

## Weekly Current Affairs 9<sup>th</sup> October 2021 – 16<sup>th</sup> October 2021 साप्ताहिक करंट अफेयर्स 9-16 अक्टूबर 2021

### Important News: State

#### Delhi CM launches 'Desh Ke Mentors' programme

##### Why in News

- **Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal** launched the 'Desh Ke Mentors' programme.
- **Actor Sonu Sood** had been appointed as the brand ambassador for the programme.

##### Key Points

- Under this programme, the 9 lakh students of classes 9 to 12 in Delhi government schools will be connected with noteworthy citizens who will offer them career and general guidance.
- Interested citizens from across the country can become mentors by registering on the **Desh Ke Mentors app**.
- The app was developed by a team from **Delhi Technological University (DTU)**.

Source: HT

#### Jim Corbett National Park may be renamed as Ramganga National Park

##### Why in News

- **Jim Corbett National Park**, a world-renowned tiger reserve in Uttarakhand, may be renamed as **Ramganga National Park** in the future.

##### Key Points

- Union Minister of State for Forest and Environment Ashwini Kumar Choubey hinted about the change in name of India's first national park.
- However, for some time in between it was also named Ramganga National Park as the Ramganga, a tributary of the Ganges, passes through it.

##### About Jim Corbett National Park:

- Jim Corbett National Park is a national park in India located in the Nainital district of Uttarakhand state.
- It is spread over an area of about 521 km.
- The first national park in India, it was established in 1936 and named Haily National Park after a governor of the United Provinces in which it was then located.

- In 1956, it was renamed Corbett National Park after the hunter and naturalist Jim Corbett.
- The park was the first to come under the **Project Tiger initiative**.

**Note:** It is one of the thirteen protected areas covered by the **World Wide Fund For Nature** under their Terai Arc Landscape Program

**Source: The Hindu**

### Telangana develops India's first smartphone-based eVoting solution

#### Why in News

- **Telangana government** has developed the **country's first smartphone-based eVoting solution**.

#### Key Points

- The solution has been successfully developed and tested and its dry run in the form of a dummy election is being conducted in Khammam district and the dummy voting on October 20, 2021.
- The initiative has been driven by the Telangana State Election Commission (TSEC) with the implementation support of the Emerging Technologies Wing of the IT Department of the State and the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC).

**Source: Indian Express**

### Nationwide River Ranching Programme launched in Uttar Pradesh

#### Why in News

- The **Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Parshottam Rupala** launched the **River Ranching Programme at Brijghat, Garh Mukteshwar, Uttar Pradesh**.
- At the same time, other 4 states namely, **Uttarakhand, Orissa, Tripura and Chhattisgarh** also participated in the nationwide River Ranching Program.

#### Key Points

- Total 5 states have participated in the National Level River Ranching program launching and a total of **8.85 lakh fingerlings** were ranched.
- **"River Ranching Programme"** is introduced as a special activity under the **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) scheme**.
- The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries has designated **National Fisheries Development Board, Hyderabad** as the Nodal Agency under the Central Sector component of PMMSY for implementing River Ranching across the Country.

**Source: PIB**

### New Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh

#### Why in News

- The **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** approved the Chhattisgarh government's proposal to declare the combined areas of the **Guru Ghasidas National Park and Tamor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary** as a **Tiger Reserve**.
- The new Reserve is located in the northern part of the state, bordering Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand.
- This will be the **fourth Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh**, after the Udanti-Sitanadi, Achanakmar, and Indravati Reserves.
- It will be the **53<sup>rd</sup> of the country's Tiger Reserve**.

#### **Key Points**

- The proposal was considered by the 11th Technical Committee of the NTCA on September 1, and approval was granted a month later under Section 38V (1) of The **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**.
- The Tamor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary was identified as part of the Sarguja Jashpur Elephant Reserve in 2011.
- The Guru Ghasidas National Park used to be part of the Sanjay National Park in undivided Madhya Pradesh.
- Guru Ghasidas National Park is in Koriya district; Tamor Pingla is in Surajpur district in the northwestern corner of Chhattisgarh.

**Source: Indian Express**

### **New Pamban Bridge, India's first vertical lift Railway Sea Bridge**

#### **Why in News**

- The **new Pamban Bridge in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu**, is the country's first vertical lift Railway Sea Bridge, which is expected to be ready for use by March 2022.

#### **Key Points**

- The New Pamban Bridge is being developed by Railway Vikas Nigam Limited.
- The new bridge, which would be 2.07 kilometres long, will be a boon for devotees and pilgrims who wish to embark on a spiritual tour to Rameswaram and Dhanushkodi, Tamil Nadu.
- The existing Pamban Bridge was India's first sea bridge and became operational in 1914.

