacharya in exercise of the power conferred by section 3 of the Commission of Enquiry Act, 1952 in the matter of widely reported illegal hacking, monitoring, putting under surveillance, tracking, recording etc of mobile phones of various persons in the state of West Bengal,”.**
- **Under The Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952, a Commission set up by the government shall have the powers of a civil court, while trying a suit under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.** This means that the Commission has powers to summon and enforce the attendance of any person from any part of India and examine her on oath, and receive evidence, and it can order requisition of any public record or copy from any court or office.
- **Under Section 5 of the Act, the Commission also has the power to require any person, subject to any privilege which may be claimed by that person under any law for the time being in force, to furnish information on such points or matters that, in the opinion of the Commission, may be useful for, or relevant to, the subject matter of the inquiry.**

While both central and state governments can set up such Commissions of Inquiry, states are restricted by subject matters that they are empowered to legislate upon. However, it matters who orders an inquiry first. Not just politically, but also under the law. If the central government set up the commission first, then states cannot set up a parallel commission on the same subject matter without the approval of the Centre. But if a state has appointed a Commission, then the Centre can appoint another on the same subject if it is of the opinion that the scope of the inquiry should be extended to two or more states. The West Bengal government’s move appointing a committee first could force the Centre to react on the issue.

Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa resigns

- **Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa has submitted his resignation to Governor Thawarchand Gehlot in Bengaluru. The BJP Government led by Yediyurappa in Karnataka completes two years.**
- **This is for the fourth time that Chief Minister Yediyurappa had assumed the seat and resigned without completing the full term.** The Chief Minister said that he has resigned and will work to strengthen the party in the state and make every effort to bring it to power when the Assembly election is announced in the state in 2023.

Basavaraj Bommai becomes New Chief Minister of Karnataka

- **Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has announced that BJP leader Basavaraj Bommai is elected by the legislative party in a meeting held at Bengaluru.**
- **Basavaraj Bommai is three times MLA from Shegaon in Haveri district in North Karnataka and was the Home Minister and Parliamentary Affairs Minister in the Yediyurappa Cabinet.** He is considered a close confidant of Yediyurappa, Bommai will be the 23rd Chief Minister of the State.

Basavaraj Bommai sworn in as Chief Minister of Karnataka

- **Three-time MLA and former Minister Basavaraj Bommai took oath as the 23rd Chief Minister of Karnataka on July 28.**
- **He was sworn in by Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot in the presence of senior Bharatiya Janata Party leaders, including former chief minister B.S. Yediyurappa, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and BJP Karnataka in-charge Arun Singh.**

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).

Govt proposes to set up National Research Foundation to strengthen research ecosystem

- **Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan** has said that the Government proposes to set up a National Research Foundation NRF to strengthen the research ecosystem in the country.
- NRF is being envisaged as an umbrella structure that will improve linkages between Research and Development, academia and industry. The total proposed outlay of NRF is 50 thousand crore rupees over a period of five years.
- He said, one of the main objectives of NRF is to seed, grow and facilitate research at academic institutions, particularly at universities and colleges, where research capacity is currently in a nascent stage. The Minister said, it will also fund and support high-impact, large-scale, multi-investigator, multi-institution and, in some cases, interdisciplinary or multi-nation projects in collaboration with relevant Ministries, Departments, and other Governmental and non-Governmental entities, especially industry.

The National Research Foundation (NRF) — which found a place in Prime Minister Modi's national address on the Independence Day — is a soon-to-be-set-up autonomous body envisaged under the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020. Considered to be one of the biggest announcements under NEP, it will look after funding, mentoring, and building 'quality of research' in India. The NRF aims to fund researchers working across streams in India. In order to bring non-science disciplines of research in its ambit, NRF will fund research projects across four major disciplines – Sciences; Technology; Social Sciences; and Arts and Humanities.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to leave for Tajikistan to participate in SCO Defence Ministers meet

- Defence minister Rajnath Singh left for Tajikistan's capital Dushanbe to participate in Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's Defence Ministers meet.
- The SCO as a grouping occupies 60 per cent of the Eurasian continent, which is over 34 million square kilometres. SCO countries are having a population of over three billion that is almost half of the world's population.
- Tajikistan is chair of the grouping which has 8 member states—Russia, China, India, Pakistan, and 4 central Asian countries—Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan. Tajikistan will be holding the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation or SCO heads of state summit on September 16-17.
- There is no confirmation if Rajnath Singh will meet with his counterpart on the sidelines of the SCO meet or not. Remember Rajnath Singh and Chinese defence minister General Wei Fenghe had met on the sidelines of SCO meet last year in Moscow, a meet that came in the backdrop of Chinese aggression at Line of Actual Control in Eastern Ladakh.
- The last 2 months have seen two important SCO meetings under Tajikistan's leadership. This includes SCO National security advisor's meet and foreign ministers meet. The SCO Foreign Ministers' meet earlier this month saw External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar and Chinese FM Wang Yi holding a meeting on the sidelines.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is a Eurasian political, economic, and security organisation, the creation of which was announced on 15 June 2001 in Shanghai, China by the leaders of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan; the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Charter was signed in June 2002 and entered into force on 19 September 2003. India and Pakistan have become latest full members in SCO in 2017. The Secretariat of the SCO is the primary executive body of the organisation. It is headquartered in Beijing.

Parliament passes Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill 2021

- **Parliament has passed the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill 2021** with Rajya Sabha approving it. The Lok Sabha has already passed the Bill. **The Bill seeks to amend the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.**
- **The amendments include authorizing District Magistrate including Additional District Magistrate to issue adoption orders** to ensure speedy disposal of cases and enhance accountability.
- **The District Magistrates have been further empowered under the Act**, to ensure its smooth implementation, as well as garner synergized efforts in favour of children in distress conditions.
- **As per the amended provisions of the Act, any Child Care Institutions shall be registered after considering the recommendations of the District Magistrate. The DM shall independently evaluate the functioning of District Child Protection Units, Child Welfare Committees, Juvenile Justice Boards, Specialized Juvenile Police Units, Child care Institutions etc.**
- **The eligibility parameters for appointment of CWC members have been redefined.** Criteria for disqualification of the CWC members has also been introduced to ensure that only the persons capable of rendering quality service with requisite competence and integrity are appointed to CWC.
- **Presently there are three categories (petty, serious and heinous) defined under the Act which are referred to, while considering the cases of children in conflict with law.** However, it was observed that some of the offences do not strictly fall under any of these categories. It has been decided that offences where the maximum sentence is more than 7 years imprisonment but no minimum sentence has been prescribed or minimum sentence of less than 7 years is provided, shall be treated as serious offences within this Act.

Juvenile meaning in the Indian Constitution is if a child is below the age of 18 so under the Indian Laws, Section 2 (k) of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act,2000 defines “juvenile” or “Child” as a person who has not completed eighteenth year of age. Juvenile means childish or immature. It is an adjective, which is enlisted in the law for relating to a young person who is not yet old enough to be considered an adult, as per the Cambridge dictionary. Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 came into force on 15 January 2016. Juvenile act under the constitution states that if a minor aged between 16 and 18 commits a crime but is caught after he has turned 21, should be tried under the IPC and not under juvenile.

INS Talwar participating in Cutlass Express-2021

- **Indian Naval Ship Talwar is participating in the multi-national maritime exercise Cutlass Express-2021, CE-21 being conducted from 26th of July to 6th of Aug 2021 in Kenya.**
- **In the harbour phase, which was conducted from 26th to 28th July at Mombasa, a team of Indian Navy Marine Commandos, MARCOS conducted training of personnel from navies of Kenya, Djibouti, Mozambique, Cameroon and Coast Guard of Georgia.**
- **The MARCOS shared the best practices in executing Visit, Board, Search and Seizure, VBSS operations with the participating foreign Navy sailors during the exercise, which was held at the Bandari Maritime Academy in Mombasa.**
- **Exercise Cutlass Express is designed to improve regional cooperation, maritime domain awareness and information sharing practices to increase capabilities between the U.S., East African and Western Indian Ocean nations to counter illicit maritime activity in the Western Indian Ocean.**

Parliament passes Marine Aids to Navigation Bill

- **Parliament passed a bill that will replace an over nine-decade-old law governing lighthouses and provide a fresh framework to establish and manage vessel traffic services.**
- **Rajya Sabha gave its nod to the Marine Aids to Navigation Bill, 2021, which also changes the use of the term marine aids to navigation, amid continuing protests by the opposition members over the Pegasus snooping allegations and other issues.** The Bill will provide for the development, maintenance and management of aids to navigation in India; for training and certification of the operator of aids to navigation, development of its historical, educational and cultural value.

Indore is the only city from country to make the cut

- Adding yet another feather to its cap, the cleanest city of the country, Indore has also become the only city to be selected from India for International Clean Air Catalyst Programme.
- Clean Air Catalyst is a new flagship programme launched by The US Agency for International Development (USAID) and a global consortium of organisations, led by World Resources Institute (WRI) and Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) to accelerate clean air solutions in low and middle-income countries.
- In collaboration with USAID and other international organisations like EDF and WRI, Indore has implement City Clean Air Catalyst programme. In the programme, with the cooperation of Indore Municipal Corporation and Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board, the project will be operated for 5 years for clean and pure air in the city.

Indore is the most populous and the largest city in the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh. Indore has been part of Swachh Survekshan since its inception and had ranked 25th in 2016. It has been ranked as India's cleanest city four years in a row as per the Swachh Survekshan for the years 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020. Indore became the only Indian city to be selected for International Clean Air Catalyst Programme. The project with cooperation of Indore Municipal Corporation and Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board, will be operated for a period of five years to purify the air in the city.

India assumed Presidency of the UN Security Council

- India assumed the presidency of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the month of August 2021. This will be the country's first presidency during its 2021-22 tenure as a non-permanent member of the Security Council.
- India began its two-year tenure as a non-permanent member of the UNSC in January 2021. This is India's eighth term on the UNSC.
- India will decide the UN body's agenda for the month and coordinate important meetings on a range of issues. It is going to organise key events in three major areas of maritime security, peacekeeping and counter-terrorism. The Security Council will also have on its agenda several important meetings including Syria, Iraq, Somalia, Yemen, and the Middle East. The Security Council will also be adopting important resolutions on Somalia, Mali, & United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.
- Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi was the first Indian PM to preside over a meeting of the UNSC. The last time an Indian PM was engaged in this effort was the then PM PV Narasimha Rao in 1992 when he attended a UNSC meeting.
- India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Tirumurti highlighted the significance of the responsibility to India and what India will strive to bring to the Global High Table.

United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations. Under the Charter, the Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It has 15 Members, and each Member has one vote. Under the Charter, all Member States are obligated to comply with Council decisions. The permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (also known as the Permanent Five, Big Five, or P5) are China (formerly the Republic of China), Russia (formerly the Soviet Union), France, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Antonio Guterres is a Portuguese politician and diplomat who is serving as the ninth Secretary-General of the United Nations. Previously, he was the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees between 2005 and 2015.

Maldives style water villas soon in Lakshadweep

- India's popular island destination Lakshadweep will soon have three premium Maldives style water villas, claimed to be the first of its kind in the country. The three premium projects will come up in Minicoy, Kadmat and Suheli islands at a cost of Rs 800 crore. With a vision to establish a robust base for maritime economic growth with tourism development at its core, the administration said it is engaged in developing high end eco- tourism projects at these islands as anchor projects under the aegis of NITI Aayog.

