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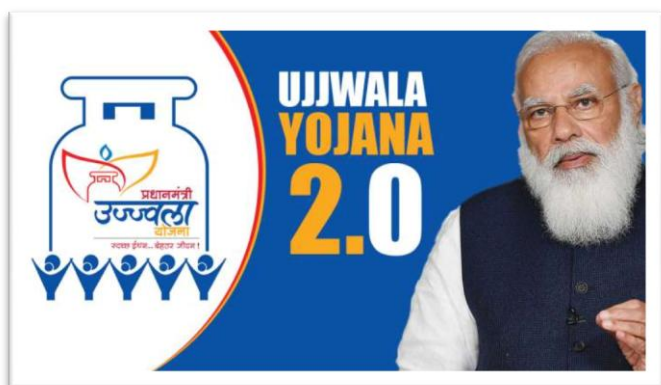


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# NATIONAL NEWS

## PM Narendra Modi launches PMUY 2.0 from Mahoba, Uttar Pradesh



Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually launched the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana 2.0 (PMUY 2.0) Scheme from Mahoba district of Uttar Pradesh.]

- Under PMUY 2.0, an additional 10 million LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas) connections will be provided to the beneficiaries. Lakhs of Migrant Families are also expected to benefit from the scheme.

### Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)

PMUY is a flagship scheme of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG). It was launched on 1st May

2016 in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.

- Objective - To make clean cooking fuel such as LPG available to the rural and deprived households.
- Financial assistance of 1,600 per household given by the centre to eligible households.

### About Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) :

- Union Minister - Hardeep Singh Puri (Rajya Sabha - Uttar Pradesh)
- Minister of state- RameswarTeli (Lok Sabha - Dibrugarh, Assam)

## MNRE launched Interest Subvention Scheme for Waste to Energy Bio methanation Projects

A webinar was held on the occasion of World Biofuel Day i.e., on August 10, 2021 where 'Organic Waste Streams for Industrial Renewable Energy Applications in India', a GEF-MNRE-UNIDO project, launched its financial scheme and GIS



(Geographic Information System) Waste Mapping tool.

These were launched by Dinesh Dayanand Jagdale Joint Secretary, MNRE.

- MNRE is acronym for Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- GEF stands for Global Environment Facility
- UNIDO is United Nations Industrial Development Organization

#### **About Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE):**

- Union Minister- Raj Kumar Singh (Arrah, Bihar)
- Minister of State (MoS)- BhagwanthKhuba (Bidar, Karnataka)

### **2021 Census to be India's 1<sup>st</sup> ever digital Census: MHA**

Minister of State for Home Affairs (MHA) Nityanand Rai stated in the Parliament that the 16th Indian Census (to be undertaken in 2021) will be India's 1st ever Digital Census.

- Data for the Census 2021 will be collected through mobile Apps and will be uploaded on the portal directly.

- The Data from the census will be made available by 2024-25.
- Government of India conducts Census every 10 years. The last census was conducted in 2011.

#### **Historical background: Census of India**

The Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India (RGCCI) under MHA has been conducting the Census of India since 1949.

- The first census of Independent India was conducted in 1951.
- Censuses are conducted under Census of India Act, 1948.

#### **About Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India (RGCCI) :**

Registrar General and Census Commissioner - Vivek Joshi  
1st Census Commissioner of India - W. W. Plowden  
Established -1961  
HQ- New Delhi

### **GeM organizes 5<sup>th</sup> Edition of National Public Procurement Conclave 2021**

The Government e-Marketplace (GeM) in association with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) organized the 5th edition of National Public Procurement Conclave 2021 (NPCC 2021) on August 9th & 10th, 2021.

- Theme of the Conclave was "Technology enabled Government Procurement
- Towards Efficiency, Transparency, and Inclusiveness".

It was inaugurated by the Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Anupriya Patel.

The 2021 Conclave provided an opportunity for Government buyers, sellers, industry, and academia to interact with each other.

The top performing buyers and sellers were awarded for leading the procurement efforts through GeM in the FY 2020-21.

- Central Government Buyers - Winner - Ministry of Defence, Runner up – Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- State Government Buyers - Winner - Uttar Pradesh, Runner-up - Gujarat.
- Centre Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) - Winner - GAIL India Limited, Runner up - Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.

On the seller's front, the award was presented to TATA Motors Ltd, for best sales performance with Mahindra and Mahindra Ltd. being the runner up in this category.

## **India' Cleanest City Indore Declared as 1<sup>st</sup> Water Plus City of India**

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has declared Indore, Madhya Pradesh, the cleanest city of India, as the 1st 'water plus' city of India.

- Indore received the 1st Swachh Certification of Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) Water Plus from the MoHUA under the Swachh Survekshan 2021.
- It is a certificate provided by the MoHUA to a city for maintaining cleanliness in rivers and drains of its administration.
- A city/ward/circle/zone could be declared as Water Plus only if all wastewater released from households, etc. is treated before releasing it to the environment.
- The certification of SBM Water Plus is valid for 6 months and the certification process needs to be carried out every 6 months.

### **About Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA):**

- Union Minister - Hardeep Singh Puri (Constituency - Uttar Pradesh)

- Minister of State - Kaushal Kishore (Constituency - Mohanlalganj, Uttar Pradesh)

## DRDO successfully Test fires Technology Cruise Missile



Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test fired the Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile (ITCM) with a new Made-in-India Turbofan Engine 'Manik' from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Odisha.

- The missile flew for around 150 km with an indigenous cruise engine.
- The missile has been designed and developed by DRDO. It is an Advanced version of Nirbhay Missile - a Subsonic Cruise Missile.
- This is the 1st successful test firing with the indigenous booster engine 'Manik', after the previous unsuccessful attempt in October, 2020.

## Manik Engine

The Manik engine has been designed and developed by DRDO's Gas Turbine Research Establishment in Bengaluru. It will pave the way for development of different versions of the engine and long-range cruise missiles.

## Niti Aayog Releases Handbook to Guide EV Charging Infrastructure in India



The Handbook named 'Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Implementation' was released by NITI Aayog. The objective of the book is to provide guidance to the state governments and local bodies about policy making and setting up of norms related to charging networks for Electric Vehicle (EV).

- It has been developed by NITI Aayog in association with the Ministry of Power (MoP), Department of Science and Technology (DST), Bureau of

Energy Efficiency (BEE) and World Resources Institute (WRI) India.

#### Key Points:

It aims to enhance charging infrastructure and boost electric mobility of vehicles in India.

- It provides technological framework, support and government funded structures to aid the EV charging facilities. It addresses the challenges associated with EV and suggests ways to tackle them.
- Target - India has set an ambitious goal of increasing the Electric Vehicle numbers to 30% by 2030.
- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Department of Heavy Industry pledged their support to the Handbook.
- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Department of Heavy Industry pledged their support to the Handbook.

#### About NitiAayog :

- Niti Aayog stands for National Institute for Transforming India,

formed by Executive action. It replaced the previous Planning Commission of India on 1st January 2015.

- Chairman - Prime Minister Narendra Modi Vice-chairman - Dr Rajiv Kumar (September 2017- present) CEO - Amitabh Kant

#### About World Resource Institute (WRI):

- Organisation which works with governments, institutions and civil societies it's a Nonprofit global research organization
- CEO – Andrew Steer
- HQ– Washington DC
- Founded-1982

### The Installed Renewable Energy Capacity of India Crossed 100 GW

The total installed renewable energy capacity in India, excluding large Hydro, has crossed the milestone of 100 GigaWatts (GW). With this, India holds 4<sup>th</sup> position in the world in terms of installed Renewable Energy (RE) capacity, 5<sup>th</sup> in solar and 4<sup>th</sup> in wind in terms of installed capacity. Target-100 GW achievement is considered to be part of India's target of 450 GW of renewable

energy capacity by 2030 , increasing 25 GW every year and it will reach 146 GW installed RE capacity if we include large hydro projects.

#### **Key points:**

India has achieved power generation capacity of 383.73 GW excluding hydro).

- Allocation of RE capacity such as 50 GW is under installation and 27 GW is open for tendering purposes.
- Solar and wind generation recorded a high growth of 43.1 GW in 2021.
- India plans to reduce its carbon footprint by 33-35 % from its 2005 levels by 2030 and meet 40% of its electricity needs from non-fossil fuel sources by then, as part of its commitments to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change adopted by 195 countries in Paris in 2015.

#### **About Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)**

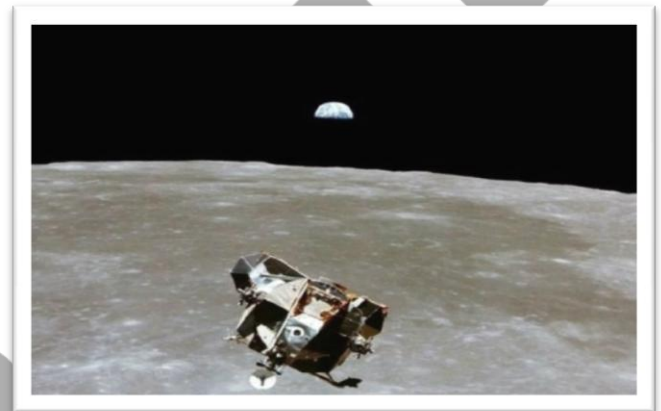
It is the only which is financing and providing capital support to the RE in India.

- Chairman & Managing Director – Pradip Kumar Das
- HQ – New Delhi

#### **About Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**

- Lok Union Minister – Raj Kumar
- Minister of State – Bagwanth Khuba (Lok Sabha Constituency – Bidar, Karnataka)

#### **Chandrayaan-2 Orbiter Detects Presence of Water Molecules on Moon**



The Imaging Infrared Spectrometer (IIRS) instrument on the Chandrayaan-2 lunar orbiter has detected the presence of both Hydroxyl ions (OH) and Water Molecules (H<sub>2</sub>O) on the surface of the moon.

- The findings will be crucial for future planetary exploration for resource utilization and have been published in the journal 'Current Science'.
- It is authored by Former ISRO Chairman AS Kiran Kumar.
- ISRO's Chandrayaan-2 mission was launched in 2019.



## **Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav Released Elephant & Tiger Population Estimation Protocol**

Bhupender Yadav, Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, released the Elephant & Tiger Population Estimation Protocol on the occasion of the World Elephant Day 2021 (12th August), which was celebrated at Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi.

- This protocol is to be adopted in the All-India elephant and tiger population estimation exercise in 2022.
- For the first time, The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) is converging Elephant and Tiger population estimation exercise.

### **Release of 4th Edition of Trumpet:**

Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav, along with Minister of State of MoEFCC Ashwini Kumar Choubey released the 4th edition of the quarterly newsletter "Trumpet".

- It is published by Project Elephant Division, under the MoEFCC and Elephant Cell, Wildlife Institute of India (WII), An Autonomous Institution of the MoEFCC.

### **About Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC):**

- Union Minister- Bhupender Yadav (Rajya Sabha- Rajasthan)
- Minister of State- Ashwini Kumar Choubey (Constituency- Buxar, Bihar)

## **ISRO's GSLV F-10 rocket fails to put EOS-03 Satellite into Orbit**

Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) Largest Launch Vehicle Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) F-10 rocket failed to put Earth Observation Satellite (EOS-03) satellite (also known as GISAT-1) into the Geosynchronous orbit. It was launched from Satish Dhawan Space Center (SDSC), Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.

- The mission failed due to a technical anomaly in the cryogenic upper stage ignition.
- The mission is the 1st flight of GSLV with Ogive Payload fairing which can accommodate larger payloads.
- ISRO to launch Bhutan's INS-2B satellite into space by December 2021
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) targets to launch Bhutan's INS-2B satellite into space by December, 2021. It will be a joint collaboration between India and Bhutan



- The satellite will be used to map Bhutan's natural resources and for disaster management.

#### **About Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) :**

- Chairman- Dr. K Sivan
- HQ- Bengaluru, Karnataka

### **MoEF&CC notifies Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules 2021 to Prohibit Single Use Plastic Items by 2022**

On August 13, 2021, in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 6, 8 and 25 of Environment (Protection) Act 1986, (29 of 1986), the Central Government amended the Plastic Waste Management (PWM) Rules, 2016 with Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2021.

These new rules were notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) prohibits the identified single use plastic items with low utility and high littering potential w.e.f. July 1, 2022.

With effect from September 30, 2021, the thickness of plastic carry bags has been increased from 50 microns to 75 microns.

#### **About Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC):**

- Union Minister- Bhupender Yadav (Constituency- Rajasthan)
- Minister of State (MoS)- Ashwini Kumar Choubey (Constituency- Buxar, Bihar)

### **PM released Capitalization Support Funds of Rs 1625 Crore to over 4 lakh SHGs**

On August 12, 2021, the Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi virtually participated in 'Atmanirbhar Narishakti se Samvad' where he interacted with women Self Help Group (SHG) members/community resource persons promoted under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM). Release of funds:

During the event, he released capitalization support funds of Rs. 1625 Crore to over 4 lakh SHGs as a major financial support to increase the scope of entrepreneurship among women on lines of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat.

- He also released 25 crores as seed money for 7500 SHG members under the PM Formalisation of Micro Food

Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme of Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoSPI). PMFME provides financial, technical and business support for upgradation of existing micro food processing enterprises.

- Apart from above, 4.13 crore funds were also released to 75 Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) being promoted under DAY-NRLM. During the event, a compendium of success stories of women SHG members, along with a handbook on universalization of farm livelihoods was released by PM.
- The PM recognized women SHGs contribution in making masks and sanitizers and providing food. Other Participants:

**Union minister for rural development and Panchayati raj Giriraj Singh;**

Union minister for food processing industries Pashupati Kumar Paras; Ministers of state (MoS) rural development, Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti and Fagga Singh Kulaste; MoS Panchayati raj Kapil Moreshwar Patil and MoS MoSPI Prahlad Singh Patel.

## India's 4 New Sites from Gujarat, Haryana Added to Ramsar List; Haryana Got 1<sup>st</sup> Ramsar Sites



In August 2021, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change announced the addition of 4 more wetlands from India, 2 each from Gujarat and Haryana in 'The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance'/ Ramsar Convention. Key Points:

### **Ramsar sites that are included:**

- Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary, Gujarat
- Wadhvana Wetland, Gujarat
- Sultanpur National Park, Gurgaon, Haryana
- Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary, Jhajjar, Haryana With this, the number of Ramsar sites in India became 46 and the surface area covered by the Ramsar sites became 1,083,322 hectares.
- Haryana got its 1st Ramsar sites and Gujarat's total sites count reached 3

(along with Nalsarovar, which was declared in 2012).

#### **About Ramsar Convention:**

- The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands is the intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.
- The Convention was adopted in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971 and came into force in 1975.

**Note :** World Wetlands Day will be celebrated on February 2nd every year. The theme of 2021 is "Wetland and Water".

#### **About Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change:**

- Union Minister - Bhupender Yadav (Constituency - Rajasthan)
- Minister of State - Ashwini Kumar Choubey (Constituency - Buxar, Bihar)

### **Overview of PM Narendra Modi's Address on India's 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day Celebrations**

On August 15th 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort in New Delhi on occasion of India's 75th Independence Day Celebrations.

- PM Modi laid the vision for the country for the next 25 years, he stated "SabkaSaath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and SabkaPrayas".
- He launched several initiatives on the occasion.

#### **Pradhan Mantri 'Gati Shakti' National Master Plan for Infrastructure**

Gati Shakti will act as the 'National Infrastructure Master Plan' and will help in setting a holistic and integrated approach in infrastructure construction. INR 100 Lakh Crore will be allotted for the Gati Shakti programme.

#### **75 Vande Bharat Trains**

- 75 Vande Bharat trains to be rolled out in 75 weeks of Amrit Mahotsav of Independence to connect every corner of India.

#### **Fortified Rice by 2024**

- To fight malnutrition, the government has set a target to provide fortified rice to the poor through the Public Distribution System, Mid-Day meals Scheme and Others by 2024.

#### **Sainik Schools for Girls**

- PM Modi announced, For the 1st time Ever, Girls will be allowed to enroll in the Sainik Schools across the country.



## National Hydrogen Mission

PM Modi announced the launch of the National Hydrogen Mission to make India the global production hub for clean hydrogen fuel production and exports.

## India's 1<sup>st</sup> Drone Forensic Lab and Research Centre inaugurated at Kerala



The Chief Minister (CM) of Kerala Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the India's first first-of-its-kind Drone Forensic Lab and Research Centre in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala during a function held in the SAP (Special Armed Police) parade ground. Notably, it was launched by the State police of Kerala.

- This lab-cum-research centre will address the rising security threat aspects of drones and will also look at the utility part of the unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

### Key Points:

- The inauguration was followed by the display and air show of drones.
- There are anti-national forces that are using drones for various destructive activities including spying, smuggling and terrorism.
- Kerala Police is also planning to develop an anti-drone system.

### About Kerala:

- Governor- Arif Mohammad Khan  
National Parks- Eravikulam National Park, Silent Valley National Park, and Pampadum Shola National Park  
Wildlife Sanctuaries- Neyyar Wildlife Sanctuary, Peechi-Vazhani Wildlife Sanctuary, and Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary

## Dr Jitendra Singh launched India's 1<sup>st</sup> and World's largest Cattle Genomic Chip 'IndiGau'



On August 13, 2021, Dr Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (MoS-Independent

Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences released 'IndiGau', India's first and world's largest Cattle Genomic Chip for the conservation of pure varieties of indigenous cattle breeds like, Gir, Kankrej, Sahiwal, Ongole etc.

The chip was developed by the scientists of National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NAIB), Hyderabad (Telangana). It is an autonomous institution under the aegis of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science & Technology (MoST).

#### **About Ministry of Science and Technology\_(MoST):**

- Dr Jitendra Singh Constituency- Udhampur, Jammu and Kashmir Departments- Department of Science & Technology (DST), Department of Biotechnology (DBT), and Department of Scientific & Industrial Research (DSIR)
- Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India- Dr. Krishnaswamy Vijay Raghavan

## **India. EAC sign Action Plan to Boost Trade**

A Joint Action Plan was signed between India and East African Community (EAC) to boost trade activities and faster clearance of goods of both the parties. It was signed during a virtual ceremony.

- The signing of the agreement will lead to a full Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) between the two sides.
- India has been selected as a partner due to the principle of Mutual Recognition \& Steady trade between EAC and India. Over the past five years (2014-2018), before the Covid-19 disruptions, trade between the two entities amounted to over USD 30 billion.
- The MRA once realised, will benefit companies under the Authorised Economic Operators (AEO) Programme run by the EAC Partner States. AEO is a programme run by EAC countries based on Principle of Mutual recognition and fair-trade practices.

#### **East African Community (EAC):**

The EAC is an intergovernmental organization of 6 countries- named as Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda

**About East Africa Community (EAC):**

- Chairperson of the Summit - Uhuru Kenyatta( President of Kenya)
- HQ - Arusha, Tanzania

**Neeraj Chopra ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in World Athletics Men's Javelin Throw Ranking 2021**



Indian Javelin Thrower Neeraj Chopra was ranked 2nd (up from 16) in the recently released World Athletics Men's Javelin Throw Ranking 2021. Neeraj was also ranked 129<sup>th</sup> in the Men's Overall Athletics Ranking.

