

## Weekly Current Affairs 17<sup>th</sup> October 2021 – 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2021 साप्ताहिक करंट अफेयर्स 17-23 अक्टूबर 2021

### Important News: State

#### Bhaskarabda to be used in official Assam calendar

##### Why in News

- The **Assam Government** has announced that **Bhaskarabda (Luni-Solar Calendar)** will be used in the official calendar by the state.
- Presently, the Assam government officially uses the **Saka calendar** and the **Gregorian calendar**.

##### Key Points

- Bhaskarabda, an era counted from the date of the ascension of a 7th-century local ruler, will be added to the Saka and Gregorian in the official calendar of the Assam government.
- The Bhaskarabda calendar differs from the Gregorian calendar by 593 years.
- Bhaskarabda began when Kumar Bhaskaravarman was crowned ruler of the Kamrupa kingdom. He was a contemporary and political ally of northern Indian ruler Harshavardhana.

##### Type of Calendars:

- Solar, Lunar and Luni-Solar

##### Classification of Calendars in India:

- Vikram Samvat (Hindu lunar calendar)
- Saka Samvat (Hindu Solar calendar)
- Hijri calendar (Islamic lunar calendar)
- Gregorian calendar (Scientific solar calendar)

Source: The Hindu

#### PM Modi inaugurates Kushinagar International Airport

##### Why in News

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated **Kushinagar International Airport in Uttar Pradesh**.
- He participated in an event marking **Abhidhamma Day** at the Mahaparinirvana Temple in Kushinagar.
- He laid the foundation stone of Rajkiya Medical College, Kushinagar.

##### Key Points

- The Kushinagar International Airport, built at a cost of Rs 260 crore, has the state's longest runway with a length of 3.2 km and a width of 45 metres.
- With this, **Uttar Pradesh** now has **3 international airports**.
- Apart from the Kushinagar International Airport, the two operational international airports are -- **Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport at Lucknow** and **Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport at Varanasi**.
- Kushinagar is the centre of the **Buddhist Circuit**.
- This region is witness to the entire journey from the **enlightenment of Lord Buddha to Mahaparinirvana**.

About Buddhist Circuit:

- In 2014-15, the Ministry of Tourism launched the Swadesh Darshan scheme with a vision to develop theme-based tourist circuits on the principles of high tourist value.
- The Ministry has identified Buddhist Circuit as one of the fifteen thematic circuits for development under the scheme.
- The Buddhist circuit is a route that follows in the footsteps of the Buddha from Lumbini in Nepal to Kushinagar in Uttar Pradesh in India, where he died.

**Source: PIB**

### **Mount Harriet in Andaman to be named Mount Manipur**

#### **Why in News**

- The Central government has decided to rename **Mount Harriet**, an island peak in Andaman and Nicobar islands as a tribute to the **freedom fighters of Manipur**.
- It will now be known as **Mount Manipur**.

#### **Key Points**

- Manipur played a significant role in resisting the British in the Northeast during the 1857 revolution and in 1891.
- **Mount Harriet**, the third-highest island peak in Andaman and Nicobar islands, where Manipur's Maharaja Kulchandra Singh and 22 other freedom fighters were imprisoned during the Anglo-Manipuri war (1891).

**Source: HT**

### **New Species of Onion 'Allium Negianum' discovered in India**

#### **Why in News**

- A plant discovered in **Uttarakhand** has been newly confirmed as a new species of Allium — the genus that includes many staple foods such as onion and garlic, among 1,100 species worldwide.
- The scientific name Allium Negianum honours the late Dr Kuldeep Singh Negi, an explorer and Allium collector.

#### **Key Points**

- The new species found in Uttarakhand is described in journal the PhytoKeys.
- It grows at 3,000 to 4,800 m above sea level and can be found along open grassy meadows, sandy soils along rivers, and streams forming in snow pasture lands along alpine meadows.
- With a narrow distribution, this newly described species is restricted to the region of western Himalayas.

**Source: Indian Express**

### **Punjab Chief Minister launches 'Mera Ghar Mere Naam' Scheme**

#### **Why in News**

- **Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi** launched '**Mera Ghar Mere Naam**' Scheme to give ownership rights to people living in houses within the "**Lal Lakir**" of villages and cities.
- "**Lal Lakir**" refers to land that is part of the village habitation and is used for non-agriculture purposes only.

#### **Key Points**

- '**Mera Ghar Mere Naam**' Scheme will give much needed assistance to all the people, especially those from needy and underprivileged strata.
- Earlier this scheme was launched only for the residents of villages but now it is being extended to the eligible residents of the cities within the "Lal Lakir".

- All the eligible residents after proper identification or verification will be given the property cards (sanads) to give ownership rights to them in a time-bound manner.

