

# Monthly Current Affairs October 2021

मासिक सम सामयिकी अक्टूबर 2021

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मासिक सम सामयिकी अक्टूबर 2021

### Important News: State

#### Kerala wins award for 'city with most sustainable transport system'

##### Why in News

- **Kerala** has won the award for the 'city with the most sustainable transport system'.

##### Key Points

- The award has been given in recognition of the projects implemented — like Kochi Metro, Water Metro and e-mobility — to enhance the transport facilities in the city of Kochi.
- The formation of the Kochi Open Mobility Network, which digitized and integrated various transport facilities, also helped to win the award.
- The award would be presented in Delhi by **Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri**.
- The **award** is given in recognition of the transport facilities in various states and Union Territories of India.

Source: Indian Express

#### Uttar Pradesh to rename Faizabad Railway Junction as Ayodhya Cantt

##### Why in News

- The **Uttar Pradesh government** has decided to rename the **Faizabad Railway Junction** as **Ayodhya Cantt Railway Station**.

##### Key Points

- According to the procedure, the state government sends a proposal to the Ministry of Home Affairs, from where it goes to the Railway Board for final implementation.

##### Note:

- Earlier in 2018, the Yogi Adityanath government had renamed **Faizabad as Ayodhya**.
- The UP government had also changed the name of **Allahabad to Prayagraj** and the Central government had changed **Mughalsarai Railway Junction as Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyay Junction**.

Source: Indian Express

#### India's 1st State government-owned Wildlife DNA testing lab inaugurated in Nagpur

##### Why in News

- **Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray** inaugurated India's 1st State government-owned **Wildlife DNA testing laboratory** at Regional Forensic Science Laboratory (RFSL) in **Nagpur, Maharashtra**.

### Key Points

- At present, there are 2 central government-owned Wildlife DNA testing laboratories at Dehradun & Hyderabad.

### Note:

- CM Uddhav Thackeray also launched **3 Fast Track DNA testing units** in Mumbai and Pune under the Central Government's **Nirbhaya Scheme to test human DNA samples**.
- The Labs will be exclusively dealing with cases registered under **Protection of Children From Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012**.

### Source: TOI

### 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**

### **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**

### Alibaug white onion and Palghar's famed Wada Kolam rice get GI tag

- The famed white onion of Alibag in Maharashtra's Raigad district was given the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag**, for its unique sweet taste, no-tears factor, as well as its medicinal properties.
- **Wada Kolam**, also known as Zini or Jhini rice, is a traditional variety grown in **Wada in Palghar district of Maharashtra**, with the grain being off white in colour.

### Note:

- Recently, Kerala's Kuttiaattoor mango and Edayur chilli got GI tag.
- Chinnor rice produced in Balaghat district, Madhya Pradesh got GI tag.

**Source: TOI**

### World's largest Khadi National Flag unveiled in Leh

#### Why in News

- The **world's largest Khadi National Flag** was installed in **Leh, Ladakh** on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's 152nd birth anniversary.

### Key Points

- It was inaugurated by **Ladakh Lieutenant Governor RK Mathur**.
- The tricolor, which is 225-feet long and 150-feet wide, weighs around 1,000 kg.
- The flag is made by Khadi Dyers and Printers based in Mumbai which is affiliated to the **Khadi Village and Industries Commission (KVIC)**.

**Source: India Today**

### Kangana Ranaut named brand ambassador of Uttar Pradesh's 'One District One Product' Scheme

#### Why in News

- The Uttar Pradesh government named Indian actress **Kangana Ranaut** as the brand ambassador of its ambitious '**One District-One Product**' programme.

### Key Points

- The Uttar Pradesh government has launched the 'One District-One Product (ODOP)' programme with the aim to create product-specific traditional industrial hubs across 75 districts of the state.

**Source: Indian Express**

## Important News: India

### 152 SAKSHAM Centres launched



### Why in News

- As part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, a total of **152 Centre for Financial Literacy & Service Delivery (SAKSHAM Centres)** across 77 districts of 13 states launched under **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)** of the Ministry of Rural Development.

### Key Points

#### About SAKSHAM Centres:

- Centre for Financial Literacy & Service Delivery (CFL&SD)** would act as a one stop solution/single window system for basic financial needs of **Self-Help Group (SHG)** households in rural areas.
- The main objective of the center is to provide financial literacy & facilitate delivery of financial services (savings, credit, insurance, pensions etc.) to SHG members and rural poor.
- These Centers will be managed by SHG network, largely at the level of the Cluster Level Federations (CLFs), with the help of trained Community Resource Persons (CRPs).

#### SAKSHAM App:

- The app will help the community resource person to know the penetration of various financial services for each SHG & village.

#### About Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission:

- It is a centrally sponsored programme, launched by the Ministry of Rural Development in June 2011.

#### Sub-Schemes:

- Start-Up Village Entrepreneurship Programme
- Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana
- Mahila Kisan Shashaktikaran Pariyojana
- Rural Self Employment Institutes
- Deendayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana

Source: PIB

## PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission

### Why in News

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi** launched PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission from **Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**.
- He also inaugurated 9 Medical Colleges in Uttar Pradesh. These are in the districts of Siddharthnagar, Etah, Hardoi, Pratapgarh, Fatehpur, Deoria, Ghazipur, Mirzapur and Jaunpur.

### Key Points

#### About PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission:

- It is one of the **largest pan-India schemes for strengthening healthcare infrastructure** across the country.
- It is in addition to the National Health Mission.
- The objective of the Mission is to fill critical gaps in public health infrastructure, especially in critical care facilities and primary care in both the urban and rural areas.

- It will provide support for 17,788 rural Health and Wellness Centres in 10 High Focus States. Further, 11,024 urban Health and Wellness Centres will be established in all the States.
- Under the Mission, a National Institution for One Health, 4 New National Institutes for Virology, a Regional Research Platform for WHO South East Asia Region, 9 Biosafety Level III laboratories, 5 New Regional National Centre for Disease Control will be set up.
- The mission targets to build an IT enabled disease surveillance system by developing a network of surveillance laboratories at block, district, regional and national levels, in Metropolitan areas.

**Other Related Initiatives:**

- Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana
- Jan Aushadhi Yojana
- PM Atmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Scheme

**Source: PIB**

**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**

## **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 marketer 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**

## **'Azadi@75 – New Urban India: Transforming Urban Landscape' Conference-cum-Expo in Lucknow**

### **Why in News**

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated 'Azadi@75 – New Urban India: Transforming Urban Landscape' Conference-cum-Expo in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

### **Key Points**

- The Prime Minister digitally handed over keys of **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U)** houses to 75,000 beneficiaries in 75 districts of Uttar Pradesh.
- He inaugurated/laid the foundation stone of 75 Urban Development Projects of Uttar Pradesh under **Smart Cities Mission and AMRUT**.
- He flagged off 75 buses under **FAME-II** for seven cities including Lucknow, Kanpur, Varanasi, Prayagraj, Gorakhpur, Jhansi and Ghaziabad.
- He released a Coffee Table Book encompassing 75 projects implemented under various Flagship Missions of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

### **About the Conference-cum-Expo**

- The Conference-cum-Expo has been organised by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) from 5th to 7th October 2021 as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- It is themed on transforming urban landscape with specific focus on the transformative changes brought about in Uttar Pradesh.

**Source: PIB**

## **ICMR's drone-based vaccine delivery model: i-Drone**

### **Why in News**

- **Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare** launched **ICMR's Drone Response and Outreach in North East (i-Drone)**.
- This is for the first time that a 'Make in India' drone has been used in South Asia to transport COVID-19 vaccine.

### **Key Points**

#### **About i-Drone:**

- This i-Drone has been designed to overcome challenges by deploying Unmanned Aerial vehicles (UAV) / drones to remote areas and hard to reach terrains.
- Currently, the drone based delivery project has been granted permission for implementation in Manipur and Nagaland, as well as union territory of Andaman and Nicobar Island.
- **ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research)** conducted an initial study in collaboration with **Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur** to test the capacity of drones to carry and transfer vaccines safely.

#### **Other Projects Using Drones:**

- The **International Crops Research Institute** was permitted to deploy drones for agricultural research activities.
- Telangana government has launched '**Medicine from the Sky**' initiative.

**Source: PIB**

## **Jal Jeevan Mission App and Rashtriya Jal Jeevan Kosh**

### **Why in News**

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** launched the **Jal Jeevan Mission App** and **Rashtriya Jal Jeevan Kosh** under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

### **Key Points**

#### **About Jal Jeevan Mission App:**

- The Jal Jeevan Mission App has been launched to improve awareness among stakeholders and for greater transparency and accountability of schemes under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

#### **About Rashtriya Jal Jeevan Kosh:**

- In Rashtriya Jal Jeevan Kosh, any individual, institution, corporation, or philanthropist, be it in India or abroad, can contribute to help provide tap water connection in every rural household, school, Anganwadi centre, ashram shala, and other public institutions.

#### **About Jal Jeevan Mission:**

- Its aim is to provide piped water to all the rural households by 2024.
- It was launched on 15 August 2019 under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India.

### **Note:**

- Since the launch of Jal Jeevan Mission in 2019, 5 crore households have been connected with water connections.
- Today, water is reaching every household in about 1.25 lakh villages in about 80 districts of the country.
- In the Aspirational districts the number of tap connections have increased from 31 lakh to 1.16 crore.

**Source: newsonair**

## **Wetlands of India Portal**

### **Why in News**

- The **Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav** has launched a web portal – '**Wetlands of India Portal**'.

### **Key Points**

- The portal is a single point access to all information relating to wetlands in India.
- The portal has been developed under a Technical Cooperation project "Wetlands Management for Biodiversity and Climate Protection" (Wetlands Project) of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in partnership with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.
- The project is commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) under the International Climate Initiative (IKI).

**Source: PIB**

## **Trans- Himalayan region becoming one of the promising astronomical sites globally**

### **Why in News**



- The **Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO)** located at **Hanle** near Leh in Ladakh is becoming one of the promising observatory sites globally according to a recent study.

**Key Points**

- The Hanle site is as dry as Atacama Desert in Chile and much drier than Devasthal and has around 270 clear nights in a year and is also one of the emerging sites for infrared and sub-mm optical astronomy.
- This is because water vapour absorbs electromagnetic signals and reduces their strength.

**Need:**

- Astronomers are constantly searching for ideal locations around the world to build their next big telescope based on local meteorological data collected over many years.