- Neeraj Chopra won Gold Medal in Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

- Germany's Johannes Vetter (World No. 1) continued to be Number 1 in the Men's Javelin Throw Ranking.
- The World rankings for Athletics are issued by the Sport's governing body 'World Athletics'.

Neeraj Chopra Neeraj Chopra was born in Panipat, Haryana. His Gold Medal is India's 1st Medal in a Track & Field event.

- He threw the Javelin to a distance of 87.58, to win the Gold Medal.
- Overall, it is only India's 2nd individual Gold Medal in an Olympics. India's 1st individual Gold Medal was won by Abhinav Bindra in 10m Air Rifle at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

**President gives Assent to 'The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill 2021'**

President Ram Nath Kovind has given assent to the 'The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021' which amends the Income Tax Act, 1961 (IT Act) and the Finance Act, 2012.

Objective of Bill - To nullify retrospective tax provision & end retrospective taxes



imposed on Indirect Transfer of Indian Assets made before May 28,2012.

The Bill was introduced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Lok Sabha as a Money Bill.

#### **Key Points :**

The Finance Act, 2012 amended the IT Act, 1961 to impose tax liability on income earned from sale of shares of a foreign company on a retrospective basis. The new bill aims to nullify the retrospective basis for taxation.

- Retrospective tax means to pay tax for goods and services purchased in the past or income earned in the past.
- The bill will nullify tax liability imposed on persons if they fulfil certain set conditions.

#### **About Ministry of Finance**

- Union Minister - Nirmala Sitharaman(Rajya Sabha,Karnataka)
- Minister of State (MoS) - Dr S Bhagwat Karad (Rajya Sabha, Maharashtra) and Shri Pankaj Chaudhary (Maharajganj, Uttar Pradesh)

## **India and UK Navies conduct 'Exercise Konkan 2021' in Portsmouth, UK**

'Exercise Konkan- 2021', a bilateral Naval Exercise held between the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of Britain in Portsmouth, United Kingdom (UK).

- Indian Naval Ship (INS Tabar), a Talwar class stealth frigate of Indian Navy and HMS Westminster of the Royal Navy undertook the exercise in non-contact form due to Covid-19 pandemic.
- It aims to enhance interoperability, synergy and cooperation between both the Navies.

#### **Exercise Konkan:**

It is held annually since 2004 between the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of Britain. The 2019 Edition was held on the English Channel, UK.

#### **About United Kingdom :**

Prime Minister - Boris Johnson

Capital - London

Currency- Pound Sterling

## **'Exercise INDRA-2021', Joint Military Exercise between India and Russia in Volgograd, Russia**

The 12th Edition of Exercise INDRA-2021, a bilateral Military Exercise held between Indian Army and the military forces of Russian Federation in Volgograd, Russia (from 1st to 13th August, 2021).

- It will further strengthen mutual confidence and interoperability between the Indian and Russian Armies and enable sharing of best practices between the contingents of both the countries.
- INDRA is a joint biennial military exercise started in 2003 between India and Russia.

## **Kaziranga Becomes India's 1<sup>st</sup> National Park with Satellite Phones Facility**

Kaziranga National Park of Assam became India's first National park to be equipped with satellite phones, an initiative to boost anti-poaching measures in the park. Jishnu Barua, Chief Secretary of Assam presented 10 satellite phones to forest personnel at the National Park.

- The meeting chaired by Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma Chief Minister (CM) of Assam decided to provide the satellite phones to the forest personnel of the park.
- The 10 satellite phones were procured by the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) at an estimated cost of Rs lakhs.
- The Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) will be the service provider.

## **Tata Power Solar receives 50MW Solar PV & 50Mwh Battery Storage Project in Leh, Ladakh**

Tata Power Solar, a wholly owned subsidiary of Tata Power has received projects worth INR 386 crore to build a 50MWp Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Plant and 50 Mwh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project in Phyang village of Leh, Union Territory of Ladakh.

- The project will be India's 1st co-located large scale BESS solution and 1 st large scale solar project in the UT of Ladakh at a high altitude of 3600 meters above mean sea level.
- It includes design, engineering, construction of Solar Photovoltaic grid

connected power plant and BESS along with 10 years of operations and maintenance services.

- The project is expected to be completed by March 2023.

#### **About Tata Power :**

- Chief Executive Officer (CEO) & Managing Director (MD) - Praveer Sinha
- HQ - Mumbai, Maharashtra

#### **About Union Territory of Ladakh:**

- Capital - Leh
- Lieutenant Governor - Radha Krishna Mathur

### **WCD Minister Smriti Irani launches 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase of SAMVAD IN Bengaluru Karnataka**

The 2nd phase of SAMVAD was launched by the Union Minister of Women and Child Development (WCD) Smriti Zubin Irani in Bengaluru, Karnataka on the successful completion of one year of SAMVAD programme.

- SAMVAD stands for Support, Advocacy & Mental Health intervention for children in Vulnerable circumstances and Distress.

#### **Objective**

It aims to ensure holistic development and psychosocial well-being of children and adolescents. Highlights

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development is funding this initiative.
- National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) is the implementing agency
- It is a national level initiative and Integrated Resource working for providing protection, support for mental health, psychosocial care for children.

#### **About the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS)**

The NIMHANS is the apex centre of mental health and neuroscience education. It operates autonomously under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Location: Bangalore Director: Dr. Pratima Murthy

#### **About The Ministry of Women and Child Development**

Minister: Smriti Zubin Irani (Amethi, Uttar Pradesh) Minister of state: Dr Munjpara Mahendra bhaji (Surendra Nagar, Gujarat).



## **India, Australia signed Joint Guidance Document to boost Naval Ties**

On August 18, 2021, a 'Joint Guidance for the Australia-India Navy to Navy Relationship' document was signed between the Indian Navy and Royal Australian Navy during a virtual ceremony.

The signing of this document was on the lines of the '2020 Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP)' which was agreed between the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison during India-Australia Leaders' Virtual Summit on June 4, 2020.

It was signed by Admiral Karambir Singh, Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS-24th), Indian Navy; and Vice Admiral Michael J Noonan, Chief of Navy, Australian Navy.

### **Cabinet Approvals on August 18, 2021**

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the following initiatives on August 18, 2021.

- The cabinet has approved the ratification of the Kigali Amendment for phase-down of hydrofluorocarbons

(HFCs) by India under the Montreal Protocol to prevent greenhouse gas emission.

- The Cabinet approved the launch of the 'National Mission on Edible Oils - Oil Palm' (NMEO-OP) as a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme with a financial outlay of Rs 11,040 crore
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved a revival package of Rs 77.45 crore for the revival of North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation (NERAMAC) Limited.
- Cabinet notified the MoU signed between the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND), Switzerland in February 2021 to strengthen the scientific and technological collaboration.

## **4 New Districts and 18 New Tehsils Formed in Chhattisgarh**

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister (CM) Bhupesh Baghel announced the creation of 4 New Districts and 18 New Tehsil in the state. New districts named as

Manendragarh, MohlaManpur, Shakti and Sarangarh- Bilaigarh. With this formation, there will be a total of 32 districts in the state.

#### **Major Announcements:**

- A new "Minimata Park" will be opened exclusively for women in every district headquarter and municipal corporation of the state. Minimata served as the first woman MP from Chhattisgarh, who got elected in 1952. She worked for womenempowerment and social welfare.
- 'Dhanvantari Yojana' announced by the CM in urban areas of the state. it will provide medicine to the people at concessional rate.
- 'Dial 112'- emergency helpline services extended across the state.

#### **About Chhattisgarh- Chief Minister: Bhupesh Baghel:**

- Wildlife Sanctuary - Pamed Wild Buffalo Wildlife Sanctuary, Semarsot Wildlife Sanctuary, Sitanadi Wildlife Sanctuary. Zoological Park- Nandanvan Jungle Safari, MaitriBaag Zoological Park, KananPendari Zoological Garden.

## **Rajnath Singh launches DISC 5.0 under IDEX-DIO**

Union Minister Rajnath Singh, Ministry of Defense (MoD) has launched Defense India Startup Challenge (DISC) 5.0 (5th version) under Innovations for Defense Excellence-Defense Innovation Organisation (iDEX-DIO) through video conference.

- The Challenge has been launched by Ministry of Defence in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission (AIM).
- It will leverage India's startup ecosystem to develop Defense technologies, Equipment design \& Manufacturing capabilities
- Under DISC 5.0, 35 challenges were made open of which 13 from Armed forces & 22 from Defense Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) to startups, Innovators & MSMEs to provide their innovative ideas on technologies related to the defense sector.
- The challenges are in the areas of Situational awareness, Augmented Reality, Artificial Intelligence, Aircraft-trainer, Non-lethal devices, 5G network, Under-water domain awareness, Drone SWARMS and Data Capturing.

- DISC 1.0 was launched in 2018 and in the previous 4 Editions, more than 80 startups, MSMEs & Individual innovators have emerged as winners in over 40 technological areas. Innovations for Defense Excellence- Defense Innovation Organisation (iDEXDIO) It was launched in 2018 by the Department of Defense Production(DDP), MoD to achieve self-reliance and foster innovation & technology development in defence and aerospace sectors.
- It is funded and managed by DIO, a not for profit company as per section 8 of the companies Act 2013 founded by DPSUs- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) & Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)
- iDEX is used as a procurement avenue under Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP-2020), earmarking INR 1,000 crore for domestic procurement through iDEX for financial year \$2021-2022\$

#### **About Ministry of Defense (MoD) :**

- Union Minister - Rajnath Singh (Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh)
- Minister of State (MoS) - Ajay Bhatt (Nainital-Udhamsingh Nagar, Uttarakhand)

## **SC allows Women to appear in NDA exam for the first time in 65 years**

The Supreme Court (SC) in its interim order has allowed Women candidates to appear in the upcoming National Defense Academy (NDA) examination. Women will be appearing for the 1st time in the 65 years history of the NDA examination.

- Women candidates will be permitted to sit for the NDA exam which is Rescheduled on November 14th, 2021 and their admission into the NDA will be subject to final orders of SC
- Students between age group of 16 to 19 and those who are in Class 12 or above can apply for the NDA
- NDA examination is conducted by the Union Public Services Commission (UPSC)

#### **About National Defense Academy (NDA):**

- It was Established in December 1954 in Khadakwasla, Pune, Maharashtra.
- NDA is the joint defense service training institute of the Indian Armed forces where the cadets of the Indian Army, the Indian Navy & the Indian Air force train together.



- It is the 1st tri-service academy in the world.

#### About Supreme Court of India :

Chief Justice of India (CJI) - N V Ramana  
HQ - New Delhi

### President Ramnath Kovind approved the Constitution (127<sup>th</sup> Amendment) Bill 2021

The President of India, RamNathKovind approved the Constitution (127th Amendment) Bill, 2021 . After his assent, the bill has changed into the Constitution (105th Amendment) Act, 2021 which will restore the power of states and Union Territories (UTs) to identify and specify Socially and Educationally backward Classes (SEBCs).

- The Constitution 127th Amendment Bill was passed by the Parliament on 11th August, 2021 in the Monsoon Session.
- It has amended articles 338A , 342-A and 366 (26C) of the Indian Constitution
- **Article 338 B** - It deals with the structure, duties and powers of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)

- **Article 342-A** - It empowers the President to notify a particular caste as SEBC and also enables the parliament to change the list
- **Article 366(26 C)** - gives the definition for SEBCS

#### About National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC):

- It is a constitutional body under Article 338 B of the Constitution of India under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment Chairman - Bhagwan Lal Sahni
- HQ - New Delhi

### Amolopsadicola: New Species of Cascade Frog Discovered from Arunachal Pradesh



Indian and American Biologists from Delhi University, Wildlife Institute of India and North Carolina Museum of Natural Science (USA) have discovered a new species of Cascade Frog from Adi

Hills of Arunachal Pradesh. The species is named *Amolopsadicola* (Adi Cascade Frog) after the Adi Hills, the home of Adi tribes, an indigenous people from the Himalayan region of Arunachal Pradesh.

- The details of the discovery are published as "Phylogenetic position of the poorly known montane cascade frog *Amolops monticola* (Ranidae) and description of a new closely related species from Northeast India" in the Journal of Natural History.

#### About *Amolopsadicola* :

- *Amolopsadicola* belonging to the genus *Amolops*, is a brown colour frog of size ranging from 4 to 7 cm.
- The new species was identified based on its external morphology, DNA and distinct calling pattern.
- The genus *amops* is one of the largest groups of ranid frogs (family *ranidae*), which has around 73 known species located across the Northeast and North India, Nepal, Bhutan, China and Malay peninsula.

#### Note:

The study resolved the taxonomic confusion around the identification of another cascade frog species.

## India finalizes deal with Russia to buy AK-103 Rifles under Emergency Procurement



On August 20, 2021, India finalized a deal with Russia for the procurement of a sizeable number of AK-103 series of assault rifles for the Indian Army under the provisions of emergency financial powers granted to the three services to make urgent purchases.

- This deal is on the lines of the mega infantry modernization programme by the Indian Army for the replacement of its ageing and obsolete weapons with a large number of light machine guns, battle carbines and assault rifles.
- No specification on the number of rifles or the cost of procurement has been provided.

### Background:

- In October 2017, the Indian Army began the process to acquire around 7 lakh rifles, 44,000 light machine guns (LMGs) and nearly 44,600 carbines to further enhance the combat capability of the Army. Points to be noted:
- In September 2020, Ministry of Defence and Russian representatives inked a major deal for manufacturing -6 lakh AK-47 rifles in India under 'Make-in-India' programme. These will be manufactured by the Indo-Russian Rifles Pvt. Ltd, a joint venture between the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), the Kalashnikov Concern (manufacturer of the AK rifles) and Rosoboronexport, the Russian state agency for military exports.
- The AK-47 203 is the latest and most advanced version of the AK-47 rifle, which will replace the Indian Small Arms System (INSAS) 5.56 mm assault rifle that are currently in use with the Army, Navy and the Air Force.

### About Russia:

- It is the largest country in the world by area. Its Lake Baikal is the deepest and oldest lake in the world, and the largest freshwater lake by volume.
- Capital- Moscow Currency- Russian Ruble President - Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin

### 2<sup>nd</sup> 'Zair-Al-Bahr' Maritime Exercise 2021 conducted between India and Qatar

On August 9-14, 2021, the 2nd edition of Bilateral Maritime Exercise Zair-Al-Bahr (Roar of the Sea) 2021 between the Indian Navy and Qatar Emiri Naval Force (QENF) was conducted in the Persian Gulf.

It consisted of a three-day harbour phase followed by a two-day sea phase.

Indian Navy Guided Missile Stealth Frigate INS (Indian Naval Ship) Trikand arrived at Qatar's capital city, Doha for participation in the sea phase. It was commanded by Captain Harish Bahuguna.

### About Indian Navy:

- Chief of Naval Staff (CNS)- Admiral Karambir Singh (24<sup>th</sup>)
- Integrated Headquarters of Ministry of Defence (Navy)- New Delhi

### **Tiwa tribe of Karbi Anglong district, Assam celebrated Wanchuwa Festival 2021**

On August 18, 2021, the Tiwa tribal community living in the hills celebrated the Wanchuwa festival 2021 in Morten Village in Karbi Anglong District of Assam. This festival is related to agriculture as it marks a good harvest and also involves prayers for protection from pests and natural calamities.

- On this day Tiwa tribesmen perform their traditional dance in their native attire along with a bunch of rituals performed by people clad in their native attires.

#### **About Tiwa Tribe:**

Also known as Lalung tribe, Tiwa tribe's people are a part of Bodo Kachari group. They mainly live in Assam and Meghalaya and also found in some parts of Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur.

- The word 'Ti' means water and 'Wa' means superior.

### **PM Narendra Modi inaugurates and lays foundation stone for Various Projects in Somnath, Gujarat**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has Inaugurated & laid foundation Stone for various projects in Somnath, Gujarat Virtually.

PM Modi inaugurated the following projects

- The Somnath Promenade,
- The Somnath Exhibition Centre
- Reconstructed Temple precinct of Old (Juna) Somnath.

The Prime Minister laid the foundation Stone of Parvatimata Temple in Somnath Temple premises.

Under Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) Scheme, announced in 2014, is developing 40 major places of pilgrimage out of which, 15 are already completed. In Gujarat, work is on for three projects worth around Rs. 180 crores.

In Gujarat under PRASHAD scheme are Development of Pilgrimage Amenities at Maa Ambaji Temple, Banaskantha & Development of Public Plaza/Entry Plaza at Somnath.



### About Somnath Temple:

- It is located in Veraval in Saurashtra, Gujarat.
- It is believed to be the 1st among the 12 Jyotirlinga Shrines of Shiva
- The chairman of Somnath mandir trust is PM Narendra Modi

**Fact :** In the 2019-Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index released by World Economic Forum (WEF), India ranked at 34th place from 65th in 2013.

### About Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) Scheme

- Launched in 2015 & comes under Ministry of Tourism
- It aims Integrated development of Pilgrimage destinations in planned, prioritised & sustainable manner to provide complete religious tourism experience.

### About Gujarat Governor :

- Acharya Devvrat
- National Park - Gir, Blackbuck and Marine
- Wildlife Sanctuaries - Girnar, Pania, Ratanmahal sloth bear and Purna

## FM Nirmala Sitharaman launches INR 250 crore Ubharte Sitaare Fund

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has launched UbharteSitaare Fund (USF) of Corpus INR 250 crore with a green shoe option of INR 250 crore for Export oriented Small & mid-sized companies across the country.

- USF is jointly funded by Export and Import (EXIM) Bank of India & Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)
- It is an Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) with a contribution of INR 40 crore each by EXIM Bank & SIDBI has been registered with Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in July 2021.

### Ubharte Sitaare Fund (USF)

#### Objective :

- To identify and invest in small and mid-sized companies in the Manufacturing and Services sector with good Export potential that could be future champions of export&handhold them through the growth phase.
- The Fund would invest by way of equity, and equity like products in

export-oriented units, both in the manufacturing and services sectors, across the country.

#### **About Small Industries Development Bank of India**

- SIDBI Establishment - April 1990.
- Chairman & Managing Director - Sivasubramanian Ramann
- HQ- Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

#### **About Export and Import (EXIM) Bank of India**

- Establishment- 1982
- Deputy Managing Director - Harsha Bangari, N.Ramesh
- Headquarters - Mumbai, Maharashtra  
Regulated by Reserve Bank of India

### **India's first SMOG Tower inaugurated by Arvind Kejriwal in Delhi**

India's first smog tower launched in Delhi as a pilot project by the Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal at Baba Kharak Marg, Connaught Place. It was developed by IIT-Delhi and IIT- Bombay.

**Objective** - To improve the air quality.

Nodal Agency - Delhi Pollution Control Committee(DPCC).