Source: ndtv

## Important News: India

### Air Quality Early Warning System (AQEWS)

#### Why in News

- **Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology Dr Jitendra Singh** has launched **Air Quality Early Warning System (AQEWS)**.
- **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)**, an autonomous Institute of Ministry of Earth Sciences has developed a new **Decision Support System (DSS)** and extended the ability of the existing **Air Quality Early Warning System (AQEWS)** to have decision-making capability for air quality management in **Delhi - NCR region**.

#### Key Points

- The need was stated by **Commission for Air Quality Management** in the National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas (**CAQM**, which was recently formed by the Union Minister for MoEFCC with the approval of both the houses of parliament) during the meeting held in January 2021.
- IITM, Pune has also developed a **new website for DSS**.
- The website is designed to deliver quantitative information about the contribution of emissions from Delhi and the surrounding 19 districts to the air quality in Delhi.

Source: PIB

### Indian Railways to dissolve IRSDC

#### Why in News

- The **Indian Railways** has ordered to dissolve **Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation (IRSDC)**.

#### Key Points

- This is in line with recommendation from the cabinet secretariat to integrate, and undertake structural reforms in various bodies under the Railways Ministry.
- These recommendations were part of a report on the Rationalisation of Government Bodies under the Ministry of Railways prepared by Sanjeev Sanyal, Principal Economic Advisor, Ministry of Finance.
- The stations managed by IRSDC shall be handed over to respective Zonal Railways.

#### About Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation (IRSDC):

- IRSDC, the nine-year-old special purpose vehicle (SPV), is a joint venture between the Indian Railway Land Development Authority and IRCON.

**Note:** With this step, IRSDC is the second organisation under the Ministry of Railways to be shut down after the closure of the Indian Railways Organisation for Alternative Fuel (IROAF) on September 7, 2021.

Source: HT

### Union Ayush Minister inaugurates 'Ayush Van' in Gandhidham

#### Why in News

- **Union Minister of AYUSH Sarbananda Sonowal** inaugurated '**Ayush Van**', a dedicated forest for Ayurvedic plants in a program held at the **Deendayal Port Trust (DPT) – Rotary Forest** in Gandhidham area of Gujarat's Kutch.

#### Key Points

- The Ayush Van was set up in 30 acres of land allotted by DPT in green-belt area where tree plantation is being done to improve greenery in urban areas and increase density of tree cover in the Kutch region.

Source: PIB

#### **Vishwakarma Vatika**

- The Central Government has decided to set up a “**Vishwakarma Vatika**” at every “**Hunar Haats**”.
- It will protect, preserve and promote India’s glorious legacy of centuries-old skills of artisans and craftsmen.
- The first “Vishwakarma Vatika” has been set up in “**Hunar Haat**” at **Rampur, Uttar Pradesh**.

Source: PIB

#### **UIDAI to host “Aadhaar Hackathon 2021”**

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

- **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** will host a Hackathon titled “**Aadhaar Hackathon 2021**”.
- The Hackathon is starting on 28 Oct 2021 and will continue till 31 Oct 2021.

##### **Key Points**

##### **Themes:**

- **Aadhaar Hackathon 2021** is themed around **two topics**.

**First theme:** The first theme is around “**Enrolment and Update**”.

**Second theme:** The second theme is around “**Identity and Authentication**”.

##### **About Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI):**

- It is a statutory authority established under the provisions of Aadhaar Act 2016 by the Government of India under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Founded:** 28 January 2009
- UIDAI is mandated to issue an easily verifiable 12 digit number as Unique Identity - Aadhaar to all Residents of India.

##### **Other Hackathons:**

- Drug Discovery Hackathon 2020
- Virtual Agri-Hackathon 2020
- CCTNS Hackathon & Cyber Challenge
- India - Australia Circular Economy Hackathon
- Hackathon Manthan 2021
- 5G Hackathon

Source: PIB

#### **Geospatial Energy Map of India**

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

- **NITI Aayog** launched a comprehensive **GIS Geospatial Energy Map of India**.

##### **Key Points**

- **NITI Aayog** in collaboration with **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has developed a **comprehensive Geographic Information System (GIS) Energy Map of India** with the support of Energy Ministries of Government of India.
- The GIS map provides a holistic picture of all energy resources of the country which enables visualisation of energy installations such as conventional power plants, oil and gas wells,

- petroleum refineries, coal fields and coal blocks, district-wise data on renewable energy power plants and renewable energy resource potential, etc through 27 thematic layers.
- It leverages the latest advancements in web-GIS technology and open-source software to make it interactive and user friendly.
  - The Geospatial Energy Map of India will be useful in planning and making investment decisions.
  - It will also aid in disaster management using available energy assets.

**Source: PIB**

### **Central Government notifies new abortion rules**

#### **Why in News**

- The Central Government has notified new rules in which the **gestational limit for termination of pregnancy** has been increased from **20 to 24 weeks** for certain categories of women.
- The new rules have been framed under the **Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act, 2021** passed by Parliament in March 2021.