**Other Promising Sites:**

- Devasthal in Nainital
- Merak observatories in Ladakh
- Ali Observatory in the Tibet Autonomous Region in China
- South African Large Telescope in South Africa
- National Astronomical Observatory in Mexico
- University of Tokyo Atacama Observatory
- Paranal in Chile

**Source: PIB**

**PM Modi launches Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 and AMRUT 2.0**

**Why in News**

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** launched **Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 (SBM-U 2.0)** and **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation 2.0 (AMRUT 2.0)**.

**Key Points**

- SBM-U 2.0 and AMRUT 2.0 have been designed to realize the aspiration to make all cities 'Garbage Free' and 'Water Secure'.
- These flagship Missions will help contribute towards achievement of the **Sustainable Development Goals 2030**.

**About Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 (SBM-U 2.0):**

- It envisions to make all cities 'Garbage Free' and ensure grey and black water management in all cities other than those covered under AMRUT, make all urban local bodies as ODF+ and those with a population of less than 1 lakh as ODF++, thereby achieving the vision of safe sanitation in urban areas.
- The **outlay of SBM-U 2.0** is around **₹1.41 lakh crore**.

**About Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation 2.0 (AMRUT 2.0):**

- It aims to provide 100% coverage of water supply to all households in around 4,700 urban local bodies by providing about 2.68 crore tap connections and 100% coverage of sewerage and septage in 500 AMRUT cities by providing around 2.64 crore sewers/ septage connections, which will benefit more than 10.5 crore people in urban areas.

- AMRUT 2.0 will adopt the principles of circular economy and promote conservation and rejuvenation of surface and groundwater bodies.
- **'Pey Jal Survekshan'** will be conducted to promote progressive competition among cities.
- The **outlay of AMRUT 2.0** is around **₹2.87 lakh crore**.

**Note:** Recently, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** laid the foundation stones of **Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (CIPET)** Jaipur in Rajasthan.

**Source: PIB**

### **People's Plan Campaign 2021 and Vibrant Gram Sabha Dashboard** **Why in News**

- **Union Minister for Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Giriraj Singh** launched **People's Plan Campaign 2021- Sabki Yojana Sabka Vikas** and **Vibrant Gram Sabha Dashboard**.
- He also released a booklet on People Plan Campaign-2021 for preparation of plans for FY 2022-23 and the 10th issue of Gramoday Sankalp Magazine.

#### **Key Points**

- People's Plan Campaign is being rolled-out in all the States from 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2021.
- There are 31.65 lakh elected Panchayat representatives across the country in which 14.53 lakh are women.
- 2.56 lakh Panchayats uploaded their **Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDPs)** on GPDP portal in 2020.
- A **Vibrant Gram Sabha Dashboard** will help in increasing maximum participation through the meeting of Gram Sabha/Gram Panchayat.
- The Panchayat Development Plan aims to strengthen the role of elected representatives of Panchayats and SHG Women under DAY-NRLM in effective Gram Sabha.

**Source: PIB**

### **COVID-19 Relief** **Why in News**

The **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** has recommended the payment of **₹50,000 each as ex gratia assistance** to the next kin of those who died of COVID-19.

#### **Key Points**

- It includes those who succumbed to the virus while involved in relief operations and preparedness activities.
- The Centre has approved release of the 2nd installment of its share of the **State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)** amounting to Rs 7,274.40 crore, in advance, to 23 states.
- 5 states have already been released in advance of the 2nd installment amounting to Rs 1,599.20 crore.
- The money would be provided by the States from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).

**Source: The Hindu**

## **India Export Initiative and IndiaXports 2021 Portal**

### **Why in News**

- **Union Minister for MSMEs (Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises) Narayan Rane** inaugurated the **India Export Initiative** and **IndiaXports 2021 Portal of India SME (Small and Medium Enterprises) Forum**.

### **Key Points**

- This initiative features an Info Portal which serves as a knowledge base for exports by Indian MSMEs with the required information related to export potential for all the 456 tariff lines along with the potential markets as well as trends in exports, export procedures and lots more.

**Note:** With more than 63 million MSMEs spread across the geographical expanse of India, MSMEs have been contributing nearly 40% of overall India's exports, contributing to approx. 6.11% of the country's manufacturing GDP & 24.63% of the GDP from services sector.

**Source: PIB**

## **India's first aerial seeding campaign 'Hara Bhara'**

### **Why in News**

- **Hara Bhara, India's first aerial seeding campaign** in **Telangana** using the **Seedcopter drone** was launched.

### **Key points**

- The 'Seedcopter' developed by **Marut Drones** is an aerial seeding solution for rapid and scalable reforestation.
- The project uses drones to disperse seed balls over thin, barren, and empty forest lands to turn them into lush green abodes of trees.

### **Related Indian Initiatives:**

- National Afforestation Programme
- National Mission for Green India
- National Action Programme to Combat Desertification
- CAMPA Funds

**Source: The Hindu**

## **Chacha Chaudhary declared Mascot for Namami Gange Programme**

### **Why in News**

- At the 37<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee meeting of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), Chacha Chaudhary was declared as the mascot of the Namami Gange Programme.

### **Key Points**

- NMCG has tied-up with Diamond Toons to develop and distribute comics, e-comics and animated videos.
- The total estimated budget for the project is Rs. 2.26 Cr.

### **About Chacha Chaudhary:**

- Chacha Chaudhary is an Indian comic book character, created by cartoonist Pran Kumar Sharma in 1971.

### About Namami Gange Programme:

- It is an Integrated Conservation Mission, approved as 'Flagship Programme' by the Union Government in June 2014 to accomplish the twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution, conservation and rejuvenation of National River Ganga.

**Source: India Today**

### DigiSaksham - a digital skills programme

#### Why in News

- Minister for Labour and Employment, Bhupender Yadav** launched **DigiSaksham - a digital skills programme** to enhance the employability of youth by imparting digital skills.
- DigiSaksham programme is the joint initiative of the **Ministry of Labour and Employment** and **Microsoft India**.
- This joint initiative is an extension of the Government's ongoing programs **to support the youth from rural and semi-urban areas**.

#### Key Points

##### About DigiSaksham programme:

- Free of cost training in digital skills including basic skills as well as advanced computing, will be provided to more than **3 lakh youths in the first year**.
- The Jobseekers can access the training through **National Career Service (NCS) Portal**.
- The initiative gives priority to the job-seekers of semi urban areas belonging to disadvantaged communities, including those who have lost their jobs due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- There will be basically **three types of training** viz. Digital Skills – Self paced learning, VILT mode training (Virtual Instructor led) and ILT mode training (Instructor led).
- It will be implemented in the field by **Aga Khan Rural Support Programme India (AKRSP-I)**.

##### Other Initiatives for Youth Employment:

- Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana
- MGNREGA
- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0
- National Career Service
- Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme
- Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana

**Source: PIB**

### Senior Able Citizens for Re Employment in Dignity (SACRED) Portal

#### Why in News

- The portal '**Senior Able Citizens for Re Employment in Dignity (SACRED)**' has been developed by the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**.

#### Key Points

- The aim is to devise ways to ensure Senior Citizens live healthy, happy, empowered, dignified and self-reliant life.

- An IT portal to be developed to bring the employment seeker senior citizens and employment providers on one platform.
- Rs. 10 Cr would be provided for funding for the platform development along with maintenance grant of Rs. 2 Cr per year for 5 years.

**Need:**

- There has been a steady rise in the population of senior citizens in India.
- The number of elderly persons increased from 1.98 crore in 1951 to 7.6 crore in 2001 and 10.38 crore in 2011.
- As per the **Report of the Technical Group on Population Projections for India and States (2011-2036)** submitted to National Commission on Population, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare the population of senior citizens in India is projected as details given below: -

2011		2021		2026		2031		2036	
Population	%	Population	%	Population	%	Population	%	Population	%
10.38	8.66	13.76	10.1	16.28	11.4	19.34	13.1	22.74	14.9

**Note:** More than 50% senior citizens are found active as per the **Longitudinal Ageing Study of India (LASI), report 2020.**

**Other Recent Initiatives:**

- Elder Line (the first Pan-India toll-free helpline number (14567) for Senior Citizens)
- Seniorcare Ageing Growth Engine (SAGE) Portal (one-stop access of elderly care products and services by credible start-ups)

**Source: PIB**

**Important News: World**

**4<sup>th</sup> International Solar Alliance General Assembly**

**Why in News**

- The **4<sup>th</sup> general assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)** was held between October 18th and October 21st, 2021.
- It was presided over by **Union Minister R.K. Singh, Minister for Power, New and Renewable Energy**, Government of India and the President of the ISA Assembly.

**Key Points**

**Key initiatives of the 4th Assembly of the ISA:**

- Operationalisation of the OSOWOG (One Sun One World One Grid) initiative
- \$1 trillion Solar Investment Roadmap for 2030
- Approval of a Blended Financial Risk Mitigation Facility

- Management of Solar PV panels & battery usage waste & Solar Hydrogen programme

**About International Solar Alliance General Assembly:**

- The Assembly is the apex decision-making body of ISA, in which each member country is represented.
- This body makes decisions concerning the implementation of the ISA's Framework Agreement and coordinated actions to be taken to achieve its objective.

**About International Solar Alliance (ISA):**

- It is an association of 124 countries initiated by India.
- **Headquarters:** Gurugram, Haryana, India
- **Founded:** 30 November 2015
- **Director General:** Ajay Mathur

**Source: PIB**

**2021 Global Threat Assessment Report**

**Why in News**

- The **Global Threat Assessment Report 2021** has revealed that COVID-19 had contributed to a significant spike in child sexual exploitation and abuse online.
- The report was launched by the **WeProtect Global Alliance**.

**Key Points**

- **WeProtect Global Alliance** is a global movement of more than 200 members, comprising 98 governments, over 50 private companies that are mostly tech firms, and more than 60 civil society organisations and charities.

**Findings of the Report:**

- The report details the scale and scope of the threat of child sexual exploitation online and aims to encourage action on the issue to reduce the risk to children and prevent abuse before it happens.
- The COVID-19 pandemic is undeniably one contributory factor behind the spike in reported incidents.
- The rise in child 'self-generated' sexual material is another trend that challenges the existing response with the Internet Watch Foundation observing a 77% increase in child 'self-generated' sexual material from 2019 to 2020.

**Note:** Another report published in 2020 stated that India has seen a 95% increase in internet searches for child sexual abuse materials during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Indian Initiatives for Preventing Child Sexual Abuse:**

- Juvenile Justice Act/Care and Protection Act, 2000
- Child Abuse Prevention and Investigation Unit
- Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao
- Child Marriage Prohibition Act (2006)
- Operation Smile
- Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act, 2016



**Source: The Hindu**

### **South Korea launches first homegrown space rocket 'Nuri'**

#### **Why in News**

- **South Korea** has launched its first homegrown space rocket '**Nuri**' from **Naro Space Center in Goheung**.

