

gk MANIA

November 2021



CAREER FLITE[®]
giving flight to your career

Free Download Mobile App



Visit us at : www.careerflite.com



Govt Approved Air India Disinvestment; Tata Sons Won the Bid for Acquiring Air India for Rs 18,000 crore



Tata Sons Private Ltd subsidiary Talace Pvt Ltd has won the final bid for acquiring the national carrier Air India by submitting Rs 18,000 crore bid. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) - empowered Air India Specific Alternative Mechanism (AISAM) approved the highest price bid of Talace Pvt Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Sons Pvt. Ltd.

- ◆ The bid involves sale of 100 percent stake AI (the shareholding of Government of India), 100 percent stake in AI's subsidiary Air India Express (AIXL) and 50 percent in the joint venture Air India SATS (Air India SATS Airport Services Private Limited).
- ◆ The total permanent and contractual employee strength of Air India & AIXL is 13,500.

- ◆ The winning bid of Rs 18,000 crore as Enterprise Value (EV) does not include noncore assets including land and building, valued at Rs 14,718 crore, which are to be transferred to Gol's Air India Asset Holding Limited (AIAHL).
- ◆ The AISAM comprises Union Minister for Home Affairs and Cooperation Amit Shah; Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman; Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal and Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia.

Govt to Sell the Subsidiaries of Air India

Following the privatisation of Air India (AI), the Government of India (GoI) started its asset disposal programme of AI's subsidiaries.

- ◆ Air India Asset Holdings Pvt Ltd (AIAHL), the wholly-owned regional subsidiary of AI consists of a company of ground handling, engineering, and Alliance Air to be privatised for clearing of its liabilities and disposal of assets.
- ◆ Recently, Talace Pvt Ltd (the subsidiary of Tata Sons Private Ltd) won the final bid for acquiring the national carrier AI by submitting Rs 18,000 crore bid.

- ◆ In 2019, GoI has formed a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) AIAHL for holding debt and non-core assets of the Air India group.
- ◆ The 4 subsidiaries of Air India include Air India Air Transport Services Ltd (AIATSL), Airline Allied Services Ltd (AASL), Air India Engineering Services Ltd (AIESL) and Hotel Corporation of India Ltd (HCI) along with non-core assets, painting and artefacts, and other non-operational assets, were transferred to AIAHL

Highlights of the Denmark PM Mette Frederiksen's Visit to India from October 9-11



P rime Minister (PM) of Denmark H.E. Mette Frederiksen visited India from October 09 to 11, 2021. It is Mette Frederiksen's 1st State visit to India.

- ◆ The visit is aimed at further strengthening and enhancing the friendly relationship between the two nations.
- ◆ The two nation's PMs have reconfirmed their commitment to Green Strategic Partnership and have firmed up a 5-year action plan (from 2021 to 2026) to implement it focused on ways to augment and consolidate green and low carbon growth.

- ◆ Four Government -to- Government Agreements were signed in the fields of traditional knowledge, skill development, mapping of groundwater resources.
- ◆ Danish pump and water solutions company Grundfos signed an MoU with Tata Projects on Saturday to cooperate and explore projects jointly in the area of environment, sustainability and water.

About Denmark:

- ◆ Capital - Copenhagen
- ◆ Currency - Danish krone

SNV Aviation Pvt Ltd gets NOC from MoCA to operate 'Akasa Air' by 2022

O n October 11, 2021, the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) gave NOC (No Objection Certificate) to SNV Aviation Pvt Ltd to operate commercial flights across India under the brand name 'Akasa Air' from summer 2022.

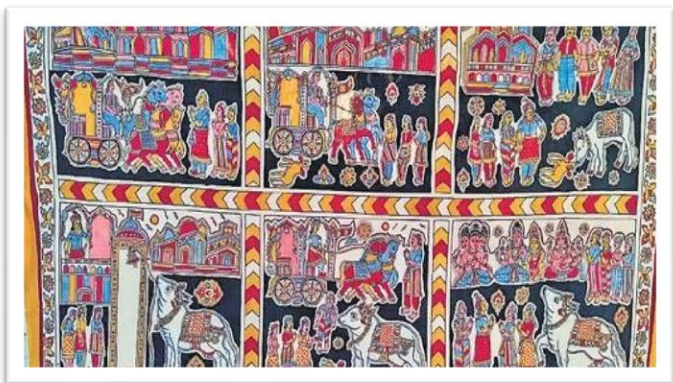
This NOC will be followed by a security background check after which the airline will apply for AoP (air operator permit) from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

It should be noted that this proposed airline is backed by Rakesh Jhunjhunwala, the Big Bull or Warren Buffett of India; and former Jet Airways CEO (Chief Executive Officer) Vinay Dube.

About Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) :

- ◆ Union Minister- Jyotiraditya Scindia (Constituency- Madhya Pradesh)
- ◆ Minister of State (MoS) - General Vijay Kumar Singh (Retd.) (Constituency Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh)

3 products including Karuppur Kalamkari Paintings from Tamil Nadu received GI Tags



In October 2021, 3 products from Tamil Nadu - Karuppur kalamkari paintings, Kallakurichi Wood carvings & Kanyakumari Clove were awarded with Geographical Indication (GI) tags.

Karuppur Kalamkari paintings - They are Traditional dyed paintings made on pure cotton cloth, mainly used in temples for umbrella covers, cylindrical hangings, chariot covers. These were patronised by Nayaka rulers back in the 17th century.

Kallakurichi Wood carvings - Traditional wood carvings that are indigenous art of Madurai, which are mainly used for designs & ornamentation.

Kanyakumari Clove - Known for its rich aromatic oil content, with volatile oil content of 21% (normal 18%) resulting in 86% of eugenol.

About Tamil Nadu :

- ◆ Governor - R. N. Ravi
- ◆ GI tagged products - Thanjavur Thalaiyatti Bommai, Thanjavur Veenai, Thanjavur Thattu, Tanjore paintings, Netti carvings.
- ◆ Srirangam is a riverine island city located on river Kaveri.

Quad Nations conduct 2nd Phase of Malabar 2021 Exercise in Bay of Bengal

On 12th October 2021, QUAD countries - India, Australia, Japan & USA started the second phase of the 25th edition of joint Naval exercise 'Malabar 2021' in the Bay of Bengal region. The 3-day long naval exercise is aimed at building coordination & interoperability among the navies that was established during the 1st phase.

In the 2nd phase the Indian side is represented by INS Ranvijay, INS Satpura, P-8I long-range maritime patrol aircraft, and a submarine.

About QUAD :

- ◆ QUAD or Quadrilateral Security Dialogue is a grouping of 4 countries - India, Australia, Japan & USA, that was initially established in 2007 under the proposal of Japanese PM Shinzo Abe.
- ◆ Later in the 2017 ASEAN Summit, the 4 countries agreed to revive the QUAD alliance.
- ◆ Motive - To counter China's rising influence & maintain a free Indo-Pacific region.

About Indian Navy :

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

ITCA to launch 75 Satellites made by students in 2022

Indian Technology Congress Association (ITCA) in Bengaluru, Karnataka, focuses on building synergies between academia, industry and research organisations.

- ◆ To commemorate the 75 years of India's Independence, it has launched 75 Student made Satellites Consortium: Mission 2022 .
- ◆ Under this mission, ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) will launch these 75 satellites which made by Indian students in schools and colleges into space in 2022.
- ◆ To design and launch the student-built satellite, the ITCA has collaborated with various organisations such as TMISAT of Israel, CSPD of Serbia and UNISEC of Japan.

About ITCA

- ◆ It stands for Indian Technology Congress Association
- ◆ President: Dr. L.V. Muralikrishna Reddy

National Conference for Zoo Directors and Veterinarians 2021 held in Gujarat, Prani Mitra Awards 2021 conferred

On October 10-11, 2021, a two-day National conference for zoo directors and veterinarians 2021 was hosted by Sardar Patel Zoological Park, Kevadia, Gujarat. Organized by Central Zoo Authority (CZA), it was attended by Union Minister Bhupender Yadav, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).

At the valedictory, Mrs Sudha Murthy, Chairperson Infosys Foundation was felicitated.

An outreach movie titled 'Live in harmony with nature, stop illegal trade in wildlife' produced by Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) was also released during the conference.

About Central Zoo Authority (CZA) :

- ◆ Parent Organization- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- ◆ Chairman-Union Minister MoEF&CC
- ◆ HQ- New Delhi, Delhi

PFC gets Maharatna status

Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC) was accorded the status of Maharatna central public sector enterprise (CPSE) by the Department of Public Enterprises, under the Ministry of Finance, giving the state-run firm greater operational and financial autonomy.

- ◆ PFC is the largest infrastructure finance company exclusively dedicated to the power sector under the administrative control of the power ministry.

Maharatna status :

With this, PFC can now invest up to 5000 crore, or 15 percent of its net worth, in a single project. It enhances powers to the PFC board while taking financial decisions.

Other Maharatna CPSEs

- ◆ PFC is 11th firm to join Maharatna CPSE club
- ◆ The other 10 Maharatna CPSEs at present are Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd, Bharat Petroleum Corp. Ltd, Coal India Ltd, GAIL (India) Ltd, Hindustan Petroleum Corp. Ltd, Indian Oil Corp. Ltd, NTPC Ltd, Oil & Natural Gas Corp. Ltd, Power Grid Corp. of India Ltd, and Steel Authority of India Ltd.
- ◆ There are 14 Navratna and 73 Miniratna CPSEs.
- ◆ Navratna and Miniratna CPSEs can invest up to Rs 1,000 crore and Rs 500 crore, respectively.