#### **Key Points**

- Categories of women include survivors of sexual assault or rape, minors and women whose marital status changes during an ongoing pregnancy.
- The new rules also include mentally ill women, cases of foetal malformation in which there is a substantial risk of physical or mental abnormalities and women in disasters or emergency situations as declared by the government.
- The 2021 Act was passed to amend the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, 1971.
- Earlier, an abortion required the opinion of one doctor if carried out within twelve weeks of conception and two doctors if done between twelve and twenty weeks.

**Source: India Today**

### **MyParkings app**

#### **Why in News**

- **Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Anurag Singh Thakur** launched **MyParkings app**.

#### **Key Points**

- **MyParkings app** is a first-of-its-kind initiative where people can book parking slots online in areas under the jurisdiction of the **South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC)**.
- It is an Internet of things (IOT) technology-enabled end-to-end digital solution.
- It has been developed by **Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited (BECIL)** with **South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC)** with the purpose to digitize all authorized parking under SDMC municipal limits.
- It will also be integrated with Vahan App., FASTag, E-Challan and other government initiatives.

**Source: India Today**

### **BPCL launches automated fuelling technology “UFill”**

#### **Why in News**

- **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)** - a PSU under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has announced the launch of “UFill” for customers.
- It is a digital customer experience which delivers on BPCL’s promise of ensuring that their customers have complete control over Time, Technology and Transparency as part of their fuelling experience.

#### **Key Points**

- The UFill technology has been launched in 65 cities across India and will soon be launched across the country.
- The UFill functionality does not need any App download, is payment App agnostic ( i.e. customer can use any payment app already downloaded on his / her phone like GPay, PayTM, PhonePe etc), offers real time QR and voucher code through SMS and is accepted at all BPCL Fuel Stations where the functionality is enabled.

**Source: Business Today**

### **Climate Resilience Information System and Planning (CRISP-M) tool**

#### **Why in News**

- **Union Minister of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj Giriraj Singh** jointly launched **Climate Resilience Information System and Planning (CRISP-M)** tool for integration of climate information in **Geographic Information System (GIS)** based watershed planning under **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)** along with Lord Tariq Ahmad, Minister of State for South Asia and the Commonwealth in the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.

#### **Key Points**

##### **About CRISP-M tool:**

- The CRISP-M tool will help embed climate information in the GIS based planning and implementation of MGNREGS.
- It was developed with the help of the British Government and all the stakeholders who supported the Rural Development Ministry.
- It will be used in 7 states (Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Odisha).

**Note:** The Ministry of Rural Development has already prepared GIS based plans for 1.82 lacs Gram Panchayats out of a total of 2.69 lacs Gram Panchayats of India, which is around 68%, with the help of Remote Sensing Technology, based on Ridge to Valley approach.

##### **About Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS):**

- MGNREGS is one of the largest work guarantee programmes in the world.
- It was launched on February 2, 2006.
- The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was passed on 23rd August 2005.

**Source: PIB**

### **India re-elected to UNHRC for sixth term**

#### **Why in News**

- **India** was re-elected to the **United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)** for the **sixth term (2022-24)** with an overwhelming majority.
- India got 184 votes in the 193-member assembly, while the required majority was 97.

#### **Key Points**

- The **76th UN General Assembly (UNGA)** held elections for **18 new members of the UN Human Rights Council** who will serve for a period of 3 years, starting in January 2022.
- India's current term was set to end on December 31 2021.

##### **About United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC):**

- UNHRC is a United Nations body whose mission is to promote and protect human rights around the world.
- **President:** Nazhat Shameem
- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland
- **Founded:** 15 March 2006



Source: India Today

### 8 High Court Judges elevated as CJs, 5 CJs shifted

- The law Ministry recently notified appointments of **13 chief justices** — **eight judges elevated as CJs (Chief Justices)** and **five transferred** to high courts.
- The list of 13 CJs appointed and transferred is part of the recommendations made by the Supreme Court collegium on September 17, 2021.

Sl. No.	Name of Judge and present High Court	High Court where appointed as Chief Justice
1	Rajesh Bindal, Acting CJ [Calcutta]	Allahabad
2	Ranjit V. More [Meghalaya]	Meghalaya
3	Satish Chandra Sharma, Acting CJ [Karnataka]	Telangana
4	Prakash Shrivastava [Madhya Pradesh]	Calcutta
5	R.V. Malimath, Acting CJ [Himachal Pradesh]	Madhya Pradesh
6	Ritu Rai Awasthi [Allahabad]	Karnataka
7	Aravind Kumar [Karnataka]	Gujarat
8	Prashant Kumar Mishra [Chhattisgarh]	Andhra Pradesh

Sl. No.	Name of Chief Justice	Transfer from High Court	Transfer to High Court
1	A.A. Kureshi	Tripura	Rajasthan
2	Indrajit Mahanty	Rajasthan	Tripura
3	Mohammad Rafiq	Madhya Pradesh	Himachal Pradesh
4	Biswanath Somadder	Meghalaya	Sikkim
5	A.K. Goswami	Andhra Pradesh	Chhattisgarh

Source: TOI

### National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Foundation day

Why in News

- Recently, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** attended **28th National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Foundation day** programme.

