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Female Candidates allowed to attend NDA Exams



Indian Armed Forces allowed the entry of female candidates into the armed forces through National Defence Academy (NDA) after the intervention of the Supreme Court(SC) of India. Previously, a Supreme Court bench of justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Hrishikesh Roy, questioned the gender bias followed in the recruitment of candidates for the Indian Armed Forces.

The NDA Exams that was set to be held on 5th September was postponed to 14th November after the intervention of the Supreme Court, and now female candidates were allowed to appear in the examination.

Previously, In February 2020, Female candidates serving in Short Service Commission (SSC) were permitted for Permanent Commission after similar intervention by the Supreme Court.

Note : During 2021 Republic Day, Bhawana Kanth & Swati Rathore became the 1st women pilots to participate in the Republic Day parade.

Selection through NDA:

NDA annually recruits candidates to the Indian armed forces, through examinations conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

- ◆ Currently, Only Male candidates who have cleared Class 12 or equivalent \$\\&\$ in the age group of 16 -and-a-half and 19 were eligible to apply.
- ◆ On Clearing the exam, candidates will be trained in NDA for getting posted in Indian Army, Navy or Air Force wings of NDA.

About National Defence Academy (NDA):

- ◆ HQ - Pune, Maharashtra
- ◆ Established - 1954
- ◆ President of India is the Supreme Commander of Armed Forces

About Supreme Court of India:

- ◆ Established -26 January 1950
- ◆ The Supreme Court of India is a Constitutional body, established under the provisions of Article 124
- ◆ Total Strength of Judges - 34 (including Chief Justice of India (CJI) but Currently there are 33 judges including CJI in SC)

Skyroot Aerospace, a 1st spacetechn startup to sign Framework MoU up with DOS

Skyroot Aerospace, a Space technology startup, becomes the first private company to formally sign a Framework Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Space (DOS).

- ◆ Under this agreement, the startup company can undertake multiple tests and access facilities at various ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) centers. ISRO will also provide technical expertise for testing and qualifying their Space launch vehicle systems and subsystems,

Signatories :

The agreement for the same was inked by R Umamaheswaran, scientific secretary at ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation), and chairman at Interim IN-SPACe Committee, and Pawan Chandana, CEO of Skyroot Aerospace.

- ◆ IN-SPACe is an authorization and regulatory body under DOS for enabling private entities to undertake space activities in India.

Key Points :

Skyroot is developing Vikram series of rockets to carry small satellites into space. It has already test fired its solid propulsion rocket engine named Kalam-5, it's bigger version will power rockets.

In 2020, Agnikul Cosmos founder and CEO (Chief Executive Officer) Srinath Ravichandran and R Umamaheswaran signed a non-disclosure agreement to test and qualify its small rocket that is capable of launching 100 kg satellites into low earth orbit. A formal agreement for the same is also expected soon.

About Skyroot Aerospace :

Establishment- 2018

HQ- Hyderabad, Telangana

NITI Aayog's AIM in collaboration with ISRO and CBSE launches ATL Space Challenge 2021 for Indian School Students

National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), in collaboration with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) launched the Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL) 'Space Challenge 2021' for all school students across the country. To celebrate the contribution of space science and technology, the ATL has aligned with the World Space Week 2021 (4-10 October) at global level.

Objective

Enable school students to create innovations for space technology.

Theme

ATL Space Challenge 2021 aligns with this year's theme of celebrating 75 years of India's independence "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav"

Participants

It is being conducted for all the school students, mentors and teachers across the country. Those who do not have ATL labs are also associated with the challenge. The challenge will allow the students from class 6-12 to innovate and enable them to solve digital space technology problems.,

Key Points :

Students can take opportunity in creating solutions for these technologies such as Explore space, Reach Space, Inhabit space, Leverage space etc.

The application will be submitted on the AIM online portal. Each unique solution must be submitted under one theme only.

About Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) :

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is a flagship initiative set up by the NITI Aayog to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country.

Initiatives of AIM

1. Atal Tinkering Lab(ATL)
 2. Atal Incubation Center(ALC)
 3. Mentor India
 4. Atal New India Challenge
 5. Atal Community Innovation Centre
 6. Aatmanirbhar Bharat ARISE - Atal New India Challenge (ANIC) Program
- ♦ Mission Director- Chintan Vaishnav

Giriraj Singh launches 'SVAMITVA dashboard' to monitor implementation of SVAMITVA Scheme

On 14th September 2021, Giriraj Singh, Union Minister for Panchayati Raj and Rural Development launched a dashboard (<https://svamitva.nic.in/>) during a national level meet - "SVAMITVA Scheme: A Stepping-Stone Towards Upliftment of Rural Economy" in New Delhi.

- ♦ The dashboard is set to monitor the implementation of SVAMITVA Scheme, which is targeted to be implemented across India by 2024.
- ♦ The dashboard will be used for faster implementation of SVAMITVA Scheme, thereby providing property cards to inhabited lands across rural India.
- ♦ Currently, at least five villages per drone team per day are used for framing land records.

- ♦ The SVAMITVA scheme is aimed to provide an integrated property validation solution for rural India leveraging property as a financial asset by the citizens with accurate land records for rural planning. The project is also expected to help in determination of property tax; creation of survey infrastructure and GIS map that can be leveraged by any other department for their use and reduce property disputes and legal cases.

Benefits of SVAMITVA Cards :

- ♦ Increased Transparency of Land Records in rural India.
- ♦ Villagers can avail loans from banks using the Property cards.

About SVAMITVA Scheme :

On National Panchayati Raj Day, 24th April 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched "Survey of Villages Abadi & Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas" (SVAMITVA) Scheme.

The Scheme was established under the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. Objective - To provide Property cards to legal land owners of the rural inhabited areas, by mapping the lands using drone technology.

About Ministry of Panchayati Raj :

- ♦ Union Minister - Giriraj Singh (Constituency - Begusarai, Bihar)
- ♦ Minister of State - Kapil Moreshwar Patil (Constituency - Bhiwandi, Maharashtra)

MGNREGA Entitlement Awareness Week- 27th August to 2nd September 2021

The States and Union Territories (UTs) across India organised the MGNREGA Entitlement Awareness Week from 27th August to 2nd September 2021, as a part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

- ◆ The MGNREGA Entitlement Awareness Week was organised to create awareness among workers about their rights and entitlements under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) 2005.
- ◆ This will enable the beneficiaries to gain maximum advantage from the MGNREGA scheme.

Niti Aayog launches “Shoonya” a Campaign to promote Zero Pollution Delivery Vehicles

On 15th September 2021, NITI Aayog in partnership with Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) and RMI India launched a campaign named "Shoonya" an initiative to promote the usage of Zero-pollution delivery vehicles among e-commerce companies, fleet aggregators, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and logistics companies.

Aim : To create consumer awareness on the benefits of using pollution free Electric Vehicles (EV) in delivery of consumables.

Over 30 logistic and consumables companies participated in the meeting headed by NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant, where the Campaign was launched.

They decided to implement an Online Tracking platform that shares the EV's data including vehicle kilometers electrified, carbon savings,

criteria pollutant savings and other benefits from clean delivery vehicles to customers.

Around 10 % of the freight transportation related CO2 emission in India is caused by Urban Freight vehicles, which is expected to grow by 114 % by 2030

About NITI Aayog :

- ◆ Establishment - January 1, 2015
- ◆ HQ - New Delhi
- ◆ CEO- Amitabh Kant

VIL Partners with APSDMA and Celltick to launch India's 1st Cell Broadcast Based Public Warning System

Vodafone Idea Limited (VIL), India's leading telecom service provider, has partnered with the Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Agency (APSDMA) and Celltick, the world's largest cell broadcast-based products provider to Launch India's 1st cell broadcasting Public Warning System (PWS).

- ◆ Andhra Pradesh (AP) became the 1st Indian state to implement Celltick's state-of-the-art cell broadcasting PWS. It used to support for its state's CAP-compliant Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS)
- ◆ Countries like the USA, Canada, Japan, Korea, Israel, UAE, Australia have deployed such kind of systems.

Background : The world bank aided project for commissioning the state-of-the-art Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) was awarded to the consortium led by Celltick following the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) process.

About Vodafone Idea Limited (VIL) :

- ◆ Vodafone Idea Limited is an Aditya Birla Group and Vodafone Group partnership.
- ◆ MD & CEO- Ravinder Takkar
- ◆ HQ- Mumbai, Maharashtra

About Celltick :

- ◆ Celltick is a global leader of Public Warning Systems (PWS), Mass
- ◆ Notification Systems, and the world's largest CBC (Cell Broadcast Center) provider.
- ◆ CEO- Ronen Daniel
- ◆ HQ- Delaware, United States of America

PM Narendra Modi lays Foundation Stone of Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh University in Aligarh

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh State University in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh. Uttar Pradesh will establish the university in the memory of Jat social reformer Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh.

Highlights

- ◆ The University will have the department of modern defence studies, defence manufacturing- related technologies and manpower development.
- ◆ It will be spread over an area of 92 acres at Lodha village and Musepur Kareem Karouli village of Kol tehsil in Aligarh, it will provide affiliation to 395 colleges of the Aligarh division.

About Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh :

Raja Mehendra Pratap Singh was born in a socio-economically influential Jat family of Mursan in Hathras, Uttar Pradesh 1886.

He was a Jat freedom fighter, social reformist, journalist and writer. He served as the President in the Provincial government of India, the Indian government that served in exile during World War I.

In 1979, the Government of India issued a postage stamp in his honour. He is popularly known as Aryan Peshwa.

Singh was known as an unofficial envoy of Afghanistan.

Sansad TV Launched by Vice President, PM and Speaker of Lok Sabha



Vice President and Chairman of Rajya Sabha M. Venkaiah Naidu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla jointly launched 'Sansad' TV. The launch of Sansad TV coincides with International Day of Democracy- 15th September .

- ◆ The programming of this TV will primarily be in four categories functioning of Parliament and democratic institutions, governance and implementation of schemes, policies, history, and culture of India and issues, interests, concerns of contemporary nature.

BHEL Commissioned India's Largest Floating Solar PV Plant NTPC Simhadri in AP

India's largest Floating Solar PV plant at NTPC Simhadri, Andhra Pradesh (AP), executed by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), has become commercially operationalized by NTPC Limited.

- ◆ BHEL has commissioned the Floating Solar PV plant with unique state of the art design.
- ◆ The 25 MW floating Solar power plant covering an area of 100 acres is set up under the Flexibilisation scheme notified by the Indian Government in 2018 .

NITI Aayog Launches Report on 'Reforms in Urban Planning Capacity in India'; France's Dassault Systems partnered with NITI Aayog

On September 16, 2021, a report titled 'Reforms in Urban Planning Capacity in India' was released by NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog's Vice Chairman Dr Rajiv Kumar, CEO (Chief Executive Officer) Amitabh Kant and Special Secretary Dr K. Rajeswara Rao.

The report has been developed by NITI Aayog over a period of 9 months, in consultation with concerned ministries and eminent experts in the domain of urban and regional planning.

NITI Aayog and France's software maker Dassault Systèmes have signed a Statement of Intent (Sol) during a virtual event to support various current and future initiatives of AIM (Atal Innovation Mission) programs and AIM beneficiaries in India.

About NITI Aayog :

- ◆ Establishment- 2015
- ◆ Chairperson- Prime Minister of India (Currently- Narendra Damodardas Modi)
- ◆ HQ- New Delhi

MoD constitutes 15-member High Level Expert Committee for review of NCC

On September 16, 2021, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) constituted a High-Level Expert Committee, under the chairmanship of former Member of Parliament (MP) Baijayant Panda, for a comprehensive review of National Cadet Corps (NCC). The committee will be responsible for suggesting measures to empower NCC cadets to contribute more effectively towards national development.

- ◆ The committee will also recommend best practices of similar international youth organizations for inclusion in the NCC curriculum.

Composition of Committee: 15 members

It has 13 members and 1 member secretary, along with Chairperson. Therefore, in total it's a 15-member committee.

About NCC :

The NCC is the largest uniformed organisation which aims at developing character, discipline, a secular outlook and ideals of selfless service amongst young citizens.

About Ministry of Defence :

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

Cabinet Approves Guarantee of up to Rs 30600 crore to back Security Receipts to be issued by NARCL

As part of resolution of bad loans, on September 16, 2021, the Union Cabinet approved government guarantee of up to Rs 30600 crore to back Security Receipts (SRs) for 5 years that will be issued by National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL). The information for the same was provided by Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Ministry of Finance while briefing media in New Delhi.

It has been incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013 and has applied to the Reserve Bank of India for license as an Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC). It is basically a government backed bad bank in the name of ARC.

Along with NARCL, the government will also set up the India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL). The IDRCL is a service company or an operational entity, which will manage assets and loop in market professionals and turnaround experts. PSBs and Public FIs will hold a maximum of 49 % stake

About Ministry of Finance :

- ◆ Nirmala Sitharaman Constituency- Karnataka
- ◆ Ministers of State (MoS) - Dr Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad (Constituency Maharashtra), and Pankaj Chaudhary (Constituency - Maharajganj, Uttar Pradesh)

Ayush Ministry signs MoU with USA to enhance export potential of Traditional Medicine



In September 2021, the Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H) under the Ministry of Ayush signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with USA's American Herbal Pharmacopoeia to boost the export potential of Indian Traditional Medicine products in US Market.

- ◆ Both countries will collaborate on framing the Safety & Standards for Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homeopathy (ASU&H) drugs for quicker adaptation in the US market.
- ◆ Under the collaboration, a Joint Committee will be framed for developing an action plan along with development of Monographs in Traditional Medicine.
- ◆ A Monograph will be developed, containing technical data on Indian Traditional Medicine & Herbal products, with various Botanical Reference Samples.
- ◆ The Countries will work on promotion of Traditional Medicines in the international level for Global acceptance.

About Ministry of Ayush :

- ◆ The Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) was established on 9th November 2014
- ◆ Union Minister - Sarbananda Sonowal
- ◆ Minister of State - Munjapara Mahendrabhai

Centre Forms GoM for Implementation of Schemes for SC, ST, OBC, Minorities and Women Chaired by Rajnath Singh

The Government of India constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM), Chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, to improve the implementation of various schemes meant for Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), Other Backward Classes (OBC), minorities and women.

- ◆ The first meeting of the GoM was held at the residence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

Objective :

The objective of the GoM is to work for the empowerment and prosperity of backward classes and minorities

Member of GoM :

- ◆ Amit Shah - Union Minister of Home Affairs and Cooperation
- ◆ Nirmala Sitharaman - Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs
- ◆ Dharmendra Pradhan - Union Minister of Education, and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

- ◆ Ashwini Vaishnaw - Union Minister of Railways, Communications, and Electronics and Information Technology.
- ◆ Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi - Union Minister of Minority Affairs.
- ◆ Arjun Munda- Union Minister of Tribal Affairs.
- ◆ Kiren Rijiju - Union Minister of Law and Justice.
- ◆ Virendra Kumar- Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment

India's 61st Software Technology Park to be opened in Nagaland

Nagaland's first and India's 61st Software Technology Park of India (STPI) centre was inaugurated at Kohima. The inauguration of the STPI centre in Kohima is a fulfilment of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of creating a technology ecosystem in the northeast to create opportunities for future generations in the region.

The MoS urged the need to create real change in the technology ecosystem. In order to create job opportunities, he said, the state government must work towards creating an interconnection of institutions to create awareness about various opportunities available for the youth.

About Nagaland :

- ◆ CM-Neiphiu Rio
- ◆ Governor- Prof Jagdish Mukhi

Indo-Nepal Joint Military Exercise Surya Kiran-XV to begin at Pithoragarh



The 15th edition of Indo-Nepal Joint Military Training Exercise Surya Kiran will be held from September 20, 2021, at Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand.

The previous edition of the Exercise Surya Kiran was conducted in Nepal in 2019. The exercise was called off in 2020, due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Indian Army and Nepali Army would share their experiences of various counter-insurgency operations, and familiarise themselves with each other's weapons, equipment, tactics, techniques and procedures of operating in a counter-insurgency environment in mountainous terrain.

The joint military training will help in improving bilateral relations and further strengthen the traditional friendship between the two nations

Recommendations of 45th GST Council Meeting held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

On September 17, 2021, the 45th meeting of GST (Goods & Service Tax) Council was held at Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, under the chairmanship of the Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Ministry of Finance.

The Council has made the various recommendations related to extension of existing concessional GST rates on certain COVID-19 treatment drugs, reduction of GST rates on various other medicines, revision and clarification of GST rates of various Goods and Services, several measures relating to GST Law & Procedures, etc.

The existing concessional GST rates (till 30th September, 2021) on Covid-19 treatment drugs extended to December, 31 2021

From January 1, 2022, food delivery apps will collect and deposit 5 % GST with the government, in place of restaurants, for deliveries made by them. This will not affect the end consumer.

There is an increase of 12/18 % to 18 % GST rate on Cartons, boxes, bags, packing containers of paper, and kinds of pens from 12 /18 % to 18 %

About GST (Goods & Service Tax):

- ◆ It is an indirect tax which has replaced various indirect taxes in India such as the excise duty, VAT, services tax, among others. It has 3 components:
- ◆ CGST (Central Goods and Services Tax) - tax collected by the Central Government on an intra-state sale.
- ◆ SGST (State Goods and Service Tax) - tax collected by the state government on an intra-state sale.
- ◆ IGST (Integrated Goods and Services Tax) - tax collected by the Central Government for an inter-state sale.

Devusinh Chauhan Launched Commemorative Stamp on 515th Birth Anniversary of Rao Jaimal Rathore

Devusinh Chauhan, Union Minister of State (MoS), Ministry of Communications launched a commemorative postal stamp to honour Rao Jaimal Rathore on his 515th birth anniversary.

This commemorative stamp was launched in the run-up to the celebration of 75th Azadi ka Amrit Mohatsav in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir(J&K).

Rao Jaimal Rathore, a Rajput warrior general of Chittorgarh, fought against the Mughal army during its siege from 1567 to 1568.

Sikkim declares 'Katley' as State Fish



The Sikkim government has declared 'Copper Mahseer' locally named 'Katley' as the State fish. The scientific name of the fish is *Neolissochilus hexagonolepis*.

- ◆ The fish is predominantly found in Teesta and Rangit rivers and their tributaries.
- ◆ Objective - To highlight the importance of the fish and to emphasis its conservation.

About Copper Mahseer/Katley :

- ◆ It was categorised as an endangered species by ICAR-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (ICAR-NBFGR), Lucknow, in 1992.
- ◆ Even IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) categorized it as endangered in 2014
- ◆ The fish has high market value in the State.

About Sikkim :

- ◆ Chief Minister: Prem Singh Tamang
- ◆ National Park: Khangchendzonga National Park in North Sikkim. It was established in 1977. It listed in UNESCO world heritage site.
- ◆ Wildlife sanctuaries: Maenam Wildlife Sanctuary, Kyongnosla Alpine Sanctuary and Barsey Rhododendron Sanctuary.

IRCTC launched India's 1st Indigenous Luxury Cruise Liner



Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) started India's first indigenous luxury cruise liner on 18th September 2021.

- ◆ IRCTC has partnered with Cordelia Cruises, operated by Waterways Leisure Tourism

Private Limited to promote and market India's 1st luxury cruise.

- ◆ The cruise will sail to national and international destinations like Goa Diu, Lakshadweep, Kochi and Sri Lanka.

Manipur's Sirakhong Chilli and Tamenglong Orange get GI Tag



Manipur's Sirarakhong Chilli (Hathei Chilly) and Tamenglong Orange have received the Geographical Index (GI) tag.