Cabinet Approval on Oct 12, 2021

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its following approvals.

- ◆ The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of Swachh Bharat Mission

(Urban) till \$2025-26\$ with an outlay of Rs 1,41,600 crores w.e.f October 1,2021 .It will be regarded as SBM-Urban \$2.0\$ with aim of 'Garbage Free' Urban India.

- ◆ The Union Cabinet also approved the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation \$2.0\$ (AMRUT 2.0) till \$2025-26\$ with an outlay of Rs 2,77,000 crore. It aims to make cities 'water secure' and 'self-sustainable' through circular economy of water.
- ◆ The Union Cabinet cleared the proposal of affiliation of 100 schools, including both private and public, with the Sainik School Society, under the Ministry of Defence (MoD).
- ◆ CCEA approved the proposal of the Department of Fertilizers for fixation of Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Rates for P&K Fertilizers for the year 2021-22(from 1st October, 2021 to 31st March, 2022).

NHAI and TIDCO signs MoU for Development of Multi-Modal Logistics Park in Chennai Port's Land

A virtual Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with NHAI (National Highways Authority of India) and TIDCO (Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation) for the development of Multimodal Logistics Park (MMLP) with an investment of Rs 1200 crore in Mappedu village in Tiruvallur district in Chennai Port's land.

- ◆ The union minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbanand Sonowal has announced establishment of a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for development of a MMLP at V.O. Chidambaranar Port (VOC) Port in Chennai.

- ◆ The MMLP will be developed through Public-Private Partnership (PPP). The SPV will provide land and connectivity and the MMLP infrastructure to be developed by a private developer. NHAI/ NHIDCL (National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited) under Ministry of Road Transport and Highways have been assigned the task of developing MMLPs

Stakeholder :

- ◆ There will be three stakeholders- Chennai Port Authority, TIDCO and NHAI will be equity partners.
- ◆ The equity contribution/investment of the Chennai Port is the cost of the land amounting to INR 167 crore, NHAI contribution is INR 130 crore and that of State government through TIDCO is INR 50 crore.

Key points :

- ◆ The Government of India has taken a novel initiative to develop 35 Multimodal Logistic Parks (MMLP) under Bharatmala Pariyojana across the country. Whereas in this network of MMLPs, Chennai is among the first to be chosen for implementation.
- ◆ As a part of MMLP, the Chennai Port authority has acquired a land parcel of 121.74 acres on a 99-year lease basis from SIPCOT for the purpose of developing a Dry Port.
- ◆ The MMLP will provide smooth Rail-road connectivity, proximity to Main Sea Route, all weather operational conditions, and geographic position to link Eastern coast with the Western coast.

- ◆ It will facilitate seamless multi modal freight transfer, and specialized storage solutions, such as cold storage, warehouses equipped with mechanized material handling and inter modal transfer terminals for containers, bulk and break-bulk cargo.

About National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

- ◆ Founded- 1988
- ◆ Chairman- Shri Giridhar Aramane
- ◆ Headquarters-New Delhi, Delhi

Centre plans to increase PMBJKs to 10,000

The Government of India has set a target to increase the number of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) to 10,000 across the country by March 2024

- ◆ Till October 10,2021, a total of 8,366 Janaushadhi Kendras have been increased across 736 districts in the country.
- ◆ As many as 1,451 drugs and 240 surgical instruments are under product basket of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP).

About PMBJP :

- ◆ It stands for Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana
- ◆ Launched - Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

MoRTH announces 'Good Samaritans' scheme to award lifesavers

In October 2021, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) announced 'Good Samaritans' scheme to award & appreciate citizens who save the lives of road

accident victims by admitting them to hospital with the 'Golden Hour'. The lifesavers will be provided with a cash reward of Rs 5000 per incident per individual along with an appreciation certificate.

- ◆ Golden Hour is the first 60 minutes from the point of accident or trauma, in which the victim's survival rate is at the highest.
- ◆ Scheme Validity - The scheme will be effective from October 15,2021 till March 31, 2026.
- ◆ State & Union Territory Governments will be allocated with Rs 5 lakhs per month for awarding Good Samaritans, which will be altered on a monthly basis based on the need.

Only 25 CPSEs tagged as 'excellent' in the Performance Assessment by DPE

In accordance with the performance review conducted by the department of public enterprises (DPE) for 2019-2020, only 25 of the 144 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) have been tagged as 'excellent'.

This figure is down by 10 from 35 as compared to 2018-2019 mainly due to depreciation of the rupee, stricter assessment and drop in net profits.

Among other categories, 28 units are categorized as poor, 18 as very good, 66 as good; and 30 as fair.

About Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) :

In July 2021, DPE became part of the Ministry of Finance. Earlier it came under the aegis of the Ministry of heavy industries.

India signs MoU with Russia for Di-ammonium Phosphate Fertilizer Supply

India signed a long-term Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Russia for DAP (Di-Ammonium Phosphate) fertilizer supply. The reason behind this agreement is to stabilize the prices of DAP and to reduce dependence on countries like Jordan, Morocco, and China.

Key Points :

- ◆ Earlier, the Ministry of Fertilizer headed by Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya directed all companies not to increase the retail prices of DAP and other phosphatic fertilizers as these are required by farmers during the current Rabi season.
- ◆ Government also increased the subsidy on DAP by 140 % from Rs 500 per bag to Rs 1,200 per bag.
- ◆ Notably, the Central Government allocated around Rs 79,600 crore for fertilizer subsidy in the budget for 2021-22.
- ◆ After urea, Di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) fertilizer is the most widely used

Govt launches India's 1st 'One Health' Consortium for Surveillance of Bacterial, Viral Infections

On October 14, 2021, the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) launched India's 1st 'One Health' consortium to carry out surveillance of important bacterial, viral and parasitic infections of zoonotic as well as transboundary pathogens. It will consist of 27 organizations led by DBT-National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NIAB), Hyderabad (Telangana).

- ◆ It was launched by Dr Renu Swarup, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology through video conferencing.
- ◆ It will also look into the use of existing diagnostic tests and the development of additional methodologies to understand the spread of emerging diseases.

Key Points :

- ◆ She also inaugurated the International mini-symposium on 'Essentials of One Health'.
- ◆ Emphasis was laid on the need of a holistic approach to understand the health of human, animals and wildlife to minimize the damage caused by future pandemics.
- ◆ The consortium consists of AIIMS (All India Institute of Medical Sciences), Delhi; AIIMS Jodhpur; IVRI (Indian Veterinary Research Institute), Bareilly (Uttar Pradesh); GADVASU (Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University), Ludhiana (Punjab); TANUVAS (Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University), Chennai (Tamil Nadu); MAFSU (Maharashtra Animal & Fishery Sciences University), Nagpur (Maharashtra); and many more ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research), ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research) centres and wildlife agencies, Assam agricultural and veterinary university

In a 1st Govt Fixed Subsidy for PDM under NBS scheme

For the first time, the Union Government has brought Potash Derived from Molasses (PDM) under the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) scheme (since its inception in 2010) to reduce India's dependence on mineral-based potash. This Fertilizer is known as PDM-0:0: 14.5:0.

Objective :

To give a push to PDM manufacturing by Sugar Mills as a byproduct and reduce India's dependence on 100 percent import of more than 42 LMT of Mineral-based Potash which cost around Rs 7,160 crores annually.

Key Points :

- ◆ Through this initiative government will offer subsidy of Rs 73 per 50 kg bag of PDM sold at Rs 600-800 by fertiliser companies to farmers.
- ◆ Union Government is expected to spend Rs 156 crore annually as a subsidy on PDM and save foreign exchange of Rs 562 crores.
- ◆ This inclusion will improve the revenue of mills and the income of sugarcane growers.
- ◆ Increased variant of Fertiliser: The current inclusion of PDM into NBS made the total variants of fertiliser under NBS scheme 25.
- ◆ Till 2020, the government has fixed the subsidy under the NBS scheme for 22 varieties of fertilisers having soil nutrients namely Nitrogen (N), Phosphate (P), Potash (K) and Sulphur (S).
- ◆ In May 2021 two complex fertilisers of NPK (8-21-21) and NPK (9-24-24) were included under the NBS (made the count to 24).

Background :

Earlier in October 2021, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the increase of NBS scheme rates.

- ◆ To maintain the prices of fertilizers affordable to the farmers, the Union Government has decided to increase the subsidy per bag of Di-Ammonium Phosphate

(DAP) to Rs 438 and Rs 100 per bag benefit each on NPK 1026-26, NPK 20-20-0-13, and NPK 12-32-16.

About Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers :

- ◆ Union Minister - Mansukh Mandaviya (Constituency - Gujarat)
- ◆ Minister of State - Bhagwanth Khuba (Constituency - Bidar, Karnataka)

NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform to Felicitate 75 Women Achievers



To commemorate the 75th year of Independence, NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) will felicitate 75 women achievers on 5th edition of the Women Transforming India Awards 2021-22 as part of the Amrit Mahotsav celebration.