#### Key Points

#### About National Human Rights Commission (NHRC):

- It is a Statutory public body constituted on 12 October 1993.
- It was given a statutory basis by the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.
- Jurisdiction:** Government of India
- Headquarters:** New Delhi
- Chairperson:** Arun Kumar Mishra

Source: PIB

### India's first 'One Health' consortium

Why in News

- The **Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology** launched India's first **'One Health' consortium**.

**Key Points**

- The consortium envisages carrying out surveillance of important bacterial, viral and parasitic infections of zoonotic as well as transboundary pathogens in India, including the North-eastern part of the country.
- This Consortium consists of 27 organisations led by Department of Biotechnology-National Institute of Animal Biotechnology, Hyderabad.
- The One Health consortium consists of AIIMS, Delhi, AIIMS, Jodhpur, IVRI, Bareilly, GADVASU, Ludhiana, TANUVAS, Chennai, MAFSU, Nagpur, Assam agricultural and veterinary university and many more ICAR, ICMR centres and wildlife agencies.

Source: TOI

## Important News: World

### India, Israel, US & UAE to establish international forum for economic cooperation

#### Why in News

- **Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar** and **Israel Foreign Minister Yair** during a **quadrilateral (Quad) meeting** with **UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan** and **US secretary of State Anthony Blinken** on October 19, 2021 agreed to establish a joint **economic cooperation forum**.

**Key Points**

- The Ministers also discussed how to support global public health in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic and expand people to people ties in technology and science.
- The four ministers also held a discussion on possibilities for joint infrastructure projects in the fields of technology, transportation, maritime security, trade and economics and additional joint projects.
- During the talks, Secretary Blinken reiterated the Biden Administration's support for the Abraham Accords and normalization agreements and discussed future opportunities for collaboration in the region and globally.

**About Abraham Accords:**

- The Abraham Accords was signed by **Israel, UAE and the US** in August 2020 to normalise ties between Israel and the UAE.

Source: ET

### International Conference and Exhibition on Digital technologies - "Future Tech 2021"

#### Why in News

- **Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Minister of State in the Ministry of Electronics & IT** virtually attended the inaugural session of the **International Conference and Exhibition on Digital technologies - "Future Tech 2021"** organized by the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)**.
- The event is scheduled from 19 – 27 October 2021.

**Key Points**

- The **theme** of the conference is **"Driving technologies for building the future, we all can trust"**.
- The event is based on **5 theme pillars**: Strategy, Growth, Resilience, Inclusiveness, Trust

**About Confederation of Indian Industry (CII):**



- It is a non-governmental trade association and advocacy group headquartered in New Delhi, India, founded in 1895.
- CII engages business, political, academic, and other leaders of society to shape global, regional, and industry agendas.
- It is a membership-based organisation.

Source: PIB

### **NASA launches Lucy spacecraft, first space mission to study Jupiter's Trojans Asteroids**

#### **Why in News**

- **NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration)** launched **Lucy spacecraft**, the **first space mission (Lucy Mission)** to study **Jupiter's Trojans Asteroids**.

#### **Key Points**

- Lucy's mission is a 12-year expedition to study a record number of asteroids.
- It will be the first to explore the Trojans, thousands of rocky objects orbiting the sun in two swarms – one ahead of the path of giant gas planet **Jupiter** and one behind it.

Source: Indian Express

## **Important News: Economy**

### **NMDC wins two Prestigious Environment Awards**

#### **Why in News**

- **National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (NMDC)**, Country's largest iron ore producer, a CPSE under Ministry of Steel has bagged **Gold Award in Environmental Sustainability category** and **NMDC's Kumaraswamy Iron Ore Mine** bagged **Platinum Award in Environment Management category**.

#### **Key Points**

- NMDC is selected for the awards based on its contribution towards implementation of Sustainable Development Goals and Environment Management initiatives at its production projects.
- The award function was organised by Sustainable Development Foundation (a unit of EK KAAM DESH KE NAAM) at the 10th conference held at Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

Source: PIB

### **Ship-to-Ship operation of LPG undertaken at Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port by BPCL**

#### **Why in News**

- For the first time in the history of major ports, **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)** carried out the **Ship-to-Ship (STS) operation** of LPG undertaken at **Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port**.

#### **Key Points**

- BPCL engaged service provider M/s Fendercare Marine to render the services at the offshore STS location.
- The restricted draft in the river channel necessitates offloading of part cargo at neighbouring ports before calling at Haldia Dock Complex (HDC) or Kolkata Dock System (KDS) of **Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port Kolkata (erstwhile Kolkata Port Trust)**. Consequent to two port discharge, vessels incur dead freight and additional steaming time.