- ◆ The Chief Minister of Manipur, Nongthombam Biren Singh, announced it during the inaugural ceremony of the Van Dhan Vikas Kendra (VDVK) Mela, 2021, organised by the State Forest Department.
- ◆ Sirarakhong Chilli (Hathei Chilly) found in Manipur's Ukuul district and Tamenglong orange, widely grown across the Zeliangrong Naga - dominated district.

About Manipur :

- ◆ Governor: La Ganesan
- ◆ Festivals
 - ◆ Heikru Hitongba - a boat race festival celebrated in September
 - ◆ Ningol Chak-kouba - It is a social festival celebrated on the second day of the new moon in the month of Hiyangei (November)
 - ◆ Chumphu - festival of the Rangkhul Nagas celebrated after harvest in December

Ashwini Vaishnaw launched Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana under PMKVY

On September 17, 2021, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Ministry of Railways launched Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana (RKVY) under the aegis of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) from Rail Bhavan, New Delhi.

The program envisages empowering youth viz. 50000 candidates with industry relevant skills over a period of three years under the Apprentice Act 1961 through 75 Railway training institutes. It will be free of cost.

The program curriculum has been developed by Banaras Locomotive Works, Uttar Pradesh.

About Ministry of Railways :

- ◆ Union Minister - Ashwini Vaishnaw (Constituency- Odisha)
- ◆ Ministers of State (MoS)- Danve Raosaheb Dadarao (Jalna, Maharashtra),
- ◆ Darshana Vikram Jardosh (Surat, Gujarat)
- ◆ Railway Board Chairman- Suneet Sharma

BYJU's Partners with NITI Aayog to Provide Learning Material to School Students; BYJU's acquires K-12 coding company Tynker

NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Amitabh Kant launched an initiative in collaboration with edutech company BYJU'S to provide free access to the company's "Premium Learning" resources to students of class 6-12 in government schools across 112 'Aspirational Districts'.

Highlights :

- ◆ It comprises two components, which include BYJU'S Career Plus Programme, under which Aakash Institute and BYJU'S are offering free classes to over 3000 meritorious students of class 11 and 12, for engineering and medical entrance examinations.
- ◆ Another component is a voluntary initiative i.e. Free coaching classes will be provided to children of Classes 6-12 via BYJU's Learning App for three years. BYJU's acquires K-12 coding company Tynker
- ◆ BYJU'S has acquired 100 percent share in US (United States) base K-12 coding company Tynker. The objective is to provide every child a strong foundation in computer science, programming and critical thinking skills.

Aspirational District Programme (ADP) :

- ◆ The 115 districts were identified from 28 states, at least one from each state.
- ◆ The objective of the program is to monitor the real-time progress of aspirational districts.
- ◆ ADP is based on 49 indicators from the 5 identified thematic areas, which focuses closely on improving people's Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture & Water Resources, Financial Inclusion & Skill Development, and Basic Infrastructure.

About NITI Aayog:

- ◆ Established- 2015
- ◆ Chairperson- Prime Minister of India (Currently- Narendra Modi)
- ◆ Headquarters- New Delhi

About BYJU's :

Founder and Chief - Byju Raveendran

Agnikul Cosmos Signs Framework MoU with DOS under ISRO to Develop Space Launch Vehicle

The Scientific Secretary of ISRO (Indian Space Research Institute) and Chairman, interim IN-Space (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre) committee, R Umamaheswaran signed a Framework of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on behalf of Department of Space, under ISRO with aerospace start-up Agnikul Cosmos CEO (Chief Executive Officer) Srinath Ravichandran.

- ◆ The agreement would provide Agnikul Cosmos to access to expertise and advanced facilities of ISRO for the development and testing of space launch vehicles.

Highlights :

- ◆ It enables Agnikul, to get the access of advanced technology and various testing facilities at ISRO centres such as testing and qualification of its single-piece 3D printed Semi Cryo engine and other systems.
- ◆ The technical expertise of the National Centre for Combustion R&D (Research and Development) of IIT (Indian Institute of Technology) Madras, Chennai (Tamil Nadu) would be provided to Agnikul.
- ◆ DoS also signed a similar MoU with Hyderabad-based Skyroot Aerospace for access to ISRO facilities and expertise towards the development and testing of subsystems/systems of space launch vehicles.

Additional Info:

ISRO Chairman, K Sivan inaugurated the spacecraft research privately funded propulsion lab at Bellatrix Aerospace located at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru campus, Karnataka.

About ISRO (Indian Space Research Institute):

- ◆ Founder- Vikram Sarabhai
- ◆ Headquarters- Bengaluru, Karnataka
- ◆ Chairman- Kailasavadivoo Sivan

MoHUA launched convergence of PMFME and DAY-NULM TO Support Food Processing Units of Urban SHGs

On September 27, 2021, the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) organised the launch event of the convergence between Prime Minister Formalisation of Micro-food processing Enterprises (PMFME) and Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) scheme.

It was jointly launched by Durga Shanker Mishra, Secretary, MoHUA; and Pushpa Subrahmanyam, Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) during a virtual event organized as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM).

The online Seed Capital Module developed on DAY-NULM MIS (management information system) was also launched to help in effective implementation of this convergence.

About Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA):

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

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

4th Indo-US Health Dialogue: India, USA sign two MoUs to improve Medical Facilities

India, US signs two MoUs during the two-day Indo-US Health Dialogue 2021 hosted by India. Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Mansukh Mandaviya addressed the closing session of Indo-US Health Dialogue.

Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs):

- ◆ India's Health & Family Welfare Ministry and USA's Department of Health and Human Services signed a MoU for cooperation in the field of Health and Biomedical sciences.
- ◆ Another MoU was signed between Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) & National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) for cooperation with the International Centre for Excellence in Research (ICER).

About ICMR:

- ◆ It stands for Indian Council of Medical Research
- ◆ HQ: New Delhi, India
- ◆ Director General: Balram Bhargava

About NIAID:

- ◆ It stands for National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
- ◆ HQ: Maryland, United States
- ◆ Director: Anthony S. Fauci

National Action Plan for dog Mediated Rabies Elimination by 2030

On September 28, 2021 i.e., on the occasion of World Rabies Day, the Central Government has launched a National Action Plan for dog Mediated Rabies Elimination by 2030 (NAPRE) for the elimination of dog mediated rabies by 2030.

- ◆ It was unveiled by Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW) and Parshottam Rupala, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (MoFAHD)
- ◆ The action for the same has been drafted by the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) in consultation with FAHD.

Key Points :

- ◆ The Union Ministers also launched the Joint Inter-Ministerial Declaration Support Statement for the elimination of dog mediated rabies from India by 2030 through the One Health Approach.
- ◆ Notably 33 % of global rabies deaths are recorded in India.
- ◆ Rabies is a deadly zoonotic disease which spreads to people from the saliva of infected animals like dogs and other mammals. It causes inflammation of the brain and spinal cord.

Narendra Modi launches 35 crop varieties with special traits to address Climate Change and Malnutrition

On September 28, 2021, the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi launched 35 crop varieties which are climate resilient and higher nutrient-content.

- ◆ These have been developed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to address climate change and malnutrition.

Key Points :

- ◆ The 35 varieties include a drought tolerant variety of chickpea, wilt and sterility mosaic resistant pigeon pea, early maturing variety of soybean, disease resistant varieties of rice and biofortified varieties of wheat, pearl millet, maize and chickpea, quinoa, buckwheat, winged bean and faba bean.
- ◆ PM also dedicated to the nation the newly constructed campus of the National Institute of Biotic Stress Management in Raipur (Chhattisgarh) and distributed the Green Campus Award to agricultural universities.

Home Minister Amit Shah unveils Aapda Mitra and Common Alert Protocol initiatives of NDMA

Union Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah attended the 17th Foundation Day celebrations of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) as the chief guest in New Delhi. The theme for 2021 was 'Stopping Impact of Disaster Incidents in the Himalayan Region'.

During the event, he released the training manual of Aapda Mitra Scheme and documents of Aapda Mitra and Common Alerting Protocol scheme.

The two new initiatives launched by NDMA - Aapda Mitra and Common Alert Protocol.

Aapda Mitra Scheme aims to provide the community volunteers with the skills so they would immediately respond to their community's needs in the aftermath of a disaster

and also provides the basic relief training and rescue tasks during emergency situations such as floods, flash-floods and urban flooding.

About NDMA

- ◆ It stands for National Disaster Management Authority
- ◆ It is an apex body in disaster management
- ◆ Headed by Prime Minister of India

'Nata-Sankirtana' 3-day Dance and Music Festival at Imphal Manipur



The Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy (JNMDA), Imphal, Manipur has organised the 'Nata-Sankirtana', a 3-day dance and music festival from 28th to 30 th September 2021. The Nata-Sankirtana is one of the annual features of the JNMDA, to promote Nata Sankirtana among the young generation.

Sankirtana is the ritual singing, drumming and dancing of Manipur.

In 2013, Sankirtana, the unique cultural heritage of Manipur was inscribed on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)'s Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

About Nata-Sankirtana :

- ◆ The Nata-Sankirtana was introduced during the reign of Bhagyachandra, who ruled Manipur during 1759-1761 and 1763-1798.
- ◆ He was also known as Ching-Thang Khomba to the hill peoples, Jai Singh to the British and the Assamese and Karta to the Vaishnavs.
- ◆ Nata Sankirtana is a hymn of Lord Krishna in classical ragas produced with various indigenous rhythms.
- ◆ It is performed to mark various occasions of a person's life.

About Manipur :

- ◆ Chief Minister- Nongthombam Biren Singh
- ◆ Capital- Imphal
- ◆ Stadium- Imphal indoor stadium; Yawa indoor stadium

Govt Notified "Promotion of Medical Device Parks" Scheme to Promote Medical Device Parks

The Government of India notified the "Promotion of Medical Device Parks" scheme, a scheme to support the medical devices industry and to promote medical device parks across India. The financial outlay of the scheme is Rs 400 crore and its tenure is from the financial year 2020-2021 to 2024-2025.

Aim : To ensure access to testing and infrastructure facilities and to reduce the cost of medical device production and make them affordable for domestic consumption.

- ◆ The center has granted the in-principle approval for Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

- ◆ Financial assistance for a park would be 70 % of the project cost and for Northeastern and Hilly states it will be 90 %.
- ◆ The maximum financial assistance for a park under the scheme is Rs 100 crore.

India Celebrated 195th Gunners Day-28th September 2021

The Regiment of Artillery, an operational arm of the Indian Army, annually observes September 28th as the "Gunners Day" to mark the anniversary of its raising. The day commemorates the raising of 5 (Bombay) Mountain Battery, equipped with 2.5inch Guns as the 8th Company of the Golandaz Battalion, Bombay Foot Artillery, India's first Artillery unit, on 28th September 1827.

The 28th of September 2021 marks the observance of the 195th Gunners day. Artillery:

Artillery is a class of heavy military ranged weapons built to launch munitions far beyond the range and power of infantry firearms

The word "artillery" refers to a group of soldiers primarily armed with some form of manufactured weapon or armour.

Significance of Regiment of Artillery :

- ◆ The Regiment of Artillery, the second-largest arm of the Indian Army, has been a part of the Indian defence since its independence.
- ◆ Motto - "Sarvatra Izzat-O-Iqbal" - "Everywhere with Honour and Glory"
- ◆ The achievements of the regiment of artillery include 1 Victoria Cross, 1 Distinguished Service Order, 15 Military Crosses during the pre-independence era and 1 Ashok Chakra, Seven Maha Vir

Chakras, Nine Kirti Chakras, 101 Vir Chakras, 63 Shaurya Chakras, 6 Bar to Sena Medal, 502 Sena Medals besides many other decorations.

MoD partnered with Spain for acquisition of 56 C-295MW aircraft



On the lines of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) approval, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed a contract with M/s Airbus Defence and Space, Spain worth Rs.22,000 Crore on September 24,2021, for acquisition of 56 C-295MW transport aircraft for the Indian Air Force (IAF).

- ◆ MOD also inked an offset contract with M/s Airbus Defence and Space through which Airbus will discharge its offset obligations through direct purchase of eligible products and services from Indian Offset Partners.
- ◆ Notably, this is the first project of its kind in which a military aircraft will be manufactured in India under technology transfer by the private sector.

About C-295MW :

The induction of C-295 MW will modernize the transport fleet of IAF as it will succeed ageing Avro HS-748 aircraft of IAF that were procured in the 1960. It will boost the tactical airlift

capability of IAF, especially in the Northern and North-Eastern sector and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Following are its key features:

- ◆ It is used for tactical transport of up to 71 troops or 50 paratroopers, and for logistic operations to locations that are not accessible to current heavier aircraft.
- ◆ It has 5-10 tonne capacity with contemporary technology.
- ◆ It is capable of operating from semi-prepared strips and has a rear ramp door for quick reaction and para dropping of troops & cargo.

Points to be noted :

- ◆ Of the 56 aircraft, 16 will be delivered in flyaway condition from Spain within 48 months.
- ◆ The remaining 40 will be manufactured in India by Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL), in partnership with Airbus and will be installed with indigenous Electronic Warfare Suite.
- ◆ With this, IAF becomes the 35th C295 operator worldwide. This partnership will also enhance the 'Make in India' initiative and the contract will be signed for 10 years.

About Ministry of Defence (MoD) :

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

MeitY Startup Hub inks pacts with AISPL to promote startups

Amazon Internet Services Pvt Ltd (AISPL) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with MeitY Startup Hub, an initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY), to promote technology innovation and the

sustainable growth of start-ups in India. AISPL undertakes the resale and marketing of Amazon Web Services (AWS) Cloud services in India.

Aim of the collaboration :

- ◆ MeitY Startup Hub and AWS will work together to identify start-ups with deep technology capabilities and empower them to find solutions to address the biggest problems in India.
- ◆ Through the AWS Startup Ramp programme, the start-ups will gain access to AWS Credits, a community of experts, technical training and support covering cloud architecture, cost optimisation, security, and scalability readiness.
- ◆ The MeitY Startup Hub will organise government-backed innovation challenges to help start-ups focused on the public sector scale their solutions.
- ◆ Initially, the collaboration will focus on start-ups addressing healthcare, agriculture, public safety, transportation, smart cities and citizen engagement.
- ◆ It will provide mentoring, technical expertise, cloud credits, skill enhancement programming, and other resources provided to start-ups.

About MeitY Startup Hub :

- ◆ It is an initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY)
- ◆ CEO: Jeet Vijay

About Amazon Web Services (AWS) :

- ◆ CEO: Adam Selipsky
- ◆ HQ: Seattle, Washington, United States

ZSI Signed MoU with Natural History Museum of UK

Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) and the Natural History Museum (NHM), London, United Kingdom (UK), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to formulate strategies for long term scientific documentation and conservation of faunal diversity through international exchange.

- ◆ The MoU was signed by Dhriti Banerjee, the first lady Director of ZSI and Douglas Gurr, Director, NHM, London for 5 years.
- ◆ Under the MoU both ZSI and NHM, London has committed to implement the 1973 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and relevant national and regional laws and regulations.
- ◆ India holds 2.4 percent of the world's land with 8.1 percent of species diversity, which makes India one of twelve mega diversity countries of the world.

About Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) :

- ◆ Establishment-July 1, 1916
- ◆ Headquarters - Kolkata
- ◆ Director - Dhriti Banerjee

UT of Ladakh organized 1st Edition of The Himalayan Film Festival at Leh

Anurag Singh Thakur, Union Minister of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, inaugurated the first edition of the Himalayan Film Festival (24th to 28th September 2021) organized by the Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh in collaboration with the Directorate of Film Festivals, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB).

- ◆ The 5-day film festival at the Sindhu Sanskriti Kendra, Leh is organised as a part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- ◆ The event is hosted by the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh.

1st edition of the Himalayan Film Festival :

- ◆ The film festival will screen movies from the 12 Himalayan states and Union Territories (Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland) on the main screen at Sindhu Sanskriti Kendra, Picture Time mini theatre, and in the amphitheatre.
- ◆ The film festival began with the screening of Shershaah and The Shepherdess of Glacier will be screened at the closing ceremony.

Additional info :

As a part of the film festival masterclasses and conversation sessions with film personalities like Vidhu Vinod Chopra, Anupama Chopra, S Nallamuthu, Nila Madhab Panda has also been organised.

Saubhagya Completed 4 Years of Successful Implementation

Saubhagya - Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana, one of the largest household electrification drives in the world, has completed 4 years of successful implementation. As of March 2021, 2.82 crore households across India have been electrified under the SAUBHAGYA since its launch.

About Saubhagya - Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana:

- ◆ Saubhagya - Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 25th September 2017, the birth centenary of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya.

Implementing authority :

- ◆ The Ministry of Power is the implementing authority of the scheme.
- ◆ Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (REC) is the Nodal Agency for the operationalization of the scheme throughout the country

About Ministry of Power :

- ◆ Union Minister- Raj Kumar Singh (Constituency- Arrah, Bihar)
- ◆ Minister of State- Krishan Pal (Constituency- Faridabad, Haryana)

Rajasthan's Sojat Mehndi, Assam's Judima, Nagaland's Cucumber Bagged Gi Tag



Sojat Mehndi from Rajasthan, known for its medicinal values has received the geographical indication (GI) tag.

- ◆ From the North East States, the traditional brew of Dimasa community, Judima from Assam and Naga Cucumber from Nagaland known for its high potassium content also bagged GI tags.

About GI Tag :

- ◆ A GI is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.
- ◆ GI are part of the intellectual property rights that comes under the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property.
- ◆ In India, GI registration is done by the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act of 1999.

Objective :

GI Tag helps the genuine producers to avail optimum price for their premium goods even in the competitive market.

US, India launch task forces on Hydrogen, Biofuels to Decarbonize Energy Sector

As a part of Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP), the United States (US) department of energy along with Indian counterpart launched a new public-private Hydrogen Task Force and Biofuels Task Force to expand the use of clean energy technologies for decarbonization of the energy sector.

The US is committed to enhance Nationally Determined Contribution to reduce economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 50-52 % below 2005 levels in 2030. It is also supporting India for the deployment of 450 GW (GigaWatt) of renewable energy capacity by 2030.

About United States :

- ◆ Capital- Washington, D.C.
- ◆ Currency- United States Dollar
- ◆ President- Joseph Robinette Biden Jr.

8th Edition of India-Sri Lanka Military Exercise Mitra Shakti- 2021 Held in Sri Lanka

The 8th Edition of India-Sri Lanka bilateral joint Military Exercise 'Mitra Shakti 2021' was scheduled to be conducted at Combat Training School, Ampara, Sri Lanka from October 4 to 15, 2021

- ◆ The duration of the exercise was about 12 days.
- ◆ Objective: To promote close relations between armies of both countries and enhance inter-operability and sharing best practices in counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations.
- ◆ An all-arms contingent of 120 personnel of the Indian Army is participating in the military
- ◆ Mitra Shakti is a military exercise that will be conducted every year between armies of India and Sri Lanka. The exercise doesn't take place in 2020 due to the COVID-19.

About Sri Lanka :

- ◆ Capital - Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte
- ◆ President - Gotabaya Rajapaksa
- ◆ Currency - Sri Lankan Rupee

Electricity Rules 2021 Promulgated for Transmission System Planning; GNA introduced

The Ministry of Power reviewed the existing transmission planning framework based on long-term access (LTA) which resulted in the promulgation of the Electricity (Transmission System Planning, Development and Recovery of Inter-State Transmission Charges) Rules 2021 on October 3, 2021. \$

These rules saw the introduction of General Network Access (GNA) which will ease the power generating companies to get an easier access to the electricity transmission network across the country or inter-state.

Also, for the first time, these rules have enabled that the transmission capacity can be sold, shared or purchased by the states and generators as per their requirements.