#### **Key Points**

- South Korea's first domestically produced space rocket reached its desired altitude but failed to deliver a dummy payload into orbit in its first test launch.

#### **About space rocket 'Nuri'**

- Nuri is the country's first space launch vehicle built entirely with domestic technology.
- It is designed to deliver a 1.5-ton payload into orbit 600 to 800 kilometers above Earth.

**Note:** South Korea had previously launched a space launch vehicle from the Naro spaceport in 2013, which was a two-stage rocket built mainly with Russian technology.

**Source: Indian Express**

### **G7 Digital Trade Principles**

#### **Why in News**

- The **Group of Seven (G7)** nations agreed on **Digital Trade Principles** to govern cross-border data use and digital trade.
- **G7 Digital Trade Principles** were adopted by the Trade Ministers of G7 members at a meeting in London, Britain.

#### **Key Points**

- The deal agreed is a first step in reducing those barriers, and could lead to a common rulebook of digital trade.
- Digital trade is broadly defined as trade in goods and services that is either enabled or delivered digitally, encompassing activities from the distribution of films and TV to professional services.
- The deal sets out a middle ground between highly regulated data protection regimes used in European countries and the more open approach of the United States.

#### **Facts about G7:**

- **Founded:** 1975
- **Members:** 7 (United Kingdom, United States, Japan, France, Germany, Canada, Italy)

**Source: newsonair**

### **China passes new land border law**

#### **Why in News**

- **China's legislature** has adopted a **new land border law** that calls on the state and military to safeguard territory and "combat any acts" that undermine China's territorial claims.
- The new land border law was adopted amid the continued standoff between Indian and Chinese militaries in eastern Ladakh.

### Key Points

#### About the Law:

- The law, which becomes operational from January 1, 2022, stipulates that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the People's Republic of China are sacred and inviolable.
- The law also stipulates that the state shall take measures to strengthen border defence, support economic and social development.

#### China's Border Disputes:

- China has a 22,000-km land border with 14 countries.
- India and Bhutan are the two countries with which China is yet to finalise the border agreements, while Beijing resolved the boundary disputes with 12 other neighbours.
- India-China border disputes cover 3,488-km along the Line of Actual Control, the China-Bhutan dispute covers about 400 km.
- On October 14, China and Bhutan signed an MOU firming up a three-step roadmap for expediting the boundary negotiations.

**Source: Indian Express**

### 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**

### **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/AS01 (Mosquirix)**'.

### Key Points

- **RTS, S/AS01 (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

## Seychelles' Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB) programme launched in partnership with India

### Why in News

- **Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB)** launched its programme in Seychelles on 4th October, 2021.
- TIWB is a joint initiative of the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** and the **Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)**.

- **India** was chosen as the **Partner Administration** and has provided Tax Expert for this programme.

#### **Key Points**

- The focus of the programme will be on Transfer Pricing cases of tourism and financial services sectors.

**Note:** It is the 6th TIWB programme which India has supported by providing Tax Expert.

#### **About Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB):**

- TIWB was launched in July 2015 to strengthen developing countries' auditing capacity and multinationals' compliance worldwide.
- TIWB deploys qualified experts in developing countries across Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean to help build tax capacity in the areas of audit and criminal tax investigations.

**Source: PIB**

### **Pandora Papers Leak**

#### **Why in News**

- The **International Consortium of International Journalists (ICIJ)** has come out with what is claimed to be a 2.94 terabyte data trove that exposes the offshore secrets of wealthy elites from more than 200 countries and territories.
- **Pandora Papers** are **11.9 million leaked files** from 14 global corporate services firms.
- There are at least **380 persons of Indian nationality** in the Pandora Papers including 60 prominent individuals and companies.

#### **Key Points**

- The investigation is based on a leak of confidential records of 14 offshore service providers that give professional services to wealthy individuals and corporations seeking to incorporate shell companies, trusts, foundations and other entities in low or no-tax jurisdictions.
- Further, the **Government of India** has directed that, investigations in cases of Pandora Papers leaks appearing in the media under the name 'PANDORA PAPERS' will be monitored through the Multi Agency Group, **headed by the Chairman, CBDT**.
- Earlier similar such leaks- **Panama Papers** and **Paradise Papers**.

#### **Government's Initiatives:**

##### **Legislative Action:**

- Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002
- The Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015
- The Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amendment Act, 2016
- The Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017
- The Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018

**Source: Indian Express**

### **Landsat 9**

#### **Why in News**



- **NASA** has launched an Earth observation satellite '**Landsat 9**' from Space Launch Complex-3E at Vandenberg Space Force Base on an Atlas V 401 launch vehicle.
- Landsat-9 is part of a joint mission by **NASA** and the **US Geological Survey**.

#### Key Points

- Landsat-9 is an advanced satellite, ninth in the series, which will monitor key natural and economic resources from orbit.
- Currently, NASA is operating the Landsat-7 and Landsat-8.

**Note:** NASA first launched Landsat in 1972 under the name of Earth Resources Technology Satellite (ERTS) which captured eight million images of the planet.

**Source:** India Today

#### Supreme Court introduces FASTER system

- In a big fillip to the fundamental rights of life, dignity and personal liberty, the Supreme Court of India has introduced "**Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records**" (**FASTER**) system.
- It is proposed that the **e-authenticated copies** of the record of proceedings/orders, digitally signed by the authorised officer may be transmitted through this system.

**Source:** The Hindu

### Important News: Environment

#### Heli-Borne Survey for Ground Water Management in Arid Regions

##### Why in News

- The **Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** and **Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh** jointly inaugurated the **Heli-Borne Survey for Ground Water Management in Arid Regions**.

##### Key Points

- The **Central Ground Water Board, Ministry of Jal Shakti** and **CSIR-NGRI (National Geophysical Research Institute), Hyderabad** have signed agreement for use of advanced Heli-Borne geophysical survey and other scientific studies in parts of the States of **Rajasthan, Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh** covering an area of 3.88 lac sq. km under the **Aquifer Mapping Programme**.
- The Heli-Borne Survey aims to conduct High resolution aquifer mapping using heliborne geophysical studies.

**Outcome:** The expected outcome includes selecting suitable sites for groundwater withdrawal and water conservation through artificial or managed aquifer recharge.

##### Phases:

- This survey will be carried out in **two phases**.
- Work for **Phase 1** has been sanctioned for 1.01 Lakh Sq.km in **Rajasthan, Haryana and Gujarat**.
- An area of 2.87 Lakh Sq.km will be covered under **Phase 2**.

**Source:** PIB

## International Conference to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Protocol on Environmental Protection (Madrid protocol) of the Antarctic Treaty

### Why in News

- **Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology Dr Jitendra Singh** addressed the **International Conference to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Protocol on Environmental Protection (Madrid protocol) of the Antarctic Treaty**.
- The Conference was hosted by Spain.

### Key Points

#### About Protocol on Environmental Protection (Madrid protocol):

- India signed the Antarctic Treaty on 19th August 1983 and soon thereafter received consultative status on 12th September 1983.
- The Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty was signed in Madrid on October 4, 1991.
- The Madrid Protocol was signed by India which came into force on 14th January, 1998.

**Note:** India has two active research stations; **Maitri** (commissioned in 1989) at Schirmacher Hills, and **Bharati** (commissioned in 2012) at Larsemann Hills in Antarctica.

- With **Himadri station** in Ny-Alesund, Svalbard, Arctic, India now belongs to the elite group of nations that have multiple research stations within the Polar Regions.

Source: PIB

## Important News: Economy

### GAIL to build India's largest green hydrogen plant

#### Why in News

- **State-owned GAIL (India) Ltd** will build **India's largest green hydrogen-making plant (10MW capacity)** as it looks to supplement its natural gas business with carbon-free fuel.

#### Key Points

- It will take 12-14 months to put the plant.
- The company has finalised 2-3 sites for the unit including one at Vijaipur in Madhya Pradesh.

#### Note:

- **State electricity producer NTPC** has announced a **5MW green hydrogen plant**.

Source: ET

### Krishi UDAN 2.0

#### Why in News

- **Union Minister of Civil Aviation, Jyotiraditya M. Scindia** launched **Krishi UDAN 2.0**.
- Krishi UDAN 2.0 lays out the vision of improving value realization through better integration and optimization of Agri-harvesting and air transportation and contributing to Agri-value chain sustainability and resilience under different and dynamic conditions.
- The scheme proposes to facilitate and incentivize movement of Agri-produce by air transportation.

#### **Key Points**

##### **About Krishi UDAN 2.0:**

- The enhanced version of the Krishi UDAN scheme was formulated with support from AAICLAS - a 100% subsidiary of the Airports Authority of India and Invest India, India's national Investment Promotion & Facilitation Agency, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- It offers full waiver of Landing, Parking, TNLC and RNFC charges for Indian freighters and P2C at selected Airports of Airport Authority of India primarily, focusing on NER, Hilly and Tribal region.
- It will be implemented at 53 airports across the country mainly focusing on Northeast and tribal regions.
- **Technological convergence:** Development of **E-KUSHAL (Krishi UDAN for Sustainable Holistic Agri-Logistics)**. Platform to be developed facilitates in information dissemination to all the stakeholders. Furthermore, integration of E-KUSHAL with the **National Agriculture Market (e-NAM)** is proposed.

**Note:** **Krishi UDAN** was launched in August 2020, on international and national routes to assist farmers in transporting agricultural products.

**Source:** PIB

**"SAMBHAV" e-National Level Awareness Programme, 2021**

#### **Why in News**

- The **Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME)**, Government of India has **launched "SAMBHAV" e-National Level Awareness Programme, 2021**.

#### **Key Points**

##### **About "SAMBHAV" Programme:**

- The objective of the programme is engagement of the youth in promoting entrepreneurship leading to the economic development of the country.
- It will be a one-month long initiative under the Ministry of MSME in which students from different colleges/ITIs from all parts of the country will be encouraged by 130 field offices of the Ministry to take up entrepreneurship.
- It will be conducted in more than 1,300 colleges across the country in which 1,50,000 students are expected to participate.

##### **Related Initiatives:**

- Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana
- Women Entrepreneurship Platform
- Venture Capital Scheme for Agri-Business Development

- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA)
- Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme
- Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana

**Source: PIB**

### **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**

**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**

## **Amazon's Astro Robot**

### **Why in News**

- Recently, Amazon launched a **home robot named 'Astro'**.
- However, civil society has highlighted the concerns of privacy issues of 24x7 surveillance.

