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CLAT IGNITE- October 2021

(Monthly Current Affairs Magazine)

Dear Aspirant,

- Since you are aware of the competition level in the various law exams, one thing is clear; the examinations are getting tougher and tougher. And in all the sections of various law entrance exams, the current affairs section is very unpredictable, in which aspirants face major hurdles.
- **Current Affairs** is a very important subject that needs to be covered strategically, and this plays a very important role in all the **Law Related UG Exams**. Thus, maintaining a monthly compilation of current affairs is highly recommended.
- It is extremely important to keep a tab on the major news and happenings that affect us socially and politically. One should be aware of the facts and be able to analyze the news, dissect it, and evaluate it from different dimensions while preparing for the CLAT exam.
- With this view, **BYJU'S Exam Prep** has come up with yet another amazing feature that will make your CLAT preparation easier and more streamlined. Presenting the "**CLAT IGNITE**" **Monthly Current Affairs Magazine**.

Features of the CLAT IGNITE, Current Affairs Magazine

- All the important news and views from newspapers that are required for the CLAT and Other Law-Entrance exams.
- It is divided into sections like National News, International Affairs, Science and Technology, Sports, Awards and Honours, etc.
- Each news is analyzed and dissected as per the CLAT exam.
- Magazines are available from July 2021.
- Passage-Based Current Affairs for practice with detailed solutions.
- Important One Liners of the month.
- Available in a convenient PDF format that you can download.

The thorough analysis of our "**CLAT IGNITE MAGAZINE**" and deep study-cum-practice of our "**CLAT IGNITE**" **Monthly Current Affairs Workbook**" will make you confident enough and exam-battle ready so that no question in the current affairs section of the law entrance exam will trouble you anymore.

All the Best!!!!

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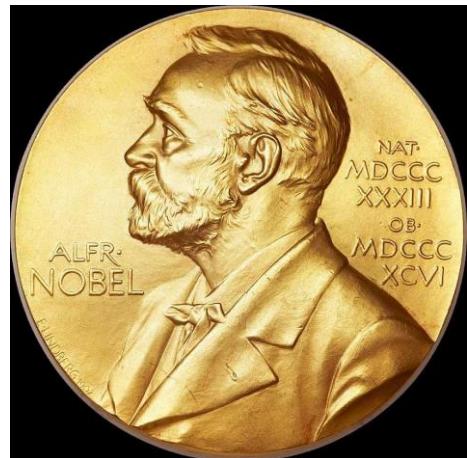
TOP STORY

Nobel Prizes 2021: The Complete List of Awardees & Their Contributions

Every year the Nobel Committee recognises and awards individuals or organisations for their contributions in specific fields. Fields considered for the awards include physiology or medicine, physics, chemistry, literature, peace work, and economic science.

The Nobel Prize is given to people who "have conferred the greatest benefit to humankind" by a foundation established by Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel in his will, read in Stockholm on 30 December 1896. Nobel Prizes were first awarded in 1901.

Sveriges Riksbank (Sweden's central bank) established The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in 1968 in Memory of Alfred Nobel. The prize contains a gold medal and prize money of 10 million krona which amounts to more than \$1.1 million.



Highlights of Nobel Prize winners 2021



1. Nobel Prize for Medicine - David Julius & Ardem Patapoutian

- American scientists David Julius and Ardem Patapoutian have won 2021 Nobel Prize for Medicine **for discoveries of receptors for temperature**, which can pave way for new painkillers for chronic diseases.
- Two scientists 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.

2. Nobel Physics Prize - Japanese scientist Syukuro Manabe, Klaus Hasselmann (Germany) and Giorgio Parisi (Italy)

- The Nobel Prize in Physics was awarded to three scientists whose work **"laid the foundation of our knowledge of the Earth's climate and how humanity influences it."**
- The winners were **Syukuro Manabe** of Princeton University, **Klaus Hasselmann** of the Max Planck Institute for Meteorology in Hamburg, Germany, and **Giorgio Parisi** of the Sapienza University of Rome.
- The work of all three is essential to understanding how the Earth's climate is changing and how human behavior is influencing those changes.
- Syukuro Manabe and Klaus Hasselmann**, shares one half of the 10 million kronor (\$1.1 million) prize, while **Giorgio Parisi** won the other half.
- This is the first-time climate scientists have been awarded Physics Nobel.



3. Nobel Prize in Chemistry - Benjamin List and David W.C. MacMillan



- The Nobel Prize in Chemistry was awarded to Benjamin List and David W.C. MacMillan for their **development of a new tool to build molecules**, work that has spurred advances in pharmaceutical research and lessened the impact of chemistry on the environment.
- Their work, while unseen by consumers, is an essential part in many leading industries and is crucial for research.
- Dr. List is a German chemist and director at the Max Planck Institute for Coal Research in Mülheim an der Ruhr, Germany.
- Dr. MacMillan is a Scottish chemist and a professor at Princeton University, where he also headed the department of chemistry from 2010 to 2015.

4. Nobel Prize in Literature - Abdulrazak Gurnah

- Tanzanian novelist, Abdulrazak Gurnah has been awarded 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.**
- He is the first African to win the award — considered the most prestigious in world literature — in almost two decades.



5. Nobel Peace Prize – Maria Ressa and Dmitri A. Muratov



- The journalists Maria Ressa and Dmitri A. Muratov were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize **for their efforts to safeguard freedom of expression**, which the Nobel Committee described as a precondition for democracy and lasting peace.
- The two were recognized for “their courageous fight for freedom of expression in the Philippines and Russia,” with the committee noting that they were part of a broader struggle to protect press freedoms.

6. Nobel Prize in Economics - David Card, Joshua D. Angrist and Guido W. Imbens

- David Card, Joshua D. Angrist and Guido W. Imbens received the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences.
- All three winners are based in the United States. Mr. Card, who was born in Canada, works at the University of California, Berkeley. Mr. Angrist, born in the United States, is at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Mr. Imbens, born in the Netherlands, is at Stanford University.



List of Indian Nobel Laureates

Indian Citizenship

Nobel Laureates	Field	Year
Rabindranath Tagore	Literature	1913
C. V Raman	Physics	1930
Mother Teresa	Peace	1979
Amartya Sen	Economic Sciences	1998
Kailash Satyarthi	Peace	2014

Born in India but different Citizenship

Nobel Laureates	Field	Year	Nationality
Har Gobind Khorana	Physiology/Medicine	1968	United States
Subrahmanyam Chandrasekhar	Physics	1983	United States
Venkatraman Ramakrishnan	Chemistry	2009	United Kingdom, United States
Abhijit Banerjee	Economic Sciences	2019	United States


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National News

1. MGNREGA Funds Fall Short in 21 states

The Centre's flagship rural employment scheme "Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) has run out of funds in 21 states halfway through the financial year. This means that payments for MGNREGA workers as well as material costs will be delayed, unless States dip into their own funds.



The MGNREGA is the largest social security scheme in the world guaranteeing 100 days of unskilled manual work to all rural households in India.

The MGNREGS budget for 2021-22 is only 1.8% more than the spending in 2019-20. In real terms, the allocations are less than that for 2015-16, the research group People's Action for Employment Guarantee estimates. As a result, 23 of the 36 states and Union territories show a negative net balance--which means that more money was spent than allocated. In all, states have a negative balance of Rs 10,342 crore. Andhra Pradesh has the biggest negative balance, followed by West Bengal and Tamil Nadu.

Workers have to be paid wages within 15 days of completing a job. If the workers are not paid their salaries within 15 days, the state governments have to pay them a delay compensation at the rate of 0.05% of the wage amount delayed for every day.

About MGNREGA

- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA/MNREGA) is Indian labor law and social security measure that aims to guarantee the 'right to work.'
- It is the largest and most ambitious social security and public works program in the world that covers all districts of India except ones with the urban population.
- The Indian Parliament passed the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act on 23rd August 2005.

Aim of MGNREGA

- This Scheme Creates livelihood opportunities for citizens living in rural areas and sets a minimum wage threshold for low-income earners.
- This Scheme is a legal right to work and guarantee-**100 days of employment** and **150 days of employment in drought-prone areas**.
- If the person doesn't get work within 15 days of application, the person is eligible for an unemployment allowance.

Source: PIB

2. Govt declares Chacha Chaudhary mascot for Namami Gange Programme

The iconic Indian superhero - Chacha Chaudhary has been declared as the mascot of the Namami Gange Programme. The decision was taken during the 37th Executive Committee meeting of the National Mission for Clean Ganga, NMCG.



- As a step towards this NMCG has tied-up with Diamond Toons to develop and distribute comics, e-comics and animated videos. The decision to make Chacha Chaudhary the mascot is part of NMCG's effort to bring behavioural changes amongst children towards Ganga and other rivers.

About Namami Gange Programme

- Namami Gange Programme is an Integrated Conservation Mission, approved as a 'Flagship Programme' by the Union Government in June 2014 to accomplish the twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution and conservation and rejuvenation of National River Ganga.
- It is being operated under the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- The program is being implemented by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), and its state counterpart organizations i.e State Program Management Groups (SPMGs).
- NMCG is the implementation wing of National Ganga Council (set in 2016; which replaced the National Ganga River Basin Authority - NGRBA).
- It has a Rs. 20,000-crore, centrally-funded, non-lapsable corpus and consists of nearly 288 projects.

The main pillars of the programme are:

- Sewage Treatment Infrastructure
- River-Front Development
- River-Surface Cleaning
- Biodiversity
- Afforestation
- Public Awareness
- Industrial Effluent Monitoring
- Ganga Gram

The Ganga River System:

- The headwaters of the Ganga called the '**Bhagirathi**' are fed by the Gangotri Glacier and joined by the Alaknanda at Devprayag in **Uttarakhand**.
- At Haridwar, Ganga emerges from the mountains to the plains.
- The Ganga is joined by many tributaries from the Himalayas, a few of them being major rivers such as the Yamuna, the Ghaghara, the Gandak and the Kosi.

Source: PIB

3. Labour minister launches DigiSaksham to enhance employability of youth

Union Minister for Labour and Employment, Bhupender Yadav has launched DigiSaksham, which is a digital skills programme to enhance the employability of rural and semi-urban areas youth by imparting digital skills.

Key points

- It is a joint initiative of Ministry of Labour and Microsoft India.
- Microsoft India has also roped in Aga Khan Rural Support Programme-India (AKRSP-I) and its knowledge partner TMI e2E Academy for rolling out this digital initiative.
- Through DigiSaksham initiative, free of cost training in digital skills including basic skills as well as advance computing will be provided to more than 3 lakh youths in the first year.
- 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.
- The DigiSaksham initiative will equip more than 300,000 youth in technical skills in the first year and Jobseekers can access Microsoft learning resources such as programming languages, data analytics, software development fundamentals and advanced digital productivity on the National Career Service (NCS) portal.



4. 6th edition of National Formulary of India (NFI)

Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya** launched the Sixth Edition of National Formulary of India (NFI). NFI has been published by Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) to promote rational use of medicines in the country. It will be very beneficial for Clinicians and Healthcare professionals while prescribing the medicines to the patients.

The 6th Edition of NFI 2021 has been drafted by adopting the principle '**do not miss critical and do not overload**' the information by revising the appendices, chapters and drug monographs. The NFI is aligned with National Health Programmes and National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM).

5. PM Modi launches Jal Jeevan Mission App and Rashtriya Jal Jeevan Kosh

On 2nd October, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has virtually launched Jal Jeevan Mission App and Rashtriya Jal Jeevan Kosh.

- **Jal Jeevan Mission App** aims to improve awareness among stakeholders and for greater transparency and accountability of schemes under the mission.
- **Rashtriya Jal Jeevan Kosh (RJJK):** where 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

- On 15 August 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced the Jal Jeevan Mission — to provide clean tap water to every household.
- In 2019, only 3.23 crore (17 percent) rural households had tap water supply.
- Currently, under the scheme, more than five crore households have been provided with tap water connections.

6. Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Mansukh Mandaviya releases State of the World's Children report of UNICEF

Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare has 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'.

Key points:

- It says only 41% of young people in India were willing to seek support for mental health, compared to an average of 83% among 21 countries surveyed
- The report also found that 14% of 15 to 24 yr-old in India, or 1 in 7, reported often feeling depressed or having little interest in things.
- The Union Health Minister highlighted that "COVID-19 was a test of mental stress for the entire society. He recounted his personal experience as the Pharmaceuticals Minister during the second surge of COVID19. "Production capacity of drugs had to be amplified and due official process to establish new plants had to be speeded up. Such work in the midst of a then unfolding human tragedy was very stressful." Yoga, deep breathing and cycling helped him to overcome the stress, he added.
- Dr. Yasmin Ali Haque, UNICEF India Representative presented some key findings of the report. "Children have not only been living an emotional tragedy, many are also at a higher risk of neglect and abuse," she said.

Source: PIB



7. Tax Inspectors Without Borders launches programme in Seychelles with India's partnership

Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB), the joint initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), launched its programme in Seychelles.

- India was chosen as the Partner Administration and has provided Tax Expert for this programme, said the Ministry of Finance in an official statement.

Tax Inspectors Without Borders Programme:

- This programme is expected to be of 12 months duration during which India, in collaboration with the TIWB Secretariat and support of the UNDP Country Office in Mauritius and Seychelles.
- The programme aims to aid Seychelles in strengthening its tax administration by transferring technical know-how and skills to its tax auditors through sharing of best audit practices.
- The focus of the programme will be on Transfer Pricing cases of tourism and financial services sectors.
- This programme is the sixth TIWB programme which India has supported by providing Tax Expert.

About OECD

- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development is an intergovernmental economic organisation with 38 member countries, founded in 1961 to stimulate economic progress and world trade.
- Headquarter: Paris, France
- Secretary-General: Mathias Cormann

About UNDP:

- United Nations Development Programme is a United Nations organization tasked with helping countries eliminate poverty and achieve sustainable economic growth and human development.
- Formed on: 22 November 1965
- Headquarter: New York City
- Administrator: Achim Steiner

8. Govt. sets up National Steering Committee for implementation of the NIPUN Bharat Mission

On 25th October, a National Steering Committee (NSC) for implementation of the NIPUN Bharat Mission has been constituted under the chairpersonship of the Union Education Minister, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and Vice Chairpersonship of Minister of State for Education, Smt. Annpurna Devi.

Key points:

- NIPUN stands for - National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy.
- The Department of School Education and Literacy had launched the NIPUN Bharat Mission on 5th July, 2021.
- The aim of the mission is to achieve the goal of universal proficiency in foundational literacy and numeracy for every child by grade 3, as envisaged by National Education Policy 2020.

Source: PIB

9. India's first 'test tube' Banni buffalo calf born in Gujarat

India saw the birth of its first IVF calf of a Buffalo breed namely **Banni**. The calf is born out of 6 Banni IVF pregnancies established at the doorsteps of a farmer Vinay L. Wala in Gujarat's Somnath district.

Banni buffalo is known for its resilience and higher milk producing capacity in an arid environment. The breed had achieved six pregnancies from 18 recipient buffaloes at his farm, which were implanted with embryos through IVF technology, and the process was carried out by JK Bovagenix of NGO JK Trust, a social initiative of Raymond Group, dairy farmer Vinay Vala.

Producing calves by deploying ART will pave the way for rapid multiplication of superior animals at a much faster pace. India has more than 109 million buffaloes that are 56 per cent of the world's buffalo population.

Source: India Today

10. ICMR releases MUDRA Toolbox in five Indian languages to diagnose dementia

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has released the Multilingual Dementia Research and Assessment (MUDRA) Toolbox in five Indian languages - **Hindi, Bengali, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam**.

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About MUDRA Toolbox

- MUDRA Toolbox is a comprehensive tool specifically to diagnose dementia in the Indian population.
- It includes various cognitive tests to assess different domains of cognition such as attention and executive function, memory, language, and visuospatial functions.
- It is an initiative undertaken by ICMR Neuro-Cognitive Tool Box (ICMR -NCTB) consortium to transform India's dementia and mild cognitive impairment research and clinical practices.
- It is a collective effort by seven leading centres in India NIMHANS (Bengaluru), AIIMS (New Delhi), SCTIMST (Thiruvananthapuram), NIMS (Hyderabad), Apollo Hospital (Kolkata), Manipal Hospital (Bengaluru) and Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College.

About Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)

- ICMR is the apex body in India for the formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research, is one of the oldest and largest medical research bodies in the world.
- Founded as Indian Research Fund Association (IRFA) in 1911, Renamed as ICMR in 1949.
- Director General: Balram Bhargava
- HQ: New Delhi

11. Ministry of Textiles approves continuation of Comprehensive Handicrafts Cluster Development Scheme

Ministry of Textiles has approved continuation of Comprehensive Handicrafts Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS) with a total outlay of **Rs 160 crore**. The scheme will continue up to March 2026.

Key points

- Infrastructural support, market access, design and technology up-gradation support etc will be provided to handicrafts artisans under this scheme.
- CHCDS aims to create world-class infrastructure that caters to the business needs of the local artisans & SMEs to boost production and export.
- In brief, the main objective of setting up these clusters is to assist the artisans & entrepreneurs to set up world-class units with modern infrastructure, latest technology, and adequate training and human resource development inputs, coupled with market linkages and production diversification.



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12. Govt deploys 'Made in India' drone first time to transport COVID-19 vaccine

Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has launched ICMR's Drone Response and Outreach in North East (i-Drone) to ensure last-mile delivery of vaccines. This is a delivery model to make sure that life-saving vaccines reach everyone.

- This is for the first time that Made in India drone has been used in South Asia to transport COVID vaccine over an aerial distance of 15 kms in 12 to 15 minutes from **Bishnupur district hospital to Loktak lake, Karang island in Manipur**.
- The i-Drone was designed to overcome vaccine delivery challenges in hard-to-reach terrains of India, by deploying unmanned aerial vehicles or drones to these areas.
- Currently, the drone-based delivery project has been granted permission for implementation in Manipur, Nagaland, and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- ICMR conducted an initial study in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, to test the capacity of drones to carry and transfer vaccines safely. The study was conducted in Manipur, Nagaland, and Andaman and Nicobar.

13. Union Minister inaugurates greenfield Sindhudurg airport in Maharashtra

Union Minister of Civil Aviation, Jyotiraditya M. Scindia has virtually inaugurated Greenfield Sindhudurg airport in Maharashtra under RCS-UDAN (Regional Connectivity Scheme – Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik) scheme.

- First flight from Sindhudurg airport takes off to Mumbai.
- With Sindhudurg Airport (Chipli Airport), 381 routes and 61 airports including 5 heliports and 2 Water Aerodromes have become operationalized under the UDAN scheme.

About UDAN Scheme

- Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) was launched as a regional connectivity scheme under the Ministry of Civil Aviation in 2016.
- It is an innovative scheme to develop the regional Aviation market.
- The objective of the scheme is to create affordable yet economically viable and profitable flights on regional routes so that flying becomes affordable to the common man even in small towns.
- The scheme envisages providing connectivity to un-served and underserved airports of the country through the revival of existing air-strips and airports. The scheme is operational for a period of 10 years.

14. PM Modi launches Indian Space Association

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 11, launched the Indian Space Association (ISpA) - the premier industry association of space and satellite companies.

About Indian Space Association (ISpA)

- ISpA is a private industry body to help boost space technology in India.
- ISpA's founding members include OneWeb, Bharti Airtel, MapmyIndia, Walchandnagar Industries, and Ananth Technology Limited among others.
- ISpA will participate and work with ISRO and others on the issue of policy around space technology and domain.
- It will focus on capacity building and space economic hubs and incubators in India.
- ISpA aspires to be the collective voice of the Indian Space industry.
- ISpA will undertake Policy Advocacy and engage with all stakeholders in the Indian Space domain, including the Government and its Agencies, to make India self-reliant, technologically advanced and a leading player in the space arena.

Other Related Organisations:

- IN-SPACE: Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) was approved in 2020 to provide a level playing field for private companies to use Indian space infrastructure.
- NSIL: In the 2019 Budget, the government had announced the setting up of a New Space India Limited (NSIL), a public sector company that would serve as a marketing arm of ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation).

Four Pillars of Space Reforms:

1. Allowing the private sector freedom of innovation.
2. Government playing the enabler's role.
3. Preparing youngsters for the future
4. Treating the space sector as a resource for the progress of the common man.

Source: PIB

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15. India to host 'Gen Next' leaders from 75 democratic countries

India will be hosting young leaders under the age of 35, in November, as a part of a new initiative called "Gen Next democratic network".

Key points

- The event is planned by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), which happens to be an autonomous body under the Ministry of External Affairs, which deals with policies relating to India's external cultural relations.
- Young leaders would be invited from 75 different democracies.
- These young leaders will be invited from ruling party, opposition party and other key parties.
- Around 5-7 leaders will be invited in different groups, to attend the event.
- The inaugural batch will include Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Chile, Japan, Indonesia, Zambia.
- The structure includes countries representing regions and continents like South East Asia and Africa.

16. PM launches National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity 'GatiShakti'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on October 13, had launched a Rs 100 lakh crore national master plan for multi-modal connectivity to develop infrastructure to reduce logistic costs and boost the economy.

GatiShakti; Key points

- Gati Shakti is a digital platform which will bring together 16 ministries including rail and road for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects.
- Gati Shakti will help cut logistic costs, increase cargo handling capacity at ports and reduce the turnaround time.
- Gati Shakti will have 200 types of databases, in which the physical facilities, district administration offices, rail, road and gas lines, health and police along with facilities like water bodies, reserve parks and forests will be mapped by GIS system.
- Through this various central ministries and state governments will be able to benefit from better logistics schemes and connectivity.
- GatiShakti will incorporate the infrastructure schemes of various ministries and state governments such as Sagarmala, Bharatmala, land ports, inland waterways, and UDAN.

It is based on six pillars:

- Comprehensiveness
- Prioritization
- Optimization
- Synchronization
- Analytical
- Dynamic

Source: India Today

17. Civil Aviation Minister releases Krishi UDAN 2.0

- Civil Aviation Minister **Jyotiraditya** has released **Krishi UDAN 2.0**, laying out the vision of improving value realization through better integration and optimization of Agri-harvesting and air transportation.
- It proposes to facilitate and incentivize the movement of Agri-produce by air transportation.
- It will open up new avenues of growth for the agriculture sector and help attain the goal of doubling farmers' income.
- **Krishi UDAN 2.0** will be implemented at 53 airports.