**Source: ndtv**

### **Varanasi to become first Indian city to start ropeway service in public transportation**

#### **Why in News**

- Varanasi will soon become the first Indian city to use ropeway services in public transportation.

#### **Key Points**

- The **world's third** and **India's first public transport ropeway** is proposed to be constructed from Cantt Railway Station (Varanasi Junction) to Church Square (Godauliya) to ease the traffic congestion.
- The commencement of this ropeway will give easy access to Kashi Vishwanath Temple and Dashashwamedh Ghat.

Source: news18

## Important News: India

### PM Gati Shakti

#### Why in News

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** launched **PM Gati Shakti - National Master Plan** for multi-modal connectivity.
- It is a **Rs. 100 lakh-crore project** for developing 'holistic infrastructure'.

#### Key Points

- The Gati Shakti digital platform, which will bring together 16 Ministries including Rail and Roadways, will help in removing long-standing issues such as disjointed planning, lack of standardisation, problems with clearances, and timely creation and utilisation of infrastructure capacities.

#### Government's aim by 2024-25:

- 11 industrial corridors and two new defence corridors in Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.
- Extending 4G connectivity to all villages
- Adding 17,000 kms to gas pipeline network
- Expanding the length of the national highway network to 2 lakh kms
- Creation of more than 200 new airports, heliports and water aerodromes
- It will incorporate the infrastructure schemes of various Ministries and State Governments like Bharatmala, Sagarmala, inland waterways, dry/land ports, UDAN etc.
- Economic Zones like textile clusters, pharmaceutical clusters, defence corridors, electronic parks, industrial corridors, fishing clusters, agri zones will be covered to improve connectivity & make Indian businesses more competitive.

Source: PIB

### MoRTH's Rewarding Scheme for Good Samaritan

#### Why in News

- The **Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH)** launched a Rewarding Scheme for **Good Samaritan**.
- It is a Rewarding Scheme for Grant of Award to the Good Samaritan who has saved the life of a victim of a fatal accident involving a motor vehicle.

### Key Points

#### About the Scheme:

- Any individual who has saved the life of a victim of a fatal accident involving a motor vehicle by administering immediate assistance and rushing to Hospital within the Golden Hour of the accident to provide medical treatment would be eligible for the award.
- The amount of award for the Good Samaritan(s) would be Rs.5,000/- per incident.
- An individual Good Samaritan can be awarded a maximum 5 times in a year.
- The Scheme would be effective w.e.f 15th of October, 2021.

Source: PIB

### Rakesh Jhunjhunwala-backed Akasa Air gets government NOC

- The **Ministry of Civil Aviation** has given a **No Objection Certificate (NOC)** for the operation of **Rakesh Jhunjhunwala-backed new airline 'Akasa Air'** in India.
- SNV Aviation, which will fly under the brand Akasa Air, plans to offer flights from the summer of 2022.
- Akasa Air is expected to be an ultra low-cost airline, funded by stock marketeer Rakesh Jhunjhunwala and former Jet Airways CEO Vinay Dube.

Source: India Today

### PM Modi launches Indian Space Association

#### Why in News

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched **Indian Space Association (ISpA)**.

#### Key Points

#### About Indian Space Association (ISpA):

- **ISpA** is the **Premier Industry Association of Space and Satellite companies**, which aspires to be the collective voice of the Indian Space industry.
- It will undertake policy advocacy and engage with all stakeholders in the Indian Space domain, including the Government and its agencies.
- It is represented by leading home grown and global corporations with advanced capabilities in space and satellite technologies.
- Its **founding members include** Larson & Toubro, Nelco (Tata Group), OneWeb, Bharti Airtel, Mapmyindia, Walchandnagar Industries and Ananth Technology Limited. Other core members include Godrej, Hughes India, Azista-BST Aerospace Private Limited, BEL, Centum Electronics, Maxar India.
- **Lt Gen Anil Bhatt (Retd)** has been appointed the director-general of the **ISpA**.

**Note:** Recently, **Bharti Group-backed OneWeb** has entered an arrangement with the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), **NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)**, to launch its satellite in India from 2022.

Source: India Today

## PM MITRA Parks

### Why in News

- The Central Government has approved the setting up of **7 Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks** with a total outlay of Rs. 4,445 crore in a period of 5 years.

### Key Points

#### About PM MITRA Park:

- PM MITRA Park will be developed by a **Special Purpose Vehicle** which will be owned by the State Government and Government of India in a **Public Private Partnership (PPP) Mode**.
- PM MITRA Park will be set up at Greenfield / Brownfield sites located in different willing States.
- PM MITRA is inspired by the 5F vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi - Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign.