### **Key Points**

#### **About Astro:**

- The robot has cartoony-eyes on a tablet-like touchscreen and comes equipped with a periscope camera and microphone.
- Astro is basically a combination of the Echo Show and sophisticated Ring security camera integrated into one single device.
- The home robot is designed to take up tasks such as home monitoring, setting up routines and reminders, and can play music and TV shows while rolling around the house.

#### **Issues Related to Privacy:**

- Civil society is worried that the amount of data Amazon gets to fetch with the Astro, giving the company easy access to the household.
- There are concerns of stealing or hacking of the device.
- Due to this, the perpetrator can get access to the digital map that the robot creates of someone's home.

**Source: Indian Express**

## **SBI, Indian Navy launch NAV-eCash Card**

### **Why in News**

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** and **Indian Navy** launched SBI's **NAV-eCash Card** onboard the country's largest naval aircraft carrier **INS Vikramaditya**.

### **Key Points**



- The Card will obviate the difficulties faced by personnel onboard in handling physical cash during deployment of the ship at high seas.
- The infrastructure at naval ships inhibits traditional payment solutions particularly when the ship is in high sea where there is no connectivity.
- NAV-eCash Card, with its dual-chip technology, will facilitate both online as well as offline transactions

**Source: ET**

### **NTPC REL signs first Green Term Loan agreement**

#### **Why in News**

- **NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd (REL)** a 100 percent subsidiary of NTPC Ltd, has signed its **first Green Term Loan agreement** of Rs. 500 crores at a very competitive rate with a period of 15 years with **Bank of India**.

#### **Key Points**

- The Loan will be used for its 470 MW Solar Projects in Rajasthan & 200 MW Solar Project in Gujarat.
- A green loan is a type of loan instrument that enables borrowers to finance projects that have an environmental impact.

**Source: ET**

## **Science**

### **Micro snail species 'Georissa mawsmiensis' discovered in Meghalaya's Mawsmi cave**

#### **Why in news**

- **A micro snail species named 'Georissa mawsmiensis'** has recently been discovered from Mawsmi, a limestone cave in **Meghalaya**, 170 years after the last such discovery was made.

#### **Key Points**

- Five species of cave-dwelling snails have been reported from the caves of Meghalaya.
- The discovery this time has been reported in the Journal of Conchology.
- The researchers involved in the discovery are Nipu Kumar Das and NA Aravind of the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), Bengaluru.

**Note:** It was in 1851 that *Georissa saritta*, a member of the same genus as the latest find, was collected and described from the Musmai (Mawsmi today) valley near Cherrapunjee by WH Benson.

**Source: DTE**

### **For the first time in the Major Ports in India, Radio over Internet Protocol system inaugurated at Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata**

### Why in News

- The **Radio over Internet Protocol (ROIP) System** at **Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata (SMP, Kolkata)**, was inaugurated.
- **ROIP system** is being introduced as a marine communication mode, for the **first time** in any Major Indian Port.

### Key Points

- It shall cover the entire Hugli River Estuary from Kolkata to Sandheads, having base stations at 4 Locations.
- With this facility, vessels at Sandheads can be directly communicated via Radio, from Kolkata, specially during storms and inclement weather.

**Source: PIB**

### China launches its first solar exploration satellite

#### Why in News

- China launched its first solar exploration satellite into space from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in northern Shanxi Province.
- The satellite was launched aboard a Long March-2D rocket and entered its planned orbit successfully.

#### Key Points

##### About China's first solar observation satellite:

- The **Xihe satellite is China's first solar observation satellite.**
- The 550-kg **Xihe satellite will monitor the Sun for three years.**
- It is equipped with an imaging spectrometer known as the **Chinese H-alpha Solar Explorer (CHASE).**
- It has been **developed by the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation.**

**Source: ET**

### Important News: Defense

#### Maiden India – UK Joint Tri-Service exercise 'Konkan Shakti -2021'

##### Why in News

- The **Maiden India – UK Joint Tri-Service exercise 'Konkan Shakti -2021'** began on October 21, 2021.
- It is scheduled in India from 21 October to 27 Oct 2021.

### Key Points

#### About 'Konkan Shakti -21':

- The **maritime component of the exercise**, to be conducted off the **west coast of India**, is scheduled to be held in two phases.
- The harbour phase is planned at Mumbai from 21 - 23 Oct 21, while at sea, the exercises will be conducted from 24 - 27 Oct 21.
- The land phase of the exercise is being conducted between Indian Army and UK Army at Chaubatia from 21 -27 October 2021 under the aegis of Golden Key Division of Surya Command.
- It aims to derive mutual benefits from each other's experiences and also showcase the continuing cooperation between the two countries.
- Maritime cooperation is a distinguishable symbol of the commitment of both nations in ensuring a positive climate at sea for enhancing strategic stability and promoting global economic prosperity.

Source: PIB

### ABHYAS' - the High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT)

#### Why in News

- **'ABHYAS' - the High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT)** was successfully flight-tested by **DRDO** from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Bay of Bengal in Odisha.

#### Key Points

- **'ABHYAS'** is designed & developed by DRDO's Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), Bengaluru.
- The vehicle can be used as an aerial target for evaluation of various missile systems.
- The performance of the target aircraft was monitored through telemetry and various tracking sensors including Radars and Electro Optical Tracking System (EOTS).
- This indigenous target aircraft, once developed, will meet the requirements of High-speed Expendable Aerial Targets (HEAT) for Indian Armed Forces.

Source: PIB

### 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**

### **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

**Union Minister of Home Affairs Amit Shah flags-off an All India Car Rally of NSG, 'Sudarshan Bharat Parikrama'**

**Why in News**

- **Union Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah** flagged-off an **All India Car Rally of National Security Guard (NSG) 'Sudarshan Bharat Parikrama'**, from the historic Red Fort in Delhi on the occasion of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' organized as part of celebrations of 75th anniversary of the country's Independence.
- He also flagged-in the All India **Cycle Rallies** of the **Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)**.

**Key Points**

- During its **7,500 kms long journey**, the NSG's car rally, which was flagged-off, will pass through important and historical places associated with the Freedom Movement and Freedom Fighters of the country and end on 30th October, 2021 at the Police Memorial in New Delhi.
- NSG's car rally will pass through **18 cities in 12 states** of the nation.

**Source:** ET



### 5<sup>th</sup> edition of Japan- India Maritime Bilateral Exercise 'JIMEX 2021'

#### Why in News

- The **5<sup>th</sup> edition of Japan- India Maritime Bilateral Exercise 'JIMEX 2021'**, between the **Indian Navy** and the **Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force**, commenced in the **Arabian Sea**.
- **The exercise is being conducted from 06 to 08 October 2021.**

#### Key Points

- JIMEX-2021 aims to develop common understanding of operational procedures and **enhance inter-operability through conduct of a multitude of advanced exercises**, across the entire spectrum of maritime operations.

#### Note:

- The JIMEX exercises commenced in January 2012 with special focus on maritime security cooperation.
- The **last edition of JIMEX was conducted in September 2020.**

Source: TOI

### Russia successfully test-fires Zirkon hypersonic cruise missile from nuclear submarine for first time

#### Why in News

- According to the **Russian Defence Ministry**, **Russia** successfully test fired a Zirkon hypersonic cruise missile from a **nuclear submarine 'Severodvinsk'** for the first time.

#### Key Points

- The **Severodvinsk nuclear submarine** performed two launches of the Zirkon cruise missile at mock targets in the Barents Sea.
- It first test-fired Zirkon from the surface and then launched another missile from a submerged position in the White Sea.
- The Zirkon missile would be capable of flying at nine times the speed of sound and have a range of 1,000 kilometres.

Source: newsonair

### Exercise 'Mitra Shakti 2021'

#### Why in News

- The **8th edition of India-Sri Lanka bilateral Joint Military Exercise 'Mitra Shakti 2021'** commenced at the **Combat Training School Ampara in Sri Lanka**.
- The two week long exercise is being conducted from 4 to 15 October 2021.

#### Key Points

- The Indian Army contingent of 120 personnel of Infantry Battalion Group and a similar strength from a Battalion of the Sri Lankan Army are participating in the bilateral exercise.
- The aim of the exercise is to promote close relations between Armies of both countries and enhance inter-operability and sharing best practices in counter insurgency and counter terrorism operations.

**Note:** The 7<sup>th</sup> Edition of Exercise Mitra Shakti was conducted at Foreign Training Node, Pune, Maharashtra in 2019.

**Source: The Hindu**

### Awards and Honours

#### **Martin Scorsese and Istevan Szabo to be honoured with 'Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award' at IFFI 2021**

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

- Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur has announced that **Istevan Szabo** and **Martin Scorsese** will be conferred the '**Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award**' at **52nd International Film Festival of India (IFFI)**.
- The 52nd edition of International Film Festival of India (IFFI) will be held from 20th to 28th November, 2021 in Goa.

##### **Key Points**

- **Istvan Szabo** is one of the most critically acclaimed Hungarian film directors of the past few decades known for masterpieces like Mephisto (1981) Father (1966).
- **Martin Scorsese** is one of the major figures of the New Hollywood era, widely regarded as one of the greatest and most influential directors in film history.

**Source: ET**

#### **India's official entry to the Oscars 2022: Tamil film 'Koozhangal'**

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

- **Tamil film Koozhangal (Pebbles)**, directed by filmmaker PS Vinodraj, has been selected as India's official entry for the **94th Academy Awards (Oscars 2022)**.

##### **Key Points**

- Koozhangal is a realistic family drama produced by Nayanthara and Vignesh Shivan.
- If selected, the film will compete for the Academy Award for 'Best International Feature Film'.
- The 94th Academy Awards are scheduled to take place on March 27, 2022, in Los Angeles.

**Source: HT**

#### **Kung Fu Nuns of Drukpa wins 1st UNESCO-ICM 2021 Martial Arts Education Prize**

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

- The **Kung Fu Nuns of Drukpa** from India has won the inaugural **UNESCO-ICM 2021 Martial Arts Education Prize** for their brave acts of service.

#### Key Points

- Through martial arts, the Drukpa nuns empower young girls to defend themselves, build confidence, and take on leadership roles in their communities.
- The **Kung Fu Nuns** are an order of Buddhist nuns who belong to the Drukpa Kagyu lineage.

#### About the Award:

- It has been launched by **UNESCO-ICM (International Centre of Martial Arts for Youth Development and Engagement)**, to collect and promote good practices of martial arts education.