About Krishi UDAN 2.0

- Krishi UDAN was launched in August 2020, on international and national routes to assist farmers in transporting agricultural products so that it improves their value realisation.
- Krishi UDAN 2.0 will focus on transporting perishable food products from the hilly areas, northeastern states and tribal areas.
- It will be implemented at 53 airports across the country mainly focusing on northeast and tribal regions and is likely to benefit farmers, freight forwarders and airlines.
- Opted airports not only provide access to regional domestic markets but also connect them to international gateways of the country.



About E-KUSHAL:

- An online platform named E-KUSHAL (Krishi Udaan for Sustainable Holistic Agri-Logistics) would also be developed to facilitate information dissemination to all stakeholders regarding the transportation of agricultural produce.
- The ministry has also proposed convergence of E-KUSHAL with the National Agriculture Market (e-NAM).

Other Initiatives Related to Farmers:

- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)
- Green India Mission
- Soil Health Card (SHC)
- Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)
- Rainfed Area Development (RAD)
- Sub-mission on AgroForestry (SMAF)
- Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER).

18. Centre to set up two container-based mobile hospitals with 100 beds in Delhi and Chennai

The **Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya** has announced that up two container-based mobile hospitals with all healthcare facilities is planned to be set up under the PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission.

- **The hospital will be first of its kind in Asia.** The unique feature of the hospitals will be that they can be rushed to any place, by rail or air to address a health emergency.
- The two hospitals will be placed in **Delhi and Chennai**.
- They would have 100 beds each and each hospital unit would have 33 containers for emergency medical care.

19. Govt. launches operational guidelines of Swachh Bharat Mission - Urban 2.0 and AMRUT 2.0

Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched the operational guidelines of Swachh Bharat Mission - Urban 2.0 and AMRUT 2.0, in New Delhi on October 27. The SBM-U 2.0 and AMRUT 2.0 guidelines have been designed after multiple rounds of stakeholder consultations and feedback from them.

Country had become **Open Defecation-Free (ODF)** in 2019 on the basis of third-party verification. **AMRUT Mission** was earlier covering only 500 cities, and will now expand to all the cities.

About SBM-U 2.0:

- SBM-U 2.0, announced in Budget 2021-22, is the continuation of SBM-U first phase.
- The government is trying to tap safe containment, transportation, disposal of faecal sludge, and septage from toilets.
- SBM-U first phase was launched on 2nd October 2014 aiming at making urban India Open Defecation Free (ODF) and achieving 100% scientific management of municipal solid waste. It lasted till October 2019.
- It will be implemented over five years from 2021 to 2026 with an outlay of Rs.1.41 lakh crore

Progress made under SBM-U Phase -I:

- 4,324 urban local bodies have been declared Open Defecation Free, which has been made possible through the construction of more than 66 lakhs individual household toilets and over 6 lakhs community/public toilets, far exceeding the Mission's targets.
- Digital enablements such as Swachhata App, the digital grievance redressal platform introduced by MoHUA in 2016, has reinvented the way in which citizen grievance redressal is managed.
- Swachh Survekshan, the world's largest urban cleanliness survey covering over 4,000 Urban Local Bodies was initiated under SBM-Urban in 2016.

20. SC appoints Panel to Probe Pegasus Use in India

A three-member committee has been appointed by the Supreme Court to look into allegations of unauthorised surveillance using **Pegasus, a spyware developed by Israeli firm NSO Group**. If the spyware was indeed used, the court said, the committee shall determine how and by whom such interceptions were authorized and the details of the victims of spyware attack.

The committee members are **Dr Naveen Kumar Chaudhary, Dean of National Forensic Sciences University in Gandhinagar; Dr Prabaharan P, Professor at Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham in Kerala; and Dr Ashwin Anil Gumaste, Institute Chair Associate Professor at Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay**.



The committee will be supervised by **retired judge Justice R V Raveendran**. The former Supreme Court Justice is a highly-respected member of the law community, and was recently referred by Chief Justice of India NV Ramana as “one of the legends who have increased the prestige of the Supreme Court of India”.

About Justice Raveendran

- Justice Raveendran served as judge of the Supreme Court from September 9, 2005 to October 15, 2011. Before that, he was Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh High Court.
- During his tenure in the SC, Justice Raveendran delivered important judgments in matters relating to constitutional law, reservation, human rights, and education.
- Justice Raveendran's book, **Anomalies in Law & Justice: Writings Related to Law & Justice**, was released by Chief Justice of India N V Ramana in June this year.

Terms of Recommendation:

- The court has also asked the Raveendran committee to make recommendations on a legal and policy framework to protect citizens against surveillance and enhance cyber security of the country.
- The court has set seven terms of reference for the committee, which are essentially facts that need to be ascertained to decide the issue.

Right to Privacy:

- The court reiterated that right to privacy is as sacrosanct as human existence and is inalienable to human dignity and autonomy.
- The Right to Privacy was held as a part of fundamental rights by the Supreme Court in K S Puttaswamy case, 2017.
- Any surveillance or snooping done on an individual by the state or any outside agency is an infringement of that person's right to privacy.

Note

- The Pegasus row erupted on **18 July** after a global consortium of media outlets and investigative journalists reported that the phones of Indian ministers, politicians, activists, businessmen and journalists were among the 50,000 potentially targeted by Pegasus, Israeli company NSO Group's phone hacking software.
- According to this consortium, Pegasus can switch on a target's phone camera and microphone and access data on the device, effectively turning the phone into a pocket spy.

Source: The Indian Express

21. PM Modi inaugurates Kushinagar International Airport in Uttar Pradesh

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Kushinagar International Airport, taking the number of airports handling scheduled passenger flights in Uttar Pradesh to nine— up from four in 2017. A charter from Colombo was the first flight to land in Kushinagar with over 100 Buddhist monks and dignitaries.

The **Rs 260-crore** Kushinagar International Airport will facilitate pilgrimage to Lord Buddha's mahaparinirvana sthal of Lord Buddha, thereby boosting the economy of the region. Under regional connectivity scheme UDAN, SpiceJet and Truejet have been awarded flights to connect Kushinagar with Lucknow, Kanpur, Varanasi, Prayagraj, Gaya, Bareilly, Saharanpur and Hindon (near Delhi).

Airport Authority of India

- The Airport Authority of India is the body that manages both the International Airports in India as well as the Domestic Airports in India.
- Airports Authority of India (AAI) manages a total of 137 Airports, which includes 103 Domestic Airports, 34 International Airports, and 10 Customs Airports.
- AAI is responsible for creating, maintaining, upgrading, and managing civil aviation infrastructure in India and works under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.
- HQ – **New Delhi**
- Chairman – **Sanjeev Kumar**

Facts about International Airports in India:

- There are 34 operational International Airports in India.
- **Indira Gandhi International Airport** is the largest International airport constructed in 5495 acres. It is also the busiest airport in India followed by the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport.
- **Cochin International Airport**, Kerala is the first international airport in India developed under PPP- Public-Private Partnership Model.
- **Calicut International Airport**, Kerala is recently added to the list of International Airports in India.
- Juhu Aerodrome, Mumbai is the first and oldest Airport in India founded in 1928
- Airport of Trichy is the smallest airport in India.
- Kushok Bakula Rimpochee, Ladakh is the 23rd highest commercial airport in the world at 3256 meters.



22. India gets re-elected to U.N. Human Rights Council for 2022-24 term

India has been re-elected to **United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)** for sixth term on October 14, 2021, with overwhelming majority. This new three-year term of India will be effective from **January 2022 to December 2024**.

India has received 184 votes of 193 votes cast in the election. The elections were held for a total of 18 seats and countries needed a minimum of 97 votes to get elected to the 47 UN member council.

About UNHCR Formation:

- The Council was created by the United Nations General Assembly in 2006. It replaced the former United Nations Commission on Human Rights.
- The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) serves as the Secretariat of the Human Rights Council.
- OHCHR is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

Members:

- It is made up of 47 United Nations Member States which are elected by the UN General Assembly (UNGA).
- The UNGA takes into account the candidate States' contribution to the promotion and protection of human rights, as well as their voluntary pledges and commitments in this regard.

- The Council's Membership is based on equitable geographical distribution. Seats are distributed as follows:
 - African States: 13 seats
 - Asia-Pacific States: 13 seats
 - Latin American and Caribbean States: 8 seats
 - Western European and other States: 7 seats
 - Eastern European States: 6 seats
- Members of the Council serve for a period of three years and are not eligible for immediate re-election after serving two consecutive terms.
- India was elected to the Council for a period of three years beginning 1st January 2019.

Source: The Hindu

23. Centre renames Andaman's 'Mount Harriet' as 'Mount Manipur'

Union govt has renamed the Andaman and Nicobar Islands' 'Mount Harriet' as 'Mount Manipur'. This was done in honour of Manipur's Maharaja Kulchandra Dhwaj Singh and 22 other freedom fighters were imprisoned here.

- 'Mount Harriet National Park' renamed as 'Mount Manipur National Park'.
- Manipuri war hero Yuvraj Tikendrajit and General Thangal were publicly hanged at Fida in Imphal.
- 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)

24. Government launched 7th edition of Swachh Survekshan (SS); Theme- 'People First'

Government launched 7th edition of Swachh Survekshan (SS). The theme of Swachh Survekshan (SS) is '**People First**' as its driving philosophy.

- The launch of the 7th edition i.e. Swachh Survekshan 2022 was done by Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) in New Delhi.
- Swachh Survekshan is the world's largest urban cleanliness survey and is conducted by **Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U)**.
- A revamped version of the Swachhata App, the digital sanitation grievance redressal platform by MoHUA introduced in 2016 was also launched by the minister.

About Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2021:

- Assesses the state of hygiene, cleanliness and sanitation in rural India as a part of the Centre's initiative to award Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus status to villages.
- ODF-plus status aims to ensure management of solid as well as liquid waste and is an upgradation of ODF status in which construction of adequate toilets was required so that people did not have to defecate in the open.
- It is carried out by an expert agency.



Weightage to Different Elements:

- Direct Observation of sanitation at public places -30%
- Citizen's Feedback -35%
- Service Level Progress on sanitation related parameters -35%

About: Swachh Bharat Mission

- To accelerate the efforts to achieve universal sanitation coverage, the Prime Minister of India had launched the Swachh Bharat Mission on 2nd October 2014.
- Under the mission, all villages, Gram Panchayats, Districts, States and Union Territories in India declared themselves "Open-Defecation Free" (ODF) by 2nd October 2019, the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, by constructing over 100 million toilets in rural India.
- SBM is being implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (M/o HUA) and by the Ministry of Jal Shakti for urban and rural areas respectively.
- In the Union Budget 2021-22, the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) 2.0 was announced to be implemented over five years – 2021 till 2026 – with an outlay of Rs. 1.41 lakh crore.
- Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase-II was launched in 2020.
- It further led to Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) for addressing water security.

Source:PIB

25. PM Modi dedicates to nation seven defence PSUs

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 16 dedicated to the nation seven new defence public sector undertakings (DPSUs), created by incorporating the dissolved erstwhile Ordnance Factory Board (OFB). The OFB was dissolved on October 1, following a decision of the Union cabinet in June. It was the country's primary producer of weapons and military equipment.

Now, these factories will be distributed among the seven newly created companies. Also, the 70,000 employees of these OFBs will be sent to the seven new entities, with no change in the service condition of the employees.

The seven new defence PSUs includes:

- Munition India Ltd,
- Armoured Vehicles Nigam Ltd
- Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Ltd
- Troop Comforts Ltd
- Yantra India Ltd
- India Optel Ltd
- Gliders India Ltd

Source: The Indian Express



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AIR 90	Mahira Gupta

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International News

1. India, US to set-up joint working group in defence industrial security

India and the United States have agreed in principle to establish a Indo-US Industrial Security Joint Working Group. This group will meet periodically to align the policies and procedures expeditiously that will allow the defence industries to collaborate on cutting edge defence technologies. This was agreed during the **Industrial Security Agreement (ISA)** summit held between the two sides from September 27 to October 1 in New Delhi.

- **ISA Summit** – The ISA summit was organised to develop protocol for the exchange of classified information between the defence industries of both the nations.
- The Summit was led by Designated Security Authorities (DSAs) namely Shri Anurag Bajpai and Mr David Paul Bagnati from Indian and US sides respectively.

**Note:**

- The Industrial Security Annex (ISA) was signed during the India-U.S. 2+2 ministerial dialogue in December 2019 and is meant to facilitate the exchange of classified information between the defence industries of both the countries.
- The ISA is a part of the General Security Of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA), one of the foundational agreements, which India had signed with the U.S. many years ago.

Source: The Hindu

2. Facebook changes its name to Meta in major rebrand

On October 28, 2021 Facebook Inc co-founder and chief executive officer Mark Zuckerberg announced that Facebook has changed its corporate name to **Meta** as part of a major rebrand. The new name reflected its work investing in the metaverse, rather than its namesake social media service.

Zuckerberg said the name Facebook no longer encompasses everything the company does. "Today we are seen as a social media company". "But in our DNA we are a company that builds technology to connect people." The change does not apply to its individual platforms, such as **Facebook, Instagram and Whatsapp**, only the parent company that owns them. The move follows a series of negative stories about Facebook, based on documents leaked by an ex-employee.

**What is metaverse?**

- The metaverse is a term coined by Neal Stephenson in his 1992 dystopian novel "Snow Crash" in which people don virtual reality headsets to interact inside a game-like digital world.
- Mark Zuckerberg has described metaverse as a "**virtual environment**" you can go inside of, instead of just looking at on a screen.
- People can meet, work and play, using virtual reality headsets, augmented reality glasses, smartphone apps or other devices.

What is Facebook papers leak?

- Facebook papers were leaked by Frances Haugen, a former Facebook product manager
- Leaked internal documents of social media giant Facebook have shown that the company has failed to check abusive content globally including in countries where misinformation and hate speech was likely to cause the most harm.
- These papers revealed how Facebook ignored or downplayed the internal warnings regarding the negative and harmful consequences that its social network algorithms created or magnified in the world.
- It reveals that, Facebook was putting profits ahead of ridding its platform of hate, misinformation and political strife across the globe.

Facebook fails to check hate speech in India'

- In India, the company has failed to contain hate speech, misinformation and celebrations of violence, the documents revealed.

Note:

- Facebook headquarters - Menlo Park, California.
- Facebook was launched in 2004.
- Founder & CEO - Mark Zuckerberg

3. Fumio Kishida elected as the new Prime Minister of Japan

Japan's parliament elected **Fumio Kishida** as the new and the 100th Prime Minister of Japan. He replaces Yoshihide Suga, who resigned after only one year in office.

- The ruling **Liberal Democratic Party** used its majority to formally elect **Kishida**.
- The prime minister of Japan is the head of government of Japan, the chief executive of the National Cabinet and the **commander-in-chief of the Japanese Armed Forces**.
- He is appointed by the **emperor of Japan** after being designated by the **National Diet** (Parliament of Japan) and must enjoy the confidence of the House of Representatives to remain in office.

**About Japan**

- Japan Capital – Tokyo
- Currency of Japan – Yen



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18	Spriha Garg
31	Kanishk Srinivas
50	Aamir Hussain
77	Suvansh Mahajan
90	Mahira Gupta

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4. Piyush Goyal inaugurated India Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai



Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal inaugurated the Indian Pavilion at Dubai Expo 2020 on October 01. Coinciding with India's celebrations of Amrit Mahotsav, 75 years of Independence, Dubai Expo 2020 is a significant platform for India to showcase its vibrant culture and tremendous growth opportunities for the next six months. The theme of India pavilion at the Expo: **Openness, Opportunity and Growth.**

Key points

- **World Expo 2020** has been organized at Dubai in United Arab Emirates from **1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022**.
- The Main theme of Dubai Expo 2020: **Connecting Minds, Creating the Future**.
- **Expo 2020** is the first to be held in Middle East and North Africa & South Asia region.
- It will have **190 pavilions** representing different countries along with 200 restaurants

About Dubai Expo and Indian Pavilion

- Shycocan Corporation has announced their appointment as the official safety partner for the India Pavilion at the Expo 2020 Dubai.
- **Gujarat will be the first state** to exhibit in the India Pavilion, followed by Karnataka, Ladakh, Telangana, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Jammu and Kashmir, Goa, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Haryana.
- Tamils are the most number of people living in Dubai next to Kerala however, Tamil Nadu is not part of this exhibition which is wondering for the people NRI from Tamil Nadu.

- **India's 4,800 sqm national pavilion** will showcase new technology, and its **"5 Ts"**.
- There will be big celebrations of festivals and national days of importance that fall during the Expo such as Diwali, UAE National Day, Indian Republic Day and Holi – in the pavilion.
- India Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai to Showcase Resurgent India's March to Becoming a **USD 5 Trillion Economy**.
- The **India Pavilion at Expo 2020** Dubai reflects India's commitment to the philosophy of Lokah Samastah Sukhino Bhavantu, which means, **"May everyone, in the whole world, be happy."**

India & UAE partnership

- UAE is India's third-largest trading partner, and UAE being India's second-largest export destination after the US, with an export value of approximately USD 29 billion in 2019-20.
- UAE is also the 8th largest investor in India, having invested USD 11 billion between April 2000 and March 2021.

5. India officially joins High Ambition Coalition (HAC) for Nature and People



India has officially joined **High Ambition Coalition (HAC) for Nature and People** on 7th October. India's announcement comes in the lead up to a high-level biodiversity meeting, hosted by China.

India's goal to join the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People, was initiated in **January 2021 in Paris at the "One Planet Summit"**. On the opening of COP15, Ambassador of France to India (Mr. Emmanuel Lenain) said that on India joining the High Ambition Coalition will be a real game changer. This move will boost multilateral efforts, since India is a major player for biodiversity protection.



What is the High Ambition Coalition (HAC) for Nature and People?

- The High Ambition Coalition (HAC) for Nature and People is an intergovernmental group of 70 countries co-chaired by Costa Rica and France and by the United Kingdom as Ocean co-chair, championing a global deal for nature and people with the central goal of protecting at least **30 percent** of world's land and ocean by **2030**.
- HAC members currently include a mix of countries in the global north and south; European, Latin American, Africa and Asia countries are among the members.
- **India is the first of the BRICS** bloc of major emerging economies (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) to join the HAC.

What are the HAC's specific goals?

- Currently, an estimated 15% of the world's land and 7% of the ocean are protected.
- The group is pushing for a global agreement to protect at least 30% of the planet's land and ocean by 2030 at the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, known as the "**30x30 target**".
- Indigenous peoples and local communities are protectors of the most biodiverse sites in the world.
- The HAC for Nature and People has created a task force to address indigenous people and local communities' concerns and promote indigenous wisdom in the CBD negotiations. This task force has initiated a dialogue with the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity.

UN Convention on Biodiversity

- The **UN Convention on Biodiversity** (the Biodiversity Convention) was concluded at the **Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992** and became **effective in 1993**.
- Recognizing the increasing threat to the earth, the Convention aims to conserve the biological diversity and promote their sustainable use and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits.
- The **first Conference of the State Parties (COP I)** was held in Nassau, the Bahamas in 1994. The Biodiversity Convention is supported by several other treaties such as the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (**CITES**) adopted in 1975.
- It is also linked to the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (**UN SDGs**) in this the UN Decade of Action for Sustainable Development.

Source:



A look at how the global minimum tax will work

that go untaxed or lightly taxed in one of the world's tax havens, their home country will impose a top-up tax that will bring the rate to 15%

▪ Out of the 140 countries involved, 136 supported the deal. Kenya, Nigeria, Pakistan and Sri Lanka have abstained for now

▪ According to some developing countries and advocacy groups, the 15% rate is too low and leaves far too much potential tax revenue on the table

hacfornatureandpeople.org, moef.gov.in

6. OECD launched Global Minimum Tax Deal

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has announced that a global deal to ensure big companies pay a **Global Minimum Tax (GMT) rate of 15%** has been agreed by **136 countries (including India)**. The countries behind the accord together accounted for over 90% of the global economy. The agreement calls for countries to bring it into law in 2022 so that it can take effect by 2023.

What is the Objective of Global Minimum Tax?

- GMT is tailored to address the low effective rates of tax shelled out by some of the world's biggest corporations, including Big Tech majors such as **Apple, Alphabet and Facebook**.
- These companies typically rely on complex webs of subsidiaries to hoover profits out of major markets into low-tax countries or Tax Havens such as Ireland, the British Virgin Islands, the Bahamas, or Panama.
- GMT aims at squeezing the opportunities for MultiNational Enterprises (MNEs) to indulge in profit shifting, ensuring they pay at least some of their taxes where they do business.

What is the Proposed Two Pillar Solution?

The global minimum tax rate would apply to overseas profits of multinational firms with \$868 million in sales globally.

- **Pillar 1 (Minimum tax and subject to tax rules):** Governments could still set whatever local corporate tax rate they want, but if companies pay lower rates in a particular country, their home governments could "top up" their taxes to the 15% minimum, eliminating the advantage of shifting profits.



- **Pillar 2 (Reallocation of additional share of profit to the market jurisdictions):** Allows countries where revenues are earned to tax 25% of the largest multinationals' so-called excess profit – defined as profit in excess of 10% of revenue.

What is the Need for GMT?

- Stopping Financial Diversion to Tax Havens: Increasingly, income from intangible sources such as drug patents, software and royalties on intellectual property has migrated to Tax Havens, allowing companies to avoid paying higher taxes in their traditional home countries.
- Mobilising Financial Resources: With budgets strained after the Covid-19 crisis, many governments want more than ever to discourage multinationals from shifting profits – and tax revenues – to low-tax countries regardless of where their sales are made.

Associated Challenges with the GMT:

- Impending Sovereignty: It impinges on the right of the sovereign to decide a nation's tax policy.
- A global minimum rate would essentially take away a tool countries use to push policies that suit them.
- Tight Timeline: Also, bringing in laws by next year so that it can take effect from 2023 is a tough task.
- Question of Effectiveness: The deal has also been criticised for lacking teeth: Groups such as Oxfam said the deal would not put an end to tax havens.