Source: PIB

### **7 new Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs)**

#### **Why in News**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated **7 new Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs)**, carved out of **Ordnance Factory Board (OFB)**, to the nation.

**Key Points**

- Government had decided to convert OFB from a Government Department into seven 100 percent Government-owned corporate entities as a measure to improve self-reliance in the defence preparedness of the country.
- **7 new Defence companies are:** Munitions India Limited (MIL); Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVANI); Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited (AWE India); Troop Comforts Limited (TCL) (Troop Comfort Items); Yantra India Limited (YIL); India Optel Limited (IOL) and Gliders India Limited (GIL).
- These companies have commenced business from October 01, 2021.

**Note:**

- **E.R. Sheikh** assumed charge as first **Director General of the Ordnance Directorate**.
- The **Ministry of Defence** has set a target of achieving a turnover of Rs 1.75 lakh crore in aerospace and defence goods and services by 2024, including exports of Rs 35,000 crore.

**Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Prerana Sthal:** Recently, 'Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Prerana Sthal' was inaugurated at Naval Science & Technological Laboratory (NSTL), Visakhapatnam on the occasion of 90th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr APJ Abdul Kalam.

**Source: PIB**

## Defence

### Indian Army team wins gold medal in Exercise Cambrian Patrol 2021

**Why in News**

- A team from **4/5 Gorkha Rifles (Frontier Force)** which represented the **Indian Army** at the prestigious Cambrian Patrol Exercise at **Brecon, Wales, UK** from 13th to 15th October 2021 has been awarded Gold medal.

**Key Points**

- Ex Cambrian Patrol organised by the UK Army is considered the ultimate test of human endurance, team spirit and is sometimes referred as the **Olympics of Military Patrolling** among militaries in the world.
- The Indian Army team participated in the event and competed against a total of 96 teams which included 17 international teams representing Special Forces and prestigious Regiments from around the world.
- This year, out of 96 participating teams, only three international patrols have been awarded a gold medal.

**Source: PIB**

### BSF's area of jurisdiction expanded in 3 states

**Why in News**

- The **Ministry of Home Affairs** has extended the jurisdiction of the **BSF (Border Security Force)** up to **50 km** inside the international borders in **Punjab, West Bengal and Assam**.
- The BSF's powers — which include **arrest, search and seizure** — were limited to up to 15 km in these states.
- The Ministry has reduced BSF's area of operation in **Gujarat** from 80 km from the border, to 50 km.

**Key Points**

- It amends the schedule of an earlier notification of July 3, 2014 in terms of the BSF's jurisdiction, which it outlines as: "the whole of the area comprised in the States of Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Nagaland and Meghalaya and Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh and so much of the area comprised within a belt of 50 kilometres in the States of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, West Bengal and Assam, running along the borders of India".
- Its jurisdiction has been extended only in respect of the powers it enjoys under Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920 and the Passport Act, 1967.

**Source: Indian Express**

### **Indo-US Joint Military Exercise "Yudh Abhyas 2021"**

#### **Why in News**

- The **17th Edition of Indo-US Joint Military Exercise "Yudh Abhyas 2021"** began at Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, **Alaska (USA)**.
- The exercise is being conducted from 15 to 29 October 2021.

#### **Key Points**

- Yudh Abhyas 2021 is the largest running joint military training and defence cooperation endeavor between India and USA.
- The exercise aims at enhancing understanding, cooperation and inter-operability between two Armies.

**Note:** The previous version of this exercise was held at Mahajan Field Firing in Bikaner, Rajasthan in February 2021.

**Source: PIB**

## **New Appointments**

### **Sajjan Jindal elected Chairman of World Steel Association**

#### **Why in News**

- The **World Steel Association** has elected **Sajjan Jindal (JSW Steel Chairman and Managing Director)** as its Chairman for the 2021-22 period.
- Jindal is the first representative from India to serve as Chairman of the World Steel Association.

#### **Key Points**

##### **About World Steel Association (WSA):**

- WSA acts as the focal point for the steel industry, providing global leadership on all major strategic issues impacting the industry.
- Its members represent approximately 85 percent of the world's steel production.
- It was established in 1967 and is headquartered in Brussels, Belgium.

**Source: Business Standard**

### **Commodore Amit Rastogi (Retd) appointed as Chairman & Managing Director of NRDC**

#### **Why in News**

- **Commodore Amit Rastogi (Retd)** has been appointed as the Chairman & Managing Director of **National Research Development Corporation (NRDC)**.

#### **Key Points**

- **Amit Rastogi** has served 34 years in the Indian Navy (IN).

##### **About National Research Development Corporation (NRDC):**

- It is an enterprise of Department of Scientific & Industrial Research (DSIR), Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India.
- It was established in 1953.

