

August 2021 (Part 1)



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— AIR 210 —

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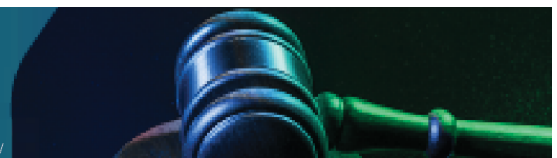
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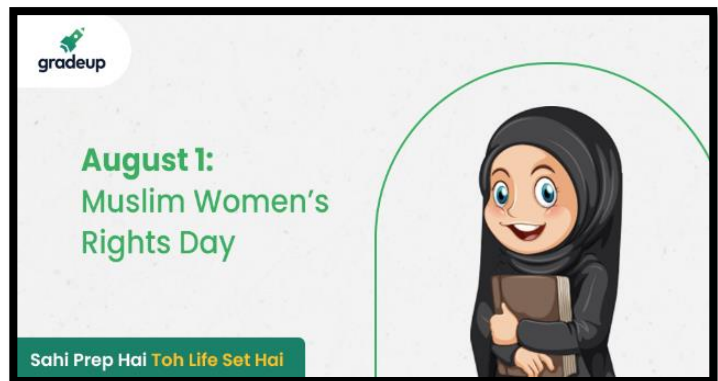
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1. August 1st: Muslim Women's Rights Day

- The **Union Ministry of Minority Affairs** announced that *Muslim Women's Rights Day* will be observed across the nation on *August 1st* to celebrate the enactment of the *law against triple talaq*.



The Background:

- On *August 1, 2019*, the central government enacted the law that has made *the practice of instant triple talaq a criminal offence which sets three years jail for violations* and makes the violator liable to *pay a fine*.

The Timeline:

- In *August 2017*, the *Supreme Court* declared the practice of triple talaq or a form of divorce based on the husband pronouncing divorce thrice in quick succession as '*unconstitutional*'.
- In *December 2017*, citing the Supreme Court judgment and cases of triple talaq in India, the government introduced the *Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill in Parliament*.
- The bill was passed by the *Lok Sabha* but was stalled by the opposition in the *Rajya Sabha*.
- The bill was reintroduced and passed by both the Houses of Parliament in July 2019. A short while later, the bill received assent from *President Ram Nath Kovind*.
- Egypt was the first country to ban triple talaq back in 1929*, followed by *Pakistan, Sudan (1956), Malaysia (1969), Bangladesh (1972), Iraq (1959), and Syria (1953)*.
- UAE, Morocco, Cyprus, Iran, Jordan, Brunei, Algeria, Qatar* had banned it several years ago.

Source: HT

Did You Know?

The Dissolution of Marriage and Judicial separation (under the Indian Divorce Act, 1869) was passed under the viceroy ship of Lord Mayo.

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2. Russia's Nauka Module

- In August 2021, *Russia's uncrewed Nauka laboratory module* was launched to the *International Space Station (ISS)*.
- The *Nauka module* was launched by a *Proton rocket* from *Baikonur Cosmodrome* in *Kazakhstan*.



About Russia's new Nauka module:

- *Nauka means "science" in Russian*. It is the biggest space laboratory.
- After detaching *Pirs* from the *ISS*, *Russia's space agency Roscosmos* attached the significantly larger module *Nauka* in its place, which will serve as the country's main research facility on the space station.

Importance:

- It will serve as a *new science facility, docking port, and spacewalk airlock* for future operations.

The International Space Station (ISS):

- *ISS* is a modular space station (habitable artificial satellite) in *low Earth orbit*.
- It is a multinational collaborative project involving five participating space agencies: *NASA (United States), JAXA (Japan), Roscosmos (Russia), ESA (Europe) and CSA (Canada)*.

Source: *Indian Express*

Did You Know?

The International Space Station (ISS) was launched in the year 1998 and it circles the Earth in roughly 92 minutes and completes 15.5 orbits per day.

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3. “e-RUPI”: A new tool for Cashless India

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched e-RUPI, a person and purpose specific digital payment solution on 2nd August 2021 at 4:30 pm via video conferencing.
- e-RUPI is a *cashless and contactless digital payment medium*, which will be delivered to mobile phones of beneficiaries in form of an *SMS-string or a QR code*.



About e-RUPI:

- It is a *QR code or SMS string-based e-Voucher*, which is delivered to the mobile of the beneficiaries.
- It has been developed by *National Payments Corporation of India* on its UPI platform, in collaboration with the *Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and National Health Authority*.
- *e-RUPI* connects the sponsors of the services with the beneficiaries and service providers in a digital manner and ensures that the payment to the service provider is made only after the transaction is completed. Also being pre-paid in nature, it assures timely payment to the service provider without involvement of any intermediary.

Use of e-RUPI:

- It will ensure a *leak-proof delivery of welfare services*.
- It can be used for delivering services under schemes meant for providing drugs and nutritional support under *Mother and Child welfare schemes, TB eradication programmes*.
- Also for drugs diagnostics under schemes like *Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, fertilizer subsidies etc.*

Significance of e-RUPI:

- The launch of *e-RUPI* could potentially highlight the gaps in digital payments infrastructure that will be necessary for the success of the future digital currency.
- In effect, *e-RUPI* is still backed by the existing Indian rupee as the underlying asset and specificity of its purpose makes it different to a virtual currency

Source: Indian Express

and puts it closer to a voucher-based payment system.

Did You Know?

The NPCI is registered under Section 8 of the companies act, 2013 as a not for profit organization. The NPCI is an initiative of RBI and Indian Banks association (IBA), and was founded in 2008.

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4. India takes over UNSC Presidency

- **India** on Sunday, 1st August 2021 assumed the **presidency of the United Nations Security Council** for the month of August and will organise key events in three major areas of **maritime security, peacekeeping and counter-terrorism**.
- “It is a singular honour for us to be presiding over the Security Council the same month when we are celebrating our 75th Independence Day,” India’s Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador T S Tirumurti said in a video message.
- As part of its new role, India will decide the UN body’s agenda for the month and coordinate important meetings on a range of issues. “Security Council will also have on its agenda several important meetings including Syria, Iraq, Somalia, Yemen, and the Middle East. Security Council will also be adopting important resolutions on Somalia, Mali, & UN Interim Force in Lebanon,” TS Tirumurti said.
- Apart from meeting on maritime security, peacekeeping and counter-terrorism, India will also organise a solemn event in memory of peacekeepers.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will be the **first Indian PM to preside over a meeting of the UNSC**.