### Funding:

- Maximum Development Capital Support (DCS) of ₹ 500 crore to all Greenfield PM MITRA and a maximum of ₹ 200 Crore to Brownfield PM MITRA will be provided for development of Common Infrastructure and ₹ 300 Crore of Competitiveness Incentive Support (CIS) will also be provided to each PM MITRA park for early establishment of textiles manufacturing units in PM MITRA .

Source: PIB

## AirAsia India claims to be first Airbus operator to start Taxibot services with passengers onboard

### Why in News

- AirAsia India claimed that it has become the first Airbus operator in the world to start Taxibot services with passengers on board.

### Key Points

- Taxibot significantly reduces aircraft fuel usage, emissions and noise levels at airports, and the risk of foreign object and jet blast damage, and operates with a hybrid-electric engine.
- GMR-run Delhi Airport was the first aviation facility in the world to introduce Taxibot operations way back in 2019.
- AirAsia India has partnered with KSU Aviation, the exclusive operator of the Taxibot in India.

Source: ET

## Tata Sons group wins bid for acquiring Air India

### Why in News

- **Tata Sons group ( Talace Pvt Ltd)** has won the bid for acquiring **Air India** by winning a bid of **18000 crore rupees**.

#### Key Points

- **J.R.D. TATA** founded India's first commercial airline, **Tata Airlines in 1932**, which became Air India in 1946. In 1953, Air India was nationalised.
- **J.R.D. TATA** was the first licensed pilot in India.

Source: newsonair

## Important News: World

### 6th Ministerial meeting of 'Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia' (CICA) 2021

#### Why in News

- **External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar** addressed the 6th Ministerial meeting of the 'Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA)' 2021 in **Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan**.

#### Key Points

- **S. Jaishankar** said that India's internationalism (**Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**) drives the **Vaccine Maitri** initiative of India.
- India underscored the importance of the **Taliban regime** meeting the expectations of the international community as elaborated in the **UN Security Council Resolution 2593**.
- India has protested to **China** over the **China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)** as it is being laid through **PoK**.

#### About CICA:

- CICA is an inter-governmental forum for enhancing cooperation towards promoting security, peace and stability in Asia.
- **Membership:** 27 member states; 9 observer states; 5 observer organizations
- **Secretariat:** Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan
- **Establishment:** 14 September 1999

Source: Indian Express

### Germany unveils world's first automated, driverless train

#### Why in News

- **German rail operator Deutsche Bahn** and **industrial group Siemens** unveiled the world's first automated, driverless train in the city of **Hamburg**.

#### Key Points

- Four such trains will join the northern city's **S-Bahn** rapid urban rail network and start carrying passengers from **December 2021**, using the existing rail infrastructure.

- The project, which Siemens and Deutsche Bahn called a "world first", is part of a 60 million euro modernisation of Hamburg's rapid urban rail system.

Source: ndtv

## PM Modi participates in 'G20 Extraordinary Summit' on Afghanistan

### Why in News

- Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the '**G20 Extraordinary Summit' on Afghanistan.**
- The Meeting was convened by **Italy**, which currently holds the G20 Presidency, and **chaired by Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi.**
- Issues under consideration at the meeting related to the humanitarian situation; concerns relating to terrorism; and human rights in Afghanistan.

### Key Points

- The Prime Minister mentioned that over the last two decades, India has contributed to promoting socio-economic development and capacity building of youth and women in Afghanistan.
- Over 500 development projects have been implemented by India in Afghanistan.
- He also underlined the need to ensure that Afghan territory does not become a source of radicalization and terrorism, regionally or globally.
- He conveyed support for the important role of the United Nations in Afghanistan and called for renewed support of the G20 for the message contained in UN Security Council Resolution 2593 on Afghanistan.

Source: PIB

## India Joins High Ambition Coalition (HAC) for Nature and People

### Why in News

- Recently, India officially joined the High Ambition Coalition (HAC) for Nature and People.
- **India** is the first of the **BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa)** to join the HAC.

### Key Points

- The **High Ambition Coalition (HAC) for Nature and People** was launched in 2019 by Costa Rica, France and Britain.
- HAC is an intergovernmental group co-chaired by France and Costa Rica and by the UK as Ocean co-chair.
- It has a group of more than 70 countries encouraging the adoption of the global goal to protect **30x30 (30 percent of the world's land and ocean by 2030).**

Source: PIB

## WHO recommends first Anti-Malaria Vaccine

### Why in News

- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has endorsed the first anti-malaria vaccine ‘**RTS, S/ASO1 (Mosquirix)**’.

#### **Key Points**

- **RTS, S/ASO1 (Mosquirix)** is the first and, to date only, vaccine shown to have the capability of significantly reducing malaria, and life-threatening severe malaria, in tests on young African children.
- The vaccine is developed by British drugmaker GlaxoSmithKline (GSK).

