

Monthly Current Affairs November 2021

मासिक सम सामयिकी नवम्बर 2021

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Important News: State

Patalpani railway station to be named after tribal icon Tantya Bhil

Why in News

- **Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan** announced to name **Patalpani railway station** near Indore after tribal icon **Tantya Bhil**.

Note: Recently, Bhopal's Habibganj railway station was recently named after Rani Kamalapati, a tribal queen.

Key Points

- Indore's Bhanwar Kuan intersection and MR 10 bus stand will also be named after Tantya Bhil.
- Known as the Indian Robin Hood by tribals, **Tantya Bhil** is hailed as one of the revolutionaries who waged an armed struggle against British rule for 12 years.
- It is said that Tantya used to loot the treasuries of the British government and distribute the wealth among the poor.

Source: Business Standard

PM Modi lays the foundation Stone of Noida International Airport, Uttar Pradesh

Why in News

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** laid the foundation Stone of **Noida International Airport (NIA)** in Jewar, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh.
- With this, Uttar Pradesh will become the only state in India to have five international airports.

Key Points

- **Noida International Airport (NIA)** will be the second international airport to come up in Delhi NCR.
- The airport will be the logistics gateway of northern India.
- It will be India's first net zero emissions airport.
- The development of the first phase of the airport is being done with a cost of over Rs 10,050 crore. Spread over more than 1300 hectares of land, the completed first phase of the airport will have a capacity to serve around 1.2 crore passengers a year and work on it is scheduled to be completed by 2024.
- It will be executed by the international bidder **Zurich Airport International AG**.

Source: PIB

India's first 'Grass Conservatory' in Uttarakhand

Why in News

- **India's first 'Grass Conservatory'** was inaugurated by the research wing of **Uttarakhand forest department in Ranikhet of Almora district**.

Key Points

- Established in an area of 2 acre, the project has been funded under central government's **CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority) scheme**.
- Around 90 different grass species have been conserved/demonstrated in this conservation area displaying important scientific, ecological, medicinal and cultural information/aspects related to grass species.
- The project aims to create awareness about the importance of grass species, promote conservation and to facilitate further research in these species, as it has been proved in latest research that grasslands are more effective in carbon sequestration than forest land.

Source: TOI

FCI's first state of art laboratory in Gurugram

Why in News

- **Food Corporation of India (FCI)** under Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) has developed its first state-of-art laboratory for in house testing of food grain samples.
- Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution inaugurated the **'Quality Control Laboratory' at Institute of Food Security (IFS), FCI, Gurugram (Haryana)**.

Key Points

About Food Corporation of India (FCI):

- The Food Corporation of India is a statutory corporation created and run by the Government of India.
- It is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Government of India formed by the enactment of Food Corporation Act, 1964 by the Parliament of India.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi, India
- **Founded:** 14 January 1965

Source: PIB

India's first Food Museum inaugurated in Tamil Nadu's Thanjavur

Why in News

- Union Minister for Commerce, Industry, Food and Public Distribution Piyush Goyal launched **India's first Food Museum at Thanjavur district in Tamil Nadu**.

Key Points

- The food museum has been established by **Food Corporation of India (FCI)** in association with Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum (VITM), Bengaluru at a cost of Rs. 1.1 crore.
- Thanjavur is the birthplace of FCI where its first office was inaugurated on January 14, 1965.

Note: Currently, India is the fifth largest agricultural exporter in the world

Source: TOI

Pochampally village in Telangana selected as one of the best Tourism Villages by UNWTO

Why in News

- The **Pochampally village in Telangana State** has been selected as one of the best Tourism Villages by the **United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO)**.
- The prestigious award will be given on the occasion of the 24th session of the UNWTO General Assembly on 2nd December 2021 in Madrid, Spain.

Key Points

About Pochampally Village:

- Pochampally, 50 Kms from Hyderabad, is a town in Nalgonda district of Telangana and is often referred to as the **Silk City of India** for the exquisite sarees that are woven through a unique style called **Ikat**.
- This style, Pochampally Ikat, received a **Geographical Indicator (GI Status) in 2004**.
- In 2015, to recognise the diversity of weaving techniques and rich handloom tradition, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **first National Handloom Day on August 7** as a tribute to the formal proclamation of the Swadeshi Movement that was made in a meeting at the Calcutta Town hall on the same day in 1905.
- Pochampally is also known as Bhoodan Pochampally to commemorate the **Bhoodan Movement** that was launched by Acharya Vinobha Bhave from this village on April 18th, 1951.

Note:

- The Ministry of Tourism recommended three villages for the UNWTO Best Tourism Village entry from India.

- These were Kongthong in Meghalaya, Ladhpura Khas, Madhya Pradesh and Pochampally in Telangana. Pochampally, was awarded by UNWTO.

About Best Tourism Villages Initiative:

- The Best Tourism Villages by UNWTO Pilot initiative aims to award those villages which are outstanding examples of rural destinations and showcase good practices in line with its specified nine evaluation areas.
- It also aims to support villages to enhance their rural tourism potential through training and access to opportunities for improvement.

About United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO):

- The World Tourism Organization is the United Nations specialized agency entrusted with the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism.
- **Headquarters:** Madrid, Spain
- **Founded:** 1 November 1975

Source: PIB

Mumbai-Karnataka region consisting of 7 districts renamed 'Kittur Karnataka'

Why in News

- The Karnataka government decided to rename the **Mumbai-Karnataka** region comprising 7 districts as '**Kittur Karnataka**'.

Key Points

- Mumbai-Karnataka region consists of Uttara Kannada, Belagavi, Dharwad, Vijayapura, Bagalkote, Gadag and Haveri districts.
- The region was under the erstwhile Bomber presidency before Independence and the pro-kannada organisations' demand for renaming the region has been a long-standing one.
- The name "Kittur" is after a historical taluk in Belagavi district that was ruled by Rani Chennamma, who had fought against the British before Jhansi Rani Laxmibai did.

Note: Previously, the B S Yediyurappa government in 2019 had renamed Hyderabad-Karnataka region that was previously ruled by Nizams of Hyderabad as "Kalyana-Karnataka".

Source: India Today

Arunachal Pradesh's State butterfly 'Kaiser-i-Hind'

Why in News

- The State Cabinet of **Arunachal Pradesh**, headed by Chief Minister Pema Khandu, approved the **Kaiser-i-Hind** as the **State butterfly**.

Key Points

- Kaiser-i-Hind is a large and brightly coloured butterfly.
- It is scientifically known as *Teinopalpus imperialis*.
- The insect with a 90-120 mm wingspan is found in the eastern Himalayas.
- The butterfly also flutters in Nepal, Myanmar, Laos, Bhutan, Vietnam and southern China.

Protection Status:

- Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule II
- IUCN: Near Threatened
- CITES: Appendix II

Source: The Hindu

India's first ISO certified, first PPP model based 'Rani Kamalapati Railway Station' in Bhopal

Why in News

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** dedicated to the nation the redeveloped **Rani Kamalapati Railway Station in Bhopal**.
- He also launched the 'Ration Aapke Gram' scheme and Madhya Pradesh Sickle Cell Mission in Madhya Pradesh.

- He also laid the foundation of 50 Eklavya Model Residential Schools across the country.

Key Points

- **Rani Kamalapati Railway Station** in Bhopal is the country's first ISO certified, first **Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model** based railway station.
- The redeveloped Rani Kamalapati Railway station, named after brave and fearless Queen Kamalapati of the Gond kingdom, is the first world class railway station in Madhya Pradesh.
- The station is also developed as a hub for integrated multi-modal transport.

Note: The name of Bhopal's Habibganj Railway Station has been changed to Rani Kamalapati Railway Station.

Source: PIB

Meghalaya gets its 12th district 'Eastern West Khasi Hills'

Why in News

- The **12th district of Meghalaya – 'Eastern West Khasi Hills'** was inaugurated by Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma.

Key Points

- This new district, with its headquarters at Mairang, was bifurcated from its parent district of West Khasi Hills.
- The new district comprises Mairang and Mawthadraishan C&RD blocks respectively.
- Mairang is one of the oldest civil sub-divisions, which was inaugurated on November 10, 1976, and exactly after 45 years, it was upgraded to a new district.

Source: TOI

Haryana's Bhattu Kalan police station among India's top three

- The **Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has recognised **Bhattu Kalan police station** of Fatehabad district in Haryana among the top three police stations in India in 2021.
- The Union government has adopted a uniform model of ranking police stations in the country.
- The basic objective of the ranking is to improve the quality of policing and make it citizen-friendly.

Source: HT

India's first National Yogasana Sports Championships organised in Bhubaneswar

- **India's first Physical National Yogasana Championships** has been organised in Bhubaneswar, Odisha from November 11-13, 2021.
- It has been organised by the National Yogasana Sports Federation (NYSF) in association with the Odisha state.
- Around 560 young Yogasana Sports athletes from across 30 states took part in the event.

Source: TOI

Srinagar joins UNESCO Creative Cities Network 2021

Why in News

- The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** designated **Srinagar** as a part of **UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) 2021**.
- Srinagar has been designated the creative city in the field of Crafts and Folk Arts.

Key Points

- UNESCO designated 49 cities as part of the creative cities network. With this, the total number of creative cities in the world has reached 295 across 90 countries.
- After Hyderabad, Varanasi, Mumbai, Chennai, and Jaipur, Srinagar is the 6th Indian city to achieve this distinction.

Indian Cities on UCCN:

- Srinagar - Crafts and Folk Arts (2021)
- Hyderabad – Gastronomy (2019)
- Mumbai – Film (2019)
- Chennai- Music (2017)
- Varanasi- Music (2015)
- Jaipur- Crafts and Folk Arts (2015)

About UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN):

- It is a project of UNESCO launched in 2004 to promote cooperation among cities which recognized creativity as a major factor in their urban development.
- UNESCO designates the creative cities in seven fields — Craft, Folk Art, Media Arts, Gastronomy, Film Design, Literature and Music.

Source: Indian Express

India's largest landfill biogas plant launched in Hyderabad

Why in News

- **Ramky Enviro** has inaugurated one of the world's first and India's largest landfill gas-to-compressed biogas plant at the **Hyderabad Integrated Municipal Solid Waste (HiMSW) site, Hyderabad, Telangana.**

Key Points

- The project is focused on the conversion of landfill gas into compressed biogas as an automotive fuel.
- The project offers significant benefits such as carbon sequestration and reduced emissions of GHGs (GreenHouse Gases) into the environment and contributes to the greening of the automotive industry.

Source: The Hindu

Arunachal Pradesh to showcase 'heroic village' near the China border

Why in News

- **Arunachal Pradesh** is planning to serve the country one of its most patriotic destinations on the 75th year of Independence — **Kaho**, a village on the China border.

Key Points

- The State's Department of Information, Public Relations and Printing has sent a 12-member team to Kaho in Anjaw district for filming a documentary on the village and its people.
- One of seven villages in the Kibithoo block bisected by the Lohit River, Kaho had weathered the Chinese attack in 1962. Its people had assisted the Indian soldiers.

About Kaho village:

- Kaho is the first village from the China border in Anjaw district.
- Anjaw is one of the 11 districts of Arunachal Pradesh that share their border with China.

Source: The Hindu

Logos of Darjeeling's 'Toy Train' registered

Why in News

- More than two decades after the **Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR)** was designated a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, India has finally registered the **logos of the iconic 'Toy Train'** internationally as its intellectual property.
- DHR was declared a World Heritage Site on December 5, 1999 by UNESCO.

Key Points

- The use of these logos anywhere in the world will now require written permission from India and the payment of a fee.
- The DHR, which started operations in 1880, more than 140 years ago, has two logos, both of which have been patented.
- Both logos are over a century old, and popular in world heritage circuits.

- The Railway Ministry in Delhi and the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway office in Kurseong, West Bengal, initiated the process of registering the logo with the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks under the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry in August 2021.
- The claim was then sent to the **World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)**, a specialised agency of the United Nations based in Geneva, Switzerland, in accordance with the procedure laid down in WIPO's Vienna Classification (VCL).

Source: Indian Express

Former Punjab CM Amarinder Singh resigns from Congress, announces new party

- **Former Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh** resigned from the Congress.
- Singh also announced the name of his new political party '**Punjab Lok Congress**'.
- Punjab goes to polls early next year.
- Punjab is slated to go through assembly polls in 2022.

Facts about Punjab:

- **Governor:** Banwarilal Purohit
- **Capital:** Chandigarh
- **Chief Minister:** Charanjit Singh Channi

Source: TOI

Maharashtra becomes India's first state to release its own Wildlife Action plan

Why in News

- **Maharashtra** became India's first state to release its own **Wildlife Action plan (2021-30)**.

Key Points

- The new plan, which will be implemented over the next 10 years, recognises concerns about climate change impacts on wildlife, coastal ecosystems, marine biodiversity, flora and fauna.
- The plan will be a guiding document for an action plan for wildlife conservation for the next decade.
- 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.

Source: Indian Express

Important News: India

"Ocean Services, Modelling, Application, Resources and Technology (O-SMART)" scheme

Why in News

- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the continuation of the umbrella scheme **"Ocean Services, Modelling, Application, Resources and Technology (O-SMART)"** of **Ministry of Earth Sciences**, for implementation during the period from 2021-26 at an overall cost of Rs. 2177 crore.

Key Points

- The **O-SMART scheme** encompasses seven sub-schemes namely Ocean Technology, Ocean Modelling and Advisory Services (OMAS), Ocean Observation Network (OON), Ocean Non-Living Resources, Marine Living Resources and Ecology (MLRE), Coastal Research and Operation and Maintenance of Research Vessels.
- The O-SMART scheme encompassing oceanographic research activities is being implemented with the objectives for providing forecast and services based on the continuous observation of oceans, development of technologies and exploratory surveys for sustainable harnessing of our oceanic resources (both living and non-living) and promotion of front-ranking research in ocean sciences.

- This continuation of the scheme would contribute significantly towards national policy on the **blue economy** for effective and efficient use of the vast ocean resources in a Sustainable way.
- Efforts towards achieving **United Nations Sustainable Development Goal-14** to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources are being covered through the coastal research and marine biodiversity activities.

Note: Recently, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired has accorded its approval for stipendiary support of Rs. 3,054 crore to apprentices who undergo apprenticeship training under **National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS)** of Ministry of Education for the period from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

Source: PIB

Ganga Connect Exhibition concludes in London: High Level of Engagement & Tangible Outcomes

Why in News

- The **Ganga Connect Exhibition** that has been running across the UK from 8th November concluded in London on 25th November 2021.
- This has been a major effort of the National Mission for Clean Ganga, the High Commission of India and cGanga to engage with the international community of scientists, technology companies, policy makers, industry, investors and finance professionals.

Key Points

- The exhibition started in Glasgow and moved to Cardiff, Birmingham, Oxford before concluding in London.
- 10 key strategic announcements that summarised the highlights of the two weeks long exhibition:
- **Ganga Connect UK Community Engagement Chapters**
- **Twinning of Rivers**
- **Scotland – India Water Partnership**
- **Impact Project using Arth Ganga Framework**
- **Ganga Finance and Investments Forum**
- **Technologies enrolled into the Environment Technology Verification (ETV) programme**
- **Tech & Innovation Financing**
- **UK-India Scientific Collaboration**
- **Global Youth for Ganga**
- **Finalisation of Clean Ganga Charity in the UK**

Source: PIB

"Atmosphere & Climate Research-Modelling Observing Systems & Services (ACROSS)" scheme

Why in News

- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the continuation of the umbrella scheme **"Atmosphere & Climate Research-Modelling Observing Systems & Services (ACROSS)"** along with its eight sub-schemes to the next finance cycle (15th) of five years i.e. 2021-2026 at an estimated cost of Rs.2,135 crore.

Key Points

- The scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) through its units namely India Meteorological Department (IMD), National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF); Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) and Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS).
- The ACROSS scheme pertains to the atmospheric science programs of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and addresses different aspects of weather and climate services.

- Each of these aspects is incorporated as eight sub-schemes under the umbrella scheme "ACROSS". These are:
 - (i) Commissioning of Polarimetric Doppler Weather Radars
 - (ii) Upgradation of Forecast System
 - (iii) Weather & Climate Services
 - (iv) Atmospheric Observations Network
 - (v) Numerical Modelling of Weather and Climate
 - (vi) Monsoon Mission III
 - (vii) Monsoon Convection, Clouds and Climate Change (MC4)
 - (viii) High Performance Computing System (HPCS)

Note: Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved the extension for **the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY-Phase V)** for a period of another 4 months i.e. December 2021 till March 2022.

Source: PIB

Railway Minister announces introduction of 'Bharat Gaurav Trains'

Why in News

- Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister of Railways, announced the introduction of theme-based tourist circuit trains 'Bharat Gaurav Trains'.

Key Points

- Bharat Gaurav Trains will showcase India's rich cultural heritage and magnificent historical places to people of India and world.

Scope:

- Service Providers would be free to decide themes like Guru Kripa trains for covering important places of Sikh culture, Ramayana trains for places connected with Lord Shri Ram etc.
- Service Provider to offer all inclusive packages to tourists including rail travel, hotel accommodation, sightseeing arrangement, visit to historical/heritage sites, tour guides etc.

Other Related Scheme:

- PRASHAD Scheme
- Swadesh Darshan Scheme
- Dekho Apna Desh Initiative
- Buddhist Conclave

Source: PIB

India's first Virtual Science Lab for children under CSIR Jigyasa programme

Why in News

- **Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology Dr Jitendra Singh** launched **India's first Virtual Science Lab** for children under **CSIR Jigyasa programme**, which will also connect students with scientists across the country.

Key Points

- This Virtual Lab will immensely benefit students from Kendriya Vidyalayas, Navodaya Vidyalayas and Government Schools.
- CSIR has partnered with IIT Bombay to develop a Virtual Lab platform under CSIR Jigyasa programme, which facilitates classroom learning with laboratory research for school students.
- The target audience for the Virtual Lab platform is students of the standard VI to XII (11-18 years).

Note: The "Jigyasa" since its launch in 2017, was successful in connecting nearly 3,00,000 students and more than 5,000 teachers with CSIR and they have benefited directly through visits to CSIR labs.

Source: PIB

PM Modi announces repeal of 3 contentious farm laws

Why in News

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** announced that the 3 contentious farm laws passed last year would be repealed.
- The process of repealing the laws — which are currently stayed by the Supreme Court — will take place in the upcoming Winter Session of Parliament.

Key Points

About Three Farm Laws:

- **Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020**
- **Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020**
- **Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020**
- The Supreme Court stayed the implementation of the three laws in January 2021.
- The farm laws were in force for only 221 days — June 5th 2020, when the ordinances were promulgated to January 12th 2021, when the Supreme Court stayed their implementation.

Note:

- The Parliament has the authority to enact, amend, and repeal any law.
- **Laws can be repealed in two ways** — either through an ordinance, or through legislation.

Source: Indian Express

Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin completes 5 years

Why in News

- **Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G)** completed 5 years on 20th November, 2021.

Key Points

- To achieve the objective of providing “*Housing for All*” by the year 2022, the Government of India rolled out the revamped rural housing scheme, Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) was launched on 20th November, 2016 with effect from 1st April 2016.
- The program envisages the completion of 2.95 crore PMAY-G houses with all basic amenities by the year 2022.
- The total release made to the States/UTs in FY 2021-22 under the PMAY-G scheme is Rs.7775.63 Crore.
- Apart from focusing on providing houses to the eligible beneficiaries, PMAY-G also addresses the basic needs of households through convergence with other Government Schemes.
- The beneficiary is entitled to 90/95 person-days of unskilled labour from MGNREGS.
- Convergence for piped drinking water, electricity connection, LPG gas connection etc. under different Government programmes is also an inherent thematic component.

Source: PIB

Cabinet approves continuation of PMGSY-I, PMGSY-II and RCPLWEA

Why in News

- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave its approval to the proposals of Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Rural Development for continuation of **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-I and II (PMGSY-I, PMGSY-II)** upto **September, 2022** for completion of balance road and bridge works.
- The CCEA also approved continuation of **Road Connectivity Project for Left Wing Extremism Affected Areas (RCPLWEA)** upto **March, 2023**.

Key Points

- A total of Rs. 1,12,419 crore, including state share is likely to be incurred from 2021-22 to 2024-25 for completion of all the ongoing interventions of PMGSY.
- 4,490 Km road length and 105 bridges have already been completed under RCPLWEA since 2016 in 44 districts in 9 states.

- Extension of time upto September 2022 is being granted to help North East and Hill States to complete balance works.

About Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY):

- **PMGSY-I:** PMGSY-I was launched in the year 2000 to provide connectivity to eligible unconnected habitations of 500+ in plain areas and 250+ in North-East and Himalayan states as per census 2001.
- **PMGSY-II:** PMGSY-II, which was approved by the Cabinet in May, 2013, envisaged consolidation of 50,000 Km of existing rural road network.
- **PMGSY-III:** The PMGSY-III was launched in the year 2019 for consolidation of 1,25,000 Km existing through routes and Major rural links connecting habitations, inter-alia, to Gramin Agricultural Markets, Higher Secondary Schools and Hospitals and the implementation period of the scheme is upto March, 2025.