- ◆ Women Transforming India Awards (WTI) 2021 will celebrate the contribution of women entrepreneurs towards 'Sashakt aur Samarath Bharat' - by building self-sufficient businesses and/or overcoming challenges via unique business solutions.
- ◆ WTI Awards are being launched in partnership with the UN, CISCO CSR, FICCI and Grant Thornton Bharat.
- ◆ 75 inspiring women entrepreneurs will be selected and the selected winners will be

felicitated on the occasion of International Women's Day on 8th March, 2022, celebrating 75 years of India's Independence - 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.

- ◆ The application form is available on <https://wep.gov.in/>, and applications will be accepted till 31st December, 2021.

ICMR releases MUDRA Toolbox in 5 Languages

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) released the Multilingual Dementia Research and Assessment (MUDRA) Toolbox in five Indian languages - Hindi, Bengali, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam.

- ◆ MUDRA Toolbox is a project led by the ICMR Neuro-Cognitive Tool Box (ICMR-NCTB) partnership to improve dementia and mild cognitive impairment research and therapeutic practices in India.
- ◆ This toolkit has several cognitive tests that can be used to examine many aspects of cognition, including executive functioning, memory, speech, and visuospatial functions.
- ◆ The initiative has started when India has over 5.29 million persons living with dementia, according to the Alzheimer's and Related Disorders Society of India (ARDSI Dementia). By 2030, the number of dementia patients is predicted to reach 7.61 million.

Amit Shah launched Development Projects in Andaman and Nicobar Islands; Mount Harriet to be named Mount Manipur

On October 16, 2021, Union Minister Amit Shah, Ministry of Cooperation inaugurated 14 projects worth Rs 299 crore and laid foundation stones of 12 projects worth Rs 643

crore from the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Island in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

With this, a development work of about Rs 1,000 crore is initiated in Andaman Islands.

The Central Government has renamed Mount Harriet, an island peak in Andaman and Nicobar Islands as Mount Manipur as a tribute to the freedom fighters of Manipur. Mount Harriet is the third-highest island peak in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

About Andaman and Nicobar Islands :

- ◆ Lieutenant Governor- Admiral Devendra Kumar Joshi
- ◆ Capital- Port Blair
- ◆ Zoological Site- Zoological Survey of India Museum

Devusinh Chauhan participates in Ministerial Roundtable Session of ITU Digital World 2021

The Minister of State (MoS) for Communication, Devusinh Chauhan, participated in the Ministerial Roundtable Session of the 50th -anniversary edition of International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Digital World 2021, which was held in Vietnam and hosted by the government of Vietnam.

- ◆ The Prime Ministers of Vietnam and Ministers of Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Costa Rica, Lao P.D.R, Myanmar and Vietnam have participated.
- ◆ Topic of the Discussion: 'Cutting the cost: can affordable access accelerate digital transformation?'

Highlights :

India has committed to developing the most cost-effective Information Communication Technology (ICT) services for accelerating digital transformation.

The telecom strategy of India is guided by the goals of affordability, accessibility, and availability of ICT services to all citizens.

Reforms in ICT :

- ◆ Increasing the spectrum tenure from 20 to 30 years.
- ◆ Simplifying the bank guarantee requirements for a licence, eliminating the Spectrum Usage Charge (SUC) for spectrum acquired in future spectrum auctions.
- ◆ Allowing 100 % foreign direct investment (FDI) via the automatic route and addressing liquidity issues of Telecom Service Providers (TSPs).

Note :

In September 2020 Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'Har Gaon Optical Fibre Cable' project to provide internet services to six lakh villages through optical fibre cable in 1,000 days.

About International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

- ◆ Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
- ◆ Founded: 17 May 1865
- ◆ Secretary-General: Houlin Zhao

About Vietnam :

- ◆ Capital: Hanoi
- ◆ Currency: Vietnamese dong
- ◆ Prime Minister: Pham Minh Chinh

Interest Rates on 'Small Savings Schemes' Unchanged for Q3-FY22

The Central Government has kept the interest rates on 'Small Savings Schemes' (SSS) unchanged for the third quarter of Financial Year 2022, ie; from 1st October 2021

to 31 st December 2021 . The interest rates on SSS were altered by the Central government on a Quarterly basis \& some of the rates allocated for current quarter are:

- ◆ Public Provident Fund (PPF) - 7.1%
- ◆ National Savings Certificate (NSC) - 6.8 %
- ◆ Senior Citizens Savings Scheme -7.4 % (5-year scheme, where interest is paid quarterly)
- ◆ Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana account - 7.6%

Note :

- ◆ West Bengal is India's largest contributor in SSS, followed by Uttar Pradesh.

India's Vidyut Mohan wins Inaugural '2021 Earthshot Prize' under 'Clean Our Air' Category

An Indian Social Enterprise 'Takachar', under the leadership of Vidyut Mohan was named as the winner of inaugural '2021 Earthshot Prize' that was created by the United Kingdom's Prince William to reward people fighting to save planet earth. Takachar won the 'Earthshot Prize', also known as 'Eco Oscars', under the "Clean Our Air" category for its invention to recycle agricultural waste.

Takachar Invention - A Cheap, small-scale, portable technology that attaches to tractors and converts crop residues to bio-products like fuel \& fertilizers.

Prize for Winners :

- ◆ Money - 1 million Pound
- ◆ Medal - Inspired by 'Earthrise' photo from Apollo 8 mission (1968), designed by Christien Meindertsma (Netherlands). The medal is completely made of recycled materials.

- ◆ The award is given under 5 broad categories

About United Kingdom :

- ◆ Prime Minister - Boris Johnson
- ◆ Capital - London
- ◆ The Thames river flows through the capital city of London.

DRDO announces Winners of 'Dare to Dream 2.0' and 'Young Scientist Award 2019'

In October 2021, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh awarded the winners of Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)'s 'Dare to Dream 2.0' Contest & 2019's DRDO Young Scientist awards. The minister also officially launched 'Dare to Dream 3.0' to promote innovators & startups.

The 'Dare to Dream 2.0' awards were issued to 40 winners (22 individuals & 18 Startups), where DRDO provides technical & financial support under Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme.

16 Scientists under 35 years, were awarded with the 2019's DRDO Young Scientist awards.

During the award ceremony, Indian Armed Forces received 3-indigenously developed product developed by DRDO:

- ◆ ARINC 818 Video Processing and Switching Module - Developed for Indian Air Force
- ◆ Sonar Performance Modelling System - Developed for Indian Navy
- ◆ Bund Blasting Device Mk-II- Developed for Indian Army

National Security Guard observes 37th Raising Day on Oct 16



The National Security Guard (NSG) force celebrated the 37th Raising Day. It is observed on October 16 every year. The year 2021 marks the 37th anniversary of the establishment of the NSG. They are popularly known as "Black Cats"

Key Points :

- ◆ The NSG force was established in 1986 after the Union Cabinet decided to create a 'Federal Contingency Force' in 1984 that was well trained to tackle various manifestations of terrorism.
- ◆ The SAG (Special Action Group) is formed of army personnel as well as the Special Ranger Groups (SRG), which comprise of personnel drawn from State Police Forces or Central Armed Police Forces. It has six operational centres and seventh one will be set up in Pathankot, Punjab.
- ◆ The Black Cats played a key role during the 'Operation Black Tornado' of 2008, when NSG commandos stormed the Nariman House, Taj Mahal Palace Hotel and the Oberoi Trident hotel, and coordinating with personnel of other forces, killed all terrorists who had laid siege to the sites during the 26/11 Mumbai attacks.

About National Security Guard (NSG).

- ◆ HQ-New Delhi, Delhi
- ◆ Established in - 1986
- ◆ Director General- M A Ganapathy
- ◆ Motto- Sarvatra Sarvottam Suraksha.

MoHFW sets up Expert Panel on Tobacco Tax Policy; Headed by Vikas Sheel

On October 19, 2021, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) has ss up an expert group headed by Vikas Sheel, additional secretary in MoHFW to develop a comprehensive tax policy for all tobacco products.

The group will analyze the current tax structure of all forms of tobacco, including smokeless tobacco, and suggesting various tax rate models for the preparation of the FY23 and future Union budgets.

The reason behind this is to prepare a roadmap for reducing tobacco demand according to World Health Organization's (WHO) plans.

About Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) :

- ◆ Union Minister- Mansukh Laxmanbhai Mandaviya (Constituency- Gujarat) Minister of State (MoS)- Bharati Pravin Pawar (Constituency- Dindori, Maharashtra)

ASI Confers Aryabhata Award to Secretary DDR&D and chairman DRDO, Dr G Satheesh Reddy

Secretary DDR&D (Department of Defence Research and Development) and Chairman DRDO(Defence Research and Development Organisation) Dr G Satheesh Reddy has been conferred the prestigious 'Aryabhata Award' by the Astronautical Society of India (ASI) for his

outstanding life-time contribution to the promotion of astronautics in India.

- ◆ The award ceremony was held at UR Rao Satellite Centre Bangalore, Karnataka with participants (joined virtually) from across the ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation), DRDO and other academic institutions.

Highlights :

The award is given for his contribution to helping the country become self-reliant in critical defence technology such as strategic and tactical missile systems. ii.He is an institution builder and has set up mechanisms to establish robust defence development and production ecosystems.