#### **About Malaria:**

- Malaria is a life-threatening disease caused by parasites that are transmitted to people through the bites of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes. It is preventable and curable.

#### **Note:**

- In 2019, there were an estimated 229 million cases of malaria worldwide, and the estimated number of malaria deaths that year stood at 409,000.
- In 2019, India had an estimated 5.6 million cases of malaria compared to about 20 million cases in 2000, according to WHO.

**Source: Indian Express**

## **Important News: Economy**

### **Government accords “Maharatna” status to PFC**

#### **Why in News**

- Government of India accorded ‘Maharatna’ status to the state-owned **Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC)**, thus giving PFC greater operational and financial autonomy.
- An order to this effect was issued by the Department of Public Enterprises, under the Ministry of Finance.

#### **Key Points**

- PFC can now invest up to ₹5,000 crore, or 15% of its net worth, in a single project after its Maharatna status.

#### **About Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC):**

- It is an Indian financial institution under the ownership of the Ministry of Power. Established in 1986, it is the financial backbone of the Indian Power Sector.
- PFC is the 11<sup>th</sup> Maharatna CPSE.

#### **Other Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs):**

1. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
2. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited
3. Coal India Limited
4. GAIL (India) Limited
5. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited

6. Indian Oil Corporation Limited
7. NTPC Limited
8. Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited
9. Power Grid Corporation of India Limited
10. Steel Authority of India Limited
  - There are 14 Navratna and 73 Miniratna CPSEs.
  - Navratna and Miniratna CPSEs can invest up to ₹1,000 crore and ₹500 crore, respectively.

Source: PIB

## Two long haul freight trains 'Trishul' and 'Garuda'

### Why in News

- **Indian Railways** has successfully operated two long haul freight trains "Trishul" and "Garuda" for the first time over **South Central Railway (SCR)**.

### Key Points

- Long haul trains, which are twice or multiple times longer than the normal composition of freight trains, provide a very effective solution to the problem of capacity constraints in critical sections.
- **Trishul** is SCR's first long haul comprising three freight trains, i.e., 177 wagons. This train was started from Kondapalli station of Vijayawada division to Khurda division of East Coast Railway.
- SCR followed it up with the running of yet another similar one named **Garuda** from Raichur of Guntakal division to Manuguru of Secunderabad division.

Source: PIB

## Defence

### Second Phase of Multilateral Maritime Exercise Malabar 2021

#### Why in News

- The Indian Navy (IN) participated in the Second Phase of Multilateral Maritime Exercise Malabar 2021 along with the Japan Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF), Royal Australian Navy (RAN) and the United States Navy (USN).
- The exercise is being conducted in the Bay of Bengal from 12 – 15 Oct 2021.
- **First Phase** of the Malabar exercise was conducted in the Philippines Sea from 26 – 29 Aug 2021.

#### Key Points

- The Indian Navy's participation includes INS Ranvijay, INS Satpura, P8I Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft and a Submarine.

- The Second Phase of the exercise would build upon the synergy, coordination and inter-operability developed during the First Phase of the exercise and would focus on advanced surface and anti-submarine warfare exercises, seamanship evolutions and weapon firings.

**About Malabar Exercise:**

- The Malabar series of exercises began as an annual bilateral naval exercise between India and the US in 1992.
- In 2015, Japan Maritime Self Defence Force joined Malabar as a permanent member.
- The 2020 edition witnessed the participation of the Royal Australian Navy.

**Source: India Today**

**Naval Exercise 'Milan'**

**Why in News**

- **India** is set to host its largest **Naval Exercise 'Milan'** in February 2022 for which 46 countries have been invited.

**Key Points**

- The exercise will see the participation of all **Quad countries (United States, India, Japan and Australia)** with the U.S. being invited for the first time.

**About Milan:**

- Milan, which began in 1995, is held biennially and brings together Navies of all the countries in the region.
- It has so far been held at Port Blair but is now being shifted to Visakhapatnam which offers more space and infrastructure.
- The invitees include all Indian Ocean littoral states and countries from South East Asia among others.
- For the 11th edition in 2020, 40 countries were invited but the exercise was cancelled due to the COVID pandemic.

**Source: The Hindu**

**India - UK Joint Company Level Military Training Exercise "Ajeya Warrior" 2021**

**Why in News**

- The **6th Edition of India - UK Joint Company Level Military Training Exercise "Ajeya Warrior" 2021** has commenced at **Chaubatia, Uttarakhand**.
- It is being conducted from 07 to 20 October 2021.