About Road Connectivity Project for Left Wing Extremism Affected Areas:

- Launched in 2016 for construction/upgradation of 5,412 Km road length and 126 bridges of strategic importance in 44 districts in 9 states, viz. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh, with an outlay of Rs. 11,725 crore.
- Implementation period was 2016-17 to 2019-20.

Source: PIB

India launches the 41st Scientific Expedition to Antarctica **Why in News**

- **India's Ministry of Earth Sciences** launched the **41st Scientific Expedition to Antarctica** with the arrival of the first batch of its contingent at the southern white continent.
- The first batch comprising of 23 scientists and support staff reached the **Indian Antarctic station Maitri**.
- Four more batches shall be landing in Antarctica by air using DROMLAN facility and onboard chartered ice-class vessel MV VasilyGolovnin by mid-January 2022.

Key Points

- The 41st expedition has **two major programs**.
- The **first program** encompasses geological exploration of the Amery ice shelf at Bharati station. This will help explore the link between India and Antarctica in the past.
- The **second program** involves reconnaissance surveys and preparatory work for drilling of 500 meters of ice core near Maitri. It will help in improving the understanding of Antarctic climate, westerly winds, sea-ice and greenhouse gases from a single climate archive for the past 10,000 years.
- The ice core drilling will be done in collaboration with the British Antarctic Survey and the Norwegian Polar Institute.

Note:

- The Indian Antarctic program, which began in 1981, has completed 40 scientific expeditions, and built three permanent research base stations in Antarctica, named Dakshin Gangotri (1983), Maitri (1988) and Bharati (2012).
- As of today, Maitri and Bharati are fully operational.
- The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), Goa—an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Earth Sciences—manages the entire Indian Antarctic program.

Source: PIB

Geographical Information System (GIS) plans for around 75% Gram Panchayats completed **Why in News**

- The **Ministry of Rural Development** has reached an important milestone with the completion of **Geographical Information System (GIS)** plans for **2 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs)** out of 2.69 lakh GPs under **Mahatma Gandhi NREGA** using remote sensing technology based on the ridge to valley approach.

Key Points

- GIS-based planning under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS is an initiative of the Ministry of Rural Development which helps the Gram Panchayat to ensure a scientific & holistic approach for planning at the Gram Panchayat level.
- The Ministry has provided detailed training on usage of GIS & RS (Remote Sensing) technology to Mahatma Gandhi NREGS functionaries of States/UTs through the initiative of the NIRDPR (National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj).
- Thereafter, all the States/UTs prepared 4 GIS-based plans of GPs per block in FY 2020-21 as pilots, which was extended to all GP's after successful completion.

Other Initiatives:

- **'Bhuvan' space technology solution** from the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- **Yuktdhara Geospatial Planning portal**, developed on Bhuvan Platform by National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)

About Geographical Information System (GIS):

- The GIS is a computer-based tool for mapping and analyzing the geographic terrain and offers scientific choices of development works suitable to the area.
- This technology integrates common database operations such as query and statistical analysis with the unique visualization and geographic analysis benefits offered by the maps.

Source: PIB

7th edition of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Conclave

Why in News

- The **7th edition of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)-2021 Conclave of Chiefs** was hosted by the French Navy at Paris from 15 - 16 Nov 2021.

Key Points

- The Conclave of Chiefs was attended by Chiefs of Navies/ Heads of Lead Maritime Agencies of IONS nations.

Note:

- The 7th edition of IONS Symposium was held at Le-Reunion from 28 Jun - 01 Jul 2021 in hybrid format due to COVID protocols.
- During the Symposium, it was agreed upon to conduct the extant Conclave of Chiefs at Paris.

About Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS):

- It is a series of biennial meetings between the littoral states of the Indian Ocean region.
- It provides a forum to increase maritime security cooperation, discuss regional maritime issues, and promote friendly relationships among the member states.
- The symposium was first held in **2008 with India** as host.
- France assumed the Chairmanship in June 2021 for two-year tenure.

Source: PIB

Digital India Land Record Modernisation Programme

Why in News

- Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Giriraj Singh inaugurated **'Bhumi Samvaad'** - National Workshop on **Digital India Land Record Modernisation Programme (DILRMP)**.
- The Minister also launched the **National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS)** portal and Dashboard.

Key Points

About Digital India Land Record Modernization Programme (DILRMP):

- The DILRMP, previously known as the National Land Record Modernization Programme (NLRMP), was launched in 2008 by the Government of India with the purpose to digitize and modernize land records and develop a centralised land record management system.
- The DILRMP is the amalgamation of two projects: Computerisation of Land Records (CLR) and Strengthening of Revenue Administration and Updating of Land Records (SRA & ULR).

About National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS):

- NGDRS is an in-house advanced software application for the registration system developed by NIC.
- It ensures transparency, accountability of the officials executing the documents and reduction in cost, time and number of visits and procedures required for the execution of the registration documents.

Other Initiative:

Unique Land Parcel Identification Numbers (ULPIN):

- It is a 14-digit identification number accorded to a plot of land.
- In this unique system wherein a unique ID based on Geo-coordinates of the parcels is generated and assigned to the plots.

Source: PIB

PM Modi addresses 82nd All India Presiding Officers' Conference

Why in News

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the **82nd All India Presiding Officers' Conference (AIPOC)** on 17 November, 2021.

Key Points

- The All India Presiding Officers' Conference (AIPOC), the apex body of the Legislatures in India, is celebrating its hundred years in 2021.
- To commemorate the centennial year of AIPOC, the 82nd edition of the All India Presiding Officers' Conference was held in Shimla on 17-18 November 2021.
- The first Conference was also held in Shimla in 1921.

Source: India Today

National Achievement Survey (NAS) 2021

Why in News

- The **National Achievement Survey (NAS) 2021** was successfully conducted across all 36 states and UTs of the country.
- Nearly 1.23 lakh schools and 38 lakh students in 733 districts across 36 States and UTs were covered in the NAS 2021.
- The last NAS was held in November 2017 for assessing the competencies developed by the children at the grade levels III, V and VIII.

Key Points

About National Achievement Survey (NAS) 2021:

- NAS 2021 is a process of gathering information in order to develop a deep understanding of what students know, understand and can do with their knowledge as a result of their educational experiences.
- There are 3 phases of NAS exercise, namely instrument development, sampling design and actual administration of the test.
- **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)**, being a nodal academic body, has done the instrument development, testing, finalization of the test items.
- **Actual Administration of the test** in the sampled schools was conducted by **CBSE (Central Board of Secondary Education)**.
- It will infuse the competency-based assessment system over the content and memory-based assessment as envisaged by NEP 2020.

- The results of it will be prepared in the form of District Report Cards, State/UT reports and National report.

Medium and Grades:

- NAS 2021 was conducted in Language, Mathematics & EVS for class 3 & 5; Language, Mathematics, Science & Social Science for class 8 and Language, Mathematics, Science, Social Science and English for class 10.
- The Test was conducted in 22 mediums of instruction.

Government Initiatives:

- Samagra Shiksha 2.0
- NEP (National Education Policy) 2020
- PM Poshan Scheme
- NIPUN Bharat Mission
- Performance Grading Index
- UDISE (Unified District Information System for Education)

Source: PIB

Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) **Why in News**

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the restoration and continuation of **Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)** during the remaining part of Financial Year 2021-22 and up to Financial Year 2025-26 co-terminus with the period of 15th Finance Commission.

Key Points

- The Ministry will release MPLADS fund at the rate of Rs. 2 crore per Member of Parliament for the remaining period of FY 2021-22 in one instalment and at the rate of Rs. 5.00 crore per annum per Member of Parliament during FY 2022-23 to FY 2025-26 in two instalments of Rs.2.5 crore each.

About Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS):

- The MPLADS is a Central Sector Scheme fully funded by the Government of India.
- It was announced on 23 December 1993.
- The objective of the scheme is to enable MPs to recommend works of developmental nature with emphasis on the creation of durable community assets in the areas of drinking water, primary education, public health, sanitation and roads, etc. primarily in their Constituencies.

Source: PIB

PM Modi pledges net zero emissions by 2070

Why in News

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** pledged at the **COP26 UN climate conference in Glasgow** that India will achieve net-zero emissions by 2070.
- The 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP-26) is being hosted by the United Kingdom in Glasgow from 31st of October to 12th of November 2021.

Key Points

- India announced that it will reach carbon neutrality by 2070 as part of a five-point action plan that included reducing emissions to 50% by 2030.
- The country would make one billion-tonne reduction in projected emissions from now until 2030.

Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS):

- PM Narendra Modi launched **Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS)** on the sidelines of climate summit in Glasgow.
- It is aimed at achieving sustainable development through a systematic approach to resilient, sustainable and inclusive infrastructure in Small Island Developing States (SIDS).
- **Indian Space Research Organisation** will build a special data window for Small Island Developing States to provide them timely information about cyclones, coral-reef monitoring and coast-line monitoring.

- **'Climate Equity Monitor':** On Day One of COP26, India launched an online dashboard called the **'Climate Equity Monitor'** for assessing equity in Climate Action, inequalities in emissions, energy and resource consumption across the world.
- More than 100 world leaders have promised **to end and reverse deforestation by 2030**, in the COP26 climate summit's first major deal.

Source: newsonair

Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana emerge toppers in governance performance: PAC study

Why in News

- **Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana** have taken the top three slots, emerging winners among the 18 large states in **governance performance**, according to the 6th edition of **Public Affairs Index (PAI 2021)** from **Public Affairs Centre (PAC)**, a Bengaluru-based nonprofit think tank.

Key Points

- The index has taken into consideration each State's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Toppers among large states:

- Kerala (1.618)
- Tamil Nadu (0.857)
- Telangana (0.891)

Toppers among small states:

- Sikkim (1.617)
- Meghalaya (1.144)
- Mizoram (1.123)

Toppers among Union Territories:

- Puducherry (1.182)
- Jammu and Kashmir (0.705)
- Chandigarh (0.628)

About Public Affairs Index:

- The index looks at governance performance in the context of sustainable development defined by three pillars – Equity, Growth and Sustainability, five themes, 14 sustainable development goals and 43 indicators.

Source: ET

NCW launches pan-India Legal Awareness Programme for Women in collaboration With NALSA

Why in News

- The **National Commission for Women (NCW)**, along with **National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)** has launched a pan-India Legal Awareness Program for Women, **"Empowerment of Women through Legal Awareness"**.
- The programme was launched in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh by Justice UU Lalit, Judge Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, NALSA, Chairperson, National Commission for Women Ms Rekha Sharma.

Key Points

- The programme aims to cover all the States and Union Territories across the country through regular sessions to make women aware of the various machineries of the justice delivery system available for redressal of their grievances.
- The programme will sensitize women and girls about their rights as provided under the various laws including the Indian Penal Code.

Source: PIB

Union Education Minister launches Bhasha Sangam initiative for schools

Why in News

- **Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan** launched **Bhasha Sangam initiative for schools** under **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat** to commemorate Rashtriya Ekta Diwas.

- He also launched **Bhasha Sangam Mobile App** and **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Mobile Quiz App**.

Key Points

About Bhasha Sangam:

- **Bhasha Sangam** is an initiative of the **Ministry of Education** under **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat**, to teach basic sentences of everyday usage in **22 Indian languages**.
- The idea is that people should acquire basic conversational skills in an Indian language other than their mother tongue.
- It is developed by **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)**.
- It is being made available on DIKSHA, ePathshala and through 22 booklets.

About Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat:

- It was announced by the Prime Minister on 31st October, 2015 on the occasion of the 140th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- Through this innovative measure, the knowledge of the culture, traditions and practices of different states & UTs will lead to an enhanced understanding and bonding between the states, thereby strengthening the unity and integrity of India

Source: PIB

Ganga Utsav 2021 – The River Festival

Why in News

- **Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** inaugurated 5th edition of '**Ganga Utsav 2021 – The River Festival**'.
- The festival is being organized from November 1 to 3.

Key Points

Other Initiative/Programme:

Continuous Learning and Activity Portal (CLAP):

- CLAP is an initiative by Namami Gange, created and executed by TREE Craze Foundation.
- This is an interactive portal that is working towards initiating conversations and action around the rivers in India.

Ganga Mashal:

- The Minister also spoke about an expedition 'Ganga Mashal' lead by the Ganga Task Force which was flagged off from Delhi and will travel the route including 23 stations along river Ganga which will help sensitization of the local people and Namami Gange volunteers.

Ganga Atlas:

- 'Ganga Atlas: River of the Past' developed by Prof Rajiv Sinha, IIT Kanpur documents the changes in River Ganga over the past 5-6 decades in terms of channel morphology, land use & land cover, river dynamics and associated issues.

National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) also got registered in the **Guinness Book of World Records** on the first day of the Ganga Utsav – the River Festival 2021 for most photos of handwritten notes uploaded to Facebook in one hour.

Note: Ganga was declared as the National River of India on **November 4, 2008**.

Source: PIB

Nationwide expansion of Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) under the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)

Why in News

- **Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Mansukh Mandaviya** launched the nationwide expansion of **Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV)** under the **Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)** as a part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Key Points

- It is for the first time in the country that **Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV)** will be available for universal use.

- Pneumonia is a leading cause of death among children under-5 years old, globally and in India.
- Pneumonia caused by pneumococcus is the most common cause of severe pneumonia in children.
- In India around 16 percent of deaths in Children occur due to pneumonia.
- The nationwide rollout of PCV will reduce child mortality by around 60 percent.

About Universal Immunization Programme (UIP):

- UIP is one of the largest public health programmes targeting close to 26.7 million newborns and 29 million pregnant women annually.
- Under UIP, immunization is being provided free of cost against 12 vaccine preventable diseases.

Source: PIB

Union Minister of Home Affairs and Cooperation launches the "Dairy Sahakar" scheme

Why in News

- **Union Minister of Home Affairs and Cooperation Amit Shah** launched the "**Dairy Sahakar**" scheme at **Anand, Gujarat**, during the function organised by Amul for celebration of 75th Foundation Year of Amul.

Key Points

- The Dairy Sahakar with a total investment of Rs 5000 crore will be implemented by NCDC under the Ministry of Cooperation, Government of India to realize the vision, "from cooperation to prosperity".
- Under Dairy Sahakar, financial support will be extended by NCDC to eligible cooperatives for activities such as bovine development, milk procurement, processing, quality assurance, value addition, branding, packaging, marketing, transportation and storage of milk and milk products, exports of dairy products within the overall objectives of "Doubling the farmer's income" and "Atmanirbhar Bharat".

Source: PIB

Ministry of Food Processing Industries launches 'Dilli Bakes' – First 'One District, One Product' (ODOP) brand under PMFME Scheme

Why in News

- The **Ministry of Food Processing Industries**, in association with the **National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED)**, launched the first '**One District, One Product**' '**Dilli Bakes**' in the bakery products category of the **Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme**.

Key Points

- The brand and the product have been exclusively developed under the ODOP concept for the bakery which is one of the ODOPs for Delhi.
- This is the first product, i.e. whole wheat rusks launched under the Dilli Bakes brand and will be followed by the launch of more products.

About Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme:

- Launched under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, the PMFME Scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme.
- With an outlay of Rs. 10,000 crore over a period of five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25, the scheme envisions to directly assist the 2,00,000 micro food processing units for providing financial, technical, and business support for upgradation of existing micro food processing enterprises.

Source: PIB

Indian Railways and Truecaller join hands to build trust in communication for passengers

Why in News

- **IRCTC** has partnered with **Truecaller** to provide passengers with greater trust in communication.

Key Points

- The integrated National Railways Helpline 139 used by lakhs of Indians daily is now verified by Truecaller Business Identity solutions.
- Truecaller will verify and identity calls, which will reduce fraud by assuring people that critical communication like your booking details & PNR status are being delivered by IRCTC.
- IRCTC started the 139 Enquiry and Helpline Services in 2007 with Bharat BPO Services Limited as its technical partner in the project.

Source: IndiaToday

India's First Manned Ocean Mission 'Samudrayan'

Why in News

- The **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)** has launched **India's First Manned Ocean Mission 'Samudrayan'** at Chennai.
- With the launch of this Unique Ocean Mission, India joined the elite club of nations such as the USA, Russia, Japan, France and China to have such underwater vehicles for carrying out subsea activities.

Key Points

- The Samudrayan Mission, undertaken by the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), will be a part of the ₹6,000 crore **Deep Ocean Mission**.
- This niche technology shall facilitate the Ministry of Earth Sciences in carrying out deep ocean exploration of the non-living resources such as polymetallic manganese nodules, gas hydrates, hydro-thermal sulphides and cobalt crusts, located at a depth between 1000 and 5500 meters.
- The preliminary design of the manned submersible '**MATSYA 6000**' is completed and realization of the vehicle is started with various organizations including ISRO, IITM and DRDO roped-in to support the development.
- Sea trials of 500 metre rated shallow water version of the manned submersible are expected to take place in the last quarter of 2022 and the MATSYA 6000, the deep water manned submersible will be ready for trials by the second quarter of 2024.

Note: The Central Government has approved the **Deep Ocean Mission** in June 2021 to be implemented by the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences for 5 years.

Source: HT

Important News: World

9th BRICS Science & Technology Ministers Meeting

Why in News

- Recently, India's Minister for Science & Technology Dr Jitendra Singh Chaired the **9th BRICS Science & Technology Ministers Meeting**.

Key Points

- Science Ministers from BRICS discussed cooperation in the field of Science, Technology and Innovation.
- India, for its Chairship, chose the overall theme of 'BRICS @ 15: Intra-BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus'.
- India also recognised the continued importance of cooperation in **Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)** to bring in technological and digital solutions for the achievement of **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.
- All the member states have adopted the **BRICS innovation Action Plan 2021-24**, **BRICS STI Declaration 2021** and **Calendar of BRICS STI Activities 2022** which will act as a roadmap to take the cooperation forward.

Facts about BRICS:

- **Formation:** 2009
- **Countries:** Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa

- **BRICS** is an important grouping bringing together the major emerging economies from the world, comprising:
- 41% of world population with 3.14 billion people
- Total combined area of 29.3% of the total land surface of the world
- 24% of global GDP
- 16% of world trade

Note: The above data is based on World Bank data (2019).

Source: PIB

El Salvador plans to build world's first "Bitcoin City"

Why in News

- **El Salvador** planned to build the world's first "**Bitcoin City**", funded initially by bitcoin-backed bonds.

Key Points

- Bitcoin City will be free of income, property and capital gains taxes.
- Bitcoin City will be built near the Conchagua volcano.
- Bitcoin bond issuance will begin in 2022.

About Bitcoin: It is a decentralized digital currency, without a central bank or single administrator that can be sent from user to user on the peer-to-peer bitcoin network without the need for intermediaries.

Note: El Salvador in September 2021 became the first country in the world to adopt bitcoin as legal tender.

Facts about El Salvador:

- El Salvador is a country in Central America.
- **Capital:** San Salvador
- **President:** Nayib Bukele

Source: Business Standard

NASA launches world's first planetary defence system: DART Spacecraft

Why in News

- The world's first planetary defense system called the '**Double Asteroid Redirection Test' (DART) spacecraft** was successfully launched by NASA from the Vandenberg US Space Force Base.
- It was carried aboard SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket.

Key Points

- The DART spacecraft was built by the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory in Maryland at the direction of NASA's Planetary Defense Coordination Office.
- DART is a planetary defence-driven test of technologies for preventing an impact of Earth by a hazardous asteroid.
- DART will be the first demonstration of the kinetic impactor technique to change the motion of an asteroid in space.

Source: Indian Express

India-US Trade Policy Forum (TPF)

Why in News

- **India and the United States (US)** held the 12th ministerial-level meeting of the **India-US Trade Policy Forum (TPF)** in New Delhi.
- It was co-chaired by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and US Trade Representative Katherine Tai.
- The last Trade Policy Forum (TPF) was held in 2017.

Key Points

- The Ministers acknowledged the tangible benefits accruing to Indian and US farmers and businesses, by mutually resolving certain outstanding market access issues through increased bilateral engagement.
- Both sides also agreed to continue working to expand bilateral trade in agricultural and food products through the TPF Working Group on Agricultural Goods and

committed to holding technical dialogues on animal health, plant health, and food safety and other technical issues in 2022.

- The relaunch of the forum comes at a time when the US has emerged as India's largest trading partner, surpassing China.
- The US is also India's biggest export market, and outbound shipments worth \$52 billion were sent to that country in 2020-21.

Note: Recently, India and the United States have agreed for a transitional approach on equalisation levy or digital tax on e-commerce supplies beginning from 1st April, 2022.

Source: Business Standard

India elected to UNESCO World Heritage Committee for 4-year term

Why in News

- India has been elected as a member of the **UNESCO World Heritage Committee** for the term of four years (2021-25).

Key Points

- The Committee is responsible for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, defines the use of the World Heritage Fund and allocates financial assistance upon requests from States Parties.

Note: Recently, India won re-election to the executive board of the UNESCO for the 2021-25 term.