About ASI (Astronautical Society of India) :

- ◆ It promotes the interests of other developing countries in the field of astronautics through the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), Paris in which the ASI is a voting member.
- ◆ President- Dr K Sivan
- ◆ Founded- 1990

About DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation) :

- ◆ Chairman: G Satheesh Reddy
- ◆ Headquarters: DRDO Bhavan, New Delhi
- ◆ Founded: 1958

Dr Jitendra Singh Launched AQEWS integrated with DSS for Delhi -NCR

On October 19, Minister of State (Independent Charge) Dr Jitendra Singh, Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) launched Air Quality Early Warning System (AQEWS) integrated with a Decision Support System (DSS) for Delhi-NCR (Nation Capital Region).

- ◆ The DSS was developed by scientists at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune (Maharashtra), an autonomous Institute of MoES.
- ◆ It was released during the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav week organised by MoES.

Key Points :

The DSS has extended the ability of the existing AQEWS to have decision-making capability for air quality management.

The need for the DSS was stated by the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in NCR and Adjoining Areas.

IITM, Pune also developed a website for DSS accessible at <https://ews.tropmet.res.in/dss/>. It will provide the following information:

- ◆ Contribution of emissions to the air quality from Delhi and the surrounding 19 districts
- ◆ Contribution of emissions from 8 different sectors in Delhi
- ◆ Contribution from biomass-burning activities in the neighbouring states
- ◆ Possible quantitative effects of interventions at the forecast air-quality event in Delhi.

PMGKP Insurance Scheme for Health Workers Extended for Another 180 Days

The Central government extended the duration of "Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP)", an insurance scheme for health care workers fighting COVID-19, for a further period of 180 days

- ◆ As the current term of the policy is ending on 20.10.2021, it has been further extended for 180 days from 21.10.2021.

- ◆ Until now, 1351 claims have been paid under the scheme. This scheme meant relief plans to help in the survival of the deadly situation of the country.
- ◆ The relief package includes food and components, which are divided into eight sections of the society inclusive of pensioners, women, and the disabled, poor families.
- ◆ The central government has claimed to distribute rice and wheat-based on each individual, in addition to the already existing rice distribution.

About Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP).

- ◆ Launched on: March, 2020
- ◆ Launched by: The Indian Union Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman.

PM Narendra Modi Visited Uttar Pradesh; inaugurated Kushinagar International Airport



On October 20, 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Uttar Pradesh (UP) where he inaugurated the Kushinagar International Airport and participated in an event marking Abhidharma Day at Mahaparinirvana Temple Kushinagar. He also attended a public

function to inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of various development projects in Kushinagar.

- ◆ The Ministry of Tourism organized a two days' conference titled 'Tourism in Buddhist circuit a way forward
- ◆ Built at an estimated cost of Rs.260 crore, Kushinagar international circuit in India and South-East Asia.
- ◆ During a public function at Barwa Jangal, Kushinagar, the PM inaugurated & laid the foundation stone of 12 development projects worth over Rs 180 crore.

India opens inflight data market to UK satellite firm Inmarsat

British satellite operator Inmarsat Holdings Ltd is the first foreign operator to get India's approval to sell high-speed broadband to planes and shipping vessels. Many Indian consumers and businesses operate with the help of internet service.

Features :

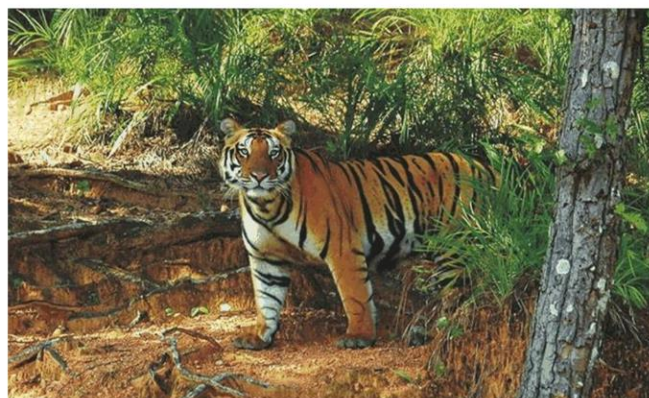
- ◆ Inmarsat will access the market via Indian state-owned telecommunications company Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) which received approval from India's Department of Telecommunications.
- ◆ Inmarsat has deals with Indian airline SpiceJet Ltd and the Shipping Corp of India Ltd, Chief Executive Officer Rajeev Suri.
- ◆ They already offer reliable but low-data "L-band" services in India whereas the new license offers much faster 4G-like "Ka-band" broadband on its GX (Global Xpress) network.

- ◆ Inmarsat's connectivity comes from satellites in geostationary orbit, but it will likely end up competing with new deep-pocketed low-earth orbit satellites.

About Inmarsat :

- ◆ It provides telephone and data services to users worldwide through portable or mobile terminals which communicate with ground stations through fourteen geostationary satellites.
- ◆ CEO - Rajeev Suri
- ◆ Headquarters: London, United Kingdom
- ◆ Founded: 16 July 1979

Parambikulam Tiger Conservation Foundation won Earth Guardian Award: 11th Edition Of NatWest Group Earth Heroes Awards 2021



The Parambikulam Tiger Conservation Foundation (PaTCoF), a non-profit organisation in Palakkad, Kerala, under the Kerala Forest Department, has won the NatWest Group's Earth Guardian Award 2021 for its efforts towards the conservation of tigers and biodiversity of the Parambikulam tiger reserve. NatWest Group India, the global capability centre of the NatWest Group announced the 8 winners of the 11th edition of the NatWest Group Earth Heroes Awards(2021).

MoD Rajnath Singh launched WBPMP. 1st Project Management Governance by Military Engineer Services

On October 20, 2021, Union Minister Rajnath Singh, Ministry of Defence (MoD), launched Web Based Project Monitoring Portal (WBPMP) for Military Engineer Services (MES) from New Delhi. It is the first project management Governance to be implemented by the MES.

- ◆ It has been developed by Gandhinagar (Gujarat) based Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-G).
- ◆ This development is on the lines of Digital India Mission.

Key Points:

- ◆ WBPMP will enable real time monitoring of projects from its inception to completion.
- ◆ It will enable all stakeholders including from Armed Forces to access the project information.
- ◆ This is one among many initiatives of MES for the scientific management of this organisation.
- ◆ MES is also in process of implementing nine other e-Governance applications including Product Approval Portal, AWMP Scrutiny & Status Application, E-Measurement Book, Budget Management Portal, Work Estimation Application, Billing and Construction Account Management, Cashbook Management and Accounting System, Contractor and Consultant Enlistment Portal & E-Deviation.

Georissa Mawsmiensis: New Species of Micro Snail Discovered from Meghalaya



A team of scientists from Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), Bengaluru has discovered a new species of micro snail, named "Georissa mawsmiensis", from Mawsmai, a limestone cave in Meghalaya. The last such discovery was made in 1851 (around 170 years ago).

- ◆ The new species was discovered by Nipu Kumar Das and NA Aravind of the ATREE.
- ◆ The discovery is reported in the Journal of Conchology.

Note :

- ◆ In 1851, WH Benson collected & described the new species, Georissa saritta, a member of the Georissa genus from the Musmai valley (at present Mawsmai) near Cherrapunjee (Sohra).
- ◆ Five species of cave-dwelling snails have been reported from the caves of Meghalaya.

Mawsmai cave:

- ◆ The Mawsmai cave in Mawsmai village in the East Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya is located at an altitude of 1,195 metres above sea level.
- ◆ Mawsmai in the Khasi language means "oath stone".

Key Points :

- ◆ The species of the Georissa genus are widely distributed across Africa, Asia and the Pacific
- ◆ These species are endemic microhabitats consisting of limestone caves or karst landscapes formed by the dissolution of limestone.
- ◆ Compared to the Georissa sarrita, Georissa mawmaiensis has a different shell morphology, from shell size to the presence of 4 prominent spiral striations on body whorls of the shell.

Police Commemoration Day 2021 - October 21

The Police Commemoration Day is annually observed across India on October 21st to remember and pay tribute to the police personnel who died in the line of duty. In 2020, Police Commemoration Day paid tribute to the personnel who lost their lives due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The day is also known as Police Martyrs Day.

Background :

- ◆ In January 1960, the Annual Conference of Inspectors General of Police of States and Union Territories decided to observe the 21st October of every year as the Police Commemoration Day or Police Martyrs Day.
- ◆ The day was chosen to remember the sacrifice of the 10 police personnel who lost their lives on 21st October 1959 in Ladakh while fighting against the Chinese army. During the conference, it was also decided to erect a memorial at Hot Springs.

Cabinet approval on October 21, 2021

On October 21, 2021, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi approved the following proposals and the information for the same was provided by Union Minister Anurag Singh Thakur, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) during a media briefing on the Cabinet decisions in New Delhi. The Union Cabinet cleared the 'PM GatiShakti - National Master Plan (NMP) for Multi-Modal Connectivity' to economic zones. This approval comes after a week when the PM launched Rs 100 Lakh crore Gati Shakti NMP for Infrastructure Development from New Delhi.

- ◆ An Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGOS) headed by the Cabinet Secretary (Currently Rajiv Gauba) and secretaries of 18 ministries as members will be set up to review and monitor the implementation of the PM GatiShakti NMP and to ensure logistics efficiency.
- ◆ The Union Cabinet also approved a proposal to hike Dearness Allowance (DA) of the central government employees and pensioners by 3 %. It also decided to increase the House Rent Allowance (HRA) of the Central government employees from August 2021

About Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) :

- ◆ Anurag Singh Thakur Constituency- Hamirpur (Himachal Pradesh)
- ◆ Minister of State (MoS)- Loganathan Murugan (Constituency- Madhya Pradesh)

India's largest Green Hydrogen Plant to be built by GAIL



GAIL (INDIA) Ltd.

