

1. 15th G20 Summit

- Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, participated in the 15th G20 Summit convened by Saudi Arabia, on 21-22 November, 2020.
- The theme of the summit was "Realizing Opportunities of 21st Century for All" which has assumed greater importance in the wake of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- The agenda of the Summit was focused on overcoming the pandemic, economic recovery and restoring jobs, and building an inclusive, sustainable and resilient future.
- **Facts about G20:**
Formation: 26 September 1999
Members: 20
(Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States and European Union)
- **Note:** It is the second G20 meeting this year (2020). The first G20 Extraordinary Leaders' summit was held in March this year (2020).
- Italy will assume the Presidency of G-20 in December 2021 followed by India in 2022.
- India will enter the **G20 Troika**, along with Saudi Arabia when Italy will take over the Presidency of the G-20 on 1st December, 2020.
- In order to sustain continuity and consistency, a system called the '**troika**' is designed where three countries – previous, present and future presidency holders, work in close cooperation and in dialogue with one another.

2. Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge

- Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, MoS, I/C, Housing and Urban Affairs launched the Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge across 243 Cities.
- Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge was launched on the occasion of World Toilet Day- 19 November, is aimed at preventing hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks and promotes their mechanized cleaning.
- An independent agency will assess participating cities on May 2021 and on 15 August 2021, results of the same will be declared. Award will be given to cities in three sub-categories – with population of more than 10 lakhs, 3-10 lakhs and upto 3 lakhs, with total prize money of Rs 52 crores to be given to winning cities across all categories.
- **Note:** The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act (2013) and various judgements of Hon'ble Supreme Court expressly prohibit hazardous cleaning, i.e. manual entry into a septic tank or sewer without protective gear and observing operating procedures.

3. Trilateral Maritime Exercise SITMEX-20

- Indian Navy Ships including indigenously built ASW corvette *Kamorta* and missile corvette *Karmuk* have participated in the 2nd edition of India, Singapore

and Thailand Trilateral Maritime Exercise SITMEX-20, from 21 to 22 November in Andaman Sea.

- The 2020 edition of the exercise is hosted by Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN).
- The SITMEX series of exercises are conducted to enhance mutual interoperability and imbibing best practices between Indian Navy (IN), Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) and Royal Thai Navy (RTN).
- The two days of maritime drills witnessed the three navies participate in a variety of exercises including naval manoeuvres, surface warfare exercises and weapon firings.
- **Note:** The **first edition** of SITMEX, hosted by Indian Navy, was conducted off Port Blair in September 2019.

4. **World's Best Cities: Only one Indian city features in the ranking**

- The top 10 cities for 2021 in the world are – **1.** London, **2.** New York, **3.** Paris, **4.** Moscow, **5.** Tokyo, **6.** Dubai, **7.** Singapore, **8.** Barcelona, **9.** Los Angeles, and **10.** Madrid, as per a list revealed by Resonance Consultancy Ltd.
- **India has only one city in the list. Delhi is ranked 62 on the list.**
- Resonance Consultancy ranks the world's best cities with populations of more than a million, using a combination of statistical performance and qualitative evaluations by locals and visitors in 25 areas grouped into six core categories. It identifies cities that are most desirable for locals, visitors, and business people.

5. **Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' conferred with Vatayan Lifetime Achievement Award**

- Union Education Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' was conferred with the **Vatayan Lifetime Achievement Award** at a virtual ceremony.
- **Vatayan International Awards** are presented by the Vatayan-UK organization in London to honour poets, writers and artists for their works in the respective fields.
- **Note:** Mr. Pokhriyal has earlier received several awards in the field of literature and administration including Sahitya Bharati Award by the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Sahitya Gaurav Samman by Former President APJ Abdul Kalam, among others.

6. **Karnataka Governor presents Doctor of Science honorary doctorate upon ISRO Chairman**

- Karnataka Governor Vajubhai Vala presented Doctor of Science honorary doctorate upon ISRO Chairman K Sivan.
- The Visvesvaraya Technological University has conferred the doctorate to him.
- **Note:** Sivan joined ISRO in 1982 to participate on the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) Project. He was appointed as the director of ISRO's Liquid

Propulsion Systems Centre on 2 July 2014. On 1 June 2015, he became the Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre.

- Sivan was appointed the chief of ISRO in January 2018 and he assumed office on 15 January. Under his chairmanship, ISRO launched [Chandrayaan 2](#), the second mission to the moon on July 22, 2019.

7. Union Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar unveils e-books 'The Republican Ethic Volume III' and 'Loktantra Ke Swar'

- Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Shri Prakash Javadekar unveiled e-book versions of two books 'The Republican Ethic Volume III' and 'Loktantra Ke Swar'.
- The hard copy versions of the books were unveiled by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh.
- **About the Book:** The Republican Ethic, Volume 3, is a collection of selected speeches of the President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind during the third year of his presidency.
- Divided into 8 sections, the 57 speeches covered in this volume reflect the thoughts and vision of Shri Kovind for building a new India that is forward looking, growing and also strongly rooted in its historical and cultural value systems.
- **Note:** The 'Loktantra Ke Swar' and 'The Republican Ethic', published by the Publications Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India.

8. ATP Finals 2020

(Men's tennis tournament- London, Great Britain, November 15 - November 22)

- **Singles**
Winner: Daniil Medvedev
Runner-Up: Dominic Thiem
- **Doubles**
Winner: Wesley Koolhof, Nikola Pietrangeli
Runner-Up: Jurgen Melzer, Edouard Roger-Vasselin

9. Former Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi dies at 86

- Tarun Gogoi was an Indian politician who served as the Chief Minister of Assam from 2001 to 2016. He completed 15 consecutive years as Chief Minister of Assam on 18 May 2016 as the longest serving Chief Minister of the state.
- Gogoi has served six terms as a Member of Parliament (MP) from the Lok Sabha.