About Ministry of Power :

- ◆ Union Minister- Raj Kumar Singh (Constituency- Arrah, Bihar)
- ◆ Minister of State (MoS)- Krishan Pal Gurjar (Constituency- Faridabad, Haryana)

Coal Ministry set up panel to review project execution timeline

The Coal Ministry has constituted a panel to review and benchmark the timelines in project execution.

- ◆ The panel will also review tendering process by examining tenders having a value of more than Rs 300 crore of Coal India Limited (CIL), its subsidiaries and other PSUs.
- ◆ The committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Joint Secretary and Financial Advisor comprising of representatives from NTPC, IOCL, PGCIL and Director (T), ECL as member secretary
- ◆ The objective of the committee is to suggest a robust and efficient set of timelines and whether statutory clearances may be obtained prior to issuing tender.
- ◆ **Note :** Coal India accounts for over 80 per cent of domestic coal output. The company is eyeing one billion tonnes of production target by 2023-24.

- ◆ **Note :** Coal India accounts for over 80 per cent of domestic coal output. The company is eyeing one billion tonnes of production target by \$2023-24.\$

◆ Additional Information

- ◆ Minister for Coals and Mines is Pralhad Joshi

About Coal India Limited :

- ◆ It is an Indian government-owned coal mining and refining corporation.
- ◆ Headquarters: Kolkata, West Bengal
- ◆ Chairman cum Managing Director(MD): Pramod Agrawal

Alibaug White Onion, Wada Kolam Rice, Edayur Chilli, Kuttiaattoor Mango and Chinnor Rice Received GI Tag



Alibaug White Onion & Wada Kolam Rice of Maharashtra, Edayur Chilli and Kuttiaattoor Mango of Kerala and Chinnor rice of Madhya Pradesh (MP) got the GI Tag.

Mahashtra's Alibaug_White Onion & Wada Kolam rice get GI Tag The famous white onion of Alibaug, Raigar district in Maharashtra got the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. It will provide a unique identity to this crop and expansion in the agricultural market.

About :

- ◆ The variety has medicinal quality and it is used for the treatment of heart diseases and controlling cholesterol. It helps in the creation of insulin, beneficial for diabetics' patients. It was mentioned in the official gazette in 1883.
- ◆ It has a unique sweet taste and no-tear factor.
- ◆ The average income generated from this crop is around Rs 2 lakh per acre.

About Geographical Indication (GI) :

- ◆ It is a mark of authenticity and ensures that registered authorized users or at least those residing inside the geographic territory are allowed to use the popular product names.
- ◆ GI tag in India is governed by Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act, 1999. It is issued by the Geographical Indications Registry (Chennai).

India Hosted World's Largest Virtual Fintech Festival GFF 2021

India hosted the 2nd edition of Global FinTech Festival (GFF) 2021, the World's largest virtual fintech festival from September 28 to 30,2021.

- ◆ Theme: 'FinTech: Empowering a Global Digital Economy'.

Key Points :

- ◆ GFF 2021 is organised by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and Fintech Convergence Council (FCC) and Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) along with the Payments Council of India (PCI).

- ◆ Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman was the Chief Guest of the event which was presented by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- ◆ At the GFF 2021 Nirmala Sitharaman released the 'UN Report on Responsible Digital Payments'. She specified India as a prime destination for digital payments and activities as it has the highest Fintech adoption rate of 87 percent compared to the global average rate of 64 percent.
- ◆ At the GFF 2021, NPCI has partnered with YES BANK and launched first-of-its-kind 'RuPay On-the-Go' contactless payments solutions, in association with fintech infrastructure partner-Neokred and manufacturing partner- Sessaasai.

About National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)

- ◆ Establishment - 2008
- ◆ Headquarters - Mumbai, Maharashtra
- ◆ MD & CEO - Dilip Asbe

I-drone: South Asia's 1st Indian drone to deliver COVID-19 Vaccines launched by Mansukh Mandaviya

On October 4, 2021, Union Minister Mansukh Laxmanbhai Mandaviya, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW) launched a delivery model namely 'ICMR's Drone Response and Outreach in North East (i-Drone)'. This will ensure the reach of life-saving vaccines to everyone.

- ◆ ICMR stands for New Delhi based Indian Council of Medical Research.

- ◆ ICMR tested the vaccine delivery capacity of drones in collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh) on the basis of which the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and other regulatory authorities have granted permission to fly drones Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLoS).
- ◆ Indian Drone used for the 1st time in South Asia for Vaccine Delivery This is for the first time that a 'Make in India' drone has been used in South Asia to transport COVID-19 vaccine. It covered an aerial distance of 15 kms in 12-15 mins from the Bishnupur district hospital to Loktak lake, Karang island in Manipur for administration at the PHC (Primary Health Care).

India's first vertical lift railway bridge to be completed by March 2022

The Ministry of Railways announced that the construction work of the new 2.05 km Pamban railway bridge in Mandapam will be completed by March 2022. The bridge will connect Rameswaram to the mainland in Tamil Nadu.

- ◆ It will be India's first vertical lift railway bridge over the sea.
- ◆ Railway Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) is developing the sea bridge with the cost of Rs 250 crore.
- ◆ The new bridge has 100 spans of 18.3 meters and one navigational span of 63 meters.
- ◆ Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the project in March 2019 at Kanyakumari.

Objective of the new bridge :

- ◆ It will allow the Indian Railways to operate trains at a higher speed with more weight.
- ◆ It will also increase traffic between the mainland of Pamban and Rameswaram. The existing_ Pamban Rail Bridge
- ◆ The original Pamban railway bridge was built in 1914 to connect Mandapam to the Rameswaram Island situated in the Gulf of Mannar.
- ◆ It was the only link connecting the two locations until a new road bridge was built parallel to the sea link in 1988.
- ◆ As the bridge is 105 -year-old and not suitable to speed up-gradation, the Railways Minister has decided to build a new bridge that will have a vertical shaft to allow for ferries to pass under when trains are not operating.

Note : The proposed new facility will have electro-mechanical controlled systems which will be interlocked with train control systems.

About Ministry of Railways :

- ◆ Union Railway Minister - Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Badshahpur (Orissa) constituency
- ◆ Union Minister of State - Shri Raosaheb Patil Danve and Smt. Darshana Jardosh About Railway Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL).
- ◆ Chairman and Managing Director- Pradeep Gaur
- ◆ Headquarters- New Delhi
- ◆ Founded- 2003

MoEF&CC launched guidelines for Ecotourism and for Monitoring Dolphins

The union minister Bhupender Yadav, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) released the 'Guidelines for sustainable Ecotourism in forest and wildlife areas' to promote a better understanding of nature and wildlife conservation during the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti (October 2,2021) and heralding the Iconic Week of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav of MoEFCC (4-10th October 2021).

- ◆ These will be applicable for sites in forests, wildlife areas and eco-sensitive zones.

Other Releases by Bhupender Yadav :

He released a field guide for monitoring Ganges and Indus River dolphins, associated aquatic fauna and habitat. This is for the first time that a standardized monitoring protocol has been made for synchronised dolphin enumeration exercise.

- ◆ This exercise will be undertaken in the 8 states of Assam, West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Punjab.
- ◆ This will be an important constituent of "Project Dolphin" which was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 15,2020 to save both river and marine dolphins.
- ◆ He also launched a web portal on the 'Wetlands of India Portal', which will act as single-point access to all information relating to wetlands.
- ◆ He flagged off a rally on wheels 'India for Tigers'. He flagged off the Tiger rallies from three tiger reserves Navegaon Nagzira tiger

reserve- Maharashtra, Biligiri ranganatha temple tiger reserve, Karnataka and Sanjay Dubri Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh.

The rallies will culminate at Ranthambore, Kanha, Melghat, Bandipur, Similipal, Sunderbans, Manas, Palamau and Corbett tiger reserves, representing our country's initial nine tiger reserves designated under The Project Tiger in 1973.

FSSAI signs MoU with Ministry of Food Processing Industries to Support Micro Enterprises in Sector

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), which aims to support Self Help Groups (SHGs), Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and producer cooperatives to improve the standard of their food businesses.

Key Points :

Food safety training

Training would be provided at the micro level food processing units to understand basics of manufacturing practices and good hygiene and other regulatory requirements. After completion of the training, 'Food Safety Supervisor' certificates will also be provided.

Registration of micro enterprises :

FSSAI and the ministry would provide support to micro enterprises towards obtaining FSSAI licence and registration.

About Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

- ◆ Founded- August 2011
- ◆ Headquarters-. New Delhi

- ◆ Chairperson- Rita Teotia
- ◆ Ministry of Food Processing_ Industries (MoFPI).
- ◆ Minister - Pashu Pati Kumar Paras (Hajipur, Bihar)
- ◆ Minister of State- Prahlad Singh Patel (Damoh, Madhya Pradesh)

India's 1st World's 3rd Ropeway Public Transport Proposed to be conducted in Varanasi

India's 1st and world's 3rd ropeway for public transport was proposed to be constructed in the city of Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh to ease the traffic congestion.

- ◆ The ropeway service will cover an aerial distance of 5km from Cantt Railway Station (Varanasi Junction, Uttar Pradesh) to Church Square (Godauliya) in about 15 minutes.
- ◆ On completion, Varanasi will become the 1st Indian city and India will become the third country in the world (after Bolivia and Mexico City) to use ropeway services in public transportation.
- ◆ WAPCOS Limited, an accredited public sector enterprise under the Union ministry of Jal Shakti has proposed the cost of the ropeway service at Rs 400 crore.

Key Points :

- ◆ The service will commence with 220 cable cars/trolleys and 4 stations including Cantt railway station, Sajan Tiraha, Rathyatra, and Girjaghar (Godowlia) crossings. iii. The cars will run at a height of 45 meter and through the ropeway around 8000 people could travel at a time (in two directions).

- ◆ Funding: 80 percent of the cost of the project will be supported by centre, whereas the state government will take care of the remaining 20 percent cost. The project will be built on a PPP (Public Private Partnership) model.
- ◆ Through this initiative, the Kashi Vishwanath Temple and Dashashwamedh Ghat will be easily accessible.

About Uttar Pradesh :

- ◆ Governor - Anandiben Patel
- ◆ Wildlife Sanctuary - Sohagibarwa Wildlife Sanctuary
- ◆ Airport - Allahabad Airport, Hindon Airport, Muirpur (Sonbhadra) Airport

Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya Released UNICEF's Report on World's Children Mental Health

On October 05, 2021, Mansukh Mandaviya, the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare released UNICEF's (United Nations Children's Fund) global flagship publication - 'The State of the World's Children 2021; On My Mind: promoting, protecting and caring for children's mental health'.

- ◆ The publication details the significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health of children. The report was launched globally on the same day.
- ◆ Around 14 percent of 15 to 24 -year-olds (or 1 in 7) in India were reported feeling depressed or having little interest in doing things.

- ◆ It is estimated that more than 13 percent of adolescents aged \$10-19\$ live with a diagnosed mental disorder (as defined by the World Health Organization (WHO)).
- ◆ Every year, almost 45,800 children and adolescents between the ages of 10 and 19 die from suicide which is about 1 person every 11 minutes.

About United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF).

- ◆ Establishment - 11 December 1946
- ◆ Headquarters - New York, United States
- ◆ Executive Director - Henrietta H. Fore

Textile Ministry Approved Continuation of Comprehensive Handicrafts Cluster Development Scheme

The Ministry of Textile has approved to continue its Comprehensive Handicrafts Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS) up to March 2026 with a total outlay of Rs 160 crore.

The scheme aims to offer support in terms of infrastructure development, design and technology access, market support, and others to the handicraft artisans and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) to enhance production and exports

- ◆ This will focus on the integration of artisans, building grass-root level enterprises and link them to SMEs in handicraft sectors to ensure economies of scale.,

About Comprehensive Handicrafts Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS):

Aim:

- ◆ To create a world-class infrastructure to provide the business needs of the local

artisans and local artisans and small and medium-sized enterprises to boost production and export.

Significance of CHCDS :

- ◆ The cluster aims to assist the artisans & entrepreneurs to set up world-class units with modern infrastructure, the latest technology, and adequate training and human resource development inputs, coupled with market linkages and production diversification.
- ◆ Under this scheme, various soft interventions like baseline survey and activity mapping, skill training, improved tool kits, marketing events, seminars, publicity, design workshops, the capacity building were provided to SMEs.
- ◆ Under this scheme, the clusters with 10000 artisans will be selected for overall development.

Key Points :

- ◆ Integrated projects for development will be taken up through the Central/State Handicrafts Corporations/Autonomous, Body-Council-Institute/Registered Cooperatives/ Producer company of artisans/Registered SPV, having good experience in the field of handicrafts as per the requirements and DPR prepared for it.

About Ministry of Textiles:

- ◆ Union Minister- Piyush Goyal(Rajya Sabha-Maharashtra)
- ◆ Minister of state- Darshana Vikram Jardosh(Constituency- Surat, Gujarat)

NHA hiked HBP Rates under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana

The National Health Authority (NHA) revised the Health Benefit Package (HBP 2.2) of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) under which the rate of around 400 procedures increased by 20% to 400 %. The AB PM-JAY scheme is implemented by NHA.

- ◆ This revision saw an addition of a new medical package related to black fungus management.
- ◆ The categories involved in this revision include radiation oncology procedures (for cancer), medical management procedures, and other procedures like right/left heart catheterisation, arthrodesis, cholecystectomy, appendicectomy etc.

Key Points :

- ◆ Under medical management procedures, the rates for ICU with ventilator support has been revised by 100 % and without ventilator by 136 %, while the rates for HDU (High Dependency Unit) has been revised by 22% and the prices for routine ward has been revised by 17 percent.
- ◆ Currently, Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY covers 1,669 treatment procedures out of which 1,080 are surgical, 588 medical and one unspecified package.
- ◆ This revision will strengthen the empanelled hospitals to provide better healthcare services to the beneficiaries under Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY.
- ◆ State Health Agencies (SHAs) currently implementing any of the previous versions of HBP can now accept and implement HBP 2.2

About Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY:

- ◆ Launched in 2018 with HBP \$1.0\$ covering 1,393 packages, it aims to achieve the target of universal health coverage and provide access to free and affordable healthcare services to the citizens residing in the remotest of the areas.
- ◆ It aims to provide free and cashless healthcare services up to Rs 5 lakh per family per year to over 10.74 crore poor and vulnerable families (over 53 crore beneficiaries) as per Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC)-2011 database.

Cabinet approves Productivity Linked Bonus to Railway Employees for FY 21 Setting up of 7 MITRA parks approved

On October 6, 2021, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the following,

- ◆ Cabinet approves Productivity Linked Bonus to railway employees for the financial year 2020-21 Government has approved setting up of 7 Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel.
- ◆ Cabinet approved the Productivity Linked Bonus (PLB) for FY2020-21 that is equivalent to 78 days' wages. It is for all eligible non-gazetted Railway employees excluding RPF (Railway Protection Force) /RPSF (Railway Protection Special Force) personnel.
- ◆ On the lines of the Union Budget 2021-22 announcement, the Union Cabinet approved the setting up of 7 Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) parks with a total outlay of Rs 4,445 crore for five years period. This decision has been taken to make India at par with the global textiles.

About Ministry of Textiles :

- ◆ Piyush Goyal Constituency- Maharashtra
- ◆ Minister of State (MoS)- Darshana Vikram Jardosh (Constituency- Surat, Gujarat)

NTCA Declared Areas of Tamor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary and Guru Ghasidas National Park as Chhattisgarh's 4th Tiger Reserve

The 11th Technical Committee of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has approved the proposal of the government of Chhattisgarh to declare the combined areas of the Tamor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary and the Guru Ghasidas National Park as the 4th Tiger reserve of Chhattisgarh.

- ◆ The proposal was approved under Section 38v of The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 which states that "The State Government shall, on the recommendations of the Tiger Conservation Authority, notify an area as a tiger reserve".
- ◆ The other tiger reserves of Chhattisgarh are Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserve, Indravati Tiger Reserves, and Amarkantak - Achanakmar Wildlife Sanctuary

About Chhattisgarh :

- ◆ Chief Minister- Bhupesh Baghel
- ◆ Airports- Swami Vivekananda Airport; Jagdalpur Airport
- ◆ Festivals- Madai Festival; Narayanpur Mela; Bhoramdeo Festival

India Joins High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People

On October 7, 2021, India officially joined the High Ambition Coalition (HAC) for Nature and People during a ceremony between the French and Indian governments held at New Delhi, India.

In this regard, Rameshwar Prasad Gupta, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India handed over the sign HAC agreement to Emmanuel Lenain, Ambassador of France to India.

This joining comes ahead of high-level biodiversity meeting to be virtually hosted by China on October 11-15, 2021.

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

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

6th Edition of India-UK Military Exercise Ajeya Warrior 2021 Held in Uttarakhand

The 6th Edition of India - UK (United Kingdom) Joint Company Level Military Training exercise Ajeya Warrior-2021 was

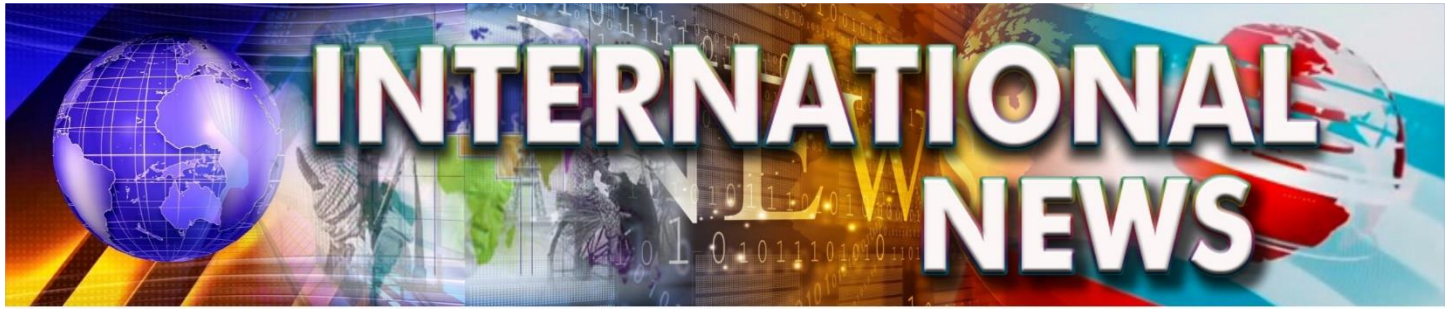
commenced in Chaubatia, Uttarakhand on October 07, 2021, and it was scheduled to be completed on October 20, 2021.

Key Points:

- ◆ **Objective** : To strengthen bilateral defence cooperation between the two countries and develop inter-operability among them.
- ◆ An Infantry Company from the Indian Army and an equivalent strength from UK. Army would be sharing their experiences gained during the conduct of various military operations in their respective countries and during overseas engagements.
- ◆ The training would be completed with a 48 hours difficult exercise to validate the performance of both the Armies in conducting joint military operations in a semi- urban environment. Both the armies would familiarise themselves with each other's weapons, equipment, tactics and procedures for carrying out joint military operations.

About United Kingdom (UK) :

- ◆ Capital – London
- ◆ Prime minister - Boris Johnson
- ◆ Currency - Pound sterling



SpaceX launches 51 Starlink Broadband Satellites



SpaceX launched its first full stack of 51 Starlink broadband (internet) satellites on falcon 9 rocket from Space Launch Complex 4E at Vandenberg Space Force Station in California on September 14.

It is the 22nd Falcon 9 mission for SpaceX so far in 2021 and it was the 90 th successful landing to date.

Aim of Starlink programme

To provide high-speed internet access to users around the world and the service is targeted to users in remote areas that have little to no connectivity ii. To help fund its deep-space ambitions.