GAIL (Formerly known as Gas Authority of India Limited) is all set to build India's largest green hydrogen-making plant of 10 MW (Mega Watt) capacity in 12-14 months. The information for the same was provided by GAIL Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) Manoj Jain during the 5th India Energy Forum by CERAWEEK in a hybrid format in New Delhi.

- ◆ This plant will supplement GAIL's natural gas business with carbon-free fuel.

Key Points :

- ◆ GAIL has finalised 2-3 sites for the hydrogen making unit including one at Vijaipur in Madhya Pradesh.
- ◆ The produced hydrogen will be sold to fertilizer units because, government has mandated to use hydrogen as fuel.
- ◆ NTPC (formerly National Thermal Power Corporation Limited) also announced a 5MW green hydrogen plant.
- ◆ Notably, to achieve the target of raising the share of natural gas to 15 % by 2030 from current 6.2 % by India, gas consumption has to rise three and half times to 600 million standard cubic meters per day.

Ridhima Veerendra Kumar breaks 7-year National record and bags gold medal in swimming

Karnataka swimmer Ridhima Veerendrakumar bagged the gold medal in 50 m backstroke for group II girls, in Bengaluru, a record-breaking performance at the 37th Sub Junior and 47th Junior National Championships.

- ◆ Ridhima led with powerful strokes to clock \$29.94\$ seconds and broke the 7 -year National record of Maana Patel's record (30.37 seconds) created in \$2014\$.
- ◆ Shalini Dixit of Karnataka bagged the silver medal while Sri Nitya Sago of Telangana took bronze.
- ◆ Maharashtra's Apeksha Fernandes created a new national record in the \$50 m\$ breast stroke for group I girls.

MoS Devusinh Chauhan chaired 7th Meeting of BRICS Communications Ministers 2021

On October 22, 2021, Minister of State (MoS) Devusinh Chauhan chaired the 7th meeting of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) Communications Ministers 2021 through video conferencing.

Key Points :

- ◆ India's efforts of extending optical fibers to all six lakh villages of India to bridge the digital divide between urban and rural areas were highlighted during the meeting.
- ◆ The participating ministers recognized the significant role of ICT (information and communications technology).
- ◆ Emphasis were laid on cooperation among BRICS nations for affordable access to

communications services and digital technologies for benefitting people, and achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- ◆ Ministers adopted the Terms of References of Digital BRICS Task Force and supported the advancement in work of the BRICS Partnership on New Industrial Revolution (PartNIR).
- ◆ The proposal to host the Digital BRICS Forum annually to facilitate sharing of information and knowledge, practices, initiatives, etc. on agreed cooperation areas was also approved.

Other Participants :

Mr. Fabio Salustino Mesquita De Faria, Minister of Communications of Brazil, Ms. Bella Cherksova, Deputy Minister of Communications of Russia, Xiao Yaqing, Minister of Industry and Information Technologies China, and Ms. Khumbudzo Phophi Silence Ntshavheni, Minister of Communications & Digital Technologies of the Republic of South Africa

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

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

Indian Railways Ordered to Dissolve Indian Railway Station Developmental Corporation

The Railway Board issued the letter stating that the Indian Railways has ordered to dissolve the Indian Railway Station

Development Corporation (IRSDC), an organisation under the Ministry of Railways.

- ◆ This is the 2nd organisation under the Ministry of Railways to be dissolved in 2021

Note:

The Indian Railways Organisation for Alternative Fuel (IROAF) under the ministry of railways was dissolved on 7th September 2021 .

About the closure of IRSDC :

- ◆ The board ordered to initiate all necessary procedural formalities for the closure of IRSDC.
- ◆ The stations managed by IRSDC and the projects related documents shall be handed over to respective Zonal Railways. The zonal railways will take over the station's projects.

Background :

- ◆ The IRSDC has been dissolved in line with the recommendation of Sanjeev Sanyal, Principal Economic Advisor of the Finance Ministry for the rationalisation of railway bodies by closing down or merging multiple organisations.

About Indian Railway Station Development Corporation (IRSDC):

- ◆ IRSDC, a Joint Venture company of Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) and Ircon International Limited (IRCON) is a Special Purpose vehicle.
- ◆ MD &CEO- Sanjeev Kumar Lohia
- ◆ Incorporated on 12th April 2012
- ◆ Headquarters- New Delhi

4th General Assembly of ISA held virtually; Inaugurated by Raj Kumar Singh

On October 18-21, 2021, the 4th General Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) held virtually which was inaugurated and presided over by Union Minister Raj Kumar Singh, Ministry of Power and the President of the ISA Assembly. ISA approved the 'One Sun' political declaration for the launch of Green Grids Initiative-One Sun One World One Grid (GGI-OSOWOG) at COP26 (Conference of the Parties) to be held in Glasgow, Scotland from October 31 -November 12, 2021. During the assembly, two new programs of ISA were launched viz. Management of Solar PV panels & battery usage waste; and Solar Hydrogen programme.

About International Solar Alliance (ISA) :

- ♦ ISA co-founded by India and France during the 2015 climate change conference in Paris, France
- ♦ Director General- Dr. Ajay Mathur
- ♦ Headquarters- Gurugram, Haryana

India Handed over the Jaynagar-Kurtha Cross Border Rail Link to Nepal

The government of India handed over the Jaynagar-Kurtha, a 34.9 km-long cross-border rail link, which connects Jaynagar, Bihar to Kurtha, Nepal, to the government of Nepal.

- ♦ IRCON International Limited (on behalf of the Government of India), the executing agency of the project handed over the assets of the Jaynagar-Kurtha section to the Nepal Railway Company Limited (on behalf of the Government of Nepal).

- ♦ This will be the first broad gauge cross border rail link between India and Nepal.

Aim:

To enhance the trade and commerce activities along with people to people linkage between India and Nepal.

About Nepal :

- ♦ President- Bidhya Devi Bhandari
- ♦ Prime Minister- Sher Bahadur Deuba
- ♦ Capital- Kathmandu
- ♦ Currency- Nepalese rupee(NPR)

India's 1st State Government owned Wildlife DNA Testing Lab inaugurate in Nagpur

On 22nd October 2021, Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray, Chief Minister of Maharashtra, inaugurated India's 1st State government owned Wildlife DNA testing analysis laboratory at Regional Forensic Science Laboratory (RFSL) in Nagpur, Maharashtra. On the occasion he also launched 3 FastTrack DNA testing units in Mumbai & Pune under the Nirbhaya scheme.

At present there are 2 Wildlife DNA testing laboratories at Dehradun & Hyderabad, which are fully owned by the Central Government, whereas the newly launched is the 1st in India to be owned by a state government.

- ♦ These laboratories will help in species identification & identify poachers, thereby helping to eliminate crime against wildlife.
- ♦ With the 3 new FastTrack DNA testing units, Maharashtra has a total of 5 such units to increase the efficiency of criminal investigations.

- ◆ The labs will be exclusively dealing with cases registered under Protection of Children From Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.
- ◆ The labs were developed at a cost of Rs 53 crore under Central Government's Nirbhaya Scheme.

About Maharashtra :

- ◆ Governor - Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- ◆ Mumbai, the 'Financial capital of India' is also known as the "City of Seven Islands".
- ◆ Wildlife Sanctuaries - Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary, Radhanagari Wildlife Sanctuary.

Arunachal Pradesh spots 3 new fish species



Three new fish species of the genus *Aborichthys* of family *Nemachelidae* had been discovered in the Department of Zoology of Dera Natung Government College of Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh. The species names are *Aborichthys uniobarensis*, *Aborichthys barapensis* and *Aborichthys palinensis*.

- ◆ The discovery has been published in international journals like Asian Journal of Conservation Biology, Journal of Threatened Taxa and FishTaxa.

- ◆ The species are distributed in streams senki, barap and palin which are among the brahmaputra river system.
- ◆ Till date, more than 250 fish species have been identified in the region.

About *Aborichthys* :

- ◆ *Aborichthys* is an elongate and slender-bodied present in moderate to fast flowing freshwater of mountain streams of the Brahmaputra river system.
- ◆ It is endemic to the eastern Himalaya.

India Launched Action Plan for Dog-Mediated Rabies Elimination by 2030

The Central Government of India has launched a national action plan under the National Rabies Control Programme (NRCP) for dog-mediated rabies elimination by 2030 , and has also declared rabies a notifiable disease.

In this regard, a 'One Health' network has been created which will serve the purpose of strengthening surveillance, and health systems for multiple health risks at the human-animal-environment interface.

It should be noted that notifiable disease is any disease that is required by law to be reported to government authorities.

About Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) :

- ◆ Union Minister- Mansukh Mandaviya (Constituency- Gujarat)
- ◆ Minister of State (MoS)- Bharati Pravin Pawar (Constituency- Dindori, Maharashtra)

Shaktikanta Das got 3-year Extension as RBI Governor till 2024



The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the extension of the term of Shaktikanta Das, the current Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) by another 3 years i.e. up to December 2024.