#### **About the Smog Tower:**

- The new tower- It is about 20m tall, set up to improve the air quality in a radius of around 1 km.
- Financial Outlay-The tower was built at the cost of INR 20 crores, which was financed by the government of Delhi.
- The towers have 1200 air filters which are developed by experts of University of Minnesota of the United States.

#### **Working Process:**

- A total of 40 fans have been installed at the bottom of the tower. Air will be sucked in from the top of the tower, filtered and released through the fans at the bottom.
- IIT-Delhi and IIT- Bombay were the technical advisors for the project. The Performance Report on a monthly basis will be presented by the scientists of Delhi Pollution Control Committee(DPCC).
- This smog tower has the capacity to purify 1000 cubic metres of air per second and it is estimated that it will reduce PM2.5 concentration by around 70 %.

## Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched National Monetisation Pipeline

Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman launched the asset monetisation pipeline of Central ministries and public sector entities named National Monetisation pipeline (NMP).

- The NMP report was developed by NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) in consultation with infrastructure line ministries.
- **Objective:** To list out the government's (govt) infrastructure assets that are to be sold in the next 4 years.
- The aggregate monetisation potential under NMP through core assets of the central govt over the 4-year period (i.e. from FY22 to FY25) is estimated at Rs 6 lakhcrores.
- **Monetisation:** It is the process of earning revenue from an asset business by converting the assets into cash or a form that is easily convertible into cash.

### About NITI Aayog:

Establishment - January 1, 2015

- HQ - New Delhi Chairperson - Prime Minister (Current - Narendra Modi)  
CEO - Amitabh Kant

## India and Philippines conduct 'Maritime Partnership Exercise' in the West Philippine Sea

The Indian Navy conducts a 'Maritime Partnership Exercise' with the Philippines Navy in the West Philippine Sea at the South China Sea region on 23rd August 2021.

- **Objective:** It aims to further strengthen bilateral collaboration in the maritime domain to ensure a stable, peaceful & prosperous Indo-Pacific region.

### Maritime Partnership Exercise

- The Indian Navy was represented by Indian Naval Ship (INS) Ranvijay and INS Kora, with the Philippine Navy's BRP Antonio Luna, Frigate FF151.
- It included several Operational maneuvers with the consolidation of Interoperability between both the Navies.

### About Philippines President

- Rodrigo Duterte Capital - Manila  
Currency - Philippines Peso  
About Indian Navy Chief of Naval Staff (CNS)

- Admiral Karambir Singh Integrated Headquarters of Ministry of Defence (Navy) - New Delhi

## **GoI launches 'Operation Devi Shakti' to Evacuate Indians from Afghanistan**

The Government of India (GoI) has launched a rescue mission named 'Operation Devi Shakti' to evacuate stranded Indians from the Taliban-Captured Afghanistan.

- The operation is carried out by the Indian Air Force (IAF), Air India & the officials at the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in collaboration with the US and several other countries.
- India has evacuated more than 800 people so far, since the Taliban captured Afghanistan.

### **Recent Developments in Afghanistan :**

- Taliban has taken control of Afghanistan nearly 20 years after the US led military alliance left the country. Amrullah Saleh, Afghanistan's 1st Vice President declared himself as the caretaker president of Afghanistan, after former President Ashraf Ghani fled the country.

## **Operation Blue Freedom: An Expedition by Divyangjans to World's Highest Battlefield**

In August 2021, the Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Virendra Kumar flagged off 'Operation Blue Freedom', a world record expedition by Divyangjans (people with disabilities) from across India to the world's highest battlefield - Siachen Glacier (Kumar Post).

- The expedition team was trained by 'Team CLAW', a team of Armed Forces veterans.
- The battalion headquarters on the Siachen glacier located close to an altitude of 16, 000 feet is named 'Kumar post' to honour Colonel Narinder 'Bull' Kumar, who played a major role in Operation Meghdoot and securing the Siachen Glacier in 1984.

## **Land Degradation; the most pressing environmental problem of India; Findings Released by ISRO**

In accordance with the findings in 'Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India' released by Indian Space



Research Organisation (ISRO), land degradation is the most pressing environmental problem of India.

- Almost 30 % of India's geographical area is already affected as all Indian states have recorded an increase in degraded land in the past 15 years mainly in northeastern states.
- These findings are premised upon the data from 2018-19.

#### Key Figures:

- Currently, 97.85 million hectares (mha) of land, an area 2.5 times the size of India's largest state Uttar Pradesh, has already been degraded. Of this, 3.32 mha an area 22 times the size of Delhi has been added in the 15 years between 2003-05 and 2018-19.
- Rajasthan, the most degraded state, along with Uttar Pradesh and Telangana, have seen a reduction in their degraded land in the last 15 years.
- Rajasthan, which accounts for almost 22 per cent of the degraded land in the country, reclaimed almost 388,000 ha, an area roughly 2.6 times the size of Delhi. Uttar Pradesh (285,665 ha) and Telangana

(19,974 ha) together reclaimed degraded land twice the size of Delhi during the period.

Among the most degraded states Rajasthan is followed by Maharashtra and Gujarat.

#### Key Reasons behind Degradation:

- Water erosion is the most common reason (80%) for degradation of non-irrigated farmland, followed by wind erosion (17 %), salinity / alkalinity in land (2 %) and water logging (1 %)
- In order to become land degradation neutral by 2030, as announced by the Prime Minister in September 2019 at the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), India needs to face extreme challenges.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Ladakh Nomadic Festival Inaugurated at KorzokPhu by LG R K Mathur

Lieutenant Governor (LG) Radha Krishna (RK) Mathur inaugurated a 2 day 'Ladakh Nomadic Festival' in the region of Changthang at KorzokPhu, Ladakh. The event was organised by Ladakh Cultural Academy in association with the Department of Tourism.

### **Aim :**

- To promote tourism in the Changthang region of Ladakh.
- Highlights
- He admired the exquisite product - Pashmina, for which Changthang people are known around the world.
- LG also visited Korzyk monastery and geothermal project site at Puga.

### **About Ladakh**

- Governor- R K Mathur
- National park-Hemis National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuary- Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary
- Karakoram Wildlife Sanctuary, Kanji Wildlife Sanctuary.

## **Sarbananda Sonowal Launches Y Break App in New Delhi**

Union Minister of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Homeopathy (AYUSH), Sarbananda Sonowal has launched Mobile Appplication-Y Break App from Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi as part of week-long activities & campaigns to commemorate 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' from August 30th to September 5th.

- The mobile application has been developed by Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY), New Delhi.

### **Objective:**

- A platform to make Yoga an integral part of people's life at Workplace.
- A 5 minutes Yoga protocol for Office goers which includes Asanas, Pranayama & Dhyan.
- It will be helpful for all government & private employees to Refresh, reduce stress and refocus with enhanced immunity at their workplaces.
- Along with the app launch, he also inaugurated the yearlong campaigns of cultivation of medicinal plants in farmland and distribution of medicinal plants to households, sensitisation of School and College going students on Ayush systems.

### **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**

- It is an initiative by the Government of India (GoI) to organise a series of events to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of India's Independence.
- It will continue till 15th August, 2023 . The Mahotsav will be celebrated as a Jan-Utsav in the spirit of Jan-Bhagidari.

### **About Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Homeopathy (AYUSH):**

- Union Minister – Sarbananda Sonowal (Currently, He is not a member of Parliament)
- Minister of State – Mahendra Munjapara (Loksabha Surendranagar, Gujarat)

### **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Launched 'My Pad My Right' Project in Tripura**

Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Minister of Finance has launched the "My Pad My Right" (MPMR) project, at Killa Village, Gomati District, Tripura on the concluding day of her 2 -day visit to Tripura. MPMR project is an initiative of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and NABFOUNDATION, a wholly-owned subsidiary of NABARD to install low-cost sanitary pad making machines in more than 700 districts.

#### **Aim of MPMR project:**

- To bring livelihood and menstrual hygiene closer to rural women by way of grant, wage support and capital equipment. Features of MPMR Project:

- Under the MPMR Project, one sanitary pad making machine, raw materials for two months, wages for 50 days, packaging material with accessories and a five-day training in three phases will be provided.

#### **Other initiatives:**

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman flagged off the mobile ATM van of Tripura State Co-Operative Bank Limited which is set to cover all the Gram Panchayats and Village Committees of South Tripura District.
- She also interacted with the Women Self Help Group(SHG) members under the Micro-Enterprise Development Programme (MEDP) of NABARD.

### **India's GDP in Q1 FY22 Grow by 20.1%; Fiscal Deficit in April-July 2021 Reached 21.3% of BE**

As per the data of the National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the first quarter of the financial year 2021-22 (Q1 FY22) (i.e. April to June 2021) grew by 20.1 percent as compared to a contraction of 24.4(- 24.4) percent in Q1 FY21.

- GDP at Constant Prices (2011-12): It is estimated at Rs 32.38 lakh crore in Q1 FY22, as against Rs 26.95 lakh crore in Q1 FY21 (a growth of 20.1 percent).
- Gross Value Added (GVA) at Constant Prices: It is estimated at Rs \$30.48\$ lakh crore in Q1 FY22, as against Rs 25.66 lakh crore in Q1 of FY21 (a growth of 18.8 percent).
- Fiscal Deficit in April-July 2021 Reached 21.3% of BE As per data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), India's fiscal deficit during April - July 2021 (i.e., the 1st 4 months of FY22) stood at Rs 3.21 lakh crore or 21.3 percent of the budget estimate (BE) at the end of July 2021.
- The fiscal deficit for FY22 was estimated by the center at Rs 15.07 lakh crore.

#### **About Controller General of Accounts (CGA):**

CGA, in the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, is the Principal Accounting Adviser to the Government of India.

The Annual Appropriation Accounts (Civil) and Union Finance Accounts are submitted by CGA to Parliament under Article 150 of the Constitution.

Current CGA - Deepak Das (25th CGA, from August 1, 2021)

### **Ladakh Declared Snow Leopard, Black necked crane as its State Animal and Bird**

The government of Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh has declared 'Snow leopard' (Panther unica) as its state animal and 'Black-necked crane' (Grus nigricollis) as its state bird.

- Earlier (prior to the administrative division) Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) had the black-necked crane and Kashmir stag (Hangul) as its state bird and animal.
- Black-necked crane: Eastern Ladakh is the only known breeding ground in India for Black-necked cranes outside China. It is listed in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 and as Near-threatened on the IUCN Red List.
- Snow leopard: It is found native to the mountain ranges of Central and South Asia. It is listed in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 and as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.



#### About Ladakh:

- Governor - Radha Krishna Mathur
- Airport – KushokBakula Rimpochee Airport
- Heritage Site - Tso Kar Wetland Complex, Tsomoriri

### 28<sup>th</sup> Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise 'SIMBEX' 2021 HELD IN South China Sea

On September 2-4,2021, the 3 days 28th Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise 'SIMBEX-2021' was held between the Indian Navy and Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) in the southern edge of the South China Sea. It was hosted by RSN as 'at sea only' i.e., without any physical interactions due to COVID-19.

#### The India Navy was represented by the following:

- Guided Missile Destroyer INS (Indian Naval Ship) Ranvijay with a ship borne helicopter,
- ASW (Anti-submarine warfare) Corvette INS Kiltan
- Guided Missile Corvette INS Kora
- P8I Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft.

#### About Singapore:

**Capital :** Singapore

**Currency :** Singapore dollar

**Prime Minister :** Lee Hsien Loong

### Tripartite Karbi Anglong Agreement inked between Union and Assam State Govt with KAAC

In order to foster peace and prosperity in Assam, on September 4,2021, the Central Government has signed a tripartite Karbi Anglong Agreement / Memorandum of Settlement under which all conditions of the Karbi people will be fulfilled in a stipulated time. Karbis are major ethnic community of Assam.

It was signed between the Central Government, Assam Government, and Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) in the presence of Union Minister Amit Shah, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA); Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, Ministry of Shipping and Waterways; Assam chief minister Dr. HimantaBiswaSarma; and Chief Executive Member of KAAC, TuliramRonghang, among other representatives in New Delhi.

As a part of agreement, there will be investment of Rs 1,000 crore by the Union and Assam government for development of the Karbi Anglong area in the next 5 years About Assam:

**Governor** : Professor Jagdish Mukhi

Wildlife sanctuaries: Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, SonaiRupai Wildlife Sanctuary, and Bherjan - Borajan - Padumoni Wildlife Sanctuary Zoological Park- Assam State Zoo (Green Lung)

### **MoE Dharmendra Pradhan released 6<sup>th</sup> NIRF Rankings 2021 for HEIs; IIT Madras Topped Overall**

On September 9, 2021, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Ministry of Education (MoE) released the 6th NIRF (National Institutional Ranking

Framework) Rankings 2021 of Higher Educational Institutes (HEIs) of India in 11 categories from New Delhi. T

The ranking has been topped by IIT (Indian Institute of Technology) Madras, Tamil Nadu in the overall category which is followed by IISc (Indian Institute of Science) Bengaluru, Karnataka at 2<sup>nd</sup> and IIT Bombay, Maharashtra at 3<sup>rd</sup> place

All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi retains top slot in Medical for the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year.

#### **About National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF):**

- Establishment- 2015
- Parent Ministry- Ministry of Education (MoE)
- HQ- New Delhi



## **India ranked 122<sup>nd</sup> in Global Youth Development Index 2020, Singapore tops: Commonwealth Report**

The Commonwealth Secretariat released its triennial rankings of Global Youth Development Index (YDI) 2020, it measures the progress in 181 countries across 6 factors of youth development. In the country wise ranking, India ranked 122nd out of 181 countries. Singapore topped the Index for the 1st time.

- The rankings are based on 27 indicators across the 6 domains (over the period 2010-18) - Health and Wellbeing, Education, Employment & Opportunity, Political & Civic participation, Peace & Security and Equality & Inclusion.
- The 2020 YDI highlights that the global average youth Development Score improved by 3.1 % between 2010 and 2018 period with 156 out of 181 countries recording improvements in their scores.

## **PM Narendra Modi Chaired UNSC Open Debate on Maritime Security; UNSC Adopted PRST on Maritime Security**

In August 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually chaired the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) High-level Open Debate on 'Enhancing Maritime Security

- A Case for International Cooperation'.
- As India holds the presidency of the UNSC for the month of August 2021, Narendra Modi presided over the maritime security debate.
- Narendra Modi was the 1st Indian PM to preside over a UNSC Open Debate.
- PM's Remarks: He outlined 5 principle frameworks to preserve and use the common maritime heritage, and to frame a global roadmap of maritime security cooperation.
- The 15-member body, UNSC unanimously adopted the Presidential

Statement (PRST) on Maritime Security, which was given by Narendra Modi.

- This is the 1<sup>st</sup> comprehensive UNSC document on maritime security.

#### About United Nations Security Council (UNSC):

- UNSC is the only U.N. body that can make legally binding decisions like imposing sanctions and authorizing use of force.
- India is the non-permanent member of the UNSC.
- Establishment- 1945
- HQ- New York, United States
- India's Permanent Representative to the UN - TS Tirumurti

#### 15<sup>th</sup> India-Singapore Foreign Office Consultations held virtually

The 15th round of Foreign Office Consultation between India & Singapore took place virtually. The Indian side was led by Riva Ganguly, Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs and the Singapore delegation was led by Mr Lee Kiong, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore.

#### Highlights :

- Both sides discussed ways to strengthen economic engagement, ease travel restriction & resuming people-to-people contact.
- Issues related to ASEAN-India relations and India Singapore cooperation in the Indo-Pacific were also discussed.
- Singapore is performing the role of country coordinator for India in Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) for the period of 3 years(2021-2024).

#### 2021 Skytrax World Airport Awards-Delhi Airport ranked 45<sup>th</sup>, Doha Airport the best in World



In the Skytrax World Airport Awards 2021 list, Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport secured 45th rank (from 50 in 2020 rankings), while



Qatar's Doha Hamad Airport topped the rankings. Delhi's IGI has been awarded as the 'Best Airport in India & Central Asia' for the 3rd Consecutive time.

Three Other Indian Airports featured in the Top-100 list - Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport - 64, Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport - 65, Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport - 71.

The Skytrax best Airports Awards are voted based on customer reviews. It is regarded as the quality benchmark for the world airport industry.

#### **About Skytrax company :**

Skytrax is a United Kingdom based company. It publishes world airline rankings and reviews on its website.

### **IATA, UNCTAD extend partnership to facilitate Global Trade**

International Air Transport Association (IATA) and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) have extended their partnership to facilitate international trade, particularly e-commerce in developing countries through improved exchanges of trade data.

- As part of the partnership, the Air Cargo messaging standards (Cargo-XML) will be integrated with ASYCUDAWorld (Automated System for Customs Data), UNCTAD's automated customs management system.
- It will allow efficient processing of air cargo shipments for more than 100 countries.
- The next step of the collaboration will focus on enabling ASYCUDAWorld, to manage eCommerce shipments efficiently.

#### **About International Air Transport Association (IATA) :**

- Founded in 1945
- Director General - Willie Walsh
- HQ - Montreal, Canada

#### **About United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) :**

- Founded in 1964
- Acting Secretary General - Isabelle Durant
- HQ - Geneva, Switzerland

## **Pakistan test fires Nuclear capable Ballistic Missile 'Ghaznavi'**



Pakistan successfully test-fired the Nuclear capable Surface to Surface Ballistic Missile Ghaznavi (Hatf-III). It has a range of up to 290 Km.

- It is designed and developed by National Development Complex (NDC)
- The missile is equipped with a proper terminal guidance system and will enhance the operational readiness of Army Strategic Forces Command (ASFC) and revalidating technical parameters of the Weapon system.
- Other Medium Range Ballistic Missiles of Pakistan are Ghauri&Shaheen.

### **About Pakistan**

- Prime Minister - Imran Khan
- Currency - Pakistani Rupee
- Capital – Islamabad

## **Hakainde Hichilema elected as New President of Zambia**



Hakainde Hichilema was declared as the President-elect of Zambia after defeating the Incumbent President Edgar Lungi in the 2021 Presidential Elections. He is the 7th elected president of Zambia since independence in 1964.

- Hichilema belongs to the United Party for National Development (UPND), which is the largest opposition party of Zambia.
- It was Hichilema's 6th attempt at winning the presidency of Zambia.

### **About Zambia It is a country in the African continent**

- President Elect - Hakainde Hichilema
- Capital - Lusaka Currency - Zambian kwacha

### **7<sup>th</sup> IBSA Academic Forum 2021 held Virtually**

The 7th IBSA (India, Brazil, South Africa) Academic Forum 2021 was held virtually on August 11-12, 2021. It was hosted by

the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), an autonomous think-tank of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

- The Forum was inaugurated by Minister of State for External Affairs, Rajkumar Ranjan Singh. India is the Current Chair of IBSA.
- During the meeting, the participants discussed economic partnerships.
- India highlighted the efforts taken under the ongoing IBSA fellowship programme. He also underlined the contribution of the IBSA Fund since its inception.

### **India Organizes IBSA Tourism Minister Meeting 2021**

India organized the IBSA Tourism Ministers Meeting 2021 virtually. Tourism Ministers of all 3 countries attended the meeting. It was organized to promote tourism cooperation among the member states, the participants reviewed the intra IBSA Tourism cooperation.