Support from France & Russia:

- France has stated that it is dedicated to collaborating with India over strategic problems such as maritime security, peacekeeping, and counter-terrorism.
- Russia welcomed the country gaining the UNSC presidency saying it is very impressed by India’s agenda, which embraces critical global concerns.

About United Nation Security Council:

- The UNs Charter established six main organs of the UN, including the UNSC.
- The other 5 organs of the UN are—the *General Assembly, the Trusteeship Council, the Economic and Social Council, the International Court of Justice, and the Secretariat*.
- The council is headquartered at *New York*.
- The UNSC is composed of *15 members, 5 permanent and 10 non-permanent*. Five permanent members: **China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States**.
- Ten non-permanent members: *Elected for two-year terms by the General Assembly*.
- Each year, the General Assembly elects five non-permanent members (out of ten in total) for a two-year term. The ten non-permanent seats are distributed on a regional basis.
- The council's presidency is a capacity that rotates every month among its 15 members.

Source: Indian Express

Did You Know?

Resolution 1267 of the UNSC is related to International Terrorism. It designated Al-Qaeda, Osama bin Laden and his associates as terrorists

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5. Khel Ratna Award

- The highest sporting honour of India, **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award**, has been renamed as **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award** to recognize the ultimate hockey hero and legend of the sport, **Dhyan Chand**.



The Khel Ratna Award:

- The *Khel Ratna award is the highest sporting honour was launched in 1991-92.*
- The award comprises a *medallion, a certificate, and a cash prize of ₹ 25 lakh.*
- Chess legend Viswanathan Anand** was the first recipient of the *Khel Ratna in 1991–92.*
- In 2001, sport shooter **Abhinav Bindra**, then aged 18, became the youngest recipient of the award.

The Legend Dhyan Chand:

- Dhyan Chand, whose birthday is celebrated as National Sports Day, won 3 Olympic golds (1928, 1932 and 1936) for the country.

Source: Indian Express

Did You Know?

Pullela Gopichand is the first Badminton player to be awarded and Sachin Tendulkar is the first Cricketer to be awarded the Khel Ratna Award.



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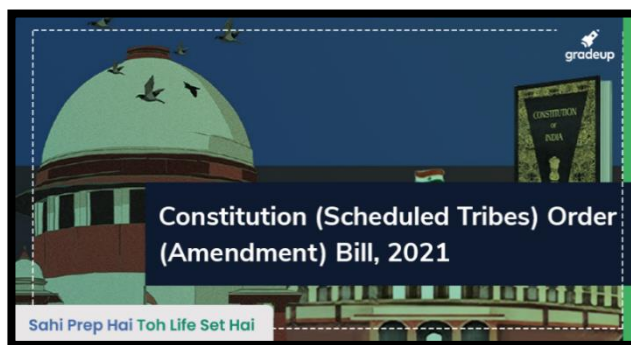
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<p>AIR 50</p>  <p>Aamir Hussain</p>	<p>AIR 77</p>  <p>Suvansh Mahajan</p>	<p>AIR 90</p>  <p>Mahira Gupta</p>

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6. Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2021

- The **Rajya Sabha** passed the **Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2021** to amend the constitutional list of Scheduled Tribes as recommended by **Arunachal Pradesh**.



Key Highlights of the Bill:

- The new bill provides for modifying Part-XVIII of the Schedule to the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950, relating to the state of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Currently, there are *18 communities* with their synonyms appearing in the illustrative list of Scheduled Tribes of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The *Bill removes the Abor tribe* from the list.
- Further, it replaces certain *STs with other tribes*.

The proposed changes are:

Original list	Proposed changes under the Bill
Abor	Deleted from the list
Khampti	Tai Khamti
Mishmi, Idu, and Taroan	Mishmi-Kaman (Miju Mishmi), Idu (Mishmi), and Taroan (Digaru Mishmi)
Momba	Monpa, Memba, Sartang, and Sajolang (Miji)
Any Naga Tribes	Nocte, Tangsa, Tutsa, and Wancho

The Scheduled Tribe:

- The **Constitution of India in Article 366 (25)** prescribes that the Scheduled Tribes means such tribes or tribal communities as are deemed under **Article 342 of the Constitution**.

The National Commissions:

- To effectively implement the safeguards built into the Constitution and other legislation, the Constitution under **Articles 338 and 338A** provides for two statutory commissions: the **National Commission for Scheduled Castes**, and the **National Commission for Scheduled Tribes**.

Source: *The Hindu*

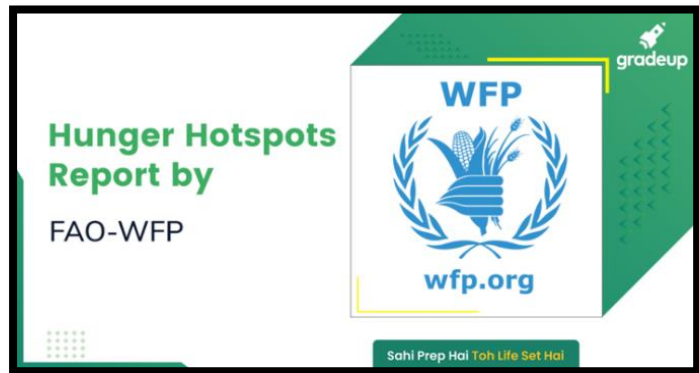
**Did You
KNOW?**

The 65th Amendment Act, 1990 of Constitution is related to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission.

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7. Hunger Hotspots Report by FAO-WFP

The August to November edition of the *Hunger Hotspots report* provides the results of a joint FAO-WFP early warning analysis of acute food insecurity hotspots, highlights countries that are at risk of significant food security deterioration, and in particular acute hunger and associated malnutrition.



- The analysis takes into account all major drivers of food insecurity.
- It provides a forward-looking perspective, outlining the likely evolution of impacts over the next four month or so months aiming to inform urgent action to safeguard food security of the most vulnerable communities in these locations.
- The *2021 Global Food Crises Report* released in May 2021 had already warned of acute food insecurity, soaring to a five-year high, pushing at least 155 million people into acute food insecurity in 2020.

What the Report says:

Major Hunger Hotspots in the World:

- Ethiopia, Madagascar, South Sudan, northern Nigeria and Yemen are among 23 countries where acute food insecurity will worsen from August through November, 2021.
- Ethiopia and Madagascar are the world's newest "highest alert" hunger hotspots.
- Ethiopia faces a devastating food emergency linked to ongoing conflict in the Tigray region.
- Meanwhile, in southern Madagascar the worst drought in 40 years is expected to push 28,000 people into famine-like conditions by the end of 2021.