Lakshadweep is a union territory of India. It is an archipelago of 36 islands in the Arabian sea, located 200 to 440 km off of the mainland's southwestern coast. Kavaratti serves as the capital of the Union Territory and the region comes under the jurisdiction of Kerala High Court. The islands are the northernmost of the Lakshadweep–Maldives–Chagos group of islands, which are the tops of a vast undersea mountain range, the Chagos-Lakshadweep Ridge. The Lakshadweep consisted of 36 islands. But currently there are 35 islands, as the Parali 1 Island submerged in water due to sea erosion. Praful Khoda Patel is currently the Administrator of Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu and Union Territory of Lakshadweep. The Nine Degree Channel is a channel in the Indian Ocean between the Laccadive Islands of Kalpeni and Suheli Par, and Maliku Atoll.

Haryana first with 100% marks in crime tracking

- Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij said Haryana secured first position in crime and criminal tracking network system (CCTNS) with 100 per cent marks in the country. This system was implemented by the Union Home Ministry in the country to curtail the incidence of crime and under this system the police in the states had to upgrade the systems under certain parameters.
- The Haryana Police has secured first position in the country under this system for the first time with 100 per cent marks, while Gujarat has secured the second position with 99.9 per cent marks and Himachal Pradesh is third with 99.6 per cent marks.

12th edition of exercise INDRA NAVY held between Indian Navy & Russian Navy

- The 12th edition of exercise INDRA NAVY, a biennial bilateral maritime exercise between Indian Navy and Russian Navy was held in the Baltic Sea. The Indian Navy was represented by the stealth Frigate INS Tabar whilst the Russian Federation Navy was represented by Corvettes RFS Zelyony Dol and RFS Odintsovo of the Baltic Fleet.
- Initiated in 2003, Ex INDRA NAVY epitomizes the long-term strategic relationship between the two navies. This exercise was undertaken as part of the visit of INS Tabar to St Petersburg, Russia. INDRA NAVY has matured over the years with increase in scope, complexity of operations and level of participation.
- Exercise INDRA NAVY-21, being conducted despite the constraints imposed by the pandemic, enables further strengthen mutual confidence, inter-operability and enable sharing of best practices between both Navies. The exercise is another milestone in strengthening cooperation between the two navies and reinforce the long-standing bond of friendship between the two countries. The primary aim of this year's edition is to further consolidate inter-operability built up by the two Navies over the years and also to enhance understanding and procedures for multi-faceted maritime operations.

Assam-Mizoram Border Dispute

- At least five Assam Police personnel were killed after the old boundary dispute between Assam and Mizoram exploded in violent clashes at a contested border point on Monday.
- The boundary issue between Assam and Mizoram has existed since the formation of Mizoram — first as a union territory in 1972, and then as a full-fledged state in 1987.
- In India, Inter-state disputes are multifaceted, besides disputes over boundaries, there are disputes over sharing of water (rivers) and migration also impacts the federal polity of India. Under Article 263 of the Constitution, the Inter-state council is expected to inquire and advise on disputes, discuss subjects common to all states and make recommendations for better policy coordination.
- The boundary issue between present-day Assam and Mizoram dates back to the colonial era when inner lines were demarcated according to the administrative needs of British Raj.
- The Assam-Mizoram dispute stems from two notifications passed under British era. First, notification of 1875 that differentiated Lushai Hills from the plains of Cachar. Second, notification of 1933 that demarcates a boundary between Lushai Hills and Manipur.

- Mizoram believes the boundary should be demarcated on the basis of the 1875 notification, which is derived from the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation (BEFR) Act, 1873. Mizo leaders are against the demarcation notified in 1933, according to them, the Mizo society was not consulted.
- On the other hand, the Assam government follows the 1933 demarcation. As a result both states continue to have a differing perception of the border and that is the point of conflict.
- There is a 164.6-km inter-state border that separates Assam and Mizoram, with the three Assam districts of Cachar, Hailakandi and Karimganj sharing a border with Kolasib, Mamit and Aizawl districts of Mizoram.
- During colonial times, Mizoram was known as Lushai Hills, a district of Assam. Mizoram was granted statehood in 1987 by the State of Mizoram Act, 1986.
- Assam became a constituent state of India in 1950 and lost much of its territory to new states that emerged from within its borders between the early 1960s and the early 1970s.

Mizoram is a state in northeastern India, with Aizawl as its seat of government and capital city. The name of the state is derived from ‘Mizo’, the self-described name of the native inhabitants, and ‘Ram’, which in the Mizo language means ‘land.’ Thus ‘Mizo-ram’ means ‘land of the Mizos’. Within India’s northeast old-Assam region, it is the southernmost landlocked state, sharing borders with three of the Seven Sister States of old Assam, namely Tripura, Assam and Manipur. The state also shares a 722-kilometre (449 mi) border with the neighbouring countries of Bangladesh and Myanmar. Zoramthanga is the current Chief Minister of Mizoram. Kambhampati Hari Babu is the current Governor of Mizoram.

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.

Madhya Pradesh prepares Ayush-based economic upgradation scheme – Devaranya Yojana

- In Madhya Pradesh, the State Government has prepared the Ayush-based economic upgradation scheme – Devaranya Yojana with the twin objectives of improving people’s health and livelihood of tribals.
- Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that wellness tourism will be promoted in state. For this, medicinal plants should be cultivated in the beautiful plains of the villages.
- Ayush Super Specialty Hospitals are being constructed in Indore and Bhopal. He informed that upgradation of Ayurvedic and Yunani dispensaries is also being done in the state. AYUSH and tourism will be brought together to boost employment opportunities in tribal areas under the scheme.

Madhya Pradesh (meaning Central Province) is a state in central India. Its capital is Bhopal. Nicknamed the ‘Heart of India’ due to its geographical location in India. Madhya Pradesh is the second-largest state in the country by area after Rajasthan. This state was the largest in India by area until 2000, when its southeastern Chhattisgarh region was made as a separate state. MP has the largest reserves of diamond and copper in India. The current governor of Madhya Pradesh is Anandiben Patel. Shivraj Singh Chouhan is the current Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh.



India, US sign Second Amendment to Statement of Guiding Principles on Triangular Cooperation for global development

- **India and the US signed the Second Amendment to the Statement of Guiding Principles on Triangular Cooperation for global development. The SGP Agreement, signed in November 2014, underscores the contribution of India-US partnership to global stability and prosperity.**
- **It provides a framework for promoting cooperation between the two countries to meet the developmental aspirations of partner countries, particularly in Asia and Africa. The Second Amendment to the SGP Agreement, signed extends the validity of the SGP Agreement up-to 2026.**
- **It expands the scope of capacity building activities undertaken jointly by India and the United States under this framework. It also provides a consultative mechanism for joint biannual monitoring and review of activities undertaken under the SGP.**
- **Under the Agreement, India and US will continue to offer capacity building assistance to partner countries in multiple sectors, focusing primarily on agriculture, regional connectivity, trade and investments, nutrition, health, clean and renewable energy, and women empowerment.**
- **The Agreement helps fulfil the joint commitment of both nations to work together and leverage their combined capacities to provide demand-driven development partnership. This triangular cooperation with the US will complement India's other ongoing and future development partnerships, capacity building and technical assistance with countries globally.**

The United States of America (U.S.A. or USA), commonly known as the United States (U.S. or US) or America, is a country primarily located in North America. It consists of 50 states, a federal district, five major unincorporated territories, 326 Indian reservations, and some minor possessions. The national capital is Washington, D.C., and the most populous city is New York City. Joe Biden is the current and the 46th President of the United States. At 78, Biden is the oldest president in US history and only the second Roman Catholic President. A member of the Democratic Party, he served as the 47th Vice President from 2009 to 2017 under Barack Obama and represented Delaware in the United States Senate from 1973 to 2009. In January 2017, Barak Obama awarded Biden the Presidential Medal of Freedom with distinction.

Sunseap to build \$2 bln floating solar farm in Indonesia, world's largest

- **Singapore's Sunseap Group says it plans to spend \$2 billion to build the world's largest floating solar farm and energy storage system in neighbouring Indonesian city Batam, which will double its renewable power generation capacity. Construction is expected to begin in 2022 and plan to be completed in 2024.**
- **Singapore-based clean energy developer Sunseap says it will build a giant 2,200 MW floating solar farm on a reservoir on Indonesia's Batam Island, after securing a memorandum of understanding with Indonesian government authority Badan Pengusahaan Batam.**
- **The project will cover an area of 1,600 hectares and is expected to become the largest floating solar farm in the world. It will also be paired with more than 4,000 MWh of energy storage, making it one of the world's largest combined solar and storage projects – floating or otherwise. The project will be financed through a mixture of bank borrowings and internal resources.**

Indonesia is a sovereign state in Southeast Asia, between the Indian and Pacific oceans. It is the world's largest island country, with more than thirteen thousand islands. With over 261 million people, it is the world's 4th most populous country as well as the most populous Muslim-majority country. Java is the world's most populous island. Jakarta is the country's capital. The rupiah (Rp) is the official currency of Indonesia. Joko Widodo also known as Jokowi is the seventh and current President of Indonesia.

BRICS Counter Terrorism Action Plan finalised at Working Group meet

- The 6th meeting of the BRICS Counter Terrorism Working Group was held virtually under the Chairship of India. The main outcome of the Working Group meeting was the finalisation of the BRICS Counter Terrorism Action Plan containing specific measures to implement the BRICS Counter Terrorism Strategy adopted by BRICS Leaders in 2020.
- The Action Plan is aimed at further strengthening result oriented cooperation between BRICS countries in areas such as preventing and combating terrorism, radicalisation, financing of terrorism, misuse of internet by terrorists, and curbing travel of terrorists.
- The BRICS Counter Terrorism Action Plan is one of the key deliverables during India's Chairship of BRICS and will be adopted at the meeting of BRICS National Security Advisors scheduled. During the Working Group meeting, the BRICS countries also exchanged views on terrorism threat assessment at national, regional and global level and resolved to further enhance counter terrorism cooperation in line with the Action Plan.

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.

China building world's first waterless nuclear reactor using Thorium

- Researchers in China have unveiled their work on a thorium-fuelled commercial reactor that would be the first in the world not to require water for cooling. A 2 MW prototype is set to be completed in August, with tests to begin in September, reports newspaper The South China Morning Post.
- Because the reactor would not need to be built near water, it could be deployed in the deserts and plains of central and western China, complementing wind and solar plants and reducing China's reliance on coal-fired power stations. The country plans to become carbon neutral by 2060. The first commercial version, with a power of about 100 MW, is due to enter service in 2030.
- The Thorium Molten Salt Reactor (TMSR) project, which was begun in 2011, has been underway in Wuwei city, Gansu province in China's remote northwest. The prototype was to have been completed in 2024, but work was accelerated.
- The reactor is cooled with molten salt, which gives a much higher operating temperature than a conventional reactor. This can be as high as 1,000°C, which has hampered previous attempts to design a molten salt reactor since a material has to be found that could contain the fuel.
- Thorium is also relatively safer when compared with uranium, as, it is known to solidify quite quickly when exposed to open air, and this would indirectly make it a lot safer and reduce the diameter of radiation for the surrounding environment.

China is a country in East Asia and the world's most populous country, with a population of around 1.404 billion. Beijing is the capital of the People's Republic of China. Xi Jinping is serving as president of the People's Republic of China. National People's Congress is the national legislature of the People's Republic of China. With 2,980 members in 2018, it is the largest parliamentary body in the world. China's currency yuan joins the International Monetary Fund's basket of reserve currencies. China claims sovereignty over all of the South China Sea, a huge source of hydrocarbons. However, several ASEAN member countries, including Vietnam, Philippines and Brunei, have made counterclaims. Chinese claims in the South China Sea are described in part by the nine-dash line. China and India are the two neighbouring countries in Asia. India shares 3488 km of border with China that runs along the states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh,

Sikkim, Uttarakhand and Arunachal Pradesh. The Belt and Road Initiative, known in Chinese and formerly in English as One Belt One Road or OBOR for short, is a global infrastructure development strategy adopted by the Chinese government in 2013 to invest in nearly 70 countries and international organizations.