About Shaktikanta Das:

- ◆ He was appointed as the 25th Governor of RBI (succeeding Urjit R. Patel) for 3 years from December 12, 2018. The current extension will be his 2nd term as RBI Governor.
- ◆ He was a 1980 batch IAS officer from the Tamil Nadu cadre and before assuming charge as the governor, he served as the Secretary, Department of Revenue and Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India (till May 2017), and Member of 15th Finance Commission and G20 Sherpa of India.
- ◆ He has also served as India's Alternate Governor in the World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB), New Development Bank (NDB) and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and he has represented India in international fora

like the IMF (International Monetary Fund), G20, BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa), SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation), etc.

5th Governor to get Long Tenure:

Generally, RBI governors are given a 5-year term and Shaktikanta Das is the 5th governor (out of 25) to get 6 years long tenure.

MoES launches India's 1st Manned Ocean Mission 'Samudrayan' at Chennai

On 29th October 2021, Dr Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Earth Science, launched India's 1st Manned Ocean Mission 'Samudrayan' from the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

- ◆ With this launch, India joins the Unique set of countries in the World (like USA, Russia, Japan, France & China) to have an underwater vehicle to carry out subsea missions.
- ◆ MATSYA 6000, the manned submersible developed under India's Deep Sea Mission, is currently developed with support from DRDO, ISRO & IIT Madras.

Note :

- ◆ In 2020, China touched the ocean depth of 11000 m using its manned submersible named 'Fendouzhe'.

About Ministry of Earth Science (MoES):

- ◆ MoES was established in February 2006, from the Department of Ocean Development (DoD) as the Ministry of Ocean Development Organisations Under MoES:

- ◆ Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) - Pune, Maharashtra
- ◆ National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF) - Noida, Uttar Pradesh

13th Meeting of Heads of NSOs of BRICS Countries held virtually; Chaired by India's Dr G.P Samanta

On October 28, 2021, the 13th Meeting of Heads of National Statistical Offices (NSO) of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) Countries was held virtually under the Chairmanship of India.

- ◆ The meeting was chaired by G. P. Samanta, Chief Statistician of India and Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Government of India.
- ◆ The meeting was attended by representatives from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of BRICS Countries.

Theme of the meeting :

- ◆ NSOs efforts in monitoring Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Release of (JSP) 2021 and JSP Snapshot 2021:
- ◆ During the meeting, the Joint Statistical Publication (JSP) 2021 and JSP Snapshot 2021 for BRICS Countries were released.
- ◆ The first chapter of JSP 2021 provides general information with comparable statistics of the five countries, while the other 14 states the past development and current status of the individual countries.
- ◆ The first BRICS JSP Snapshot 2021 was also released by NSO India which is a shorter

version of BRICS JSL 2021. This snapshot is to engage a wide range of users, as per the agreement by the member countries.

IOC to set up India's first mega-scale Maleic Anhydride Plant at Panipat, Haryana

The Indian Oil Corp (IOC) will set up India's first mega-scale Maleic Anhydride Plant with an outlay of Rs 3, 681 b crore to manufacture value-added chemical products at its Panipat refinery and petroleum complex (PRPC) in Haryana.

- ◆ The project will be commissioned in 54 months.

Key Points :

- ◆ This proposed project will have a capacity of 120,000 tonnes per annum of Maleic Anhydride (MAH) that is used to make speciality products like polyester resins and surface coatings plasticisers, agrochemicals and lubricant additives.
- ◆ It will also manufacture 20,000 tonnes a year of 1,4 -Butanediol (BDO) that finds applications in Poly Urethanes (PU) and Poly Butylene Terephthalates (PBT) viz. engineering grade plastic and biodegradable fibres.
- ◆ It will also create 16,000 tonnes of Tetra Hydro Furan (THF) to accelerate the growth of the pharmaceutical industry. THF is widely used in adhesives and vinyl films.

Need behind this Plant:

Presently, the above-mentioned high demand chemicals are mostly imported by India. The proposed plant will reduce import dependence and save foreign exchange of about USD 150 million per year, catering to Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

Gol constituted 20-member EGoS to Monitor Implementation of PM Gati Shakti NMP

In October 2021, the Prime Minister (PM) of India, Narendra Damodardas Modi launched 'PM GatiShakti - National Master Plan for Multi-Modal Connectivity' during an event at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. [Click Here to Read](#). As a part of this, it was announced that there will be an Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGoS) to look after its implementation.

Now following this, Government of India (Gol) has constituted a 20-member EGoS which will monitor mechanism for the development of the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan (NMP). The Cabinet Secretary (Currently Rajiv Gauba) will be its chairperson.

The Logistics Division under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry will act as Secretariat to the EGoS for its ToRs (Terms of References).

About Ministry of Commerce and Industry:

- ◆ Union Minister- Piyush Goyal (Rajya Sabha- Maharashtra)
- ◆ Minister of State- Som Parkash (Constituency- Hoshiarpur, Punjab); Anupriya Patel (Constituency- Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh)

DRDO, Israel Signs Innovative Agreement for Dual Use Technology

On 9th November 2021, India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) signed a Bilateral innovation agreement (BIA) with Directorate of Defence Research & Development (DDR&D), Ministry of Defence, Israel to promote innovation and research in development of dual-use technologies by startups and Micro-small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) of both countries.

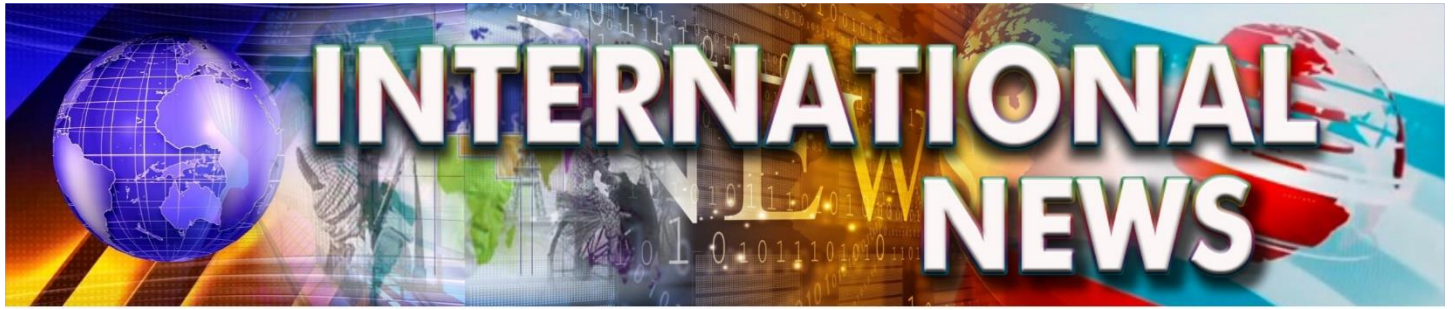
- ◆ The BIA was signed by G Satheesh Reddy, Secretary, Department of Defence, R&D and Chairman DRDO and Daniel Gold, Head of DDR&D.
- ◆ The development efforts are jointly funded by India's DRDO and Israel's DDR&D.

About Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

- ◆ Established - 1958
- ◆ Headquarters - DRDO Bhavan, New Delhi
- ◆ Chairman - G. Satheesh Reddy
- ◆ Aircraft Designed - DRDO Lakshya, Avatar, DRDO Nishant

About Israel :

- ◆ Prime minister - Naftali Bennett
- ◆ Capital – Jerusalem



Multidimensional Poverty Index released by UNDP and OPHI; India has max multidimensional poor

On October 7, 2021, a new analysis on global multidimensional poverty namely 'Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)' 2021 was released which is produced by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI).

India has a maximum number of people, 381 million, living in multidimensional poverty. 5 out of 6 multidimensional poor people are from lower tribes or castes. iii. The Scheduled Tribe (ST) accounts for 9.4 % of the population and is the poorest with 65 million of the 129 million people living in multidimensional poverty. They account for about one-sixth of all people living in multidimensional poverty in India.

About United Nations Development Programme (UNDP):

- ◆ Establishment- 1965
- ◆ Administrator- Achim Steiner
- ◆ Headquarters- New York, United States

Low-Income Countries' Debt rose 12% to record \$ 860 bn in 2020: WB Report

On October 11, 2021, World Bank (WB) in its report titled 'International Debt Statistics 2022' warned against a 12 % debt rise of the world's low-income countries to 860 billion in

2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The report called for urgent efforts to reduce debt levels. Half of the world's poorest countries were in external debt distress or at high risk of it. The external debt stocks of low- and middle-income countries combined raised 5.3 % in 2020 to 8.7 trillion.

About World Bank (WB):

It was created at the 1944 Bretton Woods Conference, along with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

President- David R. Malpass (13th President)
Headquarters- Washington DC, United States
Member Countries - 189 Countries

Annually 22,000 Girls Die due to Pregnancy in Child Marriage-Report

Globally, Child marriage kills over 60 girls a day, of which South Asia is responsible for 6 deaths a day, as per the "Global Girlhood Report 2021: Girls' Rights in Crisis" report released by Save the Children International on the 'International Day of the Girl Child' (11th October).

- ◆ The report estimates that annually 22,000 girl child die due to child marriage, with pregnancy & childbirth being the major cause of death.