**Key Points**

- The exercise is part of an initiative to develop inter-operability and sharing expertise with friendly foreign nations.
- During this exercise, an Infantry Company from the Indian Army and an equivalent strength from UK Army would be sharing their experiences gained

during the conduct of various military operations in their respective countries and during overseas engagements.

#### **Other Joint Exercises between India and United Kingdom (UK):**

- **Air Force:** Indradhanush
- **Navy:** Konkan

**Source: The Hindu**

#### **Guidelines for the Cyber Security in Power Sector**

##### **Why in News**

- The **Ministry of Power** has prepared the guidelines for the Cyber Security in Power Sector.
- This is the first time that a comprehensive guideline has been formulated on cyber security in the power sector.

##### **Key Points**

- **CEA (Central Electricity Authority)** under the provision of Section 3(10) on Cyber Security in the “**Central Electricity Authority (Technical Standards for Connectivity to the Grid) (Amendment) Regulations, 2019**” has framed Guideline on Cyber Security in Power Sector to be adhered by all Power Sector utilities to create cyber secure eco system.
- The Guideline mandates ICT based procurement from identified “Trusted Sources” and identified “Trusted Products” or else the product has to be tested for Malware/Hardware Trojan before deployment for use in the power supply system network when system for trusted product and service is in place.

**Note:** Recently, the **Ministry of Power** released Framework for Implementation of **Market Based Economic Despatch (MBED) Phase1** for lowering the cost of power purchase to consumers.

**Source: ET**

## **New Appointments**

#### **K V Subramanian steps down as India's Chief Economic Adviser**

##### **Why in News**

- K V Subramanian stepped down as **India's Chief Economic Adviser (CEA)** after 3-year tenure.

##### **Key Points**

- The government had appointed Subramanian, an ISB Hyderabad professor, as the CEA in December 2018.
- He has decided to return back to academia.

**Source: Business Standard**

#### **Former IAS officer Amit Khare appointed as PM Modi's advisor**

### Why in News

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of **Amit Khare** as adviser to **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** for two years on contract basis.

### Key Points

- **Amit Khare**, a 1985 batch (retired) IAS officer of Jharkhand cadre, had retired on September 30, 2021.
- He took charge as the Higher Education Secretary in December 2019.
- Earlier he served as Information and Broadcasting Ministry secretary.

Source: HT

### Aveek Sarkar re-elected Chairman of PTI

#### Why in News

- **Aveek Sarkar** was re-elected Chairman of **Press Trust of India (PTI)**.

#### Key Points

- Aveek Sarkar is Emeritus Editor and Vice Chairman of the Ananda Bazar Group of Publications.

#### About Press Trust of India (PTI):

- PTI is the largest news agency in India.
- It is headquartered in New Delhi and is a nonprofit cooperative among more than 500 Indian newspapers

Source: outlookindia

## Ranks and Indices

### Forbes India Rich List 2021

- **Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani** retained the top spot in the Forbes list of richest Indians in 2021, by adding \$4 billion to his net worth amounting to \$92.7 billion this year.
- With this, Mukesh Ambani has been named the wealthiest in the country for the 14th year in a row since 2008.
- The list ranks India's 100 richest Indians.

#### Top 3 richest Indians:

1. Mukesh Ambani (\$92.7 billion)
2. Gautam Adani (\$74.8 billion)
3. Shiv Nadar (\$31 billion)

Source: Indian Express

## Reports

### Global Girlhood Report 2021: Girls' Rights in Crisis

### Why in News

- Recently, **Save the Children** released the “**Global Girlhood Report 2021: Girls’ Rights in Crisis**” on ‘International Day of the Girl Child’ (11<sup>th</sup> October).
- **Save the Children** is India’s leading independent **child rights’** NGO, which works in 18 states of the country.

### Key Points

#### Key Findings of the Report:

- **Child marriage** kills more than 60 girls a day globally and six girls a day in South Asia.
- South Asia sees 2,000 child marriage-related deaths every year (or six every day), followed by East Asia and the Pacific with 650 deaths (or two every day), and Latin American and the Caribbean, with 560 annual deaths (or nearly two a day).
- More than an estimated 22,000 girls a year are dying from pregnancy and childbirth resulting from child marriage.
- However, West and Central Africa has the highest rate of child marriage in the world and accounts for nearly half (9,600) of all estimated child marriage-related deaths globally, or 26 deaths a day.
- Although nearly 80 million child marriages globally have been prevented in the last 25 years, progress had stalled even before the COVID-19 pandemic, which has only worsened inequalities that drive child marriage.
- A further 10 million girls are now expected to marry by 2030, leaving more girls at risk of dying.

