

Top Current Affairs of the Week (19 -25 September 2021)

Pankaj Advani wins Asian Snooker Championship 2021

- India's ace cueist **Pankaj Advani (36 years)** has won '**Asian Snooker Championship 2021**', after defeating Amir Sarkhosh.
- He emerged victorious in the best of 11 frames final.
- He has won this title for a second consecutive time.
- He is also the winner of the last **Asian Snooker Championship** held in **2019**.
- Pankaj also became the only player who won the titles in all forms of billiards, snooker, 6Reds, and 10Reds competitions in 2019

Indo-Nepal military exercise Surya Kiran -XV to begin from September 20

- 15th edition of Indo-Nepal Joint Military Training Exercise '**Surya Kiran**' at Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand from September 20, 2021
- The **14th edition of Exercise Surya Kiran** was conducted in Nepal in 2019.
- Surya Kiran was called off in 2020, due to Covid-19 pandemic
- It will help in improving bilateral relations and further strengthen the traditional friendship between the two nations
- Both the armies will share their experiences of various counter-insurgency operations

Sirarakhong Chilli and Tamenglong Orange of Manipur gets GI tag

- Two famous products of Manipur, namely **Hathei chilly**, commonly known as the **Sirarakhong chilly** and **Tamenglong Orange** have received Geographical Index (GI) tag.
- **GI tag** is a name given to certain products that have a specific geographical location or origin and gets global recognition.
- **Hathei chilly**: It is a good anti-oxidant and possesses high calcium and Vitamin C levels.
- **Tamenglong mandarin orange**: It is bigger in size, weighing 232.76 grams on average.

NITI Aayog partners Byju's to educate children in 112 aspirational district

- **NITI Aayog** has partnered with **Byju's** to provide free access to Byju's high-quality and tech-driven learning programs to children from **112 Aspirational districts of the country**
- Under this, dedicated working group will be established that will create knowledge, innovation, and strategy support system as well as actively monitor and evaluate programme implementation to enable efficacy and ensure better scope of delivery
- It will empower children from underserved communities

MyGov launches Planetarium Innovation Challenge

- **MyGov India**, under **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** has launched **Planetarium Innovation Challenge** for Indian start-ups and tech entrepreneurs.
- **Aim**: to bring together the Indian Startups and tech entrepreneurs to develop state-of-the-art technology for Planetariums.
- It will build an indigenous planetariums system software using the latest technologies including **Augmented Reality (A.R.)**, **Virtual Reality (V.R.)** and **Merged Reality (M.R.)**.



IIT Delhi develops device that can generate electricity through water drop

- **IIT Delhi researchers** have designed and fabricated an innovative device, titled as '**Liquid-solid Interface Triboelectric Nanogenerator**'
- It can generate electricity from water drops, raindrops, water streams, and ocean waves.
- It produces power using **Triboelectric Effect and Electrostatic Induction**, and further stores the energy in batteries for consumption.
- It can generate power of only a few **Milliwatt (mW)**, which is sufficient to power small electronic devices.

Centre forms GoM for better implementation of schemes for SC, ST, OBC

- Centre has constituted **group of ministers (GoM)** to look into better implementation of various welfare schemes meant for **Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), Other Backward Classes (OBC), minorities and women**
- It will be chaired by Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh**.
- **Aim:** to work for empowerment and prosperity of backward classes and minorities.
- Panel comprises of Home Minister Amit Shah, FM Nirmala Sitharaman, Dharmendra Pradhan and other Union ministers

Deadline to link PAN-Aadhaar extended by six months till March 2022

- **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** has announced an extension for the deadline to link PAN with biometric ID Aadhaar.
- Deadline has been extended by six months till **March 31, 2022**.
- Prior to this, this date was extended till **September 30, 2021**.
- This timeline has been extended to address the hardship being faced by various stakeholders due to the COVID-19 pandemic