Conclusion:

- The minimum tax and other provisions aims to put an end to decades of tax competition between governments to attract foreign investment.
- The economists expect that the deal will encourage multinationals to repatriate capital to their country of headquarters, giving a boost to those economies.
- The OECD has estimated that the minimum tax will generate \$150 billion in additional global tax revenues annually.

About Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

- The OECD is an intergovernmental economic organisation, founded to stimulate economic progress and world trade.
- It was founded in the year **1961** and is **headquartered in Paris, France**. India is not a member, but a key economic partner.
- Total Members: 36

Source: Indian Express

7. UN passes resolution that clean, healthy environment is a fundamental human right

The **United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)** on October 8, 2021, unanimously voted for recognising a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a universal right in Geneva, Switzerland.

If recognised by all, the right would be the first of its kind in more than 70 years since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1948.



According to the WHO, around 13.7 million deaths a year are linked to the environment, caused by air pollution, chemical exposure, etc.

Key highlights

- In resolution **48/13**, the Council called on States around the world to work together, and with other partners, to implement this newly recognised right. The text, proposed by **Costa Rica, the Maldives, Morocco, Slovenia and Switzerland**, was passed

with **43 votes in favour and 4 abstentions** - from **Russia, India, China and Japan**.

- At the same time, through a second resolution (**48/14**), the Council also increased its focus on the human rights impacts of climate change by



- establishing a Special Rapporteur dedicated specifically to that issue.
- Britain, which was among the critics of the proposal in recent negotiations, voted in favor in a surprise move.
- **The United States did not vote since it is not currently a member of the 47-member Council.**
- According to World Health Organization (WHO), 24% of all global deaths, roughly 13.7 million deaths a year, are linked to the environment, due to risks such as air pollution and chemical exposure.
- UNEP research shows that despite a brief dip in carbon dioxide emissions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the world is still heading for a potentially catastrophic 3.2°C temperature rise this century – far beyond the Paris Agreement goals of limiting global warming to well below 2°C and pursuing 1.5°C.

Right to Clean Environment

- The right to a clean environment is rooted in the **1972 Stockholm Declaration, popularly called as the Magna Carta of human environment.** It contained principles and recommendations for environmental policy.
- Caring for the Earth 1991 and the Earth Summit of 1992 also declared that human beings are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature.

Environment Protection in India

- **Article 48-A, says that** "The State shall endeavour to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country.
- **Article 51-A (g), says that** "It shall be duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wild life and to have compassion for living creatures."

Environment Protection Laws in India

- Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- Water (prevention and control of pollution) Act, 1974.
- The Forest (conservation) Act, 1989.
- The Air (prevention and control of pollution) Act, 1981
- The Environment (protection) Act, 1986.
- The National Green Tribunal Act, 2010

About United Nations Human Rights Council

- It is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations system responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the world.
- It was created by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2006.
- It is headquartered in **Geneva, Switzerland.**
- **Members:** It is made up of **47 United Nations Member States** which are elected by the UNGA. India was elected in January 2019 for a period of three years.

8. India-Denmark Green Strategic Partnership

India and Denmark have agreed on a five-year action plan to put their ambitious "green strategic partnership" into effect. This was the first summit-level visit to India since the COVID pandemic, as well as the first State visit by a Danish leader **Mette Frederiksen** after a decade-long freeze on bilateral relations.

Key points

- India and Denmark signed two MoUs on research in climate change and setting up a "**green hydrogen**" electrolyser plant.
- The MoUs were between Reliance Industries and Danish company Stiesdal Fuel Technologies during PM level summit between two countries.



Period of time

- For the implementation of the "green strategic partnership" that was finalised last year, a five-year joint action plan from 2021 to 2026 has been developed.

Statistics

- India is the world's third-largest CO2 producer, with carbon emissions anticipated to have doubled by 2030.
- The Danish government wants to cut CO2 emissions by 70% by 2030 and take global leadership on SDG 7 on affordable and renewable energy.

Note

- **Denmark Capital:** Copenhagen
- **Denmark Currency:** Krone

Source: The Hindu



9. Germany unveils world's first self-driving train

On October 11, 2021 German rail operator Deutsche Bahn and industrial group Siemens unveiled the world's first automated, driverless train in Hamburg. It is billed as more punctual and energy efficient than traditional trains.

- The train is controlled by digital technology and is fully automated.
- The driver remains on the train to supervise the journey with passengers on board.
- The project partners and the City of Hamburg have invested a total of €60 mn in the digital S-Bahn Hamburg.



10. Alexander Schallenberg appointed new Chancellor of Austria



Alexander Schallenberg has been appointed as new Chancellor of Austria after Sebastian Kurz resigned amid corruption allegations.

- Austrian President Alexander Van der Bellen swore in Alexander Schallenberg.
- Earlier he was the foreign minister of Austria.
- Career diplomat Michael Linhart became the country's new foreign minister.
- **Capital of Austria :** Vienna, **Currency of Austria :** Euro

11. New Quad of India, Israel, US, UAE to launch international forum for economic cooperation

On October 18, Israel, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States began a new quadrilateral economic forum which will deal with **climate change, energy, and maritime security**. Similar to the original Quadrilateral Security Dialogue of India-US-Australia-Japan, this new quad engages India and US' cooperation against instability. While the original quad reportedly counters China, this quad targets the instability in the **Middle East (West Asia)**. The new quad meeting was joined by India's External Affairs minister S Jaishankar, US State secretary Anthony Blinken, Israeli foreign minister Yair Lapid and UAE foreign minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

What are the factors Responsible for New Grouping?

- **Abraham Accord:** The new grouping is possible after the resumption of formal diplomatic relations between Israel and the UAE, through the Abraham Accord.
- **Tackling Turkey's Regional Dominance:** The new Quad can be termed as a result of converging interests between India, the UAE, and Israel amidst Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan's assertive claims for the leadership of the Islamic world.
- **US Pivot to Asia:** The US is clearly seeking to lessen its footprint in the Middle East as part of its pivot to East Asia to tackle China's rise, which is redrawing West Asia's traditional equations.

Significance for India

- **Shift Towards a Regional Approach:** The four-nation meeting suggests India is now ready to move from bilateral relations conducted in separate silos towards an integrated regional policy.
- **India's Westward Shift:** Much in the manner that the "Indo-Pacific" has transformed the way India thinks about the east, the notion of a "Greater Middle East" can provide a huge fillip to India's engagement with the extended neighbourhood to the west.
- **Tackling Pakistan:** Further, the new grouping is also driven by Pakistan's growing alignment with Turkey and its alienation from its traditionally strong supporters in the Arab Gulf - the UAE and Saudi Arabia.
- **Deepening Relations:** Over the years, India has built vibrant bilateral ties with all the countries in the new grouping.
 - It is a member of the Quad with the US, Australia and Japan, which have common concerns and shared interests in East Asia.
 - Israel is one of India's top defence suppliers.
 - The UAE is vital for India's energy security and hosts millions of Indian workers.



Formation of the Quad:

- Following the Indian Ocean Tsunami (2004), **India, Japan, Australia, and the US** created an informal alliance to collaborate on disaster relief efforts.
- In 2007, then PM of Japan, **Shinzo Abe**, formalised the alliance, as the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue or the Quad.
- The Quad was supposed to establish an Asian Arc of Democracy but was hampered by a lack of cohesion amongst its members and accusations that the group was nothing more than an anti-China bloc.
- In 2017, faced again with the rising threat of China, the four countries revived the Quad, broadening its objectives and creating a mechanism that aimed to slowly establish a rules-based international order.
- In 2020, the trilateral India-US-Japan Malabar naval exercises expanded to include Australia, marking the first official grouping of the Quad since its resurgence in 2017.
- Further, it was the first joint military exercises among the four countries in over a decade.

Objectives of the Quad

- Maritime security, combating the Covid-19 crisis, especially vis-à-vis vaccine diplomacy, addressing the risks of climate change, creating an ecosystem for investment in the region and boosting technological innovation.
- Its main focus area is still considered to be countering China.
- To expand the partnership through a so-called Quad Plus that would include South Korea, New Zealand, and Vietnam amongst others.
- India is largely the reason that the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue—Involving the US, Japan and Australia—is not militarised, and instead focuses on infrastructure development, security, health, climate change and a host of other issues.
- The annual naval exercise called Malabar, however, has virtually become a Quad exercise since 2020.

Source: Indiandefencenews.in, Indian Express, The week.

12. India, UK, and Australia to jointly launch IRIS initiative at COP26



India, Australia, and the UK in collaboration with small island developing states (SIDS), have planned to launch '**Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS)**', on the sidelines of the **Conference of Parties (COP26)**. It aims at creating an infrastructure that can withstand disasters and lessen economic losses in island nations. It will be launched with initial funding of **\$10 million** from Australia, India, UK.

What is the Paris Agreement?

- It is a multilateral agreement within the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**; signed to reduce, mitigate greenhouse gas emissions.

What is the Conference of Parties?

- COP comes under the United Nations Climate Change Framework Convention (UNFCCC) which was formed in 1994. The UNFCCC was established to work towards “stabilisation of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere.”
- COP members have been meeting every year since 1995 (COP1 was held in 1995 in Berlin).

Paris Agreement (COP 21)

- The Paris Agreement was adopted by **196 countries at the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP 21) in Paris, on 12 December 2015** and entered into force on 4 November 2016. The agreement intends to reduce and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions.



- Before COP 21 in Paris, countries were asked to submit Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC's). There was a marked shift in the commitments from various countries. India was clubbed in the group of emerging economies and India lived up to its billing as a responsible nation in tackling climate change.
- In 2017, the US President announced his intention to withdraw from the agreement. The withdrawal became official on 4 November 2020. Later, after the change in Presidency, the US again joined the Paris Agreement in 2021.

The Kyoto Protocol

- *The Kyoto Protocol* treaty was negotiated in December 1997 at the city of Kyoto, Japan and came into force February 16th, 2005.
- "The Kyoto Protocol is a legally binding agreement under which industrialized countries will reduce their collective emissions of greenhouse gases by 5.2% compared to the year 1990 (but note that, compared to the emissions levels that would be expected by 2010 without the Protocol, this target represents a 29% cut).

Climate Ambition Summit 2020

- The United Nations, France, United Kingdom in partnership with Italy and Chile hosted the Climate Ambition Summit 2020 in Glasgow Scotland to mark the 5th Anniversary of the Paris Agreement.
- The Summit provided a meaningful platform for businesses, cities and other non-state actors who are rallying together and collaborating to support governments and accelerate the systemic change required to reduce emissions and build resilience.
- The objective of the Climate Ambition Summit was to set out new and ambitious commitments under the three pillars of the Paris Agreement that are mitigation, adaptation and finance commitments.

About COP 26:

- The UK will host the COP 26 UN Climate Change Conference from October 31 to November 12.
- This year marks the 26th Conference of Parties (thus the name COP26) and will be held in the Scottish Event Campus in Glasgow.

According to the UNFCCC, COP26 will work towards four goals:

1. Secure **Global net-zero by mid-century i.e., 2050 and keep 1.5 degrees within reach.**
2. Adapt **to protect communities and natural habitats.**
3. **'Finalise the Paris Rulebook':** Leaders will work together to frame a list of detailed rules that will help fulfil the Paris Agreement.
4. Countries are being asked to come forward with ambitious **2030 emissions reduction target** that align with the reaching net zero by the middle of the century.

UN warns of global temperature rise of around 2.7 degrees Celsius:

- **United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres** has stressed the need to close the leadership gap in climate action before the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, Scotland. He made the plea at the launch of the **UN Environment Programme's Emissions Gap Report-2021, entitled 'The Heat Is On.'**
- The world is on track for a catastrophic global temperature rise of around 2.7 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. He said unless global carbon emissions are reduced by 45 per cent from 2010 levels by 2030, the Paris Agreement goal of temperature rise of 1.5 degrees will not be obtained.

Source: Indian Express, NDTV.in, Unfccc.int and etc.



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13. United Nations Day: 24th October

United Nations Day is an annual commemorative day, reflecting the official creation of the United Nations on **24 October 1945**.

In **1947**, the **United Nations General Assembly** declared 24 October, the anniversary of the Charter of the United Nations, as which "shall be devoted to making known to the people of the world the aims and achievements of the United Nations and to gaining their support for" its work.

- The first event called "**United Nations Day**" was a World War II Allies' day of solidarity and military parades launched by US President Franklin D. Roosevelt tied to **US Flag Day on June 14, 1942**, six months after the Declaration by United Nations.

About United Nations:

- The **United Nations (UN)** is an intergovernmental organization aiming to maintain international peace and security.
- It is the world's largest and most familiar international organization.
- The UN is headquartered on international territory in New York City** and has other main offices in **Geneva, Nairobi, Vienna, and The Hague**.
- Four of the five principal organs are located at the main **UN Headquarters in New York City**, while the ICJ is seated in **The Hague**.
- At its founding, the UN had 51 member states;** with the addition of South Sudan in 2011, membership is now 193, representing almost all the world's sovereign states.
- UN Secretary General** - António Guterres

14. CEC Sushil Chandra oversees Uzbekistan's elections as international observer



India's Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sushil Chandra led a three-member delegation to Uzbekistan from October 21-25 to oversee the country's presidential election, held last Sunday, as an international observer.

Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev swept to victory with more than 80% of the vote in the elections and was re-elected for a second five-year term, according to reports.

CEC Sushil Chandra and Uzbekistan's election commission, led by Zainiddin Nizamkhodjaev, held a meeting on electoral cooperation during the visit, the Election Commission of India (ECI) said in a statement. Election Commission of India (ECI) organises "International Election Visitors Programmes (IEVP)" during the poll.

About Election Commission of India (ECI)

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) is a permanent and independent body established by the Constitution of India directly to ensure free and fair elections in the country.
- The President appoints Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners. They have tenure of six years, or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
- The Election Commission operates under the authority of Constitution per **Article 324**, and subsequently enacted Representation of the People Act.
- Current Chief Election Commissioner of India - **Sushil Chandra**
- Election Commissioner of India – **Rajiv Kumar & Anup Chandra Pandey**

15. Indian-origin Anita Anand is Canada's new Defence Minister

Indian-origin Canadian politician Anita Anand was on October 26 appointed as the Canada's new Defence Minister in a Cabinet reshuffle by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

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

16. India-ADB sign PRF loan to support Urban Mobility in Mizoram

The central government and the Asian Development Bank on October 26 signed a **\$4.5 million** project readiness financing (PRF) loan to support project preparation and design activities to improve urban mobility in Aizawl, the capital city of Mizoram.

- The loan agreement will support project preparation and design activities for improving urban mobility in capital city, Aizawl in the state of Mizoram.
- PRF supports the development of long-term solutions for improve urban mobility by identifying high-priority urban transport investments in Aizawl.
- It will help in ensuing project and enhancing its readiness by extending support to due diligence and preparatory activities.

17. India Hands Over Jaynagar-Kurtha Cross-Border Rail Link To Nepal



India on October 22, handed over the 34.9km-long cross-border rail link **connecting Jaynagar in Bihar to Kurtha in Nepal** to the Nepal government, a move that is expected to enhance trade and commerce activities as well as people to people linkages between the two countries.

The Jaynagar-Kurtha section is part of the 68.7km Jaynagar-Bijalpura-Bardidas rail link built under the Government of India's grant assistance of NPR 8.77 billion.

Key points:

- Under the grant assistance of India, gauge conversion of 34.9 km narrow gauge has been completed.
- The project has completed at a cost of Rs 619 crore. It has five stations in the section namely, Jayanagar, Khajuri, Inarwa, Baidehi and Kurtha near Janakpur in Nepal.
- The highest fare will likely be Rs 70 for general class and Rs 300 for AC for the entire journey. The train will run at 115 km per hour and the distance will be covered in 23 minutes.
- The executing agency for the project, IRCON International Ltd. officially handed over the assets of the railway section to Nepal Railway Company Ltd. Cross-border rail linkages are a vital aspect of India-Nepal Development Co-operation.

18. Fourth Assembly of the International Solar Alliance concluded

The fourth general assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), was held virtually between October 18th and October 21st, 2021. It was presided by Union Minister Shri R.K. Singh, Minister for Power, New and Renewable Energy, Government of India and the President of the ISA Assembly.

Key highlights

- U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry delivered the keynote address, and the European Commission Executive Vice President for the European Green Deal, Frans Timmermans, addressed the gathering on October 20th.
- A total of 108 countries participated in the Assembly, including 74 Member Countries and 34 Observer & Prospective Countries, 23 Partner Organizations and 33 Special Invitee Organisations also participated.
- They also discussed an update on One Sun One World One Grid (OSOWOG) initiative.
- This concept of a single global grid for solar was proposed at First Assembly of the ISA in 2018.
- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) also announced a partnership with Bloomberg Philanthropies to mobilize \$1 trillion in global investments for solar energy across ISA's member countries. The two organizations will work with World Resources Institute (WRI) to develop a Solar Investment Action Agenda and a Solar Investment Roadmap, which will be launched at COP26.



About International Solar Alliance (ISA)

- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an alliance of 124 countries initiated by India, most of them being sunshine countries, which lie either completely or partly between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.
- The primary objective of the alliance is **to work for efficient consumption of solar energy to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.**
- This initiative was **first proposed by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi** in a speech in November 2015 at Wembley Stadium (London HA9 0WS, United Kingdom), in which he referred to sunshine countries as Suryaputra ("Sons of the Sun").
- The ISA is **headquartered in Gurugram India.**
- In January 2016, Narendra Modi, and the then French President François Hollande jointly laid the foundation stone of the ISA Headquarters and inaugurated the interim Secretariat at the National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) in Gwal Pahari, Gurugram, India.

19. Turkey joins Pakistan in FATF Grey list

Global terror financing watchdog Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on October 21 retained Pakistan on its 'Grey List' of countries. FATF president Marcus Pleyer also said that three new countries -- **Turkey, Jordan, and Mali** -- have also been added to the Grey List.

Note:

- Pakistan was placed on the **Grey List by the FATF in June 2018**. Since then, Pakistan continues to be in the list due to its failure to comply with the FATF mandates.
- Due to its placing on the Grey List, it has become increasingly difficult for Pakistan to get financial aid from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the European Union.

Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

- FATF is an intergovernmental organisation. It was founded in the year 1989 following the initiative of G7 grouping for developing the policies to combat money laundering.
- FATF mandate was expanded in the year 2001, to include terrorism financing.
- FATF President - **Marcus Pleyer**
- FATF HQ – **Paris, France**

Objectives of FATF

The key objectives of FATF include:

- Setting standards and promote effective implementation of regulatory, legal, and operational measures to combat terrorist financing, money laundering and other related threats.
- Generating necessary political will for bringing national legislative and regulatory reforms across these areas.

20. Barbados elects first ever 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.

Sandra Mason, the current governor-general, sworn in as president on November 30. November 30 marks the 55th anniversary of independence of Barbados from Britain.

In September 2020, Mason announced the break with Britain, saying "the time has come to fully leave our colonial past behind."

British Control on the nation

- Barbados was claimed by the British in the year 1625. It has been referred as "Little England" sometimes, because of its loyalty to British customs.

About Barbados

- Barbados is an island country, located in Lesser Antilles of the West Indies, it is the most easterly part of the Caribbean Islands.
- The country has a length of 34 kilometres & width of 23 km. It covers an area of 432 km².
- The country is outside the principal Atlantic hurricane belt. Its largest city is Bridgetown, which also happens to be its capital.



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21. Former U.S. president Donald Trump launches 'TRUTH' social media platform

Former US President, Donald Trump, has launched his own social media network called "**TRUTH Social**".

Key points:

- This platform was launched after Donald Trump faced bans from Facebook and Twitter.
- Trump's social media platform will stand up to the pattern of Big Tech.
- This app is likely to be the first project of "Trump Media and Technology Group (TMTG)" following its merger with Digital World Acquisition Group. Former US president, Trump, is the chairman of the group.



Why trump launched this platform?

- Former president of United States launched this platform as his social media accounts either got temporarily suspended or even banned due to his controversial posts. Accounts were suspended following the attack on the Capitol back in January 2021.

22. Indian Diplomat's Mic Goes Silent At UN Conference While Criticising China's BRI

India has voiced its strong opposition to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and its flagship project - the CPEC - at the just concluded second UN Sustainable Transport Conference from October 14 to 16 in Beijing. The sudden "mic failure" of **Indian diplomat, Priyanka Sohoni** at the UN created a flutter and took several minutes to restore.

About Belt and Road initiative (BRI)

- The BRI is a multi-billion-dollar initiative launched by Chinese President Xi Jinping when he came to power in 2013. It aims to enhance China's influence and also link Southeast Asia, Central Asia, the Gulf region, Africa and Europe with a network of land and sea routes.

About China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)

- The USD 60 billion CPEC, which connects **Gwadar Port in Pakistan's Balochistan with China's Xinjiang province, is the flagship project of the BRI.**

India against CPEC

- Indian diplomat, **Priyanka Sohoni**, Second Secretary of the Indian Embassy in Beijing said - India has been vocally objecting to China over the CPEC as it is being laid through the **Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK)**.
- No country can support an initiative that ignores its core concerns on sovereignty and territorial integrity," Sohoni said.

China's stand

- Beijing for its part is playing down India's objections, saying it is an economic initiative and has not affected its principled stand on the Kashmir issue.
- The BRI is open and inclusive. We tried to improve the connectivity and seek the development of all countries. In the past eight years, all the international communities have welcomed this initiative. Up to now about 141 countries and 32 organisations have signed more than 200 agreements with China

Source: The Indian Express

23. Volcano Mount Aso erupted in Japan, blasting ash several miles into sky

In Japan, the volcano Mount Aso suddenly erupted on October 20 blasting ash several miles into the sky. Japan is one of the world's most volcanically active countries. It sits on the so-called Pacific "Ring of Fire" where a large proportion of the planet's quakes and volcanic eruptions are recorded.



About Mount Aso

- Mount Aso is a popular tourist destination on Japan's Kyushu island.
- It is the largest active volcano in Japan and one among the largest across the world.
- The volcano stands on the island of Kyushu, in Aso Kuju National Park in Kumamoto Prefecture.
- Its peak is 1,592 meters above sea level. It has a fairly large caldera, having a circumference of about 120 km.