Note :

- ◆ In 1978 Government of India had amended the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 &

raised the legal age for Marriage is 18 years for Girls and 21 years for Boys. Overview of the Report:

- ◆ West & Central Africa is responsible for over half the deaths related to Child marriage, nearly 9,600 annual deaths or 26 deaths a day. The region also records the highest number of Child marriages in the world.
- ◆ South Asia is responsible for 2,000 child marriage-related deaths every year, which is around 6 deaths a day, which is followed by East Asia & Pacific with 650 annual deaths or 2 daily deaths.
- ◆ Nearly 80 million child marriages were prevented in the last 25 years, but the situation worsened during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ◆ Girl children faced increased risk of violence during the lockdown, and an estimated 10 million girls will be victims of Child marriage by 2030.
- ◆ The report advises governments to prioritize issues related to girl child & genderbased violence.
- ◆ The organisation is calling on governments to Raise girls' voices; Address immediate and ongoing risks of gender-based violence, including child marriage; Guarantee the rights of all girls; Ensure the safe and unrestricted participation of female humanitarian staff in all humanitarian response efforts; Join the Generation Equality movement.

About Save the Children:

- ◆ CEO - Inger Ashing
- ◆ Founded - 15th April 1919
- ◆ Headquarter - London, United Kingdom

Germany unveils first driverless train



German rail operator Deutsche Bahn and industrial group Siemens unveiled the world's first automated, driverless train in the city of Hamburg, Germany. According to them, it is more punctual and energy efficient than traditional trains.

- ◆ Four more driverless trains will join the northern city's S-Bahn rapid urban rail network.
- ◆ These rails will start carrying passengers from December, using the existing rail infrastructure and will be sharing tracks with other regular trains.
- ◆ It is part of a 60 million euro (70 million) modernization of Hamburg's rapid urban rail system.
- ◆ The automated trains can transport up to 30 per cent more passengers, improve punctuality and save more than 30 per cent energy.
- ◆ Although the train is fully automated, a driver will still be present to supervise journeys whenever there are passengers on board.

World Investor Week 2021- 4 to 10 October

The World Investor Week (WIW), a week-long global campaign, is annually observed across the globe under the aegis of the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) to create awareness on the importance of education and protection of investors and highlight the related initiatives of the securities regulators. The 5th Edition of the World Investor Week, WIW 2021, was observed from the 4th October through 10th October 2021

- ◆ The WIW 2020 was observed from 5 October through November 2020.
- ◆ WIW 2021 was organised by the IOSCO with the support of the Italian G20 Presidency.
- ◆ WIW observance is supported by the securities regulators and the IOSCO stakeholders across the globe.

WIW campaign 2021 :

As a part of the WIW campaign 2021, securities regulators, stock exchanges, global and regional financial organizations and others organised a series of educational activities.

Primary objectives:

- ◆ To disseminate key messages that support investor education, investor protection and financial literacy
- ◆ To foster learning opportunities for investors.

Key messages of the 2021 campaign are based on two themes,

- ◆ Sustainable Finance
- Frauds and Scams Prevention

WIW in India:

The Securities And Exchange Board Of India (SEBI) led the observance of the World Investor Week in India.

About International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) :

- ◆ Chairman- Ashley Ian Alder (CEO of Securities and Futures Commission, Hong Kong)
- ◆ Headquarters- Madrid, Spain
- ◆ Established in 1983

GHI 2020: India Slips to 101st Rank out of 116 Countries behind Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal

India ranked 101st out of 116 countries in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2021 with a score of \$27.5\$. India is behind its neighbours Pakistan (92), Bangladesh (76) and Nepal (76).

- ◆ The GHI 2021 report was prepared jointly by Irish aid agency Concern Worldwide and German organisation

About WeltHungerHilfe :

- ◆ India ranked 94 in 2020 out of 107 countries (with a score of 27.2) and in 2019 India ranked 102 out of 117 countries.
- ◆ In 2021, with a GHI score of 27.5, India's level of hunger is described as 'serious'.

IMF releases 'Global Financial Stability Report 2021' analyzes Cryptoization

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) released the 'Global Financial Stability Report-2021', that discusses the adaptation of cryptocurrencies in emerging markets, the report mainly discusses 'Cryptoization'. The IMF names the potential of macro-financial risks due

to asset and currency substitution as 'cryptoization'.

Report Findings:

- ◆ Crypto-adaptation leads to serious challenges to the financial stability of a country.
- ◆ Returns from non-stable crypto assets are highly volatile.
- ◆ Bitcoin is the most dominant Crypto-currency, while its market share fell sharply in 2021 from 70 % to less than 45%.
- ◆ Crypto-ecosystem is free of intermediary platforms & links borrowers and lenders without any credit-risk evaluation.

Challenges in Crypto-ecosystem:

- ◆ No reliable method for estimating flow of crypto assets across countries.
- ◆ Inefficient Payment systems & Unethical macroeconomic policies leading to Cryptoization.
- ◆ Risk of Investor protection for crypto-assets.

Note :

- ◆ India ranks 2nd in the 'Global Crypto Adoption Index 2021', which was topped by Vietnam
- ◆ India's daily Crypto trading volume peaks between 300-500 million, with establishment of over 300 new blockchain companies in 2021

Steps for Better Adaptation:

- ◆ Framing effective legal and regulatory measures & establishment of central bank digital currencies.
- ◆ Adoption of Global standards & deeper regulations in complex areas.

About International Monetary Fund (IMF):

- ◆ MD - Kristalina Georgieva
- ◆ Establishment - 1944
- ◆ Headquarters - Washington, D.C., USA
- ◆ Member Countries - 190

India to increase Solar Capacity to 5630 GW to achieve Net Zero Emission by 2070

In October 2021, the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), an independent think tank, released the "Implications of a Net-zero Target for India's Sectoral Energy Transitions and Climate Policy" report, which predicts India to increase the total installed Solar Power Capacity to 5630 Giga Watts (GW) by 2070, to achieve Net Zero emission.

- ◆ A total land of 4.6 % of India's land is required for Solar power generation in 2070.

Note :

- ◆ At present, India has 100 GW of installed Renewable Energy (RE) capacity (40GW Solar) & targets to attain 450GW RE capacity by 2030

About Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW):

- ◆ CEO - Arunabha Ghosh
- ◆ Founded - 2010
- ◆ Head Office - New Delhi

IMF Report: Global Debt Increased to \$226 trillion in 2020; India's Debt in 2021 Projected at 90.6%

As per the October 2021 Fiscal Monitor Report of International Monetary Fund (IMF) titled, 'Fiscal Monitor: Strengthening the

Credibility of Public Finances', the global debt (issued by governments, nonfinancial corporations, and households) in 2020 was increased by 27 trillion (from 2019) to a new high of USD 226 trillion.

- ◆ India's debt in 2021 was projected to rise at 90.6 percent.
- ◆ Global debt in 2020 was reported at 97.8 percent whereas the 2021 debt was projected to be 96.9 percent.
- ◆ Global government debt is expected to decline in 2021 and 2022 by about 1 percentage point of GDP per year.
- ◆ The debt crisis might include more people in poverty in 2021, which is estimated to be around 65 to 75 million higher than pre-pandemic levels.

About International Monetary Fund (IMF):

- ◆ Establishment - 1944
- ◆ Headquarters - Washington, D.C., United States
- ◆ Member Countries - 190
- ◆ MD - Kristalina Georgieva

India gets Re-elected to UNHRC for Sixth Term with 'Overwhelming Majority' in UNGA

India will continue to work for the promotion and protection of human rights after being re-elected to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) for the term 2022-24 and shall not be eligible for immediate re-election after two consecutive terms. It was elected for a 6th time with an overwhelming majority in the 76th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

Highlights :

- ◆ The UN General Assembly held elections for 18 new members of the UN Human Rights Council who will serve for a period of three years, starting in January 2022.
- ◆ India got 184 votes in the 193-member assembly, while the required majority was 97.
- ◆ India will continue to work for the promotion and protection of Human Rights through Samman(Respect), Samvad (Conversation) and Sahyog (Cooperation).
- ◆ The 193-member General Assembly elected by secret ballot Argentina, Benin, Cameroon, Eritrea, Finland, Gambia, Honduras, India, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Montenegro, Paraguay, Qatar, Somalia, UAE and the USA for the 2022-2024 term on the Council,

Distribution of Votes :

- ◆ The membership is based on equitable geographical distribution, and seats are distributed among regional groups Group of African States (13), Group of AsiaPacific States (13), Group of Eastern European States (6), Group of Latin American and Caribbean States (8) and Group of Western European and other States (7).

About United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) :

- ◆ President: Nazhat Shameem Khan
- ◆ Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
- ◆ Founded: 15 March 2006

Bharti Group- backed OneWeb launched 36 Satellites from Vostochny Cosmodrome Russia



OneWeb, the Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite communications company owned by the UK Government and Bharti Global has launched 36 satellites by Arianespace from the Vostochny Cosmodrome, Russia.

- ◆ With this successful launch and contact with the 36 satellites, the total number of in-orbit constellations of OneWeb has become 358 satellites, more than half of its entire 648 LEO satellite fleet, which will deliver highspeed, low-latency global connectivity.
- ◆ OneWeb is now over halfway to deliver global service in 2022.

Key info:

- ◆ The satellites are manufactured by OneWeb Satellites, a joint venture between OneWeb and Airbus Defence and Space-based in Space Coast, Florida. About the launch:
- ◆ The satellites were separated from the rocket in 9 batches over a period of 3 hours 52 minutes.
- ◆ The signal acquisition on all 36 satellites is also confirmed.