Jhumpa Lahiri to launch her new book 'Translating Myself and Others' in 2022

- Noted fiction writer, **Jhumpa Lahiri** is set to launch her new book titled '**Translating Myself and Others**', that will highlight her work as a translator.
- This book is planned to be out in **Spring 2022**.
- It will be a collection of essays that reflect Lahiri's experiences on the meaning of translation, translating her own writing, and writing across languages
- She won **Pulitzer Prize for Fiction** for her debut collection of short-stories **Interpreter of Maladies (1999)**

Charanjit Singh Channi sworn-in as 16th chief minister of Punjab

- **Charanjit Singh Channi** took oath as **16th Chief Minister (CM)** of Punjab.
- Channi became the **first individual** from the **Dalit community** in Punjab to take charge of Chief Minister.
- The 58-year-old leader was administered the oath of office and secrecy by governor **Banwarilal Purohit**.
- **Channi** is a three-time MLA from **Rupnagar's Chamkaur Sahib**.
- In **Amarinder Singh** cabinet, Channi had served as the **minister of technical education**.

World Economic Forum to host next annual meeting in Davos in Jan 2022

- Next annual meeting of the **World Economic Forum (WEF)** will be held in **Davos, Switzerland** in **January 2022**.



- It will be the first major in-person congregation of the world leaders in almost two years since the deadliest pandemic hit the world.
- The theme of the Summit will be the **'Working Together, Restoring Trust'**.
- The **Annual Meeting 2022** will be the first global leadership event to set the agenda for a sustainable recovery.

Sikkim declares 'Katley' as State fish

- The **Sikkim** has declared '**Copper Mahseer**' locally named '**Katley**' (*Neolissochilus hexagonolepis*) as the **State fish**
- In **Sikkim**, Katley is found in varied altitudes covering entire state predominantly confined in **Teesta** and **Rangit** rivers and their tributaries.
- In the year 1992, **ICAR-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (ICAR-NBFGR)**, Lucknow had categorized **Katley fish** as endangered species
- Later on, in the year **2014** the fish was also categorized as endangered by **IUCN**.

Rajnath Singh Launches a book titled Shining Sikh Youth of India

- **Rajnath Singh** launched a book titled '**Shining Sikh Youth of India**'.
- Book is authored by **Dr Prabhleen Singh** of **Punjabi University**.
- The book is dedicated to the **400th Parkash Purb of Guru Tegh Bahadur**.
- The book pens down the life stories of India's 200 foremost Sikhs.
- This includes the mention of personalities from the **education, sports, business, medicine, entertainment, civil services, judiciary, media, social services, IAS, IFS and IRS fraternity**.

Vladimir Putin's United Russia Party retains majority in Parliamentary poll

- In **Russia**, **United Russia party** of incumbent President **Vladimir Putin** has retained a majority in parliament.
- However, the party lost around **one fifth** of its support
- Over 33 per cent ballots have been counted so far with Putin's party winning over 45% of the votes while its nearest rival **Communist Party** polled around 22% of the votes
- Putin, who has been in power as president or prime minister since **1999**, still dominating ahead of the next presidential election in **2024**.

International Day of Peace: 21 September

- **International Day of Peace (World Peace Day)** is observed every year on **21 September** to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire
- This day was established by **UN General Assembly** in **1981** and was formally designated in **2001**.
- Theme 2021: **Recovering Better for an Equitable and Sustainable World**.
- **United Nations Peace Bell** is rung at UN Headquarters (in New York City) to inaugurate the day.

India ranked 46th in Global Innovation Index 2021

- **India** has been ranked at **46th place** in **Global Innovation Index (GII) 2021**, that captures the innovation ecosystem performance of 132 economies and tracks the most recent global innovation trends.
- India was ranked 48th in GII 2020
- Under the Lower middle-income category group, India has been ranked at the second spot after Vietnam



- Released by: **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)**.
- **Top performers:** Switzerland, Sweden, U.S., U.K. and Republic of Korea.