Source: News on Air

24. Microsoft AI Innovate: New programme to empower AI startups in India

Microsoft on October 20, 2021, launched a new initiative Microsoft AI Innovate for nurturing and scaling startups that have been leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI) in India. The 10-week-long initiative would support startups in India leveraging AI technologies, helping them scale operations, drive innovation, and build industry expertise.

Noting that India had the third largest AI startup ecosystem in the world, **Microsoft India president Anant Maheshwari** said, "AI adoption can add more than \$90 billion to the Indian economy by 2035"

Objective of this AI Innovate

- Microsoft AI Innovate was aimed at bringing together startups, corporates, industry bodies, governments, and venture capital firms, to create a shared platform for learning and innovation.

Source: The Hindu

25. Sri Lanka receives first consignment of Nano Nitrogen Liquid Fertilizer from India

Sri Lanka has received the first consignment of 3.1 million litres high quality non-harmful Nano Nitrogen liquid fertiliser from India on October 20. The fertilizer will help Sri Lanka in the cultivation of maize and paddy.

Note:

- The import of Nano Nitrogen liquid fertiliser came months after President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's decision in May to stop chemical fertiliser imports sparked anger and widespread protests in the farmland districts of the country.

Nano Nitrogen Liquid Fertiliser

- Nano Nitrogen Liquid Fertilizer was developed by Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO), with the objective of addressing imbalanced and excessive use of conventional Urea.
- It has been developed indigenously, for the first time in the world.
- It was developed at Nano Biotechnology Research Centre (NBRC) of IFFCO at Kalol, Gujarat by means of a proprietary patented technology.

Source: The Hindu

26. Mosquirix: World's first malaria vaccine approved by WHO

In a landmark announcement, the World Health Organization (WHO) has recommended the use of the first-ever malaria vaccine for children. WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus endorsed the **RTS,S/AS01 malaria or Mosquirix - a vaccine developed by British drugmaker GlaxoSmithKline (GSK)**.

According to Tedros, "RTS,S malaria vaccine – more than 30 years in the making – changes the course of public health history. This vaccine is a gift to the world".

Malaria claims the lives of more than 400,000 people every year. Children account for 67% of all malarial deaths worldwide, according to the WHO. The symptoms of malaria are--fever, headaches, and muscle pain, then cycles of chills, fever, and sweating.

About Mosquirix vaccine

- The vaccine acts against plasmodium falciparum -- one of five parasite species and the most deadly.
- This vaccine was first made in 1987 by pharmaceutical company GSK.
- As per findings, vaccine resulted into reduction of severe malaria cases by 30 percent.

How is Mosquirix used?

- Mosquirix is given as a 0.5 ml injection into a muscle of the thigh or in the muscle around the shoulder (the deltoid). The child is given three injections with one month between each injection.
- A fourth injection is recommended 18 months after the third. Mosquirix can only be obtained with a prescription.

How does Mosquirix work?

- Scientists at the European Medicines Agency say that the active substance in Mosquirix is made up of proteins found on the surface of the Plasmodium falciparum parasites.

Source: HT

27. GI-tagged 'Mihidana' Batch From West Bengal Exported To Bahrain



According to Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal, the first consignment of Geographical Indication (GI) tagged sweet dish Mihidana, from Bardhaman, West Bengal has been exported to the Kingdom of Bahrain on October 5. This initiative is part of the effort to promote indigenous & Geographical Identification (GI) tagged products of India globally. West Bengal's Bardhaman got the GI tag for the **Mihidana sweetmeats in 2017**.

The consignment of the delicious sweet dish - Mihidana - was exported to the country in the Persian Gulf by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) registered M/S DM Enterprises in Kolkata and imported by Aljazira Group in Bahrain.

About GI Tag

- A GI tag is a sign denoting a specific geographical origin and possesses qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.
- GI, a form of intellectual property right (IPR), is distinct from other forms of IPR, as it ascribes the exclusivity to the community in a defined geography, rather than to an individual, as is in the case of trademarks and patents.
- The tag can be issued for agricultural, natural, or manufactured goods that have a unique quality, reputation, or other characteristics attributable to their geographical origin.
- Darjeeling tea, Basmati rice, Kanchipuram Silk, Mysore Silk, Hyderabadi haleem, Nagaland chili products, etc, sold with the GI tag have premium pricing.

Source: PIB

28. India's "Takachar" Wins Prince William's inaugural 'Eco-Oscar' Award

A Delhi-based entrepreneur's Vidyut Mohan agricultural waste recycling project was named among the winners of Prince William's inaugural **Earthshot Prize**. Earthshot Prize', also known as the '**Eco-Oscars**', that honours people trying to save the planet.

Vidyut has been awarded in the Clean our Air category, for his technology called '**Takachar**'.

About Takachar project

- Takachar is a small and portable device that uses crop residue to convert it into bio-products like fuel and fertilisers to reduce smoke emissions and combat air pollution.



About the award:

- The 'Eco-Oscars' is an environmental award established by Prince William, Duke of Cambridge and renowned British historian David Attenborough in 2020, to be awarded annually from 2021 to 2030 to 5 winners.
- The awards were announced in five categories namely: Protect and Restore Nature, Clean our Air, Revive our Oceans, Build a Waste-Free World and Fix our Climate.

Source: The Hindu



29. Military Coup in Sudan: Military Dissolves Civilian Government

Sudan has descended into crisis after the military dissolved the country's power-sharing government and declared a state of emergency. Members of Sudan's Cabinet and a large number of pro-government party leaders were arrested on 25th October.

Key highlights

- The country's democratic project began just two years ago, after Sudan's longtime dictator Omar al-Bashir was ousted amid mass protests in 2019.
- **Lt. Gen. Abdel Fattah al-Burhan**, Sudan's top general, orchestrated the power grab, detaining the civilian prime minister **Abdalla Hamdok** and other civilian leaders, and firing ambassadors who resisted the takeover.
- Under an August 2019 Agreement, the military is sharing power with officials appointed by civilian political groups in a ruling body known as the Sovereign Council, meant to lead the country to elections by the end of 2023.
- The military has accused civilian parties of mismanagement and monopolizing power. Demonstrators in Khartoum were seen marching with Sudanese flags and chanting, "No to military rule!" More than 10 protesters have died in clashes with security forces this week.
- The Sudanese authorities have cut off the internet and other communications, as well as imposing restrictions on movement.

What are the Disagreements?

- One point of tension is the pursuit of justice over allegations of war crimes by the military and its allies in the conflict in Darfur from 2003.
- The International Criminal Court (ICC) is seeking trials for Bashir and other Sudanese suspects.
- The Cabinet has signed off on handing over suspects, but the Sovereign council has not.
- Another is an investigation into the killings of pro-democracy protestors on June 3, 2019, in which military forces are implicated.

Progress in Jeopardy

That medium- to long-term situation still may be pretty tense for the region. Sudan was a bright spot in a region otherwise in distress: dictators in neighboring **Chad, South Sudan, and Eritrea, and Ethiopia** — once a success story — now engulfed in conflict. This coup could destabilize the region even more.

- The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights also condemned the attempted coup. "These actions threaten the Juba Peace Agreement and jeopardize the important progress made towards democracy and respect for human rights".
- The international community is also trying to put pressure on Sudan. Its democratic transition helped it reestablish ties with the US and other Western allies, and this coup may undo all that. The US has said it is **suspending \$700 million in aid to Sudan**.
- The "troika," the team of the **US, United Kingdom, and Norway** that has traditionally engaged with Sudan, has condemned the coup, and has continued to recognize Prime Minister Hamdok. The African Union has suspended Sudan.

About Sudan

- Sudan is a country located in north-eastern Africa.
- South Sudan was declared an independent country on July 9, 2011.
- Sudan's capital, Khartoum, is located roughly in the centre of the country, at the junction of the Blue Nile and White Nile rivers.
- Largest city: Omdurman
- Currency: **Sudanese pound**
- Prime Minister: **Abdalla Hamdok**



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Summit & Conference News

1. G20 Summit ended with the adoption of Rome Declaration

The 2021 G20 (Group of Twenty) Summit was held in Rome, Italy on October 30 and 31, 2021. It was the 16th meeting of the G20 group. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of **Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi**. The summit concluded with the adoption of the **Rome Declaration by G20 Leaders**.

Agenda and Theme of the G20 Summit

- **Theme:** The theme of the 16th G20 Summit 2021 is **People, Planet, and Prosperity** and it has come from the **2030 UN Agenda for sustainable development**.
- **Agenda:** climate change, economic recovery, the pandemic and the global minimum corporate tax rate.

PM Modi at G20 Summit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the G20 summit and represented India. He participates in session on 'Global Economy and Global Health' of 16th G20 Summit 2021

- He intervention at the first session of the G20 Summit, highlighted India's contribution to fighting against COVID-19.
- He mentioned India's medical supplies to over 150 countries.
- He also spoke about India's vision of 'One Earth, One Health' which is essentially a collaborative approach in the fight against COVID-19.

Objectives of the summit

- The Group of 20 countries, which represent more than three-quarters of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, had been looking for common ground and solid commitments on how to reduce emissions while helping poor countries deal with the impact of rising temperatures.

Outcomes of the meet:

- Leaders committed to the key Paris Agreement goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.
- They also pledged to reach a target of net zero carbon emissions "by or around mid-century", instead of setting a clear 2050 date, as campaigners and summit host Italy were hoping for.
- They agreed to stop funding new dirty coal plants abroad by the end of 2021.
- The leaders agreed to end public financing for coal-fired power generation abroad, matching a decision by the G7 members during their June summit in Cornwall, England.
- They reaffirmed the so far unmet commitment to mobilise \$100 billion for developing countries for climate adaptation costs.
- Aside from climate issues, the leaders signed off on a landmark agreement for countries to enact a global minimum corporate tax of 15 percent.

- The proposal reflects concern that the post-pandemic recovery is diverging, with richer countries rebounding faster due to extensive vaccinations and large amounts of stimulus spending those poorer countries cannot afford.
- The G20 leaders have also adopted the Rome Declaration giving a strong message under the health section where the leaders agreed that COVID immunization is a global public good.

Note:

- In 2020, the summit was hosted virtually by Saudi Arabia because of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- India will host the **G20 summit in the year 2022** in New Delhi on the occasion of its 75th year of Independence

About G20 Summit

- **Formation:** 26 September 1999 (the outcome of a meeting of G7 finance minister and Central Bank Governors)
- It is a group of 19 countries and The European Union.
- G20 members represent around 85 per cent of global gross domestic product, over 75 per cent of global trade, and two-thirds of the world's population.
- G20 group focuses on the issues related to the global economy, such as international financial stability, sustainable development, and climate change.
- The first summit was held in Washington, D.C. in 2008 as a response to the financial crisis of 2007-2008.
- **Members:** 20 Members (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, European Union)



2. G7 countries reach breakthrough on digital trade and data

G7 or the Group of Seven wealthy nations on October 22 reached a breakthrough on a joint set of principles to govern cross-border data use and digital trade.

- The principles named '**G7 Digital Trade Principles**', were adopted by the respective Trade Ministers of G7 during the G7 Trade Summit, held at **Mansion House, in London**.
- G7 countries have introduced a **Global Minimum Corporate Tax rate of at least 15%** on Multinational Companies (MNCs).



Key Highlights

- The statement assumes significance as India has been contemplating measures for data localisation — i.e. restricting the flow of data related to Indian users across the borders by storing and processing it within the country.
- On data encryption, which led to a legal battle between **New Delhi and Facebook Inc's WhatsApp** earlier this year, the statement issued by G7 said businesses should not be forced to provide encryption keys.
- The agreement reached by the elite global group is considered to be significant as it could liberalise hundreds of billions of dollars of digital trade.

Note:

- **Group of Seven (G7)** is an intergovernmental organisation that was formed in 1975.
- The bloc meets annually to discuss issues of common interest like global economic governance, international security and energy policy.
- The G7 does not have a formal constitution or a fixed headquarters. The decisions taken by leaders during annual summits are non-binding.
- The **47th G7 Summit 2021** was held in UK.
- The European Union is also represented within the G7.
- The **G7 comprises** the **United States, Japan, Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Canada**.

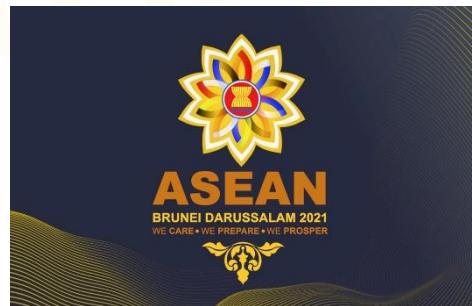
Source: The Hindu

3. Brunei hosted 16th East Asia Summit

The 16th East Asia Summit was hosted by Brunei which is the current chair of East Asia Summit and ASEAN. The summit was held on 27th October 2021.

Key highlights

- The summit saw the participation of leaders from ASEAN countries and other EAS Participating Countries including Australia, China, Japan, South Korea, Russia, USA and India.
- The 16th EAS also discussed important regional and international issues including Indo-Pacific, South China Sea, UNCLOS, terrorism, and situation in Korean Peninsula and Myanmar.
- India has been an active participant of EAS. Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the 16th East Asia Summit via videoconference. The Prime Minister reaffirmed India's focus on a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific and the principle of ASEAN Centrality in the region during the summit.
- During his address at the East Asia Summit, PM Modi emphasised on the importance of a resilient global value chain and reiterated India's commitment to providing Quad-sponsored vaccines to Indo-Pacific countries.
- The Prime Minister also recalled India's support of USD 1 million to the ASEAN COVID-19 Recovery Fund.
- All the participation leaders in the 16th East Asia Summit adopted three statements co-sponsored by India on: Mental Health, Economic recovery through Tourism and Sustainable Recovery.



About East Asia Summit

- The East Asia Summit is the premier forum in the Asia-Pacific region to deal with issues relating to security and defence.
- Since its inception in 2005, it has played a significant role in the strategic, geopolitical and economic evolution of East Asia.
- Apart from the ASEAN member states, the East Asia Summit includes India, China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia, New Zealand, the United States and Russia.
- The **first summit** was held in **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 14 December 2005**.



Ranks & Reports

1. The Least Developed Countries Report 2021

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has released the annual Least Developed Countries Report 2021.

The identification of LDCs is currently based on three criteria's: Income Criterion, Human Assets Inde and Economic Vulnerability Index

Key Highlights of the LDC Report 2021

- As of 2021, Forty-Six countries are designated by the United Nations as least developed countries (LDCs)
- Gross Domestic Product per capita for LDC group represented less than 10% of world average in 2019.
- The scope for trade and development policies to influence economic development in LDCs remains largely unexploited.
- Due to health, economic and social crises brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2020 they recorded their worst growth performance in about three decades.
- LDC require massive investment and spending to achieve the United Nations-mandated Sustainable Development Goals which goes far beyond their financial resources.
- The UNCTAD report describes LDCs' financing needs as 'daunting', especially in relation to structural transformation targets.
- For example, the report estimated that the average annual investment required to reach the 7 per cent growth target (SDG 8.1) is around \$462 billion, while the average annual investment requirements to end extreme poverty (SDG 1.1) in LDCs is estimated at \$485 billion.

LDC graduation:

Six countries have graduated from least developed country status:

- Botswana in December 1994;
- Cabo Verde in December 2007;
- Maldives in January 2011;
- Samoa in January 2014;
- Equatorial Guinea in June 2017; and

- Vanuatu in December 2020

Note:

- The world's poorest countries will remain on the margins of the global economy if States are unable to boost economic production, and the international community fails to provide more support, the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) warned.

What are the least developed countries?

- The least developed countries are a list of developing countries that, according to the United Nations, exhibit the lowest indicators of socioeconomic development, with the lowest Human Development Index ratings of all countries in the world.
- The concept of LDCs originated in the late 1960s and the first group of LDCs was listed by the UN in its resolution 2768 (XXVI) of 18 November 1971.
- The list of LDCs is reviewed every three years by the Committee for Development Policy (CDP), a group of independent experts that report to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations.

About UNCTAD

- The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was established in 1964 as an intergovernmental organization intended to promote the interests of developing states in world trade.
- UNCTAD is the part of the United Nations Secretariat dealing with trade, investment, and development issues. It is headquartered in **Geneva, Switzerland**.
- UNCTAD Secretary General: **Rebeca Grynspan**



2. India slips to 101st rank in Global Hunger Index 2021

The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is a tool that measures and tracks hunger globally as well as by region and by country. The report, prepared jointly by Irish aid agency **Concern Worldwide** and German organisation **Welt Hunger Hilfe**. The GHI is calculated annually, and its results appear in a report issued in October each year.

Indian Scenario

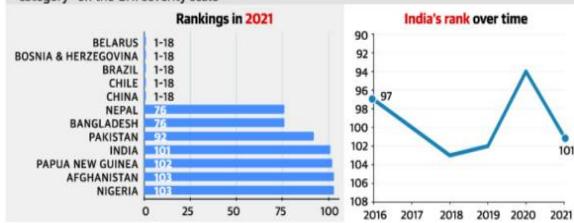
- India has slipped to **101st position** in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2021 of 116 countries.
- In 2020, India was ranked **94th out of 107** countries.
- India's GHI score has also decelerated -- from **38.8 in 2000 to the range of 28.8 - 27.5 between 2012 and 2021**.
- The report termed the level of hunger in India "alarming".
- The share of wasting among children in India rose from 17.1 per cent between 1998-2002 to 17.3 per cent between 2016-2020, according to the report.
- However, India has shown improvement in other indicators such as the under-5 **mortality rate**, **prevalence of stunting among children** and **prevalence of undernourishment** owing to inadequate food, the report said.
- India was also behind most of the neighbouring countries. Pakistan was placed at 92, Nepal and Bangladesh at 76 and Sri Lanka at 65.

Global Scenario

- A total of **18 countries**, including China, Kuwait and Brazil, shared the top rank with GHI score of less than five, the GHI website that tracks hunger and malnutrition across countries.
- **The fight against hunger is dangerously off track** - Based on current GHI projections, the world as a whole - and 47 countries in particular - will fail to achieve a low level of hunger by 2030.
- Africa, South of the Sahara and South Asia are the world regions where hunger levels are highest. Hunger in both regions is considered serious.

The GHI score calculation: It is calculated on four

Alarming levels | The Global Hunger Index (GHI) tracks hunger and malnutrition across countries using four indicators - undernourishment, child wasting, child stunting and child mortality. Based on this, GHI determines hunger on a 100-point scale, where 0 is the best possible score (no hunger) and 100 is the worst. In 2021, India was classified in the "serious category" on the GHI severity scale



indicators

1. **undernourishment** - Share of the population with insufficient caloric intake.
2. **Child wasting** - the share of children under the age of five who have low weight for their height, reflecting acute undernutrition.
3. **Child stunting** - children under the age of five who have low height for their age, reflecting chronic undernutrition;
4. **Child mortality** - the mortality rate of children under the age of five.

Data Collection:

- Undernourishment data are provided by the **Food and Agriculture Organisation** and child mortality data are sourced from the **UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME)**.
- Child wasting and stunting data are drawn from the joint database of **UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank**, among others.

Source: The Hindu

3. India has been ranked at 71st position in Global Food Security Index 2021

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

Top Rank countries

- 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 scenario

- India held 71st position with an overall score of 57.2 points, fared better than Pakistan (75th position), Sri Lanka (77th Position), Nepal (79th position) and Bangladesh (84th position). But the country was way behind China (34th position).
- In the food affordability category, Pakistan (with 52.6 points) scored better than India (50.2

points). Sri Lanka was also better at 62.9 points on the GFS Index 2021.

- In case of availability of food, quality and safety as well as protecting natural resources for food production, India scored better than Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka on the GFS Index 2021,



Global scenario

- The findings of GFSI Index 2021 also showed that 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.

GFSI Index measures

- The GFSI 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.

About Global Food Security Index

- The Global Food Security Index (GFSI) is a methodology that evaluates the basic issues of

Food cost, availability, quality, and safety, as well as natural resources and resilience, across 113 countries.

- The GFSI is based on a dynamic quantitative and qualitative benchmarking approach that employs 58 unique variables to assess food security in both industrialised and developing countries.
- The GFSI seeks to provide information to enable action in order to close systematic gaps and accelerate progress toward the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal of Zero Hunger by 2030.

Source: The Indian Express

4. State of the World's Children report of UNICEF 2021

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" October 5, 2021 in New Delhi.

Key highlights

- The report details the significant impact of COVID-19 pandemic on children's mental health.
- It says only 41% of young people in India were willing to seek support for mental health, compared to an average of 83% among 21 countries surveyed.
- The report also found that 14% of 15 to 24 yrs.-old in India, or 1 in 7, reported often feeling depressed or having little interest in things.
- As per the report, India was the only one of 21 countries where only a minority of young people felt that people experiencing mental health issues should reach out to others.
- As the trend of nuclear family instead of joint family has increased in our society, mental health problems have become frequent in children.

Source: PIB

5. Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2021

The Global MPI stands for Multidimensional Poverty Index that is released by Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI). The idea behind this index is to measure acute multidimensional poverty across developing countries using various indicators. It is a part of UNDP's Human Development Report (HDR) and is released annually.

Key Findings

- 1.3 billion people across 109 countries live in acute multidimensional poverty.
- Out of 1.3 billion people, 644 million are children (below the age of 18); whereas 105 million people are old (above the age of 60).
- Nearly, 85 percent of multidimensionally poor people live in Saharan Africa or South Asia.
- 84 percent of these poor people live in rural areas.
- 67 percent and more of the total multidimensionally poor population, live in middle-income countries.

Living Standards

Status of India: Multidimensional Poverty Index

- India stands at 62nd position in the index out of 109 countries
- MPI is informative of the intensity of multidimensional poverty among the castes and tribes among individuals who may not be a member of any caste or tribe.
- The report states that five out of six multidimensionally poor people from India are from lower tribes or castes.
- 9.4% of the Scheduled Tribe group lives in multidimensional poverty
- 33.33% of the Scheduled Caste group lives in multidimensional poverty
- 27.2% of the OBCs in India also fall under the MPI group
- Another finding of the report is that almost 12% of the Indian population lives in female-based households.