Additional information

The Starlink satellites are equipped with laser crosslinks to communicate with each other and reducing the constellation's reliance on Earth

SpaceX began satellite launches in November 2019 and opened its \$99 per month beta programme for select customers around a year later

The company aims to launch around 30,000 Starlink satellites into orbit, and expand its user pool to millions of customers.

About SpaceX

- ◆ Space Exploration Technologies Corp is an American aerospace manufacturer, space transportation services and communications company
- ◆ Founder and CEO: Elon Musk
- ◆ Founded: 6 May 2002
- ◆ HQ: Hawthorne, California, United States

ASEAN India Economic Ministers Consultation co-chairs India and Brunei, Ensures support for Post Pandemic Efforts

The 18th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)- India Economic Ministers Consultation organized under the chairmanship of Anupriya Patel, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry and H.E. DatoDr. Amin Liew Abdullah, Minister of Finance and Economy, Brunei Darussalam. India and Brunei cochaired the meeting virtually.

Participants - It was attended by the Economic Ministers of all 10 ASEAN countries Brunei,

Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Highlights :

- ◆ In the meeting, India has given its key focus on the mass vaccination, capacity enhancement and economic initiatives to address the pandemic.
- ◆ Reform taken by different sectors such as agriculture, banking insurance, logistics, corporate laws etc. were discussed.
- ◆ ASEAN- India Trade in Goods Agreement was also discussed.
- ◆ ASEAN India Business Council (AIBC) recommended enhancing the ASEAN India economic partnership by investing in potential sectors like health and pharmaceuticals in India.
- ◆ The discussion on ASEAN India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) for making it more user- friendly and providing trade facilities to boost investments.
- ◆ India recommended to set a Joint Committee for the Review of the India ASEAN Services and Investments Agreement
- ◆ India is the 7th largest trading partner of ASEAN and one of the largest sources of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

About Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

- ◆ Headquarters- Jakarta, Indonesia
- ◆ Established- 8 August 1967, Bangkok, Thailand

Supports to Farmers keeping the World away from SDGs: Report by FAO, UNDP and UNEP

On September 14, 2021, three United Nations (UN) agencies viz. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UN Development Programme (UNDP) and UN Environment Programme (UNEP) released a report titled 'A multibillion-dollar opportunity: Repurposing agricultural support to transform food systems'.

The report is an analysis of countries' support to farmers and its adverse impacts on food prices, environment, global warming and farmers, specifically smallholders.

The contemporary food production system emits high greenhouse gas (GHG) and support is being provided for the most emission-intensive sectors like sugar and the beef production chain.

About United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) :

- ◆ Establishment- 1965
- ◆ Administrator- Achim Steiner
- ◆ HQ- New York, USA

About United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

- ◆ Establishment-1972
- ◆ Executive Director- Inger Andersen
- ◆ HQ- Nairobi, Kenya

India participates in SCO Peaceful Mission 2021 in Russia

Indian Military participated in a Joint Counter Terrorism Exercise SCO PEACEFUL MISSION 2021. It is a biennial exercise organised under the aegis of the Shanghai Cooperation

Organisation (SCO) at Orenburg in Russia from September 13 to 25, 2021.

- ◆ It was organised under aegis of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.
- ◆ The exercise will be conducted between SCO member states.
- ◆ The 6th edition of the exercise SCO Peaceful Mission was hosted by Russia in Orenburg

About Russia :

- ◆ Host city: Orenburg
- ◆ Capital: Moscow
- ◆ President: Vladimir Putin

AUKUS- a New Trilateral Defence and Security Partnership between US, UK and Australia

The United States (US), United Kingdom (UK) and Australia established a trilateral security partnership named - "AUKUS" in order to strengthen diplomatic, security and defence cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region. The partnership was announced between the US President Joe Biden, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison in a virtual meeting.

Objective :

To ensure peace and security in the Indo-Pacific region and key focus areas are cyber capabilities, artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, and additional undersea capabilities.

Highlights :

AUKUS is a trilateral partnership, which will provide exchange of technology, services, research and development and defence equipment.

It is the first initiative under which Australia is acquiring nuclear powered submarines for its Royal Australian Navy (RNS). Australia remains committed to fulfilling all of its obligations as a non-nuclear weapons state, including regulations under the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Australia's nuclear-powered submarines, when they deploy, will be armed with conventional weapons only and not nuclear weapons.

Importance of the Alliance :

The AUKUS and QUAD are formed with a vision for a safer and more secure Indo-Pacific. QUAD countries are the US and Australia formed alliance with India and Japan.

Note : US President Joe Biden will host the first-ever in person Quad Leaders Summit at the White House on 24 September 2021 .

About United States (US) :

- ◆ Capital- Washington DC
- ◆ Currency- United States Dollar

One Web launches 34 Satellites from Kazakhstan for Global Internet Service Push



On September 14, 2021, the London (United Kingdom) based firm OneWeb launched 34 satellites into orbit from a Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

- ◆ It was launched in Low-Earth Orbit (LEO) by French LEO satellite communications company, Arianespace and its Starsem affiliate, through its launch vehicle 'Soyuz'-Flight ST35.
- ◆ Flight ST35 was the 60th Soyuz mission and the 10th mission for OneWeb.

Key Points :

- ◆ With this, OneWeb's satellites into orbit expanded to 322 for the global connectivity constellation.
- ◆ OneWeb has plans to launch a total of 648 LEO satellites for high-speed global internet connection including to the most remote corners of the world.
- ◆ It should be noted that OneWeb resumed satellite launches in December 2020 after getting bankruptcy protection worth 1 billion in equity investment from a consortium of the British government and India's Bharti Enterprises.
- ◆ It has received further financing from Bharti Enterprises as well as investment from Eutelsat Communications and Japan's SoftBank.

World Bank discontinues Ease of Doing Business Report

On 16th September 2021, the World Bank group announced to discontinue its "Doing Business" reports after finding data irregularities in countries rankings in 2018 and 2020 reports. The law investigation agency, WilmerHale, has unveiled inconsistent with the Doing Business methodology in the 2018 report, which favoured China's position.

- ◆ In Doing Business 2018 report, China was ranked 78th with a score of 65.3, but after making corrections in various indicators, its position dropped 7 places to 85th with a score of 64.5

Note : The 1st edition of the 'Doing Business' report was published by the World Bank in 2003.

- ◆ The investigation has unveiled that the data irregularities in the reports were due to pressure from the then World Bank Chief Executive 'Kristalina Georgieva', who serves as the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) since 2018.
- ◆ In the "Doing Business 2020 report, the ranking of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Azerbaijan were found to be dispositioned.
- ◆ Saudi Arabia jumped 30 places to 62nd in the 2020 report compared to that of 2019.

WEF to host 5 days annual meet in Davos in Jan 2022

The World Economic Forum (WEF) announced that its next annual meeting with the theme 'Working Together, Restoring Trust' will be held at Davos-Klosters in Switzerland from January 17-21, 2022.

- ◆ It the first major in-person congregation of the world leaders in almost two years since the deadliest pandemic hit the world.
- ◆ The yearly gathering in 2021 was skipped due to safety and health concerns

Objective :

To accelerate stakeholder capitalism, harness the technologies of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and ensure a more inclusive future of work.

- ◆ To emphasis on rebuilding trust and shaping a more sustainable future
- ◆ To bring together forward-thinking leaders to drive multi stakeholder collaboration
- ◆ To address the world's most pressing economic, political and societal challenges
- ◆ To tackle climate change, build a better future for work

Note :

- ◆ Ahead of the Annual Meeting 2022, the Forum will host the fifth Sustainable Development Impact Summit with the theme 'Shaping an Equitable, Inclusive and Sustainable Recovery', virtually from September 20-23, 2021.

About World Economic Forum (WEF) :

- ◆ HQ: Cologny, Switzerland
- ◆ CEO: Jeremy Jurgens
- ◆ Founder: Klaus Schwab
- ◆ Founded: January 1971
- ◆ Motto: Committed to improving the state of the world

South Korea. 1st Nation to successfully test launch SLBM without nuclear weapons; North Korea tested rain launched ballistic missiles

After North Korea, now South Korea successfully test-fired a submarine launched ballistic missile (SLBM) becoming the 7th country in the world to do so. It also became the first country without nuclear weapons to develop such a system.

The SLBM was fired underwater from its newly commissioned 3000 ton class Dosan Ahn Chang-ho submarine.

North Korea successfully test fired two short-range ballistic missiles from a train for the first time during a drill of its Railway Mobile Missile Regiment.

About South Korea :

- ◆ Capital- Seoul
- ◆ Currency- South Korean won

SpaceX launches Earth-circling private trip with no professionals

For the first, A SpaceX launched Falcon 9 rocket, with all amateur and tourist crew, from Kennedy Space Centre at Cape Canaveral in Central Florida on September 15, 2021.

- ◆ The crew included 38-year-old billionaire Jared Isaacman, who sponsored the trip, Hayley Arceneux, 29, Sian Proctor, 51, and Chris Sembroski, a 42year-old who claimed his seat through an online raffle.
- ◆ Jared Isaacman is leading the flight
- ◆ The Dragon capsule aimed for an altitude of 575 km, just beyond the Hubble Space Telescope
- ◆ The Dragon capsule in which they are boarded will circle around the planet for three days expected to reach earth on September 18 (Saturday).

Note :

Arceneux is the first youngest American in space and the first person with prosthesis, a titanium rod in her left leg

About Dragon Capsule :

- ◆ It is a class of reusable cargo spacecraft developed by SpaceX

- ◆ It is also known as the pressurised section, allows the transport of people as well as environmentally sensitive cargo

About SpaceX:

- ◆ Space Exploration Technologies Corp is an American aerospace manufacturer, space transportation services and communications company
- ◆ Founder and CEO: Elon Musk
- ◆ Founded: 6 May 2002
- ◆ HQ: Hawthorne, California, United States

IOC bans N Korea till the end of 2022

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has suspended North Korea until the end of 2022 as it failed to send a team to the Tokyo Games.

- ◆ - With this suspension, the country will miss the Beijing Winter Games 2022 and it will not receive financial aid during the suspension
- ◆ To protect its athletes from Covid-19, North Korea did not send a delegation to the Tokyo Games.
- ◆ IOC reserves the right to make decisions on any individual North Korean athletes who qualify for Beijing 2022 and to reconsider the duration of the country's suspension.

Former Olympic shooter Randhir Singh appointed as acting president of OCA Former Olympic shooter Raja Randhir Singh, 72, has been appointed as the acting president of Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) as the president Sheikh Ahmad al Fahad al Sabah stepped aside after being found guilty of forgery by a Geneva Court.

- ◆ Randhir Singh is currently an Honorary Life Vice-President of the OCA He served as Secretary General of OCA from 1991 to 2015.

- ◆ He also served as Secretary General of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) from 1987 to 2012
- ◆ He was full member of the International Olympic Committee from 2001 to 2014

In March 2021, He was appointed as the chairman of the Coordination Committee of the 2022 Hangzhou Asian Games by OCA General Assembly

About IOC:

- ◆ HQ: Lausanne, Switzerland
- ◆ President: Thomas Bach

PM Modi virtually Addresses 21st SCO meeting

The 21st Meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of State was held in hybrid format on September 17, 2021, in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

The meeting was held under the Chairmanship of the President of Tajikistan, Emomali Rahmon. This was the first SCO Summit held in a hybrid format and the fourth Summit in which India participated as a full-fledged member of SCO.

The Indian delegation was led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who participated in the meeting via video-link and at Dushanbe, India was represented by External Affairs Minister, Dr S. Jaishankar.

PM Modi has expressed India's support for the "central role" of the United Nations in the global deliberation regarding the current system in Afghanistan.

India to become World's 3rd largest importer by 2050: Global Trade Outlook

According to a report 'Global Trade Outlook' by UK's Department of International Trade, India is going to become the world's 3rd largest importer by 2050 with a 5.9 % share of global imports. Top two position were occupied by China and the United States (US).

India's Position at various Stage:

- ◆ According to the Global Trade Outlook report, India will be expected to reach 4th position by 2030 with a 3.9 % share
- ◆ Currently, India holds 8th position on the list of largest importing countries with a 2.8 % share.
- ◆ India is to be the 3rd largest in world economies by 2050 with a global GDP share of 6.8 percent. Now India holds 5th position in World Largest Economy with 3.3 percent share.

Highlights of report :

- ◆ As the growing purchasing power of Asia's middle-class accounts for a rising share of global import demand, US's and EU's share of most import sectors is expected to decline by 2030 .
- ◆ 'E7 group' of the seven largest emerging economies - China, India, Brazil, Russia, Indonesia, Mexico and Turkey - are expected to equal the G7's share of global import demand by 2050.

- ◆ G7 comprises seven richest nations of the world - the US, UK, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, and Italy.

Note :

- ◆ G7's share of global GDP was reduced to 46 % in 2020 when compared to 65 % in 2000.

Highlights of Mos MEA Meenakshi Lekhi visit to Portugal and Spain

From September 12-17, 2021 the Minister of State (MoS) Meenakshi Lekhi, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) visited Portugal and Spain to enhance bilateral ties with the two countries.

Visit to Portugal: Agreement on Indian Citizens Recruitment Signed On September 12-14, 2021\$ she visited Portugal where a bilateral agreement on the recruitment of Indian citizens was signed after the review meeting of bilateral relations with her counterpart, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Francisco Andre.

- ◆ With this pact, Portugal becomes the first European country with which India has signed a dedicated agreement on labour mobility. This is also the first agreement signed by Portugal outside the EU.
- ◆ The agreement will strengthen the socio-economic aspect between both nations as it sets out the procedures for recruitment of Indian workers and professionals in Portugal.
- ◆ She met with Minister of Culture of Portugal Dr. Graca Fonseca and exchanged ideas for cooperation in the field of culture such as exchange of youth and literary delegations, and establishment of Maritime Heritage Gallery at Lothal, Gujarat.

- ◆ She also met Augusto Santos Silva, the Portuguese Foreign Minister; and Eurico Brilhante Dias, the Secretary of State for Internationalization, to address issues of common concern.
- ◆ She participated in the Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav celebrations organised by the Embassy of India in Lisbon.

Visit to Spain :

From September 14-17, 2021, she visited Spain where she met Spanish Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Angeles Moreno Bau. She inaugurated The Beatles and India exhibition at Casa de la India, Valladolid which is a PPP (Public-private partnership) model supported by ICCR (Indian Council for Cultural Relations).

Other Meetings :

- ◆ She called on the Spanish Foreign Minister, Jose Manuel Albares; and had consultations with the Secretary of State for International Affairs, Ms. Pilar
- ◆ Canela Rodriguez- Cooperation with the Cervantes Institute of Spain along with cooperation in Film making, Sports and Science and Technology was also discussed.

About Portugal :

- ◆ Capital- Lisbon
- ◆ Currency- Euro
- ◆ About Spain:
- ◆ Currency- Euro

India. Bhutan signs a pact for Joint Development of Small Satellites

Scientific Secretary of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), R Umamaheswaran and Jigme Tenzing, Director of the Department of Information Technology and Telecom (DITT),

Royal Government of Bhutan, virtually signed an Implementing Arrangement (IA) to co-operate in the development of a joint small satellite.

- ◆ Participants: Ambassador of India to Bhutan Ruchira Kamboj, Ambassador of Bhutan to India Major General Vetsop Namgyel have participated in the event.

Highlights :

- ◆ The current agreement was in the line of MoU signed between Bhutan and India on Collaboration in Peaceful Uses of Outer Space under the purview of the Ministry of Information and Communication (MoIC) in 2020. The DITT and ISRO will develop joint satellites.
- ◆ It will enhance the innovation, development and technology transfer between the countries.
- ◆ It is the new area of bilateral partnership in the space sector between India and Bhutan.

Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS):

- ◆ It was set up under the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 1959 to govern the exploration and use of space for the benefit of humanity. It has two subsidiary bodies such as Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and Legal Subcommittee. About ISRO (Indian Space Research Organization):
- ◆ Founded- 15 August 1969
- ◆ Headquarters - Bengaluru, Karnataka
- ◆ Chairman - Kailasavadivoo Sivan

Highlights of PM Narendra Modi's Visit to USA from 22-25 September 2021

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi visited the United States of America (USA) from 22 to 25 September 2021 and participated in the 1st in-person QUAD Leaders' Summit in Washington D.C., the USA, along with Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, and US President Joe Biden.

- ◆ The QUAD meeting was hosted by Joe Biden. QUAD (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) countries - includes India, Japan, the USA, and Australia.
- ◆ The 1st-ever QUAD Leaders' summit was held virtually in March 2021.

Key Points :

- ◆ Fellowship programme: They have announced a fellowship programme to allow students from the 4 countries to pursue degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) at US universities.
- ◆ PM addressed the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on September 25, 2021
- ◆ Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi visited the United States of America (USA) from 22 to 25 September 2021 and participated in the 1st in-person QUAD Leaders' Summit in Washington D.C., along with Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, and US President Joe Biden.
- ◆ The QUAD meeting was hosted by Joe Biden. QUAD (Quadrilateral Security

Dialogue) countries - includes India, Japan, the USA, and Australia.

- ◆ The 1st-ever QUAD Leaders' summit was held virtually in March 2021.

I&B Minister Anurag Thakur addressed Summit for Information and Democracy

Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur participated virtually at the Summit for Information and Democracy on the sidelines of the 76 th UN General Assembly(UNGA) High-Level Week organised at the Consulate General of France, New York in USA.

- ◆ The Minister stressed on the need to engagement with member countries to address misinformation during an infodemic and learn from each other to understand the issues and to find suitable solutions to address them.
- ◆ India was also among the co-authors of a first of its kind Cross-Regional Statement on "Infodemic" in the Context of COVID-19.

Objectives of the Summit :

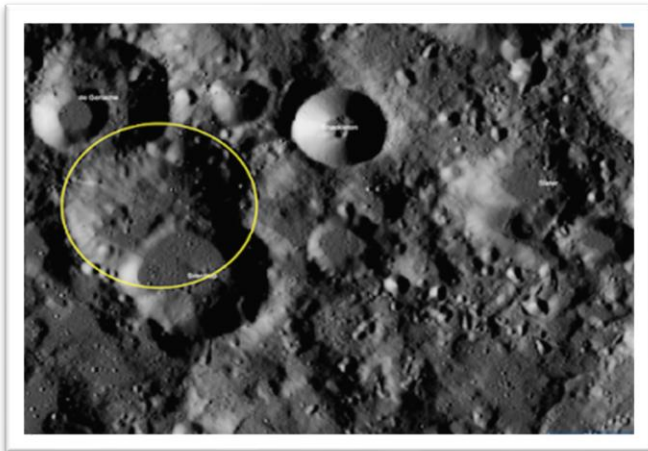
- ◆ To create an International Observatory on Information and Democracy responsible for analysing global information trends.
- ◆ Fostering ties between the International Partnership for Information and Democracy and international organisations.

International Partnership on Information and Democracy

It is an intergovernmental non-binding agreement endorsed by 43 countries around the world to promote and implement democratic principles in the global information and communication space.

- ◆ India is founding member and signatory of International Partnership for Information and Democracy
- ◆ It was launched in New York on 26 September 2019, in the framework of the Alliance for Multilateralism. With an aim to promote freedom of opinion and expression and access to free, pluralistic and reliable information.

Lunar Crater Named after Arctic Explorer Matthew Henson



The International Astronomical Union (IAU) has named a crater at the Moon's south pole after Matthew Henson, an African-American Arctic explorer, who was the 1st person to stand at the very top of the world.

- ◆ Henson crater is located in the South Pole of the Moon, between Sverdrup and de Gerlache craters.
- ◆ Jordan Bretzfelder, an Exploration Science summer intern at Lunar and Planetary Institute, Houston, Texas proposed to name the crater after Matthew Henson.