Source: [unescoicm.org](http://unescoicm.org)

### 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](http://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**

**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**

### **DRDO Dare to Dream 2.0 & Young Scientists awards**

#### **Why in News**

- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** felicitated the winners of '**Dare to Dream 2.0**' Contest of Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO).
- He launched '**Dare to Dream 3.0**' to promote innovators & startups and provide a platform for the young ignited minds in the country.
- He gave away **DRDO Young Scientists awards** for the year 2019.

#### **Key Points**

- **Dare to Dream** is DRDO's pan-India contest to promote Indian academicians, individuals and startups to develop emerging defence and aerospace technologies/systems.
- Three products/systems indigenously developed by DRDO were also handed over to the Armed Forces. These are:
  - **ARINC818 Video Processing and Switching Module**
  - **Sonar Performance Modelling System**
  - **Bund Blasting Device Mk-II**

**Source: PIB**

### **Benjamin List, David MacMillan win Chemistry Nobel Prize 2021 for mirror-image molecules**

- **German-born Benjamin List** and **Scotland-born David MacMillan** have been awarded jointly the 2021 Nobel Prize in Chemistry "**for the development of asymmetric organocatalysis.**"
- Their **chemical toolkit** has been used for discovering new drugs and making molecules that can capture light in solar cells.

**Source: newsonair**

### **Yemeni humanitarian organization wins 2021 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award**

#### **Why in News**

- The organisation named **Jeel Albena Association for Humanitarian Development**, founded in 2017 by Ameen Jubran, won the **2021 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award** for its unwavering support for displaced Yemenis.

#### **Key Points**

##### **About UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award:**

- The UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award honours individuals, groups or organizations to protect refugees, other displaced and stateless people.
- There have been over 60 global winners from different countries since the award was first established in 1954.

##### **About United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR):**



- UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, leads international action to protect people forced to flee their homes because of conflict and persecution

**Source:** [unhcr.org](http://unhcr.org)

## **2021 Nobel Prize for physics awarded to scientists from Japan, Germany, Italy**

### **Why in News**

- 2021 Nobel Prize for Physics is awarded with one half jointly to **Syukuro Manabe** and **Klaus Hasselmann** “For the physical modelling of Earth’s climate, quantifying variability and reliably predicting global warming”.
- And the other half to **Giorgio Parisi** “For the discovery of the interplay of disorder and fluctuations in physical systems from atomic to planetary scales”
- This is the first time **climate scientists** have been awarded the Physics Nobel.

### **Key Points**

- **Syukuro Manabe** (Princeton University, USA) demonstrated how increased levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere lead to increased temperatures at the surface of the Earth.
- **Klaus Hasselmann** (Max Planck Institute for Meteorology, Germany) created a model that links together weather and climate, thus answering the question of why climate models can be reliable despite weather being changeable and chaotic.
- **Giorgio Parisi** (Sapienza University, Italy) discovered hidden patterns in disordered complex materials.

**Source:** [newsonair](http://newsonair)

## **2021 Right Livelihood Award**

### **Why in News**

- **Delhi-based** environmental organisation ‘**Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment (LIFE)**’ has received the **2021 Right Livelihood Award** for its “grassroots approach of empowering vulnerable communities to protect their livelihoods and claim their right to a clean environment.”
- The award is known as Sweden’s alternative Nobel Prize.

### **Key Points**

- **Other awardees** include Cameroonian women rights activist **Marthe Wandou**, Russian environmental activist **Vladimir Sliviyak**, and Canadian Indigenous rights defender **Freda Huson**.
- **Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment (LIFE)** was founded by lawyers Ritwick Dutta and Rahul Choudhary in 2005.

### **About Right Livelihood Award:**

- It was established in 1980 by German-Swedish philanthropist Jakob von Uexkull, and is presented annually in early December

**Source:** HT

## **David Julius, Ardem Patapoutian win 2021 Nobel Prize in Medicine**

### **Why in News**

- **American scientists David Julius and Ardem Patapoutian** jointly won the **2021 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine** for their discoveries of **receptors for temperature and touch.**

**Key Points**

- Their findings “have allowed us to understand how heat, cold and mechanical force can initiate the nerve impulses that allow us to perceive and adapt to the world around us.”
- “This knowledge is being used to develop treatments for a wide range of disease conditions, including chronic pain.”

**About Nobel Prize:**

- Nobel Prizes were created and funded in the will of **Swedish** dynamite inventor and businessman **Alfred Nobel.**
- Nobel Prizes are awarded in the fields of **Physics, Chemistry, Physiology or Medicine, Literature, and Peace.**
- In 1968, Sveriges Riksbank established the Prize in **Economic Sciences** in Memory of Sir Alfred Nobel, founder of the Nobel Prize.

**Source: Indian Express**

**VAYO NAMAN Programme and Vayoshreshtha Samman-2021**

**Why in News**

- The **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** organised VAYO NAMAN Programme on the occasion of **International Day of Older Persons** at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- In this programme, the **Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu** presented **Vayoshreshtha Samman-2021 to senior citizens.**

**Key Points**

**International Day of Older Persons:**

- The International Day of Older Persons is observed on **October 1 each year.**

**Background:**

- On 14 December 1990, the **United Nations General Assembly** designated October 1 as the International Day of Older Persons.
- The **2021 theme “Digital Equity for All Ages”** affirms the need for access and meaningful participation in the digital world by older persons.

**Source: PIB**

**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**

#### **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**

#### **India ranks 90<sup>th</sup> in Henley Passport Index 2021**

- **Henley Passport Index 2021** has revealed the list of the world's most powerful passports and **India has been ranked 90th on it**.
- **India's passport got a visa-free score of 58**, which means Indian passport holders can visit 58 countries without a prior visa.
- India shares the rank with Tajikistan and Burkina Faso.

**1st rank-** Japan, Singapore (visa-free score 192)

**2nd rank-** Germany, South Korea (190)

**3rd rank-** Finland, Italy, Luxembourg, Spain (189)

- **Iraq and Afghanistan** are the countries with the worst passports with visa-free score 28 and 26 respectively.

**Note:** India was ranked 85th in the January 2021's index', 84th in 2020 and 82nd in 2019.

**Source: Indian Express**

### **IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2021**

- **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) Chairman Mukesh Ambani** continues to be **India's richest man** for the 10th straight year with a net worth of Rs 7,18,000 crore, according to the IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2021.
- **RIL** became the first company to cross \$200 billion market capitalisation.
- **RIL** has become the 57th most valuable firm in the world according to the **Hurun Global 500 Most Valuable Companies 2021**.

#### **Top 3 Hurun India Rich List 2021:**

1. Mukesh Ambani (Reliance Industries): ₹7,18,000 crore net worth
  2. Gautam Adani (Adani Group): ₹5,05,900 crore net worth
  3. Shiv Nadar (HCL): ₹2,36,600 crore net worth
- The Hurun Rich List indicated that India has a total of 237 billionaires, compared to 58 last year.
  - The report also suggested that the chemicals and software sectors added the largest number of new billionaires on the list while pharma remains at the top spot with 130 entrants on the rich list.

**Source: India Today**

### **Books and Authors**

#### **Indra Nooyi's memoir "My Life in Full: Work, Family and Our Future"**

- **Indra Nooyi, the former Chairperson and CEO of PepsiCo**, has penned her memoir titled 'My Life in Full: Work, Family, and our Future'.
- In her memoir, Indra Nooyi describes events that shaped her life from childhood to her becoming PepsiCo CEO, a position from which she retired in 2018.
- Indra Nooyi was honoured with Padam Bhushan in 2007.

**Source: HT**

### **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

## 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**

**NITI Aayog launches 'The State Nutrition Profiles' Report**

### Why in News

- **NITI Aayog**, in a joint effort with International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Indian Institute of Population Sciences (IIPS), UNICEF and Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) launched **'The State Nutrition Profiles' report** for **19 States and Union Territories**.

#### Key Points

##### Findings of the Report:

- **The 'State Nutrition Profiles' (SNPs)** give insights on nutrition outcomes, immediate and underlying determinants and interventions based on **National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-rounds 3, 4 and 5**.
- The reports highlight the best and worst performing districts, highest burden districts and top coverage districts of the country.
- The SNPs are based on the headcount-based analyses and use of data from NFHS-5 to provide evidence that helps identify priority districts and number of districts in the state with public health concern as per WHO guidelines.

##### About National Family Health Survey (NFHS):

- NFHS is a large-scale, multi-round survey conducted in a representative sample of households throughout India.
- First NFHS (1992-93)
- Second NFHS (1998-99)
- Third NFHS (2005-06)
- Fourth NFHS (2015-16)
- Fifth NFHS (2018-19)

Source: PIB

### 'The State of the World's Children 2021' report of UNICEF

#### Why in News

- **Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare** released **UNICEF's** global flagship publication – **"The State of the World's Children 2021; On My Mind: promoting, protecting and caring for children's mental health"**.
- The report details the significant impact of COVID-19 pandemic on children's mental health.

#### Key Points

##### Key Findings of the Report:

- The report has found that around **14 percent of 15 to 24-year-olds in India, or 1 in 7**, reported often feeling depressed.
- An estimated 13 percent of adolescents aged 10–19 is estimated to live with a diagnosed mental disorder.
- Even before the pandemic, psychosocial distress and poor mental health afflicted far too many children.
- Suicide is the fourth leading cause of death among 15- to 19-year-olds. Every year, almost 46,000 children between the ages of 10 and 19 end their own lives.

Source: PIB

## NITI Aayog launches Report on 'Best Practices in the Performance of District Hospitals'

### Why in News

- **NITI Aayog** released a performance assessment report of district hospitals in India, titled '**Best Practices in the Performance of District Hospitals**'.

### Key Points

- The report is an outcome of collaboration with the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** and **WHO India**.
- This report is the **first-ever performance assessment** of district hospitals undertaken across the country.

### Key Performance Indicators:

- The assessment framework covers 10 Key Performance Indicators across the domains of Structure and Output.
- A total of 707 district hospitals across all States and Union Territories participated in the performance assessment.
- The Health Management Information System (HMIS) data for the year 2017–18 has been used as the baseline for this exercise.

**Categories:** The framework classifies hospitals in three categories: Small Hospitals (less than or equal to 200 beds), Mid-sized Hospitals (between 201–300 beds) and Large Hospitals (more than 300 beds).

- Overall, 75 district hospitals across 24 States and Union Territories emerged as top performers.

### Key Findings:

- A district hospital in India has on an **average 24 beds per 1 lakh population**, with **Bihar having the lowest average of 6 beds** and **Puducherry the highest of 222**.