Greece's first underwater museum opens ancient world to dive tourists

- **The museum beneath the waves at Peristera, a rocky outcrop off the island of Alonissos, opened in 2020, though the site has been largely mothballed until now due to COVID-19 restrictions. As Greece opens up its vital tourism industry, the site offers an example of a new and more sustainable source of revenue.**
- **Emerging from the crystal-clear turquoise waters of the Aegean Sea, Hans-Juergen Fercher has just returned from his fourth dive to where mounds of 2,500-year-old wine pots mark the site of an ancient shipwreck – and Greece's first underwater museum.**

Greece is a country located in Southeast Europe. Athens is its largest and capital city, followed by Thessaloniki. Situated on the southern tip of the Balkans, Greece is located at the crossroads of Europe, Asia, and Africa. Kyriakos Mitsotakis is current Prime Minister of Greece since 8 July 2019. Katerina Sakellariopoulou is the current President of Greece since 13 March 2020. Euro is its official currency.

Rock Art Hima Added As Saudi Arabia's Sixth UNESCO World Heritage Site

- **A sixth site in Saudi Arabia has been added to UNESCO's world heritage list, the UN organisation announced. Hima, in the Gulf state's southwest, is home to one of the largest rock art complexes in the world.**
- **"New site inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List: cultural area of Hima, Saudi Arabia. Hima features more than 34 separate sites including rock inscriptions and wells along the route of the ancient Arabian caravans.**

Mary Simon sworn in as Canada's 30th Governor-General

- **Social activist, journalist and former diplomat Mary Simon was sworn in as Canada's 30th Governor-General making her the first person of indigenous heritage to hold the post. Mary Simon served as Canada's ambassador to Denmark from 1999 to 2001 while also serving as ambassador for circumpolar affairs from 1994 to 2003, during which she negotiated the creation of the Arctic Council.**
- **She was sworn in by the chief justice of the Canadian Supreme Court at a ceremony in the chamber of Senate of Canada in the country's capital, Ottawa, in the first-ever socially distanced event, with limited attendance due to the Covid-19 pandemic.**

Canada is a country located in the northern part of North America. Canada is the world's second-largest country by total area. Elizabeth II is the Head of the Commonwealth and queen regnant of seven independent Commonwealth countries: the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Pakistan, and Ceylon. Its capital is Ottawa, and its three largest metropolitan areas are Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver. Canadian dollar is the currency of Canada. Justin Pierre James Trudeau is serving as the 23rd and current Prime Minister of Canada since 2015.

Madrid's iconic Paseo del Prado, Buen Retiro Park win World Heritage status

- **The historic Paseo del Prado boulevard and Retiro Park of Madrid, in Spain, has been granted the status of UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The wide tree-lined Paseo del Prado, in the centre of the Spanish capital, is home to prominent buildings such as the Prado Museum. The iconic Retiro Park, just adjoining with Paseo del Prado, is a 125-hectare green space, and one of the most visited attractions in Madrid's history.**
- **With this announcement the total number of World Heritage Sites in Spain goes up to 49 which is the third-highest globally only after Italy and China. Before the addition of these two sites none of the countries heritage sites were located Madrid, the capital of Spain. Buen Retiro Park is a green refuge with a total area 118 hectares located just at the centre of the capital city. The Paseo del Prado Boulevard features six museums, the famous Plaza de Cibeles square and the famous Fuente de Cibeles fountain.**

China gets new World Heritage Site with links to Hinduism, Tamil Nadu

- As many as 22 sites in the southeastern Chinese city of Quanzhou including a temple with links to Hinduism were included to the Unesco World Heritage List. China has been promoting the coastal province Fujian and the city of Quanzhou as an important ancient sea trade zone where multicultural communities including from Tamil Nadu mingled millennia ago.
- Key sites in the listing include Kaiyuan Temple with Hindu and Buddhist links, Luoyang Bridge, Qingjing Mosque, one of the oldest mosques in China and an archaeological site of an old maritime trade office, said to have been first established in 1087.

Pedro Castillo: The primary school teacher who became Peru's president

- Pedro Castillo has been sworn as Peru's president. His victory has shaken the political and business elite in a deeply polarised country hit hard by the pandemic.
- Peru's colonial wounds still ran deep and he would seek to heal them, while promising economic stability in his inaugural speech as president.

Peru is a country in western South America. It is bordered in the north by Ecuador and Colombia, in the east by Brazil, in the southeast by Bolivia, in the south by Chile, and in the south and west by the Pacific Ocean. Its capital and largest city is Lima. The sol is the currency of Peru. Pedro Castillo is serving as the current President of Peru since 28 July 2021, following the 2021 general election. Guido Bellido Ugarte is serving as the Prime Minister of Peru since 29 July 2021.

UN climate science talks on preventing climate catastrophe

- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) assessment is critical for the success of the Glasgow climate conference. Record-smashing heatwaves, floods and drought across three continents in recent weeks, all amplified by global warming, have added pressure for decisive action.
- For years, there were warnings that all of this was possible, that all of this was coming, the UN's Climate Chief Patricia Espinosa. A key G20 summit with climate on the agenda is slated for late October. The world is a different place since the IPCC's last comprehensive overview in 2014 of global heating, past and future.
- Carbon pollution from burning fossil fuels, methane leaks and agriculture has driven up the thermometer 1.1 degrees Celsius so far. Scientists have calculated that greenhouse gas emissions must decline 50 per cent by 2030 and be phased out entirely by 2050 to stay within range of 1.5 degrees Celsius.
- Nearly 200 nations started online negotiations to validate a UN science report that will anchor autumn summits charged with preventing climate catastrophe on a planetary scale. "The report that you are going to finalise is going to be very important worldwide," World Meteorological Organization head Petteri Taalas told some 700 delegates by Zoom.
- Britain's COP26 president, Alok Sharma, said the climate and environment ministers from more than 50 countries saw first-hand the changes afoot with torrential rain and flash floods hitting London as they met.

Global Partnership for Education summit

- Co-hosted by UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta, the Global Education Summit: Financing GPE 2021-2025 will be the culmination of GPE's "Raise Your Hand" financing campaign.
- The Global Partnership for Education summit wants to raise \$5 bn (£3.6 bn) to support education in some of the world's poorest countries.
- Hosted by the UK and Kenya, it will raise funds for the next five years, creating an extra 88 million school places and supporting the learning of 175 million children.
- Global Partnership for Education (GPE), funds public education in up to 90 countries and territories. These countries are home to more than 80 percent of the world's out-of-school children. GPE's "Raise Your Hand" financing campaign aims to raise at least US\$5 billion over five years to support education systems in up to 90 countries and territories, where 80% of the world's out-of-school children live.

At least \$5 billion investment in GPE over five years will help: 1. Enable 175 million girls and boys to learn 2. Reach 140 million students with professionally trained teachers 3. Get 88 million more children, including 46 million more girls, in school 4. Save \$16 billion through more efficient education spending.

G20 Countries gather in Rome for First Culture Summit

- The first G-20 culture summit opened in Rome as delegates were welcomed to the Italian capital's iconic Colosseum. Along with ministers of the G-20 and other invited countries, participants include international organizations such as UNESCO, OECD and the Council of Europe.
- The UN culture agency has just included in its prestigious list Bologna's extensive porticoes, dating back to the 13th century and still very much part of the city's everyday life, and ratified the extension of Florence's historic centre included in the UNESCO World Heritage site boundary.

The G20 (or Group of Twenty) is an international forum for the governments and central bank governors from 19 countries and the European Union (EU). Founded in 1999 with the aim to discuss policy pertaining to the promotion of international financial stability, the G20 has expanded its agenda since 2008 and heads of government or heads of state, as well as finance ministers, foreign ministers and think tanks, have periodically conferred at summits ever since. It seeks to address issues that go beyond the responsibilities of any single nation. The G20 members are: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Japan, India, Indonesia, Italy, Mexico, Russia, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union.

First Goods train on Haldibari – Chilahati route leaving for Bangladesh

- The first goods train carrying stone chips to Bangladesh through the revived Haldibari – Chilahati rail link will leave from Damdim station of Alipurduar Division in Northeast Frontier Railway. Haldibari - Chilahati route will provide a shorter route for transit of goods into Bangladesh from Assam, West Bengal, Nepal and Bhutan.
- This rail link will enhance rail network accessibility to the main ports, dry ports and land borders to support the growth in regional trade and to encourage economic and social development of the region. Economic activities of these South Asian countries will also be benefitted from this new rail link.
- The Haldibari – Chilahati rail link between India and the then East Pakistan was operational till 1965. This was part of the Broad Gauge main route from Kolkata to Siliguri during partition.
- Trains travelling to Assam and North Bengal continued to travel through the then East Pakistan territory even after partition. However, the war of 1965 effectively cut off all the railway links between India and the then East Pakistan.
- The Haldibari-Chilahati rail link was inaugurated on 17 December last year during the virtual bilateral summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh. At present, five rail routes connect Bangladesh and India namely Petrapole-Benapole, Gede-Darshana, Singhabad-Rohanpur, Radhikapur-Birol and Haldibari-Chilahati.

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. 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. Bangladesh shares longest international border with India with 4096 km.



Rubber Board to launch India's first rubber census

- In a major initiative to prepare a comprehensive database on natural rubber sector, right from the total areas of cultivation to the details of rubber tappers, **Rubber Board is conducting the first ever nationwide census. The census to be conducted by using a mobile application will begin with the data collection in Kottayam soon.**
- It will be carried out all over India in a phased manner. **Kerala accounts for 67 per cent of total rubber area in the country, of which, Kottayam district shares about one-fifth of the area and hence,** the survey is proposed to start in the district in the first phase. The field enumeration is proposed to be carried out by employing competent unemployed youths, preferably, hailing from the same locality with the help of various Rubber Producing Societies (RPSs).
- The survey will be **carried out with Digitalized Mobile Application, 'RUBAC', developed in association with the Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management- Kerala.**
- According to the Board authorities, **the main objectives of the 'Census on Rubber' are ascertaining the actual area of rubber plantation, new-planted area, re-planted area, the age profile of trees, discarded area over the years, level of adoption of new clones, size of holdings and details of tappers etc.**

The British established the first rubber plantation in India in 1902 on the banks of the river Periyar in Kerala. India is currently the sixth largest producer of NR in the world with one of the highest productivity (694,000 tonnes in 2017-18). Top Rubber Producing States are: Kerala > Tamil Nadu > Karnataka. The world's first Genetically Modified (GM) rubber plant developed by Rubber Research Institute was planted in Assam. The rubber plant is the first of its kind developed exclusively for this region, and is expected to grow well under the climatic conditions of the mountainous northeastern region.

Kandla becomes first Green SEZ

- **Kandla SEZ (KASEZ) was awarded IGBC Platinum Rating. KASEZ is the First Green SEZ to achieve the IGBC Green Cities Platinum Rating for Existing Cities.**
- **The efforts of KASEZ team were applauded especially noting the fact that this was accomplished in Bhuj region where water conservation and afforestation are critical interventions.**
- This was major achievement and is part of activities envisaged under the **commitment of the Government to the Green SEZs Mission as part of celebrations marking India@75 - Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav.** IGBC Platinum rating has been awarded for 'Green master planning, policy initiatives and implementation of green infrastructure' by CII's Indian Green Building Council (IGBC).

The IGBC Green SEZ Rating System (Pilot version) is an extension of the Green SEZ guidelines. The Indian Green Building Council along with Ministry of Commerce & Industry has prepared the Green SEZ guidelines. The objective of IGBC Green SEZ is to facilitate the creation of energy efficient, water efficient, healthy, comfortable and environmentally friendly SEZ. IGBC Green SEZ Rating System is a voluntary and consensus based programme. The rating system has been developed based on materials and technologies that are presently available.