Note:

- ◆ Lunar and Planetary Institute is a member of the Solar System Exploration Research Virtual Institute, headquartered in Ames Research Center (National Aeronautics and Space Administration- NASA).

Artemis program & Henson Crater :

- ◆ The location of Henson Crater is the region where the Artemis lunar exploration program of NASA is set to land the next generation of lunar explorers.
- ◆ The Artemis program aims to land the first woman and first person of colour on the moon.

About Matthew Henson :

- ◆ Matthew Henson was born in 1866 in Maryland, was well known as the co-discoverer of the North Pole with Robert Edwin Peary in 1909.
- ◆ He published a memoir titled "A Negro Explorer at the North Pole".
- ◆ The National Geographic Society honoured posthumously awarded the Hubbard Medal(posthumously) in 2000.

South Africa to host 10th Global MIL Week from Oct 24

The tenth edition of UNESCO's Global Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Week with the theme Media and Information Literacy for all, will be hosted by South Africa from 24 to 31 October 2021.

- ◆ Global MIL Week 2021 highlights will include the eleventh MIL and Intercultural Dialogue Conference and sixth Youth Agenda Forum.

- ◆ It was initiated in 2012, is led by UNESCO in cooperation with the UNESCO MIL Alliance, the UNESCO-UNAOC MIL and Intercultural Dialogue (MILID) University Network, and other partners.

About UNESCO :

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

US Successfully Flight Tests Raytheon Hypersonic Weapon



According to the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) of United States, the country has successfully tested a Raytheon hypersonic weapon, an airbreathing hypersonic weapon, the next generation of arms that plunder the reaction time of rivals and traditional defeat mechanisms for Air Force.

- ◆ Hypersonic Air-breathing Weapon Concept (HAWC) uses a Northrop 3D printed scramjet engine attached to a Raytheon missile and capable of speeds faster than five times the speed of sound or about 6,200 kilometers (3,853 miles) per hour.

- ◆ Northrop Grumman (NOC) and Raytheon Technologies (RTX) successfully completed the first powered test flight of their hypersonic weapon.
- ◆ Russia had also tested a Tsirkon (Zircon) hypersonic cruise missile in July 2021.

India became the 2nd Biggest Trading Partner of Dubai; China Tops

As per the Dubai government's statement, India emerged as the 2nd biggest trading partner of Dubai in the first half (H1) of 2021 after China. Trade with India grew 74.5 % year-on-year to 67.1 billion dirhams from 38.5 billion dirham in H1 2020.

- ◆ The total share of the top 5 trading partners in H1 2021 increased by \$30.34\$ percent from \$185.06\$ billion dirhams in H1 2020 to 241.21 billion dirham.
- ◆ Share of Commodities: Gold topped the list of the share of commodities in Dubai's H1 2021 external trade at 138.8 billion dirhams followed by telecoms at 94 billion dirham, Diamonds at 57.3 billion dirham, jewellery at 34.1 billion dirham, and vehicle trade at 28 billion dirham.
- ◆ Exports of Dubai in H1 2021 increased to 109.8 billion dirhams from 75.8 billion dirham in H1 2020. Imports also increased to 414 billion dirhams from 320 billion dirham.
- ◆ President - Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan
- ◆ Currency - UAE dirham

India, Oman inked pact to boost Maritime Security Cooperation

On September 27, 2021, an agreement was signed between the Indian Navy and Royal Navy of Oman for the exchange of white shipping information and to boost maritime safety and security cooperation.

Signatories:

- ◆ It was signed by Chief of Navy Staff (CNS) Admiral Karambir Singh and his counterpart from Oman Admiral Saif bin Nasser bin Mohsen Al-Rahbi at Maritime Security Center (MSC), Muscat during the ongoing visit of the CNS to Oman. What is in the Agreement?
- ◆ There will be facilitation of information exchange between the Indian Navy's Information Fusion Centre (IFC) and Oman's MSC for merchant shipping traffic. Point to be noted:
- ◆ The biennial Naseem Al Bahr is a maritime exercise between India and Oman which has been conducted since 1993. It was last conducted in 2020 off Goa and the next edition is scheduled in 2022.

India, US sign Mutual Recognition Agreement for Faster Export Clearance

The chairman of Central Board of Indirect Taxes (CBIC), M Ajit Kumar and Acting Commissioner of United States (US) Customs & Border Protection, the Department of Homeland Security, Troy Miller signed a Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) to recognise each other as Authorised Economic Operators (AEO).

Benefits of MRA agreement :

- ◆ This agreement would enhance the export of both the countries and provide faster clearances through customs procedures.
- ◆ It will also boost the supply chain security and trade facilitation.

About CBIC (Central Board of Indirect Taxes) :

- ◆ It works under the Department of Revenue, Finance Ministry, Government of India. CBIC is a statutory body established under the Central Boards of Revenue Act, 1963
- ◆ It engages in policy formulation of matters concerned with the levy and collection of central excise duties, customs, central goods and services tax and IGST, administration of these taxes, prevention of smuggling and also narcotics to the extent prescribed.
- ◆ The CBIC was previously known as the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC).

About US (United States) :

- ◆ President-Joe Biden
- ◆ Currency- United States dollars
- ◆ Capital- Washington DC

WMO Report: Rising CO₂ concentration affects all 17 SDGs

On September 22, 2021, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) published a new report titled 'Climate Indicators and Sustainable Development: Demonstrating the Interconnections' stating that climate change effects not only obstruct the Sustainable Development Goal-13 (SDG13- Climate Action) but impede all 17 SDGs.

- ◆ It was released in coincide with the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) annual session; and the opening of the virtual SDG Action Zone to accelerate action on the SDGs.

About World Meteorological Organization (WMO):

- ◆ It is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN)
- ◆ Secretary-General- Prof. Petteri Taalas
- ◆ Members- 193 nations
- ◆ Headquarters- Geneva, Switzerland

India ranks 59th in 'Digital Quality of Life Index 2021; Denmark Tops

India was positioned at an overall rank of 59th among 110 countries in the 3rd edition of 'Digital Quality of Life Index (DQL) 2021' prepared by cybersecurity company 'Surfshark'. This is 2 positions lower than the 57th rank secured by India in the 2020 Index.

- ◆ For the 2nd consecutive time, Denmark topped the ranking, followed by South Korea & Finland in 2nd & 3rd positions.
- ◆ Ethiopia is the lowest (110) ranked Country. Cambodia ranked at 108th Position & Cameroon ranked at 109th Position.
- ◆ The Index ranks India at 17th place among the Asian countries and 1 st in the South Asian region.
- ◆ The report evaluates countries' digital quality based on 5 fundamental principles.

Note :

- ◆ India shares 49th rank along with Thailand, in the '2021 Inclusive Internet Index' by The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), where the ranking was topped by Sweden.

About Surfshark :

- ◆ Founded - 2018
- ◆ CEO - Vytautas Kaziukonis

Fumio Kishida Picked as Japan's Next Prime Minister



Former Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida (64 years old) has been elected as the president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and set to become the next and the 100 th Prime Minister(PM) of Japan.

- ◆ He will be succeeding Yoshihide Suga, who stepped down as Japan's PM.

About Fumio Kishida :

- ◆ Fumio Kishida hails from Hiroshima, Japan.
- ◆ He served as the LDP policy chief and Japan's longest-serving post-war foreign minister under the premiership of Shinzo Abe from 2012 to 2017.

About Japan:

- ◆ Emperor of Japan- Naruhito
- ◆ Capital- Tokyo
- ◆ Currency- Japanese Yen

US Earth Monitoring Satellite 'Landsat 9' launched from California



On September 27, 2021, the United States (US) satellite, Landsat 9, was launched through the United Launch Alliance (ULA) Atlas V rocket that lifted off from the foggy Vandenberg Space Force Base in California, US.

- ◆ It will monitor the Earth's land surface by taking the orbital track of Landsat 7, which will be decommissioned.
- ◆ It is a project of NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) and the US Geological Survey (USGS).

About National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA):

- ◆ Administrator - Bill Nelson
- ◆ Headquarter- Washington, DC, United States

North Korea Test-Fired Hypersonic Missile- Hwasong-8

The North Korean Academy of National Defense Science has test-fired a newly developed hypersonic missile, 'the Hwasong-8'.

- ◆ Hwasong series missiles used liquid-propellant engines with an ampoule fuel system. North Korea has used the ampoule fuel system for the 1st time.
- ◆ The missile has nuclear capabilities and they have named it a 'strategic weapon'.

About Hypersonic Missile :

- ◆ Hypersonic are the missiles that are capable of travelling at least 5 times the speed of sound. They are more difficult to track and intercept.
- ◆ The ampoule is the Russian term for liquid-propellant missiles that could be fueled during production and then sent to the field in canisters.
- ◆ Quick Launch Time: This technology reduces the launch time as it allows missiles to be pre-fuelled and then sent to the field in canisters. Thus, the soldiers do not need to fuel the missiles in the field as they could potentially stay launch-ready for years. Russia, China and other countries are also developing hypersonic weapons systems.
- ◆ South Korea also launched a new submarine capable of firing ballistic missiles.

Note :

- ◆ In July 2021, Russia announced its successful launch of a hypersonic missile that reached a speed of 8659.88 km/h (5381mph) from a frigate in the White Sea.

About North Korea:

- ◆ Capital - Pyongyang
- ◆ Supreme leader - Kim Jong-un
- ◆ Currency - North Korean won

India and Australian Navies sign 'Terms of Reference' to conduct Navy to Navy talks

On 29th September 2021, Indian Navy signed the 'Terms of Reference' (ToR) with the Royal Australian Navy to conduct Navy to Navy (N2N) talks under the framework of the 'Joint Guidance for the India - Australia Navy to Navy Relationship' document signed by the Navies in August. Notably, this is the 1st time the Indian Navy has signed such an agreement with another country.

- ◆ The inaugural Navy-to-Navy Talk between India & Australia was held in 2005.

Signatories :

- ◆ The signing ceremony was held virtually between Rear Admiral Jaswinder Singh, ACNS (FCI), IN and Rear Admiral Christopher Smith, DCNS, RAN.

Key Points :

- ◆ The document provides guidelines for various mutual cooperations & interoperability between the navies.
- ◆ N2N talks acts as a principal medium for bilateral commitments between India & Australia to promote peace, security & stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

Note :

- ◆ In 2020, Australia participated in the annual maritime exercise - 'Malabar' between India, Japan & USA, for the first time in 13 years.

Najla Bouden Romdhane Became First Woman PM Of Tunisia



On 29th September, Tunisia's President Kais Saied has appointed Najla Bouden Romdhane as the first woman Prime Minister of Tunisia. She succeeds Prime Minister Hichem Mechichi who served as the Prime Minister of Tunisia, from 2020 to 2021.

About Najla Bouden Romdhane :

- ◆ Romdhane was born in Tunisia's central Kairouan province in 1958.
- ◆ She is a geology professor at the National School of Engineers in Tunis.
- ◆ She was assigned by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research to implement programmes with the World Bank.
- ◆ She previously served in the education ministry in 2011.

Political Crisis :

- ◆ Anti-government protests stemming in part from the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in parliament suspension and dismissed Prime Minister Hichem Mechichi.
- ◆ President Kais also froze the activities of the parliament led by the moderate Islamist Ennahda party due to the emergency act needed in Tunisia.

About Tunisia Parliament :

- ◆ Assembly of the People's Representatives is Tunisia's legislative branch of government. The legislature consists of 217 seats.
- ◆ Tunisia's electoral law requires "vertical gender parity", a male and female candidates must alternate within each party's regional list of candidates.

About Tunisia :

- ◆ Tunisia, officially the Republic of Tunisia, is the northernmost country in Africa.
- ◆ Capital - Tunisi
- ◆ Currency - Tunisian dinar

ADB lends \$251 m for urban flood management in Chennai

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a loan of 251 million for urban flood protection and management in the Chennai-Kosasthalaiyar river basin in India.

- ◆ It strengthens flood risk management and integrated urban planning to transform Chennai into a more livable city.
- ◆ It will improve climate and disaster resilience of affected communities, to protect their lives, economy and the environment.

Objective :

- ◆ The project aims at establishing climate-resilient urban flood protection infrastructure.
- ◆ It includes construction of 588 kilometres of new stormwater drains and to replace 175 km of stormwater drains.

- ◆ It also includes construction of 23,000 catch pits in roadside drains to recharge the groundwater aquifer and rehabilitate four disaster relief camps.
- ◆ To implement a citizen observatory for real-time information in flood areas; and create a manual for green infrastructure design, including rainwater harvesting. v. The Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) technical staff will be trained on the planning and design of stormwater drainage systems, solid waste management and flood risks.
- ◆ The Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) technical staff will be trained on the planning and design of stormwater drainage systems, solid waste management and flood risks.

About Asian Development Bank :

- ◆ Founded - 1966
- ◆ Headquarters - Manila, Philippines.
- ◆ President - Masatsuqu Asakawa

Breast Cancer Awareness Month 2021- October 1 to 31

Breast Cancer Awareness Month is annually observed during the month of October (from 1st to 31 st October) to create awareness about breast cancer and to highlight the importance of early detection of treatment of Breast cancer.

- ◆ The pink ribbon is an international symbol of breast cancer awareness.

Breast Cancer :

- ◆ Breast Cancer is a type of cancer that arises in the epithelium (lining cells) of the ducts or lobules in the glandular tissues of the breast.
- ◆ In 2020 more than 2.3 million women across the globe were diagnosed with breast cancer.
- ◆ VP Venkaiah Naidu Launched UBF HELP, 1st of its Kind Breast Cancer Helpline in India
- ◆ Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President (VP) of India, launched UBF HELP (08046983383), the 1st of its kind National dedicated Breast Cancer & Benign Breast Disease Helpline in India set up by the Ushalakshmi Breast Cancer Foundation (UBF).

International Coffee Day

International Coffee Day is annually observed across the globe on October 1st to celebrate the diversity, quality and passion of the coffee sector. The day also highlights the challenges faced by the farmers of coffee beans.

The day is annually celebrated by the International Coffee Organization (ICO), its 77 Member states and coffee associations across the globe.

Background :

- ◆ In March 2014, the International Coffee Organisation (ICO)'s member states agreed to observe the 1st October of every year as the International Coffee Day. ii.
- ◆ The International Coffee Day was officially launched by the ICO as a part of the World Expo 2015 hosted by Milan, Italy, in 2015.

International Coffee Organization (ICO) :

- ◆ ICO Member Governments represent 98 % of world coffee production and 67 % of world consumption Chair of International Coffee Council- John Muldowney
- ◆ Established in 1963
- ◆ Headquarters- London, United Kingdom

World Vegetarian Day 2021- October 1

World Vegetarian Day is annually celebrated across the globe on October 1st to promote compassion and life-enhancing possibilities of vegetarianism. The day celebrates the benefits of being vegetarian.

The World Vegetarian Day initiates the month of October as the Vegetarian Awareness Month which concludes on 1st November, World Vegan Day.

Background:

- ◆ In 1977, the North American Vegetarian Society (NAVS) declared the October 1st of every year as World Vegetarian Day and later the day was endorsed by the International Vegetarian Union (IVU) in 1978.

About International Vegetarian Union (IVU) :

- ◆ IVU was founded in 1908 in Dresden, Germany
- ◆ Chair- Marly Winckler

International Day of Non-Violence or Gandhi Jayanti observe on October 2, 2021

Gandhi Jayanti, the birthday of 'Father of Nation', Mahatma Gandhi was observed on October 2. The year 2021 marked his 152nd anniversary. His birth anniversary is celebrated as the International Day of Non-Violence by the

United Nations (UN). ii. This day was established through the UN General Assembly (UNGA) resolution A/RES/61/271 of 15 June 2007

The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Radha Krishna Mathur unveiled the world's largest National Flag, made of Khadi cotton at Leh, Ladakh. This Monumental Khadi National Flag was prepared by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).

Static Info about Mahatma Gandhi :

- ◆ The original name of 'Father of nation' was Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi.
- ◆ His major Ideologies are: Truth and nonviolence; Satyagraha; Sarvodaya; Swaraj; Trusteeship; and Swadeshi.
- ◆ He was assassinated on January, 30 1948. This day is observed as the National Martyr's Day in India.

5th India-Japan Bilateral Maritime Exercise JIMEX-21 begins

The fifth edition of India – Japan Maritime Bilateral Exercise JIMEX was held in the Arabian Sea from 06 to 08 October 2021. The Indian Navy is represented by indigenously built Guided Missile Stealth Destroyer Kochi and Guided Missile Frigate Teg, P8I Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft, Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft, integral helicopters and MiG 29K fighter aircraft.

About the JIMEX :

- ◆ JIMEX series of exercises between the Indian Navy (IN) and the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF) are being held since 2012.

- ◆ JIMEX-21 aims to develop a common understanding of operational procedures and enhance inter-operability through the conduct of a multitude of advanced exercises, across the entire spectrum of maritime operations. It will further enhance the cooperation and mutual confidence between the two navies.

The Nobel Prize in Physics 2021



The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has decided to award the Nobel Prize in Physics 2021. Syukuro Manabe, Klaus Hasselmann, Giorgio Parisi jointly won the 2021 Nobel Prize in Physics for groundbreaking contributions to our understanding of complex physical systems. The Nobel Prize in Physics is awarded by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm, Sweden. The prestigious award comes with a gold medal and 10 million Swedish kronor (over \$1.14 million).

Contribution of Syukuro Manabe and Klaus Hasselmann :

- ◆ Syukuro Manabe (Princeton University, USA) and Klaus Hasselmann (Max Planck Institute for Meteorology, Hamburg, Germany)

awarded for the physical modelling of Earth's climate, quantifying variability and reliably predicting global warming".

Contribution of Giorgio Parisi :

Giorgio Parisi (Sapienza University of Rome, Italy) was awarded for the discovery of the interplay of disorder and fluctuations in physical systems from atomic to planetary scales.

'AUSINDEX': India, Australia participate in 4th edition

India and Australia have participated in the fourth edition of the biennial maritime series 'AUSINDEX'. The exercise will allow the Australian Navy and Indian Navy to strengthen "inter-operability, gain from best practices". The maritime exercise is conducted in Australia and India, with the recent one being held in the Northern Australia Exercise Area.

About the exercise :

- ◆ HMAS Rankin, Royal Australian Air Force P-8A and F-18 aircraft, helicopters of Australian and Indian Navy participated in this maritime exercise.
- ◆ The exercise has provided an opportunity for both navies to enhance inter-operability and develop a common understanding of procedures for maritime security operations.

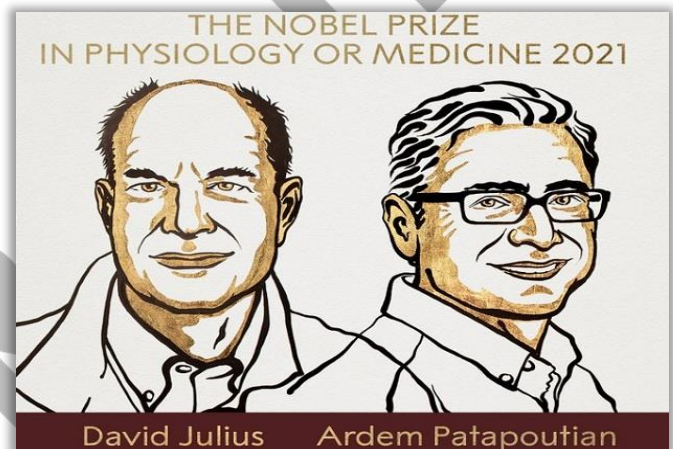
Ethiopian PM Abiy Ahmed takes oath for second term

The Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Abiy Ahmed has been sworn in for a second five-year term. He was administered the oath of office by Supreme Court Chief Justice Meaza Ashenafi. Abiy's Prosperity Party was declared

the winner of June's parliamentary elections, which were criticised by opposition parties but described by external observers as improved from past elections. He is serving as prime minister of Ethiopia since 2018.