#### Related India’s Initiatives:

- Child Marriage Restraint Act of 1929
- Special Marriage Act, 1954
- Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006
- Prevention of Child Marriage is a part of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 5

Source: **Indian Express**

### 41 Industrial Parks identified as "Leaders" in the Industrial Park Ratings System Report (IPRS 2.0)

### Why in News

- **41 Industrial Parks** have been assessed as "**Leaders**" in the Industrial Park Ratings System Report (IPRS 2.0) released by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**.
- The **2nd edition of the Industrial Park Rating System (IPRS) Report (IPRS 2.0 Report)** was launched by the Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Som Prakash.

### Key Points

- **90 Industrial Parks** have been rated as under “**Challenger**” category while **185** have been rated as under “**Aspirers**”.
- These ratings are assigned on the basis of key existing parameters and infrastructure facilities etc.
- The **IPRS 2.0 Report** is an extension of the **India Industrial Land Bank (IILB)** which features more than 4,400 industrial parks in a GIS-enabled database to help investors identify their preferred location for investment.
- The **IPRS pilot exercise** was launched in 2018, with an objective of enhancing industrial infrastructure competitiveness and supporting policy development for enabling industrialization across the country.
- Based on the learnings from the pilot stage, the Government started the IPRS 2.0 in 2020.

**Source: PIB**

## **Over 5 billion people could face water shortage by 2050: United Nations**

### **Why in News**

- More than 5 billion people globally are expected to face a shortage of water by 2050, a **United Nations (UN) agency (World Meteorological Organization-WMO)** report ‘**2021 State of Climate Services**’ has warned.

### **Key Points**

- According to figures cited in the report, 3.6 billion people had inadequate access to water at least one month per year in 2018. By 2050, this is expected to rise to more than 5 billion.
- In the past 20 years, terrestrial water storage - the summation of all water on the land surface and in the subsurface, including soil moisture, snow and ice - has dropped at a rate of one centimetre per year.
- The situation is worsening by the fact that only 0.5 percent of water on Earth is useable and available freshwater.
- Since 2000, flood-related disasters have risen by 134 percent compared with the two previous decades.
- Most of the flood-related deaths and economic losses were recorded in Asia.

### **Related Indian Government Initiatives:**

- National Water Mission
- Jal Kranti Abhiyan
- National Rural Drinking Water Programme
- Jal Shakti Abhiyan
- Atal Bhujal Yojana
- NITI Aayog Composite Water Management Index
- Jal Jeevan Mission

**Source: newsonair**

## UNESCO launches 2021 State of the Education Report for India: 'No Teacher, No Class'

### Why in News

- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) launched its **2021 State of the Education Report (SOER) for India: 'No Teacher, No Class'**.

### Key Points

- The report aims to serve as a reference for enhancing the implementation of the NEP and towards the realization of the SDG.4 target 4c on teachers.

### Findings of the Report:

- Around 1.1 lakh schools in India are single-teacher entities.
- A total of 19%, or 11.16 lakh teaching positions in schools, lie vacant in the country.
- Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh recorded the highest teacher vacancies.
- Moreover, over 60 percent of vacancies in India are in rural areas, with Uttar Pradesh topping the list at 80 percent.
- Madhya Pradesh has 21,000 single-teacher schools, the highest in the country.
- Tripura has the least number of women teachers, followed by Assam and Jharkhand. Chandigarh leads the chart followed by Goa and Delhi.
- Access to the internet in schools is 19% all over India - only 14% in rural areas compared to 42% in urban areas.

Source: Business Today

## Awards and Honours

### AIIMS Director Dr. Randeep Guleria awarded Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award 2021

#### Why in News

- Vice President M Venkaiah presented **22nd Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award 2021** for Excellence to **Director** of the **All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Dr. Randeep Guleria**.

#### Key Points

- **Randeep Guleria** is an Indian pulmonologist and the current director of the **AIIMS, New Delhi**, credited with the establishment of India's first centre for pulmonary medicines and sleep disorders at AIIMS.
- He is a part of India's COVID-19 response effort.
- He was honoured by the Government of India in 2015 with Padma Shri.

Source: PIB

## **Astronautical Society of India (ASI) confers Aryabhata Award 2021 to G Satheesh Reddy**

### **Why in News**

- **Secretary DDR&D and Chairman DRDO Dr G Satheesh Reddy** has been conferred the prestigious **Aryabhata Award 2021** by **Astronautical Society of India (ASI)** for his outstanding life-time contribution to the promotion of astronautics in India.

### **Key Points**

- **G Satheesh Reddy** is a pioneer in the area of R&D of advanced avionics, navigation and missile technologies.

### **About Astronautical Society of India (ASI):**

- It was set up in 1990 to foster the development of astronautics in the country.
- It is engaged in the dissemination of technical and other information related to astronautics by conducting technical meetings, bringing out technical publications and organising exhibitions.