Source: ET

### IAS Ritesh Chauhan appointed as CEO of PM Fasal Bima Yojana

#### Why in News

- **IAS Ritesh Chauhan** has been appointed as the **CEO (Chief Executive Officer)** of the **Pradhan Mantri (PM) Fasal Bima Yojana** and Joint Secretary, Agriculture under the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare for a combined tenure of seven years up to September 22, 2023.

#### Key Points

- **Ritesh Chauhan** will succeed Ashish Kumar Bhutani, who was appointed in 2018.

#### About Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY):

- **PMFBY** launched on 18 February 2016 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is an insurance service for farmers for their yields.
- It was formulated in line with the One Nation–One Scheme theme by replacing earlier two schemes National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS).
- The aim is to reduce the premium burden on farmers and ensure early settlement of crop assurance claims for the full insured sum.

Source: ET

## Ranks and Indices

### Global Food Security Index 2021

#### Why in News

- **India** is ranked at **71st position** in the **Global Food Security (GFS) Index 2021** of **113 countries**.
- The GFS Index was designed and constructed by **London-based Economist Impact** and is sponsored by Corteva Agriscience.

#### Key Points

##### Top Rankers:

- Ireland, Australia, the UK, Finland, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Canada, Japan, France and the US shared the top rank with the overall GFS score in the range of 77.8 and 80 points on the index.

##### India's Rank:

- India held 71st position with an overall score of 57.2 points on the GFS Index 2021 of 113 countries, far better than Pakistan (75th position), Sri Lanka (77th Position), Nepal (79th position) and Bangladesh (84th position).
- Pakistan (with 52.6 points) scored better than India (50.2 points) in the category of food affordability. Sri Lanka was even better with 62.9 points in this category on the GFS Index 2021.
- However, over the past 10 years, India's incremental gains in overall food security score were lagging behind that of Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh.
- India's score improved only by 2.7 points to 57.2 in 2021 from 54.5 in 2012.
- Global food security has decreased for the second year in a row after seven years of progress towards the **Sustainable Development Goal of achieving Zero Hunger by 2030**.

#### About Global Food Security (GFS) Index:

- The GFS Index measures the **underlying drivers of food security in 113 countries**, based on the factors of affordability, availability, quality and safety, and natural resources and resilience.

- It considers 58 unique food security indicators including income and economic inequality.

Source: Indian Express

### Reliance Industries tops India firms in World's Best Employer rankings 2021

#### Why in News

- **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)** is among the top four Indian companies according to **World's Best Employers rankings 2021** published by **Forbes**.
- **Mukesh Ambani-owned RIL** was placed at the **52nd position** in the overall ranking of 750 global corporations.

#### Key Points

- The **top place** in the Forbes rankings was occupied by **South Korean giant Samsung Electronics**, followed by US giants IBM, Microsoft, Amazon, Apple, Alphabet and Dell Technologies.
- Other Indian companies that made it to the top 100 rankings include ICICI Bank (65), HDFC Bank (77) and HCL Technologies (90).
- The rankings were decided after a large-scale survey was carried out among employees, who were asked to rate their employers on numerous parameters.
- The rankings were compiled after surveying 150,000 full-time and part-time workers from 58 countries working for multinational companies and institutions.
- **Forbes** partnered with **market research company 'Statista'** for the same.

Source: HT

### Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index 2021

#### Why in News

- **India** has maintained the **3rd rank** in the **Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index (RECAI) 2021** released by **consultancy firm Ernst & Young Global Limited (EY)**.

#### Key Points

- The **US** and **China** are in **first** and **second place**, respectively.
- It is the **58th edition of RECAI**, which ranks the world's top 40 markets (nations) on the attractiveness of renewable energy investment and deployment opportunities.
- With the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) measures reaching the top of the agenda for companies and investors, RECAI also highlights that Corporate **Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs)** are emerging as a key driver of clean energy growth.
- **India** ranks 6th among the top **30 PPA** markets.
- **Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) Index**: A new PPA Index – introduced in this edition of RECAI – focuses on the attractiveness of renewable energy purchases and ranks the growth potential of the country's corporate PPA market.

Source: newsonair

### Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2021

#### Why in News

- The **2021 Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) Report** was jointly released by the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** and the **Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI)**.
- The Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2021 compares acute multidimensional poverty for **109 countries** in developing regions.

#### Key Points

**Key Findings of the Reports** (*Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2021: Unmasking disparities by ethnicity, caste and gender*):

- 109 countries are home to 5.9 billion people, three-quarters of the world's population.
- Of these people, 1.3 billion (21.7%) are identified by the 2021 global MPI as multidimensionally poor.
- About 644 million are children under age 18.
- Nearly 85 percent live in Sub-Saharan Africa (556 million) or South Asia (532 million).
- Roughly, 84 percent (1.1 billion) live in rural areas, and 16 percent (about 209 million) live in urban areas.
- More than 67 percent live in middle-income countries.
- In **India**, 5 out of 6 multidimensionally poor people were from lower tribes or castes.