Mr Abiy won the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize for restoring ties with neighbouring Eritrea and for pursuing sweeping political reforms. He is dealing with a war that is spreading from the Tigray region and ethnic violence.

Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2021 announced



The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2021 was awarded jointly to David Julius and Ardem Patapoutian "for their discoveries of receptors for temperature and touch." These breakthrough discoveries launched intense research activities leading to a rapid increase in our understanding of how our nervous system senses heat, cold, and mechanical stimuli.

The laureates identified critical missing links in our understanding of the complex interplay between our senses and the environment. The announcement was made by a panel at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm.

About the David Julius :

- ◆ David Julius of the University of California utilised capsaicin, a pungent compound from chili peppers that induces a burning sensation, to identify a sensor in the nerve endings of the skin that responds to heat.

About the Ardem Patapoutian :

Ardem Patapoutian, who is with Howard Hughes Medical Institute at Scripps Research, used pressure-sensitive cells to discover a novel class of sensors that respond to mechanical stimuli in the skin and internal organs.

The Nobel Prize :

The prestigious award comes with a gold medal and 10 million Swedish kronor (over \$1.14 million). The prize money comes from a bequest left by the prize's creator, Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel, who died in 1895. The other prizes are for outstanding work in the fields of physics, chemistry, literature, peace and economics.

Statue of Bitcoin founder Satoshi Nakamoto unveiled in Hungary

Hungary has unveiled the statue of Bitcoin founder Satoshi Nakamoto. The imposing bronze statue was unveiled in Hungary's capital, Budapest. This is the first such statue across the world to pay homage to the creator of Bitcoin digital currency. It has been constructed in a business park near the Danube River in Budapest. The bust sits atop a stone plinth and is also engraved with the name of Satoshi Nakamoto, who is the pseudonym of the mysterious developer of Bitcoin whose true identity is still unknown.

Bangladesh's PM Hasina receives SDG Progress award

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been conferred with the SDG Progress award for Bangladesh's steady progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the UN-sponsored Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN). Prime Minister Hasina is currently visiting the US to attend the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

About the SDSN :

- ◆ The SDSN was set up in 2012 under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General. Led by development economist Jeffery Sachs, the SDSN seeks to mobilize global scientific and technological expertise to promote practical solutions for sustainable development.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- ◆ Prime Minister of Bangladesh: Sheikh Hasina; Capital: Dhaka; Currency: Taka.
- ◆ President of Bangladesh: Abdul Hamid.

WTO raised 2021 Global Trade Volume Forecast to 10.8% from 8%

On October 4, 2021, the World Trade Organization (WTO) upgraded its global merchandise trade volume growth to 10.8 % in 2021 which is an upward revision from 8 % forecasted in March 2021. For 2022, this growth will slow to 4.7 % which still an increase from previous forecast of 4 % Global GDP (Gross Domestic Product) will grow 5.3 %, up from 5.1 % forecasted in March 2021.

For 2022, Global GDP growth is estimated to 4.1 % in 2022, up from 3.8% previously.

About World Trade Organization (WTO) :

- ◆ Director-General- Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala
- ◆ Members- 164 (including India)
- ◆ Headquarters- Geneva, Switzerland

Syukuro Manabe, Klaus Hasselmann, Giorgio Parisi conferred with 2021 Nobel Prize in Physics

Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences at Stockholm, Sweden honoured the Japanese-American Syukuro Manabe, Klaus Hasselmann of Germany, and Giorgio Parisi of Italy for 2021 Nobel Prize in Physics.

- ◆ The three scientists were awarded for ground breaking contributions to our understanding of complex physical systems.
- ◆ Syukuro Manabe, 90, a Japanese-American meteorologist and climatologist and Klaus Hasselmann, 89 , a German oceanographer have been for the physical modelling of Earth's climate, quantifying variability and reliably predicting global warming.
- ◆ Giorgio Parisi has been recognized for the discovery of the interplay of disorder and fluctuations in physical systems from atomic to planetary scales.

World Bank's arm IFC appoints Wendy Werner as India Country Head

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) has appointed Wendy Werner as the new Country Head for India. She will succeed Jun Zhang, who retired recently. Her main focus will be on growth and diversification of IFC's portfolio in India.

About Wendy Werner :

Before this appointment, she was IFC trade & competitiveness manager for East Asia and the Pacific.

Key Points :

- ◆ IFC has invested more than USD 24 billion (including mobilization) in more than 500 companies in India.
- ◆ India is one of the largest client countries of IFC, which has commitment of USD \$1.7\$ billion investments by 2021.
- ◆ IFC has also committed to support a green, inclusive and resilient recovery in India.

About International Finance Corporation (IFC)

- ◆ It is an international financial institution that offers investment, advisory, and asset management services to encourage private sector development in developing countries.

In a 1st Russia Successfully Test Fired Zircon Hypersonic Cruise Missile from Submarine

As per the data of the Russian Defence Ministry, Russia has successfully Zircon (Tsirkon) hypersonic cruise missile from the Severodvinsk submarine for the 1st time.

- ◆ The submarine performed two launches of the Zircon cruise missile target (mock targets) in the Barents Sea.
- ◆ At first it test-fired Zircon from the surface and then launched and from a submerged position in the White Sea.
- ◆ Zircon would be capable of flying at 9 times the speed of sound of 1,000 kilometres (620 miles).

- ◆ The defence ministry has equip both warships and submarines with the Zircon.
- ◆ In July 2021, Russia has test-fired a Tsirkon hypersonic cruise missile from the White Sea against a ground target located on the coast of the Barents Sea.

Cruise missile :

These are guided missile used against terrestrial targets, that remains in the atmosphere and flies the major portion of its flight path at approximately constant speed.

About Russia:

- ◆ Capital - Moscow
- ◆ President - Vladimir Putin
- ◆ Currency - Russian ruble

World Space Week 2021-4th to 10th October

The United Nations(UN)'s World Space Week is annually observed across the globe from 4th to 10th October to commemorate contributions and achievements made in the field of space science and technology.

The week also recognizes and celebrates the historical role of women in space and aims to inspire the next generation of young girls to pursue their dreams in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and space.

- ◆ The theme of World Space Week 2021 is "Women in Space".

Background :

- ◆ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution A / RES / 54 / 68 on 11th February 2000 and declared the

week 4th to 10th October as the World Space Week.

- ◆ The first-ever World Space Week was observed from 4th to 10th October 2000.

Space 4 Women :

- ◆ Space4Women is a project of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) to promote women's empowerment in Space.
- ◆ About United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA):
- ◆ Director- Simonetta Di Pippo
- ◆ Headquarters- Vienna, Austria

Jeel Albena Aid Organization from Yemen won 2021 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award

Jeel Albena Association for Humanitarian Development (JAAHD), a Yemeni humanitarian organization, has been declared the winner of the 2021 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award.

JAAHD is a humanitarian organisation that provides emergency services to internally displaced people in northern Yemen.

- ◆ The winner of the award was announced by Filippo Grandi, Commissioner of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees(UNHCR) and Ameen Jubran, Founder of Jeel Albena, received the award on behalf of Jeel Albena.

About UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award:

- ◆ UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award was established in 1945 to honour the individuals, groups and organizations who protect the refugees as well as displaced and stateless people.

- ◆ The award is named after Fridtjof Nansen, a Norwegian scientist, polar explorer, diplomat and first High Commissioner for Refugees for the League of Nations.
- ◆ He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1922.
- ◆ The award carries a cash prize of 150000 USD.

About Jeel Albena :

JAAHD was founded by Ameen Jubran in 2017 Jeel Albena operates in Hudaydah, Hajjah, Al Mahwit and Raymah and the organisation has provided shelter and hope to thousands of internally displaced people during Yemen's six-year conflict.

2021 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award Regional Winners:

Africa:

- ◆ Roukiatou Maiga, President of Women's Association Djam Weli, Burkina Faso
- ◆ Diambendi Madiaga, farmer and practitioner of traditional medicine in Kaya, Burkina Faso.

Asia :

- ◆ Dr Saleema Rehman, obstetrician and gynaecologist, is an Afghan refugee in Pakistan.

Americas:

- ◆ Santiago Ávila, Director General, Jóvenes contra la violencia, Honduras.

Europe:

- ◆ Nikola Kovačević, Human rights lawyer, Serbia.

About United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR):

- ◆ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees- Filippo Grandi
- ◆ Created in 1950
- ◆ Headquarters- Genève, Switzerland

Benjamin List and David W.C. Macmillan Won the 2021 Nobel Prize in Chemistry

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awarded the 2021 Nobel Prize in Chemistry to German chemist Benjamin List and British chemist David W.C. MacMillan for the development of a precise new and ingenious tool for molecular construction: asymmetric organocatalysis.

- ◆ 2021 Nobel Prize in Chemistry was announced by Professor Göran K. Hansson, Secretary-General of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.
- ◆ The Nobel Prize carries a gold medal and a cash prize of 10 million Swedish kronor (around Rs 8.5 crore) which will be shared equally between the laureates.
- ◆ Benjamin List and David W.C. MacMillan independently discovered that organic molecules can be used as a catalyst, a tool to speed up the reactions.

Significance of asymmetric organocatalysis :

- ◆ Asymmetric organocatalysis is the third type of catalysis that builds upon small organic molecules.
- ◆ The development of asymmetric organocatalysis has made chemistry greener and made it easier to produce asymmetric molecules.

5th India-Japan Maritime Bilateral JIMEX 2021 held at Arabian Sea

The 5th edition of India-Japan Maritime Bilateral Exercise, 'JIMEX 2021' between Indian Navy (IN) and the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF) is being held in Arabian Sea from October 6-8, 2021.

IN is represented by indigenously built INS (Indian Naval Ship) Kochi and Guided Missile Frigate Teg, under the command of Rear Admiral Ajay Kochhar, Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet (FOCWF).

Japan is represented by JMSDF ships Kaga, an Izumo Class Helicopter Carrier and Murasame, a Guided Missile Destroyer, led by Rear Admiral Ikeuchizuru, Commander Escort Flotilla - 3 (CCF-3).

About Japan:

- ◆ Prime Minister- Fumio Kishida
- ◆ Capital- Tokyo
- ◆ Currency- Yen

UN warns water shortage can hit 5 billion people by 2050

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) warns that the number of people affected by water scarcity is expected to rise as climate change increases the global risk of water-related hazards like floods and droughts.

- ◆ According to the report 'The State of Climate Services 2021: Water', 3.6 billion people had inadequate access to water at least one month per year in 2018
- ◆ The situation is expected to rise to more than five billion by 2050.

- ◆ Terrestrial water storage (TWS) dropped at a rate of 1cm per year in 20 years (2002-2021)
- ◆ There is only 0.5 per cent of water on Earth which is usable and available freshwater.
- ◆ India is the topmost hotspot of TWS loss with the northern part of the country experiencing the maximum loss.
- ◆ If the loss of water storage in Antarctica and Greenland is excluded, India has recorded the highest loss in terrestrial water storage.

About WMO :

- ◆ It stands for World Meteorological Organization
- ◆ Secretary-General - Prof. Petteri Taalas
- ◆ Headquarters - Geneva, Switzerland
- ◆ Founded – 1950

Working Conditions of teachers in Northeast, aspirational districts poor; UNESCO SOER report 2021

In accordance with the UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) report titled 'The report - 2021 State of the Education Report (SOER) for India: No Teachers, No Class', Indian teachers are facing basic amenities like toilets in northeast and aspirational districts. There are disparities for the same between urban and rural schools.

This report is the 3rd edition of the SOER, an annual flagship report of UNESCO. It analysed data from the Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) 2018-19 and the periodic labour force survey 2018-19.

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

- ◆ 2021 is the International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development Establishment- 1945
- ◆ Director-General- Audrey Azoulay
- ◆ Headquarters- Paris, France

Journalist Maria Ressa and Dmitry Andreyevich Muratov won the Nobel Peace Prize 2021

The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided to award the Nobel Peace Prize 2021 to Maria Ressa, journalist from Philippines and Dmitry Andreyevich Muratov, journalist from Russia for their efforts to protect the freedom of expression, the precondition of democracy and lasting peace.

Maria Ressa is the 18th woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

- ◆ The Nobel Peace Prize 2021 was announced by Berit Reiss-Andersen, Chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee.
- ◆ The prize carries a gold medal and a cash prize of 10 million Swedish krona Rs 8.5 crore which will be shared equally between the 2 laureates.

Guinea's new Interim Govt appointed Mohamed Beavogui as new PM

The Interim Government of Guinea led by Colonel Mamady Doumbouya has appointed Mohamed Béavogui (68 years old), a former civil servant and expert in agricultural finance as the New Prime Minister (PM) of Guinea.

- ◆ Mohamed Béavogui will serve as the PM during the transition period of Guinea.
- ◆ He replaces Ibrahima Kassory Fofana, who served as the PM of Guinea from 2018 to September 2021

About Mohamed Béavogui :

- ◆ Mohamed Béavogui has served as the first African General Manager of the African Risk Capacity (ARC).
- ◆ He has also served as the Director of Partnerships and Resource Mobilization and Senior Advisor to the President of the United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).
- ◆ He worked as the Senior Project Management Officer at the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), New York.



Pankaj Advani won IBSF 6-Red Snooker World Cup 2021 in Doha; his 24th World Title



Indian snooker player Pankaj Advani won his 24th world title by winning the International Billiards and Snooker Federation (IBSF) 6-Red Snooker World Cup 2021 by defeating Pakistan player and 2017 World Team Snooker Champion Baba Masih.

- ◆ The IBSF 6-Red Snooker World Cup 2021 was organised by IBSF in association with Qatar Billiards and Snooker Federation held from 17th to 21st September 2021 in Doha, Qatar.
- ◆ The total prize money of 6-Red Snooker World Cup 2021 is 38000 USD which includes the winner's prize of 12000 USD.

Sania Mirza - Shuai Zhang wins 2021 Ostrava Open Women's Doubles Title

Sania Mirza and her Chinese partner Shuai Zhang won the 2021 Ostrava Open women's doubles title by defeating the pair of Kaitlyn Christian and Erin Routliffe in the women's doubles final of the Ostrava Open held in Ostrava, Czech Republic.

- ◆ It is Sania's 43rd (Women's Tennis Association) WTA title and her first title of 2021.
- ◆ The second seeded Indo-Chinese duo defeated the third seeded pair of American Christian and New Zealander Routliffe 6-3, 6-2 in the summit clash in one hour and four minutes.
- ◆ Sania and Zhang had defeated the Japanese pair 6-2, 7-5 in the semifinals of the WTA 500 event.

Note :

- ◆ It was Sania's second final of the season, following a runner-up finish at the WTA 250 Cleveland event in the USA in August, 2021, with Chirstina Mchale.

Sania Mirza ranks 62 with 1432 points in double in world ranking Barbora Krejckova, Czech professional tennis player tops the table in the same followed by Katerina Siniakova of Czech Republic and Elise Mertens of Belgian in second and third spot respectively.

Harmilan Kaur Bains sets new record in 1500m race at National level



Harmilan Kaur Bains of Punjab has created a new national record in the women's 1500m race by clocking 4:05.39 to bag the gold at the 60th National Open Athletics Championships in the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Hanamkonda in Telangana.

With this achievement, the 23-year-old athlete has erased the 19-year-old record held by Sunita Rani in 1500m at the 2002 Asian Games in Busan by clocking 4:06.03.

India's Raja Rithvik becomes 70th Grandmaster

India's R Raja Rithvik became chess Grandmaster after he crossed the ELO Rating of 2500. The 17-year-old achieved this GM title in Vezerkepzo Grandmaster Chess Tournament at Budapest, Hungary. He thus became the 70th Grandmaster from the country. A native of Warangal, Rithvik has been undergoing advanced coaching at RACE Chess Academy under reputed coach N.V.S. Rama Raju.

GMD, Gukesh of India wins Norway Chess Open 2021

India's D Gukesh won his second consecutive tournament of this month, the Norway Chess Open 2021 Masters section. Gukesh scored an unbeaten 8.5/10 and finished a full point ahead of the competition to win the tournament. Iniyen secured sole second position with 8.5/10 points, finishing a half point ahead of top seed Dmitrij Kollars (Germany) and Valentin Dragnev (Austria).

Lewis Hamilton wins the Russian Grand Prix 2021



Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain), has won the F1 Russian Grand Prix 2021. This is his 100th Grand Prix win. It was Hamilton's fifth win of the season and his first since the British Grand Prix in July. Max Verstappen (Red Bull-Netherlands) came second while Carlos Sainz Jr. (Ferrari-Spain) came third in the Russian Grand Prix 2021.

England Cricketer Moeen Ali announces retirement from Tests

England cricket all-rounder Moeen Ali has announced his retirement from the Test match career. The 34-year-old Ali made his

debut in Test cricket in 2014 and represented England in 64 Test matches. He took 195 Test wickets including 5 five-wicket hauls and scored five-Test match centuries during his Test career. Moeen, however, will continue to play limited-overs cricket for England.

India claims three silver medals at 2021 Archery World Championships

The team India archers settled for three silver medals at the 2021 World Archery Championships, held in Yankton, South Dakota, United States. The three silver medals were won in Women's Compound Individual, Women's Compound Team and Compound Mixed Team competitions. Besides this, Vennam Jyothi Surekha of Vijayawada became the first Indian woman archer to win three silver medals at a world championship. The 25-year-old achieved this feat after she won the medal in each of the three categories.

Silver Medal Won by India includes :

- ◆ Women's Compound Individual: Jyothi Surekha Vennam
- ◆ Women's Compound Team: Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Muskar Kirar and Priya Gurjar
- ◆ Compound Mixed Team: Abhishek Verma and Jyothi Surekha Vennam

US beats Europe Won Ryder Cup Golf Tournament

The United States has clinched the 2021 Ryder Cup after rookie Collin Morikawa secured the final half-point to get to a 19-9 victory, which is the largest margin of victory in Ryder Cup history since the 28-point format came about. It's the first time since 1979 and

1983 that Team USA won back-to-back home Ryder Cups after winning in 2016 at Hazeltine. The Americans lost in 2018 in France and seven of the last 10 Ryder Cups against Europe, so a dominant 2021 victory could change the tide in the rivalry.

Indian Women Team Played their First Ever Pink-Ball Test

The first pink-ball day and night Test match between India and Australian women team at the Carrara Oval in Queensland, Australia on 30th September. The BCCI and Cricket Australia wish to slot in a Test in the full series they play going forward. The Indian team lead by Mithali Raj. Australia played the first pink-ball Test against England in 2017 in Sydney during the women's Ashes. The two teams last played a Test in Adelaide in 2006 when Australia won convincingly. Jhulan Goswami is one of two survivors from that Test along with Mithali Raj.

FC Goa wins maiden Durand Cup 2021



Indian Super League side FC Goa win their maiden Durand Cup Football Tournament title after a 1-0 win over local giants Mohammedan Sporting Club in the final at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan in Kolkata, West Bengal on October 3, 2021

- ◆ Captain Edu Bedia scored the winner from a free kick in the 105th minute after the match went into the extra time.

Note :

- ◆ The Durand Cup is the first-ever trophy for FC Goa coach Juan Ferrando's on Indian soil.

About FC Goa :

- ◆ Football Club Goa is an Indian professional football club based in Goa
- ◆ League: Indian Super League

- ◆ Owner: Goan Football Club Pvt. Ltd
- ◆ Head coach: Juan Ferrando

About Mohammedan Sporting Club :

- ◆ Mohammedan Sporting Club is an Indian professional football club based in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- ◆ President: Gulam Ashraf
- ◆ Head coach: Andrey Chernyshov
- ◆ Founded: 22 February 1891



List of Important Days National & International



National Engineers Day 2021- “September 15”

National Engineers Day is annually observed across India on September 15th to mark the birth anniversary of eminent Engineer, Bharat Ratna Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya.