Primetime Emmy Award 2021 has been conferred

- The **73rd Primetime Emmy Awards** ceremony was held in **Los Angeles** to honor best **U.S. prime time TV program**, as chosen by **Academy of Television Arts & Sciences**.
- **List of winners:**
 - Outstanding Drama Series: **The Crown**
 - Outstanding Comedy Series: **Ted Lasso**
 - Outstanding Variety Talk Show: **Last Week Tonight with John Oliver**
 - Outstanding Limited Series: **The Queen's Gambit**
 - Outstanding Actor (Comedy): **Jason Sudeikis – Ted Lasso**
 - Outstanding Actor (Drama): **Josh O'Connor**

R. Raja Rithvik becomes India's 70th Chess Grandmaster

- **R Raja Rithvik** (17 years) from Warangal has become **India's 70th and newest chess Grandmaster (GM)**.
- He has achieved his third and final norm at First Saturday Chess Tournaments in Budapest, Hungary, to enter the GM club.
- Rithvik earned his first GM norm in 2019.
- He touched the **magical 2500 Elo mark** in the fourth round of the tournament after beating **Vaclav Finek**.

IRCTC partners with Cordelia Cruises for 1st indigenous luxury cruise liner

- **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)** in partnership with **Cordelia Cruises** has launched India's first indigenous cruise liner.
- It will take the passengers on-boards to tourist destinations like **Goa, Diu, Kochi, the Lakshadweep islands, and Sri Lanka**.
- Cruise will have its base from **Mumbai**, and will sail to the Indian destinations only in **Phase I**
- Phase II will start from **May 2022**, whose base will be shifted to **Chennai** and it will sail to Sri Lanka

SpaceX first all-civilian crew land back safely

- **SpaceX** launched **world's first all-civilian crew into Earth orbit** under the mission named as Inspiration-4 by **SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket** from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida on September 16, 2021 and came back on 19 September
- It had 4 member and features no trained astronauts, who spent time in orbit in SpaceX's Crew Dragon spacecraft, dubbed as Resilience.
- Four members: **Jared Isaacman (mission commander), Sian Proctor, Hayley Arceneaux, Chris Sembroski**.

Ford Motor to close manufacturing plants in India

- **Ford Motor** has announced to close **manufacturing plants in India** due to the loss of more than USD 2 billion over the past 10 years
- Ford has two integrated manufacturing facilities in India one at **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**, and another at **Sanand, Gujarat**.
- Manufacturing of vehicles for exports in Sanand, Gujarat will be shut by 2021 and vehicle and engine manufacturing in Chennai will be stopped by 2022
- Ford will now only offer high-end cars via **Completely Built-Up (CBU) Route**



M.S. Dhoni named mentor for Indian Men's Team for T20 World Cup 2021

- **Mahendra Singh Dhoni** has been named as the **Mentor of the Indian cricket Men's team for ICC T20 World Cup 2021**.
- T20 world cup will be played in Oman and UAE from October 18 onwards
- Virat Kohli has recently announced to step down as the captain of T20 cricket team after the World Cup.
- It will be Dhoni's first stint as a member of the support staff of the Indian cricket team.
- Dhoni had previously mentored Jharkhand in domestic tournaments.

NCW launches Capacity Building Program For Women

- **National Commission for Women (NCW)** has launched country-wide capacity building and personality development program for women Undergraduate and Post graduate students
- For this, NCW is collaborating with Central and State universities for organizing sessions to prepare women students for entering the job market
- 1st program was launched in collaboration with **Central University of Haryana**
- The course will focus on learning and applying the use of intuitive, logical, etc

TRIFED signs MoU with Big Basket for promotion and sale of products

- **Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED)** has signed MoU with **Big Basket** for promotion and sale of Organics, natural Van Dhan products and TRIFOOD products.
- Another MoU of TRIFED with **PurtyAgrotech of Jharkhand** will promote the art of growing pearls among other tribal entrepreneurs across India and tap the potential of this market.
- These two new initiatives will become operational from 2nd October this year.