Factors responsible for food insecurity:

- **Violence:**
 - Population displacement,
 - Abandonment of agricultural land,
 - Loss of life and assets,
 - Disruption of trade and cropping and
 - Loss of access to markets

- **Pandemic Shock wave**
 - All low- and middle-income countries were affected by the Pandemic-induced economic downturns.
- **Natural Hazards & Threats**
 - Extreme weather conditions and climate variability
 - Continued below-average rainfall and Desert Locust infestation
- **Poor humanitarian access**
 - Administrative/bureaucratic impediments,
 - Movement restrictions,
 - Security constraints and physical constraints

India's Initiatives in Ensuring Food Security

- **National Food Security Mission:**
 - It aims to increase production of rice, wheat, pulses, coarse cereals and commercial crops, through area expansion and productivity enhancement.
- **PM Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY):**
 - It aims at providing each person who is covered under the National Food Security Act 2013 with an additional 5 kg grains (wheat or rice) for free, in addition to the 5 kg of subsidised foodgrain already provided through the Public Distribution System (PDS).
- **One Nation One Ration Card:**
 - It will address the poor state of hunger in India, as highlighted by the Global Hunger Index, where India has been ranked 102 out of 117 countries
- **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi:**
 - It intends to supplement the financial needs of the Small and Marginal Farmers (SMFs) in procuring various inputs to ensure proper crop health and appropriate yields, commensurate with the anticipated farm income at the end of each crop cycle.
- **The National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013:**
 - It legally entitled up to 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population to receive subsidized food grains under the Targeted Public Distribution System.

Source:- DTE

Did You
Know?

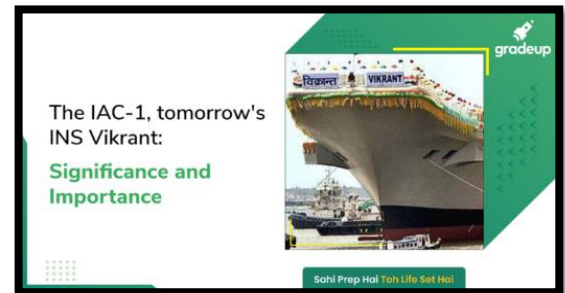
Global Hunger Index is an annual report which is jointly published by the Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe.

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8. INS Vikrant: Significance and Importance

What is IAC-1?

- This is the *first aircraft carrier designed and built in India*.
- IAC-1 has been designed by the *Indian Navy's Directorate of Naval Design (DND)*, and is being built at *Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)*, a public sector shipyard under the *Ministry of Shipping*.
- An aircraft carrier generally leads as the capital ship of a carrier strike/battle group. As the carrier is a valuable and sometimes vulnerable target, it is usually escorted in the group by destroyers, missile cruisers, frigates, submarines, and supply ships.



Importance of Made-in-India warship:

- Only five or six nations currently have the capability of manufacturing an aircraft carrier — India joins this elite club now.
- India's earlier aircraft carriers were either built by the *British or the Russians*. The *INS Vikramaditya*, currently the Navy's only aircraft carrier that was commissioned in 2013, started out as the *Soviet-Russian Admiral Gorshkov*. The country's two earlier carriers, *INS Vikrant and INS Viraat*, were originally the *British-built HMS Hercules and HMS Hermes* before being commissioned into the Navy in *1961 and 1987* respectively.
- According to the Navy, *over 76 per cent* of the material and equipment on board IAC-1 is indigenous.
- The Navy calculates that about *80-85 per cent* of the project cost of approximately *Rs 23,000 crore* has been ploughed back into the Indian economy.

The Name, INS Vikrant:

- *INS Vikrant*, a Majestic-class 19,500-tonne warship, was the name of India's much-loved first aircraft carrier, a source of immense national pride over several decades of service before it was *decommissioned in 1997*.
- India acquired the *Vikrant from the United Kingdom in 1961*, and the carrier played a stellar role in the *1971 war with Pakistan*.
- The *Vikrant* was deployed in the Bay of Bengal, and its two air squadrons of Sea Hawk fighter jets and Alize surveillance aircraft were used in strikes on ports, merchant ships, and other targets, and to prevent Pakistani forces from escaping through maritime routes.

Source: Indian Express

Did You
KNOW?

INS Vishal, also known as Indigenous Aircraft Carrier 2, is a planned aircraft carrier to be built by Cochin Shipyard Limited for the Indian Navy.

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9. IPCC Report on Climate Change 2021

Working Groups of IPCC:

- The IPCC reports are created by *three working groups of scientists*.
- *Working Group-I*, deals with the scientific basis for climate change.
- *Working Group-II* looks at the likely impacts, vulnerabilities and adaptation issues,
- *Working Group-III* deals with actions that can be taken to combat climate change.



Major Concerns about India and Indian Subcontinent:

- India may see more *heat waves, droughts, cyclones*: IPCC report
- *Agricultural and ecological droughts* are also expected to increase in the subcontinent,
- The global temperatures have already risen by about *1.1 degrees Celsius* from pre-industrial times, and warns that the *1.5-degree-Celsius threshold* was likely to be breached before *2040*.
- On India, the report says *heat waves and humid heat stress will be more intense and frequent in the 21st century*. Changes in monsoon precipitation are also expected.
- On Indian subcontinent, the report pointed that, *“Heat extremes have increased while cold extremes have decreased, and these trends will continue over the coming decades”*.
- one of the authors of the report, Dr Swapna Panickal of the Pune-based Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, added that *India is and will experience an intensifying of the water cycle which will affect rainfall patterns as well as increased monsoon precipitation*.
- The global mean sea level in the Indian Ocean is rising at *3.7 mm annually*. Extreme sea-level events, that previously occurred *once every 100 years*, will now be seen *nearly every year*, she added.

Current State:

- More than 100 countries including major emitters like the *United States, China and the European Union* have already announced their intentions to achieve *net-zero emissions by 2050*.
- *India, the 3rd largest emitter in the world*, has been holding out, arguing that it was already doing much more than it was required to do, *performing better*, in relative terms, than other countries.

- IPCC has informed that a global net-zero by 2050 was the minimum required to keep the temperature rise to 1.5°C. ***Without India, this would not be possible.***
- Even *China, the world's biggest emitter, has a net-zero goal for 2060.*

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change:

- It is an international body which was set up in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for assessing the science related to climate change and to provide policymakers with regular assessments of the scientific basis of climate change, its impacts and future risks, and options for adaptation and mitigation.
- It provides a scientific basis for governments at all levels to develop climate related policies.