Source: TOI

PM Modi inaugurates the first Global Innovation Summit of the Pharmaceuticals sector

Why in News

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **first Global Innovation Summit of the Pharmaceuticals sector** on 18th November 2021.

Key Points

About Summit:

- This is a distinctive initiative that aims to bring together key Indian and international stakeholders from the government, industry, academia, investors, and researchers to discuss and strategize priorities to foster a thriving innovation ecosystem in the pharmaceuticals industry in India.
- It will also highlight the opportunities in the Indian pharma industry that has huge growth potential.
- The Indian pharmaceutical industry has also risen to the challenge. The global trust earned by the Indian healthcare sector has led to India being called the "pharmacy of the world" in recent times.

Source: PIB

India becomes world's largest recipient of remittances, received USD 87 billion in 2021:

World Bank

Why in News

- According to the **World Bank's Remittance Prices Worldwide Database Report 2021**, India has become the world's largest recipient of remittances, receiving USD 87 billion (a gain of 4.6 % from previous year) in 2021.
- India had received over USD 83 billion in remittances in 2020.

Key Points

- The **United States** was the biggest source of **remittances in India**, accounting for over 20 percent of these funds.
- India is followed by China, Mexico, the Philippines and Egypt.
- In India, remittances are projected to grow three percent in 2022 to \$ 89.6 billion.
- Remittances to low- and middle-income countries are projected to have grown a strong 7.3 percent to reach \$589 billion in 2021.
- **Remittances** are usually understood as financial or in-kind transfers made by migrants to friends and relatives back in communities of origin.

Source: Indian Express

Quasi-satellite Kamo'oalewa

Why in News

- Recently, scientists have observed a **quasi-satellite named Kamo'oalewa**, tracking the Earth's orbit around the Sun, could be a fragment from the moon.
- A mission to collect Kamo'oalewa's samples has been scheduled for a launch in 2025.

Key Points

- In 2016, the PanSTARRS telescope in Hawaii spotted a quasi-satellite — a near-Earth object that orbits the Sun and yet remains close to the Earth.
- Scientists named it Kamo'oalewa, a word that is part of a Hawaiian chant.
- The asteroid is roughly the size of a Ferris wheel – between 150 and 190 feet in diameter – and gets as close as about 9 million miles from Earth.
- Now, a study in the journal Communications Earth and Environment offers insights into where this satellite could have come from.
- **One possibility** is that Kamo'oalewa was a part of the Earth's Moon, the study suggests.
- **Another possibility** is that Kamo'oalewa was captured in its Earth-like orbit from the general population of Near Earth Objects.
- **A third possibility** could be that it originated from an as-yet-undiscovered quasi-stable population of Earth's Trojan asteroids.

Source: Indian Express

India re-elected to UNESCO executive board for 2021-25 term

Why in News

- India was re-elected to the executive board of the **UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)** for the **2021-25 term** with 164 votes.
- India was re-elected to Group IV of Asian and Pacific States which also include Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Cook Islands and China.

Key Points

- The **executive board of UNESCO** is one of three constitutional organs of the UN agency.
- The other two are the **General Conference** and **the Secretariat**.
- The General Conference elects members of the executive board.
- The **executive board** consists of 58 member-states, each with a four-year term.
- It examines the programme of work for the organisation and corresponding budget estimates submitted to it by the director-general, according to the Unesco website.

Facts about UNESCO:

- **Headquarters:** Paris, France
- **Founded:** 16 November 1945
- **Parent organization:** United Nations

Member states: 193

Source: HT

BRO feat recognised by Guinness World Records

Why in News

- **Director General Border Roads (DGBR) Lt Gen Rajeev Chaudhry** received the Guinness World Records certificate on November 16, 2021 for the achievement of **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** of constructing and black topping the World's highest motorable road at 19,024 feet at **Umlingla Pass in Ladakh**.

Key Points

- The 52-kilometre long Chisumle to Demchok tarmac road passes through the 19,024 feet high Umlingla Pass and betters the previous record of a road in Bolivia, which connects volcano Uturuncu at 18,953 feet.

- The Umlingla Pass road is another landmark in resurgent India's achievement as it has been constructed at an altitude higher than the North and South Base Camps of Mount Everest which are at an altitude of 16,900 feet and 17,598 feet respectively.

Source: PIB

2021 TRACE Bribery Risk Matrix (TRACE Matrix)

Why in News

- **India** slipped to 82nd position, five places down from 77th rank last year, in a global list of **2021 TRACE Bribery Risk Matrix (TRACE Matrix)**.
- In 2020, India ranked 77 with a score of 45 while this year, the country stood at 82nd position with a score of 44.

Key Points

- **North Korea, Turkmenistan, Venezuela and Eritrea** pose the highest commercial bribery risk, while **Denmark, Norway, Finland, Sweden and New Zealand** present the lowest in 2021 Matrix.

About the TRACE Bribery Risk Matrix:

- The list by TRACE, an anti-bribery standard setting organisation, measures business bribery risk in 194 countries, territories, and autonomous and semi-autonomous regions.
- This score is based on four factors — business interactions with the government, anti-bribery deterrence and enforcement, government and civil service transparency, and capacity for civil society oversight which includes the role of the media.
- It was originally published in 2014.
- The TRACE Bribery Risk Matrix aggregates relevant data obtained from leading public interest and international organisations, including the United Nations, World Bank, V-Dem Institute at the University of Gothenburg and World Economic Forum.

Source: Indian Express

Climate Change Performance Index 2022: India ranked 10th

Why in News

- **India** has retained its **top 10** spot in the best performing countries for the third year in a row in the global **Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2022** and **ranked 10th**.
- The report, published by **German-watch**, was released on the sidelines of the **26th Conference of the Parties (CoP26)**.

Key Points

- No country performed well enough in all index categories to achieve an overall very high rating in CCPI.
- As a result, the **top three places** in the overall ranking remain **empty** once again.
- **Denmark placed 4th** and is the highest ranked country in CCPI 2022.
- **Performance of G20 countries**, responsible for about 75% of the world's GHG emissions, shows the UK (7th), India (10th), Germany (13th), and France (17th) are four G20 countries among the high-performers.
- **China** is the current biggest polluter and figured at 37th position while the second highest current emitter -- **US** -- was at the 55th spot in the CCPI 2022.

About Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI):

- The CCPI evaluates 60 countries and the European Union, which together generate more than 90 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions.
- The CCPI looks at four categories, with 14 indicators: Greenhouse gas emissions (40 percent of the overall score), renewable energy (20 percent), energy use (20 percent) and climate policy (20 percent).

Source: DTE

US becomes the 101st member country of the International Solar Alliance

Why in News

- John Kerry, U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate announced at the UNFCCC COP26 in Glasgow that the **United States of America (USA)** has joined the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** as a member country.
- The U.S. becomes the **101st country** to sign the framework agreement of the ISA to catalyze global energy transition through a solar-led approach.

Key Points

About The International Solar Alliance (ISA):

- The launch of the International Solar Alliance was announced by Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India and Francois Hollande, former President of France on 30th November 2015, at the 21st session of United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP-21) in Paris, France.

Note: Earlier at COP26, the United States also joined the Steering Committee of the GGI-OSOWOG comprising of 5 members – USA, Australia, France, the United Kingdom, and India — and endorsed the One Sun Declaration along with 80 countries.

China launches world's 1st Earth Science Satellite "Guangmu"

Why in News

- **China** has launched the **world's 1st Earth Science Satellite "Guangmu"** into space from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in the northern Shanxi Province.

Key Points

- The satellite was launched by a Long March-6 carrier rocket and entered the planned orbit.
- Developed by the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the satellite (**SDGSAT-1**) is the world's first space science satellite dedicated to serving the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- It was the 395th flight mission of the Long March rocket series.

Note: Recently, **Wang Yaping** became the **first Chinese woman astronaut** to walk in space.

Source: ET

Delhi Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan

Why Delhi in News

- The **Delhi Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan** was held in New Delhi.
- The Regional Security Dialogue which was held on 10th November, 2021 in an expanded format and attended by National Security Advisers / Secretaries of the National Security Councils of **India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.**
- The meeting was chaired by the National Security Adviser Ajit Doval.
- This is the third meeting of the process that was initiated by Iran in 2018.

Key Points

- After the withdrawal of US forces and the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan, India is concerned about security in the region.
- The Dialogue on Afghanistan called for "urgent humanitarian assistance" to the Afghan people.
- A joint statement titled the '**Delhi Declaration**' issued after the meeting called for "collective cooperation" against terrorism and drug trafficking in the region and "expressed concern over the deteriorating socio-economic and humanitarian situation in Afghanistan and underlined the need to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan".

Source: The Hindu

India launches E-Amrit Portal on EVs at COP26

Why in News

- On **Transport Day (November 10)** at COP26 Summit, India, represented by NITI Aayog, participated in the fourth ministerial dialogue of the **Zero-Emission Vehicle Transition Council (ZEVTC).**

- India launched **'E-Amrit', a web portal** on electric vehicles (EVs), at the ongoing COP26 Summit in Glasgow, UK.

Key Points

- ZEVTC brings together ministers and representatives of some of the world's largest automobile markets to collectively address key challenges in the transition to ZEVs, to enable faster, cheaper, and easier transition to EVs for all.

About E-Amrit Portal:

- E-Amrit is a one-stop destination for all information on electric vehicles—busting myths around the adoption of EVs, their purchase, investment opportunities, policies, subsidies, etc.
- The portal has been developed and hosted by NITI Aayog under a collaborative knowledge exchange programme with the UK government and as part of the UK–India Joint Roadmap 2030, signed by the Prime Ministers of the two countries.

Note: Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson have jointly launched a 'green grids' initiative—the **One Sun One World One Grid (OSOWOG) project**—on the sidelines of the COP26 summit.

Source: PIB

Goa Maritime Conclave – 2021

Why in News

- The **3rd edition of Goa Maritime Conclave (GMC)**, conducted from 07 to 09 November 2021 at Goa, brought together the Chiefs of Navy/ Heads of Maritime Agencies of Indian Ocean Region - IOR, namely, Bangladesh, Comoros, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Myanmar, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

Key Points

- The theme for GMC-21, "*Maritime Security and Emerging Non-Traditional Threats: A Case for Proactive Role for IOR Navies*", was derived keeping in mind the necessity of '*winning everyday peace*' in the maritime domain.
- The Conclave also saw declaration of 'Common Maritime Priorities', which had been identified during the Goa Maritime Symposium 21, earlier this year.

Source: PIB

Covaxin gets WHO approval for Emergency Use Listing

Why in News

- The Technical Advisory Group of WHO has recommended the Emergency Use Listing (EUL) status for **Bharat Biotech's Covaxin**.

Key Points

- This decision will ease international travel and the export of the indigenous vaccine.
- According to WHO, Covaxin, developed by the Indian biotechnology company Bharat Biotech in partnership with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), has a 77.8 percent efficacy rate against COVID-19 and is "extremely suitable" for low- and middle-income countries because it is easy to store.
- Bharat Biotech's Covaxin and AstraZeneca and Oxford University's Covishield are the two widely used vaccines in India.

Note:

- Recently, the Central government launched the '*Har Ghar Dastak*' mega-vaccination campaign against coronavirus disease (COVID-19).
- The month-long door-to-door vaccination campaign aims to inoculate the entire population in poor-performing districts.

Source: news18

Diwali Day Act introduced in US Congress to declare festival of lights as federal holiday

- Led by Congresswoman Carolyn B Maloney from New York, lawmakers announced that a bill has been introduced in the House of Representatives to declare Diwali, the festival of lights, a federal holiday.

- The historic legislation was co-sponsored by a number of lawmakers including Indian-American Congresswoman Raja Krishnamoorthi.

Source: India Today

'Vax' chosen as Word of the Year 2021 by the Oxford Dictionary

Why in News

- The **Oxford English Dictionary (OED)** has declared **'Vax'** as the word of the year 2021.

Key Points

- According to 'a report into the language of vaccines' by Oxford Languages, the word 'vax' had appeared more than 72 times by September than the same time last year.
- The word Vax is defined as, "a colloquialism meaning either vaccine or vaccination as a noun and vaccinate as a verb."
- The appearance of the word 'vaccine' itself doubled between September 2020 and September 2021 according to the report by Oxford Languages.

Source: India Today

World's largest Hydrogen Fuel Cell Power Plant inaugurated in South Korea

- The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy of South Korea announced that the **'Shinincheon Bitdream Fuel Cell Power Plant'** at the Shinincheon Bitdream headquarters of Korea Southern Power in Seo-gu, Incheon has been inaugurated.
- The fuel cell power plant is operated by South Korea's independent power production company, POSCO Energy and Doosan Fuel Cell.
- The power plant has a capacity of 78 MW constructed in 4 stages from 2017.

Source: Indian Express

Britain approves world's first oral pill to treat COVID-19

Why in News

- **Britain's health regulators** have approved the world's first pill to treat cases of symptomatic COVID-19.

Key Points

- Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) said, the antiviral Lagevrio (**Molnupiravir**) has been found to be safe and effective at reducing the risk of hospitalisation and death in people with mild to moderate COVID-19.
- Molnupiravir, originally created to treat flu, could go on to be prescribed twice a day to vulnerable patients recently diagnosed with COVID-19 after it proved effective in clinical trials.

Source: newsonair

New Zealand passes climate change disclosure laws for financial firms in world first

Why in News

- **New Zealand** has become the first country to pass laws requiring banks, insurers and investment managers to report the impacts of climate change on their business.

Key Points

- The new laws will require financial firms to explain how they would manage climate-related risks and opportunities, and the disclosure requirements will be based on standards from New Zealand's independent accounting body.
- The standards will be based on the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD), and the disclosures will become mandatory for financial years beginning in 2023.

Source: Indian Express

World's first-ever FIFA Football for School Programme launched at KISS

- **Naveen Patnaik, Chief Minister of Odisha** launched the **world's first-ever FIFA Football for School Programme** at **Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), Bhubaneswar**.

- **Football for Schools (F4S)** is an ambitious world-wide programme run by FIFA, which aims to contribute to the education, development and empowerment of around 700 million children.

Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue 2021

Why in News

- Recently, **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** delivered a keynote address at **Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) 2021**.
- The **theme** of **IPRD 2021** was 'Evolution in Maritime Strategy during the 21st Century: Imperatives, Challenges and Way Ahead'.

Key Points

Defence Minister' Address:

- India is fully determined to protect its maritime interests, while it supports the maintenance of rule-based maritime systems, as mandated under **UN Convention on the Law of Seas (UNCLOS), 1982**.
- The Dialogue will further the country's shared and collective vision for the Indo-Pacific.

About Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD):

- First conducted in 2018, the IPRD is the apex international annual conference of the Indian Navy and is the principal manifestation of the Navy's engagement at the strategic-level.
- The **National Maritime Foundation** is the **Navy's knowledge partner** and **chief organiser** of each edition of this annual event.

Source: India Today

Prime Minister Modi co-chairs the 18th India-ASEAN Summit

Why in News

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** participated in the **18th India-ASEAN Summit** at the invitation of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah of **Brunei**, the current Chair of ASEAN on October 28, 2021.

Key Points

- Highlighting the milestone of **30th anniversary of India-ASEAN Partnership**, the leaders announced the Year 2022 as **India-ASEAN Friendship Year**.
- PM Modi underlined the centrality of ASEAN in **India's Act East Policy** and in India's Vision for the wider **Indo-Pacific Vision**.
- Building upon the synergies between the **ASEAN Outlook for the Indo-Pacific (AOIP)** and India's **Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)**, PM Modi and ASEAN leaders welcomed the adoption of the **India-ASEAN Joint Statement** on cooperation for peace, stability and prosperity in the region.
- To further strengthen India-ASEAN cultural connectivity, the Prime Minister announced India's support for establishing the **ASEAN Cultural Heritage List**.
- On trade and investment, he underlined the importance of diversification and resilience of supply chains for post-COVID economic recovery and in this regard, the need to revamp the **India-ASEAN FTA**.

Facts about Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN):

- **The 10 member countries of ASEAN** are Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia.
- **Headquarters:** Jakarta, Indonesia
- **Founded:** 8 August 1967

Source: PIB

G-20 Leaders' Summit-2021

Why in News

- The **G20 Leaders' Summit 2021** was held in **Rome, Italy** on 30–31 October 2021 under the **Italian Presidency**.

- For 2021, the G20 focused on three broad, interconnected pillars of action: **People, Planet, and Prosperity**.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** participated in the G-20 Summit 2021.

Key Points

- The G-20 aims to take the lead in ensuring a swift international response to the COVID-19 pandemic - able to provide equitable, worldwide access to diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines - while building up resilience to future health-related shocks.

About the G-20:

- The G-20 is the international forum that brings together the world's major economies.
- Its members account for more than 80% of world GDP, 75% of global trade and 60% of the population of the planet.
- The G-20 is made up of **19 countries and the European Union**.
- The **19 countries** are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the UK, and the US.

Source: PIB

CII Asia Health 2021 Summit

Why in News

- Recently, **Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Mansukh Mandaviya** addressed the inaugural session of **CII Asia Health 2021 Summit**.
- The **theme** of the summit is **'Transforming Healthcare for a better tomorrow'**.

Key Points

- The Union Minister exhorted that the Government is committed to Access, Affordability, Accountability, Adoption and Awareness for a better future of Healthcare sector and has been working diligently to achieve these objectives.
- He mentioned that the government has launched various schemes such as **Ayushman Bharat Jan Arogya Yojana** (health insurance scheme), **Ayushman Health and Wellness Centres, Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)** for generic medicines, **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)** etc to make healthcare accessible and affordable.
- He added that the Government is focusing on the theme of **'From Token to Total Health'**. **PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission**, which was launched on 25th October 2021 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is another such initiative in this regard.

Source: PIB

Facebook changes its name to Meta

- **Facebook Inc** has changed its corporate name to **Meta Platforms Inc "Meta"** as part of a major rebrand.
- Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced the new name as he unveiled plans to build a "metaverse" - an online world where people can game, work and communicate in a virtual environment.
- However, the social network will still be called as Facebook.

Source: HT

Important News: Ecology & Environment

Glacier in Antarctica named after Glasgow climate summit

Why in News

- The 100-km long body of ice in **Antarctica**, which has been experiencing rapid melting, was formally named **Glasgow Glacier** after the **Glasgow climate summit**.

- The **26th Conference of Parties (COP26)** of the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** is being held in **Glasgow, United Kingdom** from 31st of October to 12th of November.

Key Points

- Besides Glasgow, the eight newly named glaciers are Geneva, Rio, Berlin, Kyoto, Bali, Stockholm, Paris and Incheon all named after cities hosting important UN climate meetings.

Source: India Today

Important News: Economy

Cabinet approves USOF scheme for Aspirational Districts in 5 States **Why in News**

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has given its approval for provisioning of 4G based mobile services in Uncovered Villages of **Aspirational Districts** across **5 States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra & Odisha**.
- The project would be funded by the **Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) scheme**.
- **USOF** was created under the Ministry of Communications in 2002. It is a non-lapsable fund.

Key Points

- The Project envisages to provide 4G based mobile services in the **7,287 uncovered villages of 44 Aspirational Districts** across 5 States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra & Odisha at an estimated cost of implementation about Rs 6,466 crore including operational expenses for 5 years.
- It will enhance digital connectivity useful for self-reliance, facilitate learning, dissemination of information and knowledge, skill upgradation and development, disaster management, e-Governance initiatives, establishment of enterprises & e-commerce facilities, provision of adequate support to educational institutes for knowledge sharing & availability of job opportunity and fulfilling the vision of Digital India promoting domestic manufacturing and fulfilling the objectives of Atmanirbhar Bharat etc.

Related Schemes:

- National Broadband Mission
- BharatNet Project
- Submarine Cable Connectivity to Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- National Optical Fibre Network
- National Digital Communications Policy, 2018
- Digital India

Source: PIB

Special Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (SCLCSS) for Services Sector **Why in News**

- The **Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME)** launched the Special Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (SCLCSS) for the services sector.
- It was launched by Union Minister for MSME, Narayan Rane during the MSME North East Conclave.

Key Points

About Special Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (SCLCSS):

- The scheme will help in meeting the technology related requirements of enterprises in the services sector and has a provision of 25% capital subsidy for procurement of Plant & Machinery and service equipments through institutional credit to the SC-ST MSEs without any sector specific restrictions on technology upgradation

Other Initiatives/Schemes to Promote MSME Sector:

- Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI)

- Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme
- Credit Guarantee Scheme for Micro and Small Enterprises
- A Scheme for Promoting Innovation, Rural Industry & Entrepreneurship (ASPIRE)
- Interest Subvention Scheme for Incremental Credit to MSMEs
- Micro and Small Enterprises Cluster Development Programme
- CHAMPIONS portal
- Udyam Registrations Portal

Source: PIB

Nationwide AHDF KCC campaign launched for providing Kisan Credit Card facility

Why in News

- As part of Aazadi Ka Amrit Mahostav, **Nationwide AHDF KCC campaign** launched by Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Parshottam Rupala.