NTPC to set up India's first green hydrogen fuelling station in Ladakh

- National Thermal Power Corporation Renewable Energy Ltd (NTPC REL), NTPC's wholly owned subsidiary has invited a domestic tender to set up India's first green hydrogen fuelling station in Leh, Ladakh.
- The tender follows the recent tender floated by NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Limited (NVVN) for procurement of fuel cell buses for Ladakh. NTPC REL and NVVN would jointly be executing the green mobility project in the union territory of Ladakh. A dedicated 1.25 MW solar plant is also being set up in Leh by NTPC REL to make the hydrogen fuelling station completely green.
- Green hydrogen is defined as Hydrogen when produced by electrolysis using renewable energy is known as Green Hydrogen which has no carbon footprint. The hydrogen that is in use today is produced using fossil fuels, which is the primary source. Organic materials such as fossil fuels and biomass are used for releasing hydrogen through chemical processes.
- 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. Green Hydrogen can act as an energy storage option, which would be essential to meet intermittenencies (of renewable energy) in the future.
- In terms of mobility, for long distance mobilisations for either urban freight movement within cities and states or for passengers, Green Hydrogen can be used in railways, large ships, buses or trucks, etc.

NTPC Limited, formerly known as National Thermal Power Corporation Limited, is an Indian Central Public Sector Undertaking, engaged in the business of generation of electricity and allied activities. It is a company incorporated under the Companies Act 1956 and is owned by the Ministry of Power, Government of India. The headquarters of the company is situated at New Delhi.

Bangladesh to launch 'Jogajog' as alternative to Facebook

- Bangladesh is going to create its own social media platform styled 'Jogajog', as an alternative to social media site Facebook, and 'Alapon', a platform to provide an alternative to WhatsApp.
- According to the digital e-commerce policy of 2018, e-commerce, hardware, software and BPO sectors will be able to meet the target of creating more than 2 million jobs by 2021.

IMF slashes India's economic growth forecast for FY22 to 9.5%

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has sharply scaled down India's economic growth projection by 300 basis points to 9.5 per cent for the current financial year from 12.5 per cent estimated earlier in April.
- IMF said the downward revision is owing to "lack of access to vaccines" and possibility of renewed waves of coronavirus. "Growth prospects in India have been downgraded following the severe second Covid wave during March-May and expected slow recovery in confidence from that setback," IMF said in the latest edition of its flagship World Economic Outlook (WEO) report. Gita Gopinath, chief economist at the IMF, said the Delta variant is dominant around the world right now, and it has already affected IMF's growth forecasts.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is an organization of 190 countries, working to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduce poverty around the world. Created in 1945, the IMF is governed by and accountable to the 190 countries that make up its near-global membership. Ms. Kristalina Georgieva, from Bulgaria, is Managing Director and Chairman of the Executive Board of International Monetary Fund (IMF) from October 1, 2019. Prominent Indian-American economist Gita Gopinath has joined as the chief economist of the International Monetary Fund, becoming the first woman to occupy the top post at the global lender. The latest currency that was added to the basket of currencies by the International Monetary Fund to determine the value of XDR is the Chinese renminbi in 2016. The other international currencies in the basket of currencies are British Pound, Japanese Yen, US Dollar, and Euro. XDR is the currency code of Special Drawing Rights. Andorra has joined the International Monetary Fund (IMF), to become its 190th member.

Deposit Insurance & Credit Guarantee Corporation Bill 2021 gets Cabinet nod

- Union Cabinet cleared the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Bill 2021, which insures each depositor's deposits in the banks upto maximum of five lakh rupees in each bank.
- The bill insures all bank deposits such as savings, fixed deposits, current or recurring deposits. It also covers all commercial, public, private sector banks and branches of foreign bank in India. Each depositor's deposits in the banks are insured up to maximum of five lakh rupees in each bank.
- The Rs 5-lakh deposit insurance cover was raised from Rs 1 lakh in 2020. The Damodaran Committee on 'Customer Services in Banks' (2011) had recommended a five-time increase in the cap to Rs. 5 lakh due to rising income levels and increasing size of individual bank deposits.
- Within the first 45 days of the bank being put under moratorium, the DICGC would collect all information relating to deposit accounts. In the next 45 days, it will review the information and repay depositors within a maximum of 90 days.

Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) came into existence in 1978 after the merger of Deposit Insurance Corporation (DIC) and Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Ltd. (CGCI) after passing of the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961 by the Parliament. It serves as a deposit insurance and credit guarantee for banks in India. It is a fully owned subsidiary of and is governed by the RBI. Deposit Insurance is a protection cover against losses accruing to bank deposits if a bank fails financially and has no money to pay its depositors and has to go in for liquidation. Credit Guarantee is the guarantee that often provides for a specific remedy to the creditor if his debtor does not return his debt.

Government launches secured logistics document exchange platform

- The government launched a secured logistics document exchange platform for digital exchange of logistics-related papers and a calculator for greenhouse gas emissions for choosing the sustainable and right mode of transport for freight movements.
- The digital initiative is now set to improve logistics efficiency, reduce logistics cost and promote multi-modality and sustainability in a big way. According to the statement, the calculator is an efficient and user-friendly tool which provides for calculating and comparing GHG (Green House Gas) emissions across different modes.

Government approves two more new strategic oil reserves of capacity 6.5 MMT

- Under the first phase of the Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR) programme, the Government of India through its special purpose vehicle, the Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserve Limited (ISPRL), has set up petroleum storage facilities with a total capacity of 5.33 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) at 3 locations, namely (i) Visakhapatnam (1.33 MMT), (ii) Mangaluru (1.5 MMT) and (iii) Padur (2.5 MMT), and all the storage facilities have been filled with crude oil.
- Under the second phase of the Petroleum Reserves programme, the government has approved the setting up of two additional commercial-cum-strategic facilities with a total storage capacity of 6.5 MMT underground storage at Chandikhol (4 MMT) and Padur (2.5 MMT) in July 2021, on PPP Mode. The request for proposal for building these storage facilities is under finalisation. An amount of Rs 210 crore was allocated in the budget for the financial year 2020-21 under Phase II for land acquisition, and the same has been disbursed to ISPRL, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Rameswar Teli said.

The Gulf War in 1990 led to a sharp rise in oil prices and a huge increase in India's imports. During the post-1991 Indian economic crisis, foreign exchange reserves could barely finance three weeks' worth of imports, while the government came close to defaulting on its financial obligations. India was able to address the crisis through policies that liberalized the economy. However, India continued to be affected by volatility in oil prices. In 1998, former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee administration proposed the creation of petroleum reserves as a long-term solution for managing the oil market.



Inventions/Discoveries

Philippines becomes first country to approve genetically modified 'golden rice' for commercial production

- The Philippines has become the world's first country to approve the commercial production of genetically modified "golden rice". Health experts believe that 'golden rice' developed by the Philippines will help to fight childhood blindness and save lives in the developing world.
- Crops such as rice, wheat, and soybeans, as well as fruits and vegetables have a naturally occurring "glitch" in the way they photosynthesize that causes the plants to use up energy and resources, drastically suppressing productivity. Ordinary rice, a staple for hundreds of millions of people particularly in Asia, produces beta-carotene in the plant, but it is not found in the grain.
- The Department of Agriculture-Philippine Rice Research Institute and International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) has spent 20 years developing the golden rice. The rice has been named golden rice because of its bright yellow hue.
- Golden rice is the first genetically modified rice approved for commercial propagation in South and Southeast Asia. Food safety regulators in the US, Canada, and Australia had analyzed the golden rice and approved it as a crop but not for commercial production. Bangladesh is currently reviewing it.

Golden Rice is a new type of rice that contains beta-carotene (provitamin A), which is converted into vitamin A as needed by the body and gives the grain its golden color. It is developed through genetic engineering and produces two new enzymes that complete the beta-carotene expression in the rice grain. Research has indicated that one cup of Golden Rice can provide up to 50% of the daily requirement of an adult for vitamin A.

14 tiger reserves get CA|TS accreditation

- On the occasion of International Tiger Day (29 July), Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav announced that 14 tiger reserves in India have received accreditation of the Global Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS).
- CA|TS is a globally accepted conservation tool that sets best practice and standards to manage tigers and encourages assessments to benchmark progress. Habitats which support tiger populations are the building blocks of wild tiger conservation and effectively managing them is essential for long-term survival of wild tigers.
- CA|TS is being implemented across 125 sites in seven tiger range countries and India has the highest 94 sites, out of which assessment was completed for 20 tiger reserves this year.
- The 14 tiger reserves, which have been accredited, are Manas, Kaziranga and Orang in Assam; Satpura, Kanha and Panna in Madhya Pradesh; Pench in Maharashtra; Valmiki Tiger Reserve in Bihar; Dudhwa in Uttar Pradesh; Sunderbans in West Bengal; Parambikulam in Kerala; Bandipur Tiger Reserve in Karnataka; and Mudumalai and Anamalai Tiger Reserves in Tamil Nadu. "We now have 51 tiger reserves across 18 states.

Project Tiger is a tiger conservation programme launched in April 1973 by the Government of India. **Kailash Sankhala** was the first director of Project Tiger. As the Bengal Tiger is the national animal of India, this project aims to stem the dwindling population of the big cats and work to increase their numbers. **The Wildlife Protection Act of 1972** was amended in 2006 to provide for constituting the National Tiger Conservation Authority responsible for implementation of the Project Tiger plan to protect endangered tigers. The National Tiger Conservation Authority is set up under the Chairmanship of the Minister for Environment and Forests.

Pollution Turns Argentina Lagoon Bright Pink

- A lagoon in Argentina's southern Patagonia region has turned bright pink in a striking, but frightful phenomenon experts and activists blame on pollution by a chemical used to preserve prawns for export.
- The color is caused by sodium sulfite, an anti-bacterial product used in fish factories, whose waste is blamed for contaminating the Chubut River that feeds the Corfo lagoon and other water sources in the region.

Launch of Khadi Natural Paint

- **Khadi Prakratik Paint** has been developed from cow dung by Kumarappa National Handmade Paper Institute (KNHPI), Jaipur, a unit of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC). The Study conducted by KNHPI emphasize that **Khadi Prakratik paint is eco-friendly and cost effective.**
- The **Khadi Prakratik Paint** developed by KNHPI has been tested at National Test House, Ghaziabad (Govt. of India), National Test House, Mumbai (Govt. of India) and Shri Ram Institute of Industrial Research, Delhi (An ISO certified test lab) and satisfies the parameters required for paint.
- Use of cow dung for **Khadi Prakratik Paint** will promote local manufacturing, create sustainable employment and generate additional revenue for farmers and cow shelter homes, besides generating employment for the rural economy.

JNCASR hits Nature Index Top 50 for materials science

- The Jawaharlal Nehru Centre For Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bengaluru, has been placed in the top 50 institutions worldwide for advances in materials science by the prestigious Nature Index.
- The list which includes 18 institutes from China, 12 from the United States and two from the United Kingdom places the JNCASR in the 23rd position globally among universities and institutions as part of its '50 Rising Institutions' list.
- This is not the first time that the centre, which has a faculty of only 50 (out of whom 30 are professors), has been recognised by Nature Index which tracks institutions and countries and their scientific output since 2016. A primary metric of recognition is the number of scientific articles and papers published in leading journals. In 2019, the JNCASR was ranked seventh among the top ten Young Graduate Universities by Nature Index 2019. It also ranked 17th among the top 50 Young Universities in Chemistry.