Air Marshal V R Chaudhari appointed as next Chief of Air Staff

- Air Marshal **Vivek Ram Chaudhari** has been appointed as the next **Chief of the Air Staff (CoAS)**, with effect from 1st October 2021.
- Presently, he is serving as the Vice Chief of Air Staff.
- He will succeed incumbent Air Chief Marshal **RKS Bhadauria**, whose tenure will come to end on September 30, 2021
- He was the chief of Western Air Comma from August 1, 2020.
- He also flew several Air Defence missions during **1999 Kargil war with Pakistan**.

FSSAI releases 3rd edition of State Food Safety Index 2020-21

- Union Health Minister **Mansukh Mandaviya** has released **third State Food Safety Index (SFSI) of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** for evaluating food safety across all States/UTs in 2020-21.
- Top state in larger states category: **Gujarat**, followed by **Kerala** and **Tamil Nadu**
- Top state in smaller states category: **Goa, Meghalaya** and **Manipur**
- Top UT: **Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar Islands** and **New Delhi**
- He also flagged off 19 Mobile Food Testing Vans



Iran becomes 9th member of Shanghai Cooperation Organization

- **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** leaders have agreed to change the membership of the **Islamic Republic of Iran** from an observer state to a full member state.
- After this, Iran becomes the **9th main member of SCO**
- Iran was holding the observer status for the past 15 years
- The technical and legal process could take up to two years to conclude.
- Full member of SCO: **China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan**
- SCO HQs: **Beijing, China**

Uttar Pradesh Government to set up 'Electronic Park' near Noida

- **Uttar Pradesh govt** has cleared proposal to develop '**Electronic Park**', along Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority area, near Noida to promote electronics industry.
- Park is proposed to be developed in **250 acres near Jewar Airport**.
- It will be built at an investment of around **Rs 50,000 crore** as well as generate employment for thousands of local youths
- Companies manufacturing mobile phones, TVs, electronic devices will establish their units in the park.

Third India-Indonesia bilateral maritime exercise 'Samudra Shakti' begins

- **Third edition of India and Indonesia bilateral maritime exercise** titled as '**Samudra Shakti**' began on September 20, 2021 in **Sunda Strait, Indonesia**
- It is a **3-day exercise** and will culminate on 22 Sep 2021
- **Sunda Strait** lies between Indonesian islands of Java and Sumatra
- Indian Navy has deployed its 2 frontline warships Shivalik and Kadmatt
- It will strengthen bilateral relationship, enhance mutual understanding and interoperability in maritime operations between 2 navies

World Rhino Day: 22nd September

- **World Rhino Day** is observed on **22nd September** every year to celebrates and raise awareness of the need to protect all the five existing species of Rhinoceros
- Rhino species:
 - **Black Rhino**
 - **White Rhino**
 - **Greater one-horned Rhino**
 - **Sumatran Rhino**
 - **Javan Rhinos**
- The day was first announced by **World Wildlife Fund-South Africa** in 2010.
- It is being observed internationally for the first time in **2011**.

Kovalam and Eden beaches get Blue Flag Certification

- **Kovalam in Tamil Nadu** and **Eden in Puducherry** beaches has been globally recognized and coveted International eco-label '**Blue Flag Certification**'



- **Foundation for Environment Education in Denmark (FEE)** has also given re-certification for 8 nominated beaches **Shivrajpur-Gujarat, Ghoghla-Diu, Kasarkod and Padubidri-Karnataka, Kappad-Kerala, Rushikonda- Andhra Pradesh, Golden-Odisha and Radhanagar- A&N**
- Blue Flag is indication of 100% compliance to 33 stringent criteria