Source: Oxford Poverty & human development index

Measures of MPI

- Incidence of Poverty
- Intensity of Poverty
- MPI Value
- Number of Poor

Dimensions of Global MPI

- Health
- Education



6. 58th Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index (RECAI)

India has retained **3rd rank in 58th Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index (RECAI)** released by Ernst & Young. 2021 RECAI ranked top 40 global markets of the world on attractiveness of their renewable energy investment and deployment opportunities

- **Top performer: US, followed by China**
- New PPA Index has been introduced in this edition of RECAI focuses on the attractiveness of renewable power procurement and ranks the growth potential of corporate PPA market. India is ranked 6th among the top 30 PPA markets.
- The investments in renewable energy capacity grew even amid the COVID-19 pandemic and recession by at least 2 percent, while renewable capacity installs increased by 45 percent to 265GW in comparison to 2019. This is the fastest growth rate since 1999.

7. IMF Annual Report on India

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) published its annual report on October 15, 2021. In its report, it states that, India's economy is gradually recovering after it was hit hard by two Covid-19 waves.

Key highlights

- IMF however cautioned the authorities against inflationary pressures.
- IMF also recommended a slow reduction in monetary policy support in the light that recovery is gaining ground.
- According to IMF, impact of Covid-19 on investment and human capital might prolong the recovery. It will also impact the medium-term growth.
- Recovery could be faster than expected considering the pace of vaccination and economic reforms.
- Thus, the economic outlook remains clouded due to pandemic-related uncertainties which is contributing towards downside and upside risks.
- Though India benefits from favourable demographics, disruption in access to education & training because of covid-19 pandemic could impact the improvements in human capital.

Projected Growth

- IMF projected India's economic growth to 9.5 per cent for the financial year 2021-2022.
- It also projected the headline consumer price-based inflation at 5.6 percent.
- Though the inflationary pressures have been elevated, but rate of price rise eased to 5.6 per cent in July 2021. It was within the target of Reserve Bank of India. It was driven by soft food prices and base effects.

About IMF

- The formation of the IMF was initiated in 1944 at the Bretton Woods Conference.
- IMF came into operation on 27th December 1945.
- IMF focuses on fostering global monetary cooperation, securing financial stability, facilitating and promoting international trade, employment, and economic growth around the world.
- The IMF is a specialized agency of the United Nations.
- Member countries – **190**
- Headquarter - **Washington, D.C.**
- **Kristalina Georgieva** is the current Managing Director of the IMF

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State News

1. World's largest Khadi National Flag hoisted in Leh, Ladakh

World's largest national flag, made up of Khadi cloth, has been installed in **Leh, Ladakh**, on the occasion of **152nd** birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on 2nd October 2021. Ladakh Lt Governor RK Mathur inaugurated the flag



- This Indian tricolor is **225-feet long** and **150-feet wide** with weight of around 1,000 kg.
- The flag is made by Khadi Dyers and Printers based in Mumbai, affiliated to KVIC by 57 Engineer Regiment of the Indian Army.

About KVIC:

- **The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** is a statutory body formed in **April 1957** (During 2nd Five Year plan) by the Government of India, under the Act of Parliament, '**Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act of 1956**'.
- **HQ:** Mumbai,
- **Chairman:** Vinai Kumar Saxena

2. Kangana Ranaut named brand ambassador of U.P.'s 'one district-one product' scheme

The Uttar Pradesh government named actor Kangana Ranaut as the brand ambassador of its ambitious 'one district-one product' programme.

About One District One Product Scheme:

- The Uttar Pradesh Government's **One District, One Product Scheme** encourages the production of indigenous products and crafts in the state.
- The One-District, One Product in UP helps in preserving the dying community traditions of producing these products by reviving them through publicization and modernization. The scheme will help in creating product-specific traditional industrial hubs across **75 districts in UP**.



One-District, One Product Scheme: Objective

- Preservation and development of local crafts/skills and promotion of the art.
- Increase in local employment and incomes
- Improvement in skill development and product quality
- Connecting the production with tourism
- This scheme will focus on promoting local manufacturing by giving a much-needed support to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).
- The programme is particularly supportive in providing quality training to the youth and in turn generate employment in the state.



3. Chhattisgarh gets its fourth Tiger Reserve

National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has declared combined areas of Guru Ghasidas National Park (Surjapuri district) and Tamor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary (Koriya district) in Chhattisgarh as Tiger Reserve.

- This is the **4th Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh**, after Udanti-Sitanadi, Achanakmar, and Indravati Reserves and the **53rd Tiger Reserve of India**.
- Proposal to declare these two as Tiger Reserve was approved by NTCA's 11th Technical Committee under Section 38V(1) of the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**.



About Tiger Day and Tiger Reserves:

- International Tiger Day, also known as **Global Tiger Day**, is being celebrated annually on **July 29 every year**. The day is commemorated to spread the awareness about the need for tiger conservation. The goal of International Tiger Day is to promote global system for protecting the natural habitats of tigers and to raise public awareness and support for tiger conservation issues.
- In 1973, India launched **Project Tiger**, a unique plan to save the planet's tigers. Since its formation, there have been 9 tiger reserves, but the coverage of the Tiger program has increased to **53**.

Project Tiger's main aims are to:

- Reduce factors that lead to the depletion of tiger habitats and to mitigate them by suitable management.
- Ensure a viable tiger population for economic, scientific, cultural, aesthetic and ecological values.
- The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 was amended in 2006 to give statutory status to Project Tiger.
- In India there are now **53 Tiger Reserves spreaded across 18 states**. The total Tiger Population as per the Tiger Census 2018 is **2,967 Tigers**.
- **Theme for 2021: Their survival is in our hands**

4. Nationwide River Ranching Programme launched in Uttar Pradesh

Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, **Parshottam Rupala**, launched the **River Ranching Programme** in Uttar Pradesh on October 8, 2021. The programme was launched at Brijghat, Garh Mukteshwar, Uttar Pradesh. Along with Uttar Pradesh this programme also launched in 4 other states viz. **Uttarakhand, Orissa, Tripura, and Chhattisgarh**.

What is River Ranching?

- River Ranching is a form of aquaculture in which a population of a fish species (such as salmon) is held in captivity for the first stage of their lives.
- They are then released, and later harvested as adults when they return from the sea to their freshwater birthplace to spawn.

About the River Ranching Programme

- River ranching programme was introduced as special activity under the '**Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) scheme**' to augment and enhance fish production and productivity by expanding, intensifying, diversifying, and utilizing land & water productively.
- **Implementing agency - National Fisheries Development Board**, Hyderabad is the nodal agency under central component of the PMMSY.

What is the need of programme?

- As the human population is growing, requirement of high-quality protein & demand of fish is increasing gradually. Thus, to promote sustainable use and conservation of fishery resources in an economical and environmentally responsible manner, River Ranching Programme was launched.



- This programme will help in achieving sustainable fisheries, conserving biodiversity, assessing ecosystem services, reducing habitat degradation and maximizing social-economic benefits.
- It will also ensure the upgradation of traditional fishery, trade & social protection of Inland communities and ecosystem sustainability.

About the 'Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) scheme:

- It is a scheme for focused and sustainable development of fisheries sector in the country.
- **20,050 crores** has been sanctioned for its implementation during a period of 5 years from **FY 2020-21 to FY 2024-25** in all States/Union Territories, as a part of AatmaNirbhar Bharat Package.
- The scheme focuses on beneficiary-oriented activities in Marine, Inland fisheries, and Aquaculture.
- It seeks to adopt '**Cluster or Area based approaches**'.

Aims and targets of the scheme:

- Enhance fish production by an additional **70 lakh tonne by 2024-25**.
- Increase fisheries export earnings to **Rs.1,00,000 crore by 2024-25**.
- Double incomes of fishers and fish farmers.
- Reduce post-harvest losses from **20-25% to about 10%**.
- Generate additional 55 lakhs direct and indirect gainful employment opportunities in fisheries sector and allied activities.

#AatmaNirbharDesh



Rs 20,000 Crores for Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (2/2)



Provisions of ban period support to fishermen (during the period fishing is not permitted), personal & boat insurance



Will lead to additional fish production of 70 lakh tonnes over 5 years & double exports to Rs. 1,00,000 Cr



Focus on islands, Himalayan States, North-east & aspirational districts; Employment to over 55 lakh persons



9
₹ 20 LAKH CRORE FOR 2020
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5. Maharashtra has become the first state to release its own Wildlife Action plan (2021-30)



During the **17th meeting** of the State Board for Wildlife (SBWL), the government of Maharashtra approved its own **Wildlife Action Plan (2021-2030)**, which will be **implemented over the next 10 years** recognises concern about climate change, impacts on wildlife, coastal ecosystem and etc.

The board has also approved the extension of the boundary of **Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve**, in the Chandrapur district of the Vidarbha region, by around 79 sq km. The decision was taken due to the rising number of tigers in the sanctuary.

Key points

- The plan has suggested integrating climate change adoption in wildlife conservation.
- The plan has suggested integrating climate change adaption in wildlife conservation. "To develop a Climate Action Plan for the Coastal Region of the state in sync with the 'State Climate Change Action Plan' with special emphasis on 'Climate Change Adaptation' (CCA) and 'Disaster Risk Reduction (DDR)'," the plan states.

Major Focuses of the Plan:

1. Conservation of the species
2. Control of Poaching and illegal wildlife trade
3. Mitigation of Human-Wildlife conflict and rescue
4. Wildlife Health Management
5. Conservation of Inland aquatic system

Tiger Reserves in Maharashtra:

- Maharashtra provides legal protection to its tiger population through six dedicated tiger reserves under the precincts of the National Tiger Conservation Authority under the initiative Project Tiger.
- These are Melghat, Tadoba, Pench, Sahyadri, Nawegaon-Naghira and Bor.

Wildlife Protection Act:

- **The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972** is an Act of the Parliament of India enacted for protection of plants and animal species.
- The Act provides for the formation of wildlife advisory boards, wildlife wardens, specifies their powers and duties, etc. It helped India become a party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Constitutional Provisions for the Wildlife Act

- **Article 48A of the Constitution of India** directs the State to protect and improve the environment and the safeguard wildlife and forests. This article was added to the Constitution by the 42nd Amendment in 1976.
- **Article 51A imposes** certain fundamental duties for the people of India. One of them is to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures.

History of wildlife protection legislation in India

- The first such law was passed by the British Indian Government in 1887 called the Wild Birds Protection Act, 1887. The law made the possession and sale of wild birds which were either killed or captured illegal.
- A second law was enacted in 1912 called the Wild Birds and Animals Protection Act. This was amended in 1935 when the Wild Birds and Animals Protection (Amendment) Act 1935 was passed.
- During the British Raj, wildlife protection was not accorded a priority. It was only in 1960 that the issue of protection of wildlife and the prevention of certain species from becoming extinct came into the fore.

6. Delhi Govt launches 'Desh Ke Mentor' Programme for its classes IX to XII

Delhi govt has launched mentorship programme '**Desh Ke Mentor**' for children studying in **Classes IX to XII of govt. schools**



Key highlights

- Under this, students will be mentored by professionals and academicians from across the country for 10-15 minutes daily on issues ranging from career choices to teenage concerns.
- Mentors will guide **2 to 5 students** to help students in their overall personality development
- People between the ages of 18 and 35 can sign up to be mentors through an app created by a team at Delhi Technological University and will be connected to students based on mutual interests.
- The programme will be for a minimum of two months and can carry on for another four months optionally. One mentor will be assigned between two to five students.



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Honours & Awards

1. Yemeni organization wins 2021 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award

Humanitarian organization from Yemen named as '**Jeel Albena Association for Humanitarian Development**' has been declared as the winner of **2021 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award**.

Jeel Albena Association for Humanitarian Development founded in 2017, won the prestigious award for its unwavering support for displaced Yemenis, even as shifting frontlines brought gun battles and explosions to its doorstep.

- Its founder Ameen Jubran, received the award on behalf of his team at a virtual ceremony on October 4, 2021. The award includes a commemorative medal and a monetary prize of US\$ 150,000.



UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award

- It honours individuals, groups, or organizations for going above and beyond the call of duty to protect refugees, other displaced and stateless people.
- The UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award is named after the intrepid Norwegian polar explorer, statesman and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Fridtjof Nansen. It was established in **1954**.

About UNHCR: (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)

- **The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)** is a UN agency mandated to aid and protect refugees, forcibly displaced communities, and stateless people, and to assist in their voluntary repatriation, local integration or resettlement to a third country.
- It is headquartered in **Geneva, Switzerland** and was founded in the year **1950**.

2. Indian Organisation LIFE receives 2021 Right Livelihood Award

Delhi-based environmental organization '**Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment (LIFE)**' has been felicitated with 2021 Right Livelihood Award. LIFE has been selected for the award for its grassroots approach of empowering vulnerable communities to protect their livelihoods.



Apart from this, other three awardees who were also honoured include:

- Cameroonian women rights activist Marthe Wandou
- Russian environmental activist Vladimir Slivyak
- Canadian Indigenous rights defender Freda Huson

About Right Livelihood Award

- Right Livelihood Award is also known as **Sweden's alternative Nobel Prize**.
- It was established in 1980 by **Jakob von Uexkull**.
- It comes with a cash prize of **1 million Swedish crowns** (\$115,000)
- Other awardees: Marthe Wandou, Vladimir Slivyak and Freda Huson.

3. 2021 Global Leadership Award to Shiv Nadar to Mallika Srinivasan

Shiv Nadar and **Mallika Srinivasan** has been chosen for **2021 Global Leadership Award** by **US India Business Council (USIBC)**. Shiv Nadar is the founder and chairman emeritus of HCL Technologies Limited. **Mallika Srinivasan** is the Chairman and managing director of Tractors and Farm Equipment Limited (TAFE).

About the Awards

- **Global Leadership Awards** was given annually since **2007** to honor top corporate executives from US and India

About USIBC

- The U.S.-India Business Council was formed in 1975 as a business advocacy organization to enlighten and encourage the private sectors of both India and United States to enhance investment flows.
- HQ: Washington D.C,
- President of USIBC: **Nisha Desai Biswal**



4. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Science and Technology, 2021

T Govindaraju from Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research has received prestigious **Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Science and Technology, 2021**. He was chosen for his ground-breaking concepts and discoveries, which have significant potential for diagnosis and treatment for Alzheimer's, lung cancer. His innovative work on small molecules, peptides, and natural products offers both diagnostics as well as therapeutics, leading to personalised medicine.

This year 11 scientists has been awarded with the **Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Science and Technology, 2021**. The awards were announced on the occasion of 80th foundation day of Council for Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR).

Here is the list of 11 scientists awardees:

1. Biological Sciences category:

- **Dr Amit Singh**, department of microbiology and cell biology, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru.
- **Dr Arun Kumar Shukla**, department of biological sciences and bioengineering, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur.

2. Chemical sciences category:

- Two researchers from the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bengaluru, **Dr Kanishka Biswas** from the International Centre of Materials Science and **Dr T Govindaraju**, from the Bio-organic Chemistry Laboratory, announced as recipients.

3. Earth, Atmosphere, Ocean and Planetary Sciences category:

- **Dr Binoy Kumar Saikia** from Coal and Energy Research Group, CSIR North East Institute of Science and Technology, Jorhat, was named recipient.

4. Engineering sciences category:

- **Dr Debdeep Mukhopadhyay**, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, received the award under the engineering sciences category.

5. Mathematical sciences category:

- **Dr Anish Ghosh**, school of mathematics, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai.
- **Dr Saket Saurabh**, The Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai, were announced winners.

6. Medical sciences:

- **Dr Jeemon Panniyammakal**, Achutha Menon Centre for Health Science Studies, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram.
- **Dr Rohit Srivastava**, department of biosciences and bioengineering, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay.

7. Physical sciences:

- **Dr Kanak Saha**, from Pune's Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, received the award for physical sciences.

About Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Science and Technology:

- The award is named after the founder Director of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, **Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar**. The award was instituted in the year 1958.
- The Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Science and Technology (SSB) is a science award in India given annually by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).
- The Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize is given to Indian scientists below the age of 45 for outstanding research in seven fields—Biology, Chemistry, Environment Science, Engineering, Mathematics, Medicine and Physics.

5. 67th National Film Awards: Kangana Ranaut, Manoj Bajpayee, Dhanush receive Best Actor awards



The 67th National Film Awards are being presented at New Delhi's Vigyan Bhawan on October 25. **Actress Kangana Ranaut** received the Best Actress award for her film '**Manikarnika**' and '**Panga**'. On the other hand, **Manoj Bajpayee** got the Best Actor award for his film '**Bhonsle**' and **Dhanush** got it for '**Asuran**'.

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Superstar Rajinikanth received the Dadasaheb Phalke Award at the ceremony. **Sushant Singh Rajput** last big-screen film '**Chhichhore**', directed by Tiwari and produced by Sajid Nadiadwala, won the Best Hindi Film award.

The 67th National Film Awards honours the films from the year of 2019. The event is organised by the Directorate of Film Festivals, which comes under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. This time, there were 461 films in the Feature Film category and 220 films in the Non-Feature Film category. The ceremony was supposed to take place last year but was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

About National Film Awards

- It is the highest award given for films in India and is organized every year.
- The awards were first announced in the year 1954 for the films of 1953.
- The awards are given in three sections – **Feature Films, Non-Feature Films and Best Writing on Cinema.**
- An important aspect of the National Awards is that it encourages good films in all languages and it gives awards for documentaries (short or full Length) in different Categories.
- The National Awards along with cinema's highest honour, Dadasaheb Phalke award, are presented by the President of India in a solemn function in the presence of the Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Chairpersons of the three juries, representatives of Film Federation of India and Confederation of All India Cine Employees and senior official.



67th National Film Awards: List of Winners

Feature Film Awards

Best Actor (shared):	Manoj Bajpayee for Bhonsle (Hindi), and Dhanush for Asuran (Tamil)
Best Actress:	Kangana Ranaut for Panga (Hindi) and Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi (Hindi)
Best Supporting Actress:	Pallavi Joshi for The Tashkent Files (Hindi)
Best Supporting Actor:	Vijay Sethupathi for Super Deluxe (Tamil)
Best Feature Film:	Marakkar: Lion of the Arabian Sea (Malayalam)
Best Director:	Sanjay Puran Singh Chauhan for Bahattar Hoorain (Hindi)
Best Debut Film of a Director:	Mathukutty Xavier for Helen (Malayalam)
Best Child Artist:	Naga Vishal for KD (Tamil)
Best Action Direction:	Avane Srimannarayana (Kannada), Vikram Mor
Best Choreography:	Maharishi (Telugu), Raju Sundaram
Best Special Effects: Marakkar:	Lion of the Arabian Sea (Malayalam), Siddharth Priyadarshan
Special Jury Award:	Oththa Seruppu Size 7 (Tamil), Radhakrishnan Parthiban
Best Lyrics:	Prabha Varma for Kolaambi (Malayalam)
Best Music Direction:	D. Imman for Viswasam (Tamil)
Best Background Music:	Prabuddha Banerjee for Jyeshthoputro (Bengali)
Best Make-up Artist:	Ranjith for Helen (Malayalam)
Best Costumes:	Sujith Sudhakaran and V. Sai for Marakkar: Lion of the Arabian Sea (Malayalam)
Best Editing:	Jersey (Telugu), Navin Nooli
Best Children's Film:	Kastoori (Hindi)
Best Film on Environment Conservation:	Water Burial (Monpa)
Best Film on Social Issues:	Anandi Gopal (Marathi)
Best Film on National Integration:	Tajmahal (Marathi)
Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment:	Maharishi (Telugu)
Best Female Playback Singer:	Savani Ravindra for Bardo (Marathi)
Best Male Playback Singer:	B Praak for Kesari (Hindi)



Best Films in Each Language

Category	Movie
Best Hindi Film	Chhichhore
Best Khasi Film	Lewduh
Best Telugu Film	Jersey
Best Tamil Film	Asuran
Best Marathi Film	Bardo
Best Konkani Film	Kaajro
Best Kannada Film	Akshi
Best Tulu Film	Pingara
Best Bengali Film	Gumnaami
Best Assamese Film	Ronuwa- Who Never Surrender
Best Punjabi Film	Rab Da Radio 2
Best Odia Film	Kalira Atita and Sala Budhar Badla (shared)
Best Manipuri Film	Eigi Kona

Non-Feature Film Awards

Best Non-Feature Film:	An Engineered Dream (Hindi)
Best Film on Social Issues:	Holy Rights (Hindi) and Ladli (Hindi)
Best Environment Film:	The Stork Saviours (Hindi)
Best Animation Film:	Radha (Musical)
Best Investigative Film:	Jakkal (Marathi)
Best Exploration Film:	Wild Karnataka (English)
Best Educational Film:	Apples and Oranges (English)
Best Film on Family Values:	
Best Short Fiction Film: Custody (Hindi/ English)	Oru Paathira Swapnam Pole (Malayalam)
Special Jury Award:	Small Scale Societies (English)
Best Promotional Film:	The Shower (Hindi)
Best Arts and Culture Film:	Shrikshetra-Ru-Sahijata (Odisha)
Best Biographical Film:	Elephants Do Remember (English)
Best Ethnographic Film:	Charan-Atva The Essence of Being a Nomad (Gujarati)
Best Debut Non-Feature Film of a Director:	Raj Pritam More for Khisa (Marathi)
Best Music Direction:	Bishakhjyoti for Kranti Darshi Guruji - Ahead of Times (Hindi)
Best Editing:	Arjun Gourisaria for Shut Up Sona (Hindi/ English)
Best Audiography:	Radha (Musical), Allwin Rego and Sanjay Maurya
Best Direction:	Sudhanshu Saria for Knock Knock Knock (English/ Bengali)

Other Awards

- **Most Film Friendly State:** Sikkim
- **Best Book on Cinema:** A Gandhian Affair: India's Curious Portrayal of Love in Cinema, by Sanjay Suri
- **(Special mentions:** Cinema Paharana Manus by Ashok Rane and Kannada Cinema: Jagathika Cinema Vikasa-Prerane Prabhava written by PR Ramadasa Naidu)
- **Best Film Critic:** Sohini Chattopadhyay



6. G Satheesh Reddy conferred with Aryabhata Award 2021

Chairman of **DRDO**, **G Satheesh Reddy** has been conferred the prestigious Aryabhata Award. The award has been given by Astronautical Society of India for his outstanding life-time contribution to the promotion of astronautics in India.