In a first, small drones help study India's threatened marine species

- Along the coasts of Gulf of Kutch, Gulf of Mannar, Palk Bay and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands lives a slow-moving marine creature that loves sea grass – the dugong. Assessed as vulnerable by the IUCN Red List of threatened species, this 'sea cow' is also considered regionally endangered in India as only 200–300 individuals remain.
- This prompted the government to initiate the Endangered Species Recovery Programme in 2015 for their long-term conservation and persistence. Since 2019, India also adopted light-weight unmanned aerial vehicles for studying marine megafauna specifically dugongs.
- The surveys, led by Sagar Rajpurkar from Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, were carried out along with others in Andaman and Nicobar Islands within the Marine Protected Areas of Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park and Rani Jhansi Marine National Park, and adjoining areas.
- Dr K. Sivakumar, Scientist and Project Coordinator of the Dugong Recovery Program at Wildlife Institute of India adds that future plans include drone surveys to map seagrass habitats, monitor marine megafauna, and conduct a spatial assessment of Marine Protected Areas.

NASA selects SpaceX for Jupiter moon mission

- **Europa Clipper** will conduct a detailed survey of Jupiter's moon and use a "sophisticated suite" of science instruments to probe whether Jupiter's moon has conditions suitable for life. NASA selected Elon Musk's SpaceX to launch its probe of Jupiter's moon Europa, which has liquid oceans that could harbour life.
- The National Aeronautics and Space Administration said in a statement that the contract for the Europa Clipper mission, scheduled to launch in October 2024 on a Falcon Heavy rocket from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, is worth \$178 million.

Europa Clipper (previously known as Europa Multiple Flyby Mission) is an interplanetary mission in development by NASA comprising an orbiter. Planned for launch in October 2024, the spacecraft is being developed to study the Galilean moon Europa through a series of flybys while in orbit around Jupiter. The goals of Europa Clipper are to explore Europa, investigate its habitability and aid in the selection of a landing site for the future Europa Lander.

German Scientists Develop World's First Plant Oil-based Plastic

- With the growing concerns about the environment, **one thing that has always been at the centre of the discussion is the use of plastic products.** While these products are cheap and very useful, they also bring in a large share of threats to ecological conservation. **However, this new latest invention by German scientists could be a possible eco-friendly substitute for plastic use.**
- **This newly developed plant oil-based plastic can be recycled up to 10 times for use.** Developed by Stefan Mecking, department chair of chemical materials science at the University of Konstanz in Germany, the new plastic has breakaway points engineered on a molecular level to allow easy processing.
- **What makes the invention more significant is the fact that this plastic has been developed from plants oils. This makes it an environment-friendly alternative to fossil fuel-based plastics.** The novel plastic has a composition bind that breaks away easily, making the recycling process easier.

Ministry of Earth Science celebrates its 15th Foundation Day

- The Union Minister Dr Singh launched the MoES-ESSDP (Earth System Science Data Portal), an integrated digital web portal of MoES institutes, which makes available data on various themes of earth system science for public use.
- The portal has been developed using the latest information technology tools and is available at <https://incois.gov.in/essdp>. The portal is aligned with the Digital India initiative of the Government of India to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. It would facilitate search and retrieval of earth system science data (of atmosphere, ocean, poles, geosciences and seismology) for societal benefit in a big way.

Blue bloom: Five new plant species identified in Bolivia

- **Researchers from the UK have identified five new flowering plant species in the Bolivian Andes belonging to the genus Jacquemontia.** Across the globe, there are about 120 Jacquemontia species. **The five newly described species are: J. boliviana, J. cuspidata, J. longipedunculata, J. mairae and J. chuquisacensis.**
- The authors noted that based on the occurrence, **J. boliviana would be classified as endangered and J. chuquisacensis as vulnerable.** **J. chuquisacensis, named after the Bolivian department (or subdivision) of Chuquisaca, has a very limited area of less than 20 sqkm.**

Scientists develop new material that repairs itself without external intervention

- **Scientists have developed piezoelectric molecular crystals that repair their own mechanical damage without the need for any external intervention,** the Department of Science and Technology (DST) said. **Piezoelectric crystals are a class of materials that generate electricity when it undergoes a mechanical impact.**
- **Devices that are used daily often break down due to mechanical damage, forcing users either to repair or replace them.** This decreases the life of the equipment and increases maintenance costs. In many cases, like in a spacecraft, human intervention for restoration is not possible.

- “Keeping such necessities in mind, researchers from the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Kolkata, in collaboration with IIT Kharagpur, have developed piezoelectric molecular crystals that repair themselves from mechanical damages without need for any external intervention.”

COVID BEEP is India’s first indigenous, cost effective, wireless physiological parameters monitoring system for COVID-19 patients

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said Government is taking steps to undertake the production of COVID BEEP on a large scale.
- In a statement laid on the table of the Lok Sabha in reply to a question, the Minister said that COVID BEEP is India’s first indigenous, cost effective, wireless physiological parameters monitoring system for COVID-19 patients, developed by ESIC Medical College Hyderabad in collaboration with Electronics Corporation of India Ltd. (ECIL) and Department of Atomic Energy.

ISRO-NASA joint satellite project NISAR proposed to be launched early 2023

- The ISRO-NASA joint mission NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) satellite, aimed at making global measurement of land surface changes using advanced radar imaging, is proposed to be launched in early 2023.
- “NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) has not been launched yet. NISAR is proposed to be launched in early 2023”. It is a dual-band (L-band and S-band) radar imaging mission with the capability of full polarimetric and interferometric modes of operation to observe minor changes in land, vegetation and cryosphere.
- NISAR will scan the globe every 12 days over the course of its three-year mission of imaging the Earth’s land, ice sheets and sea ice to give an “unprecedented” view of the planet. NISAR will detect movements of the planet’s surface as small as 0.4 inches over areas about half the size of a tennis court.
- NASA will provide one of the radars for the satellite, a high-rate communication subsystem for science data, GPS receivers and a payload data subsystem.
- ISRO will provide the spacecraft bus, the second type of radar (called the S-band radar), the launch vehicle and associated launch services.
- NISAR will be equipped with the largest reflector antenna ever launched by NASA and its primary goals include tracking subtle changes in the Earth’s surface, spotting warning signs of imminent volcanic eruptions, helping to monitor groundwater supplies and tracking the rate at which ice sheets are melting.

ISRO is the space agency of India headquartered in the city of Bangalore. ISRO was formed in 1969. ISRO built India’s first satellite, Aryabhata, which was launched by the Soviet Union on 19 April 1975. Dr Kailasavadivoo Sivan is current the chairperson of the ISRO. Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) or Sriharikota Range (SHAR) is a rocket launch centre operated by ISRO. It is located in Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is an independent agency of the executive branch of the United States federal government responsible for the civilian space program, as well as aeronautics and aerospace research. President Dwight D. Eisenhower established NASA in 1958. Sen. Bill Nelson was sworn in as the 14th NASA administrator on May 3, 2021, tasked with carrying out the Biden-Harris administration’s vision for the agency.

World’s first re-programmable commercial satellite set to launch

- The European Space Agency will launch the world’s first commercial fully re-programmable satellite, paving the way for a new era of more flexible communications.

- Unlike conventional models that are designed and “hard-wired” on Earth and cannot be repurposed once in orbit, the Eutelsat Quantum is based on so-called software-defined technology that allows users to tailor the communications to their needs – almost in real-time.

MP Satpura Tiger Reserve bags Natwest Earth Heroes Award

- Madhya Pradesh has made another achievement in the field of nature conservation. The Satpura Tiger Reserve of the State has received the Natwest Group Earth Heroes Award in the Earth Guardian category for best management.
- It is noteworthy that the Satpura Tiger Reserve has also been included in the potential list of World Heritage. Satpura Tiger Reserve in Hoshangabad district is spread over an area of 2130 square kilometer. It is part of the Deccan Bio-Geographic Region.
- It is the oldest forest wealth of the country, full of unmatched natural beauty, which has been carefully preserved. The 26 species of flora found in the Himalayan region and 42 species found in the Nilgiri forests are also found abundantly in the Satpura forest area.
- That is why it is also named as the Northern Ghats like the vast Western Ghats. Some species like the insectivorous Ghataparni, Bamboo, Hisalu, Baruhaldi are found both in Satpura and the Himalayas.
- Similarly, among the species found in both the Western Ghats and Satpura, red sandalwood is the main one. Cinchona plant, from which malaria’s medicine quinine is made, is found here in large quantity.

‘Earth Overshoot Day’ has shifted back to July 29, says WWF

- Humanity has again used up all biological resources that our planet regenerates during the entire year by July 29, 2021, according to the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).
- This is worryingly the same date that the world reached two years ago in 2019. This means that the modest gains accrued from the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) as far as humanity’s ecological footprint is concerned have been lost.
- Humanity currently uses 74 per cent more than what the planet’s ecosystems can regenerate — or 1.7 Earths. From Earth Overshoot Day until the end of the year, humanity operates on ecological deficit spending.
- The carbon footprint of transportation will be lower this year than pre-pandemic levels, according to WWF. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from road transport and domestic air travel will be five per cent below 2019 levels. CO₂ emissions due to international aviation will be 33 per cent below 2019 levels. This is according to estimates from the International Energy Agency. But global energy-related CO₂ emissions will increase 4.8 per cent from last year as economies try to recover from the impact of COVID-19. Global coal use is estimated to constitute 40 per cent of the total carbon footprint.

Earth Overshoot Day marks the date when humanity’s demand for ecological resources and services in a given year exceeds what Earth can regenerate in that year. In 2021, Earth Overshoot Day lands on July 29. We maintain this deficit by liquidating stocks of ecological resources and accumulating waste, primarily carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Earth Overshoot Day is hosted and calculated by Global Footprint Network, an international research organization that provides decision-makers with a menu of tools to help the human economy operate within Earth’s ecological limits.



Sports Personalities in News

Mirabai Chanu wins silver at Tokyo Olympics

- Mirabai Chanu's silver medal on Day 1 of the Tokyo Olympics gave India its perfect start and netizens are coming up with creative ways to congratulate the Olympics medalist winners.
- The 26-year-old bagged the silver for the country after she lifted 202 kg (87 kg + 115 kg) in the 49 kg category to better Karnam Malleswari's bronze in the 2000 Sydney Olympics. The medal comes as a great achievement to Mirabai, who had failed to log a single legitimate lift in Rio 2016 Olympics. She lifted a total 202 kilograms in clean and jerk category. Hou Zhihui of China won the gold lifting 210 kilograms creating an Olympic record.

Six new sports at the Tokyo Olympics — the most since 1920

- Six new sports are being contested this year at the Tokyo Olympics - baseball, softball, karate, skateboarding, sport climbing, and surfing - the most since 1920, when 11 new sports were added to the mix. The “new” label is a bit elastic. Two of the sports added to the Tokyo Games — the closely related baseball and softball — were featured at the Olympics as recently as 2008, before being dropped in 2012 and 2016. But the other four are complete newcomers: karate, skateboarding, sport climbing, and surfing. All six will join Olympic favorites like track and field, swimming, and gymnastics.

Clarisse Agbegnenou of France wins gold medal in women's judo

- Clarisse Agbegnenou of France has won the gold medal in women's judo 63 kg category in Tokyo Olympics.

PV Sindhu becomes first Indian shuttler to reach successive Olympic semi-finals

- Reigning world champion PV Sindhu brushed aside He Bing Jiao of China 21-13, 21-15 to secure the bronze medal in the women's singles event at the Tokyo Olympics. The 26-year-old silver-medallist from the Rio Games also became the first Indian woman to win two individual Olympic medals.
- Pusarla Venkata Sindhu has written her name all over the history of not just Indian badminton but also India's records at the Olympic Games. PV Sindhu has exceeded all expectations by becoming the first Indian shuttler to reach successive semi-finals in the Olympics. It is now a recorded fact that she is one of the greatest badminton players of all time the country has ever seen. She won silver medal in 2016.
- Wrestler Sushil Kumar was so far the only Indian to have finished twice on the podium at the quadrennial showpiece event. Sushil had followed up his bronze at 2008 Beijing with a silver at the London edition.