Justin Trudeau wins third term as Prime Minister of Canada

- Canada PM **Justin Trudeau (49 years)** has won third term of the 2021 parliamentary elections to serve as the **Prime Minister of Canada**, after his party won elections on **September 20, 2021**
- His Liberal Party only manage to win minority seats in the election, leading in **155 of 338 seats in the House of Commons**, compared with **123 seats for Conservatives under Erin O'Toole**
- A party needs 170 seats to form a majority in the House of Commons.
- Justin Trudeau is in power since **2015**

ECI organizes National Conference on Accessible Elections

- **Election Commission of India** has organized virtual **National Conference on Accessible Elections 2021** to assess present accessibility policies and discuss strategies for addressing barriers to enhance participation in electoral process
- During conference, crossing **Barriers- Accessibility Initiatives 2021** was also launched
- Braille Language versions of Voter Guide, Letter to new voter and Booklet of 50 motivational songs on voter awareness was also launched

Ministry of Education forms National Steering Committee for Curriculum

- **Ministry of Education** has formed **National Steering Committee** for development of National Curriculum Frameworks under **K Kasturirangan chairmanship**
- **Other members:** Mahesh Pant, Govind Prasad Sharma, Najma Akhtar, TV Kattimani, Michel Danino, Milind Kamble, Jagbir Singh, Manjul Bhargava, M K Sridhar, Dhir Jhingran. Shankar Maruwada
- Committee will develop **National Curriculum Frameworks for School Education, Early Childhood Education, Teacher Education, Adult Education.**

Centre signs MoU with CSC e-Governance Services India Limited

- **Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD)** has signed MoU with **CSC e-Governance Services India (CSC)** to increase the business opportunities and income of Fair Price Shops by way of delivery of CSC services through interested **Fair Price Shop (FPS) dealers.**
- CSC has been advised to identify feasible activities like **Utility Bill payments, PAN Application, Passport Application**, etc. to facilitate the consumer and simultaneously provide additional income to the FPSs.

International Day of Sign Languages: 23rd September

- **International Day of Sign Languages (IDSL)** is being observed annually on **23 September** across the world to raise awareness on sign languages and strengthen the status about sign languages.
- IDSL Theme 2021: **We Sign For Human Rights.**
- The date of 23 September has been chosen to mark IDSL as it commemorates establishment of the World Federation of the Deaf on 23 September 1951.



- It was first celebrated in **2018** as a part of the **International Week of the Deaf**.

Bangladeshi Fairouz Faizah Beether gets 2021 Changemaker Award

- Bangladesh's **Fairouz Faizah Beether** has been chosen for **2021 Changemaker Award** for her work promoting good health and well-being
- **Fairouz Faizah:** Co-founder of Moner School which is an anonymous online platform active in mental health
- **Changemaker Award:** It is a part of Goalkeepers Global Goals award instituted by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation towards attaining Sustainable Development Goals
- **Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka** has been chosen for **2021 Global Goalkeeper Award**

Posters of Beijing 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Games unveiled

- The posters for **2022 Beijing Winter Olympics and Paralympics** were released at **Beijing Design Week Opening Ceremony** to further raise public awareness for **Beijing Winter Games** scheduled to be held in **February 2022**
- Three sets of official posters and 11 promotional pieces featuring elements of winter sports and Chinese culture highlighting Beijing 2022 motto "**Together for a Shared Future**".
- The slogan reflects power of Games to overcome global challenges as a community

Union Minister launches National Single Window System for Investors

- **Piyush Goyal** has launched '**National Single Window System (NSWS)**' for the investors and businesses
- **NSWS:** single window portal that will act as a one-stop-shop for investors or entrepreneur, to get approvals and clearances needed.
- It shall give freedom from legacy of running to government offices for approvals and registrations needed by investors, entrepreneurs, and businesses in India
- Currently, portal hosts approvals across **18 Central Departments** and **9 States**.