The day commemorates the achievements of engineers and encourages them for improvement and innovation.

Sri Lanka and Tanzania also celebrates Engineers Day to honour Sir M Visvesvaraya's innovations.

- ◆ The 15th September 2021 marks the observance of the 54th National Engineers Day.
- ◆ The National Engineers Day 2021 marks the 160th birth anniversary of Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya who was born on 15th September 1861 in Muddenahalli village, Karnataka.

Background:

- ◆ The government of India declared the birth anniversary of Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya as National Engineers day.
- ◆ The first-ever National Engineers Day was observed on 15th September 1968.

About The Institution of Engineers (India) (IEI):

- ◆ President- Er Narendra Singh

- ◆ Secretary & Director General- Maj Gen Mohan Jeet Singh Syali
- ◆ HQ- Kolkata, West Bengal
- ◆ Established in 1920

International Day of Democracy 2021- “September 15”

The United Nations (UN)'s International Day of Democracy is annually observed across the globe on September 15th to provide an opportunity to review the state of democracy across the globe.

The day also promotes democratic principles, values of freedom, and respect for human rights.

Background :

- ◆ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution A / RES / 62 / 7 on 8th November 2007 and proclaimed the 15th September of every year as the International Day of Democracy.
- ◆ The first-ever International Day of Democracy was observed on 15th September 2008.

Why September 15? :

The day marks the adoption of the Universal Declaration on Democracy by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) on 15th September 1997.

About Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) :

- ◆ The IPU is the global organization of national parliaments.
- ◆ President- Duarte Pacheco
- ◆ Secretary-General- Martin Chungong
- ◆ HQ- Geneva, Switzerland
- ◆ Established in 1889

International Day for Preservation of the Ozone Layer 2021- "September 16"

United Nations (UN)'s International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer is annually observed across the globe on September 16th to create awareness about the importance of the Ozone layer in protecting the Earth from harmful rays of the sun.

The day also commemorates the signing of 'Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer' in September 1987.

- ◆ International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer is also known as Global Ozone Day or World Ozone Day.
- ◆ 16th September 2021 marks the observance of the 27th International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer.

The theme of International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer 2021 is "Montreal Protocol - Keeping us, our food and vaccines cool".

Background :

- ◆ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/49/114 on 19th December 1994 and proclaimed September 16th of every year as

the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer.

- ◆ The first-ever International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer was observed on September 16, 1995.

About United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) :

- ◆ Executive Director- Inger Andersen
- ◆ HQ- Nairobi, Kenya
- ◆ Founded in June 1972

World Lymphoma Awareness Day 2021- "September 15"



World Lymphoma Awareness Day

15th September

World Lymphoma Awareness Day (WLAD) is annually observed across the globe on September 15th to create awareness about Lymphoma, the cancer of the lymphatic system.

The day is observed by the patients, caregivers, healthcare professionals and others who are affected by lymphoma across the globe.

Lymphoma Awareness is represented using the lime green ribbon. The message of WLAD 2021 is "We Can't Wait".

Background :

- ◆ World Lymphoma Awareness Day (WLAD) was initiated in 2004 to raise public awareness about both Hodgkin and non-Hodgkin lymphoma in terms of symptom recognition, early diagnosis and treatment.
- ◆ It is a global initiative hosted by the Lymphoma Coalition, a non-profit network organisation of 83 lymphoma patient groups from 52 countries.

About Lymphoma :

- ◆ Lymphoma is the general term for the cancer of the lymphatic system, which produces, stores, and carries white blood cells.
- ◆ Lymphoma develops in lymphocytes, a type of white blood cell.
- ◆ The lymphatic system is a part of the immune system of the body, which includes the lymph nodes (lymph glands), spleen, thymus gland, and bone marrow.

Types :

- ◆ The two categories of lymphatic cancer Hodgkin and non-Hodgkin lymphoma are differentiated by the type of lymphocyte that is affected.
- ◆ Hodgkin's lymphoma is identified by the presence of Reed-Sternberg cells, and in non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, these cells are not present.

World Patient Safety Day 2021- "September 17"

World Health Organisation(WHO)'s World Patient Safety Day is annually observed across the globe on September 17th to promote the aspects of patient safety and reduce patient harm.

17th September 2021 marks the observance of 3rd World Patient Safety Day.

- ◆ The theme of World Patient Safety Day 2021 is "Safe maternal and newborn care".

Background :

- ◆ The 72nd World Health Assembly (WHA) adopted the resolution WHA72.6 "Global action on patient safety" on 28th May 2019 and proclaimed September 17th of every year as the World Patient Safety Day.
- ◆ The first-ever World Patient Safety Day was observed on 17th September 2019.

World Patient Safety Day 2021 :

- ◆ The campaign slogan of 2021 is "Act now for safe and respectful childbirth!" which calls the stakeholders to speed up the actions to ensure safe and respectful childbirth.

About World Health Organisation (WHO) :

- ◆ Director-General- Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (Ethiopia)
- ◆ HQ- Geneva, Switzerland
- ◆ Founded on 7 April 1948

57th ITEC Day – "15 September 2021"

Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) day is annually commemorated on 15th September to mark the launch of the ITEC programme on 15th September 1964.

ITEC programme presents scholarships to deserving candidates for short-term and medium-term training courses.

About ITEC :

- ◆ Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme under the Ministry of

External Affairs, is a flagship programme of the government of India established in 1964.

- ◆ ITEC aims to offer the benefits of India's development experiences and appropriate technologies to the other developing countries.
- ◆ Under ITEC, every year more than 10000 training slots are offered to 161 partner countries for training courses across various areas like Accounts, Audit, Management, SME, Rural Development and Parliamentary Affair.

ITEC Day in Bangladesh :

- ◆ The High Commission of India in Bangladesh celebrated the 57th ITEC day in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- ◆ Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury, Deputy Minister for Education of Bangladesh attended the event as Chief guest.

ITEC Day in Thailand :

- ◆ The Embassy of India, Bangkok organised the celebration of ITEC Day 2021 in Thailand.
- ◆ H.E. Suchitra Durai, Ambassador of India to Thailand presided over the events of ITEC Day 2021.

ITEC Day in Vietnam :

- ◆ The Embassy of India, Hanoi hosted a virtual celebration to mark ITEC Day 2021.
- ◆ Ambassador Pranay Verma and Deputy Minister of Education and Training of Vietnam, His Excellency Nguyen Van Phuc presided over the celebrations.

International Coastal Cleanup Day 2021: "18th September"

The International Coastal Cleanup Day is traditionally held on the third Saturday in September. In 2021, the day is being held on 18 September.

- ◆ The theme of International Coastal Clean-Up Day 2021: "Keep trash in the bin and not in the ocean".
- ◆ Coastal Cleanup Day was established by the Ocean Conservancy, an organization that works to help protect the ocean from the challenges it faces every year.
- ◆ The first International Coastal Cleanup Day was observed in 1986. The day aims to increase public awareness about the accumulation and negative impacts of litter in oceans, on coastlines and on beaches.

World Water Monitoring Day: "18th September"

The World Water Monitoring Day is observed every year on September 18 since 2003 to increase public awareness and involvement in water monitoring and protecting water resources around the world.

- ◆ This day is celebrated to increase public awareness and involvement in water monitoring and protecting water resources around the world. World Water Monitoring Day engages people of all ages in monitoring the condition of local rivers, streams, estuaries and other water bodies. The theme of World Water Day 2021 is valuing water.

- ◆ The day was established in 2003 by America's Clean Water Foundation (ACWF) as a global educational outreach program by engaging citizens to conduct basic monitoring of their local water bodies. The event is now coordinated by the Water Environment Federation and the International Water Association.

International Red Panda Day 2021



The International Red Panda Day (IRPD) is celebrated on the third Saturday of September every year to raise public awareness and support for red panda conservation issues.

- ◆ In 2021, the IRPD is being observed on 18 September 2021. The day was launched by the Red Panda Network in 2010. The first international red Panda day was celebrated on 18th September 2010.
- ◆ There are two distinct species of red pandas. *Ailurus fulgens* is commonly known as Himalayan Red Panda and *Ailurus styani* commonly known as Chinese Red Panda, these are mostly found in the Eastern Himalayan region and southwestern China.

- ◆ Red Panda Network Founder: Brian Williams.
- ◆ Red Panda Network Headquarters: Eugene, Oregon.

World Bamboo Day : "18th September"

World Bamboo Day is observed every year on 18 September to raise awareness of the benefits of bamboo and to promote its use in everyday products.

- ◆ Bamboos are used for various purposes mainly in East and Southeast Asia. Bamboo is a tall, tree-like grass of the family Poaceae. It comprises more than 115 genera and 1,400 species.
- ◆ The theme for the 12th edition of WBD 2021 is '#PlantBamboo: It Is Time To Plant Bamboo'. WBD was officially declared by the World Bamboo Organization on September 18 at the 8th World Bamboo Congress held in Bangkok in 2009.

About World Bamboo Organisation :

- ◆ World Bamboo Organization Headquarters : Antwerp, Belgium.
- ◆ World Bamboo Organization Founded : 2005.
- ◆ World Bamboo Organization Executive director : Susanne Lucas.

International Equal Pay Day : "18 September"

International Equal Pay Day is celebrated on 18 September. The inaugural edition of the day was observed in the year 2020. The day aims to achieve equal pay for work of equal value and

break the walls against all forms of discrimination, including discrimination against women and girls.

The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution to observe September 18 as International Equal Pay Day, on November 15, 2019, which was introduced by the Equal Pay International Coalition (EPIC).

World Pharmacists Day 2021- "September 25"

World Pharmacists Day is annually observed across the globe on September 25th to recognise the role of pharmacists towards improving health across the globe. The day also marks the foundation day of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP-Fédération Internationale Pharmaceutique).

- ◆ 25th September 2021 marks the observance of the 11th World Pharmacists Day. The theme of World Pharmacists Day 2021, developed by the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP), is "Pharmacy: Always Trusted for Your Health".
Background:
- ◆ The idea of the celebration of World Pharmacist Day was proposed by the Turkish Pharmacists Association at the 2009 council meeting of the FIP Congress held in Istanbul, Turkey.
- ◆ The Council unanimously accepted the proposal to designate the 25th September of every year as World Pharmacist Day.
- ◆ The first ever World Pharmacist Day was observed on 25th September 2010.

About International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) :

President- Dominique Jordan (Switzerland)

CEO- Dr Catherine Duggan (UK)

Headquarters- The Hague, Netherlands

World Rabies Day 2021- September 28

World Rabies Day is annually observed across the globe on September 28th to create awareness about the viral disease - rabies, its impact and how to prevent it. The day also marks the death anniversary of Louis Pasteur, the French biologist, microbiologist and chemist, who developed the first rabies vaccine.

- ◆ 28th September 2021 marks the observance of the 15th World Rabies Day.
- ◆ The theme of World Rabies Day 2021 is "Rabies: Facts, not Fear".

Background :

- ◆ In 2006, World Rabies Day was established by the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC), a non-profit organization that aims to eliminate deaths from canine rabies by 2030 and recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- ◆ World Rabies Day was first observed on 28th September 2007.

About Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC):

- ◆ Executive Director- Prof. Louis Nel
- ◆ Headquarters- Manhattan, Kansas, United States of America

International Day for Universal Access to Information 2021- "September 28"

United Nations (UN)'s International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAL) is annually observed across the globe on September 28th to create awareness about the importance of access to information and its importance in sustainable development and for claiming human rights.

- ◆ 28th September 2021 marks the observance of the 2nd IDUAL.
- ◆ The theme of the 2021 IDUAL is "The Right to Know - Building Back Better with Access to Information."

Background :

- ◆ In 2015 during the 38th session, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) General Conference adopted a resolution and proclaimed the 28th September of every year as "International Day for the Universal Access to Information".
- ◆ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/74/5 on 15th October 2019 and proclaimed the 28th September as the International Day for Universal Access to Information.
- ◆ The first UN International Day for Universal Access to Information was observed on 28th September 2020.

World Heart Day 2021- "September 29"



World Heart Day is annually observed across the globe on 29th September to create awareness about cardiovascular diseases (CVD), including heart disease and stroke, one of the world's leading causes of death (around 18.6 million deaths per year). The day also focuses on the prevention of CVDs and their global impacts. Background:

- ◆ The idea of World Heart Day was initiated by Antoni Bayés de Luna, President of the World Heart Federation (WHF) (1997-1999).
- ◆ In 1999, the World Heart Federation (WHF) announced the establishment of World Heart Day and proclaimed the last Sunday of September as World Heart Day. iii. The first ever World Heart Day was observed on 24th September 2000.
- ◆ Since 2011, World Heart Day has been observed on 29 th September.

About World Heart Federation (WHF) :

- ◆ President- Prof Fausto Pinto
- ◆ Headquarters- Geneva, Switzerland

International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste 2021- "September 29"

United Nations(UN)'s International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste (IDAFWL) is annually observed across the globe on September 29th to focus on the opportunities to reduce food loss and waste and restore a resilient ready food system.

- ◆ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and UN Environment Programme (UNEP) are the leading agencies in facilitating the observance of the International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction.
- ◆ 29th September 2021 marks the observance of the 2nd IDAFWL.

Events 2021:

FAO and UNEP have organised a global event "Stopping food loss and waste. For the people. For the planet" as a part of the observance of IDAFWL 2021.

Background:

- ◆ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/74/209 on 19th December 2019 and proclaimed the 29th September of every year as the International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste.
- ◆ The first ever IDAFWL was observed on 29th September 2020.

About Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) :

- ◆ Director-General- QU Dongyu
- ◆ HQ- Rome, Italy

Antyodaya Diwas- "25th September 2021"

Antyodaya Diwas is annually observed across India in September 2021, to celebrate the birth anniversary of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, former leader of the political party Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJS), the forerunner of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

- ◆ 25th September 2021 marks the 105th birth anniversary of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya.
- ◆ The word Antyodaya means the 'rise of the last person', one of the concepts promoted by Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya.

Background :

On 25th September 2014, the 98th birth anniversary of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya the government of India(GOI) led by Prime Minister(PM) Narendra Modi declared the 25th September of every year as "Antyodaya Diwas" to honour Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya.

International Day for Older Persons

The United Nations (UN)'s International Day of Older Persons(IDOP) is annually observed across the globe on October 1st to create awareness about the challenges and issues faced by the elderlies across the globe.

- ◆ The Theme of the International Day of Older Persons 2021 is "Digital Equity for All Ages"
- ◆ 1st October 2021 marks the observance of the 31st anniversary of the International Day of Older Persons (IDOP).

Background :

- ◆ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/45/106 on 14th December 1990 and proclaimed the October 1st of every year as the International Day of Older Persons.

- ◆ The first ever International Day of Older Persons was observed on 1 st October 1991.

IDOP 2021 in India:

On the occasion of the IDOP 2021, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India organised VAYO NAMAN Programme, to honour the Senior Citizens, at the Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

- ◆ Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President of India, presided over the programme as Chief Guest and presented the Vayoshreshtha Samman Award 2021 (National Award for Senior Citizens).

First UN World Cotton Day-7th October 2021

World Cotton Day is annually observed across the globe on 7 th October to celebrate the contribution of the stakeholder of the cotton sector towards economic development. The day also fosters the sustainable trade policies for cotton and enables the least developed countries to gain more benefits along the cotton value chain.

7th October 2021 marks the observance of the first ever official United Nations (UN) World Cotton Day.

According to the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC), the event theme for 2021 World Cotton Day is 'Cotton for Good'.

Background:

- ◆ The Idea of observing World Cotton Day on 7th October of every year was proposed by the Cotton Four, the 4 cotton producing countries of Africa, Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali.
- ◆ The World Trade Organization (WTO) hosted the first World Cotton Day (WCD) in Geneva on 7th October 2019.
- ◆ On 30th August 2021, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) recognised World Cotton Day by adopting the resolution A/RES/75/318 declaring the 7th October of every year as World Cotton Day.

Note:

- ◆ India is the largest producer of Cotton followed by the USA and China.
- ◆ In India Maharashtra is the leading producer of cotton followed by Gujarat.



1. World Pharmacist Day is celebrated annually on which day?
(a) 23 September (b) 24 September
(c) 25 September (d) 22 September
2. The Antyodaya Diwas is observed on which day in India?
(a) September 25 (b) September 24
(c) September 23 (d) September 22
3. The world's highest electric vehicle charging station has been inaugurated in which state?
(a) Uttarakhand (b) Sikkim
(c) Assam (d) Himachal Pradesh
4. The celebration of Antyodaya Diwas marks the birth anniversary of which Indian leader?
(a) Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya (b) Ram Manohar Lohia
(c) Syama Prasad Mukherjee (d) Janeshwar Mishra
5. Apple's co-creator _____ has launched a new space start-up called Privateer Space
(a) Jeff Bezos (b) Elon Musk
(c) Richard Branson (d) Steve Wozniak
6. Who has been appointed as WHO Ambassador for Global Health Financing?
(a) David Cameron (b) Theresa May
(c) Tony Blair (d) Gordon Brown
7. Name the author of the book "The Long Game: How the Chinese Negotiate with India".
(a) Vijay Gokhale (b) Ramjeet Singh Sodhi
(c) Girish Rupala (d) Sanjay Arora

8. Indian Army will organize "Bijoya Sanskritik Mahotsav" from 26 to 29 September in _____.
(a) Bengaluru (b) Kolkata
(c) Dehradun (d) Leh
9. Name the Union Minister of Cooperation, who addressed the inaugural National Cooperative Conference recently in New Delhi.
(a) Rajnath Singh (b) Nitin Gadkari
(c) Amit Shah (d) Narendra Modi
10. When is the World Environmental Health Day observed globally?
(a) 23 September (b) 24 September
(c) 25 September (d) 26 September
11. What was the theme of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)?
(a) The Future We Want, the UN We Need
(b) Effective responses to global crises
(c) Making the United Nations relevant to all people
(d) Building resilience through hope
12. Name the system launched by Supreme Court for transferring e-authenticated copies from courts to prisons.
(a) SAFER (b) FASTER
(c) WINNER (d) GIFT
13. What is the minimum ticket size set by RBI for the issuance of securitization notes?
(a) Rs 5 crore (b) Rs 2 crore
(c) Rs 1 crore (d) Rs 3 crore
14. Who is the winner of the 2021 Russian Grand Prix?
(a) Lewis Hamilton (b) Max Verstappen
(c) Valtteri Bottas (d) Sebastian Vettel
15. Which ministry recently presented Hunarbaaz Awards to 75 differently-abled candidates on Antyodaya Diwas?
(a) Ministry of Home Affairs
(b) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

- (c) Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- (d) Ministry of Rural Development

16. The World Rivers Day is observed globally on _____.
(a) Fourth Monday of September (b) 26 September
(c) Fourth Sunday of September (d) 25 September
17. Sweet Cucumber from _____ gets geographical identification tag.
(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Nagaland
(c) Kerala (d) Uttarakhand
18. What is the theme of the World Tourism Day 2021?
(a) Tourism and Jobs: a better future for all
(b) Tourism and Rural Development
(c) Tourism and the Digital Transformation
(d) Tourism for Inclusive Growth
19. When is the International Day for the Universal Access to Information observed?
a) 26 September (b) 27 September
(c) 28 September (d) 29 September
20. World Rabies Day is celebrated annually on September 28. The day is observed to mark death anniversary of whom?
(a) Richard Pfeiffer (b) Edward Wright
(c) Emile Roux (d) Louis Pasteur
21. Who among the following has taken charge as DG of National Cadet Corps (NCC)?
(a) Gurbirpal Singh (b) Narindar Singh
(c) SL Malhotra (d) M Mayadas
22. What is the GDP projection of India in 2021-22 as per ICRA?
(a) 8.00% (b) 9.00%
(c) 10.00% (d) 11.00%
23. England cricket all-rounder _____ has announced his retirement from Test match career.