Source: Indian Express

**Did You
Know?**

UK has been chosen to host the major UN climate change summit, known as COP26, an event it will co-host with Italy.

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10. Fast Track Special Courts

- The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of 1023 Fast Track Special Court (FTSCs) including 389 exclusive POCSO Courts as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme from 01.04.2021 to 31.03.2023 with an outlay of Rs. 1572.86 crore (Rs.971.70 crore as Central Share and Rs.601.16 crore as State share).
- Central Share will be funded from *Nirbhaya Fund*.



Background:

- Fast Track Courts were first recommended by the 11th Finance Commission in 2000.
- Rs 502.90 crore was granted by the central government to create 1,734 additional courts in different states for a period of 5 years.
- The central government stopped funding fast track courts in 2011.
- 3 states--*Maharashtra, Kerala and Tamil Nadu* had said they would continue running these courts while *Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal and Karnataka* said they would continue them till 2013.
- In 2013, the government at the Centre set up a '*Nirbhaya Fund*', amended the *Juvenile Justice Act* and set up *Fast-Track Mahila Courts*.
- Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir* etc. also set up fast track courts for *rape cases*.

Scheme for Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs):

- For expeditious disposal of pending rape cases under the IPC and crimes under the POCSO Act, the government approved a scheme for setting up 1,023 FTSCs across the country in 2019.
- The Central Government enacted "The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018" and made provision of stringent punishment including death penalty for perpetrators of rape which led to the establishment of the Fast-Track Special Courts.

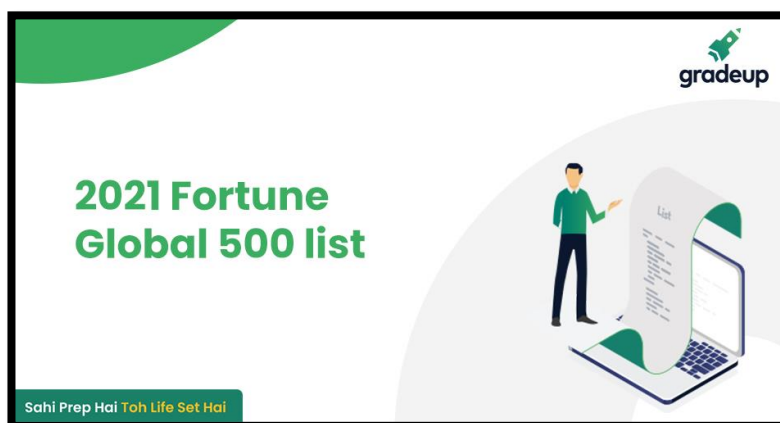
Source: PIB



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11. 2021 Fortune Global 500

- Seven Indian business houses have found a place in the 2021 Fortune Global 500 list.
- With **155th spot**, **Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd** is the highest-ranked Indian company on the list in terms of revenue.



- **Walmart** claimed the **top spot for the 8th consecutive year**, and for the **16th time since 1995**.

Rank	Companies
1	Walmart (US)
2	State Grid (China)
3	Amazon (US)
155	Reliance Industries (India)
205	State Bank of India (India)
212	Indian Oil Corporation (India)
243	Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (India)
348	Rajesh Exports (India)
357	Tata Motors (India)
394	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (India)

- Fortune Global 500 companies generated revenues totaling more than $1/3^{\text{rd}}$ of the world's GDP.
- The Fortune Global 500, also known as Global 500, is an annual ranking of the top 500 corporations worldwide as measured by revenue. The list is compiled and published annually by Fortune magazine.

Source: Business Standard

Did You Know?

The first issue of Fortune India was published in September 2010 which is the same year in which the tallest man-made structure the Burj Khalifa in Dubai, United Arab Emirates was officially opened.

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12. Combined Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI)

- The combined *Index of Eight Core Industries* stood at **6** in June 2021, which increased by **8.9 %** as compared to the Index of June 2020.
- The production of *Coal, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement and Electricity* industries increased in June 2021 compared to last year.



What is Index of Eight Core Industries:

- ICI measures combined and individual performance of production in selected eight core industries viz. *Coal, Natural Gas, Crude Oil, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Cement, Steel and Electricity*.
- The *Eight Core Industries* comprise **40.27 percent** of the weight of items included in the *Index of Industrial Production (IIP)*.
- It is compiled and published monthly by the *National Statistics Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation*.
- The current base year is **2011-2012**.

Summary of the Index:

- **Coal:** Coal production increased by **7.4 percent** in June, 2021 over June, 2020.
- **Crude Oil:** Crude Oil production declined by **1.8 percent** in June, 2021 over June, 2020.
- **Natural Gas:** Natural Gas production increased by **20.6 percent** in June, 2021 over June, 2020.
- **Refinery Products:** Petroleum Refinery production increased by **2.4 percent** in June, 2021 over June, 2020.
- **Fertilizers:** Fertilizers production increased by **2.0 percent** in June, 2021 over June, 2020.
- **Steel:** Steel production increased by **25.0 percent** in June, 2021 over June, 2020.
- **Cement:** Cement production increased by **4.3 percent** in June, 2021 over June, 2020.
- **Electricity:** Electricity generation increased by **7.2 percent** in June, 2021 over June, 2020.

Source: PIB

Did You Know?

The eight Core Industries in decreasing order of their weightage:
Petroleum-Refinery>Electricity>Steel>Coal>Crude-Oil>The Natural Gas> Cement>Fertilizers.

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13. Halam Tribe

- Owing to the recent clashes with *Bru refugees in north Tripura*, the repatriation of several hundred *Halam* people who had taken shelter in *Assam's Karimganj district* has begun.



Background:

- As rioters torched several houses in the *Damcherra area of the North Tripura district*, more than 700 people of *Halam sub-tribes* were displaced.
- *Karimganj district administration* then provided shelter and distributed relief materials to these displaced people who came by crossing the *Longai River* to reach *Karimganj*.