Tokyo 2020: Germany's Zverev wins Olympics men's singles gold in tennis

- Alexander Zverev won the biggest title of his career when he crushed Russian Karen Khachanov 6-3 6-1 to win the men's singles gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics. The 24-year-old, who has yet to win a Grand Slam title, was in stunning form as he demolished Khachanov to become the first German man to win a singles Olympic gold.

MISCELLANEOUS

JP Nadda launches National Health Volunteers Campaign

- **BJP National President JP Nadda launched National Health Volunteers Campaign from BJP Headquarters** in New Delhi. Under this campaign around 4 lakh volunteers would be trained who would work on grassroots level on COVID. Mr. Nadda said that under this campaign they have to reach 2 lakh villages.
- **This campaign will become the world's largest health program.** Mr Nadda added that the training of the workers should not only be structural but the volunteer should also have a feeling of service. He said that BJP is working for the service of humanity.

UP government set to create 134-acre urban forest in Mathura beginning September

- **The Uttar Pradesh government will be creating an urban forest covering 134 acres in Sunrakh village** on the outskirts of Vrindavan and work is set to begin in September.
- "It would be blending the heritage of Vrindavan with other similar developments made in the 'land of Radha Rani'," The final phase of the forest will involve developing a pathway for tourists inside the urban forest.

Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma lays foundation stone of Bamboo Industrial Park

- **Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma laid the foundation stone of a Bamboo Industrial Park at Manderdisa in Dima Hasao district.** The project will be implemented with Rs. 50 crores from DoNER Ministry.
- **The Chief Minister said that bamboo produced in the district were earlier mostly exported to paper mills,** however, with the completion of the park new avenues would open to use bamboo for production of tiles, incense stick, ceiling etc., which would bring more economic benefit to the people.

Yogi launches 'MyGov-Meri Sarkar' portal

- **Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched the 'MyGov-Meri Sarkar' portal.** The Chief Minister said that through this portal, the government will receive feedback from the people and also inform them about the various schemes of the government. The portal will be known for its efficient service.

Garima Grihas for transgender persons being set up with help of community-based organizations

- **The Centre has said that the Garima Grihas for the transgender persons are being set up with the help of community-based organizations.**
- **12 pilot shelter homes have been initiated with the aim of providing safe and secure shelter** to transgender persons. Such shelter homes have been set up in the states of Maharashtra, Delhi, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu and Odisha.

PERSONS IN NEWS

TRS' Kavitha Maloth first sitting MP to receive jail term for bribing voters

- For the first time, a sitting Lok Sabha MP has been convicted of bribing voters ahead of a general election. A member of Parliament from the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) representing the Mahbubabad constituency, Kavitha Maloth was sentenced to six months of imprisonment by a special court and slapped with a fine of ₹ 10,000 in the cash-for-vote scam.
- Maloth and her associate Shaukat Ali, have been granted bail and the MP would next move the high court against the convicted. Police said a case was registered in Bhadradri-Kothagudem after a flying squad of the Election Commission caught Ali red-handed distributing cash (Rs. 500 each) among residents and seeking votes in Maloth's favour in Bhadradri-Kothagudem district during the 2019 Lok Sabha election.
- This is the third case the special sessions court, which was set up in March 2018 following a Supreme Court order for expeditious trial of lawmakers, has awarded jail terms to public representatives. Earlier, BJP MLA Raja Singh and TRS MLA Danam Nagender were also convicted by the court and penalised.

Shailesh Jejurikar is first Indian to become COO of P&G

- Shailesh Jejurikar has become the first Indian to be appointed as the COO of the global consumer products major, The Procter & Gamble Company (P&G). As part a leadership succession, the Cincinnati-based company announced that Jon R Moeller will become the new president and CEO, effective November 1, 2021.

Veena Reddy sworn-in as first Indian-American USAID Mission Director

- US Agency for International Development (USAID) announced Veena Reddy, as the first Indian-American to become its Mission Director. "Veena Reddy was sworn-in as our new Mission Director.
- She will be the first Indian-American to lead USAID-India, representing the best of both countries, and aims to bolster US-India's development partnership leveraging her unique experiences and leadership".

Joe Biden names Indian-American to be first Muslim religious freedom ambassador

- US president Joe Biden nominated Indian-American Rashad Hussain as the Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom. Hussain is the first Muslim to be nominated to head US diplomacy for advancing religious liberties.
- Hussain is a director for partnerships and global engagement at the National Security Council. He formerly served as senior counsel at the Department of Justice's National Security Division.



AWARDS

Indian-origin author Sunjeev Sahota's 'China Room' enters the Booker Prize longlist for fiction

- Indian-origin British author Sunjeev Sahota is among the 13 authors longlisted for the prestigious 2021 Booker Prize for fiction for his novel 'China Room', alongside Nobel laureate Kazuo Ishiguro and Pulitzer Prize winner Richard Powers.
- The 2021 longlist or "The Booker Dozen" of 13 novels was unveiled after judges evaluated 158 novels published in the UK or Ireland between October 1, 2020 and September 30, 2021.
- Britain's Ishiguro, who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2017, is among this year's "Booker dozen" for "Klara and the Sun," a novel about love and humanity narrated by a solar-powered android. It is the fourth Booker nomination for Ishiguro, who won the prize in 1989 for "The Remains of the Day."
- Arundhati Roy is an Indian author best known for her novel 'The God of Small Things' (1997), which won the Man Booker Prize for Fiction in 1997 and became the best-selling book by a non-expatriate Indian author. She is the first Indian to win the Prize.

The Booker Prize, formerly known as the Booker Prize for Fiction (1969–2001) and the Man Booker Prize (2002–2019), is a literary prize awarded each year for the best novel written in English and published in the United Kingdom or Ireland. The winner of the Booker Prize receives international publicity which usually leads to a sales boost. A high-profile literary award in British culture, the Booker Prize is greeted with anticipation and fanfare. The prize was established as the Booker Prize for Fiction after the company Booker, McConnell Ltd began sponsoring the event in 1969; it became commonly known as the "Booker Prize" or simply the "Booker." The prize money awarded with the Booker Prize was originally £21,000, and was subsequently raised to £50,000 in 2002 under the sponsorship of the Man Group, making it one of the world's richest literary prizes. A sister prize, the International Booker Prize, is awarded for a book translated into English and published in the United Kingdom or Ireland.

Maharashtra Bhushan Selection Committee unanimously selects Asha Bhosle for prestigious award

- The Maharashtra Bhushan Selection Committee chaired by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray unanimously selected legendary playback singer Asha Bhosle for the prestigious award.
- Maharashtra cultural affairs minister Amit Deshmukh said the Maharashtra Bhushan Puraskar will be given to legendary playback singer Asha Bhosle for the year 2021.

National Award-winner Aditya Vikram Sengupta's 'Once Upon A Time in Calcutta' heads to Venice Film Festival

- National award-winning filmmaker Aditya Vikram Sengupta's third Bengali feature film 'Once Upon A Time in Calcutta' has been selected in the Orizzonti (Horizons) section of the 78th Venice International Film Festival. It is the only film from India to have its world premiere at the prestigious film festival, to be held from September 1 to 11.

Serum Institute founder Cyrus Poonawalla to receive Lokmanya Tilak Award

- Businessman Cyrus Poonawalla, who is the founder-chairperson of the Pune-based Serum Institute of India (SII), has been named as a recipient of the prestigious Lokmanya Tilak National Award for 2021. The award was first given in 1983.
- Its recipients include former Prime Ministers Indira Gandhi, Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Dr Manmohan Singh, former president Pranab Mukherjee and Infosys founder NR Narayana Murthy, among others.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Mangrove Day being celebrated

- Each year the 26th of July is celebrated as World Mangrove Day, aiming to raise awareness of the importance of mangrove ecosystems as a unique, special and vulnerable ecosystem and to promote solutions for their sustainable management, conservation and uses.
- In West Bengal, the Largest Single Plantation Drive to Save the Sunderbans is Underway. The Sunderbans mangrove ecosystem is a unique natural wonder and is the largest inter-tidal delta and mangrove system in the world.

28 July is World Hepatitis Day

- World Hepatitis Day, 28 July, is an opportunity to step up national and international efforts on hepatitis, encourage actions and engagement by individuals, partners and the public and highlight the need for a greater global response as outlined in the WHO's Global hepatitis report of 2017.
- The date of 28 July was chosen because it is the birthday of Nobel-prize winning scientist Dr Baruch Blumberg, who discovered hepatitis B virus (HBV) and developed a diagnostic test and vaccine for the virus.
- In 2021, the theme is 'Hepatitis Can't Wait', conveying the urgency of efforts needed to eliminate hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030.

International Tiger Day observed

- The International Tiger Day is being celebrated on 29th July. The day aims to promote a global system for protecting the natural habitats of tigers and to raise public awareness and support for tiger conservation issues.
- India is home to 51 tiger reserves spread across 18 states. India achieved the target of doubling of tiger population four years ahead of schedule of the St. Petersburg Declaration on Tiger Conservation. 14 Tiger Reserves in India which received the accreditation of the Global Conservation Assured Tiger Standards.
- The theme for the 2021 International Tiger Day is "Their survival is in our hands".

World Day Against Trafficking in Persons 30 July

- World Day Against Trafficking in Persons is marked every year on July 30 to create awareness around people who are being trafficked and are taken away against their will.
- The theme for this year for the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons is 'Victims' voices lead the way.'

World Nature Conservation Day

- The World Nature Conservation Day is celebrated on 28 July annually across the world. The day recognises that a healthy environment is a key foundation for a stable and strong society. The main reason for celebrating this day is to conserve animals and plants that are going extinct from the natural environment.
- The theme for this year's is "Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet".

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QUESTIONS

- What is the name of the latest site in India to be included on the World Heritage List, joining 38 other locations from the country already on the list?
(a) The Qutb Shahi Monuments of Hyderabad
(b) Silk Road Sites in India
(c) Telangana's iconic Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple
(d) Ancient Buddhist Site, Sarnath, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
- Name the sitting Lok Sabha MP who has been convicted of bribing voters ahead of a general election for the first time.
(a) Anuj Maheshwari (b) Kavitha Maloth (c) Rita Kadam (d) Manoj Tiwari
- Which of the following countries is the first underwater museum opens ancient world to dive tourists recently?
(a) Greece (b) Italy (c) Portugal (d) Spain
- Recently, Singapore's Sunseap Group says it plans to spend \$2 billion to build the world's largest floating solar farm and energy storage system in _____.
(a) Malaysia (b) Indonesia (c) Thailand (d) Cambodia
- Which of the following countries is building World's first waterless nuclear reactor using thorium?
(a) Japan (b) China (c) Russia (d) South Korea
- Recently, A sixth site in _____ has been added to UNESCO's world heritage list. Hima, in the Gulf state's southwest, is home to one of the largest rock art complexes in the world.
(a) Oman (b) Jordan (c) Saudi Arabia (d) Kuwait
- In India, Rubber Board is conducting the first ever nationwide census. Which of the following Indian states accounts for 67 per cent of total rubber area in the country?
(a) Karnataka (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Kerala (d) Andhra Pradesh
- Which of the following countries has become the world's first country to approve the commercial production of genetically modified "golden rice"?
(a) Philippines (b) China (c) Laos (d) Thailand
- Recently, A lagoon in _____ southern Patagonia region has turned bright pink in a striking, but frightful phenomenon experts and activists blame on pollution by a chemical used to preserve prawns for export.
(a) Brazil (b) Argentina (c) Peru (d) Chile
- Name the Indian Weightlifter who has secured the first medal for the country at the Tokyo Olympics, winning the silver medal in the women's 49 kilogram category.
(a) MC Marykom (b) Mirabai Chanu (c) Sheena Bora (d) Deepa Malik
- Which is the first Green SEZ to achieve the IGBC Green Cities Platinum Rating for Existing Cities?
(a) Mormugao (b) Kandla (c) Kochi (d) Paradip
- Which of the following countries is going to create its own social media platform styled 'Jogajog', as an alternative to social media site Facebook, and 'Alapon', a platform to provide an alternative to WhatsApp?
(a) Sri Lanka (b) Bangladesh (c) Maldives (d) Mauritius
- Recently, iconic Paseo del Prado and Buen Retiro Park have been added to UNESCO's World Heritage List. These iconic sites are located in:
(a) Milan, Italy (b) Munich, Germany (c) Madrid, Spain (d) Lyon, France