(a) Chris Woakes
(c) Sam Curran

(b) David Willey
(d) Moeen Ali

24. Name the Cyclonic Storm which has recently affected the state of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.

(a) Amphan
(c) Gulab

(b) Gati
(d) Prabhanjan

25. The maiden successful test flight of a new advanced version of the Akash Missile was carried out by DRDO. What is the name of the new missile?

(a) Akash Fine
(c) Akash A1

(b) Akash Delux
(d) Akash Prime

26. How many medals have been won by Indian contingent at the 2021 World Archery Championships?

(a) 3 bronze
(c) 2 silver and 1 bronze

(b) 1 gold and 3 silver
(d) 3 silver

27. Who is the author of the book ' Battle of Rezang La' , that deals with 1962 Indo-China war?

(a) Kulpreet Yadav
(c) Amrita Pritam

(b) Chetan Bhagat
(d) Jhumpa Lahiri

28. What is the limit of Ways and Means Advances (WMA) set for the second half of the financial year 2021-22 (Oct-Mar)?

(a) 50,000 crore
(c) 25,000 crore

(b) 75,000 crore
(d) 55,000 crore

29. Which of these days is marked as the World Heart Day?

(a) 26 September
(c) 28 September

(b) 27 September
(d) 29 September

30. Which state has received the GI tag for Judima, a home-made rice wine?

(a) Kerala
(c) Nagaland

(b) Assam
(d) Odisha

31. What is the new validity period of the Company Law Committee, formed by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)?
(a) December 2022 (b) November 2022
(c) October 2022 (d) September 2022
32. The International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste is observed annually on which day?
(a) 29 September (b) 28 September
(c) 27 September (d) 26 September
33. Who has been selected as the external auditor of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for the period between 2022 to 2027?
(a) Manoj Sinha (b) Rajiv Mehrishi
(c) R. K. Mathur (d) G C Murmu
34. Sojat Mehndi of which state has received the GI tag recently?
(a) Punjab (b) Maharashtra
(c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Rajasthan
35. RBI has imposed Rs 2 crore penalty on which bank for breaching deposit, board composition norms?
(a) ICICI Bank (b) RBL Bank
(c) State Bank of India (d) Federal Bank
36. Ryder Cup is a tournament related to which sport?
(a) Golf (b) Tennis
(c) Badminton (d) Hockey
37. The Modi government has recently started work for the development of 'Parshuram Kund'. In which state Parshuram Kund is situated?
(a) Assam (b) Arunachal Pradesh
(c) Tripura (d) Nagaland
38. Lok Sabha Speaker, Om Birla recently inaugurated the NIDHI 2.0 scheme, which has been launched by the Ministry of _____

- (a) Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
(b) Ministry of Tourism
(c) Ministry of Power
(d) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
39. NPCI has partnered with which bank to launch 'RuPay On-the-Go' contactless payments solutions?
(a) Axis Bank (b) HDFC Bank
(c) Yes Bank (d) Kotak Mahindra Bank
40. International Translation Day is observed on which date in September?
(a) 27 September (b) 28 September
(c) 29 September (d) 30 September
41. Which ministry has launched India's first Pan-India helpline for senior citizens named 'Elder Line'?
(a) Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
(b) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
(c) Ministry of Food Processing Industries
(d) Ministry of Minority Affairs
42. The government has recently enhanced the income limit of disabled dependents to be eligible for family pension for life from Ministry of Defence. What is the new limit?
(a) less than 20% of the last pay drawn
(b) less than 10% of the last pay drawn
(c) less than 30% of the last pay drawn
(d) less than 40% of the last pay drawn
43. Who among these is the winner of the UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award for 2021?
(a) Jeel Albena Association for Humanitarian Development
(b) Society for Humanitarian Solidarity
(c) The International Council for Voluntary Agencies
(d) The League of Red Cross Societies

44. Hwasong-8 is a new hypersonic missile, which was tested successfully by which country recently?
(a) Japan (b) South Korea
(c) North Korea (d) Taiwan
45. Who has been chosen as the new Prime Minister of Japan?
(a) Masayoshi Son (b) Yoshihide Suga
(c) Shinzo Abe (d) Fumio Kishida
46. In which of the following union territories, the world's largest Khadi national flag has been unfurled?
(a) Delhi (b) Mumbai
(c) Daman and Diu (d) Ladakh
47. Which day has been dedicated by the UN for the commemoration of the International Day of Older Persons?
(a) October 01 (b) October 02
(c) October 03 (d) October 04
48. Name the newly appointed MD & CEO of National Securities Depositories (NSDL).
(a) G. Sivakumar (b) Padmaja Chunduru
(c) Rajani Gupta (d) Priya Singh
49. Who has topped the IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2021?
(a) Shiv Nadar (b) Gautam Adani
(c) Mukesh Ambani (d) SP Hinduja
50. Indian player Rupinder Pal Singh has recently announced retirement from which sports?
(a) Cricket (b) Badminton
(c) Hockey (d) Tennis



ANSWERS



1.(c) 25 September

Exp. World Pharmacists Day is annually observed across the globe on September 25th to recognise the role of pharmacists towards improving health across the globe. The day also marks the foundation day of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP-Fédération Internationale Pharmaceutique).

25th September 2021 marks the observance of the 11th World Pharmacists Day. The theme of World Pharmacists Day 2021, developed by the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP), is "Pharmacy: Always Trusted for Your Health".

Background :

The idea of the celebration of World Pharmacist Day was proposed by the Turkish Pharmacists Association at the 2009 council meeting of the FIP Congress held in Istanbul, Turkey.

2.(a) September 25

Exp. Antyodaya Diwas is annually observed across India in September 2021, to celebrate the birth anniversary of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, former leader of the political party Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJS), the forerunner of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

- 25th September 2021 marks the 105th birth anniversary of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya.
- The word Antyodaya means the 'rise of the last person', one of the concepts promoted by Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya.

3.(d) Himachal Pradesh

Exp. The world's highest electric vehicle charging station has been inaugurated in Kaza village of Lahaul and Spiti district in Himachal Pradesh on September 23, 2021. The electric vehicle charging station is set up at a height of 500 ft.

4.(a) Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya

- Exp.** Antyodaya Diwas is annually observed across India in September 2021, to celebrate the birth anniversary of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, former leader of the political party Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJS), the forerunner of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).
- 5.(d)** Steve Wozniak
- Exp.** Apple's co-creator Steve Wozniak has launched a new space start-up called Privateer Space, bringing potential competition to a field dominated by billionaires Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos and Richard Branson.
- 6.(d)** Gordon Brown
- Exp.** The WHO announced the appointment of The Rt Hon Gordon Brown, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, as WHO Ambassador for Global Health Financing.
- 7.(a)** Vijay Gokhale
- Exp.** A book titled "The Long Game: How the Chinese Negotiate with India" authored by Vijay Gokhale. In this new book, former foreign secretary of India, Vijay Gokhale, unpacks the dynamics of India-China relations through the prism of six historical and recent events.
- 8.(b)** Kolkata
- Exp.** Indian Army will organize "Bijoya Sanskritik Mahotsav" from 26 to 29 September in Kolkata. This Mahotsav will be observed to mark the golden jubilee of the India-Pak war 1971.
- 9. (c)** Amit Shah
- Exp.** The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah inaugurated and addressed the first-ever National Cooperative Conference (Sehkarita Sammelan) at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi.
- 10.(d)** 26 September
- Exp.** The International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH) declared to observe World Environmental Health Day on 26 September every year.
- 11. (d)** Building resilience through hope

Exp. The theme of 2021 UN General Assembly session was 'building resilience through hope – to recover from Covid-19, rebuild sustainably, respond to the needs of the planet, respect the rights of people, and revitalise the United Nations'.

12.(b) FASTER

Exp. Supreme Court of India has approved an electronic system named FASTER (Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records). The FASTER system will be used for transferring e-authenticated copies from courts to prisons.

13.(c) 1 crore

Exp. The Reserve Bank of India has issued guidelines regarding the Securitisation of Standard Assets. As per the guidelines of RBI, the minimum ticket size for the issuance of securitization notes will be Rs 1 crore.

14. (a) Lewis Hamilton

Exp. Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain), has won the F1 Russian Grand Prix 2021. This is his 100h Grand Prix win.

15.(d) Ministry of Rural Development

Exp. The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), Hyderabad under the auspices of the Ministry of Rural Development presented Hunarbaaz Awards to 75 differently-abled candidates from 15 states.

16. (c) Fourth Sunday of September

Exp. World Rivers Day is annually observed across the globe on the fourth Sunday of September to create awareness about water bodies and to promote the conservation of water bodies across the globe.

- World Rivers Day 2021 was observed on 26th September 2021.
- World Rivers Day 2020 was observed on 27th September 2020
- World Rivers Day 2022 will be observed on 25th September 2022.

Background:

- The first ever World Rivers Day was observed in 2005 following the launch of the United Nations(UN)s International Decade for Action 'Water for Life' 2005-2015.
- The idea of World Rivers Day was proposed by Mark Angelo, a renowned Canadian river advocate.
- Mark Angelo founded and led the observance of British Columbia (BC) Rivers Day, the largest River appreciation event in Canada, since 1980.

17.(b) Nagaland

Exp. Sojat Mehndi from Rajasthan, known for its medicinal values has received the geographical indication (GI) tag.

- From the North East States, the traditional brew of Dimasa community, Judima from Assam and Naga Cucumber from Nagaland known for its high potassium content also bagged GI tags.

About GI Tag :

- A GI is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.
- GI are part of the intellectual property rights that comes under the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Proper.
- In India, GI registration is done by the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act of 1999.

18. (d) Tourism for Inclusive Growth

Exp. The United Nations (UN)'s World Tourism Day (WTD) is annually observed across the globe on 27 th September to create awareness about the importance of tourism and its impact on social, economic and political aspects of a region. The day also highlights the contributions of the tourism sector towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs).

WTD 2021 :

- The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) has designated World Tourism Day 2021 as a day to focus on "Tourism for Inclusive Growth" as the COVID-19 pandemic has had a massive social and economic impact on both developed and developing countries.

19.(c) 28 September

Exp. United Nations (UN)'s International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAL) is annually observed across the globe on September 28th to create awareness about the importance of access to information and its importance in sustainable development and for claiming human rights.

- 28th September 2021 marks the observance of the 2nd IDUAL.
- The theme of the 2021 IDUAL is "The Right to Know - Building Back Better with Access to Information."

20.(d) Louis Pasteur

Exp. World Rabies Day is annually observed across the globe on September 28th to create awareness about the viral disease - rabies, its impact and how to prevent it. The day also marks the death anniversary of Louis Pasteur, the French biologist, microbiologist and chemist, who developed the first rabies vaccine.

- 28th September 2021 marks the observance of the 15th World Rabies Day.
- The theme of World Rabies Day 2021 is "Rabies: Facts, not Fear".

21. (a) Gurbipal Singh

Exp. Sol. Lieutenant General Gurbirpal Singh has taken charge as the 34th Director General of National Cadet Corps (NCC). He succeeds Lt Gen Tarun Kumar Aich.

22. (b) 9 %

Exp. The domestic credit rating agency ICRA has revised up the gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate of India for the financial year 2021-22 (FY22) to 9 percent.

23. (d) Moeen Ali

Exp. England cricket all-rounder Moeen Ali has announced his retirement from the Test match career. The 34-year-old Ali made his debut in Test cricket in 2014 and represented England in 64 Test matches.

24.(c) Gulab

Exp. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a red alert for Odisha and Andhra Pradesh after the 'Cyclone Gulab' made landfall over Northwest and adjoining West-central Bay of Bengal.

25. (d) Akash Prime

Exp. On September 27, 2021, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight tested the new version of Akash Missile namely 'Akash Prime' from Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha.

It was the missile's maiden test in which an unmanned aerial target was destroyed. iii. Akash Prime is a medium-range mobile surface-to-air missile (SAM) system developed by the DRDO and produced by Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL).

26.(d) 3 Silver

Exp. The team India archers settled for three silver medals at the 2021 World Archery Championships, held in Yankton, South Dakota, United States from 20 to 26 September 2021.

27.(a) Kulpreet Yadav

Exp. The Battle of Rezang La", is written by ex-naval officer and author Kulpreet Yadav.

28. (a) 50,000 crore

Exp. The Reserve bank of India has set the limit for Ways and Means Advances (WMA) for the second half of the financial year 2021-22 i.e October 2021 to March 2022 at Rs. 50,000 crore.

29.(d) 29 September

Exp. World Heart Day is annually observed across the globe on 29th September to create awareness about cardiovascular diseases (CVD), including heart disease and stroke, one of the world's leading causes of death (around 18.6 million deaths per year). The day also focuses on the prevention of CVDs and their global impacts. Background:

- The idea of World Heart Day was initiated by Antoni Bayés de Luna, President of the World Heart Federation (WHF) (1997-1999).
- In 1999, the World Heart Federation (WHF) announced the establishment of World Heart Day and proclaimed the last Sunday of September as World Heart Day. iii. The first ever World Heart Day was observed on 24th September 2000.

30. (b) Assam

Exp. Judima is a local fermented drink made with rice, brewed by the Dimasa community in Assam. It derives its name from words ju which means wine and Dima means 'belonging to the Dimasa'. It is the first traditional brew in all of northeast to bag GI tag.

31.(d) September 2022

Exp. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has once again extended the tenure of the Company Law Committee by one year until September 16, 2022. Corporate affairs secretary Rajesh Verma is the present chairperson of the committee.

32.(a) 29 September

Exp. United Nations(UN)'s International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste (IDAFLW) is annually observed across the globe on September 29 th to focus on the opportunities to reduce food loss and waste and restore a resilient ready food system.

- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations(FAO) and UN Environment Programme(UNEP) are the leading agencies in facilitating the observance of the International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction.
- 29th September 2021 marks the observance of the 2nd IDAFLW.

Events 2021:

FAO and UNEP have organised a global event "Stopping food loss and waste. For the people. For the planet" as a part of the observance of IDAFLW 2021.

33. (d) G C Murmu

Exp. The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, G C Murmu has been selected as the external auditor of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), for a period of six years. His tenure will be valid from 2022 to 2027.

34.(d) Rajasthan

Exp. Sojat tehsil of the Pali district in Rajasthan has suitable geological structure, topography and drainage system, climate and soil for naturally cultivating the mehndi leave crop

35.(b) RBL Bank

Exp. RBI imposes Rs 2 crore penalty on RBL Bank for breaching deposit, board composition norms. The Reserve Bank of India on 27th Sept imposed a penalty of Rs 2 crore on RBL Bank for breaching deposit, board composition norms.

36.(a) Golf

Exp. US defeats Europe Won Ryder Cup golf tournament held in Wisconsin (US). The Americans defeated the European squad in the biennial tournament, which took place at Whistling Straits in Sheboygan County.

37. (b) Arunachal Pradesh

Exp. The Modi government has started work for the development of 'Parshuram Kund', a Hindu pilgrimage site on the Brahmaputra plateau in the lower reaches of the Lohit river in Arunachal Pradesh.

38.(b) Ministry of Tourism

Exp. The Speaker of Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla inaugurated the NIDHI 2.0 (National Integrated Database of Hospitality Industry) scheme, during an event organised by Ministry of Tourism, on the occasion of 2021 World Tourism Day.

39. (c) Yes Bank

Exp. The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has partnered with private sector lender YES Bank to launch first-of-its-kind 'RuPay On-the-Go' contactless payments solutions.

40.(d) 30 September

Exp. The United Nations(UN)'s International Translation Day is annually observed across the globe on September 30th as a tribute to the language professionals who play a major role in connecting nations through dialogue, understanding and cooperation. The day also recognises their contribution to fostering world peace and security.

- The 30th September is also celebrated as the Feast of Saint Jerome, the patron saint of translators, librarians and encyclopaedists.
- The theme of International Translation day 2021 is "United In Translation", which was chosen by the International Federation of Translators (FIT- Fédération Internationale des Traducteurs).

41. (a) Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment

Exp. Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has launched India's first Pan-India helpline for senior citizens named 'Elder Line' for which the toll-free number is 14567.

42. (c) less than 30% of the last pay drawn

Exp. The child/sibling will be eligible for family pension for life, if his/her overall income from sources other than family pension is less than 30% of the last pay drawn by the deceased government servant/pensioner concerned plus the dearness relief admissible thereon.

43.(a) Jeel Albena Association for Humanitarian Development

Exp. A humanitarian organization from Yemen has been declared as the the winner of the 2021 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award. The organisation named "Jeel Albena Association for Humanitarian Development", founded in 2017 by Ameen Jubran, has won the prestigious honour to support and provide a lifeline to tens of thousands of Yemenis people displaced by the country's conflict.

44.(c) North Korea

Exp. The North Korean Academy of National Defense Science has test-fired a newly developed hypersonic missile, 'the Hwasong-8'.

- Hwasong series missiles used liquid-propellant engines with an ampoule fuel system. North Korea has used the ampoule fuel system for the 1st time.
- The missile has nuclear capabilities and they have named it a 'strategic weapon'.

About Hypersonic Missile :

- Hypersonic are the missiles that are capable of travelling at least 5 times the speed of sound. They are more difficult to track and intercept.
- The ampoule is the Russian term for liquid-propellant missiles that could be fueled during production and then sent to the field in canisters.
- Quick Launch Time: This technology reduces the launch time as it allows missiles to be pre-fuelled and then sent to the field in canisters. Thus, the soldiers do not need to fuel the missiles in the field as they could potentially stay launch-ready for years
- Russia, China and other countries are also developing hypersonic weapons systems.
- South Korea also launched a new submarine capable of firing ballistic missiles.

Note :

In July 2021, Russia announced its successful launch of a hypersonic missile that reached a speed of 8659.88 km/h (5381mph) from a frigate in the White Sea.

45. (d) Fumio Kishida

Exp. Former Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida (64 years old) has been elected as the president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and set to become the next and the 100 th Prime Minister(PM) of Japan.

He will be succeeding Yoshihide Suga, who stepped down as Japan's PM.

About Fumio Kishida :

- Fumio Kishida hails from Hiroshima, Japan.
- He served as the LDP policy chief and Japan's longest-serving post-war foreign minister under the premiership of Shinzo Abe from 2012 to 2017.

46.(d) Ladakh

Exp. Governor RK Mathur has hoisted the world's largest Khadi Indian national flag in Leh, Ladakh. Chie of the Army Staff MM Naravane was also present on the occasion. This flag is 225 feet long and 150 feet wide, which weighs about 1400 kg. This flag covers an area of 37,500 square feet. It took 49 days to prepare this flag.

47.(a) October 01

Exp. International Day of Older Persons is observed globally on 1st October every year. The day aims to raise awareness about issues affecting the elderly, such as senescence and elder abuse, and appreciate the contributions that older people make to society.

48.(b) Padmaja Chunduru

Exp. Padmaja Chunduru has been appointed as the managing director and chief executive officer (MD & CEO) of National Securities Depositories (NSDL).

49.(c) Mukesh Ambani

Exp. Reliance Industries Chairman, Mukesh Ambani has topped the IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List for the 10th consecutive year. In 2021, his total net worth was recorded at Rs 7,18,000 crore.

50.(c) Hockey

Exp. The Olympic bronze medal-winning Indian hockey player Rupinder Pal Singh has announced his retirement from international hockey with immediate effect on September 30, 2021 to make way for young and talented players.