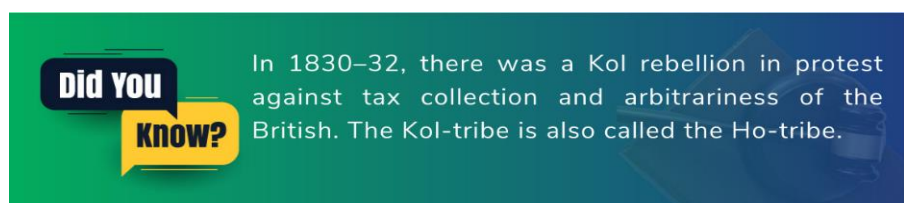
About Halam tribe:

- They are native to the state of *Tripura and Assam, Mizoram in India*.
- *Tipra Maharaja* has coined the name "*Halam*".
- But as per their oral tradition, they called themselves "*Riam*", which literally means "*Human being*".
- The Halam is further divided into 12 sub-tribes, namely *Chorei, Molsom, Hrangkhoh, Kaipeng, Kalai, Ranglong, Sakachep, Thangachep, Marachepang/Morsephang Saimâr, Bongcher, Korbwng, Dab and Rupini*.

The conflict: Mizos v/s Brus:

- A skirmish with the majority Mizos in 1995 made influential organisations like the *Mizo Zirlai Pawl*, a students' union which demanded that the *Brus*, labelled a *non-indigenous tribe*, be deleted from *Mizoram's electoral rolls*.
- This led to an armed movement by the extremist *Bru National Liberation Front*, which killed a *Mizo Forest official on October 21, 1997*.
- Many *Bru* villages were burnt down and villagers were allegedly raped and killed.
- Owing to this, thousands of *Brus* fled to *North Tripura* where they were given shelter in six relief camps, three each in the *Kanchanpur and Panisagar* subdivisions.
- Meanwhile, *Tipraha Indigenous Progressive Regional Alliance or the TIPRA*, which is governing the Tribal Autonomous District Council, has called for '*peace and unity among the State's 19 tribal clans*'.

Source: *The Hindu*



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14. Fourteen tiger reserves get CA|TS accreditation

- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Shri Bhupender Yadav has announced that 14 tiger reserves in India have received accreditation of the Global Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS).
- The occasion was International Tiger Day, 29th July.

The 14 tiger reserves are:

- Manas, Kaziranga and Orang in Assam,
- Satpura, Kanha and Panna in Madhya Pradesh,
- Pench in Maharashtra,
- Valmiki Tiger Reserve in Bihar,
- Dudhwa in Uttar Pradesh,
- Sunderbans in West Bengal,
- Parambikulam in Kerala,
- Bandipur Tiger Reserve of Karnataka and
- Mudumalai and Anamalai Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu
- India has now 51 tiger reserves across 18 states.

About CA|TS:

- CA|TS was officially launched in 2013 being developed by tiger and protected area experts.

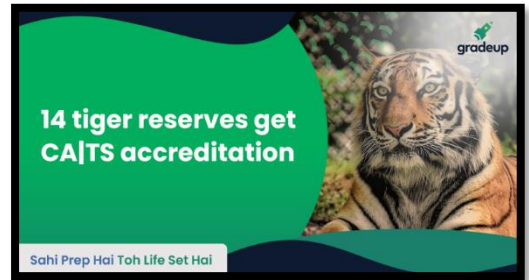
CA|TS Objectives:

- To set criteria that allows tiger sites to check if their management will lead to successful tiger conservation.
- To set minimum standards for effective management of target species and encourages the assessment of these standards in relevant conservation areas.
- CA|TS is being implemented across 125 sites in seven tiger range countries and India has the highest 94 sites, out of which assessment was completed for 20 tiger reserves in 2021.

The International Tiger Day:

- Global Tiger Day, often called International Tiger Day, is an annual celebration to raise awareness for tiger conservation, held annually on 29 July.
- It was created in 2010 at the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit in Russia.
- The goal of the day is to promote a global system for protecting the natural habitats of tigers and to raise public awareness and support for tiger conservation issues.

Source: Indian Express:



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15. PM-DAKSH Scheme: The Skill Development Scheme

Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar launched '**PM-DAKSH**' Portal and '**PM-DAKSH**' Mobile App, developed by the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**, in collaboration with **NeGD**, to make the skill development schemes accessible to the target groups.



- Through these portal and app the youth of the target groups will now be able to avail the benefits of *skill development training programmes* more easily.
- The *Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi (PM-DAKSH) Yojana* is being implemented by the *Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment* from the year 2020-21.
- Under this Yojana, eligible target group are being provided skill development training programmes on
 - (i) *Up-skilling/Re-skilling*
 - (ii) *Short Term Training Programme*
 - (iii) *Long Term Training Programme and*
 - (iv) *Entrepreneurship Development Program (EDP).*
- These training programs are being implemented through Government Training Institutes, Sector Skill Councils constituted by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and other credible institutions.

Some of the features of this portal are as follows:

- Availability of all information related to skill development at one place for Scheduled Castes, Backward Classes and Safai Karamcharis.
- Facility to register for the training institute and program of their interest.
- Facility to upload desired documents related to personal information.
- Facility to register the attendance of the trainees through face and eye scanning during the training period.
- Monitoring facility through photo and video clip during training etc.

Eligibility:

- Marginalized persons of SC (Scheduled Caste),
- OBC (Other Backward Classes),
- Economically Backward Classes,
- Denotified tribes,

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- Sanitation workers including waste pickers,
- manual scavengers, transgender and other similar categories.

Implementation by:

- It is implemented by the three Corporations under the Ministry:
 - *National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC),*
 - *National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation (NBCFDC),*
 - *National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC).*

Present Status of Skill Development Trainings:

- Skill development training has been imparted to *2,73,152 people* of the target groups in the *last 5 years*.
- A target, during the year 2021-22, has been set to provide the skill development training to approx *50,000 people of the target groups* through these three corporations.

Other Skill Development Initiatives:

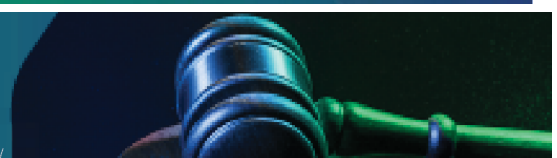
- **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0:** It was launched by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) in 2021 in a bid to empower India's youth with employable skills by making over 300 skill courses available to them.
- **National Career Service Project:** Launched in 2015 to offer free online career skills training to job-seekers registered with it. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Labour & Employment.
- **Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood (SANKALP):** Its focus is on district-level skilling ecosystem through convergence and coordination. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme which is collaborated with the World Bank.
- **Kaushalacharya Awards:** Launched to recognize the contribution made by skill trainers and to motivate more trainers to join the Skill India Mission.
- **Scheme for Higher Education Youth in Apprenticeship and Skills (SHREYAS):** The scheme is to provide industry apprenticeship opportunities to the general graduates exiting in April 2019 through the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS). It was launched by the Ministry of Education.
- **Atmanirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping (ASEEM):** Launched by MSDE in 2020, it is a portal to help skilled people find sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Source:- PIB

Did You
Know?