Key Points

- In order to expand the benefit of Kisan Credit Card to all eligible animal husbandry, dairy and fishery farmers in the country, this department, in association with the Department of Fisheries (DOF) and the Department of Financial Services (DFS), is organizing a **"Nationwide AHDF KCC Campaign"** from 15th November 2021 to 15th February 2022.

Note:

- The Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying also launched the **"LINAC-NCDC Fisheries Business Incubation Centre" (LIFIC)** at LINAC-NCDC in Haryana's Gurugram.
- LIFIC is being started by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), which is the End Implementation Agency for Cooperatives under the flagship scheme Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) of the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India.

Source: ET

TVS Motor: First Indian two-wheeler maker in United Nations Global Compact

Why in News

- **TVS Motor Company**, the flagship company of the TVS Group, has joined the **United Nations Global Compact**, the world's largest sustainability initiative.
- TVS Motor Company has become the first Indian two-wheeler and three-wheeler manufacturer to be a part of UN Global Compact.

Key Points

About United Nations Global Compact:

- The United Nations Global Compact is a call to companies to align their operations and strategies with ten universally accepted principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption, and to take action in support of UN goals and issues embodied in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Launched in 2000, the UN Global Compact is the largest corporate sustainability initiative globally, with more than 14,000 companies and 3,000 non-business signatories in over 160 countries and more than 70 Local Networks.

Source: Business Standard

PM Modi launches two innovative customer centric initiatives of RBI

Why in News

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** launched two innovative customer centric initiatives of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.
- These initiatives are the **RBI Retail Direct Scheme** and the **Reserve Bank - Integrated Ombudsman Scheme**.

Key Points

About RBI Retail Direct Scheme:

- The RBI Retail Direct Scheme is aimed at enhancing access to the government securities market for retail investors.

- It offers them a new avenue for directly investing in securities issued by the Government of India and the State Governments.

About Reserve Bank - Integrated Ombudsman Scheme:

- The Reserve Bank - Integrated Ombudsman Scheme aims to further improve the grievance redress mechanism for resolving customer complaints against entities regulated by RBI.
- The central theme of the scheme is based on 'One Nation-One Ombudsman' with one portal, one email and one address for the customers to lodge their complaints.

Note: RBI's alternate grievance redress mechanism currently comprises of three ombudsman schemes viz - the Banking Ombudsman Scheme (BOS), launched in 1995, the Ombudsman Scheme for Non-Banking Financial Companies (OS-NBFC), 2018 and the Ombudsman Scheme for Digital Transactions (OSDT), 2019

Source: ET

RBI to organise its first global hackathon 'HARBINGER 2021'

Why in News

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has announced its first global hackathon '**HARBINGER 2021 - Innovation for Transformation**' with the theme '**Smarter Digital Payments**'.
- Registration for the hackathon starts from November 15, 2021.

Key Points

- For the Hackathon, RBI invites participants to identify and develop solutions that have the potential to make digital payments accessible to the under-served, enhance the ease of payments and user experience, while strengthening the security of digital payments and promoting customer protection

Source: newsonair

Ministry of Rural Development signs MoU with Flipkart

Why in News

- **Flipkart**, India's homegrown e-commerce marketplace, has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Ministry of Rural Development of the Government of India**, for their ambitious **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) program**, to help empower local businesses and **Self-Help Groups (SHGs)** – especially those that are led by women – by bringing them into the e-commerce fold.

Key Points

- MoU will enable rural women to sell their products to more than 10 crore Flipkart's customers.
- This MoU is a part of the **Flipkart Samarth program**.
- The **Flipkart Samarth program** was launched in 2019 as a sustainable and inclusive platform to empower underserved domestic communities and businesses with better opportunities and livelihoods.

Source: PIB

IREDA launches 'Whistle Blower' portal

Why in News

- **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA)**, a PSU under the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) launched a '**Whistle-blower Portal**'.

Key Points

- Whistle-blower portal is a part of IREDA's "zero tolerance" of corruption.
- IREDA employees can raise concerns related to fraud, corruption, abuse of power etc.

Note: In India, whistleblowers are protected by the **Whistleblowers Protection Act, 2014**.

Source: PIB

Union Minister of Home Affairs launched Mukhyamantri Ghasiyari Kalyan Yojana in Dehradun, Uttarakhand

Why in News

- The **Union Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah** recently launched the **Mukhyamantri Ghasiyari Kalyan Yojana** and **computerization of cooperative societies** in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

Key Points

- Under the Mukhyamantri Ghasiyari Kalyan Yojana, animal feed will be given at the rate of two rupees per kg on 30 percent subsidy and as a result, women will be saved from many calamities.
- The Union Home Minister launched computerization of 670 PACS (Primary Agricultural Credit Society).
- He also inaugurated the Cooperative Training Center.

Source: PIB

India's first 'Skill Impact Bond' launched

Why in News

- The **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** launched India's first and the largest **Skill Impact Bond (SIB)** in collaboration with global partners.
- Along with the NSDC, the global coalition comprises of HRH Prince Charles's British Asian Trust, the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation (MSDF), The Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF), HSBC India, JSW Foundation and Dubai Cares, with FCDO (UK Government) & USAID as technical partners.

Key Points

- The coalition has brought together a **US\$14.4 million fund to benefit 50,000 young people in India over four years.**
- The target group includes 60 percent women and girls and to equip them with skills and vocational training and provide access to wage-employment in COVID-19 recovery sectors including retail, apparel, healthcare, and logistics.
- **Impact bonds** are innovative financing instruments that leverage private sector capital and expertise, with a focus on achieving results.

Source: Business Standard

Sixth Edition of National Formulary of India (NFI)

Why in News

- **Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Mansukh Mandaviya** launched the **Sixth Edition of National Formulary of India (NFI) 2021.**
- **NFI** has been published by **Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC)** to promote rational use of medicines in the country.

Key Points

- NFI 2021 would act as a guidance document for all the healthcare professionals such as clinicians, pharmacists, nurses, dentists etc.
- It will play a crucial role in daily clinical practices.
- 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 main salient feature of this edition includes:

- 34 therapeutic categories chapters including 591 drug monographs and 23 appendices are included in this edition.
- The NFI is aligned with National Health Programmes and National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM).
- Important Weblinks related to NLEM, Drugs banned in India, NHP, Drugs banned in sports, Immunization schedule, wherever necessary are provided for information to readers.

Source: PIB

MeitY organises “AI Pe Charcha” on “AI for Data Driven Governance”

Why in News

- The **National e Governance Division (NeGD)** of the **Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY)** recently organised yet another **AI Pe Charcha (AI Dialogue)** on the theme, “**AI for Data Driven Governance**”.

Key Points

- **AI Pe Charcha** is a series of panel discussions involving various global and domestic leaders from the Government and industry, researchers and academicians sharing their views & experiences around Artificial Intelligence, related case studies, global best practices, breakthrough innovations and the challenges faced in the field of Artificial Intelligence.
- The ‘AI for Data Driven Governance’ session had covered the importance of data driven and AI-enabled governance along with the global best practices.

Source: ET

Central Government notifies Indian Telegraph Right of Way (Amendment) Rules, 2021

Why in News

- The Central Government has recently notified the **Indian Telegraph Right of Way (Amendment) Rules, 2021** to incorporate the provisions related to nominal one-time compensation and uniform procedure for establishment of Overground Telegraph Line in the **Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules, 2016**.

Key Points

- The amount of one-time compensation for establishment of an overground telegraph line will be maximum one thousand rupees per kilometre.
- Documentation for the Right of Way application for the overground telegraph line has been made simple.
- Also, there will be no fee other than Administrative fee and Restoration charges for establishing, maintaining, working, repairing, transferring or shifting the underground and overground telegraph infrastructure.
- These amendments will ease Right of Way related permission procedures for establishment and augmentation of Digital Communications Infrastructure across the country.

Source: Business Standard

Science

Ministry of Culture launches Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Mobile App

Why in News

- **Minister of State for Culture and External Affairs, Meenakshi Lekhi** launched the **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Mobile App** to enable all single point access to all information related to the 75th anniversary celebrations of India’s independence.

Key Points

- The Home page enables users to get an overview of the interesting and wide-ranging content inside the app.
- These include among others links to sections such Digital District Repository and Unsung Heroes which are part of an overall section titled History Corner.
- Sections like ‘What’s New’ and ‘Weekly Highlights’ allow the users to stay connected to all current Amrit Mahotsav celebrations and event details across India and the world.

Note:

- The Ministry of Culture will hold a ‘Vande Bharatam- Nritya Utsav’, an All-India dance competition as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- The objective of this competition is to select dancers who will perform during the cultural programme at the Republic Day Parade of 2022.

Source: PIB

“Tech NEEV/नीव @75”

Why in News

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated “**Tech NEEV/ नीव @75**” as part of **Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav**.

Key Points

- “Tech NEEV/ नीव @ 75” is a year-long celebration highlighting the impact of Science Technology Innovation (STI) in empowering communities for creating equitable inclusive economic growth.
- The Government will be setting up 30 Science Technology and Innovation (STI) Hubs in different parts of the country for Scheduled Tribes (STs) by the end of 2022 to promote scientific talent among tribal communities and for their overall socio-economic development.
- Out of 75 proposed STI Hubs for SCs/STs, 20 have already been established by the Department of Science and Technology which will directly benefit 20,000 people through various interventions spreading across farm, non-farm and other allied livelihood sectors.

Note: India has been on a rising trajectory in the **Global Innovation Index (GII)** as it improved its ranking from 81 in 2015 to 46 in 2021.

Source: PIB

Citizens' Tele-Law Mobile App

Why in News

- **Union Minister of Law and Justice Kiren Rijiju** launched the Citizen's Tele-Law Mobile App.
- He also felicitated the Tele-Law 124 Frontline Functionaries which includes Para Legal Volunteers, Village Level entrepreneurs, Panel Lawyers and State Coordinators representing from different corners of the country.

Key Points

- The Citizens' Tele-Law Mobile App would be a first of its kind wherein as part of constitutional mandate for providing equal opportunities before law, every citizen would now be entitled to have access to lawyer on a touch of a finger.

About Tele-Law:

- Reaching the Unreached e-interface platform was launched in 2017 by the Department of Justice, to strengthen the pre-litigation mechanism in the country.
- This is operational in 51,434 Common Service Centres across 50,000 Gram Panchayats in 633 districts Tele-Law leverages technology (viz. tele-video conferencing facilities) to connect the beneficiary with the Panel Lawyer to seek legal advice and consultation for an early redressal of their grievance.

Note: Recently, “Tele-Law on Wheels” campaign along with “Login Week” was flagged off from the Department of Justice premises with the resolve to empower the people to seek legal advice and consultation at the pre-litigation stage.

Source: PIB

India's first Centre for Excellence in Research on Drone Technology and Artificial Intelligence

Why in News

- Minister of State Civil Aviation and retired general VK Singh inaugurated **India's first Center for Excellence in Research on Drone/UAV Technology and Artificial Intelligence** at the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati**.

Key Points

- IIT Guwahati's other initiatives-- Skill development center for drone/UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles) operation and maintenance, Nodal center for overall administrative drone data management for northeast region and “AXOMDroneports”

- The AXOMDroneports will be used to support cargo drones delivering urgent/medical and emergency supplies and precious supplies to remote areas of the North East.

Source: ndtv

Telecom Department sets up 6G Technology Innovation Group, chaired by K Rajaraman **Why in News**

- The **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** has formed a **Technology Innovation Group** on the **sixth generation (6G)**.
- The Technology Innovation Group has **22 members**.
- **Telecom secretary K Rajaraman** has been named the **chairperson** of the group.

Key Points

- The group aims to create vision and objectives as well as develop a roadmap for research and development (R&D), pre- standardisation, development of applications and products, and action plans for 6G technology.
- The 6G technology is expected to make its first commercial move before 2030.

Note: Chinese Huawei, and Korean Samsung and LG have already started work on 6G technology.

Source: ET

Important News: Défense

Fourth submarine of Project-75 'INS Vela' commissioned at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai

Why in News

- **INS Vela, the fourth submarine** in the series of six submarines of Project-75, was commissioned on 25 Nov 21 in the presence of Admiral Karambir Singh, Chief of the Naval Staff.
- The formal commissioning ceremony took place at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai.

Key Points

- The Scorpene Class submarines are being built in India by the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) Mumbai, under collaboration with M/s Naval Group (earlier DCNS), France.
- INS Vela would form part of the Western Naval Command's Submarine fleet and would be another potent part of its arsenal.
- These submarines have a state of the art SONAR and sensor suite permitting outstanding operational capabilities. They also have an advanced Permanent Magnetic Synchronous motor (PERMASYN) as its propulsion motor.
- The commissioning of the submarine is coinciding with 'Azaadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' and 'Swarnim Vijay Varsh' celebrations.

Source: PIB

37th edition of India - Indonesia Coordinated Patrol

Why in News

- The **37th edition of India - Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT)** was conducted between the Indian Navy and Indonesian Navy from 23 to 24 Nov 2021.

Key Points

- Indian Naval Ship (INS) *Khanjar*, an indigenously built Missile Corvette along with Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft participated in coordinated patrol with Indonesian Naval Ship KRI *Sultan Thaha Syaifuddin*, (376), a Kapitan Patimura-Class Corvette.
- India and Indonesia have been carrying out Coordinated Patrols (CORPAT) along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) twice in a year since 2002, with an aim of keeping this vital part of the Indian Ocean Region safe and secure for commercial shipping, international trade and conduct of legitimate maritime activities.

Source: PIB

India, Maldives and Sri Lanka trilateral exercise 'Dosti 2021'

Why in News

- The **15th edition of the biennial trilateral coast guard exercise 'Dosti 2021'** involving India, the Maldives and Sri Lanka was conducted in the Maldives.

Key Points

- 2021 marks 30 years since these exercises were first launched.
- Indian Coast Guard vessels, the ICGS Vajra and ICGS Apoorva joined the Sri Lanka Coast Guard, SLCGS Suraksha for the 5 day exercise (20-24 November, 2021).
- For many years after it was first launched in 1991, these exercises were bilateral, involving the Indian and the Maldives Coast Guards. In 2012, however, Sri Lanka joined these exercises for the first time and since then, it has been a trilateral exercise.

Exercise between India and Maldives:

- Exercise Ekuverin (Military Exercise)

Exercise between India and Srilanka:

- SLINEX (Naval exercise)
- Exercise MITRA SHAKTI (Military Exercise)

Source: Indian Express

INS Visakhapatnam commissioned into Indian Navy

Why in News

- **INS Visakhapatnam**, a P15B stealth guided missile destroyer, was commissioned into the Indian Navy at the Naval Dockyard, Mumbai.

Key Points

- The event marks the formal induction of the first of the four 'Visakhapatnam' class destroyers, indigenously designed by the Indian Navy's in-house organisation Directorate of Naval Design and constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai.
- INS Visakhapatnam measures 163m in length, 17m in breadth with a displacement of 7,400 tonnes and can rightfully be regarded as one of the most potent warships to have been constructed in India.
- The ship is packed with sophisticated state-of-the-art weapons and sensors such as Surface-to-Surface missile and Surface-to-Air missiles.
- A unique feature of this ship is the high level of indigenisation incorporated in the production, accentuating the national objective of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.
- The ship will be under the command of Captain Birendra Singh Bains, a Navigation & Direction specialist.

Source: ET

Raksha Mantri unveils plaque to rename Institute for Defence Studies & Analyses after late Manohar Parrikar

Why in News

- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** recently unveiled a plaque at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses in New Delhi to rename the institute after former Defence Minister late Manohar Parrikar.

Key Points

- The renaming as **Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA)** by the Defence Minister, who is the President of the Institute, follows the unanimous decision by the general body earlier this year to effect the change in the memory of the former Defence Minister.

Source: PIB

PM Modi attends 'Rashtra Raksha Samparpan Parv' in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh

Why in News

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended '**Rashtra Raksha Samparpan Parv**' in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh.

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the three-day '**Rashtra Raksha Samarpan Parv**' in Jhansi on November 17, 2021.
- It was organised from November 17-19, 2021 in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh.

Key Points

- The Prime Minister dedicated several new initiatives of the Ministry of Defence to the Nation in a grand ceremony celebrating 'Rashtra Raksha Samarpan Parv' organised in the precincts of Jhansi Fort.

New Initiatives:

- Launch of NCC Alumni Association, the Prime Minister was registered as the first member of the association
- Launch of National Programme of Simulation Training for NCC Cadets
- Kiosk to pay tribute to the fallen heroes at National War Memorial
- Mobile app of National War Memorial
- DRDO Designed and Developed Advanced Electronic Warfare Suite 'Shakti' for Indian Naval Ships
- Light Combat Helicopter and drones
- Rs 400 crore project of Bharat Dynamics Ltd at Jhansi Node of the UP Defence Industrial Corridor
- 600 MW Ultramega Solar Power Park at Garautha in Jhansi
- Atal Ekta Park in Jhansi

Note:

- The Prime Minister also dedicated to the Nation various developmental projects in Mahoba, Uttar Pradesh.
- These projects include the Arjun Sahayak Project, Ratauli Weir Project, Bhaoni Dam Project and Majhgaon–Chilli Sprinkler Project.

Source: PIB

India, Singapore and Thailand Trilateral Maritime Exercise 'SITMEX-2021'

Why in News

- The 3rd edition of India, Singapore and Thailand Trilateral Maritime Exercise '**SITMEX – 21**' was conducted from 15 to 16 Nov 2021 in the Andaman Sea.
- The exercise was hosted by Thailand.

Key Points

- Indian Naval Ship (INS) Karmuk, an indigenously built Missile Corvette participated in SITMEX – 21.
- The two days of maritime drills witnessed the three navies engaged in various tactical exercises including naval manoeuvres and surface warfare drills.

Note:

- SITMEX is being conducted annually since 2019 with an aim to enhance mutual interoperability and imbibing best practices between Indian Navy (IN), Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) and Royal Thai Navy (RTN).
- The maiden edition of SITMEX was hosted by the Indian Navy (IN) off Port Blair in September 2019.
- Singapore hosted the second edition of the exercise in November 2020.

Other Military Exercises between India and Singapore:

- SIMBEX (Navy)
- Bold Kurukshetra (Army)
- Joint Military Training (Air Force)

Other Military Exercises between India and Thailand:

- Indo-Thai CORPAT (Navy)
- MAITREE (Army)
- SIAM BHARAT (Air Force)

Source: PIB

32nd edition of Indo-Thai CORPAT

Why in News

- The **32nd edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT)** between the Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy was conducted from 12 – 14 November 2021.

Key Points

- Indian Naval Ship (INS) Karmuk, an indigenously built Missile Corvette and His Majesty's Thailand Ship (HTMS) Tayanchon, a Khamrosin Class Anti-submarine Patrol Craft, along with Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both navies participated in the CORPAT.
- CORPAT builds up understanding and interoperability between navies and facilitates institution of measures to prevent and suppress unlawful activities like Illegal Unreported Unregulated (IUU) fishing, drug trafficking, maritime terrorism, armed robbery and piracy.

Note: Towards reinforcing maritime links between the two countries and with an aim of keeping this vital part of the Indian Ocean safe and secure for international trade, the two navies have been undertaking CORPAT bi-annually since 2005 along their International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL).

Other Military Exercises between India and Thailand:

- Exercise SIAM BHARAT (Air Force)
- Exercise MAITREE (Army)

Source: PIB

DRDO & Israel sign Bilateral Innovation Agreement for development of dual use technologies

Why in News

- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and **Directorate of Defence Research and Development (DDR&D), Ministry of Defence, Israel** have entered into a **Bilateral Innovation Agreement (BIA)** to promote innovation and accelerated R&D in startups and MSMEs of India and Israel for the development of dual use technologies.

Key Points

- Under the agreement, startups and industry of both countries will work together to bring out next generation technologies and products in the areas such as Drones, Robotics, Artificial Intelligence, Quantum technology, Photonics, Biosensing, Brain-Machine Interface, Energy Storage, Wearable Devices, Natural Language Processing, etc.
- The development efforts will be jointly funded by DRDO and DDR&D, Israel.

Note: Recently, **Indian Army** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU)** and **Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-Informatics (BISAG-N), Gandhinagar, Gujarat** to collaborate in different sectors of Research and Development.

Source: PIB

India's fourth Scorpene submarine: INS Vela

Why in News

- **INS Vela**, India's fourth Scorpene-class submarine of the **Project – 75**, was delivered to the Indian Navy.
- **Project – 75** includes construction of six submarines of Scorpene design.

Key Points

- INS Vela was launched in May 2019.
- These submarines are being constructed at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) Mumbai, under collaboration with M/s Naval Group, France.

Other Submarines under Project-75:

- The **first** submarine, **INS Kalvari**, was commissioned in December 2017.
- The **second** submarine, **INS Khanderi**, was commissioned in September 2019.
- The **third** submarine, **INS Karanj**, was commissioned in March 2021.

- The **fifth** submarine, **INS Vagir**, was launched in November 2020 and has commenced harbour trials.
- The **sixth** submarine, **INS Vagsheer**, is in the advanced stage of outfitting.