#### **IBSA Dialogue Forum**

The IBSA acts as a forum for India, Brazil & South Africa to promote cooperation.

- It was formalized and named the IBSA Forum in 2003, when the Foreign

Ministers of the three countries met in Brasilia (capital of Brazil).

- India as the current IBSA Chair is set to convene the 6th IBSA summit virtually in September, 2021. Theme of the forum - "Democracy for Demography and Development".

#### **About Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)**

- Director General - Sachin Chaturvedi
- HQ - New Delhi

### **Invest India becomes co-organizer of International Climate Summit 2021**

Invest India, the National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency of the Government of India has joined the 'International Climate Summit 2021 (ICS2021)' as co-organizer.

- ICS 2021 is an initiative by the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Environment Committee. It is scheduled to be held on September 3, 2021.
- The summit will help in building a platform for India's transition to clean energy with focus on 'Powering India's Hydrogen Ecosystem'.

- It is supported by the Government of Norway as the Partner Country. In addition, 40 leading organizations, including Reliance Industries Limited, Hindustan Zinc Ltd, ONGC Ltd, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd, GAIL (India) Ltd, will act as sponsors of the summit.
- The summit will position India as a leader in the field of renewable energy, specifically Green Hydrogen.

#### About PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry

- Chair - Dr. J P Gupta
- HQ - New Delhi

#### About Invest India MD & CEO - Deepak Bagla

HQ - New Delhi

### Muhyiddin Yassin PM of Malaysia Announced his Resignation



Muhyiddin Yassin (Full name- Tan Sri Dato' Haji Mahiaddin bin Md. Yasin), 8th Prime Minister (PM) of Malaysia submitted his resignation to Al-Sultan

Abdullah, Yang di-PertuanAgong (The Supreme Head of Malaysia) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, after losing majority support to govern. He became the shortest ruling leader (18 Months) in the History of Malaysia.

- Yang di-PertuanAgong has appointed Muhyiddin as Caretaker PM until the appointment of the New PM.

#### Background:

- The Constitution of Malaysia states that the Prime Minister shall tender the resignation of the Cabinet if he loses the confidence of the majority of the members of the house of Representatives.
- Yang di-PertuanAgong can appoint the new leader based on the majority and confidence commanded by him in the Parliament. About Muhyiddin Yassin:
- Muhyiddin Yassin took charge as the Prime Minister of Malaysia in March 2020. Previously he has served as the Deputy PM under former PM Najib Razak from 2009 to 2015.
- He co-founded the Malaysian United Indigenous Party (Malay: PartiPribumi Bersatu Malaysia), abbreviated PPBM and served as its President.



### **Yang di-PertuanAgong of Malaysia:**

- Malaysia has a unique system of monarchy, the role of the Yang di-PertuanAgong is rotated every 5 years among the 9 Malay Sultans.
- Al-Sultan Abdullah, the current Yang di-PertuanAgong is from Pahang. He took the throne in 2019.

### **About Malaysia:**

Capital- Kuala Lumpur

### **UP's Ghaziabad 2<sup>nd</sup> Most Polluted City in 2020, China's Hotan at 1<sup>st</sup>: HouseFresh Report**

British company HouseFresh has released a report on the 50 'most polluted cities' in the world in 2020 titled - 'The World's Best and Worst Towns and Cities for Clean Air', in which, Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad city ranked as the 2nd most polluted city in the world in 2020.

- China's Hotan city in Xinjiang province topped the list and was adjudged as the most polluted city.
- As per the report, India became the 3rd most polluted country. Bangladeshranked as the most

polluted country across the world in 2020 followed by Pakistan, India and Mongolia.

- Out of the 50 most polluted cities of the world, 49 are in Bangladesh, China, Pakistan, and India.

### **About Uttar Pradesh:**

- Chief Minister - Yogi Adityanath
- Wildlife Sanctuary - Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary, Mahaveer Swami WL Sanctuary, Ranipur Wildlife Sanctuary
- Zoological Park - Nawab Wajid Ali Shah Zoological Garden, Kanpur Zoological Park.

### **Narendra Singh Tomar addresses 6<sup>th</sup> SCO meet of Agriculture Ministers**

Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar addressed the 6th meeting of the Agriculture Ministers of the member countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). The meeting was held virtually from Dushanbe, Capital of Tajikistan. It was held under the Chairmanship of Tajikistan (2021 SCO Presidency).

- Tajikistan appreciated the performance of the agricultural sector in India during COVID pandemic crises.
- The Agriculture Minister of India stated that Food production, export have registered a significant growth in India.
- He also mentioned that bio- fortified varieties are a source of staple diet, and micronutrients rich food can help to tackle malnutrition in the country.
- For Doubling Farmers Income by 2022, India has launched several programmes for irrigation facilities, optimum utilisation of water, food subsidy etc.

India is a full time member of SCO. The meeting promotes cooperation in food security, supply chain and nutrition especially in the time COVID pandemic.

India is a full time member of SCO. The meeting promotes cooperation in food security, in the time COVID

#### **About Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).**

- Secretary-General - Vladimir Norov
- HQ- Beijing, China
- Chairmanship of 2021 - Tajikistan

- Total Members - 8 (China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan) About Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare
- Union Minister - Narendra Singh Tomar (Morena, Madhya Pradesh)
- Minister of State - Sushri Shobha Karanlaje (Udupi, Karnataka), Kailash Choudhary (Barmer, Rajasthan)

#### **Indian Navy Participates in the US Navy led Multilateral Naval Exercise SEACAT 2021 in Singapore**



The Indian Navy participated in the United States (US) Navy led Exercise South East Asia Cooperation and Training (SEACAT) 2021, an annual Multilateral Naval Exercise held in Singapore virtually. This is the 20th Edition of the Exercise. Objective: It aims to foster enhanced cooperation between Southeast Asian

countries by incorporating tactics, standardized training, and procedures to combat contingencies or illegal activities in the maritime domain.

- Navies of 21 countries participated in the exercise. They include Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, Canada, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Maldives, New Zealand, Philippines, South Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, East Timor, United Kingdom, United States, and Vietnam,

#### **About South East Asia Cooperation and Training (SEACAT):**

- SEACAT began in 2002 as South East Asia Cooperation Against Terrorism.

#### **About Indian Navy**

- Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) - Admiral Karambir Singh
- Integrated Headquarters of Ministry of Defence (Navy) - New Delhi

#### **About Singapore**

- Prime Minister - Lee Hsien Loong
- Capital - Singapore
- Currency - Singapore Dollar(SGD)

### **WHO Forms Expert Group 'SAGO' to study into COVID-19 origin**

The World Health Organisation(WHO) created a new advisory group "The International Scientific Advisory Group for Origins of Novel Pathogens" or 'SAGO' to study into the origin of the COVID-19.

- The advisory group will develop a global framework to study the emergence of future pathogens with pandemic potential.
- For SARS-CoV-2, SAGO will support the undertaking of recommended studies outlined in the March 2021 report.

### **Japan's Maki Kaji the Godfather of Sudoku passes away at 69**

Maki Kaji (69), widely known as the Godfather of Sudoku for his role in creating one of the World's most popular puzzles, passed away due to Bile duct cancer in Tokyo, Japan.

- He was born in October 1951 in Hokkaido, Japan.
- Kaji was the Co-founder of Nikoli Limited, a Japanese based puzzle magazine launched in 1980.

- Kaji's interest with a game called Number place was later renamed as 'Sudoku' - a Japanese word meaning Single Numbers.
- Sudoku challenges people to fill a grid of 9 times 9 blocks, with 9 boxes in each block so that all columns, both vertical and horizontal, contain the numbers from 1 to 9 without repetition

## **Indian Cabinet Approvals with Foreign countries on August 18, 2021**

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has granted approval to several Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) with Foreign Countries. They are

- MoU between India and the United States of America (USA) on cooperation in the field of Geology.
- MoU between India and Bangladesh on cooperation in the field of Disaster Management, Resilience and Mitigation.

**MoU between India & USA in the field of Geology :**

- The Union cabinet has given its approval for signing the MoU between Geological Survey of India (GSI), Ministry of Mines, India and the Florida International University (FIU) board of trustees on behalf of the Department of Earth, Environment, College of Arts, Science & Education, USA on cooperation in the field of Geology.
- MoU between India & Bangladesh in the field of Disaster Management, Resilience and Mitigation The Union cabinet has given its approval for the MoU signed between the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Ministry of Home Affairs, India and the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, Bangladesh for cooperation in the field of Disaster Management, Resilience and Mitigation.

### **About United States of America President - Joe Biden**

- Capital - Washington, D.C Currency - United States Dollar (USD)

### **About Bangladesh**

- Prime Minister - Sheikh Hasina
- Capital - Dhaka
- Currency - Bangladeshi Taka



## India ranks second in terms of crypto adoption in the world: 2021 Global Crypto Adoption Index



According to the 2nd Edition of Global Crypto Adoption Index 2021 released by Chainalysis, a crypto-analysis firm, India with a score of 0.37 ranked 2nd out of 154 countries. Vietnam topped the index.

- It aims to provide an objective measure of which countries have the highest level of Cryptocurrency adoption.
- The index ranks countries based on 3 indicators such as On-chain value received, On-chain retail value received and Peer-to-Peer (P2P) exchange trade volume
- India improved to 2nd rank from 11th in the 2020 Global Crypto Adoption Index.

### About Chainalysis :

- Chief Executive Officer - Michael Gronager
- HQ - Newyork, United States of America

## Afghan first Vice President Amrullah Saleh declares himself as caretaker President

Afghanistan's 1st Vice President (VP) Amrullah Saleh declared himself as 'the caretaker President of Afghanistan' after President Ashraf Ghani fled the Taliban captured country. Currently, Afghanistan is under the control of Taliban, capturing Kabul after the U.S led forces left the country.

- According to the Constitution of Afghanistan, 'In absence, escape, resignation or death of the President, the 1st VP will be the caretaker President' of the country.

### The Taliban: History

- The word 'Taliban meaning Students' in the Pashto language, emerged in 1994 around the city of Kandahar, Afghanistan.
- It was one of the factions which were fighting a civil war to rule the country following the withdrawal of the Soviet Union in 1989 and the subsequent collapse of the government in 1992.

### About Afghanistan

- Former President - Ashraf Ghani
- Capital - Kabul
- Currency – Afghani

## Ismail Sabri Yaakob Appointed as Prime Minister of Malaysia



The Supreme Head(King) of Malaysia has appointed former Deputy Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob as the Prime Minister(PM) of Malaysia. He replaced the caretaker Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin, who resigned after losing his parliamentary majority. He is the 3rd Prime Minister of Malaysia since the 2018 elections.

- He is a member of the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) party.
- Ismail Sabri Yaakob is supported by 114 members out of 222 members.

### About Ismail Sabri Yaakob:

- Ismail Sabri Yaakob served as the 13th Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia from July 2021 to August 2021 and he is the shortest-serving Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia.
- He has been serving as a member of the parliament since 2004.

- He has also served as the cabinet minister and held various portfolios like Minister of Rural and Regional Development, Agriculture and Agro-based Industry and Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism and Youth and Sports between 2008 and 2018.

### About Malaysia:

- Capital- Kuala Lumpur
- Currency- Malaysian Ringgit

## EAM Jaishankar Chaired UNSC Open Debate on Peace keeping & Technology; launches UN AWARE platform

External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar chaired the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Open debate on Technology & Peacekeeping with the theme, 'Protecting the Protectors: Technology and Peacekeeping' UNSC adopted the Presidential statement (PRST) \& Resolution on Peacekeeping The 15-member body, UNSC unanimously adopted the Presidential Statement on Peacekeeping \& Technology, given by EAM Jaishankar.

- UNSC adopted Resolution 2589 unanimously, Security Council calls on Governments to protect peacekeepers, Requests creation of online database cataloguing attacks. India & UN launches The UNITE AWARE platform
- A unique technology platform aimed at enhancing security \& safety of peacekeepers.
- It helps to increase situational awareness and provides real time terrain-related information to peacekeepers.
- India has allocated funds of USD 1.64 Million for the roll-out of this Platform. India, UN signs MoU in strengthening peacekeeping Missions the Government of India has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with United nations (UN) in support of - 'Partnership for technology in Peacekeeping' initiative and to UN C4ISR- UN Command, Control, Communication, Computers, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Academy for Peace Operations (UNCAP) based in Entebbe, Uganda.

#### About United Nations (UN):

- Establishment- 1945

- General- Antonio Manuel de Oliveira Guterres
- Members- 193 (India became its member on October 30,1945)  
Secretariat- New York, United States (US)

### Shanghai Ranking's ARWU 2021: IISc Bangalore Topped in India, Harvard University Topped Globally

Shanghai Ranking Consultancy released Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) 2021 ranking for higher education Institutes. The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore was selected as the best university in the country and University of Calcutta secured 2nd rank.

- Globally, Harvard University Topped the ranking \& followed by Stanford University, University of Cambridge.

#### Key Points:

- ARWU presents rankings of the world's top 1000 research universities every year based on transparency and objective third-party data.
- The rankings are based on the six objective indicators to rank world universities, including the number of alumni and staff winning Nobel Prizes

and Fields Medals, number of highly cited researchers selected by Clarivate Analytics, number of articles published in journals of Nature and Science, number of articles indexed in Science Citation Index - Expanded and Social Sciences Citation Index, and per capita performance of a university.

#### **About Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU):**

Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) was first published in June 2003 by the Center for World-Class Universities (CWCU), Graduate School of Education (formerly the Institute of Higher Education) of Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China, and updated on an annual basis. Since 2009 the Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) has been published and copyrighted by Shanghai Ranking Consultancy.

#### **India among 33 Asian Nations where Children at Extremely High Risk of Climate Crisis impacts: UNICEF**

In accordance with the UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) report titled 'The Climate Crisis Is a Child Rights Crisis: Introducing the Children's Climate Risk Index' (CCRI), India is among the 33

extremely high-risk countries where approximately 1 billion children are most at risk of the impacts of climate change that will affect their health, education, and protection.

The four South Asian countries named in the list are Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and India with ranks of 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> respectively.

#### **About UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund):**

- Executive Director- Henrietta Holsman Fore
- HQ- New York, USA
- India Representative- Dr Yasmin Ali Haque

#### **India to host 2<sup>nd</sup> UNWGIC in 2022 at Hyderabad, Telangana**

India is all set to host the 2<sup>nd</sup> United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC) in October 2022 in Hyderabad, Telangana on the theme 'Towards Geo-enabling the Global Village'. It will be organized as a part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (Celebration of 75 Years of Indian Independence)'.

- This information was provided during the curtain raiser event which was organized by the Department of



Science and Technology (DST), Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) on the lines of 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) to be held during the end of August 2021.

- It was inaugurated by Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, DST.

#### What is Geospatial data?

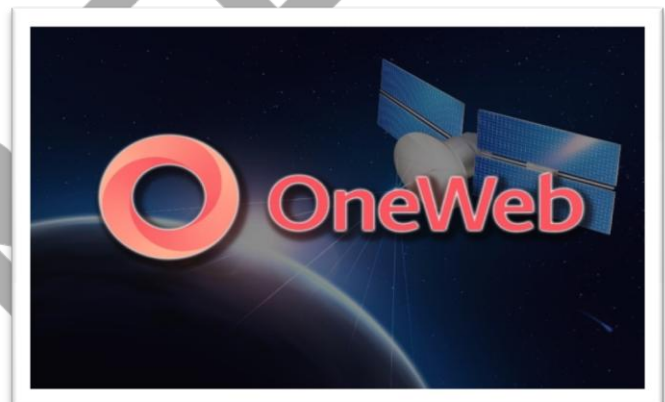
- Also known as geodata, it contains location information, such as an address, area, or ZIP (Zone Improvement Plan) code, linked to a dataset. This data can also be obtained from Global Positioning System (GPS) data, geospatial satellite imagery, telematics devices, Internet of Things (IoT), and geotagging. About United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC):
- The United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) organizes UNWGIC every four years to enhance international collaboration in the area of Geospatial information management and capacities.

- The first UNWGIC was organized by China in October 2018.

#### About Ministry of Science and Technology:

- Minister of State (Independent Charge)- Dr. Jitendra Singh (Constituency Udhampur (Jammu and Kashmir))
- Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India- Professor Krishnaswamy VijayRaghavan

### OneWeb launches 34 Satellites into LEO



OneWeb, Satellite Communications Operator Co-owned by Bharti Airtel & United Kingdom (UK) Government has launched another batch of 34 Satellites into Low Earth Orbit (LEO) on August 22, 2021.

- The launch was carried out by Arianespace, European Satellite launch Company with the Soyuz, Russian Rocket from the Baikonur Cosmodrome, Kazakhstan.

- It was the 5th launch of OneWeb satellites in 2021, thereby making a total of  $\mathbf{28}$  Satellites in the Orbit.

### Key Points

- OneWeb is aiming to launch a total of 648 satellites to provide high-speed internet connectivity to customers around the world (SpaceX's Starlink internet constellation is expected to have around 12,000 satellites).
- OneWeb resumed satellite launches in December, 2020 after emerging from bankruptcy protection with USD 1 billion in equity investment from a consortium of the British government and India's Bharti Enterprises.
- It has also received investment from Japan's Softbank and Eutelsat Communications. It is now fully funded and has secured USD 2.4 Billion in total from investments.

### **32 % of India's coastline underwent erosion in 28 years, West Bengal worst affected: NCCR Report**

In accordance with the recent technical report by the National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR) under the Ministry of

Earth Sciences, 32% of India's coastline underwent sea erosion and 27 % of it expanded in a time span of 28 years i.e. between 1990 and 2018

- India's coastline is 6,631.53 kilometres long in which 2,135.65 kilometres faced erosion and 1,760.06 km expanded during this period. About 2,700 km of the coastline is stable.
- This information was provided by Parshottam Khodabhai Rupala, Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying in response to a question in the Lok Sabha.

### Sea Erosion of coastline:

- The coastline of West Bengal is the most affected as 60 % of it underwent erosion during these 28 years.
- It is followed by Puducherry (56%); Kerala (41%); Tamil Nadu (41%); Andhra Pradesh (28%); Gujarat including Daman and Diu (26%); Odisha (26%); Karnataka (24%); Maharashtra (22\%); and Goa (19%).

### Coast Expansion:

- The maximum expansion was seen in the coastline of Odisha with 51 %.

- It is followed by the coast of Andhra Pradesh (48%); Karnataka (26%); West Bengal (25%); Tamil Nadu (22%); Kerala (21%); Gujarat including Daman and Diu (20%); Goa (14%); Maharashtra (10%) and Puducherry (8%).

#### Key Points:

- The NCCR monitors shoreline changes along the Indian coast. It carried out a national shoreline change assessment mapping for Indian coast covering nine coastal states and two Union territories (UT) to provide information for coastal management strategy.
- The National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM) under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and the Central Water Commission under the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti also undertake studies on shoreline changes and their impact.