**Note:** Indian Public Health Standards 2012 guidelines recommend district hospitals to maintain at least 22 beds per 1 lakh population.

- Only 27% of the total 707 districts assessed met the doctor-to-bed ratio of 29 doctors per 100 beds in a hospital.

**Source:** PIB

## New Appointments

### Barbados elects Dame Sandra Mason as first President

- **Barbados** has elected its first President, a key step in preparations to become a republic and remove Britain's Queen Elizabeth II as head of state of the Caribbean island.
- **Dame Sandra Mason**, the current governor-general, is set to be sworn in as president on November 30, 2021, the country's 55th anniversary of independence from Britain.
- **Barbados** was claimed by the British in 1625.
- It has sometimes been called "Little England" for its loyalty to British customs.

### Facts about Barbados:

- **Capital:** Bridgetown



- **Currency:** Barbados Dollar
- **Prime Minister:** Mia Mottley
- **Independence:** 30 November 1966 (From the United Kingdom)

**Source:** ndtv

### 67th National Film Awards

- The **Vice President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu** conferred **National Film Awards for the year 2019** in various categories at its **67th edition** along with the prestigious Dada Saheb Phalke Award.
- **Rajinikanth** has been awarded the **51<sup>st</sup> Dada Saheb Phalke Award**.

**Note:** The 67th National Film Awards were announced on March 22, 2021.

### Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev secures second term in landslide election victory

#### Why in News

- The **President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev** has been re-elected for a second five-year term by winning 80.1% of the vote.

#### Key Points

- **Shavkat Mirziyoyev** is an Uzbek politician who has been serving as the President of Uzbekistan and Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Uzbekistan since 2016.
- Previously he was the Prime Minister of Uzbekistan from 2003 to 2016.

#### Facts about Uzbekistan:

- **Capital:** Tashkent
- **Currency:** Uzbekistani Som

**Source:** The Hindu

### Indian-origin Canadian Anita Anand appointed as the new Defence Minister of Canada

#### Why in News

- **Indian-origin Canadian politician Anita Anand** was appointed as the new **Defence Minister of Canada** in the latest cabinet reshuffle by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

#### Key Points

- Anand (54 year old) will replace long-time Defence Minister Indian-origin Harjit Sajjan, whose handling of the military sexual misconduct crisis has been under criticism.

- She also led the procurement effort of the vaccine during the COVID-19 pandemic and was the Procurement Minister of the country.

**Source: The Hindu**

**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**

### **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**

### **E. R. Sheikh assumes charge as first Director General of the Ordnance Directorate**

#### **Why in News**

- **E.R. Sheikh** assumed charge as first **Director General of the Ordnance Directorate (Co-ordination and Services)**.
- It is the successor organization of **Ordnance Factory Board (OFB)**.

#### **Key Points**

- E.R. Sheik was General Manager of the Ordnance Factory, Itarsi earlier.
- He is also the recipient of the **Ayudh Ratna Award, 2020**.

**About Ordnance Factory Board (OFB):**

- Ordnance Factory Board, consisting of the Indian Ordnance Factories, was an organisation, under the control of the department of defence production, Ministry of Defence, Government of India.
- Now this has been changed to **7 Defence Public Sector Units (DPSUs)** that are fully controlled and owned by the Ministry of Defence, Government of India

**Source: PIB**

**Japan's Parliament elects Fumio Kishida as new prime minister**

**Why in News**

- Japan's parliament elected former foreign minister Fumio Kishida as the new prime minister.

**Key Points**

- Fumio Kishida replaces Yoshihide Suga, who resigned with his Cabinet earlier.
- He has also presided over the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) since 29 September 2021.

**Source: The Hindu**

**CC Murmu becomes external auditor of IAEA**

**Why in News**

- **India's Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) GC Murmu** has been selected as the next external auditor of the **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** for a six-year term.

**Key Points**

- GC Murmu assumed office as the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India on August 8, 2020.
- He also served as the **first Lt Governor** of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

**About International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA):**

- It is an international organization that seeks to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy.
- It was established as an autonomous organisation on 29 July 1957.
- Its headquarters is in Vienna, Austria.

**Source: India 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**

### **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**

### **Actors Arvind Trivedi, Ghanashyam Nayak passes away**

- Veteran actor **Arvind Trivedi**, who played the role of Ravan in Ramanand Sagar's 1987 iconic TV series Ramayan, passed away at the age of 82.
- **Ghanashyam Nayak** was famously known for playing the role of Natwarlal Prabhaskar Undhaiwala AKA Nattu Kaka in Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah.

**Source: Indian Express**

## **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**

**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**

## **October 8, Indian Air Force Day**

### **Why in News**

- Indian Air Force Day is celebrated on October 8, every year in the country.

### **Key Points**

#### **History:**

- Indian Air Force (IAF) was established in the country on October 8, 1932, by the British Empire.
- The first operational squadron came into being in April 1933.
- The Air Force in India was officially raised in 1932 as the supporting force of the Royal Air Force of the United Kingdom.

#### **Note:**

- IAF is ranked the fourth largest operational air force in the world. Only the US, China and Russia are ahead of India.

#### **Facts about Indian Air Force:**

- Headquarters:** New Delhi
- Founded:** 8 October 1932
- Motto:** Nabhaḥ Spr̥ṣam Dīptam (Touch the Sky with Glory)
- Commander-in-Chief:** President Ram Nath Kovind
- Chief of Defence Staff (CDS):** General Bipin Rawat
- Chief of the Air Staff:** Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari

**Source: India Today**

## **World Space Week 2021**

### **Why in News**

- World Space Week** is held annually from **4 to 10 October** to celebrate the scientific and technological advancements.

### **Key Points**

- The **theme** for World Space week 2021 is '**Women in Space**'.

#### **History:**

- The **United Nations General Assembly** declared in 1999 that World Space Week will be held each year from October 4-10.

#### **These dates commemorate two events:**

- October 4, 1957:** Launch of the first human-made Earth satellite, Sputnik 1
- October 10, 1967:** The signing of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies.

**Source: [worldspaceweek.org](http://worldspaceweek.org)**

## **October 02, International Day of Non-Violence**

### **Why in News**

- International Day of Non-Violence is observed on October 2nd, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi.

### **Key Points**

- International Day of Non-Violence was established on 15 June 2007 according to the United Nations General Assembly resolution.
- The year 2021 marks the 152nd birth anniversary of Gandhi, who was born on October 2, 1869, in Porbandar, Gujarat.

**In India:**

- The country observes his birth anniversary as Gandhi Jayanti, which is one of three national holidays, Republic Day (January 26) and Independence Day (August 15) being the other two.

**Source:** un.org

## 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

### 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

**FC Goa clinch maiden Durand Cup football trophy**

- **FC Goa (Football Club Goa)** claimed their maiden Durand Cup football title after a 1-0 win over Mohammedan Sporting Club in the final in Kolkata.
- The Durand Cup crown also marks FC Goa coach Juan Ferrando Fenoll's first-ever trophy on Indian soil.
- FC Goa got 40 lakh rupees for winning the title, while Mohammedan Sporting received 20 lakh rupees.

**Source:** newsonair

**Nagaland to host 56th National Cross Country Championship in January 2022**

**Why in News**

- **Nagaland Athletics Association** will host the 56th National Cross Country Championship on 15th of January 2022.

**Key Points**

- It will be hosted under the sponsorship of the Athletics Federation of India.

**Note:** Chandigarh Athletics Association hosted the 55<sup>th</sup> National Cross Country Championship in February 2021.

**Source:** newsonair

**Sania Mirza-Shuai Zhang wins Ostrava Open women's doubles title 2021**

- **India's Tennis veteran, Sania Mirza** won the Women's Doubles Title at the Ostrava Open 2021 with her Chinese partner Shuai Zhang in Ostrava, Czech Republic.
- This is the first title of this season for Sania Mirza and the 43rd title of her career.
- Ostrava Open is a tournament organized for women tennis players.

**Source: newsonair**



**Attempt This Monthly Current Affairs Quiz  
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**Click Here**

1. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the United Nations (UN) Day?

- i. The UN Day is observed on October 24 each year and marks the official establishment of the United Nations in 1945.
- ii. The name 'United Nations' was coined by the United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt.
- iii. Presently, the UN has 193 members.

- A. ii only
- B. i and ii only
- C. ii and iii only
- D. i, ii and iii

2. Consider the following statements regarding the Exercise 'Konkan Shakti -2021'.

- i. Konkan Shakti 2021 was the maiden India – UK Joint Tri-Service exercise.
- ii. The exercise was held off the east coast of India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?



- A. i only
- B. ii only
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

3. Which organisation has launched a Digi-Book 'Innovations for You'?

- A. FICCI
- B. NITI Aayog
- C. ISRO
- D. CSIR

4. Where is the headquarters of International Solar Alliance (ISA) located?

- A. Denmark
- B. France
- C. India
- D. Japan

5. Who was awarded the European Union's top human rights prize 'Sakharov Prize 2021' for Freedom of Thought?

- A. Dmitry Muratov
- B. Maria Ressa
- C. Alexei Navalny
- D. Tony Robbins

6. Which country has launched its first homegrown space rocket 'Nuri'?

- A. South Korea
- B. Japan
- C. Israel
- D. Iran

7. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the ABHYAS?

- i. ABHYAS is a High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT).

- ii. It was flight-tested from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha.
- iii. It has been developed by DRDO's Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), Bengaluru.

- A. ii only
- B. i and ii only
- C. ii and iii only
- D. i, ii and iii

8. Consider the following statements:

- i. Global terror financing watchdog Financial Action Task Force (FATF) retained Pakistan on its 'Black List' of countries.
- ii. Three new countries -- Turkey, Jordan, and Mali -- have been added to the Grey List.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. i only
- B. ii only
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

9. Who will be conferred the Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award at 52nd International Film Festival of India (IFFI)?

- A. Michael Bay, Ron Howard
- B. Istevan Szabo, Martin Scorsese
- C. Peter Jackson, James Cameron
- D. David Yates, Tim Burton

10. Who has announced plans to launch a new social network 'TRUTH Social'?

- A. Mark Zuckerberg
- B. Barack Obama
- C. Donald Trump

D. Elon Musk

11. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the 67th National Film Awards?