Source: HT

India & US hold 11th Defence Technology & Trade Initiative Group meeting **Why in News**

- The **11th Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) Group meeting** between **India** and **the United States (US)** was held virtually on November 09, 2021.

Key Points

- The DTTI Group meetings are normally held twice a year, alternating between India and the US.
- However, this DTTI meeting was held via Video Teleconferencing consecutively for a second time on account of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The aim of the DTTI Group is to bring sustained leadership focus to the bilateral defence trade relationship and create opportunities for co-production and co-development of defence equipment.
- **Four Joint Working Groups** focused on land, naval, air and aircraft carrier technologies have been established under DTTI to promote mutually agreed projects within their domains.

Note: The co-chairs were also pleased to note that since the last DTTI Group meeting in September 2020, the first Project Agreement for **Air-Launched Unmanned Aerial Vehicle** under the Joint Working Group Air Systems was signed which is a major accomplishment for DTTI.

Source: PIB

Vice Admiral R Hari Kumar to be the next Chief of the Naval Staff

Why in News

- The Government has appointed **Vice Admiral R Hari Kumar** presently Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Western Naval Command as the next **Chief of the Naval Staff**.

Key Points

- The present Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Karambir Singh retires from service on 30th November, 2021.
- Vice Admiral R Hari Kumar was commissioned on 1st January, 1983 into the Executive Branch of the Indian Navy.
- During his long and distinguished service spanning nearly 39 years, he has served in a variety of Command, Staff and Instructional appointments.

Source: PIB

President Ram Nath Kovind confers honorary rank of General of Indian Army to Nepal Army Chief

Why in News

- **President Ram Nath Kovind** conferred the **honorary rank of General of Indian Army** to **Nepal Army Chief Prabhu Ram Sharma** at a special function at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Key Points

- Nepal Army Chief General Prabhu Ram Sharma arrived on a four-day visit to India at the official invitation of Chief of Army Staff, General Manoj Mukund Naravane.
- During his visit to India, General Sharma met his Indian counterpart in New Delhi on 9 November 2021.

Note: **Indian Army Chief General Manoj Naravane** was conferred the rank of **Honorary General of the Nepal Army** in November 2020 by Nepal's President Bidya Devi Bhandari.

Source: newsonair

DRDO & IAF carry out successful flight tests of indigenously-developed Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon (SAAW)

Why in News

- Two flight tests of indigenously-developed **Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon (SAAW)** have been carried out jointly by **Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)** and **Indian Air Force (IAF)**.
- The weapon was launched by an IAF aircraft from Chandan ranges at Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.

Key Points

- The two different configurations based on satellite navigation and electro optical sensors have been successfully tested.
- Electro optical seeker based flight test of this class of bomb has been conducted for the first time in the country.
- The system is designed for a maximum range of 100 kilometres.
- The SAAW has been designed and developed by Research Centre Imarat (RCI) in coordination with other DRDO Laboratories and extensive support from IAF.

Source: HT

Y 12704 (Visakhapatnam), the first ship of Project 15B delivered to the Indian Navy

Why in News

- **Y 12704 (Visakhapatnam)**, the first ship of Project 15B stealth guided missile destroyers was delivered to the **Indian Navy**.
- The contract for 4 ships of Project 15B, as the Visakhapatnam class ships are known, was signed on 28 January 2011.
- This project is a follow-on of the Kolkata class (Project 15A) destroyers commissioned in the last decade.

Key Points

- Designed by Directorate of Naval Design, Indian Navy's in-house design organisation; and built by **M/s Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd, Mumbai**; the four ships are christened after major cities from all four corners of the country viz. **Visakhapatnam, Mormugao, Imphal and Surat**.
- The 163 metres long warship has a full load displacement of 7400 tonnes and maximum speed of 30 knots.
- The overall indigenous content of the project is approx. 75%.

Source: HT

7th Indian Navy Frigate of P1135.6 class 'Tushil'

Why in News

- The **7th Indian Navy Frigate of P1135.6 class** was launched at Yantar Shipyard, Kaliningrad, **Russia**.
- The ship was formally named as **'Tushil'**. Tushil is a Sanskrit word meaning Protector Shield.

Key Points

- Based on an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) between the Government of Republic of India and Government of Russian Federation for construction of two ships of Project 1135.6 ships in Russia and two ships in India at M/s Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL), the contract for construction of two ships was signed between India and Russia in October 2016.
- They feature "stealth technology" in terms of low radar and under water noise signatures.

About P1135.6 class frigates:

- Project 1135.6 also known as Krivak or Talwar-class frigates are a class of stealth-guided missile frigates that are designed and built by Russia for the Indian Navy.
- To date, the Indian Navy already operates six of these ships namely INS Talwar, Trishul, Tabar, Teg, Tarkash and Trikand. INS Tushil is the 7th.

Source: PIB

Indian Coast Guard Ship 'Sarthak' dedicated to the Nation

Why in News

- The indigenously built **Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) 'Sarthak'** was commissioned and dedicated to the nation at **Goa**.
- **ICGS Sarthak** will be based at **Porbandar in Gujarat** and operate on India's Western Seaboard under the Operational and Administrative Control of the Commander, Coast Guard Region (Northwest).

Key Points

About Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) 'Sarthak':

- ICGS Sarthak is 4th in the series of five OPVs (Offshore Patrol Vessels) being built by Goa Shipyard Limited for the ICG.
- The 105-meter-long ship displacing 2,450 tons is propelled by two 9,100 kilowatt diesel engines designed to attain a maximum speed of 26 knots.
- The ship is fitted with state-of-the-art equipment, machinery, sensors and weapons which enables it to function as a command platform and undertake mandated Coast Guard charter of duties including search & rescue, combating maritime crimes and preserving & protecting the marine environment.

Other OPVs: Vighraha, Sajag, Varaha, Yard 45006 VAJRA

Source: PIB

DRDO & IAF jointly flight test Long-Range Bomb successfully

Why in News

- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and **Indian Air Force (IAF)** team jointly flight tested indigenously developed **Long-Range Bomb (LRB)** successfully from an aerial platform.

Key Points

- The **Long-Range Bomb (LRB)**, after release from the IAF fighter aircraft, guided to a land-based target at a long range with accuracy within specified limits.
- The LR Bomb has been designed and developed by **Research Centre Imarat (RCI)**, a **DRDO laboratory located at Hyderabad** in coordination with other DRDO laboratories.

Source: PIB

India successfully test-fires surface to surface Ballistic Missile 'Agni-5'

Why in News

- India successfully test-fired a surface-to-surface ballistic missile '**Agni-5**' from APJ Abdul Kalam Island off Odisha coast.

Key Points

- The missile, which uses a three-stage solid fuelled engine, is capable of striking targets at ranges up to **5,000 kilometres** with a very high degree of accuracy.
- The successful test of Agni-5 is in line with India's stated policy to have 'credible minimum deterrence' that underpins the commitment to 'No First Use'.
- The missile was developed by the DRDO.

Note: At present, India has 5 missiles under the Agni series – Agni-1 with 700 km range, Agni-2 with 2,000 km range, Agni-3 and Agni-4 with 2,500 km to over 3,500 km range and Agni-5 with up to 5,000 km range.

Source: India today

Awards and Honours

BWF selects Prakash Padukone lifetime achievement award 2021

Why in News

- Indian badminton legend **Prakash Padukone** has been selected for the prestigious **Lifetime Achievement Award 2021** by the **Badminton World Federation (BWF)** Council.

Key Points

- The BWF Council shortlisted the Indian legend based on the award commission's recommendation.
- The former world no 1 and the first-ever Indian world championships medallist, Padukone has contributed immensely to the game.
- In 2018, he was also honoured with the Badminton Association of India (BAI)'s Lifetime Achievement Award.

Source: Indian Express

International Emmy Awards 2021

Why in News

- The **49th International Emmy Awards 2021** was held in New York City.

Key Points

- Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Vir Das and Sushmita Sen-starrer Aarya were among the eminent nominees from India, however, they were not able to register any big win.
- Till date, the only Indian show to bag an Emmy is filmmaker Richie Mehta's Delhi Crime which won Best Drama in 2020.

List of some main Winners of 2021 International Emmy Awards:

- Best Actress: Hayley Squires for Adult Material (UK)
- Best Actor: David Tennant for Des (UK)
- Best Drama Series: Tehran (Israel)
- Best Comedy Series: Call My Agent Season 4 (France)
- Best Documentary: Hope Frozen: A Quest To Live Twice (Thailand)
- Best TV Movie / Mini-Series: Atlantic Crossing (Norway)

Source: India Today

NGO Pratham awarded Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2021

Why in news

- The **Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2021** has been awarded to civil society organisation '**Pratham**'.

Key Points

About Pratham:

- Set up in 1995 in Mumbai by Madhav Chavan and Farida Lambay, Pratham has sought to give practical shape to its belief that every child should be in school and learning.
- Its Annual Status of Education Report (ASER), based on surveying 6,00,000 rural Indian children, is now used as a model to assess education outcomes and learning deficiencies in 14 countries over three continents.

About Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development:

- It was instituted in the memory of the former prime minister by a trust in her name in 1986.
- It consists of a monetary award of Rs 25 lakh along with a citation.

Source: ET

UNESCO-ABU Peace Media Awards 2021 - Doordarshan and All India Radio win big

Why in News

- In yet another remarkable feat which has showcased the world Prasar Bharati's excellence in quality content creation, TV and Radio shows produced by **Doordarshan and All India Radio** respectively got multiple awards at the recently held **ABU - UNESCO Peace Media Awards 2021** at Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia.

Key Points

- Doordarshan's programme 'DEAFinitely Leading the Way' won an award under 'Living Well with Super Diversity' category, while All India Radio's programme 'Living on the edge - The coastal lives' won another award in the category of 'Ethical & Sustainable Relationship with Nature'.

- The awards were given by UNESCO in collaboration with Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) under the 'Together for Peace' (T4P) initiative.

Source: PIB

Swachh Survekshan 2021 Awards: Indore wins the title of 'Cleanest City' for fifth consecutive time

Why in News

- **President of India, Ram Nath Kovind** felicitated the awardees of the cleanest cities of India at the '**Swachh Amrit Mahotsav**' hosted as part of **Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0** by the **Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**.
- The award ceremony, organized to recognize the good work done for Swachhata by towns/ cities, States and Union Territories under various initiatives of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), viz. Swachh Survekshan 2021, Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge, and certifications for Garbage Free Star rating for cities.

Key Points

- For the **fifth consecutive year**, **Indore** was awarded the title of **India's Cleanest City** under Swachh Survekshan, while **Surat** and **Vijayawada** bagged the **second and third spots respectively** in the '**more than 1 lakh population**' category.
- In the **population category of 'less than 1 lakh'**, **Vita, Lonavala and Sasvad, all from Maharashtra, bagged the first, second and third positions respectively.**
- **Varanasi emerged as the 'Best Ganga Town'** while **Ahmedabad Cantonment won the title of 'India's Cleanest Cantonment'**, followed by **Meerut Cantonment and Delhi Cantonment.**
- In the category of '**Fastest Mover**', **Hoshangabad (Madhya Pradesh) emerged as the 'Fastest Mover City'** (in the 'more than 1 lakh population' category) with a jump of 274 ranks from **361st position in the 2020 rankings to the 87th position this year**, thus securing a place among the top 100 cities.
- In the **State awards**, **Chhattisgarh**, for the **third consecutive year** emerged as the '**Cleanest State**' in the category of "more than 100 Urban Local Bodies" while **Jharkhand**, for the **second time**, won the **Cleanest State** award in the "less than 100 ULBs category".
- **Karnataka and Mizoram became the 'Fastest Mover States'** in the big (more than 100 ULBs) and small (less than 100 ULBs) state category respectively.
- **Maharashtra has successfully bagged a total of 92 awards**, the highest by any State in this year's Survekshan, followed by Chhattisgarh with 67 awards.
- **Additionally, under the Prerak Daar Samman, a new performance category introduced under Swachh Survekshan 2021, five cities – Indore, Surat, Navi Mumbai, New Delhi Municipal Council and Tirupati were categorized as 'Divya' (Platinum).**

About Swachh Survekshan 2021 Awards:

- This year's Survekshan, participated by 4,320 cities, also saw an unprecedented number of citizens' feedback – over 5 crores, compared to 1.87 cores last year. SS 2021 has also helped identify over 6,000 innovations and best practices in sanitation and waste management from across urban India.

Source: PIB

Indian Film Personality of the Year Award 2021

Why in News

- Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Anurag Singh Thakur has announced that the **Indian Film Personality of the Year Award for 2021** will be conferred on **Hema Malini** and **Prasoon Joshi**.

Key Points

- Hema Malini is an Actor, Member of Parliament from Mathura, Uttar Pradesh.
- Prasoon Joshi is a Lyricist and Chairperson, Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC).
- They shall be conferred this honour at the 52nd International Film Festival of India in Goa.

Source: PIB

Malayalam writer M Mukundan's 'Delhi: A soliloquy' wins 2021 JCB Prize

Why in News

- **Malayalam writer M Mukundan** has been selected for the prestigious **JCB Prize for Literature 2021** for his novel 'Delhi: A Soliloquy'.

Key Points

- Known as the Indian Booker Prize, the award carries Rs 25 lakh.
- Delhi: A Soliloquy, published by Westland Books, is the English translation of his Malayalam novel Delhi Gaathakal.
- It was translated by Fathima E V and Nandakumar K.

Note: This is the third translation that has won the JCB Prize after S Hareesh's 'Moustache (2020) and Benyamin's 'Jasmine Days' (2018).

Source: TOI

Saurabh Kirpal set to be first gay judge of Delhi High Court

Why in News

- The Supreme Court collegium has recommended **Saurabh Kirpal**, a senior advocate, as a judge to the **Delhi High Court**, a historic first as Kirpal is self-professed gay.

Key Points

- The SC collegium led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) NV Ramana took a decision on Kirpal's elevation and sent the recommendation to the Law Ministry.
- Kirpal's name was in the reckoning for a judge's post since 2017 but was stalled due to that he was gay.
- The collegium deferred taking a call on his elevation at least four times despite the HC's recommendation.

Note: His father B N Kirpal was Chief Justice of India in 2002

Source: ET

2020 Padma awards

Why in News

- President Ram Nath Kovind presented the **Padma awards** to **119 recipients** — some of them posthumously — for the **year 2020** at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Key Points

- The list comprises **7 Padma Vibhushans, 10 Padma Bhushans and 102 Padma Shri awards**.
- Of the total awardees, 29 were women and one was transgender, while 16 were posthumous awardees.
- Among the personalities awarded the **Padma Vibhushan** were BJP stalwarts Arun Jaitley and Sushma Swaraj, former Union minister George Fernandes (all posthumously), and Hindustani classical singer Pandit Chhannulal Mishra.
- Badminton player P V Sindhu won the **Padma Bhushan** award, along with Dr Anil Prakash Joshi for social work, Dr S C Jamir for public affairs and Mumtaz Ali for spiritualism.
- Actress Kangana Ranaut and singer Adnan Sami also received the Padma Shri

Source: Indian Express

Swarnajayanti Fellowships: DST

Why in News

- **17 scientists** from scientific institutions across India have been awarded the **Swarnajayanti Fellowships** by the **Department of Science & Technology (DST)** for their innovative research ideas and the potential of creating impact on R&D in different disciplines.

Key Points

About Swarnajayanti Fellowship scheme:

- The Swarnajayanti Fellowship scheme was instituted by Government of India (GOI) to commemorate India's fiftieth year of Independence.

- Under the scheme the awardees are facilitated by the Department of Science & Technology, GOI with support for all the requirements for performing the research including a fellowship of Rs. 25,000/- per month for 5 years.
- In addition, DST supports the awardees by giving them a research grant of 5 lakh Rupees for 5 years.

Note:

- **Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology Dr Jitendra Singh** recently launched the **first-ever Mentorship Programme for Young Innovators** to mark the 75th Year of India's independence.
- The **DBT-Star College Mentorship Programme** will help towards the concept of networking, hand holding and outreach.

Source: PIB

South African author Damon Galgut wins Booker Prize 2021

Why in News

- **South African author Damon Galgut** has won the **Booker Prize 2021** for his novel **'The Promise'**.

Key Points

- Galgut was also nominated for this award in the years 2003 and 2010.
- Galgut has become the third writer from South Africa to win the prize.

About The Booker Prize:

- The Booker Prize, formerly known as the Booker Prize for Fiction and the Man Booker Prize, is a literary prize awarded each year for the best novel written in English and published in the United Kingdom or Ireland.
- The winner receives a £50,000 (\$68,000) prize.

Source: newsonair

Obituaries

Eminent Novelist Mannu Bhandari passes away

- **Mannu Bhandari**, a famous **Hindi literateur**, passed away at the age of 90.
- Mannu Bhandari has been credited with writing many books, which date back to the late 1950s and early 1960s India.
- Two of her most renowned Hindi novels, however, remain 'Aapka Banti' and 'Mahabhoj'.
- She received awards such as Delhi's Shikhar Samman, Bharatiya Bhasha Parishad, Vyas Samman, Rajasthan Sangeet Natak Akademi, and Uttar Pradesh Hindi Sansthan.

Source: Indian Express

Eminent Cricket Coach Tarak Sinha passes away

- **Eminent Cricket Coach and Dronacharya Awardee Tarak Sinha** passed away at 71.
- Tarak Sinha trained stalwarts including Manoj Prabhakar, Raman Lamba, Ajay Sharma, Atul Wassan, Surinder Khanna, Sanjiv Sharma, Aakash Chopra, Anjum Chopra, Rumeli Dhar, Ashish Nehra, Shikhar Dhawan and Rishabh Pant.

Source: newsonair

Kannada film actor Puneeth Rajkumar passes away

- Puneeth Rajkumar, colloquially known as Appu, was an Indian actor, playback singer, television presenter, and producer who worked primarily in Kannada cinema.

Source: TOI

Ranks and Indices

National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI): Baseline Report
Why in News

- *National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI): Baseline Report* based on **National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-4 (2015-16)** has been developed by **NITI Aayog** in consultation with 12 Line Ministries and in partnership with State governments and the index publishing agencies –Oxford University’s Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- According to **Global MPI 2021**, India’s rank is 66 out of 109 countries.

Key Points

Findings of the Report:

- The MPI seeks to measure poverty across its multiple dimensions and in effect complements existing poverty statistics based on per capita consumption expenditure.
- It has three equally weighted dimensions – health, education, and standard of living – which in turn are represented by 12 indicators such as nutrition, school attendance, years of schooling, drinking water, sanitation, housing, bank accounts among others.
- **Bihar** has the highest proportion of people, at 51.91 percent of the state’s population, who are multidimensionally poor, followed by Jharkhand at 42.16 percent and Uttar Pradesh at 37.79 percent.
- **Kerala** registered the lowest population poverty levels (0.71%), followed by Goa (3.76%) and Sikkim (3.82%).
- Among the **Union Territories (UTs)**, Dadra and Nagar Haveli (27.36 percent), Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh (12.58), Daman & Diu (6.82 percent) and Chandigarh (5.97 percent), have emerged as the poorest UTs in India.
- The proportion of poor in Puducherry at 1.72 percent is the lowest among the Union Territories, followed by Lakshadweep at 1.82 percent, Andaman & Nicobar Islands at 4.30 percent and Delhi at 4.79 percent.

Source: PIB

NITI Aayog releases inaugural SDG Urban Index and Dashboard 2021-22

Why in News

- **NITI Aayog** under the **Indo-German Cooperation** released the inaugural **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Urban Index and Dashboard 2021-22**.

Key Points

About SDG Urban Index and Dashboard:

- The index and dashboard are a result of the NITI Aayog-GIZ and BMZ collaboration focused on driving SDG localization in cities, under the umbrella of Indo-German Development Cooperation.
- It ranks 56 urban areas on 77 SDG indicators across 46 targets of the SDG framework.

Methodology:

- The statistical methodology for the SDG Urban Index is drawn from the globally accepted methodology developed by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN).
- Urban areas have been classified as below based on their composite score:
Aspirant: 0–49
Performer: 50–64
Front-Runner: 65–99
Achiever: 100

Results:

- **Top 3 Performers:** Shimla, Coimbatore and Chandigarh
- **Worst 3 Performers:** Dhanbad, Meerut and Itanagar

Source: PIB

IPF Smart Policing Index 2021

Why in News

- **Bihar** has scored the **lowest** in overall policing, followed closely by Uttar Pradesh, according to findings of a nationwide survey conducted by independent think-tank **Indian Police Foundation (IPF)**.

Key Points

Findings of Smart Policing Index 2021:

- **The top five states** with the highest score on overall policing are Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Assam, Kerala and Sikkim.
- **From bottom** upwards are Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Punjab.
- In Police Accountability, the top states are Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Assam, Kerala and Odisha, while Uttar Pradesh, Nagaland, Uttarakhand, Bihar and Chhattisgarh are at the bottom.
- Southern states and some in the Northeast fared better on most policing indices compared to states in the north.