### India ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in Cushman Global Manufacturing Risk Index 2021; China Tops

In accordance with the Cushman & Wakefield's 2021 'Global Manufacturing Risk Index-Assessing Costs, Risks and Conditions Impacting Manufacturing',

India became the world's second most desired manufacturing destination globally surpassing the United States (US) which stood at 3rd place. The top position is retained by China.

- In 2020 India was ranked 3rd while the US placed at 2nd.
- This improvement in India's ranking shows its ease of working conditions and cost competitiveness which grabbed the manufacturers' interests asO a preferred manufacturing hub.

#### About Cushman & Wakefield:

- Executive Chairman &CEO- Brett White
- Managing Director India and South East Asia- Anshul Jain
- Headquarter- Chicago, Illinois, United States

### ADB releases 52<sup>nd</sup> Edition of the Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific 2021

Asian Development Bank (ADB) has released the 52nd Edition of the Key Indicators for Asia &the Pacific, 2021

- It was prepared by the Statistics and Data Innovation Unit (EROD-SDI) within the Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department

(ERCD) at the Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- It contains Statistical information about 49 member countries of the Asia & the Pacific region on Population, labor force, National accounts, Production & Price indexes, Energy, Money & interest rates, Government finance, External trade, Balance of payments (BoP), International reserves, Exchange rates, and External indebtedness.

#### Major highlights of the report

In the Asia-Pacific region, the Extremely poor population has reduced from the size of 1.2 Billion in 1999 to 202.9 Million in 2017.

#### Gross Domestic Product (GDP):

Asia-Pacific Region's Economy grew from 27 % of Global GDP in 2000 to 35% in 2019 (Exceeding the share of Europe & North America).

- In 2020, three in every four reporting economies posted declines in GDP due to the impact of pandemic
- The COVID-19 pandemic has pushed around 75 to 80 mn population in the Asia Pacific region into Extreme poverty from 2019 levels as compared with a scenario without Covid-19.

#### About Asian Development Bank (ADB):

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a regional development bank established on 19 December 1966.
- President- Masatsugu Asakawa
- HQ-Metro Manila Philippines

#### Sweden's HYBRIT delivered world's 1<sup>st</sup> fossil-free steel to Volvo AB

Sweden's green steel venture HYBRIT had made the world's first customer delivery of steel produced without using coal and coke, to its truck-manufacturer Volvo \$A B\$ (Aktiebolaget Volvo) as a trial run. This steel is produced with 100 % fossil-free hydrogen.

- HYBRIT stands for Hydrogen Breakthrough Ironmaking Technology. This was the raw material used to manufacture the so-called 'green steel.
- Its full commercial production will begin in 2026.
- HYBRIT is a joint venture (JV) between Swedish steelmaker SSAB (SSABa.ST) which is a state-owned utility Vattenfall (VATN.UL) and miner LKAB (Luossavaara Kiirunavaara Aktiebolag).



### Key Points:

This tech aims to replace coking coal with fossil-free electricity and hydrogen. It's smaller-scale serial production will start in 2022.

- Traditionally coking coal is required for ore-based steel making.
- SSAB accounts for 10 % of Sweden's and 7 % of Finland's carbon dioxide emissions. This development will cater to its completely fossil-free value chain. It will revolutionize an industry that accounts for around 8 % of global greenhouse gas emissions.
- Notably, hydrogen is a key part of the European Union (EU's) plan to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

### About Sweden:

- It is a country in Europe.
- Capital- Stockholm
- Currency- Swedish krona (SEK)

## 4<sup>th</sup> Safe Cities Index 2021: New Delhi and Mumbai named in 60 global cities, Copenhagen Tops

The Capital City and Financial Capital City of India i.e. New Delhi and Mumbai respectively have found place in 4<sup>th</sup> Safe Cities Index 2021 of 60 global cities, released by the Economist Intelligence

Unit (EIU) sponsored by NEC. The index report is titled as 'Safe Cities Index 2021- New expectations demand a new coherence'.

While New Delhi is placed at 48<sup>th</sup> position with 56.1 scores, the dream city Mumbai ranked at 50<sup>th</sup> with a score of 54.4.

The index has been topped by Denmark's capital Copenhagen with 82.4 making it as the world's safest city.

### About Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU):

Establishment- 1946

Managing Director- Robin Bew

HQ- London, United Kingdom (UK)

## Indian-ASEAN Think Tank Prepares for 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

The year 2022 marks the 30th anniversary of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) - India relation and it is also designated as the ASEAN-India Friendship Year.

- As an activity towards the anniversary, the Indian-ASEAN think tanks viz, ASEAN Studies Centre of ISEAS - Yusof Ishak Institute, New Delhi and the ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at the Research and Information

System (RIS) for Developing Countries launched their 1st joint training and capacity building programme titled 'ASEAN-India Development Partnership Programme' (AIDPP) for scholars and practitioners of ASEAN countries and India.

- As per the partnership years, the year 2022 will mark the 25th anniversary of the ASEAN-India Dialogue Partnership, the 10th anniversary of Strategic Partnership, and the 30th anniversary of ASEAN-India overall relation.

#### **About ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations):**

- Establishment 8th August 1967
- HQ - Jakarta, Indonesia
- Secretary-General - H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi (2018 -2022)

### **NSA Ajit Doval Chairs 11<sup>th</sup> BRICS High Representatives Responsible for National Security Meeting**

Ajit Doval Indian National Security Adviser (NSA) virtually chaired the 11th meeting of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) High

Representatives Responsible for National Security. It was 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the BRICS as well. The adoption for an action plan for countering terrorism and terror financing was taken into consideration.

**Objective** To review the regional, geopolitical and security scenario. The main focus was the developmental processes in Afghanistan, Iran, West Asia and the Gulf.

#### **Highlights**

- India pointed out the issue of cross-country terrorism and activities the groups like Lashkar-e-Toiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed, which are considered as major threat at bordering areas of the country
- The discussion on cooperation, law enforcement, healthcare, and counter terrorism occurred.
- As 12th BRICS Leader Summit 2020 adopted the BRICS Counter Terrorism Strategy, therefore this time the representatives have adopted and suggested the BRICS Counter Terrorism Action Plan for consideration by the BRICS Summit.
- Strengthening cooperation in the field of cyber security, information sharing practices and combating cybercrimes.

### Additional Information:

India will host the upcoming BRICS summit under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

### About BRICS:

- The acronym "BRICS" was initially formulated in 2001 by economist Jim O'Neill, of Goldman Sachs, in a report on growth prospects for the economies of Brazil, Russia, India and China. South Africa was invited to join BRIC in December 2010, after which the group adopted the acronym BRICS.
- HQ- Shanghai, China

## Pakistan Successfully Testfires 'Fatah-1- Guided Multi Launch Rocket System



Pakistan has successfully test-fired Fatah-1, an Indigenously developed Guided Multi Launch Rocket System (MLRS) which has the capability of precision

target engagement deep into the enemy territories

- It is capable of carrying conventional warheads & has a range of 140 km.
- The Guided MLRS is capable of hitting targets without leaving behind the unexploded ordnance.
- Fatah-1 is a variant of the guided MLRS family which has an extended range of upto 150 km.
- This launch marked the 2nd flight of Fatah-1, after its first launch in January 2021

### Pakistan's Other Missiles

- Ghaznavi-Nuclear capable Surface-to-surface ballistic missile of range upto 290 km.
- Babur-Short range surface-to-surface cruise missile of range 450 km.
- Shaheen-III - Nuclear capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile which can target upto 2750 km.

### About Pakistan

- Prime Minister - Imran Khan
- Capital - Islamabad
- Currency - Pakistani Rupee

## India ranks 6<sup>th</sup> in the Global DeFi Adoption Index; US Tops

The 1st Edition of the Global DeFi (Decentralised Finance) Adoption Index was released by Chainalysis.

- India ranked 6th place out of 154 countries. The United States topped the ranking followed by Vietnam (2nd) & Thailand (3rd) respectively.

### Objective:

- It is designed to highlight countries with the highest grassroots adoption by individuals, rather than those sending the largest raw values of funds.
- The index ranks 154 countries in 3 indicators namely On-chain DeFi value received, On-chain number of DeFi deposits & On-chain retail DeFi value received.
- The countries are ranked based on the score from 0 (lowest) to 1 (highest)

### DeFi (Decentralised Finance)

It is a blockchain-based form of finance that does not rely on central financial intermediaries such as brokerages, exchanges, or banks to offer traditional

financial instruments, and instead utilizes smart contracts on blockchains, the most common being Ethereum.

Popular types of DeFi protocols include decentralized exchanges and lending platforms.

## UK India COVID-19 Study Awarded Guinness World Record

Guinness World Records' title is awarded for 'Most authors on a single peer-reviewed academic paper', a study about COVID-19 conducted at Indian hospitals among others around the world by the United Kingdom(UK) experts along with University of Birmingham and Edinburgh. Aim of the study- To improve the understanding of the deadly COVID-19 and its impact on human life. The University of Birmingham and Edinburgh awarded for the record for 'Most authors on a single peer-reviewed academic paper'. Highlights

- The award was given for the largest scientific collaboration in the world, involving more than 140,000 patients in 116 countries.
- Around 15025 scientists of the world contributed in research work of COVID-19 impact on patients



- AneelBhangu, Indian origin surgeon from the University of Birmingham worked as a co-lead author in the project.
- The research was funded by the National Institute of Health Research(NIHR) of the UK's government.
- In India, the collaborative study on COVID-19 was conducted in 56 hospitals- which is among the largest along with Italy and Germany.

#### Key Findings

- The COVIDSurg Collaborative, was launched in March 2020. It was aimed to provide data to support changes in surgical resection group and service delivery.
- The findings were published in 'British Journal of Surgery' by COVIDSurg Collaborative international team of researchers, which is also Europe's leading surgical journal, after studying data from 1,667 hospitals in the countries including the UK, India, Brazil, Australia, the UAE, China, and the USA.

## India can achieve \$11tn Economic Gain for Timely Action on Climate Change: Deloitte Economics Institute Report

In accordance with the report titled 'India's turning point:How climate action can drive our economic future' by Deloitte Economics Institute, India needs an action on climate change that could pave a way for \$11 trillion economic gain, meanwhile, preventing a loss of \$35 trillion over the next 50 years due to unmitigated climate change.

As per the report, there is a window time of 10 years which can be used by India as an opportunity to tackle the impacts of climate change.

#### 4 Key stages set by report for India :

The report has sets out following four key stages for India's climate transition which will led to a GDP growth of 8.5% in 2070:

- Now and 2030- Government and businesses start acting on climate change so that the economy starts to decarbonize between now and 2030 .
- From 2030 to 2040 - Reduce carbon emissions by tackling how energy is produced and consumed.

- 2040 to 2055 - This will be a turning point. By this period, the process of decarbonising high-emission industries would be almost complete, the cost of green solutions would start to fall, and wider net economic gains would begin to emerge.
- After 2055- Indian economy would be producing near-zero emissions.

#### About Deloitte:

- It is a leading global provider of audit and assurance, consulting, financial advisory, risk advisory, tax, and related services.
- Global Chief Executive Officer (CEO)- Punit Renjen

### India's Export to ASEAN is Estimated to USD 46 Billion in FY 22

The Union Minister of State (MoS) for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel inaugurated "India-ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Engineering Partnership Summit 2021" which was organised by Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) in association with the Ministry of External Affairs and the Department of Commerce. The Summit held from August 24, 2021 to 27th August, 2021.

#### Highlights :

- MoS Anupriya Patel Stated that India's expected export growth has been estimated around USD 46 billion in meeting the export target of USD 400 billion in the financial year 2021-22
- The US 400 billion merchandise export target was announced in the budget of the financial year 2021-22.
- The combined economies of India and ASEAN is around USD 5.8 trillion which has the potential to contribute in the field of manufacturing and services.
- Focus areas- Industry 4.0, Integration of MSME (Micro Small and Medium Enterprises).
- The government of Tamil Nadu joined as a 'Partner State' while the Haryana government joined as the 'Focus State'.

This year is celebrated as the 25th anniversary of the India-ASEAN dialogue Partnership and 10 years of the Strategic Partnership.

An E-Book was also launched based on India-ASEAN trade and investments, which has major focus on Engineering, MSME sectors and bilateral trade and investments.

### Recently developments

- Under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, the central government is providing a Production - Linked Incentives (PLI) Scheme of USD 26 billion covering 13 different sectors of the economy.

### About ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations)

- Established- 8 August 1967
- HQ- Jakarta, Indonesia
- Secretary- General- H.E.Dato Lim Jock Hoi
- Member Countries - 10 Countries (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.)

### Children living as Migrants or Refugees increased to 35.5mn in 2020: UNICEF Report

In accordance with the report titled 'Uncertain Pathways : How gender shapes the experiences of children on the move' by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the number of persons living outside their birth country or citizenship reached a record high of 281 million in 2020 , representing 3.6 % of the global population.

- This number is increased among boys and girls younger than 18 years to 5 million in 2020 . Among them 13 million (over a third) were refugees and asylum seekers.

### Key figures:

- 10 million child refugees were displaced due to conflict and war. Around 5.1 million were boys and 4.9 million were girls.
- In this displacement scenario, boys outnumbered girls by 1.2 million or 6.7 % which is the largest difference ever recorded.
- In a year, there were almost 15 million new displacements or 41,000 each day.
- Nearly two-thirds of all international migrants in 2020 (including refugees) were born in middle -income countries. Only 13% were born in low-income countries.

The Middle East and North Africa region is home to the largest number of international child migrants with greatest gender imbalance.

- There are around 9 million child migrants living in these regions in 2020 with 54.3 % of them being boys.

- At the end of 2020, an estimated 23.3 million girls and boys were living in displacement due to conflict, violence or natural disaster; 11.3 million were girls and 11.9 million were boys.

## **Navies of India and Algeria Conducts 1<sup>st</sup> Ever 'Maritime Partnership Exercise' in Mediterranean Sea**

The Indian Navy has conducted the 1st Ever Maritime Partnership Exercise with the Algerian Navy in the Mediterranean Sea on 29th August 2021 .

- Indian Naval Ship (INS) Tabar, representing India, participated in the Exercise with a frontline Algerian Naval Ship (ANS) Ezzadjer, as a part of its goodwill Visit to Europe & Africa.
- It included diverse activities such as Co-ordinated manoeuvring, Communication procedures & Steam past between the two Navies
- The exercise enabled the two navies to understand the concept of operations followed by each other, enhanced interoperability & increased interaction and collaboration between them in the future.

### **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Tabar:**

It is the 3rd Warship of the Talwar class frigate built for the Indian Navy in Russia. It is on a 4-month deployment (June to September 2021) across Europe & Africa. During this deployment, INS Tabar will make several port visits, Passage Exercise (PASSEX) & Bilateral exercises.

### **About Algeria :**

- President - Abdelmadjid Tebboune
- Capital - Algiers
- Currency - Algerian Dinar

## **UNSC Adopts Resolution on Afghanistan Under India's Chair**

United Nations Security Council (UNSC), the 15-Nation body has adopted a strong resolution on Afghanistan under India's Presidency. China & Russia abstained from voting on the resolution.

- The resolution demands not to use Afghan territory to threaten or attack any country or to shelter or train terrorists, or to plan or to finance terrorist acts.
- PM Narendra Modi Constitutes High-level Group to Monitor Situation in Afghanistan



- Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi has constituted a high-level group comprising External Affairs Minister (EAM) Jaishankar, National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval & Other Senior officials to monitor the ground situation in Afghanistan with a focus on India's Immediate priorities.

#### About United Nations Security Council (UNSC):

- UNSC is the only U.N. body that can make legally binding decisions like imposing sanctions and authorizing the use of force.
- Establishment- 1945
- Headquarters - New York, United States of America
- Presidency - August 2021 - India; September 2021- Ireland

### Space X launched ants, avocados, robot to ISS

The SpaceX's Dragon spacecraft was launched from a recycled Falcon 9 rocket from the NASA's (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) Kennedy Space Center on Merritt Island, Florida carrying shipment of ants, avocados and a human-sized robotic arm toward the International Space Station (ISS).

- After the launch, the rocket's first-stage booster returned and landed upright on SpaceX's newest ocean platform, named 'A Shortfall of Gravitas'.
- This was SpaceX's 23<sup>rd</sup> delivery towards the ISS in 10 years and 3<sup>rd</sup> launch for this particular booster.

#### Key Points:

- The Dragon carried more than 4,800 pounds (2,170 kilograms) of supplies and experiments, and fresh food including avocados, lemons and even ice cream for the space station's seven astronauts.
- The Girl Scouts sent ants, shrimp and plants for experiments while University of Wisconsin-Madison scientists sent seeds from mouse-ear cress, a small flowering weed used in genetic research. There are also Samples of concrete, solar cells and other materials for research.
- There is also a robotic arm which is sent to the ISS. It is manufactured by a Japanese start-up to perform chores around the Station.

#### What is the International Space Station (ISS)?

It is a home to astronauts in the form of large spacecraft which orbits around the earth. Its objective is to do research which could not be done on earth. It has science labs from the United States (NASA), Russia (Roscosmos), Japan (JAXA) and Europe (ESA).

- A. The first crew arrived on November 2, 2000
- B. It is one of the brightest objects in the sky

## **Dubai gets Ain Dubai, World's Largest and Tallest Observation Wheel**



The World's largest and tallest observation wheel named 'Ain Dubai' is set to be opened in Dubai, United Arab Emirates(UAE) on 21st October 2021. The Ain Dubai is located at Bluewaters Island.

Hyundai Engineering & Construction and Starneth Engineering were the primary

design and construction contractors of Ain Dubai.

The Ain Dubai is around 2 times taller than the London Eye, which will take the visitors to a height of 250 meters.

## **Bangladeshi Vaccine Scientist Firdausi Qadri and 4 Others Awarded for Ramon Magsaysay Award 2021**

Bangladeshi scientist Firdausi Qadri, who developed a cheap oral vaccine against cholera won the Ramon Magsaysay award 2021 which is also called Asia's Nobel Prize. Along with her, the other recipients received the award for the year 2021.

2021 other awardees are:

- Muhammad Amjad Saqib (Pakistan) - for helping people through social entrepreneurship.
- Steven Muncy (Southeast Asia) - for extending humanitarian and peacebuilding efforts across borders.
- Filipino fisher and community environmentalist Roberto Ballon from Philippines.
- Watchdoc Indonesia (Indonesia) - for emergent leadership and for using journalism and filmmaking to give voice to the people.

### About Firdausi Qadri

- Dr. Qadri is 70 years old senior scientist and working on projects for creating affordable vaccines to combat cholera and typhoid at the Mucosal Immunology and Vaccinology Unit at the International Centre for Diarrheal Disease Research in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- She is also working to enhance efforts of mass vaccination in Rohingya refugee camps.
- She played a key role in providing affordable Oral Cholera Vaccine (OCV) and Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine (ViTCV) in the region.
- She was awarded the L'oreal-UNESCO Award 2020 for outstanding work in science to prevent infectious diseases among children.