### **Source: PIB**

## **Telugu filmmaker B Gopal chosen for Satyajit Ray Award 2021**

- Well-known Telugu filmmaker B Gopal, alias Bejawada Gopal, has been chosen for the Satyajit Ray Award 2021 for his overall contribution to Indian cinema.
- Telugu filmmaker B Gopal has directed 2 Hindi movies and 30 Telugu movies in his long career.

### **About Satyajit Ray Award:**

- Satyajit Ray Award is an award instituted by the Satyajit Ray Film Society Kerala which is a state-based organization.
- The Award includes Rs 10,000 cash prize, plaque, and a memento.
- The Award has been named after legendary filmmaker Satyajit Ray.

### **Source: The Hindu**

## **12th Social Entrepreneur of the Year (SEOY) Award - India 2021**

### **Why in News**

- **Pranshu Singhal, Karo Sambhav founder**, won the 12th Social Entrepreneur of the Year (SEOY) Award - India 2021, presented by Prof. K. VijayRaghavan, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India.

### **Key Points**

- **Karo Sambhav** is an organisation that works on improving recycling and waste management by helping a mostly informal workforce engaged in it have access to more formal mechanisms.
- It is awarded by the **Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship**, the sister organisation of the World Economic Forum and the Jubilant Bhartia Foundation, a nonprofit of the Jubilant Bhartia Group.

### **Source: HT**

### Three US-based economists win 2021 Economic Nobel Prize

#### Why in News

- The **2021 Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences (2021 Economic Nobel Prize)** in Memory of Alfred Nobel has been awarded with one half to **David Card** and the other half jointly to **Joshua D. Angrist and Guido W. Imbens**.

#### Key Points

- **David Card (University of California at Berkeley)** has been awarded the 2021 prize in economic sciences “for his empirical contributions to labour economics.”
- **Joshua D. Angrist (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)** and **Guido W. Imbens (Stanford University)** have been awarded the 2021 prize in economic sciences “for their methodological contributions to the analysis of causal relationships.”

Source: Indian Express

### Journalists Maria Ressa, Dmitry Muratov win 2021 Nobel Peace Prize

- The 2021 Nobel Peace Prize awarded to journalists **Maria Ressa of Philippines** and **Dmitry Muratov of Russia** ‘for their fight for freedom of expression in their countries’.
- Ressa is the co-founder and CEO of *Rappler*, an independent news website based in the Philippines.
- Muratov is the editor-in-chief of the Russian newspaper Novaya Gazeta.

Source: newsonair

### Novelist Abdulrazak Gurnah wins 2021 Nobel Prize for Literature

- **Tanzanian Novelist Abdulrazak Gurnah** has won the 2021 Nobel Prize in Literature for his uncompromising and compassionate penetration of the effects of colonialism and the fate of the refugees in the gulf between cultures and continents.
- Abdulrazak Gurnah was born in 1948 and grew up on the island of Zanzibar in Tanzania in the Indian Ocean but reached England as a refugee at the end of the 1960's.
- Gurnah has published ten novels, including *Paradise and Desertion* and a number of short stories.

Source: newsonair

## Obituaries

### Abdul Qadeer Khan, father of Pakistan's nuclear bomb passes away

- Abdul Qadeer Khan, 85, known as the father of Pakistan's nuclear bomb passed away.

- AQ Khan had been living a secluded life since 2004 after he admitted to a role of massive global nuclear proliferation scam by Pakistan.
- In a televised address, he had accepted responsibility for illegal proliferation of N-technology to Iran, North Korea and Libya.

**Source: newsonair**

### **Veteran Malayalam Film Actor Nedumudi Venu passes away**

- Nedumudi Venu was one of the finest actors in the Malayalam film industry who has acted in over 500 films.
- He has won two National Awards and a special jury mention during his career in addition to six Kerala State film awards.

**Source: newsonair**

## **Important Days**

### **October 15, International Day of Rural Women**

#### **Why in News**

- The International Day of Rural Women is celebrated on 15 October each year.

#### **Key Points**

- The **theme** for the International Day of Rural Women 2021 is “**Rural Women Cultivating Good Food for All**”.

#### **History:**

- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) established the day on 18 December 2007.
- The first International Day of Rural Women was observed on 15 October 2008.

**Note:** With less than 10 years to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, including Zero Hunger (Goal 2) and Gender Equality (Goal 5), UN Women is working to support rural women and girls around the world, to build their resilience, skills and leadership.

**Source: un.org**

### **October 14, World Standards Day**

#### **Why in News**

- World Standards Day, also known as International Standards Day, is observed globally every year on October 14.

#### **Key Points**

- The **theme** for the World Standards Day 2021 is “**Shared Vision for a Better World**”.
- This day aims to create awareness about the importance of standardization to the global economy among the consumers, regulators and industry.