OECD projects India's economic growth forecast at 9.7% for FY22

- **Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** has cut India's economic growth rate projections by 0.2% to **9.7% for the current financial year (2021-22)**.
- For financial year 2022-23 (FY23), OECD has projected Indian economy to grow by 7.9%, as compared to 8.2% pegged earlier.
- **Global economy:** OECD has projected strong growth rate of 5.7% in 2021 and 4.5% in 2022, as compared to 5.8% and 4.4%, respectively, estimated earlier.
- Headquarters: **Paris, France**.

Union Minister flags off dwarf container train from JNPT to Kanpur

- Union Minister, **Sarbananda Sonowal** has virtually flagged off **dwarf container train service** from **Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT)**
- This is the first consignment of laden dwarf containers from **Mumbai-based JNPT port**, biggest container port in India.
- Consignment was moved by train to **Inland Container Depot (ICD) Kanpur**.
- Dwarf containers they are shorter in size due to which they can be double-stacked, as well as easily run on electrified tracks and will reduce logistics cost



Kailash Satyarthi among four new SDG Advocates appointed by UN

- United Nations Secretary-General **António Guterres** has appointed **four new Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Advocates**, ahead of 76th UN General Assembly.
- Four newly appointed advocates are: Nobel **Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi**, **STEM activist Valentina Muñoz Rabanal**, **Microsoft President Brad Smith** and **K-pop superstars BLACKPINK**.
- UN now has total 16 SDG Advocates
- SDG Advocates are prominent leaders, who work to mobilize 17 SDGs by **2030**

Leh to host first edition of Himalayan Film Festival

- **Anurag Thakur** will inaugurate **first edition of Himalayan Film Festival (THFF)** tomorrow at **Leh, Ladakh**
- It will be a five days is being held from September 24 to 28.
- Ladakh is hosting THFF 2021 as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' for commemorating 75 years of India's Independence.
- Inaugural of the festival will witness movie 'Shershah'
- It is organized by **Leh** in collaboration with **Directorate of Film Festivals** under **Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**

Former England Footballer Jimmy Greaves Passes Away

- Former England professional footballer, **Jimmy Greaves (81 years)** passed away in Danbury, England
- He is England's fourth-highest international goal scorer (44 goals), Tottenham Hotspur's highest ever goalscorer (266 goals), highest goal scorer in the history of English top-flight football (357 goals)
- He is also a member of **English Football Hall of Fame**.
- He began his professional career at **Chelsea in 1957**

Bangladesh govt to set up e-commerce regulatory body

- **Bangladesh govt** will set up an **e-commerce regulatory body** to monitor the sector properly.
- The step has been taken after major e-commerce company of Bangladesh allegedly cheated consumers worth hundreds of crores
- Other proposals include formation of a central complaint management cell, mandatory registration, action against schemers and amending the Digital Security Act and Money Laundering Prevention Act.

Harmilan Kaur sets national record in 1500m National Open Championship

- Punjab's **Harmilan Kaur Bains** sets a new national record the **1,500 metres** on the second day of the **60th National Open Athletics Championships** in **Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Telangana**.
- She breaks the record of Sunita Rani
- Harmilan went undefeated in eight national-level 1,500 metres races since January 2020.
- Naresh Kumar from Andhra Pradesh and Delhi's Tarandeep Kaur took the honours as the fastest male and female athlete of the meet by winning the 100 metres dash.



Odisha to host FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup 2021

- **Odisha** will host prestigious **FIH Odisha Hockey Men's Junior World Cup Bhubaneswar 2021**.
- The company successfully hosted **2018 Men's Hockey World Cup**.
- It will be held from 24 November to 5 December 2021
- It will feature 16 teams: **India, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, South Africa, Egypt, Belgium, England, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, USA, Canada, Chile and Argentina**.
- Odisha is also gearing up to host 2023 FIH Men's Hockey World Cup in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela

Govt sets up India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL)

- Govt has set up an **asset management company (AMC)** named **India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL)** with paid-up capital of **Rs. 80.5 lakh** on an authorized capital of **Rs 50 crore**
- **IDRCL** will work in collaboration with **National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL)** to clean up bad loans
- **Shareholders of IDRCL:** Bank of Baroda, Punjab National Bank, Bank of India, Bank of Maharashtra, SBI, UBI, Canara Bank, Indian Bank and IDBI Bank.
- IDRCL is a service operational entity.