14. Which of the following Indian cities has been recently declared as the first city in the country to have city-wide safe drinking tap water?
 (a) Bhopal (b) Puri (c) Hisar (d) Gonda
15. The foundation stone of a Bamboo Industrial Park has been laid recently in North- Eastern state of:
 (a) Assam (b) Manipur (c) Mizoram (d) Tripura
16. Recently, Mary Simon has been sworn in as the 30th Governor-General of _____.
 (a) USA (b) Germany (c) France (d) Canada
17. Recently, Khadi Prakratik Paint has been developed from _____ by Kumarappa National Handmade Paper Institute (KNHPI), Jaipur, a unit of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).
 (a) Cow dung (b) Dead plants (c) Dead animals (d) Organic colours
18. Name the feature film which has been selected recently in the Orizzonti (Horizons) section of the 78th Venice International Film Festival.
 (a) 'Once Upon A Time in Bengal' (b) 'Dark Knight'
 (c) 'Once Upon A Time in Calcutta' (d) 'Come On India'
19. How many new sports will be contested at the Tokyo Olympics?
 (a) 3 (b) 4 (c) 6 (d) 9
20. World Mangrove Day is celebrated every year on:
 (a) 18th July (b) 21st July (c) 24th July (d) 26th July
21. Which of the following states launched the 'MyGov-Meri Sarkar' portal?
 (a) Bihar (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Haryana
22. Name the first state which ordered an inquiry into the Pegasus snooping row that has rocked the nation since July 18, 2021.
 (a) West Bengal (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Karnataka
23. Recently, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has informed that the Government proposes to set up a _____ to strengthen the research ecosystem in the country.
 (a) National Knowledge Centre (NKC) (b) National Research Foundation (NRF)
 (c) National Research Framework (NRF) (d) National Remuneration Hub (NRH)
24. As many as 22 sites including a temple with links to Hinduism were included to the UNESCO World Heritage List in which of the following countries?
 (a) Myanmar (b) China (c) Nepal (d) Bangladesh
25. What is the name of the first Indian-American to become Mission Director of US Agency for International Development (USAID)?
 (a) Amita Nagpal (b) Nitika Jhangiani (c) Vinita Gupta (d) Veena Reddy
26. Name the Indian institution which has been placed in the top 50 institutions worldwide for advances in materials science by the prestigious Nature Index.
 (a) Rajiv Gandhi Centre For Advanced Scientific Research (RGCASR), Bhopal
 (b) All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi
 (c) Jawaharlal Nehru Centre For Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bengaluru
 (d) Indian Space and Research Organization (ISRO) Bengaluru
27. Name the Indian-origin British author who is among the 13 authors longlisted for the prestigious 2021 Booker Prize for fiction for his novel 'China Room'.
 (a) Rajeev Bhutani (b) Mukesh Jha (c) Sunjeev Sahota (d) Alankar Tiwari

28. Which of the following countries scientists made the new latest invention which could be a possible eco-friendly substitute for plastic use?
 (a) Japanese (b) German (c) American (d) South Korean
29. Recently, NASA selected _____ to launch its probe of Jupiter's moon Europa, which has liquid oceans that could harbour life.
 (a) BASEX (b) SpaceX (c) JIPMEX (d) MukhiX
30. World Hepatitis Day is celebrated every year on:
 (a) 21st July (b) 24th July (c) 27th July (d) 28th July
31. Name the Harappan-era metropolis which has been accorded the World Heritage tag by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recently.
 (a) Banawali (b) Lothal (c) Chanhudaro (d) Dholavira
32. Who among the following is the newly sworn in Chief Minister of Karnataka?
 (a) Basavraj Bommai (b) D. V. Sadananda Gowda
 (c) Jagadish Shettar (d) K. S. Eshwarappa
33. Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's Defence Ministers meet is being held in:
 (a) Dushanbe (b) Moscow (c) Beijing (d) Bishkek
34. Recently, the Centre has said that the _____ for the transgender persons are being set up with the help of community-based organizations.
 (a) Garima Grihas (b) Garima Kendra (c) Garima Ghar (d) Pratistha Bhawan
35. Recently, Clarisse Agbegnenou of _____ has won the gold medal in women's judo 63 kg category in Tokyo Olympics.
 (a) Germany (b) France (c) USA (d) Italy
36. Recently, Pedro Castillo has been sworn in as the new President of:
 (a) Chile (b) Peru (c) Argentina (d) Brazil
37. The Scientists have calculated that greenhouse gas emissions must decline _____ by 2030 and be phased out entirely by 2050 to stay within range of 1.5 degrees Celsius.
 (a) 30 per cent (b) 40 per cent (c) 50 per cent (d) 75 per cent
38. Which of the following state governments has prepared the Ayush-based economic upgradation scheme – Devaranya Yojana with the twin objectives of improving people's health and livelihood of tribals?
 (a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Rajasthan (d) Gujarat
39. Recently, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has sharply scaled down India's economic growth projection by 300 basis points to _____ per cent for the current financial year.
 (a) 5.5 (b) 7.5 (c) 9.5 (d) 10.75
40. Recently, Researchers from the UK have identified five new flowering plant species in the _____ belonging to the genus Jacquemontia.
 (a) Himalayas (b) Sunderbans (c) Bolivian Andes (d) Gulf of Mannar
41. Which of the following is participated in the multi-national maritime exercise Cutlass Express-2021, CE-21 conducted in Kenya?
 (a) Indian Naval Ship Matang (b) Indian Naval Ship Talwar
 (c) Indian Naval Ship Shamsheer (d) Indian Naval Ship Balwaan

42. Recently, Parliament has passed the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill 2021 with Rajya Sabha approving it. The amendments include authorizing _____ to issue adoption orders to ensure speedy disposal of cases and enhance accountability.
 (a) District Magistrate including Additional District Magistrate
 (b) Additional District Magistrate including Sub Divisional Magistrate
 (c) Sub Divisional Magistrate including Tehsildaar
 (d) Tehsildaar including Naib Tehsildaar
43. The Global Partnership for Education summit wants to raise \$5 bn (£3.6 bn) to support education in some of the world's poorest countries. Which of the following will host the summit?
 (a) UK and Kenya (b) Angola and France (c) Nigeria and Germany (d) Liberia and Italy
44. Which of the following Indian political parties recently launched National Health Volunteers Campaign under which around 4 lakh volunteers would be trained who would work on grassroots level on COVID?
 (a) Indian National Congress (b) Bhartiya Janta Party
 (c) Aam Aadmi Party (d) Shiv Sena
45. Recently, Union Cabinet cleared the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Bill 2021, which insures each depositor's deposits in the banks upto maximum of _____ in each bank.
 (a) Two lakh rupees (b) Three lakh rupees (c) Five lakh rupees (d) Ten lakh rupees
46. Which of the following has invited a domestic tender to set up India's first green hydrogen fuelling station in Leh, Ladakh?
 (a) ONGC (b) NTPC (c) HSPC (d) HINDALCO
47. Recently, Scientists have developed _____ molecular crystals that repair their own mechanical damage without the need for any external intervention.
 (a) Miezoelectric (b) Collectric (c) Piezoelectric (d) Transparent
48. The COVID BEEP is India's first indigenous, cost effective, wireless physiological parameters monitoring system for COVID-19 patients, developed by _____ in collaboration with Electronics Corporation of India Ltd. (ECIL) and Department of Atomic Energy.
 (a) ESIC Medical College Hyderabad (b) IIT Hyderabad
 (c) IISc Bengaluru (d) IIT Bombay
49. Recently, the Maharashtra Bhushan Selection Committee chaired by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray unanimously selected legendary playback singer _____ for the prestigious award.
 (a) Asha Bhosle (b) Usha Mangeshkar (c) Lata Mangeshkar (d) Sudesh Wadekar
50. The International Tiger Day is being celebrated on _____.
 (a) 25th July (b) 27th July (c) 29th July (d) 31st July
51. Which is the only city to be selected from India for International Clean Air Catalyst Programme?
 (a) Indore (b) Pune (c) Lucknow (d) Hisar
52. Name the Indian-American who has been nominated as the Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom.
 (a) Umesh Kumar (b) Ahmed Suhail (c) Rajiv Satam (d) Rashad Hussain
53. World Day Against Trafficking in Persons is marked every year on _____.
 (a) 14th July (b) 17th July (c) 23rd July (d) 30th July
54. Recently, The first G-20 culture summit opened in _____.
 (a) Rome (b) Italy (c) France (d) USA

55. Who has become the first Indian to be appointed as the COO of the global consumer products major, The Procter & Gamble Company (P&G)?
 (a) Deepak Raheja (b) Madan Jhingiani (c) Shailesh Jejurikar (d) Amitabh Kukreja
56. Which of the following has received the Natwest Group Earth Heroes Award in the Earth Guardian category for best management?
 (a) Satpura Tiger Reserve (b) Sariska Tiger Reserve
 (c) Palamau Tiger Reserve (d) Simlipal Tiger Reserve
57. According to the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Earth Overshoot Day 2021 was observed on:
 (a) 23rd July (b) 26th July (c) 29th July (d) 31st July
58. Who is the first Indian shuttler to reach successive semi-finals in the Olympics?
 (a) Saina Nehwal (b) P V Sindhu (c) Jwala Gutta (d) Kidambi Srikanth
59. Which of the following has launched the world's first commercial fully re-programmable satellite, paving the way for a new era of more flexible communications?
 (a) Indian Space Research Organisation (b) Canadian Space Agency
 (c) European Space Agency (d) National Aeronautics and Space Administration
60. Recently, the 6th meeting of the BRICS Counter Terrorism Working Group was held virtually under the Chairmanship of _____.
 (a) China (b) Brazil (c) India (d) South Africa
61. Which of the following Asian countries recently assumed the Presidency of the United Nations Security Council?
 (a) Japan (b) China (c) India (d) Indonesia
62. Which of the following Indian states secured first position in crime and criminal tracking network system (CCTNS) with 100 per cent marks in the country?
 (a) Punjab (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Haryana (d) Rajasthan
63. Which of the following Indian destinations will soon have three premium Maldives style water villas, claimed to be the first of its kind in the country?
 (a) Goa (b) Puducherry (c) Lakshadweep (d) Andaman & Nicobar Islands
64. Recently, India and the _____ signed the Second Amendment to the Statement of Guiding Principles on Triangular Cooperation for global development.
 (a) USA (b) France (c) Germany (d) Portugal
65. Recently, 12th edition of exercise INDRA NAVY, a biennial bilateral maritime exercise between Indian Navy and _____ was held in the Baltic Sea.
 (a) US Navy (b) Russian Navy (c) German Navy (d) French Navy
66. Recently, the first goods train carrying stone chips to _____ through the revived Haldibari – Chilahati rail link will leave from Damdim station of Alipurduar Division in Northeast Frontier Railway.
 (a) Myanmar (b) Bhutan (c) Nepal (d) Bangladesh
67. The Uttar Pradesh government will be creating an urban forest covering 134 acres in Sunrakh village on the outskirts of _____.
 (a) Vrindavan (b) Unnao (c) Siddharthnagar (d) Kushinagar
68. The World Nature Conservation Day is celebrated on _____ annually across the world.
 (a) 22nd July (b) 25th July (c) 28th July (d) 31st July