About the Survey:

- The survey is an attempt to assess the performance of various states on the Prime Minister's Smart Policing initiative.
- The survey had 10 sets of questionnaires, which included six indices of "Competence-Based Indicators" dealing with issues such as police sensitivity, accessibility, responsiveness and technology adoption among others; and three indices of "Value-Based indicators" dealing with integrity of the police; and one index of "Trust".

Source: Indian Express

First ever All India Survey on Domestic Workers

Why in news

- **Union Minister for Labour and Employment, Bhupender Yadav** flagged off the first ever **All India Survey on Domestic workers** being conducted by Labour Bureau, Chandigarh.
- **Domestic workers (DWs)** constitute a significant portion of total employment in the informal sector.

Key Points

- On the occasion, the Minister also released instruction manual with questionnaire for All India Survey on Domestic workers.
- This is for the first time in Independent India that such a nationwide survey is being conducted.
- The All India Survey on Domestic Workers is aimed to estimate the number and proportion of domestic workers at National and State level, percentage distribution of domestic workers with respect to Live-in/Live-out, formal/ Informal Employment, Migrant/Non-Migrant, their wages and other socio-economic characteristics.

Scope of the Survey:

- All India States/UTs of India covered are 37 and Districts covered are 742
- Unit of Enumeration is Villages as per Census 2011 and Urban Blocks as per latest phase of UFS.
- At the all-India level, a total number of 12766 First Stage Units (FSUs) i.e., 6190 villages and 6576 UFS blocks will be covered in the survey.
- 1,50,000 Households i.e., the Ultimate Stage Units (USU) will be covered.

Note: The result of the All-India Survey on Domestic Workers is expected within a time-span of 1 year.

Status of Domestic Workers:

- India is a signatory of the International Labour Organisation Convention C-189 (Domestic Workers Convention, 2011).
- According to the latest data on the e-Shram portal, around 8.8% of the registered 8.56 crore informal sector workers fall in the category of domestic workers.
- India has around 38 crore workers in the informal sector.

Source: PIB

Global Drug Policy Index 2021

Why in News

- The inaugural **Global Drug Policy Index 2021** ranks Norway, New Zealand, Portugal, the UK and Australia as the 5 leading countries on humane and health-driven drug policies.
- The 5 lowest-ranking countries are Brazil, Uganda, Indonesia, Kenya, and Mexico.
- India's rank is 18 out of 30 countries.
- The index is released by the **Harm Reduction Consortium**.

Key Points

- **India** has an overall score of 46/100. On the criteria of use of extreme sentencing and responses, it has a score of 63/100, on health and harm reduction, 49/100; on proportionality of criminal justice response, 38/100; on availability and access of internationally controlled substances for the relief of pain and suffering, 33 /100.

About Global Drug Policy Index:

- The index is a data-driven global analysis of drug policies and their implementation.
- The index is composed of 75 indicators running across 5 broad dimensions of drug policy: criminal justice, extreme responses, health and harm reduction, access to internationally controlled medicines, and development.

Source: Indian Express

State Energy Efficiency Index 2020

Why in News

- The **State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) 2020** was released by the **Ministry of Power**.
- **Karnataka** has topped the Index.

Key Points

- **Rank 1:** Karnataka (Score- 70)
- **Rank 2:** Rajasthan (61)
- **Rank 3:** Haryana (59.5)
- Rajasthan has registered 61 points, which is a tremendous rise from the score of 18.5 at the previous year index, SEEI 2019.

About State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI):

- It has been developed by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) and Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE).
- This year's Index has 68 indicators covering all demand sectors – buildings, industry, municipalities, transport, agriculture – and DISCOMs.
- Thirty-six states and union territories have been assessed in SEEI 2020.
- Based on their efforts and achievements, states have been classified as 'Front runner', 'Achiever', 'Contender' and 'Aspirant'.

Source: Business Standard

Times Higher Education World Reputation Rankings 2021

- **4 Indian institutes** have made it to the **Times Higher Education (THE)'s World Reputation Rankings 2021** that lists the world's top 200 universities based on votes from leading academics around the world.
- **Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore** ranked among the top 100 (91-100 band) has topped the Indian institutes.
- **Globally:**

Ranking

Institute

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Harvard University (US) |
| 2 | Massachusetts Institute of Technology (US) |
| 3 | University of Oxford (UK) |

- **Ranking of Indian Institutes:**

Ranking

Institute

- | | |
|---------|----------------|
| 91-100 | IISc Bangalore |
| 126-150 | IIT Bombay |
| 176-200 | IIT Delhi |

Source: ET

EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2021

- The **8th EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2021** has been prepared by **Hurun India** in partnership with **EdelGive Foundation** to identify the most generous individuals in India.
- **Indian business tycoon, Wipro Founder, Azim Premji** has retained top spot on the EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2021.
- He donated Rs 9,713 crore in FY21, earning him the title of “India’s most generous” for the second year in a row.
- The amount donated by Premji and his family is 27 percent higher than FY20.

The top 3 Philanthropist:

Rank	Person (Donation)
1	Azim Premji (Rs 9,713 crore)
2	Shiv Nadar (Rs 1,263 crore)
3	Mukesh Ambani (Rs 577 crore)

Source: India Today

Books and Authors**Smriti Irani authored her first Novel ‘Lal Salaam: A Novel’****Why in News**

- **Union Minister for Women and Child Development, Smriti Zubin Irani** has turned author with her debut novel **‘Lal Salaam: A Novel’**.

Key Points

- The novel, inspired by the tragic killings of 76 CRPF personnel in Dantewada in April 2010, is a tribute to the exceptional men and women who have given a lifetime of service to the country.
- The book is published by Westland Publications.

Source: India Today

Jason Mott won 2021 National Book Award for fiction

- The **72nd edition of the National Book Award** was organized by the National Book Foundation.
- Jason Mott won the 2021 National Book Award for fiction for his novel “Hell of a Book”.

Winners of 2021 National Book Awards:

Category	Author	Book
Fiction	Jason Mott	Hell of a Book
Non-Fiction	Tiya Miles	All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley’s Sack, a Black Family Keepsake
Poetry	Martín Espada	Floater
Young People’s Literature	Malinda Lo	Last Night at the Telegraph Club
Best Translated Literature	Elisa Shua Dusapin and Aneesa Abbas Higgin	Winter in Sokcho

Source: nationalbook.org

P. Gopi Chand launches his autobiography ‘Shuttler’s Flick: Making Every Match Count’**Why in News**

- India's chief national badminton coach **P. Gopi Chand** formally launched his autobiography '**Shuttler's Flick: Making Every Match Count**'.

Key Points

- The book has been co-authored by Priya Kumar.
- It narrates his journey into badminton as a player, coach and the challenges he faced in producing top players, including Olympic medallists Saina Nehwal, P.V. Sindhu, B. Sai Praneeth and former World No.1 K. Srikanth.
- The book is published by Simon & Schuster India.

Source: The Hindu

Reports

India has made no progress on anaemia, childhood wasting: 2021 Global Nutrition Report **Why in News**

- **India** has made no progress on anaemia and childhood wasting according to the **2021 Global Nutrition Report**.

Key Points

Findings of the Report:

- The country featured among the 161 countries documented in the report as having made no progress or said to be worsening with regards to reducing anaemia.
- Over half of Indian women in the age group 15-49 years are anaemic.
- There has been a rise in anaemic Indian women since 2016. In 2016, 52.6 percent of Indian women were anaemic. But in 2020, 53 percent were found to be anaemic.
- India is also among 23 countries that have made no progress or are worsening on reducing 'childhood wasting'. Wasting refers to children whose weight is low-for-their height.
- India is 'off-course' in meeting 7 of the 13 global nutrition targets.
- Some 6.2 percent of adult (aged 18 years and over) women and 3.5 percent of adult men are living with obesity in the country.
- In fact, no country in the world was 'on course' to achieve the target for obesity.
- India is among 53 countries 'on course' to meet the target for stunting.

About Global Nutrition Report:

- The Global Nutrition Report was conceived following the first Nutrition for Growth Initiative Summit (N4G) in 2013.
- The annual Global Nutrition Report sets out progress towards global nutrition targets.
- The first report was published in 2014.

Source: DTE

Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) survey 2021

Why in News

- The **16th edition of the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) survey**, which is released by **Pratham Education Foundation**, is the oldest survey of its kind in the country.

Key Points

- The report was prepared on the basis of the telephonic survey conducted in rural areas of 581 districts across 25 states and three union territories between September and October. As many as 76,706 households, 7,299 schools in 17,184 villages across India were covered in the survey.

Findings of the Report:

- There has been an overall increase in the proportion of children enrolled in government schools between 2018 and 2020 i.e from 64.3% to 65.8%. However, in the year 2021, the enrollment suddenly went up to 70.3%.

- The enrolment rate in private schools has however come down from last year. In 2020, the enrolment rate was 28.8% and in 2021 the enrolment rate went down to 24.4%.
- About 73.1% school respondents have received training for implementation of COVID prevention measures in 2021.
- According to the report, even though availability of smartphones increased from 36.5% in 2018 to 67.6% in 2021, more children in private schools had smartphone at home (79%) compared to government school going children (63.7%).

Source: Indian Express

Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) Report 2021

Why in News

- The **Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI)** has released the **Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) Report 2021**.
- **Gujarat, Haryana and Punjab** have emerged as the top performers in the LEADS 2021 index respectively.

Key Points

- Proactive policies, well-developed infrastructure and services driven by a responsive Government have helped **Gujarat** to maintain its rank.
- Haryana has secured the second position, followed by Punjab.
- Within the **North Eastern States and Himalayan Region, Jammu and Kashmir** is the top ranker followed by Sikkim and Meghalaya.
- **Delhi** stands at the top rank among Other UTs.
- **Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jharkhand** have witnessed a remarkable improvement in their ranks compared to 2019 LEADS ranking and have emerged as the **top improvers**.
- The inputs given by LEADS Report 2021 can lead the way to bring down logistics cost by 5% over the next 5 years.
- India's logistics costs account for 13-14 percent of GDP, compared to 7-8 percent in developed countries.

About Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) Report:

- The LEADS report is aimed at gauging the logistics performance of states and Union Territories (UT) and identifying areas where they can improve logistics performance.
- States are ranked based on quality and capacity of key infrastructure such as road, rail and warehousing as well as on operational ease of logistics including security of cargo, speed of terminal services and regulatory approvals.
- The first version of the report, LEADS 2018, focused on export-import trade and assessed the efficiency of the logistics ecosystem in each State and UT.
- The second edition of the study – LEADS 2019, covered both international and domestic trade.
- The LEADS 2021 exercise has gone one-step ahead in analyzing the domestic and EXIM logistics ecosystem of the state.

Source: Indian Express

'State of Global Climate 2021': WMO report

Why in News

- The last 7 years have been the warmest on record and global sea-level rise accelerated since 2013, reaching a new high in 2021, according to a provisional report titled **'State of Global Climate 2021'** released by the **World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)**.

Key Points

Findings of the Report:

- Greenhouse gas concentrations reached new highs in 2020.
- Levels of carbon dioxide were 413.2 parts per million, methane at 1889 parts per billion (ppb) and nitrous oxide at 333.2 ppb.

- These levels respectively were 149 percent, 262 percent and 123 percent more than pre-industrial levels. The increase has continued in 2021.
- The global mean temperature for 2021 (based on data from January to September) was about 1.09°C above the average during the 1850-1900 period. Moreover, 2016 was the warmest year on record according to most of the datasets surveyed.
- The global mean sea-level rise was 2.1 mm per year between 1993 and 2002, but it jumped to 4.4 mm per year between 2013 and 2021, mostly due to the accelerated loss of ice mass from glaciers and ice sheets.
- The Arctic-wide sea-ice extent was at a record low in the first half of July, 2021.

Source: Indian Express

Emissions Gap Report 2021: UNEP

Why in News

- The **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** launched the **Emissions Gap Report 2021**.
- It is the 12th edition of the Emissions Gap Report.

Key Points

Findings of the Report:

- The Report shows that new national climate pledges combined with other mitigation measures put the world on track for a global temperature rise of 2.7°C by the end of the century.
- That is well above the goals of the Paris climate agreement and would lead to catastrophic changes in the Earth's climate.
- To keep global warming below 1.5°C this century, the aspirational goal of the Paris Agreement, the world needs to halve annual greenhouse gas emissions in the next eight years.
- If implemented effectively, net-zero emissions pledges could limit warming to 2.2°C, closer to the well-below 2°C goal of the Paris Agreement. However, many national climate plans delay action until after 2030.
- As of September 30, 2021, 120 countries — representing just over half of global greenhouse gas emissions — had communicated new or updated NDCs.
- Only three G20 members have announced other new mitigation pledges for 2030.

Initiatives to Reduce Emissions in India:

- Distribution of LED bulbs under the UJALA scheme
- Shift from Bharat Stage-IV (BS-IV) to BS-VI emission norms
- Formation of International Solar Alliance
- Roadmap for Ethanol Blending in India by 2025
- Launch of the National Action Plan on Climate Change

Source: unep.org

NITI Aayog releases Report on 'Health Insurance for India's Missing Middle'

Why in News

- **NITI Aayog** released a comprehensive report titled **'Health Insurance for India's Missing Middle'** which brings out the gaps in the health insurance coverage across the Indian population and offers solutions to address the situation.

Key Points

- The report is an effort to re-invigorate the dialogue on increasing financial protection for health and the broader goal of **Universal Health Coverage**.
- The **Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)** - a flagship scheme towards **Universal Health Coverage**, and State Government extension schemes—provides comprehensive hospitalization cover to the bottom 50% of the population.
- Around **20% of the population** is covered through social health insurance, and private voluntary health insurance primarily designed for high-income groups.
- The remaining **30% of the population**, devoid of health insurance, is termed as the **"missing middle"**.

- The report highlights the need for designing a low-cost comprehensive health insurance product for the missing middle.
- The report has also suggested sharing of the government scheme data with the private insurance companies.

Source: Indian Express

New Appointments

India's candidate, Praveen Sinha, elected as Delegate for Asia on Executive Committee of INTERPOL

Why in News

- India's candidate, **Praveen Sinha**, Special Director of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been elected as Delegate for Asia on the Executive Committee of the **International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)**.

Key Points

- The elections were held in Istanbul, Turkey during the ongoing 89th INTERPOL General Assembly.

About International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL):

- INTERPOL is a global organisation that allows police in its 194 member countries to work together to fight international crime including terrorism and cyber-crime.

Note: Inspector General Ahmed Naser Al-Raisi (UAE) has been elected as the President of INTERPOL.

Source: The Hindu

BCCI president Sourav Ganguly replaces Anil Kumble as chairman of ICC Cricket Committee

Why in News

- Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) president and former India captain **Sourav Ganguly** has been appointed as the chairman of the **International Cricket Council (ICC) Cricket Committee**.

Note: Johnny Grave, CEO of Cricket West Indies has been appointed to the ICC Women's Cricket Committee.

Key Points

- Ganguly replaced Anil Kumble, who stepped down after serving a maximum of three, three-year terms.
- He was president of the Cricket Association of Bengal between 2015 and 2019 and took over as BCCI president in October 2019.

Source: India Today

Professor Bimal Patel elected to International Law Commission

Why in News

- **Professor Bimal Patel** has been elected to the **International Law Commission**.
- He will serve a 5 year term starting January 1, 2023.

Key Points

- Bimal Patel is the Vice-Chancellor of the Rashtriya Raksha University and a Member of the National Security Advisory Board of India.

About International Law Commission (ILC):

- It is a body of experts responsible for helping develop and codify international law.
- It is composed of 34 individuals recognized for their expertise and qualifications in international law, who are elected by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) every 5 years.

- **Founded:** 1947

Source: ET

UN Secretary-General appoints Shombi Sharp as United Nations Resident Coordinator in India

Why in News

- [**United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres** appointed **Shombi Sharp** of the United States as the United Nations Resident Coordinator in India.

Key Points

- Shombi Sharp will serve as the secretary-general's representative for development at the country level and lead the UN team on the ground, including for support to India's COVID-19 response plans to recover better for the Sustainable Development Goals.
- He recently served as United Nations Resident Coordinator in Armenia.

Source: newsonair

Daniel Bruhl named Global Goodwill Ambassador for the UN World Food Programme

Why in News

- Golden Globe-nominated actor and director **Daniel Bruhl** was appointed a Goodwill Ambassador for the **United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)**.

Key Points

- As conflict, climate change and the impact of the pandemic increase global hunger, Bruhl joins the world's largest humanitarian organization in its mission to reach a world with Zero Hunger.

Facts about United Nations World Food Programme:

- The World Food Programme is the food-assistance branch of the United Nations.
- **Headquarters:** Rome, Italy
- **Founded:** 1961

Note: The United Nations World Food Programme is the 2020 **Nobel Peace Prize** Laureate.

Source: wfp.org

VVS Laxman to become National Cricket Academy head

Why in News

- **Former India batsman VVS Laxman** will be the new head of the **National Cricket Academy (NCA)**.

Key Points

- Laxman will take over from his former teammate Rahul Dravid, who was recently appointed as the head coach of the Indian men's cricket team following the end of Ravi Shastri's tenure.
- Laxman is a batting consultant for Bengal in domestic cricket and is also a team mentor for SunRises Hyderabad in the Indian Premier League.
- Laxman took retirement from international cricket in 2012.

Source: India Today

IPS Sheel Vardhan Singh appointed CISF chief

- **Senior IPS officer Sheel Vardhan Singh** was appointed as **Director-General** of the **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)**.
- Mr. Singh has been appointed as the Director-General up to 31.08.2023, the date of his superannuation, an order issued by the Personnel Ministry.
- Mr. Singh, a 1986 batch Indian Police Service officer of Bihar cadre, is currently Special Director in the Intelligence Bureau.

Source: India Today

IPS Atul Karwal appointed NDRF chief

- **Senior IPS officer** and director of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy, **Atul Karwal**, has been appointed **Director-General** of the **National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)**.

- The appointment committee of the Cabinet has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Home Affairs for the appointment of Mr. Karwal, a 1988 batch IPS officer of Gujarat cadre.

Source: The Hindu

Satya Narayan Pradhan appointed as NCB Chief

- **Satya Narayan Pradhan, Senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer**, has been appointed as the full-time **Director-General of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)**.
- His appointment has been done on a deputation till August 31, 2024, or until further orders.
- Previously, despite being the Director-General of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Pradhan was also holding the additional charge of NCB Chief.
- He is a 1988 batch IPS officer from Jharkhand Cadre.

Source: news18

Fumio Kishida re-elected Japan's Prime Minister in parliamentary vote

Why in News

- **Fumio Kishida** was re-elected as Japan's Prime Minister after his governing party scored a major victory in key parliamentary elections.

Key Points

- Elected just over a month ago by parliament, Fumio Kishida called a quick election in which his governing party secured 261 seats in the 465-member lower house.
- Kishida has also presided over the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) since 29 September 2021.
- Kishida succeeded Yoshihide Suga who resigned as Prime Minister of Japan in September 2021.

Source: Indian Express

Justice (retd) Ashok Bhushan appointed as NCLAT Chairperson

Why in News

- The Centre has appointed **retired Supreme Court judge Ashok Bhushan** as the Chairperson of the **National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)**.

Key Points

- Justice Ashok Bhushan has been given a term of four years or until he attains the age of 70 years, whichever is the earliest.
- He has been associated with several landmark judgments, including Ram Mandir, COVID Management and registration of migrant workers.

Note: Meanwhile, the Centre has approved the appointment of **Justice Ramalingam Sudhakar** as the **President of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)**.

Source: The Hindu

K V Kamath appointed as NaBFID chairperson

Why in News

- The Central Government announced the appointment of veteran banker **K. V. Kamath** as chairperson of the newly set up ₹20,000-crore **National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID)**.

Key Points

- Parliament had in March 2021 cleared the **National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) Bill 2021** to support the development of long-term non-recourse infrastructure financing in India, including the development of the bonds and derivatives markets necessary for infrastructure financing.
- Mr. Kamath, the first head of the New Development Bank set up by the BRICS group of emerging market economies, had completed his five-year tenure last year.

Source: The Hindu

Central Government extends RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das's tenure for 3 years

Why in News

- The Central Government has extended the tenure of **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das** for a period of 3 years.
- With the second term of three years, Das will head the RBI till December, 2024.

Key Points

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the reappointment of Shaktikanta Das as Governor, RBI, for a period of three years beyond 10.12.2021.
- Mr. Das was appointed as RBI's 25th Governor on December 11, 2018 for a period of three years.

Source: The Hindu

Books and Author

Ramesh Pokhriyal gifted his book 'AIIMS Mein Ek Jang Ladte Hue' to Prime Minister Modi

- The **former Union Minister of Education Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** has gifted his book titled '**AIIMS Mein Ek Jang Ladte Hue**' to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The book was written by Pokhriyal while he was battling COVID-19 at AIIMS in Delhi.
- It was published by Prabhat Prakashan Pvt. Ltd.