India, Australia hold Joint Working Group meeting on Coal and Mines

- **India and Australia** held **1st virtual Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting** on Coal and Mines
- It is a precursor to the upcoming India-Australia Energy Dialogue scheduled to be held in October
- Meeting focused on Indian and Australian coal resources in present and future scenario.
- They also discussed India Australia collaboration on Clean Coal Technology, Surface Coal Gasification, Coal Bed Methane, Technology deployed for fire quenching, etc

India signs Rs. 20,000 cr deal with Tata consortium for 56 aircraft

- The **Defence Ministry** signed a deal worth over Rs 20,000 crore with Airbus Defence and Space of Spain for 56 "C-295" medium transport aircraft.
- They will replace the ageing **Avro-748 planes** of the Indian Air Force inducted into service in the 1960s.
- The **C-295 is a multi-role aircraft** with several configurations to meet mission requirements. It envisages the total manufacturing of aircraft in India.
- Airbus Def. and Space Headquarters: **Taufkirchen, Germany**.

PM Modi to address UN General Assembly in New York today

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will address the **76th session** of the **UN General Assembly** in New York later this evening.
- This will be his **7th address** to the General Assembly in person.
- Last year it was a virtual address in the wake of the **COVID19 pandemic**.
- The **United Nations General Assembly** is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations
- President: **Abdulla Shahid**
- **Headquarters:** New York, United States.



World's Highest EV Charging Station Inaugurated At Kaza in Himachal Pradesh

- The world's highest **electric vehicle charging station (500 ft)** has been inaugurated in **Kaza village** of Lahaul and Spiti district in **Himachal Pradesh**.
- The electric vehicle charging station is set up at a height of **500 ft**.
- The objective of this initiative is to check vehicular pollution and promote electric vehicles for a clean and green environment in the region.

Antyodaya divas being Observed across India on 25th September

- **Antyodaya Diwas** is celebrated every year on **25th September** to mark the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya.
- This year, the **Antyodaya Diwas** marks the 105th birth anniversary of Upadhyaya.
- He was the co-founder of **Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJS)** and a **Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)** thinker.
- He was born (1916) in Chandrabhan village (now called Deendayal Dham) in Uttar Pradesh's Mathura district.

Amitav Ghosh's 'Jungle Nama' released as audiobook

- **Amitav Ghosh's** 'Jungle Nama' has now been released as an audiobook with music and voice of US-based Ali Sethi.
- This is an exclusive collaboration among three of the most influential figures from the world of arts
- It is the story of the avaricious rich **merchant. Dhona**, the poor lad Dukhey, and his mother
- "Jungle Nama" is a free adaptation of the legend, told entirely in a poyar-like meter of 24 syllable couplets that replicate the cadence of the original.

Indian Army to organise "Bijoya Sanskritik Mahotsav" at Kolkata

- **Indian Army** will organise "**Bijoya Sanskritik Mahotsav**" from **26th to 29th September 2021** in **Kolkata**.
- It will mark **50 years of the liberation** of Bangladesh and India's victory over Pakistan in the 1971 Indo-Pak War.
- Lt Gen **Manoj Pande**, Army Commander, Eastern Command, will inaugurate the event in the presence of war veterans and other eminent personalities.

Centre notifies scheme for promotion of 'Medical Device Parks'

- The centre has taken a **key initiative** to support the **medical devices industry** to reach its potential in the coming years under the "**Promotion of Medical Device Parks**" scheme.
- The ministry said that the Government of Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh have been given "in-principle" approval under the scheme."
- The total financial outlay of the scheme is **Rs 400 crore** and the tenure of the scheme is from **FY 2020-2021** to FY 2024-2025.