About G Satheesh Reddy

- Dr Reddy is a pioneer in the field of R&D of advanced avionics, navigation, and missile technologies. He has contributed to strategic and tactical missile systems
- Born in the village of Mahimalaru in the Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh, Reddy is an alumnus of Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University (JNTU) where he had graduated in Electronics and Communication Engineering.
- He helped the country become self-reliant in critical defence technologies.
- Besides being the first Indian defence scientist to be bestowed with the fellowship of the Royal Institute of Navigation in London, the decorated scientist also holds the distinction of having received the Silver Medal from the prestigious institute in 2015.
- He was also selected for the first-ever IEI (India) and IEEE (USA) joint award for Engineering Excellence.



Aryabhata Award

- The Aryabhata Award is presented annually to individuals with notable lifetime contributions in the field of astronautics and aerospace technology in India by the Astronautical Society of India (ASI).

About DRDO

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is the premier agency under the Department of Defence Research and Development in Ministry of Defence of the Government of India, charged with the military's research and development.
- DRDO was founded by Dr APJ Abdul Kalam in 1958.
- DRDO headquartered in Delhi.

7. Vice President Venkaiah Naidu confers Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi Award of Assam

Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu has conferred Assam Government's biennial Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi Award for National Integration and National Contribution at a special function in Guwahati.

The awards were conferred to the Assam Branch of Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust, Assamese litterateur Dr. Nirod Kumar Baruah and Shillong Chamber Choir at Srimanta Sankardeva Kalakshetra.

About Gopinath Bordoloi Award

- The Gopinath Bordoloi Award is named after the first chief minister of Assam after independence.
- He was a freedom fighter.
- He was awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1999 posthumously.
- The award carries five lakh rupees each, a citation and an angavastram.

8. Telugu filmmaker B Gopal chosen for Satyajit Ray Award 2021



Telugu filmmaker B Gopal has been chosen for the fourth Satyajit Ray Award 2021 for his overall contribution to the Indian cinema. He has directed 2 Hindi movies and 30 Telugu movies in his decade-long career.

Also, Hollywood veteran **Martin Scorsese** and celebrated Hungarian filmmaker **Istevan Szabo** will be honoured with the **Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement award** at this year's International Film Festival of India (IFFI).

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 Satyajit Ray Award includes Rs 10,000 cash prize, plaque, and a memento.
- The Award has been named after legendary filmmaker Satyajit Ray.
- Satyajit Ray was an Indian film director, scriptwriter, author, lyricist. He was known as one of the greatest filmmakers of all time. He died in 1992.



Sports News

1. SAFF Championship 2021 Final: India defeats Nepal 3-0 to lift title for the eighth time

India crushed Nepal 3-0 to win the 2021 SAFF Championship final title, held on October 16, 2021, at the National Football Stadium in Male, Maldives. With this win, India now claimed **eighth SAFF Championship title**. Previously the team had won the title in 1993, 1997, 1999, 2005, 2009, 2011, 2015.



This is the Indian football team's first title triumph under head coach **Igor Stimac**, who faced criticism in recent times for his side's inability to win enough games.

Sunil Chhetri finished as the tournament's top scorer with five goals.

Sunil Chhetri scored his 80th international strike at the championship to equal his score with iconic Lionel Messi and became the second-highest goal-scoring in international football among active players.

Sunil Chhetri breaks Brazilian legend Pele's international goal record

On October 10, 2021, Sunil Chhetri breaks the legendary Pele international goal record by making the 77th international goal against Nepal. This goal also saved his side from the verge of elimination in SAFF Championships.

This achievement was made by Chhetri while playing in his 123rd match for India.



About SAFF Championship

- The South Asian Football Federation Championship, commonly known as SAFF Championship is the main international association football competition of the men's national football teams governed by the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF).
- The countries that currently compete in the tournaments are **Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka**. It is held every two years.
- Afghanistan joined SAFF in 2005 and left the association in 2015 to become a founding member of Central Asian Football Association (CAFA).
- India is the most successful team with total 8 titles.

2. Anshu Malik creates history, becomes first Indian woman wrestler to win World Championships Silver

Anshu Malik on October 09 created history by becoming the first Indian woman wrestler to reach the final of the wrestling World Championships and also the first female player from India to **win a silver medal**.

The 19-year old Anshu settled for a silver medal after losing to 2016 Olympic champion **Helen Lousie Maroulis** of the United States in a 57kg freestyle bout.



- She became only the sixth Indian ever to make the Worlds gold medal match after Bishambar Singh (1967), Sushil Kumar (2010), Amit Dahiya (2013), Bajrang Punia (2018) and Deepak Punia (2019).
- **Wrestler Sushil Kumar (2010) is the lone wrestler from India to win World Championship till date.**
- Only four Indian women wrestlers have won medals at the Worlds and all of them - Geeta Phogat (2012), Babita Phogat (2012), Pooja Dhanda (2018) and Vinesh Phogat (2019) - have clinched bronze.

3. IPL 2021 - Chennai Super Kings win 4th title

In the title clash of IPL 2021, Chennai Super Kings (CSK) has defeated Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) by 27 runs to win their fourth IPL title. Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in IPL, previously won the tournament in 2010, 2011, and 2018. They are now just one behind the Mumbai Indians, who have won the title five times.

About IPL 2021

- Indian Premier League 2021 was the 14th-edition which was held in India & United Arab Emirates from 9th April – 2nd May 2021 & 19th September – 15th October 2021).
- In February 2021, Kings XI Punjab (KXIP) have been renamed the Punjab Kings (PBKS).
- Total 08 teams and 60 matches were played in the tournament.
- Tournament Format: Double Round Robin and Playoffs
- Number of Venues: India and 3 Internationals (Sharjah Cricket Association Stadium, Sheikh Zayed Stadium, Abu Dhabi and Dubai International Cricket Stadium)
- Final Match: Dubai International Cricket Stadium, United Arab Emirates.



IPL T20 2021 Teams, Captains

Team	Captains
Chennai Super Kings	Mahendra Singh Dhoni
Delhi Capitals	Rishabh Pant
Punjab Kings	K L Rahul
Kolkata Knight Riders	Eoin Morgan
Mumbai Indians	Rohit Sharma
Rajasthan Royals	Sanju Samson
Royal Challengers Bangalore	Virat Kohli
Sunrisers Hyderabad	Kane Williamson

IPL T20 2021 Awards

S. No	Player/Team	Awards
1.	Ruturaj Gaikwad (CSK)	Emerging Player of the Season
2.	Rajasthan Royals	PAYTM Fairplay Award
3.	Ravi Bishnoi (Punjab Kings)	VIVO Perfect Catch of the season
4.	Harshal Patel (RCB)	Dream 11 Gamechanger of the Season
5.	Guyana Shimron Hetmyer (Delhi Capitals)	Safari Super Striker of the Season
6.	KL Rahul (Punjab Kings)	Unacademy Let's Crack It Sixes of the Season (Most Sixes)
7.	Venkatesh Iyer(KKR)	CRED Power Player of the Season
8.	Harshal Patel (RCB)	Purple Cap
9.	Ruturaj Gaikwad (Chennai Super Kings)	Orange Cap
10.	Harshal Patel (RCB)	UpStox Most Valuable Player of the season

Indian Premier League (IPL) in History

- It was founded by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) in 2007.
- BCCI is the body responsible for the functioning and operation of the league.
- The first Tournament was held in 2008 in India across various parts of the country.
- The tournament is played with 8 teams (franchise) and the top four teams at the end of the tournament will receive a cash prize award, for Winner, Runner, third place and fourth place.



Ahmedabad, Lucknow are the two new teams of Indian Premier League (IPL)

- **Ahmedabad and Lucknow** are the two new teams of Indian Premier League (IPL) from 2022.
- IPL's is played since 2008 with total 8 teams. After this, total number of teams in the competition has been increased to 10.
- **RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group (RPSG)** is the owner of the Lucknow team while **CVC Capital Partners** is the owner of Ahmedabad team.
- RPSG group has won the bid for **Lucknow at Rs. 7090 crores**, while **CVC Capitals** has won the bid for Ahmedabad at **Rs. 5625 crores**.

4. United States wins 2021 Ryder Cup Golf Tournament:

United States has won 2021 Ryder Cup, defeating Team Europe, with 19-9 record victory. This is the largest margin of victory in the history of Ryder Cup.

- It was the 43rd edition of Ryder Cup Golf Tournament, which was held from September 24 to 26, 2021, at Whistling Straits, Haven, Wisconsin in US.
- Ryder Cup is a biennial men's golf competition held between teams from Europe and United States.

5. Lewis Hamilton becomes First F1 driver to win 100 Grands Prix

Lewis Hamilton, the four-time defending Formula One champion, won the Russian Grand Prix to become the first F1 driver in history to record 100 career wins.

With the victory, Hamilton also reclaimed the overall season standings lead, overtaking Max Verstappen. Verstappen and Carlos Sainz finished second and third, respectively, in 2021 Russian Grand Prix.



Lewis Hamilton

- He is a British racing driver and currently competes in Formula One for Mercedes.
- He has previously driven for McLaren from 2007 to 2012.

6. FC Goa clinches maiden Durand Cup football trophy

The **130th edition of Durand Cup** has been kicked off at the **Vivekananda Yubabharati Krirangan in Kolkata**. **FC Goa** claimed their maiden **Durand Cup** football title after a 1-0 win over **Mohammedan Sporting** in the final in **Kolkata**.

The Durand Cup crown also marks **FC Goa** coach **Juan Ferrando Fenoll's** first-ever trophy on Indian soil.

About: Durand Cup

- **Durand Cup** is the oldest existing football tournament in Asia and 3rd oldest existing professional club football tournament in the world.
- It was founded in the year 1888.
- The tournament is named after its founder, Sir Mortimer Durand, Foreign Secretary of British India from 1884 to 1894.
- **Most Successful Teams:** Mohun Bagan and East Bengal with 16 titles each.

Other Football Tournaments in India:

Rovers Cup: Started in 1890 and abolished in 2001.
IFA Shield: Since 1893.
Santosh Trophy: Played Since 1941.
Federation Cup: Started in 1977 and abolished in 2017.
Indian Super League: Founded in 2013.

All India Football Federation (AIFF)

- It is the governing body of association football in India and is under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India. It was formed in the year 1937.
- **Current President: Praful Patel**

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7. FIFA unveils 'IBHA' as official mascot for U-17 2022 Women's World Cup



World football governing body, FIFA has unveiled the official mascot of U-17 Women's World Cup India 2022.

- Mascot is named as '**IBHA**', which is an Asiatic lioness representing women power.
- It aims to inspire women and girls across the world to take the right decisions and reach their full potential.
- It will be the 7th edition of FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup and will be held in India from October 11 to 30, 2022.

2021 FIFA World Rankings:

- The Men's FIFA World Ranking is based on the national team's game results with the most successful teams being ranked highest.
- **Belgium** has retained top rank in **FIFA Men's rankings October 2021** with a total of 1832.33 points, followed by Brazil at second rank with 1820.36 points.
- **Defending World Champions France** has moved up the FIFA men's rankings list to the third position with 1779.24 points
- **India** is ranked at the **106th position** with a total of 1182.75 points. India has moved up on the list.
- Senegal, which is ranked at the 20th position, is the best-ranked African nation in the latest FIFA men's ranking list.
- Iran is the highest-ranked Asian nation in the FIFA men's ranking with 22nd rank.
- **2022 FIFA World Cup host Qatar**, the 2019 Asian Cup champion, is ranked at the 46th position.
- The rankings were introduced in **December 1992**, and eight teams so far, Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Spain have held the top position, of which **Brazil have spent the longest period ranked first**. Brazil is the only nation to win **5 World Cups (1958, 1962, 1970, 1994, 2002)** and to participate in every single one of them.

About FIFA

- FIFA is a non-profit organization that describes itself as an international governing body of association football, futsal, and beach soccer. It is the highest governing body of association football. **It was founded in the year 1904 and is headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland.**
- **Current President:** Gianni Infantino.; 2018 FIFA World Cup; Host: Russia; Winner: France.
- **2022 FIFA World Cup; Host:** Qatar
- **2026 FIFA World Cup; Host:** US, Mexico, Canada

8. Magnus Carlsen won the inaugural Meltwater Champions Chess Tour title

Magnus Carlsen has won inaugural **Meltwater Champions Chess Tour (MCCT)** to claim the non-fungible token (NFT) trophy, and \$1,00,000 in the finals. It is a **10-month long online chess tournaments**, which was held on **chess24.com** from November 22, 2020 till October 4, 2021.

- MCCT tour comprised of 10 tournaments and are not rated by FIDE
- It was the most viewed online chess event in history of the game.
- **Magnus Carlsen** is now considered as the **undisputed best online chess player**.

9. 2020 Thomas & Uber Cup

Indonesia lifted the **Thomas Cup trophy** for the first time since 2002 after sweeping past defending champions China 3-0 in the final on October 17, 2021. Meanwhile in **Uber Cup**, **China** beat defending champions Japan 3-1, to clinch **their 15th Uber Cup trophy**. The tournament was played at Ceres Arena in Aarhus, Denmark.

The 2020 Thomas & Uber Cup

- The 2020 Thomas & Uber Cup was the 31st edition of the Thomas Cup and the 28th edition of the Uber Cup, the biennial international badminton championship contested by the men and women's national teams of the member associations of Badminton World Federation (BWF).

10. 2021 Denmark Open Badminton

Danish Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen won the Mens' single 2021 Denmark Open Badminton held at the Odense Sports Park, Denmark. He defeated world number 1 Momota Kento of Japan.

Akane Yamaguchi of Japan won her second title in women's category defeating An Se-young (South Korea).

- **Men's double Winners** – Takuro Hoki, and Yugo Kobayashi (Japan)
- **Women's double Winners** – Huang Dongping and Zheng Yu (China)
- **Mixed double Winners** – Yuta Watanabe and Arisa Higashino (Japan).

Denmark Open

- The Denmark Open, or formerly known as Danish Open, is an annual badminton tournament held in Denmark and organized by Danmarks Badminton Forbund. **The tournament started in 1935.**

About Badminton World Federation

- The Badminton World Federation is the international governing body for the sport of badminton recognised by the International Olympic Committee. **It was founded in 1934** as the **International Badminton Federation** with nine member nations.
- In 1981 the IBF merged with the World Badminton Federation, and on 24 September 2006, at the Extraordinary General Meeting in Madrid, the name of the organization was changed to Badminton World Federation.
- **President:** Poul-Erik Høyer Larsen, **Headquarters:** Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

11. Smriti Mandhana becomes first Indian women to score a Test hundred on Australian



Indian women's cricket team opener Smriti Mandhana became the first Indian woman to score a century in a pink-ball Test against Australia in the one-off Pink Ball Test. This is also the first century by an Indian woman on Australian soil. She took 171 balls to hit century and got out for 127 runs.

India women team played their first-ever pink-ball test

- The first pink-ball day and night Test match between India and Australian women team was played at the Carrara Oval in Queensland, Australia on 30th September.

12. Rahul Dravid appointed as Team India head coach

Former Indian batter, Rahul Dravid has been appointed as Team India's head coach. He succeeded Ravi Shastri, whose tenure ends after the 2021 edition of the T20 World Cup in the UAE.

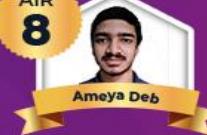


CLAT 2021



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 AIR 8 Ameya Deb	 AIR 18 Priyanka Garg	 AIR 31 Kanishk Srinivas
 AIR 50 Aamir Hussain	 AIR 77 Suvansh Mahajan	 AIR 90 Mahira Gupta

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Science/Defence News

1. Proba-1 completes 20 years in Orbit



European Space Agency (ESA) Proba-1 minisatellite was launched into orbit two decades ago on October 22. It was launched with just one goal – **to prove technologies in space**. Proba 1 was ESA's first venture into small missions. Proba-1 is roughly the size of a hotel fridge but hosts two Earth-observing instruments along with numerous technological firsts.

In twenty years, none of the primary units have actually failed and the spacecraft remains operational on all primary systems at this time. The satellite fulfilled many firsts for ESA – from being the first to use a lithium-ion battery (now an ubiquitous technology) to being the first ESA spacecraft with fully autonomous capabilities.

- Carrying plenty of low-cost, commercial-off-the-shelf components and systems, Proba-1 has sometimes been described as '**NewSpace before NewSpace**'.
- The mission continues to deliver imagery to scientific teams around the globe, while also providing valuable data on the longevity of space systems and components.
- It also marked the beginning of a series of Proba satellites, including Proba-2, Proba-V, and the currently-in-testing Proba-3.
- The micro-satellite was developed by **ESA's General Support Technology Programme (GSTP)** and built by an industrial consortium led by the Belgian company Verhaert.

About European Space Agency (ESA)

- ESA is an intergovernmental organisation comprising of 22 member states.
- It is dedicated for the exploration of space.
- ESA was established in 1975.
- It is headquartered in Paris, France.

Source: ESA

2. South Korea launches first homegrown space rocket Nuri

South Korea has launched its first homegrown rocket, stepping up the country's ambitions in space. The **Korean Satellite Launch Vehicle II, known as Nuri**, took off from Goheung, about 500km (310 miles) south of Seoul. However, it failed to successfully deploy a test satellite into orbit.

- The rocket was launched from Naro Space Center, South Korea. This space centre is located on a small island on the southern coast of South Korea.
- South Korea is aiming to send a probe to the **moon by 2030**.

Source: BBC

3. NITI Aayog launches Atal Innovation Mission digi-book



NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has launched "**Innovations for You**," which attempts to showcase success stories of Atal Innovation Mission's Startups in different domains.

As the country celebrates the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav - 75th Year of Independence, the Innovations for You series by Atal Innovation Mission capture show startups in various sectors are innovating to create a sustainable future in a post-pandemic era.

First edition of the book

- The first edition of this book is focused on innovations in Health Care and soon other sectors shall follow.
- The book is a compilation of 45 health tech startups, incubated at Atal Incubation Centres spread across the country.
- These startups are leveraging frontier technologies such as AI, IoT, ICT and others to provide socially relevant solutions to problems like anaemia, Malaria, dental care, mental health, neonatal and child care and monitoring human vitals, among others.



Note:

- The digi-book series, Innovations for You, by Atal Innovation Mission brings to you the best of innovations and entrepreneurs to the forefront.
- The subsequent editions of the book will focus on other emerging sectors like AgriTech, EduTech, Mobility, EV among others.

About NITI Aayog

- National Institution for Transforming India, better known as NITI Aayog, was formed on January 01, 2015.
- It is the country's premier policy-making institution that is expected to bolster the economic growth of the country.
- The Government of India constituted NITI Aayog to replace the Planning Commission, which had been instituted in 1950. This step was taken to better serve the needs and aspirations of the people.
- Chairperson of Niti Aayog: Hon'ble Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India
- Vice Chairperson of Niti Aayog: Dr Rajiv Kumar
- Head office – New Delhi.

Source: ANI

4. Intel launches Intel Unnati Program to set up 100 data centric labs in 1 yr

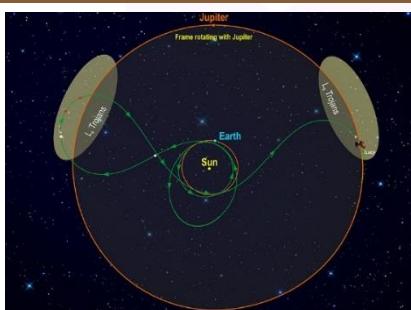
Intel announced the launch of the **Intel® Unnati Program** to help equip **engineering students in India with industry-relevant data-centric skills**. Through a network of system integrators, 100 Intel® Unnati Data-Centric Labs in emerging technologies will be set up over the next year across universities and engineering institutes in India.

About initiative

- The initiative will provide the country's higher educational institutions with long-term capabilities in technology and lab infrastructure, enabling a greater focus on research and innovation.
- The Intel Unnati Program has been piloted across 15 colleges that are in the process of setting up Centres of Excellence on their campuses.
- Program implementation is supported by a network of system integrators across India who can customize the lab configuration to suit each institution's requirements, train the faculty on course content, and provide ongoing maintenance support.
- The emphasis is on hands-on experiences that build confidence among students in the use of hardware and software toolkits.

Source: Intel

5. NASA launches Lucy mission to explore the Trojan asteroids



American space agency NASA launched the Lucy mission at on Oct. 16, 2021, on a United Launch Alliance Atlas V 401 rocket from Space Launch Complex-41 on Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida.

About Lucy mission

- NASA's Lucy mission is the first spacecraft launched to **explore the Trojan asteroids**, a population of primitive asteroids orbiting in tandem with Jupiter.
- During its 12-year primary mission, Lucy will explore a record-breaking number of asteroids, flying by one main belt asteroid, and seven Trojans.
- No other space mission in history has been launched to as many different destinations in independent orbits around our Sun.
- The Lucy **mission is named after the fossilized skeleton** of an early hominin (pre-human ancestor) discovered in Ethiopia in 1974 and named "Lucy" by the team of paleoanthropologists who discovered it.

Trojans

- Jupiter trojans are also called as trojan asteroids.
- These are a large group of asteroids which share the orbit of planet Jupiter around the Sun. Each trojan revolves around one of Jupiter's stable Lagrange points, either L4 or L5.
- They are distributed in two elongated and curved regions around these Lagrangian points.
- The Trojans are clusters of rock grains and exotic ices that didn't coalesce into planets when the solar system formed.

Goal

- NASA's Lucy mission will explore a record-breaking number of asteroids, flying by one asteroid in the solar system's main asteroid belt, and by seven Trojan asteroids.

Source: NASA



6. NASA's Psyche mission: A mission to a metal world

NASA's Psyche mission is targeted to launch on August 2022. The Psyche mission is a journey to a unique metal-rich asteroid orbiting the Sun between Mars and Jupiter.