**Source: UNDP**

## Global Hunger Index 2021

### Why in News

- **India ranked 101** out of 116 countries in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2021.
- With a score of 27.5, India has a level of hunger that is serious.
- India is behind Pakistan (92), Bangladesh (76) and Nepal (76).
- In 2020, India was ranked 94th out of 107 countries.

### Key Points

- A total of 18 countries, including China, Kuwait and Brazil, shared the top rank with GHI score of less than five.
- The GHI report mentioned the level of hunger in India as “alarming” with its GHI score decelerating from 38.8 in 2000 to the range of 28.8 – 27.5 between 2012 and 2021.

### About Global Hunger Index (GHI):

- The GHI report is prepared jointly by **Irish aid agency Concern Worldwide** and **German organisation Welthungerhilfe**.
- The **GHI score** is calculated on **four indicators** — undernourishment, child wasting, child stunting and child mortality.

### India's Related Initiatives:

- POSHAN Abhiyan
- Eat Right India Movement
- Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana
- Food Fortification
- National Food Security Act, 2013
- Integrated Child Development Services Scheme
- Mission Indradhanush

**Source: Indian Express**

## Reports

## UNEP Production Gap Report 2021

### Why in News

- The **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** has released the **Production Gap Report 2021**.
- The report is produced by the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), Overseas Development Institute (ODI), E3G, and UNEP.

### Key Points



- The report, first launched in 2019, measures the gap between governments' planned production of coal, oil, and gas and the global production levels consistent with meeting the Paris Agreement temperature limits.
- Two years later, the report released found the production gap largely unchanged.
- Despite increased climate ambition and net-zero commitments, governments still plan to produce more than double the amount of energy from fossil fuels in 2030, than the amount that would limit global warming to the Paris Agreement level of 1.5°C.
- Over the next two decades, governments are projecting an increase in global oil and gas production, and only a modest decrease in coal production.
- Taken together, these plans mean that fossil fuel production will increase overall, to at least 2040.
- The production gap to achieve the climate goal is the widest for coal: Production plans and projections by governments would lead to around 240 percent more coal, 57 percent more oil, and 71 percent more gas in 2030 than global levels.

**Measures Taken by India to Reduce Fossil Fuel Emissions:**

- India Greenhouse Gas Program
- National Action Plan on Climate Change
- Bharat Stage-VI Norms

**Source: DTE**

**Climate report: Africa's rare glaciers soon to disappear**

**Why in News**

- **Africa's rare glaciers** will disappear in the next two decades because of climate change according to the report of the **World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)**.
- **WMO** is a specialized agency of the **United Nations** responsible for promoting international cooperation on atmospheric science, climatology, hydrology and geophysics.

**Key Points**

- The report, released ahead of the UN climate conference in Scotland that starts October 31, 2021, is a grim reminder that Africa's 1.3 billion people remain "extremely vulnerable" as the continent warms more, and at a faster rate, than the global average.
- And yet Africa's 54 countries are responsible for less than 4 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions.
- The new report shows on the shrinking glaciers of Mount Kilimanjaro, Mount Kenya and the Rwenzori Mountains in Uganda as symbols of the rapid and widespread changes to come.
- Estimates of the economic effects of climate change vary across the African continent, but "in sub-Saharan Africa, climate change could further lower gross domestic product by up to 3 percent by 2050".
- Already, the UN has warned that the Indian Ocean island nation of Madagascar is one where "famine-like conditions have been driven by climate change".

**Source: Indian Express**

**World Energy Outlook (WEO) Report 2021**

**Why in News**

- The **International Energy Agency (IEA)** released its annual **World Energy Outlook (WEO) Report 2021**.
- Investment in renewable energy will need to triple by the end of this decade if the world's climate pledges are to be met.

**Key Points**

**Key Findings of the Report:**

- Renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind, hydropower and bioenergy, need to form a far bigger share in the rebound in energy investment after the coronavirus pandemic.
- The IEA noted that demand for renewables continues to grow.
- However, this clean energy progress is still far too slow to put global emissions into sustained decline towards net zero by 2050, which the IEA believes will help limit the increase in global temperatures to 1.5 degrees Celsius.
- More than 40% of the required emissions reductions would come from measures that pay for themselves, such as improving efficiency, limiting gas leakage, or installing wind or solar in places where they are now the most competitive electricity generation technologies.

**Note:** International Energy Agency (IEA) has invited India, the world's third-largest energy consumer, to become its full-time member.

**Other Major Reports:**

- World Energy Investment Report
- World Energy Statistics
- World Energy Balances
- India Energy Outlook Report
- Energy Technology Perspectives

**Source:** Indian Express

## Awards and Honours

### Earthshot Prize 2021

#### Why in News

- **Vidyut Mohan (Co-founder of Takachar)**, a Delhi entrepreneur's agricultural waste recycling concept, won the **inaugural edition** of the **Earthshot Prize**.
- Indian company Takachar won the prize in the "**Clean our Air**" category for the creation of a portable machine which turns agricultural waste into fertiliser so that farmers do not burn the waste and cause air pollution.
- Five winners were announced, each receiving a million pounds (\$1.4 million).