**History:**

- The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) was created in 1947 but this day was first celebrated in 1970.

**Source: India Today**

**October 13, International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction**

**Why in News**

- **International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction** is observed on October 13, every year.

**Key Points**

**Background:**

- It was started in 1989, after a call by the United Nations General Assembly to promote a global culture of risk-awareness and disaster reduction.
- The 2021 edition focuses on “**International cooperation for developing countries to reduce their disaster risk and disaster losses.**” This is the **sixth of the Sendai Seven** targets.

**About Sendai Seven Campaign:**

- The Sendai Seven Campaign is in its 6th year following its launch by the UN Secretary-General in 2016.
- Each year, the focus has been on one of the seven targets of the Sendai Framework agreed by UN Member States at a World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan.

**Source: un.org**

**October 11, International Day of the Girl Child**

**Why in News**

- International Day of the Girl Child is celebrated on October 11 and is dedicated to the growth of girls around the world.

**Key Points**

- The **theme** of International Day of the Girl Child 2021 is "**Digital generation. Our generation.**"
- On December 19, 2011, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution to declare October 11 as the International Day of the Girl Child, to recognize girls' rights and the unique challenges girls face around the world.

**Note:** The **National Girl Child Day** is celebrated in India every year on **January 24**.

**Source: newsonair**

**October 10, World Mental Health Day**

**Why in News**

- World Mental Health Day is an international day for global mental health education, awareness and advocacy against social stigma.

#### **Key Points**

- The **theme** of World Mental Health Day 2021 is '**Mental Health in an Unequal World.**'
- It was first celebrated in 1992 at the initiative of the World Federation for Mental Health, a global mental health organization.

#### **Note:**

- The World Health Organisation states globally, around 280 million people suffer from depression, whereas around 1 in 5 of the world's children and adolescents have a mental disorder.
- As far as India is concerned, according to the 'The Global Burden of Disease Study 1990 – 2017' study, 197.3 million people were suffering from various mental disorders in India that is one in seven Indians.

**Source: who.int**

### **October 9, World Post Day**

#### **Why in News**

- **World Post Day** is celebrated each year on the 9th of October to mark the anniversary of the establishment of the **Universal Postal Union (UPU)**.

#### **Key Points**

- The **theme** of World Post Day 2021 is '**Innovate to recover**'.
- **Universal Postal Union** was established in the year 1874 in Switzerland.
- India has been a member of the Universal Postal Union since 1876.
- It was declared World Post Day by the UPU Congress held in Tokyo, Japan in 1969.

**Source: un.org**

### **October 10, National Post Day**

#### **Why in News**

- National Post Day is celebrated on October 10 every year and it is an extension of World Post Day, which is celebrated on October 9.

#### **Key Points**

- National Post Day is celebrated to mark the role played by the Indian postal department in over 150 years.

#### **Indian postal service:**

- Postal service was introduced in India by the British.
- It was founded in 1854 by Lord Dalhousie.

**Note: National Postal Week 2021: 09<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> October, 2021**

**Source: Business Standard**

## Sports

### 2021 ISSF Junior World Championships

- With **43 medals** (17 Gold, 16 Silver and 10 Bronze), **India** has topped the table of **International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Championship 2021** in Lima, Peru.
- The **second place** in the medals tally went to the **USA with 21 medals** (7 Gold, 8 Silver and 6 Bronze).

Source: **ndtv**

### FIH Hockey Stars Awards 2021

- **Indian hockey players** swept the 2020-21 edition of the **FIH (International Hockey Federation) Hockey Stars Awards**.
- It's the first time that a country (India) has won in all eight categories.

#### Winners list:

- **Player of the Year:** Gurjit Kaur (women) and Harmanpreet Singh (men)
- **Goalkeeper of the Year:** Savita Punia (women) and PR Sreejesh (men)
- **Coach of the Year:** Sjoerd Marijne (women) and Graham Reid (men)
- **Rising Star of the Year:** Sharmila Devi (women) and Vivek Sagar Prasad (men)

Source: **Indian Express**

### Anshu Malik becomes first Indian woman to win silver medal in 2021 World Wrestling Championship

- **Wrestler Anshu Malik** became the first Indian woman to win a silver medal in the 2021 World Wrestling Championships in Oslo, Norway.
- She went down fighting against Helen Maroulis in the women's 57kg final.

Source: **ndtv**

### Hockey India withdraws from 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games

- Hockey India has pulled out of the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games citing COVID-19 concerns and UK's discriminatory quarantine rules for travellers from India.
- The move comes after England withdrew from the Men's Junior Hockey World Cup in Bhubaneswar over similar reasons.

Source: **TOI**