A new Book titled "Kamala Harris: Phenomenal Woman" written by Chidanand Rajghatta

- **Renowned journalist and writer Chidanand Rajghatta** authored a new book "**Kamala Harris: Phenomenal Woman**".
- It is a biography of Kamala Harris, the first women Vice President of the United States of America (USA).
- The book features the life incidents of Kamala Harris, a woman of mixed race (India and Jamaica) who has become the first Indian descent, the first woman to become the vice president of the USA.

Important Days

November 26, National Milk Day

Why in News

- The country observes **November 26** as **National Milk Day** since 2014 to commemorate the birthday of **Dr. Verghese Kurien, the father of India's white revolution.**

Key Points

- This year is also the birth centenary year of Dr. Kurien, also known as the 'Milk Man of India', who was the man behind Operation Flood-known as the world's largest agricultural program.
- In addition to establishing numerous institutions that are run by various farmers and workers, Dr. Kurien played a key role in the establishment and success of the popular dairy brand Amul.
- This year, as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the Union government is commemorating National Milk Day by distributing **National Gopal Ratna Awards** in a ceremony at the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) campus in Anand.

Note: India is the world's largest milk producer, with 22 percent of global production, followed by the United States of America, China, Pakistan, and Brazil

Source: newsonair

November 27, National Organ Donation Day

Why in News

- **National Organ Donation Day** is celebrated on 27th November every year.

Key Points

- It is being celebrated on 27th of November every year in India since 2010.

Note:

- The total number of organ transplants done per year in the country has increased from 4990 in the year 2013 to 12746 in the year 2019 and India now ranks third in the world only behind the US and China as per the data available on the Global Observatory on Donation and Transplantation (GODT) website.
- Similarly, the organ donation rate has increased to about four times as compared to 2012-13.

Source: PIB

November 26, Constitution Day (India)

Why in News

- **Constitution Day (Samvidhan Divas)**, also known as **National Law Day**, is celebrated in India on 26 November every year to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India.

Key Points

- On 26 November 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Constitution of India, and it came into effect on 26 January 1950.
- The Government of India declared 26 November as Constitution Day on 19 November 2015 by a gazette notification.
- The Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi made the declaration on 11 October 2015 while laying the foundation stone of the B. R. Ambedkar's Statue of Equality memorial in Mumbai.

Source: India Today

November 25, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

Why in News

- International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women is celebrated on 25 November every year.

Key Points

- **2021 Theme:** Orange the World: End Violence against Women Now!
- The United Nations General Assembly has designated November 25 as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.
- The International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women will mark the launch of the UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign (Nov 25- Dec 10) — an initiative of 16 days of activism concluding on the day that commemorates the International Human Rights Day (10 December).

Source: un.org

November 21, World Fisheries Day

Why in News

- World Fisheries Day is celebrated on 21st November every year to demonstrate solidarity with all fisher folk, fish farmers and concerned stakeholders throughout the world.
- It started in 1997 where “World Forum of Fish Harvesters & Fish Workers” met at New Delhi leading to formation of “World Fisheries Forum” with representatives from 18 countries and signed a declaration advocating for a global mandate of sustainable fishing practices and policies.

Key Points

In India:

- Several awards were given by the **Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying**, in Bhubaneswar on the occasion of **World Fisheries Day 2021**.
- **Balasore, Odisha** was awarded as the Best Marine District in the country.
- Andhra Pradesh was awarded the Best Marine State while Best Inland State Award was given to Telangana.

- Balaghat in Madhya Pradesh received the Best Inland District award; and Best Hilly and Northeastern State and District awards were taken away by Tripura and Bongaigaon, Assam respectively.

Note:

- Fisheries sector has tremendous potential of growth and the Government of India is providing all necessary support to achieve the one lakh crore export target from the sector by 2024-25.
- India is the second major producer of fish through aquaculture in the world.
- India is the 4th largest exporter of fish in the world as it contributes 7.7% to the global fish production.

Government's Effort to Improve Fisheries:

- Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana
- Seaweed Park
- Palk Bay Scheme
- Marine Fisheries Bill
- Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund
- Marine Products Export Development Authority
- Kisan Credit Card

Source: PIB

November 21, World Television Day

Why in News

- World Television Day is celebrated every year on 21 November.
- Television is a symbol of communication and globalization that educates, informs, entertains and influences our decisions and opinions.

Key Points

- On 21 and 22 November 1996 the United Nations held the first World Television Forum, where leading media figures met under the auspices of the United Nations to discuss the growing significance of television in today's changing world.
- That is why the UN General Assembly decided to proclaim 21 November as World Television Day.
- In December 1996 the United Nations proclaimed 21 November as World Television Day commemorating the date on which the first World Television Forum was held in 1996.

Source: un.org

November 20, World Children's Day

Why in News

- World Children's Day is celebrated every year on 20 November.

Key Points

- 2021 Theme: **'A Better Future for Every Child'**

History:

- World Children's Day was first established in 1954 as Universal Children's Day and is celebrated on 20 November each year to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children's welfare.
- November 20th is an important date as it is the date in 1959 when the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child.
- It is also the date in 1989 when the UN General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Source: un.org

'Onake Obavva Jayanti' on November 11

Why in News

- From this year, the **Karnataka Government** has decided to celebrate **'Onake Obavva Jayanti'** on **November 11** throughout the State.

Key Points

- The Kannada and culture department has proposed a state-sponsored celebration of the birth anniversary of **Onake Obavva**, a woman warrior who fought the forces of Hyder Ali single-handedly with a pestle ('onake' in Kannada) in Chitradurga in the 18th century.
- Chitradurga Fort, locally known as Elusuttina Kote, (the fort of seven circles), is situated in Chitradurga, 200 km northwest of Bengaluru.

Source: Indian Express

Guru Nanak's birth anniversary to be declared 'World Pedestrian Day'

Why in News

- Recently, **Punjab Police** proposed the birth anniversary (Gurpurab) of Sikhism founder **Guru Nanak Dev** be declared as '**World Pedestrian Day**'.
- A written proposal in this regard has been proposed to send to the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

Key Points

- In 2021, Guru Nanak's 552nd Gurpurab will be celebrated on November 19.
- The proposal further says that while beginning can be made by declaring 'National Pedestrian Day' within the country by the Union ministry, the Government of India can later take up the matter with the United Nations to get Gurpurab declared as 'World Pedestrian Day' to spread awareness on road safety.
- To spread the message of oneness and to break barriers across faiths by engaging in spiritual dialogues, Guru Nanak Dev, travelled far and wide during the 15th and 16th centuries.

Source: Indian Express

November 10, World Science Day for Peace and Development

Why in News

- Celebrated every 10 November, World Science Day for Peace and Development highlights the significant role of science in society and the need to engage the wider public in debates on emerging scientific issues.

Key Points

- The 2021 theme is "**Building Climate-Ready Communities**".
- Since its proclamation by UNESCO in 2001, World Science Day for Peace and Development has generated many concrete projects, programmes and funding for science around the world.

Note: French scientist and author **Jean-Pierre Luminet** has been awarded the **2021 UNESCO Kalinga Prize for the Popularization of Science**.

Source: un.org

November 5, World Tsunami Awareness Day

Why in News

- Every year, World Tsunami Awareness Day is celebrated on November 5.

Key Points

- In 2021, World Tsunami Awareness Day promotes "Sendai Seven Campaign," target (f), which aims to 'substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries through adequate and sustainable support to complement their national actions for implementation of the present Framework by 2030.'

History:

- In December 2015, the UN General Assembly designated 5 November as World Tsunami Awareness Day, calling on countries, international bodies and civil society to raise tsunami awareness and share innovative approaches to risk reduction.

Source: un.org

National Ayurveda Day 2021

Why in News

- National Ayurveda Day is observed every year on the day of **Dhanwantri Jayanti**. This year it falls on November 02.
- The 2021 theme is '**Ayurveda for Poshan**'.

Key Points

- The aim of the day is to create a sense of awareness in today's generation and promote Ayurvedic principles of healing in society.
- The practice to observe Ayurveda Day, which falls on Dhanwantri Jayanti, was started by the Union Ministry of Ayush (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Sidda, and Homoeopathy) in 2016.

Source: India Today

October 31, World Cities Day

Why in News

- **World Cities Day** is observed globally on October 31 every year to promote the international community's interest in global urbanization.

Key Points

- The World Cities Day 2021's **general theme** is '**Better City, Better life**' and **sub-theme** is '**Adapting Cities for Climate Resilience**'.

History: World Cities Day was established in 2013 by the United Nations General Assembly. The first World Cities Day was held in October 2014.

Source: un.org

October 31, National Unity Day

Why in News

- **National Unity Day** or Rashtriya Ekta Diwas is celebrated on October 31 every year.
- This year marks Patel's 146th birth anniversary.

Key Points

- The Government of India introduced the day in 2014 to mark the birth anniversary of the Iron Man of India - Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

About Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel:

- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel played a crucial role in India's freedom movement and in the integration of India.
- He was appointed as the first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister of independent India.

Source: India Today

Sports

Geoff Allardice appointed as permanent ICC CEO

Why in News

- **Australia's Geoff Allardice** has been appointed as permanent CEO of the International Cricket Council (ICC) after serving the role on an interim basis for more than eight months.

Key Points

- Geoff Allardice thus replaced Manu Sawhney, who had resigned from his position in July.
- Allardice, a former Australian first-class cricketer and administrator, was the ICC General Manager, Cricket for eight years.

Source: TOI

Tamil Nadu wins Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy title 2021

Why in News

- In cricket, Tamil Nadu won the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy title 2021.
- Tamil Nadu defeated Karnataka by four wickets in the finals in Arun Jaitley Stadium Delhi.

Key Points

- It was the 3rd title of Tamil Nadu.
- The Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy is a domestic T20 cricket championship in India, organized by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), among the teams from the Ranji Trophy.

Source: India Today

India bags 7 medals at Asian Archery Championships 2021

Why in News

- India bagged a total of **7 medals (1 Gold, 4 Silver and 2 Bronze)** at the Asian Archery Championships 2021 held in Dhaka.

Key Points

- India finished 2nd in the overall medal tally.
- South Korea topped with 15 medals.
- Jyothi Surekha Vennam won the gold medal in the women's individual compound.

Note: Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur conferred the **first ever Sports Authority of India's Institutional Awards** to 246 athletes and coaches in New Delhi.

Source: newsonair

India and Bangladesh to jointly host 2031 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup

Why in News

- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has decided that **India and Bangladesh** will jointly host the 2031 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup.

Key Points

- The ICC confirmed the 14 host countries for the ICC men's white ball events from 2024-2031.
- It includes 11 full members and three associate members who will host two ICC Men's World Cups, four ICC Men's T20 World Cups and two ICC men's Champions Trophy events.
- The USA and Namibia will host an ICC World Cup event for the first time.
- The USA and West Indies will jointly host the 2024 Men's T20 World cup.

Note: Earlier, Bangladesh had organised the 2011 World Cup along with India and Sri Lanka.

Source: newsonair

J&K team for deaf clinches 1st position in World Deaf Judo Championship 2021

- The **Jammu & Kashmir team for deaf** clinched 1st position in **1st World Deaf Judo Championship 2021** held at Paris Versailles, France.
- The championship is organised by the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (ICSD).

Source: newsonair

Mitrabha Guha becomes India's 72nd chess Grand Master

Why in News

- Kolkata-based player **Mitrabha Guha** has become **India's 72nd chess Grandmaster (GM)** by bagging his third and final GM norm during a tournament in Serbia.

Key Points

- Mitrabha Guha defeated GM Nikola Sedlak of Serbia.
- To become a GM, a player has to secure three GM norms and cross the live rating of 2,500 Elo points.

Note: Guha achieved the GM title just two days after Sankalp Gupta did so during an event in Arandjelovac, Serbia to become the country's 71st GM.

Source: TOI

Indian Boxer Akash Kumar wins a bronze medal at AIBA Men's World Boxing Championships 2021

- In **AIBA Men's World Boxing Championships 2021**, Debutant **Akash Kumar** had to settle for bronze after going down in the 54 kg category semi-final against Makhmud Sabyrkhan of Kazakhstan at Belgrade in Serbia.
- Akash has become the seventh Indian male boxer to win a medal at the world championships.

Source: newsonair

India wins 5 Medals in ISSF President's Cup 2021

- Indian shooters have won 5 Medals in the inaugural **ISSF President's Cup shooting championship 2021 in Wroclaw, Poland**.
- Manu Bhaker won two gold medals in the ISSF President's Cup.

India's 5 Medals:

- Manu Bhaker: 2 Gold
- Rahi Sarnobat: 1 Silver
- Saurabh Chaudhary: 1 Silver
- Abhishek Verma: 1 Bronze

Source: HT

Indian Table Tennis pair of Manika Batra, Archana Kamath clinches women's doubles title in WTT Contender tournament 2021

- In Table Tennis, Indian pair of **Manika Batra and Archana Girish Kamath** clinched the women's doubles title in the **WTT Contender tournament 2021** in Lasko, Slovenia.
- The Indian duo defeated the Puerto Rican team of Melanie Diaz and Adriana Diaz.
- Manika Batra also won a bronze medal in the women's singles.

Source: India Today

Mountaineer Priyanka Mohite to get 'Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award 2020'

- **Maharashtra-based 28 year old mountaineer Priyanka Mohite** will be bestowed with the prestigious '**Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award 2020**' for her outstanding contribution in the field of land adventure.
- In April 2020, Mohite scaled Mt Annapurna, the 10th highest mountain peak in the world, and became the first Indian woman climber to achieve the feat.

Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award 2020 – List of complete Winners:

Awardee	Category
Priyanka Mangesh Mohite	Land Adventure
Jay Prakash Kumar	Land Adventure
Col. Amit Bisht	Land Adventure
Lt. Col. Serves Dhadwal	Air Adventure
Sheetal	Land Adventure
Srikanth Viswanathan	Water Adventure
Jai Kishan	Life Time Achievement

Note: Winners will receive the award from President Ram Nath Kovind at a function in the Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi on November 13, 2021.

Source: TOI

National Sports Awards 2021

- The **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports** announced the **National Sports Awards 2021**.

- The awardees will receive their awards from the President of India at the Darbar Hall of Rashtrapati Bhavan on 13th November, 2021.
- **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2021** will be given to **12 Sports persons**.
- **35 Sports persons** will receive **Arjuna Awards**.
- A large number of nominations were received, which were considered by the Selection Committee headed by Justice (Retd.) Mukundakam Sharma (former Judge of Supreme Court).

Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2021:

S. No.	Name of the Sportsperson	Discipline
1.	Neeraj Chopra	Athletics
2.	Ravi Kumar	Wrestling
3.	Lovlina Borgohain	Boxing
4.	Sreejesh P.R	Hockey
5.	Avani Lekhara	Para Shooting
6.	Sumit Antil	Para Athletics
7.	Pramod Bhagat	Para Badminton
8.	Krishna Nagar	Para Badminton
9.	Manish Narwal	Para Shooting
10.	Mithali Raj	Cricket
11.	Sunil Chhetri	Football
12.	Manpreet Singh	Hockey

Arjuna Awards for outstanding performance in Sports and Games 2021:

S. No.	Name of the Sportsperson	Discipline
1.	Arpinder Singh	Athletics
2.	Simranjit Kaur	Boxing
3.	Shikhar Dhawan	Cricket
4.	Bhavani Devi Chadalavada Anandha Sundhararaman	Fencing
5.	Monika	Hockey
6.	Vandana Katariya	Hockey
7.	Sandeep Narwal	Kabaddi
8.	Himani Uttam Parab	Mallakhamb

9.	Abhishek Verma	Shooting
10.	Ankita Raina	Tennis
11.	Deepak Punia	Wrestling
12.	Dilpreet Singh	Hockey
13.	Harman Preet Singh	Hockey
14.	Rupinder Pal Singh	Hockey
15.	Surender Kumar	Hockey
16.	Amit Rohidas	Hockey
17.	BirendraLakra	Hockey
18.	Sumit	Hockey
19.	Nilakanta Sharma	Hockey
20.	Hardik Singh	Hockey
21.	Vivek Sagar Prasad	Hockey
22.	Gurjant Singh	Hockey
23.	Mandeep Singh	Hockey
24.	Shamsher Singh	Hockey
25.	Lalit Kumar Upadhyay	Hockey
26.	Varun Kumar	Hockey
27.	Simranjeet Singh	Hockey
28.	Yogesh Kathuniya	Para Athletics
29.	Nishad Kumar	Para Athletics
30.	Praveen Kumar	Para Athletics
31.	Suhash Yathiraj	Para Badminton
32.	Singhraj Adhana	Para Shooting
33.	Bhavina Patel	Para Table Tennis
34.	Harvinder Singh	Para Archery
35.	Sharad Kumar	Para Athletics

Dronacharya Award for outstanding coaches in Sports and Games 2021

Life-Time Category:

S. No.	Name of the Coach	Discipline
1.	T. P. Ouseph	Athletics
2.	Sarkar Talwar	Cricket
3.	Sarpal Singh	Hockey
4.	Ashan Kumar	Kabaddi
5.	Tapan Kumar Panigrahi	Swimming

Regular Category:

S. No.	Name of the Coach	Discipline
1.	Radhakrishnan Nair P	Athletics
2.	Sandhya Gurung	Boxing
3.	Pritam Siwach	Hockey
4.	Jai Prakash Nautiyal	Para Shooting
5.	Subramanian Raman	Table Tennis

Dhyan Chand Award for Lifetime achievement in Sports and Games 2021:

S.No.	Name	Discipline
1.	Lekha K.C.	Boxing
2.	Abhijeet Kunte	Chess
3.	Davinder Singh Garcha	Hockey
4.	Vikas Kumar	Kabaddi
5.	Sajjan Singh	Wrestling

Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar 2021:

S. No.	Category	Entity recommended for Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar, 2021
1.	Identification and Nurturing of Budding and Young Talent	Manav Rachna Educational Institution
2.	Encouragement to sports through Corporate Social Responsibility	Indian Oil Corporation Limited

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy 2021: Panjab University – Chandigarh
Source: PIB

Rahul Dravid appointed as head coach of Indian men's cricket team

Why in News

- **Former India captain Rahul Dravid** has been appointed as the Head Coach of the senior Indian men's cricket team.

Key Points

- Dravid takes over from Ravi Shastri, whose term ends after the ongoing ICC T20 World Cup 2021.
- Dravid will take over the new role and begin his tenure as India's full-time coach from the home T20I series against New Zealand starting November 17, 2021.

Source: The Hindu

Viktor Axelsen and Akane Yamaguchi win 2021 Denmark Open Badminton

- **Danish Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen** won the **Mens' Single 2021 Denmark Open Badminton**. Viktor Axelsen defeated world number one Kento Momota of Japan.
- **Akane Yamaguchi** of Japan won her 2nd title in the **women's category** defeating An Se-young (South Korea).
- The **2021 Denmark Open (Victor Denmark Open 2021)** was a badminton tournament which took place at the Odense Sports Park in Odense, Denmark in October 2021.

Source: newsonair



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1. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Climate Change Performance Index 2022?

- The top three places in the overall ranking were kept empty.
- India is ranked 10th.
- The index has been released by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

- ii only
- i and ii only
- i and iii only
- i, ii and iii

2. Consider the following statements regarding the Janjatiya Gaurav Divas:

- It will be celebrated on 15th November every year.

ii. Janjatiya Gaurav Divas is the birth anniversary of Birsa Munda.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

3. Which edition of Indo-Thai CORPAT between the Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy was conducted from 12 – 14 November 2021?

- A. 34th
- B. 32nd
- C. 33rd
- D. 31st

4. When is World Diabetes Day observed?

- A. November 15
- B. November 14
- C. November 26
- D. November 17

5. Who is the author of the book “Sunrise over Ayodhya – Nationhood in our Times”?

- A. Shashi Tharoor
- B. Sanjaya Baru
- C. Amitav Ghosh
- D. Salman Khurshid

6. Who has been appointed as the Director-General of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)?

- A. Punit Goenka
- B. Satya Narayan Pradhan
- C. Subodh Kumar Jaiswal
- D. Samant Kumar Goel

7. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021?

- i. Australia won their maiden ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 title after beating New Zealand.
- ii. David Warner was declared Player of the series.
- iii. It was held in India.

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

8. Consider the following statements regarding the 6th Edition of exercise "EX SHAKTI 2021":

- i. It was a joint military exercise between India and France.
- ii. It was held at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges, Rajasthan.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

9. The central government has extended the tenures of the directors of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI):

- A. From 2 years to up to 5 years
- B. From 2 years to up to 3 years
- C. From 3 years to up to 5 years
- D. From 2 years to up to 4 years

10. Which railway station has been renamed after Rani Kamalapati?

- A. Sultanpur Railway Station
- B. Habibganj Railway Station
- C. Azamgarh Railway Station
- D. Hoshangabad Railway Station

11. Which state Chief Minister inaugurated the newly created 'Eastern West Khasi Hills' district which will be the 12th district of the state?

- A. Sikkim
- B. Meghalaya
- C. Arunachal Pradesh
- D. Tripura

12. Who has been appointed as the Director-General of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)?

- A. Atul Karwal
- B. S N Pradhan
- C. Subodh Kumar Jaiswal

D. Samant Kumar Goel

13. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Exercise 'SITMEX-2021'?