#### Key Points

##### About Earthshot Prize:

- It is a prize awarded annually from 2021 to 2030.
- It is given by the **Royal Foundation**, headquartered in London, England.
- It was launched in 2020 by **Prince William, Duke of Cambridge and David Attenborough**.
- Each year **five finalists** will be selected for their contributions towards the **five UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** — restoration and protection of nature, air cleanliness, ocean revival, waste-free living and climate action.

**Source:** ndtv

### Microsoft's Satya Nadella receives CK Prahalad Award 2021 for Global Business Sustainability Leadership

#### Why in News

- **Indian American Satya Nadella, the Microsoft CEO**, is among the corporate leaders to receive the **C K Prahalad Award 2021** for Global Business Sustainability Leadership.

#### Key Points

- Four of Microsoft's top leaders -- Nadella along with its president and vice chair Brad Smith, chief financial officer Amy Hood and chief environment officer Lucas Joppa -- received the honour for their collaborative leadership aimed at transforming Microsoft into a carbon negative company by 2030 and to remove all its historical emissions by 2050.

**About CK Prahalad Award:**

- The award was created in 2010 by the **Corporate Eco Forum** to honour **Indian American Prahalad**, its founding advisory board member.

**Source: Business Today**

## Obituaries

**Yogendra Mohan Gupta, Chairman of Dainik Jagran Group, passed away**

- Born on December 14, 1937, Yogendra Mohan Gupta also edited 'Kanchan Prabha' magazine.
- He is also credited with setting up Lakshmidevi Lalit Kala Akademi in Kanpur.

**Source: TOI**

## Important Days

**October 21, Police Commemoration Day 2021**

**Why in News**

- **National Police Commemoration Day** is observed on October 21 every year.
- It is observed to salute the spirits of police forces and their families and brave police martyrs who lost their lives fighting for the country.

**Key Points**

**History:**

- On October 21, 1959, when twenty Indian soldiers were attacked by Chinese troops in Ladakh due to arguments between the troops, ten Indian policemen lost their lives and seven were imprisoned.
- After a month, on November 28, 1959, Chinese troops handed over the dead bodies of the martyred policemen and, since that day, October 21 has been observed as Police Commemoration Day in honour of the martyrs every year.

**Note:** In 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated **India's first national police museum in Delhi** on the occasion of Police Commemoration Day.

**Source: India Today**

**October 16, World Food Day**

**Why in News**

- **World Food Day (WFD)** is celebrated every year on October 16 to commemorate the date of the founding of the **United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)** in 1945.

**Key Points**

- The **theme** for World Food Day this year is **"Our actions are our future- Better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life,"** as per the official website of FAO.
- **World Food Day** was established by FAO's Member Countries at the Organization's 20th General Conference in November 1979.
- The day is also observed by organisations like World Food Programme and International Fund for Agricultural Development.

**Note:**

- This time, the UN Secretary-General also convened the very first Food Systems Summit in September 2021 to discuss ways to transform the production and consumption of food.
- According to **The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World, 2020 report by FAO**, 189.2 million Indians or 14 percent of the total population in India are undernourished.

**Source: India Express**

## October 17, International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

### Why in News

- **International Day for the Eradication of Poverty** is observed annually on October 17 worldwide and highlights worldwide poverty, violence and hunger.

### Key Points

- The **theme** for International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2021 is “**Building forward together: Ending Persistent Poverty, Respecting all People and our Planet.**”
- In 1992, the United Nations (UN) officially designated October 17 as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

Source: India Today

## Sports

### India beat Nepal to clinch SAFF championship for 8th time

- **India** clinched the **South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship** for the 8<sup>th</sup> time defeating Nepal 3-0 in Male, Maldives.
- Indian captain **Sunil Chhetri** equalled the iconic footballer Lionel Messi with his 80th international strike and became the second highest goal-scorer in international football among active players.

Source: newsonair

### Chennai Super Kings wins IPL title 2021

#### Why in News

- **Chennai Super Kings** beat Kolkata Knight Riders by 27 runs to win its **4<sup>th</sup> IPL (Indian Premier League) title** in Dubai.
- The **2021 Indian Premier League (IPL 14)** was the **fourteenth season** of IPL.

#### Key Points

- **Player of the series:** Harshal Patel (Royal Challengers Bangalore)
- **Orange Cap:** Ruturaj Gaikwad (Chennai Super Kings) Most runs 635
- **Purple Cap:** Harshal Patel (Royal Challengers Bangalore) Most wickets 32
- MS Dhoni led Chennai lift the IPL trophy for the fourth time, having previously won the tournament in 2010, 2011, and 2018.

Source: newsonair