### About Muhammad Amjad Saqib

Saqib is 64 years old, Pakistani activist who has developed the first interest free Microfinance Program- Akhuwat. It uses a place of worship to provide zero-interest loans.

### Ramon Magsaysay Award

- Ramon Magsaysay Award is an annual award established to perpetuate

former Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay of his integrity in governance, courageous service to the people, and pragmatic idealism within a democratic society.

- Established - April 1957
- Location - Manila, Philippines

### First-ever International Day for People of African Descent-31 August 2021

The United Nations(UN)'s first-ever International Day for the people of African Descent was observed across the globe on 31st August. The day aims to promote the contributions of the African diaspora across the globe and to eliminate all forms of discrimination against the descents of Africans.

### Background:

The United Nations General Assembly(UNGA) adopted the resolution on 16th December 2020 and proclaimed the 31st August of every year as the International Day for People of African Descent.

Costa Rica led the efforts to establish the International Day for People of African Descent.

#### Other Related observances:

#### **International Decade for People of African Descent: 2015 to 2024:**

- The UNGA adopted the resolution A/RES/68/237 on 23rd December 2013 and proclaimed the decade 2015 to 2024 as the International Decade for People of African Descent.

#### **International Year for People of African Descent - 2011:**

- The UNGA adopted the resolution A/RES/64/169 on 18 December 2009 and proclaimed the year 2011 as the International Year for People of African Descent.

#### **Krishan Pal Gurjar Chaired the 6<sup>th</sup> BRICS Energy Ministers Meeting 2021 held virtually**

On September 2, 2021, Minister of State (MoS) Krishan Pal Gurjar, Ministry of Power virtually chaired the 6th meeting of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) Energy Ministers 2021 under the Chairship of India.

The meeting saw an adoption of a joint communiqué consisting of the BRICS mutual Cooperation in Energy Access and Affordability, among others.

The MoS also virtually launched the BRICS Energy Report 2021, BRICS Energy Technology Report 2021, and BRICS Energy Research Directory 2021.

#### **About BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa):**

- 2021 Chair- India
- Theme for India's Chairship- 'BRICS @ 15: Intra-BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus'

#### **Toxic leaded Petrol Eradicated from the World-UNEP**

The United Nations Programme on Environment (UNEP) formally stated that, toxic leaded Petrol was Eradicated from the World. It was achieved after the Campaign, that was launched by UNEP in association with the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles (PCFV) to eradicate the toxic leaded Petrol in 2002.

#### **Key points:**

The toxic fuel has contaminated air, soil and water for almost a century.

Most of the high-income countries like USA, UK, Canada etc. have banned the fuel by the 1980s and Algeria was the last country that still was using this fuel, also officially ended.



### Contribution of India:

- The process of phase down was started in 1994 and got completed in 2000.
- Finally in April 2000 India introduced unleaded petrol in the entire country.

### About UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme):

- Executive Director: Inger Andersen
- HQ: Nairobi, Kenya

### Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Attended 11<sup>th</sup> UK-India EFD

11th India-United Kingdom (UK) Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD) was held virtually on September 02, 2021. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman led the Indian Delegation whereas UK Chancellor Rishi Sunak led the UK Delegation.

- Under the EFD, both countries have signed a USD 1.2-billion package of public and private investment in green projects and renewable energy to boost India's green growth objectives.
- Public Financing: The green investments also include the \$ 1\$ billion investment by CDC Group, the

UK's Development Finance Institution, into climate-related projects in India over 2022-26.

- GGEF: New additional investment of around USD \$2 0 0\$ million was added from a range of international investors into the joint Green Growth Equity Fund (GGEF), which invests in Indian renewable energy.

### About the United Kingdom:

- Capital - London
- Prime Minister - Boris Johnson
- Currency - Pound sterling

### AMUL Ranks 18<sup>th</sup> and France's 'Lactalis' Tops in Rabobank 2021 Global Dairy Report

As per the 2021 's Global Dairy Top 20 report released by a Dutch multinational banking and financial services company Rabobank, the France based dairy major company - 'Lactalis' became the World's number 1 dairy company in terms of market capital. Lactalis replaced Switzerland's Nestle, which remained as the global leader in the dairy sector for decades.

- Notably, India's well known co-operative brand 'AMUL' under the cooperative body Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) also was placed at the 18th position, from its previous 16th rank in 2020.
- Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) has become the first Indian dairy Industry to spot in the global top 20 list released by Rabobank.

#### **Notable points on Dairy Sector:**

- India is the World's largest Milk producing country.
- New Zealand is the World's largest Milk exporter, while China is the top Milk importing country.

#### **Findings of the report:**

Among the Top 20 companies, there was a 0.1 % (in terms of USD) decline in 2021 compared to 2020, which is around 1.9 % decline in terms of Euro.

Rabobank in its annual 'Global Dairy Top 20 report, also states that the decline in turnover is mainly due to slowed merger & acquisition activities in 2020 due to COVID-19.

Lactalis, positioned at 9th place in 2000 moved to 1st because of its special focus on Organic methods of dairy production. Between 2001 to 2020 , the top 20 dairy companies have doubled their turnover, with an average annual growth of 3.8 %

### **PM Addressed the 6<sup>th</sup> EEF; Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri Participated in EEF; OVL, IOC Signed MoU with Russia's Gazprom**

In September 2021, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi virtually addressed the plenary session of the 6th Eastern Economic Forum (EEF) i.e. the 2021 edition of EEF, which was held in Vladivostok, Russia.

- The PM stressed the importance of greater economic and commercial engagement between the two nations in line with the 'Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership'.
- Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri led the Indian delegation of Indian oil and gas companies to have a 5 -day visit to Russia from September 1 to 5, 2021. Under the visit, he attended the 6th EEF in Vladivostok, Russia.

- ONGC Videsh Ltd, the overseas arm of Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC), and the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoU) with Russia's Gazprom for cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector. The MoU was signed at the 6th EEF.

#### **About Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG):**

- Union Minister - Hardeep Singh Puri (Constituency - Uttar Pradesh)
- Minister of State (MoS) - Rameswar Teli (Constituency - Dibrugarh, Assam)

### **Overview of EAM Jaishankar's Visit to Slovenia, Croatia, Denmark**

India's External Affairs Minister (EAM) Subrahmanyam Jaishankar paid a visit to Slovenia (2-3rd September 2021) Croatia (3 September 2021 ) and Denmark (4-5 September 2021) to review the bilateral relationship and strengthen India's cooperation with the 3 European countries.

#### **Key Points:**

EAM was invited to attend the 2021 Bled Strategic Forum (BSF), an annual international conference which was held in Slovenia and participate in the panel discussion on 'Partnership for a Rules-Based Order in the Indo-Pacific'.

- India was the only Asian country and one of 3 non-European countries along with the USA and Kenya to be invited for the 2021 BSF.
- EAM visited Denmark from September 4 to 5 2021 and co-chaired the 4th round of the Indo-Danish Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) along with Jeppe Kofod, Foreign Minister of Denmark.
- Denmark is the only country with which India is having a green strategic partnership, which was held in September 2020.

#### **Air Chief Marshal Bhaduria attended PACS 2021 in Hawaii**

Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria (RKS Bhadauria) attended the Pacific Air Chiefs Symposium (PACS) 2021 held at joint base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii from 30th August to 2nd September 2021 .

The theme of PACS 2021 is "Enduring Cooperation Towards Regional Stability".

- PACS 2021 brought together Air Chief from Indo-Pacific countries (including the United States of America(USA) and 11 other countries) to discuss topics ranging from regional security, air domain awareness to cooperation on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.

### **PM Modi virtually chaired the 13<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit 2021**

On September 9, 2021, the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi chaired the 13th BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) Summit 2021

virtually on the theme ' BRICS@15: Intra-BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus' .

The summit saw the adoption of the 'New Delhi Declaration'.

Indian PM appreciated the cooperation received from BRICS partners which led to the initiation of several new initiatives including the first BRICS Digital Health Summit; the first BRICS Ministerial Joint Statement on multilateral reforms

#### **About BRICS(Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa):**

- Establishment- 2006
- 2021's Chair – India



## Kolkata to host 130<sup>th</sup> Edition of Durand in September 2021



The 130th Edition of Durand Cup, an annual Domestic Football League in India, will be held in Kolkata, West Bengal (from September 5th to October 3rd of 2021). The 2020 season was cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic.

- The month-long tournament will feature 16 teams playing against each other, including 4 defense teams.
- In 2019, Gokulam Kerala FC who won the cup in 2019 are the defending Champions.

### About Durand Cup:

- It was started in 1888 at Dagshai, Himachal Pradesh.
- Durand cup is the World's 3 Oldest & Asia's Oldest Football tournament. It is hosted by Durand Football Tournament Society (DFTS), which is led by India's Armed Service Chiefs.
- The tournament is named after its Founder, Sir Mortimer Durand, who served as the then Foreign Secretary of British India from 1884 to 1894.
- Kolkata based clubs East Bengal and ATK Mohun Bagan have won Durand Cup 16 times each. The winning team is presented with cash prize of INR 40 lakh and 3 trophies
- The Durand cup (the original tournament trophy which became rolling since 1965)
- The President's cup (1st presented by Dr. Rajendra Prasad-1st President of India)



- The Shimla Trophy (1st presented by people of Shimla in 1903)

#### About All India Football Federation:

- President - Praful Patel
- HQ - New Delhi

## Maharashtra Harshit Raja becomes India's 69<sup>th</sup> Chess Grand Master



20-year-old Harshit Raja from Pune, Maharashtra became the 69<sup>th</sup> Chess GrandMaster of India after drawing his game against Dennis Wagner at the Biel Masters Open

- He won Silver in Under-13 National Chess Championship in 2014 held at Jamshedpur and Gold in School Games Federation of India (SGFI) Nationals held in Tamil Nadu in 2014.
- In April 2021, 18-years old Arjun Kalyan from Tamil Nadu (TN) became India's 68<sup>th</sup> Chess GrandMaster (GM).

#### Grandmaster Title

GM is a title awarded by FIDE(International chess federation).It is the highest title a chess player can obtain apart from World Champion.

In order to qualify for the title of GM,a player must achieve 3 GrandMaster norms in events covering a minimum of 27 games and an ELO(Electric Light Orchestra) rating of at least 2500 at any point in their career.

Vishwanathan Anand is India's 1st GM, he achieved it in 1988.

- Subbaraman Vijayalakshmi is India's 1st Woman Grandmaster, while Gukesh D is India's Youngest GM.

## Overview of the World Archery Youth Championship 2021 held in Wroclaw, Poland

The 16th Edition of World Archery Youth Championships 2021 held in Wroclaw, Poland (from 09th to 15th August 2021).

- India(1st) topped the Medals tally with 15 Medals (8-Gold, 2-Silver, 5-Bronze), followed by France (2nd) and Mexico (3rd).
- It was organised by World Archery Federation, the governing body of the

sport of Archery. Junior events were held for those aged under 20 years and Cadet events for those aged below 18.

- It included Recurve and Compound archery games for both Junior and Cadet groups.

#### About Archery Association of India

- President - Arjun Munda
- HQ - New Delhi

#### About World Archery Federation

- Founded in 1931
- HQ- Lausanne, Switzerland
- President - Ugur Erdener

### Sports Minister Anurag Thakur launched 'Fit India Freedom Run 2.0'

Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur launched the nationwide programme named 'Fit India Freedom Run 2.0' as part of celebrating 75 years of India's Independence - Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

- The program which was started on August 15, 2021, will be concluded on October 2, 2021.
- The program will be organized in 75 villages in each of the 744 districts

and 30,000 educational institutions across India.

- Minister of state for youth affairs and sports, Nisith Pramanik also joined the launch.

### Overview of Tokyo 2020 Summer Paralympic Games



The Tokyo 2020 Summer Paralympic Games will be held from 24th August - 5th September, 2021.

- The official Mascot is 'Someity'.
- For the 1st time, Badminton & Taekwondo will be introduced by replacing Sailing and 7-a-side football.
- India sends largest ever contingent for Paralympics India will field their largest contingent ever in the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics
- A total of 54 Athletes will compete in 9 Sporting events. Only 19 Indian Athletes competed in the 2016 Rio Paralympics.

- The 9 events are Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Para Canoeing, Powerlifting, Shooting, Swimming, Table Tennis and Taekwondo.
- High Jumper Mariyappan Thangavelu (Won Gold at the 2016 Rio Paralympics) will be the flag-bearer of India in the opening ceremony of the Tokyo Paralympics.

Anurag Thakur launched Theme Song 'Kar De Kamaal Tu' for Paralympics Union Sports Minister, Anurag Thakur has launched the Theme Song, 'Kar De Kamaal Tu' for India's Paralympic Contingent at the 2020 Tokyo Summer Paralympics Games. The song is composed & sung by Sanjeev Singh, Divyang Cricket Player.

#### About International Paralympic Committee

- President - Andrew Parsons
- HQ - Bonn, Germany

### Overview of Ongoing Tokyo 2020 Summer Paralympic Games

The 16th Edition of Paralympic Games is taking place in Tokyo, Japan from 24th August to 5th September, 2021 .

- A total of 22 sports are scheduled. For the 1st time, Badminton and

Taekwondo will be making their debut at the 2020 Paralympic Games by replacing Sailing & 7-a-side Football.

- The official Mascot is 'Someity'
- The Paralympic Games symbol of the "Three Agitos" has been installed on a giant floating platform in the Tokyo Bay area. The 94-tonne steel monument stands 17.5m tall, is 23.4 m long and 2m wide.
- Tek Chand (Shot put Thrower) was the flag-bearer of India in the opening ceremony of the Tokyo paralympics.

#### Javelin Throw:

Sumit Antil wins Gold Medal in Javelin Throw, F-46 Sumit Antil (Haryana) has won the Gold Medal in the Men's Javelin Throw F-64 event by throwing a distance of 68.55m in the finals.

Devendra Jhajharia & Sundar Singh Gurjar wins Silver & Bronze respectively in Javelin Throw, F-46

- Devendra Jhajharia (Rajasthan) has won the Silver Medal in the Men's Javelin Throw, F-46 category by throwing a distance of 64.35m.

Bhavinaben Patel wins Silver Medal in Table Tennis Bhavinaben Patel (Gujarat) won the Silver Medal in the Women's Singles Class 4 Table Tennis event by losing 7-11, 5-11, 6-11 in the finals.

#### **About International Paralympic Committee:**

- President - Andrew Parsons
- HQ - Bonn, Germany

### **Formula One: Max Verstappen Wins Belgian Grand Prix 2021**

Red Bull driver Max Verstappen (Netherland) has been declared the winner of the Belgian Grand Prix (GP), 2021. It was the Shortest ever Grand Prix in terms of distance Completed.

- The Belgian Grand Prix was held at the Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps, Belgium from August 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- Mercedes drivers from Britain George Russell Williams & Lewis Hamilton finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> place respectively.
- The F1 Championships are organised by Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA)

#### **Highlights of Belgian GP, 2021:**

- It is the Shortest F1 Race ever in terms of distance completed, surpassing the race in Australia, 1991.
- Rain shortened the Belgian GP and Half points were awarded since 75% of the race distance was not completed.
- It was the 6<sup>th</sup> half-points race in F1 history, following Spain 1975 (accident), Austria 1975 (rain), Monaco 1984 (rain), Australia 1991 (rain) and Malaysia 2009 (rain).

#### **About Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) :**

- President - Jean Todt
- HQ - Paris, France

### **India wins 14 Golds in ASBC Asian Youth and Junior Boxing Championship 2021**

2021 ASBC Asian Youth & Junior Boxing Championship had been held together at Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE) for the first time in history. It was organized by the Asian Boxing Confederation (ASBC). In the combined tally, India concluded with a total of 39 medals, including 14 Gold medals.

Indian Contingent completed with 20 Medals (6 Gold, 9 Silver & 5 Bronze) in the Asian Youth Boxing Championship that was concluded in September 2021. India won a total of 6 Gold medals in the tournament with 4 Gold medals coming from the Women's events and 2 Gold from Men's events.

India won 19 medals with 8 gold, 5 silver, and 6 bronze medals in the 2021 ASBC Junior Boxing Championship.

India's Mahi Raghav was named as the 'Best Boxer' in the Junior Girls Category. About Asian Boxing Confederation (ASBC)

#### Overview of 2020 Tokyo Paralympics

- The Indian contingent has won a total of 19 medals with 5 Golds, 8 Silvers and 6 Bronze medals in the 16th edition of Summer Paralympic games that was held between 24th August and 5th September 2021 in Tokyo, Japan. The 19-medal count is higher than the total number of paralympics medals won by India in all the events since its 1st appearance in the 1968 Paralympic games.

- India has won a total of 12 medals from 1972 to 2016 in Paralympic games, where it had a highest total medal count of 4, both in 2016 and 1984.
- A total of 17 athletes have won 19 medals, with 2 athletes - AvaniLekhara&SinghrajAdhana have won 2 medals each
- India was ranked 24th in the overall medal tally with 19 medals, while the top 3 positions in the medal tally were occupied by China, Great Britain & USA.

#### Highlights:

- Shooter AvaniLekhara becomes first Indian woman to win gold at Paralympics.
- Pramod Bhagat won the gold medal in the men's singles SL3 class. This is India's first medal in badminton at the Paralympics Games.
- SuhasYathiraj - 1st ever IAS Officer to win Paralympic Medal.
- Bhavinaben Patel creates history, becomes 1st Indian para-paddler to win silver medal.



- India's 1st Medal in Archery - won by Harvinder Singh.

#### **About Paralympics:**

- The 1st ever Paralympic games were held in 1960 at Rome, Italy
- Paralympic Symbol consists of 3 'Agitos' (meaning - 'I Move')
- Motto of 2020 Tokyo Paralympics - "United by Emotion"

### **Overview of 2021 US Open Tennis Championship**

The 141st edition of the US Open Tennis Championship was held in USA's New York City, which is also the 4<sup>th</sup> & last Grand Slam title of 2021 being conducted in a 'Hard Court' between 30th August and 12th September 2021. The finals of the tournament was held at Arthur Ashe Stadium, New York, USA.

Daniil Medvedev wins Maiden Grand Slam defeating Novak Djokovic.

Russia's Daniil Medvedev, the current World No.2 ranked tennis player, defeated Serbia's Novak Djokovic in the finals of Men's Singles in the US Open 2021 winning 3 straight sets with 6-4, 6-4, 6-4

Emma Raducanu - Youngest Female since Maria Sharapova to Win a Grand Slam

18-year-old Emma Raducanu from Britain defeated Canada's Leylah Fernandez to win the Women's Singles Title in the 2021 US Opens tournament. She became the youngest female to win a Grand Slam Title since Maria Sharapova's 2004 Wimbledon victory.

#### **About International Tennis Federation (ITF):**

- President - David Haggerty
- HQ - London, United Kingdom



# List of Important Days National & International



## World Elephant Day- August 12



World Elephant Day is annually observed across the globe on 12<sup>th</sup> August to create awareness about the dangers faced by Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*) and African elephants (*Loxodonta africana*) and the threats to their survival. The year 2021 marks the 10th anniversary of World Elephant Day.