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship is a Ministry of Government of India set up on 9 November 2014 and currently headed by Dharmendra Pradhan.

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16. 36th India – Indonesia coordinated patrol (CORPAT)

- The 36th edition of Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) was recently being between Indian Navy and Indonesian Navy from 30th to 31st July 2021.

Participation in the Exercise:

- Indigenously built Offshore Patrol Vessel, Indian Naval Ship (INS) Saryu participated in CORPAT with Indonesian Naval Ship KRI Bung Tomo from 30th to 31st July 2021 in the Indo Pacific region.
- Also, there was the participation of Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both nations.

Background:

- Since 2002, India and Indonesia have been carrying out Coordinated Patrols along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) twice a year.

Objective:

- CORPATs helps in building understanding and interoperability between navies to prevent and suppress Illegal Unreported Unregulated (IUU) fishing, drug trafficking, maritime terrorism, armed robbery and piracy in the Indo Pacific region.
- Under SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) initiative, the Indian Navy has been proactively engaging with countries in the Indian Ocean Region to strengthen maritime security in the Indo Pacific region.
- GARUDA SHAKTI (Military Exercise) & SAMUDRA SHAKTI (Maritime Exercise) are the other exercises with Indonesia.

Source: PIB



Did You
Know?

The Indian Navy and European Union Naval Force are a part of annual SHADE (Shared Awareness and Deconfliction) meetings held annually at Bahrain.

17. Germany joined International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement

- In August 2021, Germany has become the 5th country to join after signing the *International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement*, opening its Membership to all Member States of the United Nations.



About International Solar Alliance (ISA):

- The *International Solar Alliance (ISA)* is an alliance of 121 countries initiated by India, most of them being *sunshine countries*, which lie either completely or partly between the *Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn*.
- It was launched jointly by the *Indian Prime Minister and the French President* during the 2015 *United Nations Climate Change Conference, or COP21, in Paris*.
- The primary objective of the alliance is to work for *efficient consumption of solar energy to reduce dependence on fossil fuels*.
- Headquartered at: *Gurugram, Haryana, India*.
- India has pledged a target of installing *175 GW of renewable energy of which 100 GW will be solar energy by 2022* and a reduction in emission intensity by *33–35% by 2030*.
- *India also pledged* in the Paris summit to bring *40% of its electricity generation capacity* (not actual production) from *non-fossil sources (renewable, large hydro, and nuclear)* by 2030.

Source: ISA

Did You Know?

Dr. Ajay Mathur is the current Director General of International Solar Alliance.

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18. Umlingla Pass

- The *world highest motorable road* has recently been constructed the *Border Roads Organisation*, which passes through *Umlingla Pass in Eastern Ladakh*.



- It is a black-topped, 52-kilometre road that connects many important towns in the *Chumar sector of Eastern Ladakh*.
- This road was constructed under *Project Himank*.

Geography of Umling La Pass:

- Located at an altitude of 19,300ft in the union territory of Ladakh.
- Chisumle and Demchok villages are connected by a 86 km stretch pass.
- Both these villages lie close to the Indo-China border in the eastern sector.

Importance:

- It will be a *boon for the local population* as it connects the important towns in eastern Ladakh's Chumar sector by providing an *alternative direct route to Demchok and Chisumle from Leh to the residents*.
- Raising *region's socio-economic condition* as well as *promote tourism in Ladakh* are the main importance of the pass.
- Being at a *very strategic point*, the pass also has *defense importance*.

Source: TOI

Did You

Know?

The Bolan Pass is the southern counterpart of the Khyber Pass was the trading route for invaders, traders and nomadic tribes between India and higher Asia.

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19. Controller General of Accounts

- In August 2021, *Civil Accounts Service officer Deepak Das* took charge as the *Controller General of Accounts (CGA)*.

Controller General of Accounts:

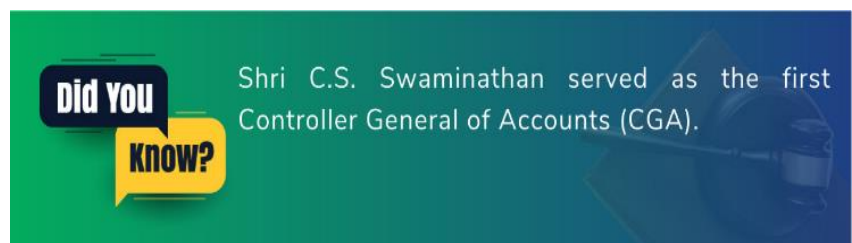
- CGA works under the Ministry of Finance, Government of India as a principal accounting adviser to the GoI and is responsible for establishing and maintaining a technically sound Management Accounting System.*



Directives:

- The Controller General of Accounts derives his mandate from Article 150 of the Constitution.
- This statutory mandate as incorporated in the Allocation of Business Rules 1961 brings out the duties and responsibilities of CGA as below:
 - General principles of Government accounting relating to Union or State Governments and form of accounts, and framing or revision of rules and manuals relating thereto;
 - Reconciliation of cash balance of Union Government with Reserve Bank in general and, in particular, of Reserve Deposits pertaining to Civil Ministries or Departments;
 - Overseeing the maintenance of adequate standards of accounting by Central Civil Accounts Offices;
 - Consolidation of monthly accounts, preparation of a review of trends of revenue realization and significant features of expenditure etc and preparation of annual accounts (including Summary, Civil Appropriation Accounts) showing under the respective heads, the annual receipts and disbursements for the Union Government;
 - Administration of Central Treasury Rules and Central Government Account (Receipt and Payment Rules 1983);
 - Coordination and assistance in the introduction of management accounting system in Civil Ministries or Departments;

Source: CGA.NIC.IN



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20. Tokyo Olympics 2020

- **Place:** Tokyo, Japan (23 July to 8 August 2021)
- **32nd Summer Olympic Mascot:** MIRAITOWA
- **Olympic Laurel award 2020-** Bangladesh's Muhammad Yunus



Point to be Noted:

- Olympic debuts in 2020- *karate, sport climbing, surfing, and skateboarding.*
- The 2020 Games are the *fourth Olympic Games* to be held in Japan, following the *Tokyo 1964 (Summer), Sapporo 1972 (Winter), and Nagano 1998 (Winter)* games.