69. Who won the men's singles tennis gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics?
(a) Andy Murray (b) Roger Federer (c) Alexander Zverev (d) Karen Khachanov
70. Who has been named as a recipient of the prestigious Lokmanya Tilak National Award for 2021?
(a) Asha Bhosle (b) Lata Mangeshkar (c) Cyrus Poonawalla (d) Ronniw Screwala



Career
Launcher

ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATION

1. c Telangana's iconic Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple was inscribed by the committee as a World Heritage site, thus becoming the latest site in India to be included on the World Heritage List, joining 38 other locations from the country already on the list.
2. b A member of Parliament from the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) representing the Mahbubabad constituency, Kavitha Maloth was sentenced to six months of imprisonment by a special court and slapped with a fine of ₹10,000 in the cash-for-vote scam.
3. a Emerging from the crystal-clear turquoise waters of the Aegean Sea, Hans-Juergen Fercher has just returned from his fourth dive to where mounds of 2,500-year-old wine pots mark the site of an ancient shipwreck – and Greece's first underwater museum.
4. b Singapore's Sunseap Group says it plans to spend \$2 billion to build the world's largest floating solar farm and energy storage system in neighbouring Indonesian city Batam, which will double its renewable power generation capacity.
5. b Government researchers in China have revealed their design for a molten-salt nuclear reactor that could be the first in the world to not use water cooling.
6. c A sixth site in Saudi Arabia has been added to UNESCO's world heritage list, the UN organisation announced. Hima, in the Gulf state's southwest, is home to one of the largest rock art complexes in the world.
7. c Kerala accounts for 67 per cent of total rubber area in the country
8. a The Philippines has become the world's first country to approve the commercial production of genetically modified "golden rice".
9. b A lagoon in Argentina's southern Patagonia region has turned bright pink in a striking, but frightful phenomenon experts and activists blame on pollution by a chemical used to preserve prawns for export.
10. b Indian Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu has secured the first medal for the country at the Tokyo Olympics, winning the silver medal in the women's 49 kilogram category.
11. b Kandla SEZ (KASEZ) was awarded IGBC Platinum Rating. KASEZ is the First Green SEZ to achieve the IGBC Green Cities Platinum Rating for Existing Cities.
12. b Bangladesh is going to create its own social media platform styled 'Jogajog', as an alternative to social media site Facebook, and 'Alapon', a platform to provide an alternative to WhatsApp.
13. c The Buen Retiro Park, Retiro Park or simply El Retiro is one of the largest parks of the city of Madrid, Spain. The park belonged to the Spanish Monarchy until the late 19th century, when it became a public park.
14. b In a push for safe drinking water, Naveen Patnaik led Odisha government has declared Puri as the first city in the country to have city-wide safe drinking tap water.
15. a Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma laid the foundation stone of a Bamboo Industrial Park at Manderdisa in Dima Hasao district.
16. d Mary Simon served as Canada's ambassador to Denmark from 1999 to 2001 while also serving as ambassador for circumpolar affairs from 1994 to 2003, during which she negotiated the creation of the Arctic Council.

- 17. a** Khadi Prakratik Paint has been developed from cow dung by Kumarappa National Handmade Paper Institute (KNHPI), Jaipur, a unit of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).
- 18. c** National award-winning filmmaker Aditya Vikram Sengupta's third Bengali feature film 'Once Upon A Time in Calcutta' has been selected in the Orizzonti (Horizons) section of the 78th Venice International Film Festival.
- 19. c** An amazing six new sports will be contested at the Tokyo Olympics. That's the most new additions to an Olympics since 1920, when 11 sports entered the mix.
- 20. d** Each year the day is celebrated on 26th of July, aiming to raise awareness of the importance of mangrove ecosystems as a unique, special and vulnerable ecosystem and to promote solutions for their sustainable management, conservation and uses.
- 21. c** Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched the 'MyGov-Meri Sarkar' portal.
- 22. a** West Bengal has ordered an inquiry into the Pegasus snooping row that has rocked the nation since July 18, becoming the first state to do so.
- 23. b** Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has said that the Government proposes to set up a National Research Foundation NRF to strengthen the research ecosystem in the country.
- 24. b** As many as 22 sites in the southeastern Chinese city of Quanzhou including a temple with links to Hinduism were included to the Unesco World Heritage List.
- 25. d** US Agency for International Development (USAID) announced Veena Reddy, as the first Indian-American to become its Mission Director.
- 26. c** The Jawaharlal Nehru Centre For Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bengaluru, has been placed in the top 50 institutions worldwide for advances in materials science by the prestigious Nature Index.
- 27. c** Indian-origin British author Sunjeev Sahota is among the 13 authors longlisted for the prestigious 2021 Booker Prize for fiction for his novel 'China Room', alongside Nobel laureate Kazuo Ishiguro and Pulitzer Prize winner Richard Powers.
- 28. b** However, this new latest invention by German scientists could be a possible eco-friendly substitute for plastic use. This newly developed plant oil-based plastic can be recycled up to 10 times for use.
- 29. b** Nasa selected Elon Musk's SpaceX to launch its probe of Jupiter's moon Europa, which has liquid oceans that could harbour life.
- 30. d** World Hepatitis Day, 28 July, is an opportunity to step up national and international efforts on hepatitis, encourage actions and engagement by individuals, partners and the public and highlight the need for a greater global response as outlined in the WHO's Global hepatitis report of 2017.
- 31. d** Dholavira, a Harappan-era metropolis situated in Gujarat, has been accorded the World Heritage tag by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
- 32. a** Basavraj Bommai becomes New Chief Minister of Karnataka.
- 33. a** Defence minister Rajnath Singh left for Tajikistan's capital Dushanbe to participate in Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's Defence Ministers meet.
- 34. a** The Centre has said that the Garima Grihas for the transgender persons are being set up with the help of community-based organizations.

- 35. b** Clarisse Agbegnenou of France has won the gold medal in women's judo 63 kg category in Tokyo Olympics.
- 36. b** Pedro Castillo has been sworn as Peru's president. His victory has shaken the political and business elite in a deeply polarised country hit hard by the pandemic.
- 37. c** Scientists have calculated that greenhouse gas emissions must decline 50 per cent by 2030 and be phased out entirely by 2050 to stay within range of 1.5 degrees Celsius.
- 38. b** In Madhya Pradesh, the State Government has prepared the Ayush-based economic upgradation scheme – Devaranya Yojana with the twin objectives of improving people's health and livelihood of tribals.
- 39. c** The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has sharply scaled down India's economic growth projection by 300 basis points to 9.5 per cent for the current financial year from 12.5 per cent estimated earlier in April.
- 40. c** Researchers from the UK have identified five new flowering plant species in the Bolivian Andes belonging to the genus Jacquemontia. Across the globe, there are about 120 Jacquemontia species.
- 41. b** Indian Naval Ship Talwar is participated in the multi-national maritime exercise Cutlass Express-2021, CE-21 conducted from 26th of July to 6th of Aug 2021 in Kenya.
- 42. a** The amendments include authorizing District Magistrate including Additional District Magistrate to issue adoption orders to ensure speedy disposal of cases and enhance accountability.
- 43. a** Hosted by the UK and Kenya, it will raise funds for the next five years, creating an extra 88 million school places and supporting the learning of 175 million children.
- 44. b** BJP National President JP Nadda launched National Health Volunteers Campaign from BJP Headquarters in New Delhi. Under this campaign around 4 lakh volunteers would be trained who would work on grassroots level on COVID.
- 45. c** Union Cabinet cleared the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Bill 2021, which insures each depositor's deposits in the banks upto maximum of five lakh rupees in each bank.
- 46. b** National Thermal Power Corporation Renewable Energy Ltd (NTPC REL), NTPC's wholly owned subsidiary has invited a domestic tender to set up India's first green hydrogen fuelling station in Leh, Ladakh.
- 47. c** Scientists have developed piezoelectric molecular crystals that repair their own mechanical damage without the need for any external intervention, the Department of Science and Technology (DST) said.
- 48. a** COVID BEEP is India's first indigenous, cost effective, wireless physiological parameters monitoring system for COVID-19 patients, developed by ESIC Medical College Hyderabad in collaboration with Electronics Corporation of India Ltd. (ECIL) and Department of Atomic Energy.
- 49. a** The Maharashtra Bhushan Selection Committee chaired by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray unanimously selected legendary playback singer Asha Bhosle for the prestigious award.
- 50. c** The International Tiger Day is being celebrated on 29th July. The day aims to promote a global system for protecting the natural habitats of tigers and to raise public awareness and support for tiger conservation issues.
- 51. a** Adding yet another feather to its cap, the cleanest city of the country has also become the only city to be selected from India for International Clean Air Catalyst Programme.
- 52. d** US president Joe Biden nominated Indian-American Rashad Hussain as the Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom.

- 53. d** World Day Against Trafficking in Persons is marked every year on July 30 to create awareness around people who are being trafficked and are taken away against their will.
- 54. a** The first G-20 culture summit opened in Rome as delegates were welcomed to the Italian capital's iconic Colosseum.
- 55. c** Shailesh Jejurikar has become the first Indian to be appointed as the COO of the global consumer products major, The Procter & Gamble Company (P&G).
- 56. a** The Satpura Tiger Reserve of the State has received the Natwest Group Earth Heroes Award in the Earth Guardian category for best management.
- 57. c** 'Earth Overshoot Day' has shifted back to July 29, says WWF.
- 58. b** Pusarla Venkata Sindhu is at the peak of excellence in the sport of badminton. She has written her name all over the history of not just Indian badminton but also India's records at the Olympic Games.
- 59. c** The European Space Agency has launched the world's first commercial fully re-programmable satellite, paving the way for a new era of more flexible communications.
- 60. c** The 6th meeting of the BRICS Counter Terrorism Working Group was held virtually under the Chairship of India. The main outcome of the Working Group meeting was the finalisation of the BRICS Counter Terrorism Action Plan containing specific measures to implement the BRICS Counter Terrorism Strategy adopted by BRICS Leaders in 2020.
- 61. c** India will assume the Presidency of the United Nations Security Council.
- 62. c** Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij said Haryana secured first position in crime and criminal tracking network system (CCTNS) with 100 per cent marks in the country.
- 63. c** India's popular island destination Lakshadweep will soon have three premium Maldives style water villas, claimed to be the first of its kind in the country.
- 64. a** India and the US signed the Second Amendment to the Statement of Guiding Principles on Triangular Cooperation for global development.
- 65. b** The 12th edition of exercise INDRA NAVY, a biennial bilateral maritime exercise between Indian Navy and Russian Navy was held in the Baltic Sea.
- 66. d** The first goods train carrying stone chips to Bangladesh through the revived Haldibari – Chilahati rail link will leave from Damdim station of Alipurduar Division in Northeast Frontier Railway.
- 67. a** The Uttar Pradesh government will be creating an urban forest covering 134 acres in Sunrakh village on the outskirts of Vrindavan and work is set to begin in September.
- 68. c** The World Nature Conservation Day is celebrated on 28 July annually across the world.
- 69. c** Alexander Zverev won the biggest title of his career when he crushed Russian Karen Khachanov 6-3 6-1 to win the men's singles gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics.
- 70. c** Businessman Cyrus Poonawalla, who is the founder-chairperson of the Pune-based Serum Institute of India (SII), has been named as a recipient of the prestigious Lokmanya Tilak National Award for 2021.