### Background:

The World Elephant Day was an initiative jointly created by Patricia Sims, Canadian Wildlife Filmmaker; Michael Clark, Canazwest Pictures and Sivaporn Dardarnanda, Secretary - General of Elephant Reintroduction Foundation, Thailand.

The first World Elephant Day was celebrated on 12th August 2012.

## International Youth Day 2021-August 12

United Nations (UN)'s International Youth Day(IYD) is annually observed across the globe on 12<sup>th</sup> August to create awareness about the cultural and legal issues surrounding youth and to celebrate the potential of youths as the partners of the global society.

- IYD 2021 was virtually convened by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs(DESA) in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations(FAO) and the Major Group for Children and Youth.

The theme of International Youth Day 2021 is "Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health". The IYD 2021 theme highlights that the success of the global

efforts will not be achieved without the participation of young people.

#### **Background:**

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) endorsed the International Youth Day in its resolution A/RES / 54 / 120 in December 1999.

The first International Youth Day was observed on 12<sup>TH</sup> August 2000.

#### **Union Minister Anurag Singh Thakur Presented National Youth Awards:**

On the occasion of the International Youth Day 2021, the Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Singh Thakur announced and felicitated the winners of the National Youth Awards 2017-2018 and 2018-2019.

- He also felicitated the 10 young entrepreneur team who won the agri-enterprise challenge S.O.L.V.E.D 2021.

#### **About Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MoYAS):**

- Union Minister- Anurag Singh Thakur (Constituency- Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh)
- Minister of State- Nisith Pramanik (Constituency- Coochbehar, West Bengal)

## **World Organ Donation Day 2021-August 13**



World Organ Donation Day is annually observed across the globe on 13th} August to create awareness about the importance of organ donation and to encourage organ donation among the general public. Organ donation is a process of surgically removing an organ or tissue from a person(donor) and placing it into another person(recipient).

#### **Note:**

India observes the annual National Organ Donation Day on 27th November. The national organ donation day is organized by the National Organ & Tissue Transplantation Organisation(NOTTO), under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

#### **History of Transplantation:**

The world's first-ever organ transplantation (kidney transplantation) operation was conducted on 23rd December 1954.

Dr Joseph Murray, the lead surgeon of the operation won the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1990.

## **International Left-Handers Day 2021-August 13**

The International Left-Handers Day is annually observed across the globe on 13<sup>th</sup> August to celebrate the sinistrality or left-handedness, the quality of having a more efficient left hand and create awareness about the advantages and disadvantages of being left-handed. The day also addresses the needs of left-handed children and the likelihood of lefthanders developing schizophrenia.

The 13th August 2021 marks the 30th annual Left-Handers Day.

### **Sinister:**

The word Sinister is derived from the Latin word which means "on the left side".

### **Background:**

The International Left-Handers Day was first observed in 1976 by Dean R. Campbell, founder of Lefthanders International, Inc.

On 13th August 1992, the Left-Handers Club launched International Left-Handers

Day, as an annual event for the lefthanders across the globe to celebrate their sinistrality.

## **World Prediabetes Day- 14<sup>th</sup> August 2021**

The World Prediabetes Day will be annually observed across the globe on 14<sup>th</sup> August starting from 2021. The day aims to create awareness about Prediabetes and to reduce the increasing rate of diabetes.

- 14th August 2021 marks the first World Prediabetes Day.
- The events of World Prediabetes Day 2021 will be held online.

### **Why August 14?**

World Prediabetes Day (August 14) has been strategically chosen 90 days before World Diabetes Day (14 November) since scientifically it takes 90 days to change the lifestyle to reverse Prediabetes and prevent progression to diabetes. Prediabetes:

Prediabetes is a health condition where blood sugar levels are higher than normal, but not high enough to be diagnosed as type 2 (lifestyle induced) diabetes.



## Manipur Patriot's Day-August 13



The government of Manipur annually observes the Patriot's Day on 13<sup>th</sup> August to remember the heroes who sacrificed their lives during the Anglo-Manipur War 1891. The state-level observance of the Patriot's day led by Ganga Prasad, Governor of Manipur (additional charge) and Nongthombam Biren Singh, Chief Minister of Manipur at Imphal, Manipur.

Background:

On 13<sup>th</sup> August 1891, Bir Tikendrajit crown prince of Manipur and General Thangal were publicly hanged at Pheidabung, presently known as Bir Tikendrajit park.

The British exiled Kulachandra, King of Manipur and 21 other freedom fighters to Kalapani (present Day Andaman and Nicobar Islands).

The day recognises the bravery and patriotism of the heroes who lost their lives while defending their motherland against British Rule.

**Inauguration of Memorial Complex:**

Ganga Prasad, Governor of Manipur, inaugurated the Memorial Complex at Bir Tikendrajit Park, Imphal, Manipur.

The memorial is dedicated to the exiled martyrs of the Anglo-Manipur War 1891.

The memorial is engraved with the names of the heroes who were exiled to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

### First Rendition of State Song of Manipur:

- The artists of Roop Raag performed the first rendition of 'Sana Leibak Manipur' the state song of Manipur.
- On 7<sup>th</sup> August 2021, the State Cabinet of Manipur decided to adopt the song "Sana Leibak Manipur", as the State Song of Manipur.

### About Manipur:

- Governor- Ganga Prasad (additional charge)
- Zoological park- Manipur Zoological Garden



## **World Humanitarian Day 2021- August 19**

The United Nations(UN)'s World Humanitarian Day(WHD) is annually observed across the globe on 19 th August to honour and recognise the efforts of Humanitarians across the globe on protecting and supporting the people in need. WHD is a campaign by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and humanitarian partners.

- 19 th August 2021 marks the observance of 12 th World Humanitarian Day.
- The WHD 2020 highlights the immediate human cost of the Climate Crisis by pressuring the world leaders to take climate actions for the vulnerable people across the globe.

### **Background:**

The United Nations General Assembly(UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/63/139 on 11 December 2008 and proclaimed the 19th August of every year as World Humanitarian Day.

The First World Humanitarian Day was commemorated on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2009.

Why August 19 ?

The day is marked in memory of the Canal Hotel bomb attack (19th August 2003 ) in Baghdad, Iraq, killing 22 people, including Sergio Vieira Mello, Chief Humanitarian in Iraq.

## **World Photography Day 2021-August 19**

World Photography Day is annually observed across the globe on 19th August to celebrate the art, craft, science and history of photography. The day also inspires photographers across the globe to share one of their photographs to share their world with the world.

World Photography Day is also known as World Photo Day.

### **Background:**

The first-ever World Photograph was observed on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2010. The day was marked with the first global online gallery which was hosted with the photographs of more than 270 photographers.

### **Photography:**

The term photography was coined by Sir John Frederick William Herschel in 1839.

The word photography is derived from the Greek words photos ("light") and graphé ("to draw").

## **World Mosquito Day 2021- August 20**

World Mosquito Day is observed annually across the globe on 20th August to commemorate the discovery of British doctor Sir Ronald Ross in 1897 that female mosquitoes transmit malaria between humans.

- The day also aims to create awareness about the cause and prevention of Malaria.
- The annual celebration of World Mosquito Day has been organized by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine since the 1930 s.

### **Background:**

Sir Ronald Ross in his discovery declared the 20th August of every year as the World Mosquitoes.

## **World Senior Citizens Day 2021- August 21**

World Senior Citizen's Day is annually observed across the globe on 21st August to recognise and acknowledge the contribution of the elders to society and their inclusiveness in society. The day aims to create awareness about the issues and challenges faced by the elderly.

### **Background:**

The World Senior Citizens' Day was officially founded by the former President of the United States of America Ronald Regan.

He took the initiative to honour the senior citizens in 1998 and signed the proclamation 5847 and marked the 21st August of every year as World Senior Citizens' Day.

### **UN's International Day of Older Persons:**

The United Nations(UN) International Day of Older Persons is annually observed on 1st October.

## **International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism 2021 August 21**

United Nations(UN)'s International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism is annually observed across the globe on  $\mathbf{21^{st}}$  August to honour and support the victims and survivors of terrorism. The day also aims to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedom of the victims of terrorism.

- 21st August 2021 marks the 4th commemoration of the International

Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism.

- The theme of the International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism 2021 is "Connections".

#### **Background:**

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), adopted the resolution on 19th December 2017 and proclaimed the 21st August of every year as International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism.

The first International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism was observed on 21st August 2018. kin

#### **About United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT):**

- Under-Secretary-General- Vladimir Voronkov
- Established on 15 June 2017
- HQ- New York, United States

### **International Day Commemorating the Victims of Violence based on Religion or Belief 2021- August 22**

The United Nations(UN)'s International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief is

annually observed across the globe on 22nd August to commemorate the victims of the violence based on religion or belief. The day also recognizes the importance of supporting the victims and members of their families and providing assistance following applicable law.

- 22nd August 2021 marked the observance of 3rd International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief

#### **Background:**

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has adopted the resolution on 28 May 2019 and proclaimed the 22nd August of every year as the International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief.

The first-ever International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief was observed on 22nd August 2019.

### **International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition 2021- August 23**

The United Nations (UN)'s International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is annually observed across the globe on 23rd

August to remember the tragedy of the slave trade across the globe during colonial rule.

- The day also aims to educate the people about the events associated with the slavetrade and its consequences.

#### **History:**

During the 22nd to 23rd August 1791, the uprising in Santo Domingo (at present Haiti and the Dominican Republic) played a major role in the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade.

#### **Background:**

International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition was first observed in various countries like Haiti on 23 August 1998, and Goree in Senegal on 23 August 1999.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Executive Board adopted Resolution 29 C/40 at its 29th session and proclaimed the 23rd August of every year as the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition.

#### **About United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO):**

- Director-General- Audrey Azoulay
- HQ- Paris, France

## **World Sanskrit Day 2021- August 22**

World Sanskrit Day, also known as Vishva-Sanskrita-dinam and Sanskrit Diwas, is annually observed on 'Sawan Poornima' to create awareness, promote and revive Sanskrit, one of the ancient Indian languages. World Sanskrit Day 2021 falls on 22nd August 2021.

#### **World Sanskrit Week 2021 - 19th to 25th August:**

World Sanskrit week is annually observed across the globe to promote and celebrate one of the ancient Indian languages 'Sanskrit'. The week on which Sanskrit Day falls celebrated as Sanskrit week.

The Sanskrit Week 2021 is celebrated from 19<sup>th</sup> August to 25<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

## **World Entrepreneurs Day 2021- August 21**

World Entrepreneurs' Day(WED) is annually observed across the globe on 21<sup>st</sup> August to create awareness about entrepreneurship, innovation and leadership among the stakeholders. The day also recognizes and celebrates the efforts of individuals who start a business venture.

- The Alliance of International Business Associations (AIBA) leads the observance and invites people across the globe to promote World Entrepreneurs Day.
- The day highlights philanthropic, social and ethical business practices through conferences, awards and other initiatives.

### **World Water Week 2021- 23 to 27 August**

World Water Week (WWWeek) is annually celebrated across the globe in the month of August to address the major water issues across the globe. The WWWeek 2021 is being held as an online event from 23rd to 27th August. WWWeek has been an annual event organised by Stockholm International Water Institute(SIWI) since 1991. The theme of 2021 World water Week is "Building Resilience Faster".

- The WWWeek 2021 marks the observance of the 23rd World Water Week.

Rajiv Ranjan Mishra DG, NMCG participated in WWWeek session:

Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, Director General of National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has participated as a key panellist in the session on 'Making Cities Water Positive Through City Water Balance Plan' during the 1st day of Stockholm's World Water Week 2021 (23rd August).

The session was jointly convened by the Safe Water Network, The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and World Resources Institute (WRI) India.

### **International Day Against Nuclear Tests 2021- August 29**

The United Nations(UN)'s International Day against Nuclear Tests is annually observed across the globe on 29<sup>th</sup> August to create awareness about the hazards of testing nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosions and the need to end nuclear tests and achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world. 29th August 2021 marks the observance of the 12<sup>th</sup> International Day against Nuclear Tests.

#### **Background:**

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution on 2



December 2009 and proclaimed the 29th August of every year as the International Day against Nuclear Tests.

The first-ever International Day against Nuclear Tests was observed on 29th August 2010. The 29th August was chosen to commemorate the closure of the Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test site on 29 August 1991.

#### **First-Ever Nuclear Test:**

The Army of the United States of America (USA) conducted the first detonation of a nuclear device on 16 July 1945.

'Trinity' was the code name of the first-ever nuclear bomb which was denoted in New Mexico, USA as a part of the Manhattan Project.

### **International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearance 2021- August 30**

The United Nations (UN)'s International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances is annually observed across the globe on 30th August to create awareness about enforced or involuntary disappearance in various regions across the globe. The day

highlights that enforced disappearance is a crime and it should not be used as a way to deal with conflicts.

#### **Background:**

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution on 21 December 2010 and proclaimed the 30th August of every year as the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances.

The first-ever International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances was observed on 30th August 2011.

### **National Nutrition Week 2021-1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> September**

National Nutrition Week (NNW) has been annually observed across India in the first week of September since 1982. The day aims to create awareness about the benefits of eating a nutritious diet and the importance of nutrition in maintaining better health, which impacts national development.

- The National Nutrition Week (NNW) 2021 is observed from 1st to 7th September 2021
- The theme of National Nutrition Week (NNW) 2021 is 'feeding smart right from start'.

### **Background:**

The National Nutrition Week (NNW) was initiated in 1982 as a Mass Awareness Campaign by the Food and Nutrition Board under the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), Government of India.

The first NNW was observed from 1st to 7th September 1982.

### **About Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD):**

- Union Minister- Smriti Zubin Irani (Constituency- Amethi, Uttar Pradesh)
- Minister of State - Dr. Munjpara Mahendrabhai (Constituency - Surendranagar, Gujarat)

### **International Day of Charity 2021- September 5**

The United Nations (UN)'s International Day of Charity is annually observed across the globe on 5<sup>th</sup> September to recognise the role of charity in attenuating humanitarian crises and human suffering across the globe.

The day also commemorates the death anniversary of Nobel laureate Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

### **Objective of the Day:**

To sensitize and mobilize people, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and other stakeholders across the globe to help others through volunteer and philanthropic activities.

### **Background:**

In 2011, The International Day of Charity was first celebrated as an initiative of the Hungarian civil society with the support of the government of Hungary.

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/67/105 on 17<sup>th</sup> fa

The first International Day of Charity was observed on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2013

### **International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies 2021- September 7**



The United Nations(UN)'s International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies is annually observed across the globe on 7<sup>th</sup> September to create awareness about the importance of healthy air and the

effects of air pollution, one of the environmental threats, on humans health.

- 7th September 2021 commemorates the observance of the 2nd International Day of Clean Air for blue skies.
- The official commemoration of the 2021 International Day of Clean Air for blue skies takes place in Nairobi, Kenya; New York, United States of America and Bangkok, Thailand.

The theme of the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies 2021 is "Healthy Air, Healthy Planet".

#### **Background:**

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution

A/RES/74/212 on 19th December 2019 and proclaimed the 7th September 2021 of every year as the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies.

The first-ever International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies was observed on 7th September 2020 under the theme "Clean Air for All".

#### **UNEP Report: European and Central Asian Actions on Air Quality:**

The report titled "European and Central Asian Actions on Air Quality" by UNEP along with the IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute has been launched ahead of the International Day of clear air for blue skies.



## Current Affairs

1. When is World Mosquito Day observed globally?  
(a) 20 August (b) 19 August  
(c) 18 August (d) 17 August
2. What is the revised GDP growth rate of India as projected by India Ratings (Ind-Ra) in FY22?  
(a) 9.10% (b) 9.60%  
(c) 9.40% (d) 9.80%
3. Which of the following state/UT will inaugurate the country's first smog tower?  
(a) Chandigarh (b) Uttar Pradesh  
(c) Punjab (d) Delhi
4. Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurates Centre for Research & Innovation in AI set up at \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) IIT-Delhi (b) IIT-Bombay  
(c) IIT-Madras (d) IIT-Roorkee
5. Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) signed an agreement for cooperation in remote sensing satellite data sharing with \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) JAXA (b) CNSA  
(c) ISRO (d) NASA

6. Which of these regions in India has got the highest altitude herbal park of the country recently?  
(a) Shimla (b) Chamoli  
(c) Dehradun (d) Kinnaur
7. NTPC Ltd. has unveiled India's largest floating solar PV project in which city of India recently?  
(a) Visakhapatnam (b) Surat  
(c) Rewa (d) Thiruvananthapuram
8. The Cybersecurity Multi-Donor Trust Fund has been launched by which organisation?  
(a) IMF (b) WEF  
(c) World Bank (d) UNDP
9. Onam is the most revered and celebrated festival of \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Tamil Nadu (b) Kerala  
(c) Karnataka (d) Telangana
10. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has launched 'UbharteSitaare Fund' for export-oriented firms and startups. UbharteSitaare fund has been set up by \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Export Import Bank of India  
(b) Small Industries Development Bank of India  
(c) Reserve Bank of India  
(d) Both a & b
11. Yuktdhara is a portal to plan for new MGNREGA assets using Remote Sensing and GIS based information. The portal has been launched by which organisation?  
(a) Google India (b) NPCI  
(c) ISRO (d) BSNL



- 12.** Who has been appointed as the new Governor of Manipur?  
(a) TK Rangarajan (b) La. Ganesan  
(c) R. Vaithilingam (d) P. Wilson
- 13.** The World Water Week is being observed globally in 2021 from \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) August 22 to 26 (b) August 26 to 30  
(c) August 25 to 29 (d) August 23 to 27
- 14.** The 'National Monetisation Pipeline' was recently launched by FM Nirmala Sitharaman. The pipeline has been developed by which organisation?  
(a) IIT Kanpur (b) DRDO  
(c) ONGC (d) NITI Aayog
- 15.** What is the estimated monetisation potential of National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP)?  
(a) Rs 6.0 lakh crores (b) Rs 3.0 lakh crores  
(c) Rs 4.0 lakh crores (d) Rs 5.0 lakh crores
- 16.** East Sikkim has topped the North Eastern Region (NER) District SDG Index 2021-22. The index has been launched by?  
(a) NITI Aayog  
(b) Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region  
(c) UNDP  
(d) All of the Above
- 17.** Every unorganised worker who registers on the eSHRAM Portal will get \_\_\_\_\_ Accidental Insurance cover.  
(a) Rs 1.0 Lakh (b) Rs 2.0 Lakh  
(c) Rs 3.0 Lakh (d) Rs 4.0 Lakh