India at Tokyo Olympic:

- India's flag bearers in the Opening Ceremony- *Mary Kom (Boxing) and Manpreet Singh (Hockey)*
- India's flag bearers in the Closing Ceremony- *Bajrang Punia (Wrestling)*

Medal Ranking

Rank	Countries	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	US	39	41	33	113
2	China	38	32	18	88
3	Japan	27	14	17	58
48	India	1	2	4	7

India's Performance:

- **Neeraj Chopra** (Javelin Throw) won the **Gold Medal**.
- He created history by becoming the second Indian to win an individual gold medal in Olympics after shooter Abhinav Bindra.
- He is the first Indian in over 120 years, and the first athlete from independent India, to win an Olympic medal in a track-and-field discipline.

- **Saikhom Mirabai Chanu** (Indian Weightlifter) won the **Silver Medal** in Women's 49 kg.
- **Ravi Kumar Dahiya** (Wrestler) won the **Silver Medal** in men's freestyle 57 kg category.
- **PV Sindhu** (Badminton) won the **Bronze Medal**.
- PV Sindhu became the first Indian woman to win two individual medals at the Olympics. She won silver at the Rio Olympics in 2016.
- **Lovlina Borgohain** (Boxer) won the **Bronze Medal** in the welterweight 69 kilogram category.
- **Bajrang Punia** (Wrestler) won the **Bronze Medal** in men's freestyle 65 kg category.
- **Indian Men's Hockey Team** won the **Bronze Medal**.
- India men's hockey team created history to win their first Olympic medal since 1980.

Facts about the International Olympic Committee (IOC):

- **Headquarters:** Lausanne, Switzerland
- **President:** Thomas Bach
- **Founded:** 23 June 1894

Next Olympics:

- **Olympic 2024 will be held at Paris.**
- **Olympic 2028 will be at Los Angeles**
- **Olympic 2032 will be at Brisbane.**

Source: olympics.com

Did You

Know?

The International Olympic Committee has changed the motto from "Faster, Higher, Stronger" to "Faster, Higher, Stronger - Together."

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STATIC GK:

[LIST OF UNION COUNCIL OF MINISTERS]

CABINET RESHUFFLE:

On 7th July, the President's office declared the revised list of Cabinet Ministers, Ministers of State (both independent and dependent charge) as advised by the Prime Minister of India. In the revised list, **43 ministers** were **swearing-in** and **12 ministers dropped** from Cabinet Ministers and Minister of State.

Prime Minister & Its Cabinet Ministers

In the Parliamentary system of Government, the Prime minister is the **real executive** (de facto executive) and head of the government. Since 1947, India has had 14 Prime ministers.

Appointment: The Constitution **does not contain** any specific procedure on the appointment procedure of the Prime minister. The Prime Minister is usually the leader of the party or alliance that has a majority in the Lok Sabha, the lower house of India's Parliament. The Prime minister is sworn in by the President of India. The President administers the Oath of Office and Oath of Secrecy to the Prime Minister.

Article 74: There shall be a Council of Ministers with the Prime Minister at the head to aid and advise the President who shall, in the exercise of his functions, act in accordance with such advice.

- The President has discretionary powers when no party commands a majority in the lower house or when a Prime minister in office dies suddenly and there is no obvious successor.
- The President may appoint a person as the Prime Minister and then ask him to prove his majority in the Lower House (Lok Sabha) within a reasonable period. Also, a person who is not a member of both houses may be appointed as the Prime minister for six months, within which he should become a member of either house of Parliament.

Note: Minimum age for becoming a prime minister is **25 years**.

Power and Functions of Council of Ministers

- Prime Minister is the head of **Union Council of Ministers**. The resignation or death of an incumbent Prime Minister automatically dissolves the Council of Ministers.
- He is the principal channel of communication between the President and the Council of Ministers
- The Prime Minister automatically becomes the leader of the House to which he belongs
- He is the Chairman of **NITI Aayog, Inter-state Council, Cabinet committees**, etc.



Composition of the Council of Ministers

- **Cabinet Ministers:** Highest decision-making body advising the President on various issues. They hold important portfolios and attend the Cabinet meeting. The word 'Cabinet' is mentioned in **Article 352** of the Constitution added through the **44th Amendment act** and is defined as 'the council consisting of the Prime minister and other ministers of cabinet rank appointed under **Article 75**'.
- **Ministers of State:** They are in-charge of independent departments of a ministry or appointed to assist the Cabinet ministers. They are not members of the Cabinet and do not attend its meetings unless invited.
- **Deputy Ministers:** They are not given independent charge and are appointed to assist the Cabinet ministers or Ministers of State
- **Parliamentary Secretaries:** They are attached to senior ministers to assist them in their Parliamentary duties

List of Ministers and Their Portfolios

Prime Minister of India and His Portfolios

Minister Name	Heading Ministries
Narendra Modi (Prime Minister)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Department of Space - Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions - Department of Atomic Energy - All Important Policy Issues - All other Portfolios not allocated to any Minister

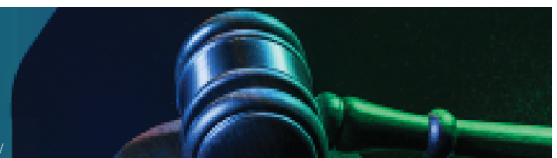
List of Cabinet Ministers and their Portfolios

Cabinet Ministers	
Minister Name	Heading Ministries
Raj Nath Singh	- Minister of Defence
Amit Shah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minister of Home Affairs - Minister of Cooperation
Nirmala Sitharaman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minister of Corporate Affairs - Minister of Finance
Nitin Jairam Gadkari	- Minister of Road Transport and Highways

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Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar	- Minister of External Affairs
Narendra Singh Tomar	- Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
Smriti Zubin Irani	- Minister of Women and Child Development
Arjun Munda	- Minister of Tribal Affairs
Dharmendra Pradhan	- Minister of Education - Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
Piyush Goyal	- Minister of Commerce and Industry - Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution - Minister of Textiles
Narayan Tatu Rane	- Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
Pralhad Joshi	- Minister of Parliamentary Affairs - Minister of Mines - Minister of Coal
Sarbananda Sonowal	- Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways - Minister of AYUSH
Giriraj Singh	- Minister of Rural Development - Minister of Panchayati Raj
Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi	- Minister of Minority Affairs
Dr. Virendra Kumar	- Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment
Ashwini Vaishnaw	- Minister of Railways - Minister of Electronics and Information Technology - Minister of Communication
Jyotiraditya M. Schindia	- Minister of Civil Aviation
Ramchandra	- Minister of Steel
Gajendra Singh Shekhawat	- Minister of Jal Shakti
Pashu Pati Kumar Paras	- Minister of Food Processing Industries