- i. Kangana Ranaut won the Best Actress award.
  - ii. Akshay Kumar won the Best Actor award.
  - iii. Manipur won the award for 'Most Film Friendly State'.
- A. i only  
B. i and ii only  
C. ii and iii only  
D. i, ii and iii

12. Which Union Ministry has launched the new market segment, Green Day Ahead Market (GDAM)?

- A. Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare  
B. Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises  
C. Ministry of Power  
D. Ministry of Commerce and Industry

13. Which of the following states has won the award for the 'city with the most Sustainable Transport System'?

- A. Uttar Pradesh  
B. Gujarat  
C. Telangana  
D. Kerala

14. The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to rename the Faizabad Railway Junction as.....

- A. Ayodhya Cantt Station  
B. Shri Ram Station  
C. Ram-Laxman Station

D. Dashrath Cantt Station

15. Shavkat Mirziyoyev has been re-elected for a second term as a President of which country?

- A. Kazakhstan
- B. Uzbekistan
- C. Tajikistan
- D. Kyrgyzstan

16. Which film has been selected as India's official entry for the 94th Academy Awards (Oscars 2022)?

- A. Sardar Udham
- B. Shershaah
- C. Koozhangal
- D. Roohi

17. CUNSLT app, launched by the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari, is a.....

- A. Traffic Rules app
- B. Road Safety app
- C. Knowledge app
- D. Communication app

18. India's 1st State government -owned Wildlife DNA testing lab was inaugurated in which city?

- A. Lucknow
- B. Nagpur
- C. Surat
- D. Indore

19. Indian-origin Anita Anand has been appointed as the new Defence Minister of which country?

- A. Canada
- B. US
- C. UK
- D. France

20. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the 16th East Asia Summit (EAS)?

- i. It was held on 27 October 2021
  - ii. It was hosted by Thailand.
  - iii. The EAS leaders adopted three Statements on Mental Health, Economic recovery through Tourism and Sustainable Recovery.
- A. ii only
  - B. i and iii only
  - C. ii and iii only
  - D. i, ii and iii

21. Which Union Ministry has launched the "SAMBHAV" e-National Level Awareness Programme, 2021?

- A. Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
- B. Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises
- C. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- D. Ministry of Education

22. Who is the chairman of the committee set up by the Supreme Court to examine the Pegasus surveillance case?

- A. Justice R M Lodha
- B. Justice RV Raveendran
- C. Justice U U Lalit
- D. Justice L N Rao

23. Which organisation has launched the Garuda app?

- A. Election Commission of India
- B. Defence Research and Development Organisation
- C. India Meteorological Department
- D. Central Bureau of Investigation

24. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2021?

- i. India ranked 101 out of 116 countries in the GHI 2021.
- ii. The GHI score is calculated on four indicators.
- iii. The report is prepared jointly by Irish aid agency Concern Worldwide and German organisation Welthungerhilfe.

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

- A. ii only
- B. i and ii only
- C. ii and iii only
- D. i, ii and iii

25. Consider the following statements regarding the "Yudh Abhyas 2021".

- i. It was the 17th Edition of the Joint Military Exercise between India and Nepal.
- ii. It was held in India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. i only
- B. ii only
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

26. India was re-elected to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) for the.....term (2022-24)?

- A. 2<sup>nd</sup>
- B. 6<sup>th</sup>



- C. 3<sup>rd</sup>
- D. 7<sup>th</sup>

27. When is World Food Day observed?

- A. October 16
- B. October 15
- C. October 26
- D. October 17

28. Which of the following teams has won the IPL (Indian Premier League) 2021 title?

- A. Kolkata Knight Riders
- B. Mumbai Indians
- C. Chennai Super Kings
- D. Rajasthan Royals

29. Consider the following statements regarding the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2021.

- i. It was released by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- ii. It compares acute multidimensional poverty for 109 countries in developing regions.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. i only
- B. ii only
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

30. Which state has launched the 'Mera Ghar Mere Naam' Scheme?

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Bihar

D. Punjab

31. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Earthshot Prize?

- i. It is given by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- ii. Each year 3 finalists will be selected for their contributions towards the 3 UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- iii. Vidyut Mohan (Co-founder of Takachar) has won the inaugural edition of the Earthshot Prize.

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

- A. iii only
- B. i and ii only
- C. ii and iii only
- D. i, ii and iii

32. Consider the following statements regarding the Lucy Mission:

- i. NASA launched it.
- ii. It is the first space mission to study Jupiter's Trojan Asteroids.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. i only
- B. ii only
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

33. Which organisation has launched the Geospatial Energy Map of India?

- A. POWERGRID
- B. NITI Aayog
- C. TATA Power
- D. NTPC

34. Recently, the Central government has renamed Mount Harriet in Andaman as.....

- A. Mount Manipur
- B. Mount Tripura
- C. Mount Mizoram
- D. Mount Sikkim

35. In October 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated which International Airport in Uttar Pradesh?

- A. Kanpur International Airport
- B. Gorakhpur International Airport
- C. Kushinagar International Airport
- D. Kaushambi International Airport

36. Which organisation has released its annual World Energy Outlook (WEO) Report?

- A. United Nations Environment Programme
- B. International Atomic Energy Agency
- C. International Energy Agency
- D. United Nations Development Programme

37. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Global Food Security Index 2021?

- i. India is ranked at 71st position in the Index.
  - ii. The Index measures the underlying drivers of food security in 113 countries.
  - iii. It is released by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- A. ii only
  - B. i and ii only
  - C. ii and iii only
  - D. i, ii and iii

38. Consider the following statements regarding the Production Gap Report 2021 .

- i. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has released the Report.
- ii. The Report measures the production of trees in the world.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. i only
- B. ii only
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

39. Bhaskarabda (Luni-Solar Calendar) will be used by which state government in its official calendar?

- A. Odisha
- B. Assam
- C. Karnataka
- D. Kerala

40. Who has been appointed as the Chairman of World Steel Association (WSA)?

- A. Lakshmi Mittal
- B. Sajjan Jindal
- C. Sanjay Singhal
- D. Gautam Adani

41. Which countries will establish an international forum for economic cooperation during a quadrilateral (Quad) meeting in October 2021?

- A. India, Israel, USA & UK
- B. India, Israel, Japan & UAE
- C. India, Israel, USA & Australia
- D. India, Israel, USA & UAE

42. Consider the following statements regarding the new Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh.

i. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) declared the combined areas of the Guru Ghasidas National Park and Tamor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary as a new Tiger Reserve.

ii. This will be the fourth Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. i only
- B. ii only
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

43. Which organisation has launched the 2021 State of the Education Report for India: 'No Teacher, No Class'?

- A. NITI Aayog
- B. World Bank
- C. AICTE
- D. UNESCO

44. Which organisation has won the bid for acquiring Air India?

- A. Reliance Industries
- B. Mahindra Group
- C. Tata Sons Group
- D. Aditya Birla Group

45. Which country's novelist Abdulrazak Gurnah has won the 2021 Nobel Prize in Literature?

- A. Tanzania
- B. Bangladesh
- C. Israel
- D. Kenya

46. Who won the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize?

- A. David Julius, Ardem Patapoutian
- B. Maria Ressa, Dmitry Muratov
- C. Benjamin List, David MacMillan
- D. Giorgio Parisi, Abdulrazak Gurnah

47. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the recently released Henley Passport Index 2021?

- i. Germany has been ranked first.
- ii. India has been ranked 90th.
- iii. There is a trend of continuous decline in India's position since 2019.

- A. ii only
- B. i and ii only
- C. ii and iii only
- D. i, ii and iii

48. Consider the following statements regarding the 'The State of the World's Children 2021' report.

- i. The World Health Organisation (WHO) released the report.
- ii. It has found that around 14 percent of 15 to 24-year-olds in India reported often feeling depressed.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. i only
- B. ii only
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

49. Which state's white onion has been awarded a GI tag?

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Gujarat
- C. Maharashtra



D. Madhya Pradesh

50. When is Indian Air Force Day observed?

- A. October 8
- B. October 2
- C. October 6
- D. October 9

51. Name the winners of the 2021 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

- A. David Julius, Ardem Patapoutian
- B. Syukuro Manabe, Klaus Hasselmann
- C. Benjamin List and David MacMillan
- D. Giorgio Parisi, David McDonald

52. Consider the following statements regarding the Exercise "Ajeya Warrior" 2021

- i. It is a joint Military Training Exercise between India and Australia.
- ii. It was held at Chaubatia, Uttarakhand.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. i only
- B. ii only
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

53. Which organisation has released the '2021 State of Climate Services' report?

- A. UNEP
- B. WMO
- C. WTO
- D. IPCC

54. Who won the 2021 Economic Nobel Prize?

- A. David Julius, Ardem Patapoutian, Benjamin List
- B. Maria Ressa, Dmitry Muratov
- C. David Card, Joshua D Angrist, Guido W. Imbens
- D. Giorgio Parisi, Abdulrazak Gurnah

55. Who became the first Indian woman to win a silver medal in the World Wrestling Championships?

- A. Anshu Malik
- B. Geeta Phogat
- C. Sakshi Malik
- D. Vinesh Phogat

56. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Indian Space Association (ISpA)?

- i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched ISpA in June 2021.
  - ii. ISpA is the Premier Industry Association of Space and Satellite companies.
  - iii. Its founding members include only government agencies.
- A. ii only
  - B. i and iii only
  - C. ii and iii only
  - D. i, ii and iii

57. Which state government has developed India's first smartphone-based eVoting solution?

- A. Telangana
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. Gujarat
- D. Karnataka

58. Abdul Qadeer Khan, who passed away recently, was an atomic scientist, of which country?

- A. Iran
- B. Pakistan
- C. Israel
- D. Afghanistan

59. Who won FIH Men's Hockey Player of the Year Award 2021?

- A. PR Sreejesh
- B. Graham Reid
- C. Vivek Sagar Prasad
- D. Harmanpreet Singh

60. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Exercise Malabar 2021?

- i. The First Phase of the exercise was conducted in the Philippines Sea.
- ii. The Second Phase of the exercise was conducted in the Bay of Bengal.
- iii. It is a bilateral Maritime Exercise between India and Sri Lanka.

- A. ii only
- B. i and ii only
- C. ii and iii only
- D. i, ii and iii

61. Which country will host naval exercise 'Milan' in February 2022?

- A. USA
- B. Sri Lanka
- C. India
- D. Australia

62. Central government recently launched 'Trishul' and 'Garuda'. They are related to what?

- A. Passenger Train
- B. Freight Train

- C. Defence Programme
- D. Nuclear Submarines

63. Who among the following Telugu filmmakers has been chosen for the Satyajit Ray Award 2021?

- A. B Gopal
- B. Vikram Kumar
- C. Nag Ashwin
- D. S S Rajamouli

64. Who has been conferred with the Aryabhata Award 2021 by Astronautical Society of India (ASI)?

- A. Samant Kumar Goel
- B. Arvind Kumar
- C. G Satheesh Reddy
- D. K Sivan

65. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the DigiSaksham programme?