- 18.** India has been elected as a member of the Council of Administration (CA) and Postal Operations Council (POC) of the Universal Postal Union (UPU). In which place is the headquarter of UPU located?
- (a) Rome, Italy (b) London, United Kingdom  
(c) Paris, France (d) Bern, Switzerland
- 19.** Who has been appointed as the Chairperson of Stop TB Partnership Board?
- (a) Harsh Vardhan (b) Mansukh Mandaviya  
(c) Kiren Rijiju (d) Dharmendra Pradhan
- 20.** Kunming Declaration', which was seen in the news recently, is associated with which country?
- (a) China (b) Japan  
(c) USA (d) South Korea
- 21.** What is the target year set by the Government to become an energy-independent country?
- (a) 2041 (b) 2043  
(c) 2045 (d) 2047
- 22.** TAPAS is the initiative to provide access to lectures by subject experts, study material, and more. It supplements the physical classroom without compromising on the quality of teaching. TAPAS stands for?
- (a) Teaching Augmenting for Productivity and Services  
(b) Training for Augmenting Productivity and Studies  
(c) Teaching Augmenting for Productivity and Studies  
(d) Training for Augmenting Productivity and Services
- 23.** Recently, Four sites from India were added to the Ramsar list as wetlands of international importance. What is the total number of Ramsar Sites in India after the addition of these Four?
- (a) 44 (b) 42  
(c) 46 (d) 48

- 24.** Ashraf Ghani has resigned as the President of which country?  
(a) Oman (b) Afghanistan  
(c) Qatar (d) Pakistan
- 25.** Who has flagged off a pioneering world record expedition named 'Operation Blue Freedom' from Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi?  
(a) Danve Raosaheb Dadarao (b) Krishan Pal  
(c) Prahalad Singh Patel (d) Virendra Kumar
- 26.** The mobile app Photographic Record of On-site Facility (PROOF) has been launched by which state/UT?  
(a) Delhi (b) Jammu & Kashmir  
(c) Rajasthan (d) Madhya Pradesh
- 27.** Which city was adjudged the second most polluted city out of the 50 'most polluted cities' in the world in 2020?  
(a) Judbury (b) Hotan  
(c) Hawaii (d) Ghaziabad
- 28.** Which of the following state has decided to set up a training centre for Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) commandos?  
(a) Haryana (b) Uttar Pradesh  
(c) Punjab (d) Rajasthan
- 29.** Who is the first Indian to receive the highest civilian award in the United States?  
(a) Narendra Modi (b) Neeraj Chopra  
(c) Mahatma Gandhi (d) Jawaharlal Nehru

- 30.** Name the father of Sodoku, who has passed away recently.
- (a) Sakichi Toyoda (b) Maki Kaji  
(c) Kokichi Mikimoto (d) Kikunae Ikeda
- 31.** Devendra Jhajharia has claimed a silver medal in which sports event for India at the Paralympics 2020
- (a) Javelin Throw (b) Shooting  
(c) Long Jump (d) Discuss Throw
- 32.** Avani Lekhara has won the first gold medal for India at Tokyo Paralympics 2020 in which event?
- (a) Archery (b) Shooting  
(c) Tennis (d) Badminton
- 33.** Which Indian frigate participated in the joint maritime drill between Indian Navy and German Navy at the Gulf of Aden?
- (a) Talwar (b) Trisul  
(c) Teg (d) Trikand
- 34.** Buddhadeb Guha, who has passed away recently, was a renowned writer in which language?
- (a) Bengali (b) Marathi  
(c) Malayalam (d) Hindi
- 35.** The PhonePe has recently received which of these licence from IRDAI to conduct insurance business?
- (a) Composite broker licence (b) Re-insurance broker licence  
(c) Corporate agent licence (d) Direct broking licence

- 36.** What is the projected GDP growth forecast of India in the Calendar Year 2021, as per Moody's?
- (a) 9.3% (b) 9.9%  
(c) 9.1% (d) 9.6%
- 37.** Name the Indian dairy company which has achieved the feat of being ranked in Rabobank's 2021 Global Top 20 Dairy Companies of the World list.
- (a) Orissa State Cooperative Milk Producers Federation  
(b) Andhra Pradesh Dairy Development Cooperative Federation  
(c) Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation  
(d) Karnataka Co-operative Milk Federation
- 38.** Singhraj Adana has claimed Bronze medal at the Tokyo Paralympics in the P1 Men's \_\_\_\_\_ SH1 final?
- (a) Shooting (b) Javlin throw  
(c) High Jump (d) Wrestling
- 39.** Which company is acquiring the Indian digital payments provider BillDesk?
- (a) Razorpay (b) PayU  
(c) CCAvenue (d) Paytm
- 40.** Name the first ever Indian to be selected as the Honorary Member of the International Astronomical Union (IAU) recently.
- (a) Chrisphin Karthick (b) Somak Ray chaudhury  
(c) Jayant Narlikar (d) Dorje Angchuk



- 41.** Which animal has been named as the state animal by the administration of the Union Territory of Ladakh?
- (a) Jaguar (b) Red panda  
(c) Kashmir stag (d) Snow leopard
- 42.** PM Modi inaugurated a special commemorative coin of what value to mark the birth anniversary of ISKCON founder on September 01, 2021?
- (a) Rs 100 (b) Rs 125  
(c) Rs 200 (d) Rs 250
- 43.** RBI has announced to set up a 5-member committee to scrutinize applications and give recommendations on New Umbrella Entity (NUE) licenses. Who will head this committee?
- (a) P. Vasudevan (b) Mohd. Anwar  
(c) Vikram Dhanda (d) Debojit Barua
- 44.** The Rural Enterprises Acceleration Programme 'Saath' has been launched by which state/UT for Self Help Group (SHG) women?
- (a) Chandigarh (b) Rajasthan  
(c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Jammu & Kashmir
- 45.** Which of these countries have been inducted as the new member country of the New Development Bank (NDB) set up by BRICS nation?
- (a) Bangladesh (b) UAE  
(c) Uruguay (d) All of the above
- 46.** The 24th meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) was held recently. Who is the Chairperson of this FSDC?
- (a) Finance Minister (b) RBI Governor  
(c) Prime Minister (d) Finance Secretary

- 47.** India is the first country in Asia to launch a Plastic Pact to promote circular economy for plastics. The pact has by CII in collaboration with which organistaion?
- (a) UNICEF India
  - (b) UNEP
  - (c) Facebook India
  - (d) World-Wide Fund for Nature-India
- 48.** The International Day of Charity is observed annually on which day?
- (a) 06 September
  - (b) 04 September
  - (c) 05 September
  - (d) 03 September
- 49.** SIMBEX 2021 was the annual bilateral maritime exercise of India and Singapore. The exercise was which edition of the annual event?
- (a) 25<sup>th</sup>
  - (b) 28<sup>th</sup>
  - (c) 30<sup>th</sup>
  - (d) 27<sup>th</sup>
- 50.** The Ministry of AYUSH has launched the campaign 'AYUSH AAPKE DWAR' to distribute medicinal plant saplings to how many households in one year?
- (a) 35 lakh
  - (b) 45 lakh
  - (c) 55 lakh
  - (d) 75 lakh



# ANSWERS



**1.(a)** 20 August

**Exp.** World Mosquito Day is observed annually across the globe on 20th August to commemorate the discovery of British doctor Sir Ronald Ross in 1897 that female mosquitoes transmit malaria between humans.

- The day also aims to create awareness about the cause and prevention of Malaria.
- The annual celebration of World Mosquito Day has been organized by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine since the 1930 s.

**2.(c)** 9.40 %

**Exp.** India Ratings (Ind-Ra) has projected the GDP growth rate for India for FY22 at 9.4%. Earlier Indi-Ra had projected the rate at between 9.1-9.6%

**3.(d)** Delhi

**Exp.** Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will inaugurate the country's first smog tower on August 23, 2021, at Baba Kharak Singh Marg, Connaught Place.

**4.(d)** IIT-Roorke

**Exp.** India has launched a tech platform named "UNITE Aware", in collaboration with the UN, for improving the safety and security of the UN peacekeepers.

**5.(c)** ISRO

**Exp.** Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) signed an agreement for cooperation in remote sensing satellite data sharing, according to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

**6.(b)** Chamoli

**Exp.** India's highest altitude herbal park has been inaugurated on Saturday at Mana village in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand.

**7.(a)** Vishakhapatnam

**Exp.** NTPC has commissioned the largest floating solar PV project in India of 25MW power on the reservoir of its Simhadri thermal station in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. This is also the first solar project to be set up under the Flexibilisation Scheme. This scheme was notified by the Government of India in 2018.

**8.(c)** World Bank

**Exp.** The World Bank has launched a new 'Cybersecurity Multi-Donor Trust Fund', to better roll-out cybersecurity development agenda in a systematic manner. World Bank has partnered with four countries, namely Estonia, Japan, Germany, and the Netherlands, to launch the fund.

**9.(b)** Kerala

**Exp.** Onam is the most revered and celebrated festival of Kerala, is celebrated every year by the Malayali community across the world. The 10-day long festival marks the beginning of harvest season as well as the appearance of the Vaman avatar of Lord Vishnu along with the homecoming of King Mahabali.

**10.(d)** Both a & b

**Exp.** UbharteSitaare fund has been set up jointly by Exim Bank and SIDBI. This fund is a mix of structured support– financial as well as advisory services by investing in equity or equity like instruments; debt– both funded & non-funded and technical assistance such as advisory services, grants & soft loans; to the Indian companies.

### **11.(c) ISRO**

**Exp.** On August 23, 2021 the Government of India had launched a new geo-spatial planning portal 'Yuktdhara' under Bhuvan. It would enable MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) assets planning by using remote sensing and Geographic Information System (GIS) data. The portal Yuktdhara was launched by Giriraj Singh, Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj. Objective- Yuktdhara platform will serve as a repository of assets and facilitate the Gram Panchayat level planning of MGNREGA activities across India.

It is an initiative of Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) along with the Ministry of Rural Development. By providing the support in rural areas for decentralized decision making using these G2G services.

### **12.(b) La Ganesan**

**Exp.** Senior BJP leader from Tamil Nadu, La. Ganesan, has been appointed as the new Governor of Manipur with effect from August 23, 2021.

### **13.(d) August 23 to 27**

**Exp.** The World Water Week is an annual event organized by Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) since 1991 to address the global water issues and related concerns of international development. The World Water Week 2021 has been organised from 23-27 August, in entirely digital format.

### **14.(d) Niti Aayog**

**Exp.** Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman launched the asset monetisation pipeline of Central ministries and public sector entities named National Monetisation pipeline (NMP).



- The NMP report was developed by NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) in consultation with infrastructure line ministries.
- Objective: To list out the government's (govt) infrastructure assets that are to be sold in the next 4 years.
- The aggregate monetisation potential under NMP through core assets of the central govt over the 4-year period (i.e., from FY22 to FY25) is estimated at Rs 6 lakh

**15.(a)** Rs 6.0 lakh crores

**Exp.** NMP estimates aggregate monetisation potential of Rs 6.0 lakh crores through core assets of the Central Government, over a four-year period, from FY 2022 to FY 2025

**16.(d)** All of the Above

**Exp.** NITI Aayog and Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (M/DoNER) have launched the North Eastern Region (NER) District SDG Index Report and Dashboard 2021–22, with technical support from UNDP. The index is based on NITI Aayog's SDG India Index.

**17.(b)** Rs 2.0 lakh

**Exp.** Every unorganised worker who registers on the eSHRAM Portal will get Rs 2.0 Lakh Accidental Insurance cover. (Rs 2.0 Lakh on death or permanent disability and Rs 1.0 lakh on partial disability).

**18.(d)** Bern Switzerland

**Exp.** Universal Postal Union established in 1874, the Universal Postal Union (UPU), with its headquarters in the Swiss capital Berne, is the second oldest international organization.

**19.(b)** Mansukh Mandaviya

**Exp.** Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Shri Mansukh Mandaviya has taken over charge as the Chairperson of Stop TB Partnership Board

**20.(a)** China

**Exp.** China has recently submitted a “zero draft” of the ‘Kunming Declaration’ to the United Nations.

The declaration includes the key Chinese Communist Party concept of “ecological civilisation”.

The document also calls on parties to focus biodiversity protection in decision-making and recognise the importance of conservation in protecting human health.

The COP 15 biodiversity talks are due to take place in October 2021.

**21.(d)** 2047

**Exp.** Prime Minister set a target of becoming energy independent by 2047 through a mix of electric mobility, gas-based economy, doping ethanol in petrol, and making the country a hub for hydrogen production.

**22.(d)** Training for Augmenting Productivity and Services

**Exp.** Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar launched an online portal TAPAS (Training for Augmenting Productivity and Services).

**23.(c)** 46

**Exp.** The total number of Ramsar sites in India have reached 46, covering a surface area of 1,083,322 hectares. The sites have been recognised as wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.

**24.(b)** Afghanistan

**Exp.** Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani will shortly tender his resignation on August 15, 2021, as the government has surrendered to the Taliban forces, which entered Kabul and sought the unconditional surrender of the central government.

**25.(d)** Virendra Kumar

**Exp.** The Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Dr Virendra Kumar has flagged off a pioneering world record expedition named 'Operation Blue Freedom' from Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi on the occasion of 75th Independence Day.

**26.(b)** Jammu and Kashmir

**Exp.** In Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha unveiled a mobile application named PROOF, to bring more transparency and accountability in the governance system. PROOF stands for 'Photographic Record of On-site Facility'.

**27.(d)** Ghaziabad

**Exp.** Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad was adjudged the second most polluted city out of the 50 'most polluted cities' in the world in 2020 by a report prepared by British company HouseFresh.

**28.(b)** Uttar Pradesh

**Exp.** The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to set up a training centre for Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) commandos in Saharanpur's Deoband.

**29.(c)** Mahatma Gandhi

**Exp.** Mahatma Gandhi would be the first Indian to receive a Congressional Gold Medal, an honour bestowed upon great figures as George Washington, Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King Jr, Mother Teresa, and Rosa Parks. The

prestigious Congressional Gold Medal to Mahatma Gandhi is given posthumously in recognition of his promotion of peace and nonviolence. The medal is the highest civilian award in the United States.

**30.(b) Maki Kaji**

**Exp.** Maki Kaji, the creator of puzzle Sudoku passed away at the age of 69 years due to bile duct cancer. He was known as the father of Sodoku and was from Japan.

**31.(a) Javelin Throw**

**Exp.** At the ongoing Tokyo Paralympics 2020, India's greatest paralympian, Devendra Jhajharia won the silver medal in the men's javelin throw – F46 final event on August 30, 2021.

**32.(b) Shooting**

**Exp.** Indian paralympic shooter AvaniLekhara won the first gold medal for India at the Tokyo Paralympics 2020 in the women's 10m air rifle standing SH1 event.

**33.(d) Trikand**

**Exp.** The Indian Navy and the German Navy carried out a joint exercise in the Gulf of Aden near Yemen, in the Indian Ocean leg of Indo-Pacific Deployment 2021. The Indian Navy was represented by frigate "Trikand" while the German Navy was represented by frigate "Bayern"

**34.(a) Bengali**

**Exp.** Eminent Bengali writer Buddhadeb Guha, has passed away. He was the author of many notable works such as "Madhukari" (Honey Gatherer), "KoelerKachhe" (Near the Koel bird) and "SobinoyNibedon" (Humble Offering).

**35.(d) Direct Broking Licence**

**Exp.** Flipkart-owned digital payments platform PhonePe has received an insurance broking licence from Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI). This means that with the new 'direct broking' licence, PhonePe can now distribute insurance products from all insurance companies in India, on its platform.

**36.(d) 9.6 %**

**Exp.** Moody's Investors Service has retained India's growth forecast for the calendar year (CY) 2021 at 9.6 percent, in its August update to 'Global Macro Outlook 2021-22' report. The GDP growth forecast for calendar year 2022 is retained at 7 percent.

**37.(c) Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation**

**Exp.** Amul, Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) has dropped two places to rank 18th in the Rabobank's 2021 Global Top 20 Dairy Companies list. Amul was placed at 16th spot in 2020.

**38.(a) Shooting**

**Exp.** At the ongoing Tokyo Paralympics 2020, Indian shooter Singhraj Adana has won the bronze medal in the P1 Men's 10m Air Pistol SH1 final on August 31, 2021.

**39.(b) PayU**

**Exp.** Netherlands-based Prosus NV has announced to acquire the Indian digital payments provider BillDesk and merge it with its own fintech service business PayU. The size of the deal is \$4.7 billion.



**40.(d)** Dorje Angchuk

**Exp.** Dorje Angchuk, an Engineer in charge at the Indian Astronomical Observatory of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) at Hanle in Ladakh region, has been admitted as an Honorary Member of the International Astronomical Union (IAU).

**41.(d)** Snow leopard

**Exp.** The Union Territory of Ladakh has declared snow leopard (*Panther unica*) as the new state animal and black-necked crane (*Grus nicricollis*) as the new state bird.

**42.(b)** 125

**Exp.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually released a special commemorative coin of Rs 125 to mark the 125th birth anniversary of ISKCON founder Srila Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada.

**43.(a)** P Vasudevan

**Exp.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will setup a committee to scrutinize applications and give recommendations on New Umbrella Entity (NUE) licenses. The 5 member committee will be headed by Shri. P. Vasudevan.

**44.(d)** Jammu and Kashmir

**Exp.** In Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha launched a Rural Enterprises Acceleration Programme titled 'Saath' for Self Help Group (SHG) women.

**45.(d)** All of the Above

**Exp.** The Shanghai based New Development Bank (NDB) has approved United Arab Emirates, Uruguay and Bangladesh as its new member countries.

**46.(a)** Finance Minister

**Exp.** Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman chaired the 24th meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC). Finance Minister is the chairperson of FSDC. It must be noted that FSDC Sub-Committee is chaired by the Governor, RBI.

**47.(d)** World Wide Fund for Nature India

**Exp.** India has become the first country in Asia to launch a Plastics Pact, a new platform to promote a circular system for plastics. The new platform 'India Plastic Pact' is a joint effort of World-Wide Fund for Nature-India (WWF India) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), and envisions to create a world where plastic is valued and does not pollute the environment

**48.(c)** 05 September

**Exp.** The United Nations (UN)'s International Day of Charity is annually observed across the globe on 5 th September to recognise the role of charity in attenuating humanitarian crises and human suffering across the globe. The day also commemorates the death anniversary of Nobel laureate Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

**Objective of the Day:**

To sensitize and mobilize people, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and other stakeholders across the globe to help others through volunteer and philanthropic activities.

**49.(b)** 28<sup>th</sup>

**Exp.** On September 2-4,2021, the 3 days 28th Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise 'SIMBEX-2021' was held between the Indian Navy and Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) in the southern edge of the South China Sea. It was hosted by RSN as 'at sea only' i.e., without any physical interactions due to COVID-19.

The India Navy was represented by the following:

- Guided Missile Destroyer INS (Indian Naval Ship) Ranvijay with a ship borne helicopter,
- ASW (Anti-submarine warfare) Corvette INS Kiltan
- Guided Missile Corvette INS Kora
- P8I Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft.

**50.(d)** 75 lakh

**Exp.** As a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebration, the Ministry of AYUSH has launched a campaign titled 'AYUSH AAPKE DWAR', which aims to distribute medicinal plant saplings to 75 lakh households in one year.