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Raj Kumar Singh	- Minister of Power - Minister of New and Renewable Energy
Kiren Rijju	- Minister of Law and Justice
Mansukh Mandaviya	- Minister of Health and Family Welfare - Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers
Hardeep Singh Puri	- Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas - Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs
Mahendra Nath Pandey	- Minister of Heavy Industries
Bhupender Yadav	- Minister of Labour and Employment - Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
G. Kishan Reddy	- Minister of Tourism - Minister of Culture - Minister of Development and North Eastern Region
Parshottam Rupala	- Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
Anurag Singh Thakur	- Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports - Minister of Information and Broadcasting

List of Minister of State (Independent Charge) and their Portfolios

Ministers of State (Independent Charge)	
Minister Name	Heading Ministries
Rao Inderjit Singh	- Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Statics and Programme Implementation - Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Planning - Minister of State in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs
Dr. Jitendra Singh	- Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences - Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Science and Technology - Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office - Minister of State in the Department of Atomic Energy - Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievance and Pensions - Minister of State in the Department of Atomic Energy

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	- Minister of State in the Department of Space
--	--

Passage-1:

Direction: Read the passage carefully and answer the following questions:

As India, on Sunday assumed the presidency of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), Russia and France said they are committed to work with India on strategic issues--maritime security and counter-terrorism.

India took over the presidency from [A]. Ambassador of India to United Nations, TS Tirumurti thanked [A] Permanent Representative to the UN, Nicolas de Riviere, for steering the UN Security Council for the month of July. Russian Ambassador to India Nikolay Kudashev wrote, "Truly impressed with the agenda, which embraces pressing global issues including maritime security, peacekeeping & counter-terrorism".

This is India's first presidency in the UNSC during its 2021-22 tenure as a non-permanent member of the UNSC. The two-year tenure of India as a non-permanent member of the UNSC began on January 1, 2021. During the presidency of the powerful 15-nation UN body, India said it will be focusing on maritime security, peacekeeping, and counter-terrorism.

Tirumurti said India will be organizing signature events in three key areas -- maritime security, peacekeeping, and counterterrorism. The first working day of India's presidency will be on Monday, August 2 when Tirumurti will hold a hybrid press briefing in the UN headquarters on the Council's programme of work for the month.

Source: Article Extracted from livemint.com: Date: 01 Aug 2021

1. India has assumed the presidency of United Nation Security Council for the month of August, 2021.

Which country had the presidency for the month of July, referred as [A] in the passage?

- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| A. Cambodia | B. Vietnam |
| C. Brussels | D. France |

2. The Security Council has primary responsibility, under the UN Charter, for the maintenance of international peace and security. It has how many members?

- | | |
|-------|-------|
| A. 5 | B. 10 |
| C. 15 | D. 20 |

3. Which of the following statements regarding UNSC is not correct:

- A. Permanent Members are the five states which the UN charter of 1945 grants a permanent seat on the UNSC.



B. The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the seven principal organs of the United Nations.

C. The UNSC is the only UN body with the authority to issue binding resolutions on member states.

D. To maintain peace and security in the world is one of the functions of the UNSC.

4. India began its which number term as a non-permanent member of the UNSC on January 1, 2021?

A. Fifth

B. Seventh

C. Eighth

D. Ninth

5. The veto of UN Security Council is?

A. Positive vote for all members

B. Negative vote for aggressive country

C. Vote for general Secretary

D. Methodology of negative vote by permanent members of Security Council

Passage-2:

Every few years, the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) produces assessment reports that are the most comprehensive scientific evaluations of the state of earth's climate.

Set up by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the IPCC does not itself engage in scientific research. Instead, it asks scientists from around the world to go through all the relevant scientific literature related to climate change and draw up the logical conclusions.

The assessment reports are the most widely-accepted scientific opinion about climate change. They form the basis for government policies to tackle climate change, and also provide the scientific foundation for the international climate change negotiations.

The report, 'Climate Change 2021: the Physical Science Basis', is the first part of IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) — its latest evaluation of the state of Earth's climate and the impact on the planet and life forms.

In a grim reminder of the threat posed by climate change, the report raises a crucial red flag — that global temperatures have already risen by about 1.1 degrees Celsius from pre-industrial times, and warns that the "X"-degree-Celsius threshold was likely to be breached before 2040.

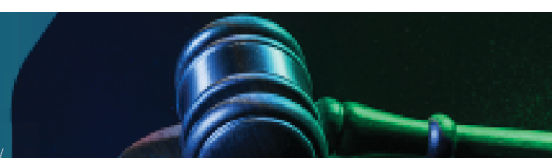
Source: Indian Express, Date: Aug.10th, 2021

Que. 6. Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was set up in which year?

A. 1998

B. 1997

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C. 1988

D. 1989

Que. 7. As per the IPCC Climate Change report, which of the following temperature threshold limit, referred as “X” in the passage was likely to be breached before 2040?

A. 2-degree-Celsius

B. 1.5-degree- Celsius

C. 0.5-degree Celsius

D. 5-degree- Celsius

Que.8. As per the recent IPCC report, which of the following factor will be more intense and frequent during the 21st century over South Asia?

A. Avalanches

B. Cloud Burst

C. Heat waves

D. Volcanoes

Que.9. The Conference of Parties (CoP) 26 conference will be held in November 2021 at which place?

A. London

B. Paris

C. Washington D.C.

D. Glasgow

Que.10. Which of the following country is the world’s biggest emitter, which has a net-zero carbon goal for 2060?

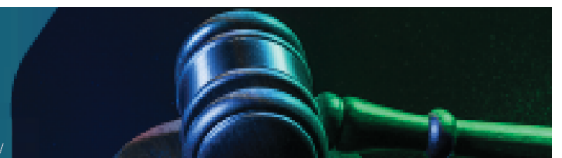
A. United Kingdom

B. United States

C. Russia

D. China

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ANSWER KEY:

1. D	2. C	3. B	4. C	5. D	6. C	7. B	8. C	9. D	10. D
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Sahi Prep Hai Toh Life Set Hai...

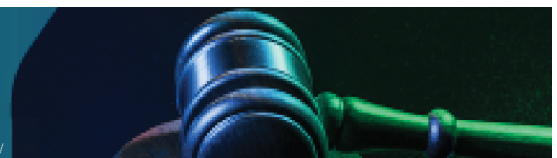
Thank You.

All the Best!!!



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