- i. It was the 3rd edition of the Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand Trilateral Maritime Exercise.
- ii. It was conducted in the Andaman Sea.
- iii. It was hosted by Thailand.

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

14. Consider the following statements regarding the first Audit Diwas:

- i. It was celebrated on 16 November 2021
- ii. It was celebrated to mark the historic origins of the institution of Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

15. India's first Centre for Excellence in Research on Drone/UAV Technology and Artificial Intelligence has been launched in which institutions?

- A. IIT Bombay
- B. IIT Guwahati
- C. IIT Delhi
- D. IIT Roorkee

16. Recently, which Union Ministry has launched the eGCA portal?

- A. Ministry of Women and Child Development
- B. Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- C. Ministry of Home Affairs
- D. Ministry of Civil Aviation

17. Which state has declared the 'Kaiser-i-Hind' as the State butterfly?

- A. Sikkim
- B. Arunachal Pradesh
- C. Meghalaya
- D. Tripura

18. Who has been appointed as the Director-General of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)?

- A. Sheel Vardhan Singh
- B. Atul Tyagi
- C. Subodh Jaiswal
- D. Samant Kumar Goel

19. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Pochampally village?

- i. The Pochampally village has been selected as one of the best Tourism Villages by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO).
- ii. It is often referred to as the Silk City of India.
- iii. Pochampally Ikat has received a Geographical Indicator (GI Status).

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

20. Consider the following statements regarding the Purvanchal Expressway:

- i. It is a 441 km long Expressway.
- ii. It passes through 7 districts of Uttar Pradesh.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

21. Which company has joined the United Nations Global Compact, the world's largest sustainability initiative?

- A. Hero
- B. Bajaj
- C. TVS
- D. Honda

22. Who is set to become the first Indian layman to be declared a saint by the Vatican?

- A. Aadavan Pillai
- B. Arun Swami
- C. Devasahayam Pillai
- D. Devarya Patel

23. Who is set to become the first gay judge of Delhi High Court?

- A. Saurabh Kirpal
- B. Manoj Kumar
- C. Rahul Nidar
- D. Mohan Sachdeva

24. Who has been appointed as the new Secretary General of Rajya Sabha?

- A. J B Mohapatra
- B. Atul Tyagi
- C. PC Mody
- D. Sushil Kumar Goel

25. Consider the following statements regarding the 2021 Bribery Risk Matrix:

- i. India is ranked 82.
- ii. It was released by TRACE.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

26. Consider the following statements regarding the All India Presiding Officers' Conference:

- i. The All India Presiding Officers' Conference (AIPOC), the apex body of the Legislatures in India, is celebrating its hundred years in 2021.
- ii. The 82nd edition of the All India Presiding Officers' Conference was held in Lucknow.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

27.7th edition of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Conclave was hosted by which country?

- A. India
- B. Australia
- C. France
- D. South Africa

28.Which country will host the first-ever World Yogasana Championship in June 2022?

- A. Japan
- B. Nepal
- C. India
- D. Thailand

29.When is World Toilet Day observed?

- A. November 21
- B. November 24
- C. November 17
- D. November 19

30.Who will become the new head of the National Cricket Academy (NCA)?

- A. VVS Laxman
- B. Anil Kumble
- C. Virendra Sehwag
- D. Irfan Pathan

31.Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the National Sports Awards 2021?

- i. Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award will be given to 7 Sports persons.
- ii. 35 Sports persons will receive Arjuna Awards.
- iii. Shikhar Dhawan will receive the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award.

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

32.Consider the following statements:

- i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS) during the G20 Rome Summit 2021

ii. Prime Minister Narendra Modi pledged at the COP26 UN climate conference in Glasgow that India will achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

33. Which country has inaugurated the World's largest Hydrogen Fuel Cell Power Plant?

- A. South Korea
- B. Japan
- C. France
- D. India

34. Which country has become the first country to pass climate change disclosure laws for financial firms?

- A. Australia
- B. Japan
- C. Singapore
- D. New Zealand

35. What is the name of Captain Amarinder Singh's new political party?

- A. Punjab Rajya Congress
- B. Punjab People Congress
- C. Punjab Lok Congress
- D. Punjab Lok Party

36. Who has been recently appointed as the Head Coach of the senior Indian men's cricket team?

- A. MS Dhoni
- B. Rahul Dravid
- C. Kapil Dev
- D. Sunil Gavaskar

37. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Times Higher Education (THE)'s World Reputation Rankings 2021?

i. 4 Indian institutes have made it to the Times Higher Education (THE)'s World Reputation Rankings 2021 that lists the world's top 200 universities.

ii. IIT Delhi has topped among the Indian Institutes.

iii. Harvard University has secured first place.

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

38. Consider the following statements regarding the Covaxin:

- i. It is now only recognized by the American government.
- ii. It is developed by the Indian biotechnology company Bharat Biotech.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

39. Which state has topped the State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) 2020?

- A. Rajasthan
- B. Punjab
- C. Karnataka
- D. Haryana

40. Recently, with which e-commerce marketplace has the Ministry of Rural Development signed a MoU for Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM)?

- A. Amazon
- B. Flipkart
- C. Zomato
- D. Grofers

41. Which word has been declared as the word of the year 2021 by the Oxford English Dictionary?

- A. Lockdown
- B. Covid
- C. Global
- D. Vax

42. Who has won the Booker Prize 2021 for his novel 'The Promise'?

- A. Alexander Pushkin
- B. Damon Galgut

- C. David Diop
- D. Ruskin Bond

43. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) Report 2021?

- i. Punjab, Gujarat and Haryana have emerged as the top performers in the index respectively.
- ii. It ranks the states on the basis of quality and capacity of key infrastructure such as road, rail and warehousing etc.
- iii. It is released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI).

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

44. Consider the following statements regarding the 2020 Padma awards:

- i. President Ram Nath Kovind presented the Padma awards to 119 recipients.
- ii. Actress Kangana Ranaut received the Padma Shri.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

45. Which day has been proposed on the birth anniversary (Gurpurab) of Sikhism founder Guru Nanak Dev?

- A. World Sikhism Day
- B. World Pedestrian Day
- C. World Service Day
- D. World Cooperation Day

46. Recently, which organisation has launched the State of Global Climate 2021 Report?

- A. UNEP
- B. WEF
- C. UNDP
- D. WMO

47. Logos of which railways have been registered by India as its intellectual property?

- A. Nilgiri Mountain Railway
- B. Delhi Metro
- C. Darjeeling Himalayan Railway
- D. Lucknow Metro

48. Who has/have been awarded the prestigious 'Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award 2020'?

- A. Priyanka Mangesh Mohite
- B. Jay Prakash Kumar
- C. Amit Bisht
- D. All the above

49. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Global Drug Policy Index 2021?

- i. It is released by the Harm Reduction Consortium.
- ii. It is the second edition of the index.
- iii. India is ranked 18th.

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

50. Consider the following statements regarding the UNESCO Creative Cities Network:

- i. UNESCO designated Srinagar as a part of UNESCO Creative Cities Network.
- ii. Srinagar is the third Indian city designated as a part of UNESCO Creative Cities Network.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

51. Kaho village, recently came in news, is situated in which state?

- A. Arunachal Pradesh
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. Odisha
- D. Madhya Pradesh

52. Who has been appointed as the next Chief of the Naval Staff?

- A. R B Pandit
- B. R Hari Kumar
- C. A B Singh
- D. Anil K Chawla

53. Which has clinched 1st position in World Deaf Judo Championship 2021 held at Paris Versailles, France?

- A. Uttar Pradesh team for deaf
- B. Karnataka team for deaf
- C. West Bengal team for deaf
- D. Jammu & Kashmir team for deaf

54. Who has won a bronze medal at the AIBA Men's World Boxing Championships 2021?

- A. Manish Kaushik
- B. Akash Kumar
- C. Vikas Krishan
- D. Amit Panghal

55. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)?

- i. The Union Cabinet has recently approved the restoration and continuation of MPLADS during the remaining part of Financial Year 2021-22 and up to Financial Year 2025-26.
- ii. The Ministry will release MPLADS fund at the rate of Rs. 2 crore per Member of Parliament for the remaining period of FY 2021-22 in one instalment.
- iii. It is a Central Sector Scheme fully funded by the Government of India.

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

56. Consider the following statements regarding the INS Vela:

- i. INS Vela is the second Scorpene-class submarine of the Project – 75.
- ii. Project – 75 includes construction of eight submarines of Scorpene design.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

57. Recently, the Delhi Regional Security Dialogue was held. It was mainly based on which country's peace and security?

- A. Afghanistan
- B. Syria
- C. Iraq
- D. Yemen

58. Who has been appointed as the Chairperson of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)?

- A. R B Tiwari
- B. Ashok Bhushan
- C. V K Singh
- D. Manish Sharma

59. What is the name of the world's first Earth Science Satellite dedicated to serving the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

- A. Chinung
- B. Taiyuan
- C. Guangmu
- D. Biyang

60. Which country became the 101st member country of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)?

- A. Germany
- B. US
- C. Australia
- D. UK

61. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding India's First Manned Ocean Mission 'Samudrayan'?

- i. The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) has launched it.
- ii. It will be a part of the Deep Ocean Mission.
- iii. The MATSYA 6000, the deep water manned submersible, will be ready for trials by the second quarter of 2024.

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

62. Consider the following statements regarding the G-20 Leaders' Summit-2021.

- i. It was held in Russia.
- ii. It focused on three broad, interconnected pillars of action: People, Planet, Prosperity.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

63. The Central Government has extended the tenure of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das for a period of.....years.

- A. 4 years
- B. 3 years
- C. 2 years
- D. 5 years

64. The DRDO carried successful test-firing of surface-to-surface ballistic missile Agni-5. The missile can strike targets at ranges up to

- A. 5000 km
- B. 3000 km
- C. 6000 km
- D. 4000 km

65. Recently which company changed its name to Meta?

- A. Yahoo
- B. Oracle
- C. Apple
- D. Facebook

66. Who has written the book titled "Kamala Harris: Phenomenal Woman"?

- A. Avtar Singh Bhasin
- B. Amitav Ghosh
- C. Chidanand Rajghatta
- D. Vikram Seth

67. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the 'Sarthak'?

- i. Sarthak is an indigenously built Indian Coast Guard Ship.
- ii. It was commissioned and dedicated to the nation at Kerala.
- iii. It will be based at Porbandar in Gujarat.

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

68. Consider the following statements regarding the Sixth Edition of National Formulary of India (NFI).

- i. The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers launched it.
- ii. It has been published by Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

69. Which Union Ministry had organised the AI Pe Charcha (AI Dialogue)?

- A. Ministry of Education
- B. Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- C. Ministry of Science and Technology
- D. Ministry of Electronics and IT

70. Who has been appointed as chairperson of the newly set up National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID)?

- A. K V Kamath
- B. G R Chintala
- C. D K Khara
- D. Urjit Patel

71. Which state has become India's first state to release its own Wildlife Action plan (2021-30)?

- A. Madhya Pradesh
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Assam

D. Uttarakhand

72. Who has written the book titled 'AllMS Mein Ek Jang Ladte Hue'?

- A. Amit Shah
- B. Amitav Ghosh
- C. Ramesh Pokhriyal
- D. Mansukh Mandviya

73. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the 'Bhasha Sangam'?

- i. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Culture under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.
- ii. It is developed by National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).
- iii. It aims to teach basic sentences of everyday usage in 22 Indian languages.

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

74. Consider the following statements regarding the 7th Indian Navy Frigate of P1135.6 class.

- i. It was launched in Russia.
- ii. It was formally named as 'Tushil'.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

75. Glacier in Antarctica named after which climate summit?

- A. Paris climate summit
- B. Geneva climate summit
- C. Rio climate summit
- D. Glasgow climate summit

76. Which state government has recently launched the world's first-ever FIFA Football for School Programme?

- A. Manipur
- B. Odisha

- C. Gujarat
- D. Kerala

77. In October 2021, which vaccine was launched nationwide under the Universal Immunization Programme?

- A. Pneumococcal Conjugate vaccine
- B. Japanese Encephalitis vaccine
- C. Zika virus vaccine
- D. Malaria vaccine

78. Which organisation has released the Emissions Gap Report 2021?

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

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

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

80. Consider the following statements regarding the Krishi UDAN 2.0.

- i. The Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises launched it.
- ii. The scheme proposes to facilitate and incentivize movement of Agri-produce by air transportation.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

81.Which Union Ministry has launched the “SAMBHAV” e-National Level Awareness Programme, 2021?

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

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

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

83.Which organisation has launched the Garuda app?

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

84.Which of the following has won the UNESCO-ICM 2021 Martial Arts Education Prize?

- A. Bolo Yeung
- B. Kung Fu Nuns
- C. Bellator MMA
- D. Wesley Snipes

85.Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (MGNF)?

i. In October 2021, the Union Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship launched the phase-III of MGNF.

ii. It is a two-year long fellowship.

iii. Its Academic Partner is IIT, Bombay.

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

86.Consider the following statements regarding the recently added new teams for Indian Premier League (IPL) 2022.

- i. Lucknow and Bhopal have been added.
- ii. Sanjiv Goenka's RPSG Group got the Lucknow franchise.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

91. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the World Bank's Remittance Prices Worldwide Database Report 2021?

- i. India has become the world's largest recipient of remittances.

ii. China was the biggest source of remittances in India.

iii. The report was published by the World Bank.

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

92. Consider the following statements regarding the India's first Food Museum:

- i. It was launched at Varanasi district in Uttar Pradesh.
- ii. It has been established by the Food Corporation of India (FCI).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

93. Where was the three day 'Rashtra Raksha Samparpan Parv' inaugurated in November 2021?

- A. Lucknow
- B. Kanpur
- C. Jhansi
- D. Varanasi

94. The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has received the Guinness World Records certificate for constructing the world's highest motorable road at.....

- A. Khardungla Pass
- B. Bara Lachala Pass
- C. Lachulungla Pass
- D. Umlingla Pass

95. When is World Children's Day observed?

- A. November 20
- B. November 24
- C. November 17
- D. November 19

96. India has been re-elected to the executive board of the UNESCO till which year?

- A. 2024
- B. 2025
- C. 2023
- D. 2022

97. Consider the following statements:

- i. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) gave its approval for continuation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-I and II (PMGSY-I, PMGSY-II) upto September, 2025 for completion of balance road and bridge works.
- ii. The CCEA approved continuation of Road Connectivity Project for Left Wing Extremism Affected Areas (RCPLWEA) upto March, 2023.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

98. Consider the following statements:

- i. The International Cricket Council (ICC) has decided that India and Bangladesh will jointly host the 2031 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup.
- ii. The USA and Namibia will host an ICC World Cup event for the first time.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

99. Who has won the prestigious JCB Prize for Literature 2021 for his novel 'Delhi: A Soliloquy'?

- A. R Dinkar
- B. Suresh Divakaran
- C. RB Nandan
- D. M Mukundan

100. Recently, which Union Ministry has launched the 41st Scientific Expedition to Antarctica?

- A. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- B. Ministry of Earth Sciences
- C. Ministry of Science and Technology

D. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

101. Mannu Bhandari, who passed away recently, was associated with which field?

- A. Literature
- B. Politics
- C. Business
- D. Sports

102. Who has been elected to the International Law Commission for a five-year term?

- A. Mukul Rohatgi
- B. Bimal Patel
- C. Virendra Sharma
- D. Mohit Tyagi

103. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Swachh Survekshan 2021 Awards?

- i. Indore was awarded the title of India's Cleanest City in the 'more than 1 lakh population' category.
- ii. Varanasi emerged as the 'Best Ganga Town'.
- iii. Ahmedabad Cantonment won the title of 'India's Cleanest Cantonment'.

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

104. Consider the following statements regarding the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G):

- i. PMAY-G completed 5 years on 20th November, 2021
- ii. Its objective is to achieve "Housing for All" by 2025

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

105. Which is India's first P15B stealth-guided missile destroyer ship?

- A. INS Kochi
- B. INS Visakhapatnam
- C. INS Vela
- D. INS Mumbai

106. Who is the author of the book 'Shuttler's Flick: Making Every Match Count'?

- A. P V Sindhu
- B. Chetan Bhagat
- C. P Gopi Chand
- D. Saina Nehwal

107. When is World Fisheries Day observed?

- A. November 21
- B. November 24
- C. November 17
- D. November 19

108. Who has been appointed as the new chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC) Cricket Committee.?

- A. Sachin Tendulkar
- B. Sourav Ganguly
- C. Virendra Sehwag
- D. MS Dhoni

109. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Smart Policing Index 2021?

- i. It is released by the Indian Police Foundation (IPF).
- ii. Bihar has scored the lowest in overall policing.
- iii. Uttar Pradesh has scored the highest in overall policing.

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

110. Consider the following statements:

- i. In November 2021, the Union Cabinet gave its approval for provisioning of 4G based mobile services in Uncovered Villages of Aspirational Districts across 5 States.
- ii. The project would be funded by the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

111. Who has won the 2021 National Book Award for fiction for novel "Hell of a Book"?

- A. Jason Mott
- B. Martin Espada
- C. Tiya Miles
- D. Malinda Lo

112. Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) survey 2021 has been released by which organisation?

- A. Smile Foundation
- B. Khushi Education Foundation
- C. Pratham Education Foundation
- D. NITI Aayog

113. When is International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women observed?

- A. November 22
- B. November 24
- C. November 25
- D. November 26

114. Which of the following has won the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy title 2021?

- A. Kolkata
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Chennai
- D. Karnataka

115. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the SDG Urban Index and Dashboard 2021-22?

- i. The index was released by the SIDBI.
- ii. Shimla topped the Index.
- iii. Dhanbad was at the bottom of the index.

- A. ii only
- B. i and ii only

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

116. Consider the following statements:

- i. The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2021 has been awarded to civil society organisation 'Pratham'.
- ii. The prize was instituted in 2001

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

117. Which countries participated in the trilateral exercise 'Dosti 2021'?

- A. India, Maldives and Thailand
- B. India, Maldives and Sri Lanka
- C. India, Indonesia and Sri Lanka
- D. India, Maldives and Bangladesh

118. Which state will soon become the only state in India to have five international airports?

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

119. When is Constitution Day (India) observed?

- A. November 29
- B. November 24
- C. November 25
- D. November 26

120. India's first 'Grass Conservatory' was inaugurated in which state?

- A. Uttarakhand
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Madhya Pradesh

1. Ans. B.	21. Ans. C.	41. Ans. D.	61. Ans. D.	81. Ans. B.	101. Ans. A.
2. Ans. C.	22. Ans. C.	42. Ans. B.	62. Ans. B.	82. Ans. B.	102. Ans. B.
3. Ans. B.	23. Ans. A.	43. Ans. B.	63. Ans. B.	83. Ans. A.	103. Ans. D.
4. Ans. B.	24. Ans. C.	44. Ans. C.	64. Ans. A.	84. Ans. B.	104. Ans. A.
5. Ans. D.	25. Ans. C.	45. Ans. B.	65. Ans. D.	85. Ans. A.	105. Ans. B.
6. Ans. B.	26. Ans. A.	46. Ans. D.	66. Ans. C.	86. Ans. B.	106. Ans. C.
7. Ans. C.	27. Ans. C.	47. Ans. C.	67. Ans. B.	87. Ans. C.	107. Ans. A.
8. Ans. A.	28. Ans. C.	48. Ans. D.	68. Ans. B.	88. Ans. C.	108. Ans. B.
9. Ans. A.	29. Ans. D.	49. Ans. C.	69. Ans. D.	89. Ans. B.	109. Ans. B.
10. Ans. B.	30. Ans. A.	50. Ans. A.	70. Ans. A.	90. Ans. A.	110. Ans. C.
11. Ans. B.	31. Ans. A.	51. Ans. A.	71. Ans. B.	91. Ans. B.	111. Ans. A.
12. Ans. A.	32. Ans. D.	52. Ans. B.	72. Ans. C.	92. Ans. B.	112. Ans. C.
13. Ans. B.	33. Ans. A.	53. Ans. D.	73. Ans. C.	93. Ans. C.	113. Ans. C.
14. Ans. C.	34. Ans. D.	54. Ans. B.	74. Ans. C.	94. Ans. D.	114. Ans. B.
15. Ans. B.	35. Ans. C.	55. Ans. D.	75. Ans. D.	95. Ans. A.	115. Ans. C.
16. Ans. D.	36. Ans. B.	56. Ans. D.	76. Ans. B.	96. Ans. B.	116. Ans. A.
17. Ans. B.	37. Ans. C.	57. Ans. A.	77. Ans. A.	97. Ans. B.	117. Ans. B.
18. Ans. A.	38. Ans. B.	58. Ans. B.	78. Ans. B.	98. Ans. C.	118. Ans. C.
19. Ans. D.	39. Ans. C.	59. Ans. C.	79. Ans. B.	99. Ans. D.	119. Ans. D.
20. Ans. D.	40. Ans. B.	60. Ans. B.	80. Ans. B.	100. Ans. B.	120. Ans. A.