What is NASA's Psyche mission?

- NASA's Psyche mission is the first mission that will explore a unique giant metal asteroid Psyche that is orbiting the Sun between Mars and Jupiter.
- The Psyche mission is being led by Arizona State University. NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory will be looking into mission management, navigation, and operations.
- The Psyche mission was selected as one of the two missions of NASA to explore the early Solar System on January 4, 2017.



Objectives of Psyche mission

- Understand how planets and other bodies separated into their layers including cores, mantles, and crusts
- For the first time, examine an asteroid made not of rock and ice, but metal
- Explore the early eras of our solar system

Trajectory

- The Psyche spacecraft will travel to the asteroid using solar-electric (low-thrust) propulsion, arriving in 2026, following a Mars flyby and gravity-assist in 2023.
- After arrival, the mission plan calls for 21 months spent at the asteroid, mapping it and studying its properties.

Orbit

- Once the spacecraft arrives at the asteroid in 2026, plans call for it to spend 21 months at the asteroid, performing science operations from four staging orbits, which become successively closer.

About the asteroid Psyche

- Psyche is the 16th asteroid that was discovered in 1852 by Italian astronomer Annibale de Gasparis.
- He named the asteroid Psyche after the Goddess of the Soul in ancient Greek mythology.
- Measuring 130 miles (210 kilometers) in diameter, the asteroid is 3 times farther from the Sun than the Earth.
- Unlike other asteroids made up of ice or rock, asteroid Psyche is made up of mostly metallic iron and nickel which is similar to the core of the Earth.
- Scientists believe that asteroid Psyche could be an exposed core of an early planet as large as Mars but it lost its outer rocky layers due to infinite violent collisions billion years ago.

Mission Timeline

- Launch: 2022
- Solar electric cruise: 3.5 years
- Arrival at (16) Psyche: 2026
- Observation Period: 21 months in orbit, mapping and studying Psyche's properties

Mission Events

- 2022 - Launch of Psyche spacecraft from Kennedy Space Center, Florida
- 2023 - Mars Flyby of Psyche spacecraft
- 2026 - Psyche spacecraft arrives in asteroid's orbit
- 2026-2027 - Psyche spacecraft orbits the Psyche asteroid

Source: NASA

7. Cyclones Gulab and Shaheen caused considerable damage to South and West Asia

Cyclones Gulab and Shaheen were two related, consecutive tropical cyclones that caused considerable damage to South and West Asia.

Cyclone Gulab impacted eastern India, while Cyclone Shaheen impacted Pakistan, Iran, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates.

Key highlights

- Gulab was the **third named storm of the 2021 North Indian Ocean cyclone season**, as well as the fourth named storm of the season after its reformation in the Arabian Sea as Shaheen.
- The system quickly organized, with the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** upgrading the system to a depression on the same day. On the next day, the system strengthened into a Cyclonic Storm, and the IMD assigned it the name Gulab.
- **On September 26, Gulab** made landfall in India's Andhra Pradesh but weakened overland, before degenerating into a remnant low on September 28.
- The system continued moving westward, emerging into the Arabian Sea on September 29, before regenerating into a depression early on September 30. Early on October 1, the system restrengthened into a Cyclonic Storm, which the IMD named **Shaheen**.
- The system gradually strengthened as it entered the **Gulf of Oman**.
- While slowly moving westward, the storm turned southwestward, subsequently making an extremely rare landfall in Oman on October 3, as a Category 1-equivalent cyclone. Shaheen then rapidly weakened, before dissipating the next day.
- **The name Gulab was suggested by Pakistan which means rose in Urdu/Hindi. The name Shaheen, provided by Qatar which means falcon in Arabic.**
- The system overall brought heavy rain and strong winds throughout India and the Middle East, killing at least 39 people.
- Water-related damage was extensive, while communications were disrupted as winds downed many power lines.
- Hundreds of roads were closed in India. Shaheen delivered extreme rainfall to Oman, causing flooding across a wide area of the country's northeastern governorates.

Classification: There are two types of cyclones:

1. **Tropical cyclones;** and
2. **Extra Tropical cyclones** (also called Temperate cyclones or middle latitude cyclones or Frontal cyclones or Wave Cyclones).
 - The World Meteorological Organisation uses the term 'Tropical Cyclone' to cover weather systems in which winds exceed 'Gale Force' (minimum of 63 km per hour).
 - **Tropical cyclones develop in the region between the Tropics of Capricorn and Cancer.** They are large-scale weather systems developing over tropical or subtropical waters, where they get organized into surface wind circulation.

How are the cyclones named?

- In 2000, a group of nations called **WMO/ESCAP (World Meteorological Organisation/United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific)**, which comprised Bangladesh, India, the Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Thailand, decided to start naming cyclones in the region.
- After each country sent in suggestions, the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones (PTC) Finalised the list. The WMO/ESCAP expanded to include five more countries in 2018 — **Iran, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.**

What are the guidelines to adopt names of cyclones?

- While picking names for cyclones, here are some of the rules that countries need to follow. If these guidelines are followed, the name is accepted by the panel on tropical cyclones (PTC) that finalises the selection:
- The proposed name should be neutral to (a) politics and political figures (b) religious beliefs, (c) cultures and (d) gender
- Name should be chosen in such a way that it does not hurt the sentiments of any group of population over the globe
- It should not be very rude and cruel in nature. It should be short, easy to pronounce and should not be offensive to any member. The maximum length of the name will be eight letters
- The proposed name should be provided with its pronunciation and voice over

About India Meteorological Department

- It is an agency of the **Ministry of Earth Sciences** of the Government of India. It is the principal agency responsible for meteorological observations, weather forecasting and seismology.
- IMD is also one of the **six Regional Specialized Meteorological Centres** of the **World Meteorological Organisation**.
- It was formed in the year **1875**. Current DG: Mrutyunjay Mohapatra.

8. India, Sri Lanka joint military exercise: “MitraShakti21

The 8th edition of joint military exercise ‘**Mitra Shakti 21**’ was conducted between India and Sri Lanka. The 12 days exercise is being conducted at Combat Training School, Ampara, Sri Lanka.

- 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.
- The 7th edition of the Mitra Shakti exercise was conducted at Foreign Training Node (FTN) in Pune in 2019.

9. India-Japan Bilateral Maritime Exercise JIMEX-21 commenced

Fifth edition of India-Japan Maritime Bilateral Exercise ‘**JIMEX-21**’ is to be held in **Arabian Sea** from 6th to 8th October 2021.

- **Aim:** To develop common understanding of operational procedures and enhance inter-operability through conduct of multitude of advanced exercises.
- JIMEX series of exercises were introduced in **January 2012** with special focus on maritime security cooperation.
- It involves weapon firings, cross-deck helicopter operations and complex surface, etc.

10. Exercise Yudh Abhyas: India-U.S. bilateral exercise

The **17th edition** of the **India-U.S. bilateral exercise**, Yudh Abhyas 2021, was conducted at **Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, Alaska, U.S.** from **October 15 to 29**.

- The 14-day training schedule includes activities on joint training in a counter-insurgency, counter-terrorism environment under the U.N. mandate.
- From the U.S. side, 300 soldiers belonging to the First Squadron (Airborne) of the 40th Cavalry Regiment and 350 soldiers of the 7 Madras infantry battalion of the Army are participating in the exercise.
- The previous version of this exercise was held at the **Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Bikaner** in **February 2021**.

Major Facts about Yudh Abhyas

- Exercise Yudh Abhyas is the largest running joint military training and defence cooperation endeavour between the two countries.
- The exercise was started in the year **2002** and is hosted **alternately by the two countries since 2004**.
- The training and exercises in Yudh Abhyas occur at Battalion level. The joint planning of Yudh Abhyas takes place at Brigade level.

11. 6th India-UK joint military exercise ‘AJEYA WARRIOR’ held in Uttarakhand

The 6th edition of annual Joint Military Exercise ‘AJEYA WARRIOR’ between India and UK was held in Chaubatia, Uttarakhand from 8th October to October 20, 2021.

- AJEYA WARRIOR: It is a joint military exercise between India and United Kingdom since 2013.
- The exercise strengthen bilateral defence cooperation between the armies of the two countries and develop interoperability and sharing of expertise



12. Russia test-fires Zirkon hypersonic cruise missile

Russia has successfully test fired **Zirkon hypersonic cruise missile** from nuclear submarine for the first time by Severodvinsk submarine in the Barents Sea.

- It first test-fired Zircon from the surface and then launched another missile from submerged position in the White Sea.
- Zircon is a part of new generation of unrivaled arms systems, which can fly at nine times the speed of sound and have a range of **1,000 kilometres**.

13. Abdul Qadeer Khan: 'Father of Pakistan's nuclear bomb' passed away

Abdul Qadeer Khan regarded as the "father of Pakistan's nuclear bomb", has passed away aged 85 after being hospitalised with Covid-19. Dr Khan was hailed as a national hero for transforming his country into the world's first Islamic nuclear power.

But he was also notorious for having smuggled nuclear secrets to states including **North Korea and Iran**.

About AQ Khan

- Known as **AQ Khan**, the scientist was instrumental in setting up Pakistan's first nuclear enrichment plant at **Kahuta near Islamabad**.
- By 1998, the country had conducted its first nuclear tests. Islamabad had detonated its first nuclear weapon in 1998 when he was leading the Khan Research Laboratories (KRL) - a uranium enrichment facility that has been expanded to many other fields of science over a period of time - in Kahuta, near Islamabad.
- For the people of Pakistan, he was a national icon.
- Khan was born in 1936 in Bhopal, India, and had migrated along with his family to Pakistan after the Partition.
- He studied metallurgical engineering in Berlin after completing a degree in science from Karachi University in 1960. Later on, he went for advanced studies to Netherlands and Belgium.

About India's Nuclear Tests and Nuclear Doctrine

- In 1965, India and the NAM countries proposed specific measures to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons at the UN Arms Commission. These are:
- Not to pass on nuclear technology to others
- There is no use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear powers
- UN protection in non-nuclear countries
- Prohibition of nuclear weapons in a nuclear test

In **May 1974**, India conducted its first nuclear test in Pokhran with the name "**Smiling Buddha**".

- In 1998, five nuclear tests were performed as part of the Pokhran-II series. These tests were collectively called **Operation Shakti**.
- In **2003**, India adopted its **Nuclear Doctrine of 'No First Use'** i.e., India will use nuclear weapons only in retaliation against a nuclear attack on its Territory.
- India has an estimated 156 nuclear weapons at the beginning of 2021 compared to 150 at the beginning of last year, while Pakistan has 165 nuclear weapons, up from 160 by 2020 (SIPRI Yearbook 2021). Pakistan has not stated a policy of "first use" and little is known about its nuclear program.

14. International Energy Agency invites India to become full-time member

International Energy Agency (IEA) has invited India, the world's third-largest energy consumer, to become its full-time member - a proposal if accepted will require New Delhi to raise strategic oil reserves to 90 days requirement.

About the International Energy Agency

- The International Energy Agency is an autonomous Intergovernmental Organisation. **The IEA was established in 1974** by developed countries - under the auspices of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) - in response to the oil embargo.
- IEA is made up of **30 member countries and eight associate nations**. Four countries are seeking accession to full membership - Chile, Colombia, Israel and Lithuania.
- India became an Associate member of IEA in March 2017 but it was in engagement with IEA long before its association with the organization. The World Energy Outlook report is released by the IEA annually.



Its purpose is guided by four main areas of focus

- Energy security
- Economic development
- Environmental awareness
- Global engagement

Roles and responsibilities

- It was founded in the wake of the **1973-1974 oil crisis** to help its members respond to the massive disruption of the oil supply, a role that continues to be fulfilled today.
- The IEA mandate has expanded over time to include monitoring and analyzing global energy trends, promoting sound energy policy, and promoting international technology cooperation.

What if India becomes its member?

- Countries that want to become members of the **IEA must also be members of the OECD** and hold **90 days of oil importation as commercial stocks**.
- The proposal, if approved, will require India to increase oil shares within 90 days. **Current strategic oil reserves equal to 9.5 days of its need**.
- The IEA and India cooperate on a wide-variety of topics, including the expansion of renewables, energy efficiency, the energy-environment nexus, oil stocks and emergency preparedness, data, investment, and innovation.
- The IEA also regularly provides detailed analysis of India's energy sector, such as a recent deep dive on decarbonising the iron and steel sector.
- Enhanced cooperation between India and the IEA will largely contribute to promoting development in various areas including global energy security, global energy governance and the use of sustainable energy resources.

Source: Business Standard

15. Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile: Agni 5 successfully launched

India on 27th October successfully carried out the launch of the **Surface-to-Surface Ballistic Missile, Agni-5**. The test-fire was held approximately 19:50 hrs. at the **APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha**. The launch test was carried out in line with India's stated policy to have 'credible minimum deterrence' that underpins the commitment to '**No First Use**', the Defence Ministry underlined.

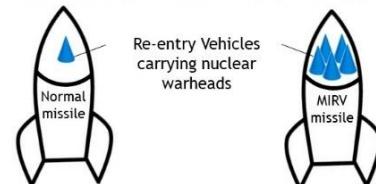
What is Agni 5?

- Agni 5 is an **Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile developed by DRDO** (Defence Research & Development Organization) and manufactured by **Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)**.
- A Ballistic Missile is a missile that follows a trajectory and delivers warheads at a predefined target. Most of its trajectory is unpowered and governed by gravity.
- Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile is missiles that have a **range of 5000 km**. It is a part of Agni Series.

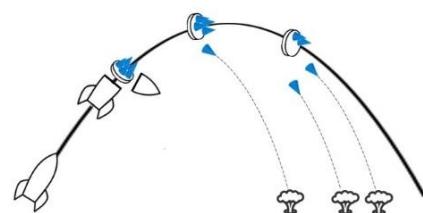
Agni Series:

- Agni series of missiles were conceptualized keeping in view the rising threat from neighbors in 1980s itself. Agni missiles are a product of the **Integrated Guided Missile Development Project (IGMDP) launched in 1982** by the Ministry of Defence (MOD).
- Agni 5 marks the entry of Indian capability in the Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile Range. Agni 5 is the most advanced in terms of navigation, guidance, engine, and warhead.
- Many indigenously developed technologies were also tested in the Agni V trial. This variant of Agni i.e., Agni 5 is having advantages of higher reliability, longer shelf-life, less maintenance, and enhanced mobility.

Multiple Independently-targetable Reentry Vehicles (MIRVs)



Each re-entry vehicle can be independently targeted - launched from one missile, but hitting different targets



Sea-based MIRVs	Land-based MIRVs	Sea- and land-based MIRVs	Seeking MIRVs
United States	China	Russia	Pakistan
United Kingdom	France	India	

Land-based MIRVs are particularly destabilizing because many warheads on fewer missiles are vulnerable to attack, incentivizing an adversary to strike first in a time of crisis.

To learn more, visit www.armscontrolcenter.org

Why India needs Agni 5?

- India has adopted a nuclear doctrine of minimal credible deterrence and 'no first use' policy. On the other hand, when you look at China, then you may find that China's 'no first use' policy only holds true if the territory does not belong to them.
- This means that if they consider any territory as theirs, they can use nuclear weapons in that territory. Observing this case, India needs a weapon like Agni to protect its Northeastern states like Arunachal Pradesh.

Features of Agni 5 Missile:

- Agni V can be launched at a short notice from any location. It is canister based.
- **Agni-5 speed:** It can reach an exceptional Mach 24 speed which is 29,401 km/h, 18,269 mph or 8.1670 km/s.
- Strike range of Agni 5 is more than **5000 km**
- It can carry a nuclear warhead of about **1500 kg**.
- Agni 5 is equipped with a high-speed onboard computer and fault-tolerant software.
- **It is 17m in length and 2 m wide.**
- It also has the **MIRV (Multiple Independently Targetable Reentry Vehicle)** techniques that can carry 2-10 nuclear warheads.

Importance:

- India joined the club of countries like USA, China, France, Russia, and Britain which have intercontinental ballistic missile capabilities.
- Induction of Agni 5 will add more teeth to India's deterrence against India's adversaries.



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AIR 90	Mahira Gupta

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Important One Liners Questions (Oct 2021)

National Affairs

1. National Research Centre on Yak (NRCY) is located in which state/union territories _____ **Arunachal Pradesh.**
2. FSSAI has signed a memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which ministry to support micro food entrepreneurs, farmer producer organisations (FPOs), self help groups (SHGs) and producers cooperatives to improve the standard of food businesses _____ **Ministry of Food Processing Industries.**
3. Who launched "SACRED portal" for senior citizens in India to provide a platform for senior citizens seeking employment opportunities _____ **M Venkaiah Naidu.**
4. World's largest national flag, made up of Khadi cloth, has been installed in _____ **Leh, Ladakh.**
5. Vice-President, M. Venkaiah Naidu has inaugurated Mahabahu Brahmaputra River Heritage Centre in which city _____ **Guwahati, Assam.**
6. The Union Cabinet has approved for setting up for 7 Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel Parks (PM MITRA) with a total outlay of _____ **₹4,445 crore.**
7. The iconic Indian superhero - Chacha Chaudhary has been declared as the mascot of the which flagship programme _____ **Namami Gange Programme.**
8. The Industrial Security Agreement summit between India and the US was held in _____ **New Delhi.**
9. What is the goal of the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U) 2.0 that was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently _____ **'Garbage Free' cities.**
10. What is the goal of the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0. that was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently _____ **'Water Secure' cities.**
11. According to a global study by the British Virgin Islands-based cybersecurity company Surfshark, what is India's rank in the Digital Quality of Life Index _____ **59th.**
12. 'SVAMITVA' scheme is a central sector scheme that is implemented by which ministry _____ **Ministry of Panchayati Raj.**
13. Who has launched the Indian Space Association (ISPA), a private industry body to help boost space technology in India _____ **Narendra Modi.**
14. National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has declared combined areas of Guru Ghasidas National Park and Tamor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary

as 4th Tiger Reserve of which state _____ **Chhattisgarh.**

15. Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT 2.0) has been approved till _____ **2025-26.**
16. India's first indigenous pilot plant to convert high ash Indian coal to methanol has been inducted in which city _____ **Hyderabad.**
17. India's first indigenous pilot plant to convert high ash Indian coal to methanol has been inducted in which city _____ **Hyderabad.**
18. What is India's rank in the Henley Passport Index 2021, which lists the world's most travel-friendly passports _____ **90th.**
19. What is India's rank in the Global Food Security (GFS) Index 2021 _____ **71st.**
20. What is India's rank in the 2021 Mercer CFS Global Pension Index survey, that ranked 43 pension systems across the world _____ **40th.**
21. Recently inaugurated Kushinagar International Airport is _____ airport in Uttar Pradesh to scheduled passenger flights _____ **ninth.**
22. Which country has received the first consignment of 3.1 million litres high quality non-harmful Nano Nitrogen liquid fertiliser from India _____ **Sri Lanka.**
23. Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Prerana Sthal' was inaugurated at Naval Science & Technological Laboratory (NSTL) in _____ **Visakhapatnam.**
24. What is India's rank in the Global Hunger Index 2021 _____ **101st.**
25. What is India's rank in the Rule of Law Index 2021 of the World Justice Project (WJP), an independent advocacy group founded in the United States _____ **79th.**
26. "Banni" breed of buffaloes found in which state of India that's first IVF calf was born recently _____ **Gujarat.**
27. R K Singh, Union Minister of Power & New and Renewable Energy, launched the new market segment GDAM, what does 'A' stands for in GDAM _____ **Ahead (Green Day Ahead Market (GDAM))**
28. Which institution has launched 'Garuda App' _____ **Election Commission of India (ECI).**
29. What is India's rank, in the report published by London & Partners and Dealroom.co for climate tech investment _____ **9th.**
30. The first ever 'Apple Festival' was held in which place _____ **Srinagar.**



State Affairs

31. Festival of Dance and Music "Nata Sankirtana" celebrated in which state _____ **Manipur**.
32. Biennial Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi Award for National Integration and National Contribution being conferred by which state _____ **Assam**.
33. Which state government has launched a face recognition software to aid police personnel during their investigations _____ **Andhra Pradesh**.
34. Kuttiattoor Mango and Edayur Chilli belongs to which state that have received Geographical Indication tag (GI Tag) recently _____ **Kerala**.
35. Famous Alibaug white onion belongs to which state that has been accorded Geographical Indication (GI) tag recently _____ **Maharashtra**.
36. According to a global study by the British Virgin Islands-based cybersecurity company Surfshark, which country topped in the Digital Quality of Life Index _____ **Denmark**.
37. Which state has decided to ban packaged mineral water from January 1, 2022 _____ **Sikkim**.
38. Which state has launched 'Mission Basundhara' at a programme organised by the Revenue and Disaster Management department _____ **Assam**.
39. Wada Kolam Rice (Zini Rice) belongs to which state that has been accorded 'Geographical Indication' (GI) tag recently _____ **Maharashtra**.
40. Karuppur kalamkari paintings and Kallakurichi Wood carvings belongs to which state/UT those have been awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tags _____ **Tamil Nadu**.
41. Which state government has launched mentorship programme 'Desh Ke Mentor' for children studying in Classes IX to XII of government schools _____ **Delhi**.
42. Which state police has launched a patrolling operation called 'Operation Satark' _____ **Delhi**.
43. Which state Government launched a special seven-day COVID-19 inoculation drive called Mission Kavach-Kundal with a target to vaccinate 15 lakh people every day _____ **Maharashtra**.
44. The World Bank Board of Executive Directors has approved a USD 40 million project that is aimed at improving the quality of health services in _____ **Meghalaya**.
45. 'Mount Harriet' that has been renamed as 'Mount Manipur' is located in which state/UTs _____ **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**.
46. Which state has financed the highest number of units in the country under the Prime Minister

Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)
_____ **Uttar Pradesh**.

47. Which state government has announced the implementation of the scheme "Mukhyamantri Ration Apke Dwar Yojana" _____ **Madhya Pradesh**.
48. India's first state government-owned Wildlife DNA analysis laboratory was opened in which state _____ **Maharashtra**.
49. Which became the first state to release its own Wildlife Action plan (2021-30) _____ **Maharashtra**.
50. The Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with which state government to spread awareness about the benefits of listing SMEs in the state _____ **Chhattisgarh**.