- i. It is the joint initiative of the Ministry of Labour and Employment and Microsoft India.
- ii. It will enhance the employability of youth by imparting digital skills.
- iii. It is an extension of the Government's ongoing programs to support the youth from rural and semi-urban areas.

Select the answer using the codes given below:

- A. ii only
- B. i and ii only
- C. ii and iii only
- D. i, ii and iii

66. Which ministry has launched the SACRED Portal?

- A. Ministry of Finance
- B. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- C. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- D. Ministry of Women and Child Development

67. Which institution has launched the FASTER system?

- A. NITI Aayog
- B. RBI
- C. SEBI
- D. Supreme Court of India

68. The Book "My Life in Full: Work, Family and Our Future" is the memoir of who among the following?

- A. Kiran Desai
- B. Indra Nooyi
- C. Meghna Pant
- D. Arundhati Roy

69. Which Union Ministry has launched the People's Plan Campaign 2021- Sabki Yojana Sabka Vikas?

- A. Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- B. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- C. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- D. Ministry of Jal Shakti

70. Who has been elected as the new prime minister of Japan?

- A. Yasushi Kaneko
- B. Fumio Kishida
- C. Yoshihisa Furukawa
- D. Nobuo Kishi

71. Chacha Chaudhary has been declared as the mascot of which Scheme/Programme?

- A. PM-KISAN
- B. Namami Gange Programme
- C. Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission
- D. AMRUT 2 .0

72.Consider the following statements regarding the Exercise 'Mitra Shakti 2021'.

- i. It was the 8th edition of India-Sri Lanka bilateral Joint Military Exercise.
- ii. It was conducted in India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. i only
- B. ii only
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

73.Consider the following statements regarding the 2021 Nobel Prize in Medicine.

- i. American scientists David Julius and Ardem Patapoutian jointly won the 2021 Nobel Prize in medicine.
- ii. They won the Prize for development of COVID-19 Vaccines.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. i only
- B. ii only
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

74.Pandora Papers investigation, recently in the news, is related to.....

- A. COVID-19 origin data leak
- B. Funds deposited in tax havens
- C. Customer's bank account data leak
- D. Aadhar data leak



75. Which of the following states will host the 56th National Cross Country Championship in January 2022?

- A. Kerala
- B. Tripura
- C. Gujarat
- D. Nagaland

76. Recently, which organisation has launched a home robot named 'Astro'?

- A. Facebook
- B. Microsoft
- C. Amazon
- D. Google

77. The Indian Navy partnered with which bank to launch NAV-eCash Card?

- A. Bank of Baroda
- B. State Bank of India
- C. Bank of India
- D. Punjab National Bank

78. Consider the following statements regarding the World Space Week.

- i. It is held annually from 4 to 10 October.
- ii. The theme for World Space week 2021 is 'Women in Space'.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. i only
- B. ii only
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

79. Consider the following statements regarding the 2021 Nobel Prize in Physics.

- i. It has been awarded to scientists from Japan, Germany, France.

ii. This is the first time climate scientists have been awarded it.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. i only
- B. ii only
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

80. Where was the 5th edition of Japan- India Maritime Bilateral Exercise 'JIMEX 2021' held?

- A. South China Sea
- B. Japan Sea
- C. Arabian Sea
- D. Bay of Bengal

81. Which country successfully test fired a Zircon hypersonic cruise missile from a nuclear submarine?

- A. France
- B. China
- C. America
- D. Russia

82. Where was the world's largest Khadi National Flag installed?

- A. Ladakh
- B. Jammu and Kashmir
- C. Gujarat
- D. Himachal Pradesh

83. Which organisation has received the 2021 Right Livelihood Award?

- A. Pratham
- B. LIFE
- C. Care India

D. Goonj

84. Consider the following statements regarding the Main Battle Tanks (MBTs) Arjun Mk-1A .

- i. Recently, the Ministry of Defence has placed an order with Heavy Vehicles Factory, Avadi, Chennai for supply of 75 Main Battle Tanks (MBTs) Arjun Mk-1A .
- ii. It has been developed by the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. i only
- B. ii only
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

85. Which institute has developed the Solar DC Cooking System?

- A. IIT Bombay
- B. CSIR-CMERI
- C. RDSO
- D. DRDO

86. Who has been appointed as WHO Ambassador for Global Health Financing?

- A. Mathias Cormann
- B. Gordon Brown
- C. David Cameron
- D. Theresa May

87. Which of the following was conferred with the Global Goalkeeper Award 2021?

- A. Satta Sheriff
- B. Jenifer Colpas
- C. Fairouz Faizah Beether

D. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka

88. When is World Tourism Day observed?

- A. September 27
- B. September 17
- C. September 19
- D. September 26

89. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Quad Leaders' Summit 2021?

- i. It was the first in-person meeting hosted by Australia.
  - ii. During the summit, the Quad Fellowship was launched to sponsor 400 students per year.
  - iii. Quad is a strategic dialogue between the United States, India, Japan and Australia.
- A. iii only
  - B. i and ii only
  - C. ii and iii only
  - D. i, ii and iii

90. Consider the following statements regarding the recently awarded GI tag.

- i. Assam's Judima rice wine is northeast's 1st traditional brew to get GI tag.
- ii. Naga Cucumber from Nagaland was awarded the GI tag.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. i only
- B. ii only
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

91. Which Hydropower station has been conferred with the 'Blue Planet Prize' 2021 by the International Hydropower Association (IHA)?

- A. Hirakud Hydroelectric Power Plant
- B. Koyna Hydroelectric Project
- C. Nathpa Jhakri Dam
- D. Teesta-V Power Station

92. Which Union Ministry has launched the Scheme for "Promotion of Medical Device Parks"?

- A. Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- B. Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
- C. Ministry of Ayush
- D. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

93. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission?

- i. The Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare launched it.
  - ii. It will provide a health ID for every citizen.
  - iii. Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission Sandbox will be created for child immunization.
- A. ii only
  - B. i and ii only
  - C. ii and iii only
  - D. i, ii and iii

94. Which state will host the FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup 2021?

- A. Odisha
- B. Kerala
- C. Punjab
- D. Karnataka

95. Which Union Ministry presented Hunarbaaz Awards to 75 divyangjan candidates from 15 states?

- A. Ministry of Education
- B. Ministry of Rural Development
- C. Ministry of Science & Technology
- D. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

96. Recently, eminent women's rights activist, poet and author passed away. Her name is

- A. Vandana Shiva
- B. Vrinda Grover
- C. Kamla Bhasin
- D. Indira Jaising

97. Consider the following statements regarding the Akash Prime Missile.

- i. It is developed by DRDO.
- ii. It is equipped with an indigenous active Radio Frequency (RF) seeker for improved accuracy.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. i only
- B. ii only
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

98. Name the Cyclonic Storm which has recently affected the state of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.

- A. Ambud
- B. Gulab
- C. Yaas
- D. Bulbul



99. Who has become the first Formula-One (F1) driver to win 100 Grand Prix?

- A. Max Verstappen
- B. Valtteri Bottas
- C. Daniel Ricciardo
- D. Lewis Hamilton

100. Which state's Sojat Mehndi has been awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag?

- A. Rajasthan
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. Uttarakhand
- D. Gujarat

101. Who is the author of the "Jungle Nama" audiobook?

- A. Salman Rushdie
- B. Amitav Ghosh
- C. Vikram Seth
- D. Ruskin Bond

102. Which ministry has launched NIDHI 2.0?

- A. Ministry of Tourism
- B. Ministry of Finance
- C. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- D. Ministry of Women and Child Development

103. Nimaben Acharya has become the first woman Speaker of which state Legislative Assembly?

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Gujarat
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Rajasthan

104. When was World Maritime Day 2021 observed?

- A. September 27
- B. September 13
- C. September 30
- D. September 26

105. Which option is not correct about the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize?

- A. It is given by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.
- B. It is given to Indian scientists below the age of 45.
- C. It comprises a cash award of ₹5 lakh.
- D. It is given in five fields.

###ANSWERS###

1. Ans. D.	21. Ans. B.	41. Ans. D.	61. Ans. C.	81. Ans. D.	101. Ans. B.
2. Ans. A.	22. Ans. B.	42. Ans. C.	62. Ans. B.	82. Ans. A.	102. Ans. A.
3. Ans. B.	23. Ans. A.	43. Ans. D.	63. Ans. A.	83. Ans. B.	103. Ans. B.
4. Ans. C.	24. Ans. D.	44. Ans. C.	64. Ans. C.	84. Ans. B.	104. Ans. C.
5. Ans. C.	25. Ans. D.	45. Ans. A.	65. Ans. D.	85. Ans. B.	105. Ans. D.
6. Ans. A.	26. Ans. B.	46. Ans. B.	66. Ans. B.	86. Ans. B.	
7. Ans. D.	27. Ans. A.	47. Ans. C.	67. Ans. D.	87. Ans. D.	
8. Ans. B.	28. Ans. C.	48. Ans. B.	68. Ans. B.	88. Ans. A.	
9. Ans. B.	29. Ans. B.	49. Ans. C.	69. Ans. A.	89. Ans. A.	
10. Ans. C.	30. Ans. D.	50. Ans. A.	70. Ans. B.	90. Ans. C.	
11. Ans. A.	31. Ans. A.	51. Ans. C.	71. Ans. B.	91. Ans. D.	
12. Ans. C.	32. Ans. C.	52. Ans. B.	72. Ans. A.	92. Ans. B.	
13. Ans. D.	33. Ans. B.	53. Ans. B.	73. Ans. A.	93. Ans. A.	
14. Ans. A.	34. Ans. A.	54. Ans. C.	74. Ans. B.	94. Ans. A.	
15. Ans. B.	35. Ans. C.	55. Ans. A.	75. Ans. D.	95. Ans. B.	
16. Ans. C.	36. Ans. C.	56. Ans. A.	76. Ans. C.	96. Ans. C.	
17. Ans. C.	37. Ans. B.	57. Ans. A.	77. Ans. B.	97. Ans. C.	
18. Ans. B.	38. Ans. A.	58. Ans. B.	78. Ans. C.	98. Ans. B.	
19. Ans. A.	39. Ans. B.	59. Ans. D.	79. Ans. B.	99. Ans. D.	
20. Ans. B.	40. Ans. B.	60. Ans. B.	80. Ans. C.	100. Ans. A.	

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