International Affairs

51. Which country named the cyclone 'Shaheen' that battered Oman lashing the sultanate with high winds and rain and caused 5 people to die _____ **Qatar**.
52. Which country has successfully test-fired Hypersonic missile from a nuclear submarine for the first time _____ **Russia**.
53. What is the theme of the Dubai's Expo 2020 _____ **Connecting Minds, Creating the Future**.
54. India has been chosen as the Partner Administration for Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB) programme. The TIWB is a joint initiative of _____ **UNDP and OECD**.
55. 'The State of the World's Children 2021' is a flagship publication of which organization that was by Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Mansukh Mandaviya _____ **UNICEF**.
56. Which Arabian country planned to send a probe to land on an asteroid between Mars and Jupiter to collect data on the origins of the universe _____ **United Arab Emirates**.
57. With which country has India signed MoUs on research in climate change, and setting up a "green hydrogen" electrolyser plant _____ **Denmark**.
58. Which becomes the first BRICS country to officially join the High Ambition Coalition (HAC) for Nature and People _____ **India**.
59. Which country has unveiled the world's first automated, driverless train, billed as more punctual and energy efficient than traditional trains _____ **Germany**.
60. In association with the Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative (OPHI), which organization has released the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2021 _____ **UNDP**.



61. United Nations Biodiversity Summit is being held in which country _____ **China.**
62. In 2021 Henley Passport Index, Japan and which country stood at the top position this year _____ **Singapore.**
63. Which has become the first movie that was shot in International Space Station (ISS) _____ **The challenge.**
64. Where is the headquarter of Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO) located _____ **Moscow, Russia.**
65. Which country ranked top in the Global Food Security (GFS) Index 2021 _____ **Ireland.**
66. India, Israel, United States and which Arabian country have decided to launch new quadrilateral economic forum _____ **United Arab Emirates.**
67. Which country has launched its first space rocket to be completely developed and built in the country called 'Nuri' _____ **South Korea.**
68. Who becomes the first film director to shoot a film in space named as "The Challenge" _____ **Klim Shipenko.**
69. The 16th East Asia Summit was hosted by which country in that Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated virtually _____ **Brunei.**
70. Which country has successfully launched military communication satellite, titled as 'Syracuse 4A', into orbit _____ **France.**

Honor & Awards

71. According to the IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2021, Mukesh Ambani continues to be the richest man of India for consecutive year _____ **5th year.**
72. Along with whom Mallika Srinivasan has been chosen for the 2021 Global Leadership Award by US India Business Council (USIBC) _____ **Shiv Nadar.**
73. Who won the Nobel Prize 2021 in Medicine or Physiology _____ **David Julius and Ardem Patapoutian.**
74. Which group of persons won the 2021 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for their development of asymmetric organocatalysis, a "new and ingenious tool for molecule building" _____ **Benjamin List and David MacMillan.**
75. Who has been awarded 2021 Nobel Prize in Literature _____ **Abdulrazak Gurnah.**
76. Who has been conferred with the prestigious Aryabhata Award 2021 _____ **G Satheesh Reddy.**
77. Which group of persons have won the 2021 Nobel prize for Economics _____ **David Card, Joshua D Angrist and Guido W Imbens.**

78. Who has been conferred with Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence _____ **Randeep Guleria.**
79. Who received the prestigious C K Prahlad award for Global Business Sustainability Leadership for the year 2021 _____ **Satya Nadella.**
80. Name the Indian company that has won the prize in the "Clean Our Air" category in first-ever Earthshot Prize, also called "Eco Oscar", instituted by Prince William for its technology to create fuel, fertiliser and other speciality chemicals from agricultural waste _____ **Takachar.**
81. Seven-year-old Aadhyaa Aravind Shankar held from which state, who has scripted history by becoming the first-ever Indian to win the Children's Peace Image of the Year-Global Peace Photo Award _____ **Karnataka.**
82. Who has been conferred with the 51st Dadasaheb Phalke Award (2019 edition) for his stupendous contribution to Indian cinema at 67th National Film Awards ceremony _____ **Rajnikanth.**
83. Which Buddhist order has won the prestigious Martial Arts Education Prize 2021 from the UNESCO International Centre for Martial Arts for their brave acts of service _____ **Kung Fu Nuns.**
84. Renowned author and a filmmaker Tsitsi Dangarembga held from which country who becomes the first black woman to win 2021 Peace Prize of the German Book Trade for "new Enlightenment", a work on violence in her country and all over the world _____ **Zimbabwe.**
85. According to Ministry of Information and Broadcasting who will be conferred the Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award at 52nd International Film Festival of India in Goa _____ **Istevan Szabo and Martin Scorsese.**

Sports News

86. Which countries men's table tennis team created history by winning a medal at the Asian Table Tennis Championship 2021 _____ **India.**
87. Who became first Indian woman to score a Test hundred on Australian soil _____ **Smriti Mandhana.**
88. Which team has won the 2021 Durand Cup football title held in Kolkata _____ **FC Goa.**
89. Who won a gold medal in the women's 10m air pistol event at the ISSF junior world championship _____ **Manu Bhaker.**
90. Name the Indian women wrestler who won a silver medal in the World Wrestling Championships in Oslo, Norway _____ **Anshu Malik.**
91. Who won Formula 1 Turkish Grand Prix 2021, held at Istanbul Park in Tuzla, Istanbul _____ **Valtteri Bottas.**



92. Which country has the highest medal tally at 2021 International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Championship _____ **India**.
93. What is the official mascot of the U-17 Women's World Cup India 2022 _____ **Ibha**.
94. Which country has won the 2021 Thomas Cup trophy in Aarhus, Denmark _____ **Indonesia**.
95. South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship was held in which country _____ **Maldives**.
96. Chennai Super Kings (CSK) has defeated which team in the final to win the 2021 Indian Premier League (IPL) title _____ **Kolkata Knight Riders**.
97. Who became India's 21st Woman Grand Master after achieving her 2nd International Master in Budapest, Hungary _____ **Divya Deshmukh**.
98. Name the Indian Grandmaster who clinched the title in the La Nucia Open chess tournament _____ **P Iniyar**.
99. Name the Indian fencer who has won 2022 Charlevoix National Competition in France in the individual women's sabre event _____ **Bhavani Devi**.
100. Renowned cricketer James Pattinson held from which country who announced his retirement from international cricket _____ **Australia**.
101. Who has won men's single title in the 2021 Denmark Open Badminton championship held at the Odense Sports Park in Odense, Denmark _____ **Viktor Axelsen**.
102. Who has won the MotoGP world championship at the Emilia-Romagna Grand Prix _____ **Fabio Quartararo**.
103. Who won the U.S. Grand Prix 2021 title _____ **Max Verstappen**.
104. Name the former cricketer who unveiled World's biggest cricket bat in Hyderabad _____ **Mohd Azharuddin**.
105. Name the Indian swimmer who won the gold medal in 50 meter backstroke at 74th senior National aquatic championships _____ **Ridhima Veerendra Kumar**.

Science and Defence

106. NASA is poised to send its first spacecraft to study the Trojan asteroids of which planet _____ **Jupiter**.
107. With which country has India conducted the 8th edition of joint military exercise 'Mitra Shakti 21' _____ **Sri Lanka**.
108. With which country India has conducted the 5th edition of bilateral maritime exercise 'JIMEX-21' in Arabian Sea _____ **Japan**.

109. The 6th edition of annual Joint Military Exercise 'AJEYA WARRIOR' was held between India and which country _____ **United Kingdom**.
110. The Malabar Exercise is associated with which Armed force of India involving US, Japan and Australia _____ **Indian Navy**.
111. NASA's Perseverance rover sent pictures of 'Jezero crater' revealing it was a quiet lake, the crater is in which planet _____ **Mars**.
112. India in Feb 2022, is set to host which naval exercise for which 46 countries have been invited and that would be its largest exercise _____ **Exercise Milan**.
113. The 17th edition of the 'Ex Yudh Abhyas 21' was held between India and which country _____ **USA**.
114. In collaboration with which Indian Company European commercial drone and software developer FIXAR announced its entry in the fast-emerging domestic unmanned aerial vehicle market in India _____ **Paras Aerospace**.
115. Which ship builders builds India's first indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC) INS Vikrant that has begun its 2nd phase of sea trials _____ **Cochin Shipyard Limited, Kochi**.
116. So far, India has conducted bilateral tri service exercise only with three countries and the recent one is 'Konkan Shakti 2021' with UK, which are the other two countries _____ **Russia and USA**.
117. The first of two additional Krivak or Talwar-class stealth frigates, Tushil, being built by which country for the Indian Navy, that was formally launched into the waters _____ **Russia**.
118. The new indigenously built Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) named as 'Sarthak' has been dedicated to the nation, it will be based in _____ **Porbandar, Gujarat**.
119. What is the strike range of the recently test-fired ballistic missile Agni-5 from APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha _____ **5000 km**.
120. Which Indian port got new long-range marine communication technology called as Radio Over Internet Protocol (ROIP) system _____ **Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata**.

New Appointments

121. Who has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief executive officer (MD & CEO) of National Securities Depositories (NSDL) _____ **Padmaja Chunduru**.
122. Najla Boudou Boudou Romdhane has become the first female prime minister of which country _____ **Tunisia**.



123. Who has been elected as the new Prime Minister of Japan by the Japanese Parliament Diet _____ **Fumio Kishida.**
124. Abiy Ahmed has been sworn in as the Prime Minister of which country for a second five-year term _____ **Ethiopia.**
125. Who has been appointed as the Brand Ambassador of National Basketball Association (NBA) _____ **Ranveer Singh.**
126. Who has joined has joined the board of Fintech firm BharatPe as its Chairman _____ **Rajnish Kumar.**
127. Alexander Schallenberg has been appointed as new Chancellor of which country _____ **Austria.**
128. Who has been appointed as the Advisor to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for two years on contractual basis _____ **Amit Khare.**
129. Who has been elected as the chairman of the World Steel Association (WSA) for 2021-22 _____ **Sajjan Jindal.**
130. Who has been was unanimously elected as the President of the Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWLF) _____ **Sahdev Yadav.**
131. Who has been appointed as the Chairman of Association of Mutual Funds in India _____ **A. Balasubramanian.**
132. Who has been appointed as the ambassador of the Russian Film Festival in India _____ **Imtiaz Ali.**
133. Who has been selected for 2022 Joseph A. Cushman Award for Excellence in Foraminiferal Research _____ **Rajiv Nigam.**
134. Who has been appointed as the brand ambassador of FloBiz, a neobank for Indian Small to Medium sized Businesses (SMBs) for its flagship product myBillBook _____ **Manoj Bajpayee.**
135. Who will be the chairman of the reconstituted seven-member Economic Advisory Council to the PM _____ **Bibek Debroy.**
136. Under whose chairmanship the Supreme Court has constituted a 3-member independent expert to probe the alleged use of Israeli spyware Pegasus for targeted surveillance in India _____ **R.V. Raveendran.**
137. Shavkat Mirziyoyev has been re-elected as President of which country for a second five-year term _____ **Uzbekistan.**

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Passage Based Current Affairs Sample Questions

PASSAGE-1

A recent study on the [1] has predicted a significant reduction in suitable habitat and biological corridors of the species in the climate change scenario, prompting scientists to suggest an adaptive spatial planning of protected area network in the western Himalayas for conserving the species.

The [1] is one of the largest carnivores in the highlands of Himalayas. It occupies the higher reaches of the Himalayas in remote, mountainous areas of Pakistan and India, in small and isolated populations, and is extremely rare in many of its ranges. The study carried out in the western Himalayas by scientists of Zoological Survey of India, predicted a massive decline of about 73% of the bear's habitat by the year 2050.

"These losses in habitat will also result in loss of habitat from 13 protected areas (PAs), and eight of them will become completely uninhabitable by the year 2050, followed by loss of connectivity in the majority of PAs. Furthermore, simulation suggests a significant qualitative decline in remaining habitats of the species within the protected areas of the landscape," Lalit Sharma, head of wildlife section of ZSI and the lead author of the study, said.

"We have taken the [1] as an example because it is a top carnivore of the high-altitude Himalayan region. The elevation gradient in which the brown bear is distributed is most vulnerable to global warming as this elevation belt is getting warmer faster than other elevation zones of Himalayas," he added.

"For species like [1], which are found in the western Himalayas, such studies are very crucial as the habitat of such species is highly vulnerable to climate and unless we plan in advance, we cannot sustain its population in future," [2], director of ZSI, said.

Source: Excerpt from *The Hindu*, written/published Shiv Sahay Singh. (Dated 24th October, 2020)

- 1. Which of the following animal is referred as [1] in the passage?**
A. Himalayan Snow Leopard
B. Himalayan Giant Panda
C. Himalayan Black Bear
D. Himalayan Brown Bear

- 2. Who is the Director of Zoological Survey of India, referred as [2] in the passage?**
A. Shashikant Desai
B. Vinod Dua
C. Kailash Chandra
D. Subhash Chandra

- 3. The [1] is the largest carnivore in the highlands of Himalayas which is not found in the State of?**
A. Sikkim
B. Himachal Pradesh
C. Uttarakhand
D. Jammu and Kashmir.

- 4. [1] have been categorised as _____ in the IUCN Red list of Threatened Species in Himalayas and Hindukush.**
A. Danger Species
B. Critically Endangered Species
C. Low Concerned Species
D. Extremely Endangered Species



5. Which of the following is true about the International Union for Conservation of Nature?

1. It is an international organization working in the field of nature conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.
2. The organization is best known to the wider public for compiling and publishing the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, which assesses the conservation status of species worldwide.
3. IUCN has observer and consultative status at the United Nations and plays a role in the implementation of several international conventions on nature conservation and biodiversity. It was involved in establishing the World Wide Fund for Nature and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre.
4. IUCN was established in 1975. Its headquarters are in Vienna, Austria.

Options:-

- A. Only 1 and 2
- B. Only 2 and 3
- C. Only 2, 3 and 4
- D. Only 1, 2 and 3

PASSAGE-2

Pakistan will remain on the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) grey list. The decision was taken in the FATF's plenary session after Islamabad failed to comply with all 27 parameters set by the task force.

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the world's top anti-terrorism monitoring group, on Friday voted to keep Pakistan on a grey list for failing to comply with six out of the 27-point action plan handed to it. In its first virtual press conference, FATF President said, "They [Pakistan] have completed 21 out of 27. Pakistan has made progress but it needs to do more."

Sources tell that Turkey proposed during the FATF that members should consider Pakistan's good work. Turkey went further to suggest that the Financial Action Task Force should dispatch an on-site team to Pakistan to finalise its assessment instead of waiting for the completion of the remaining six out of 27 parameters. On-site teams of the FATF are permitted to make inspections only after jurisdictions complete their Action Plans. Normally, such a visit is a signal for exit from the Financial Action Task Force's grey or black list.

None of the members of the FATF seconded Turkey's proposal for on-site inspections in Pakistan during the plenary session. These members include Pakistan's closest allies- China, Malaysia, and Saudi Arabia. This indicates that FATF on-site visits to Pakistan are off the table for now.

The sudden disappearance of more than 4,000 names from its original list of 7,600 terrorists from schedule IV of its Anti-terrorism Act contributed to the FATF's decision on Pakistan. Other reasons included Pakistan's inaction against UN-Designated terrorists, including Dawood Ibrahim, Maulana Masood Azhar, Hafiz Saeed and Zakir ur Rehman Lakhvi.

Source: Excerpt from the India Today, written/published Geeta Mohan. (Dated 23rd October, 2020)

6. Which of the following is true about FATF?

1. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 during the G7 Summit in Paris.
2. The objectives of the FATF are to set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.
3. Its Secretariat is located at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) headquarters in Washington D.C.
4. Member Countries: As of 2019, it consists of thirty-seven member jurisdictions. India is not the member of FATF.

Options:-

- A. Only 1 and 2
- B. Only 1, 2 and 3
- C. Only 1, 2 and 4
- D. All of the above



- 7. As all action plan deadlines have expired, the FATF strongly urges Pakistan to swiftly complete its full action plan by?**
- A. January 2021
 - B. February 2021
 - C. March 2021
 - D. April 2021
- 8. Which of the following is true about the Grey List of FATF?**
- A. Countries that are considered safe haven for supporting terror funding and money laundering are put in the FATF grey list.
 - B. Countries known as Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories (NCCTs) are put in the grey list.
 - C. Countries that are considered safe haven for supporting Cyber terrorism and Human Trafficking are put in the FATF grey list.
 - D. Countries known as Countries of Active Concern (CAC) are put in the grey list.
- 9. Who is the President of FATF?**
- A. Michael Meyer
 - B. Roberto Azevedo
 - C. Marcus Pleyer
 - D. Marlin Sherry
- 10. Which of the following is possibly the direct impact on Pakistan by remaining in the grey list?**
- A. By remaining on the “Grey List”, Pakistan will not be able to procure any imports from the member nations of FATF.
 - B. By remaining on the “Grey List”, Pakistan will possibly lose its member status in United Nations.
 - C. By remaining on the “Grey List”, it would be difficult for Pakistan to get financial aid from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank and European Union, making its financial condition more precarious.
 - D. By remaining on the “Grey List”, Pakistan will not be able to resist United Nations observers to inspect its Nuclear sites to which Pakistan was resisting from last one decade.

Answers:

1. D	2. C	3. A	4. B	5. D	6. A	7. B	8. A	9. C	10. C
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DAYS TO REMEMBER

International Day of Older Persons:
1st October

Theme of International Day of Older Persons 2021: Digital Equity for All Ages

Adopted by UN General Assembly on December 14, 1990 and was first introduced in 1991.

World Vegetarian Day:
1st October

To raise awareness about ethical, environmental, health, and humanitarian benefits of vegetarian lifestyle.

The day was initiated by North American Vegetarian Society in Scotland in 1977

World Animal Day:
4th October 2021

The main goal of World Animal Day is to "raise the status of animals in order to improve welfare standards around the globe."

World Teachers' Day:
5th October

Theme 2021: Teachers at the heart of education recovery.
This day was established in 1994, to commemorate the signing of 1966 UNESCO/ILO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers.

Ganga River Dolphin Day: 5th October

To raise awareness and encourage conservation of Ganga River Dolphins.

The day was chosen as on this day in 2009, Ganga Dolphin was declared as national aquatic animals.

World Cotton Day:
7th October

To celebrate international cotton industry and its contribution to communities and the global economy.

It was first introduced in 2019 by WTO in Geneva.

Indian Air Force Day 2021: 8th October

89th anniversary of foundation day of the Indian Air force.
Estb. on 8th October 1932 by British Empire as Royal Indian Air Force.

Its name was changed to Indian Air Force in 1950.

World Post Day: 9th October

To celebrate the anniversary of Universal Postal Union establishment in 1874 in the Swiss Capital, Bern.
Theme of World Post Day 2021: Innovate to recover.

World Post Day was first celebrated in 1969.

World Mental Health Day:
10th October

Theme of World Mental Health Day 2021: Mental health in an unequal world.

Introduced in 1992 by World Federation for Mental Health

DAYS TO REMEMBER

World Day Against the Death Penalty
10 October

It was first organized in 2003 by World Coalition Against the Death Penalty.

Theme for 2021: *Women Sentenced to Death: An Invisible Reality.*

World Arthritis Day 2021:
12th October

To spread awareness about the existence and impact of rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases.

WAD was first observed in 1996.

Theme 2021: *Don't Delay, Connect Today: Time2Work.*

International Day for Disaster Reduction
13th October

To promote a global culture of risk-awareness and disaster reduction.

Theme 2021:
International cooperation for developing countries to reduce their disaster risk and disaster losses

15 October
World Students' Day

World Students' Day is observed on 15 October annually to mark the birth anniversary of A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.

16 October
World Food Day

World Food Day is celebrated every year on 16 October to inspire people about healthy diets. On this day Food and Agriculture Organisation was established and launched by the United Nations in 1945.

16 October
World Anaesthesia Day

World Anaesthesia Day is celebrated on October 16 to mark the first successful demonstration of diethyl ether anaesthesia in 1846.

17 October
International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is observed on 17 October every year. This day marks the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) on 20 November 1989.

20 October
World Statistics Day

World Statistics Day is celebrated every five years on October 20.

To acknowledge the importance of data authenticity and credibility across the globe.

Police Commemoration Day: 21st October

To pay tributes to all police personnel who died in the line of duty. Since 2012, the Police Commemoration Day Parade is being held at the National Level at the Police Memorial in Delhi.

DAYS TO REMEMBER

International Stuttering Awareness Day: 22nd October

To raise public awareness of the millions of people who have a speech disorder of stuttering or stammering.

The Theme of 2021:
“Speak the change you wish to see”

23 October Mole Day

Mole Day is marked on October 23 annually and is celebrated by chemists, chemistry students and chemistry enthusiasts across the world.

October 24 ITBP Raising Day

On October 24, 1962, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police were created for reorganising the border intelligence and security set up along the Indo-Tibetan border.

24 October United Nations Day

United Nations Day is observed on 24 October every year to mark the anniversary of the UN Charter's entry into force. Since 1948, this day is celebrated and in 1971 it was recommended by the United Nations GA.

24 October World Development Information Day

To draw the attention of the world to development problems and the need to strengthen international cooperation to solve them.
Established in 1972

International Internet Day: 29th October

To celebrate the usage of internet for the first time.

In 1969, Internet was known as ARPANET (Advanced Research Projects Agency Network).

First International Internet Day was celebrated on October 29, 2005

World Psoriasis Day: 29th October

To promote awareness, empowerment, and action for improving the quality of life for people with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis.

Theme for 2021: *Uniting for action.*

World Cities Day: 31st October

It was introduced in October 2014 at Shanghai, China.
General theme of World Cities Day: *Better City, Better Life.*
2021 Sub-Theme of WCD: *Adapting cities for climate resilience*

National Unity Day (Rashtriya Ekta Diwas): 31 October

To Celebrate birth anniversary of the Iron Man of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

2021 marks the 146th anniversary of Vallabhbhai Patel.

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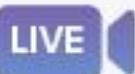
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