Note :

With this launch, OneWeb will start its service demonstrations which will showcase the hardware and capabilities across an array of applications.

Indian-American astronaut Raja Chari to command Crew-3 mission of NASA-Space X



An Indian-American astronaut is part of NASA-SpaceX's third mission to the International Space Station (ISS). The mission is set to be start on October 30th from Kennedy Space Center in Florida, USA.

- ◆ NASA's SpaceX Crew-3 mission will carry NASA astronauts Raja Chari, Tom Marshburn, and Kayla Barron as well as ESA (European Space Agency) astronaut Matthias Maurer aboard a Crew Dragon spacecraft on a Falcon 9 rocket to the space station.
- ◆ Crew-3 is the SpaceX's 5th crewed flight to space and fourth to the International Space Station. Indian-American Chari will serve as the commander of the Crew Dragon spacecraft and the Crew-3 mission.
- ◆ Raja Chari also called as "Grinder" was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1978. He is currently a Colonel in the US Air Force.

Around USD 4 trillion required in clean energy investment to limit global warming: IEA

In accordance with the 'World Energy Outlook (WEO) 2021 report' by International Energy Agency (IEA), almost USD 4 trillion investment into clean energy is required by 2030 to meet the Paris Agreement pledge to limit the global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

- ◆ The report is released ahead of the United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference, or COP26, which will take place in Glasgow from October 31 to November 12, 2021. WEO 2021 will act as a guidebook to COP26.

4 key areas for 1.5-degree stabilization:

Actions are required in four key areas over the next decade for 1.5-degree Celsius stabilisation. These are as follows:

- ◆ Massive push for clean electrification
- ◆ Renewed focus on realizing the full potential of energy efficiency
- ◆ Concerted efforts to prevent leaks from fossil fuel operations
- ◆ Boost to clean energy innovation.

Key Points :

- ◆ The analysis in WEO-2021 is premised upon 'Net Zero by 2050: A Roadmap for the Global Energy Sector', published earlier this year.
- ◆ The report has highlighted India's efforts in financing projects catering to the Paris Agreement like rapid expansion of solar PV (photovoltaic) to achieve 450 GW (Giga Watt) target for renewable energy by 2030.

About WEO :

- ◆ Launched in 1998, it is the world's most authoritative source of analysis and projections with respect to energy.

17th India-US Joint Military Training Exercise 'Ex Yudh Abhyas 21' commenced at Alaska, USA

A 14-day long 17th Edition of India-US joint training exercise 'Ex Yudh Abhyas 21' was commenced on October 15, 2021 at Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson in Alaska, United States (US). It will culminate on October 29, 2021 after a 48 hours long validation.

350 soldiers of 7 MADRAS Infantry Battalion Group of Indian Army and 300 US Army soldiers belonging to First Squadron (Airborne) of the 40th Cavalry Regiment are participating.

This is the only India-U.S. service exercise continuing in bilateral format.

About United States (US):

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

Highlights of FM Nirmala Sitharaman's Visit to the USA in October 2021

In October 2021, the Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman made a week-long official visit to the USA (United States of America) to attend the Annual Meetings of International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank, G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meetings, India-US Economic and Financial Dialogue, and other associated investment meetings.

Key Points:

FM Participated in 4th G20 FMCBG Meeting:

On 13th October 2021, the finance minister (FM) Nirmala Sitharaman participated in the 4th G20 FMCBG Meeting, which was held in Washington D.C under the Italian Presidency.

- ◆ Tax Deal: For addressing the tax challenges that are arising from the digitalisation of the economy, the G20 FMCBGs endorsed the final agreement, that was set out in the Statement on a two-pillar solution and the Detailed Implementation Plan released by the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development)/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS (Base Erosion and Profit Shifting).
- ◆ Annual Meetings 2021 of the World Bank Group and IMF: The Annual Meetings 2021 of the World Bank Group and IMF held in Washington D.C from October 11 to 17, 2021. It includes the 44th Plenary Meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC) of the Board of Governors of the IMF and Development Committee (DC) of World Bank Group-IMF.
- ◆ On October 14, 2021, the FM Nirmala Sitharaman attended the 44th Plenary Meeting of the IMFC.
- ◆ The meeting was Chaired by Magdalena Andersson, Minister for Finance of Sweden and attended by Governors/Alternate Governors representing 190-member countries of the IMF.

FM Chaired the 8th Ministerial Meeting of the India-U.S.A. Economic and Financial Partnership:

On October 15, 2021, the 8th ministerial meeting of the India-U.S.A. Economic and Financial Partnership Dialogue was held in Washington D.C. The meeting was chaired by Union FM Nirmala Sitharaman and the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States Dr Janet Yellen.

About International Monetary Fund (IMF):

- ◆ Establishment - 1944
- ◆ Headquarters - Washington, D.C, United States (USA)
- ◆ Managing Director - Kristalina Georgieva
- ◆ Members - 190 text { Countries (Including India)

10th Global Food Security Index 2021: India ranked 71st out of 113 nations; Ireland tops

The 10th edition of the Global Food Security Index (GFSI) 2021 of 113 countries was released in which India ranked at 71st position scoring \$57.2\$ overall points. The index is designed and constructed by Economist Impact and is sponsored by Corteva Agriscience. It is topped by Ireland with an overall score of 84 which is followed by Austria (81.3) and the United Kingdom-UK (81).

It is premised upon 58 indicators with four overarching categories viz.

Affordability; Availability; Quality and Safety; and Natural Resources and Resilience.

In the region of Asia Pacific, Japan scored 1st rank with an overall score of 79.3 which is followed by Singapore (77.4), and New Zealand (76.8).

- India ranked 14th under Asia Pacific Region.

About GFSI :

- ◆ GFSI is an annual update identifying the underlying factors affecting food insecurity around the world.
- ◆ Head of the GFSI at Economist Impact-Pratima Singh

WJP Rule of Law Index 2021: India Ranked 79 out of 139 Nations; Denmark Tops

India has ranked 79th out of 139 countries and jurisdictions in the World Justice Project's (WJP) Rule of Law Index 2021\$ report.

- The WJP Rule of Law Index 2021 ranks the countries based on scores ranging from 0 to 1, with 1 indicating the strongest adherence to the rule of law. It measures how the rule of law is experienced and perceived worldwide. Pakistan has ranked lowest at 130.

About World Justice Project (WJP) :

- ◆ Establishment - 2006
- ◆ Co-founder & CEO - William H. Neukom

UNEP Production Gap Report 2021: World Govt's Fossil Fuel Production Plans Exceeds Paris Limits

In October 2021, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) has released the Production Gap Report, 2021, the report analyses the 'production gap' i.e. the difference between governments' plan for fossil fuel production and the globally agreed climate limits (including the Paris climate agreement).

- ◆ As per the report, the world's government plans to produce more than twice (around 110 percent) the amount of fossil fuels in 2030, than would be consistent with limiting warming to 1.5 degree celcius , and 45

percent more than consistent with 2 degree celcius.

- ◆ Governments' production plans and projections would lead to the production of around 240 percent more coal, 57 percent more oil, and 71 percent more gas in 2030 .

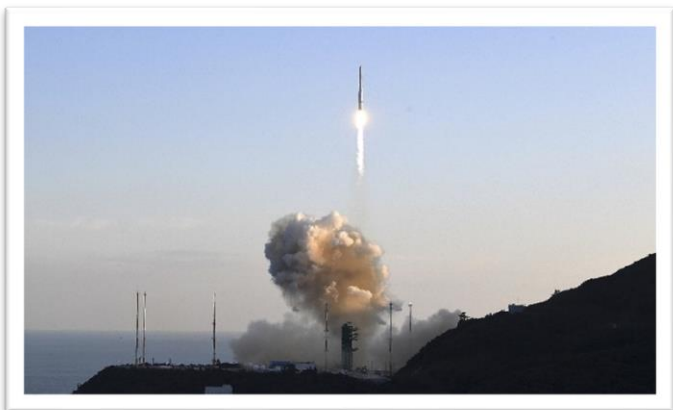
Key Findings of the Report :

- ◆ As per the projection of the current report, which is the 3rd Production Gap Report of UNEP, the production gap has remained largely unchanged since UNEP's first analysis (in 2019).
- ◆ India plans to expand coal production by nearly 60 percent i.e. from 730 million tonnes in 2019 to 1,149 million tonnes in 2024.
- ◆ Coal production: The production gap is the widest for coal in 2030 . The global countries are planning to produce 5.3 billion tonnes more coal in 2030 than is consistent with the 1.5 degree celsius. This production is equal to 75 percent of current levels of global coal production.

About Paris Agreement :

- ◆ To tackle climate change and its negative impacts, world leaders at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris made the Paris Agreement to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions to limit the global temperature increase in this century to 2 celcius while pursuing efforts to limit the increase even further to 1.5 celcius.
- ◆ The Agreement is a legally binding international treaty. It entered into force on 4 November 2016. Around 192 Parties (191 countries plus the European Union) have joined the Paris Agreement.

South Korea launched its first domestically developed space rocket- "Nuri"



The Nuri rocket, the first homegrown space rocket launched by South Korea at the Naro Space Center in Goheung, 473 kms south of Seoul, South Korea on Oct. 21, 2021.

- ◆ Although the mission was incomplete, as the third-stage engine stopped burning about 50 seconds earlier than expected, South Korea would press ahead by being the 10th nation to send a satellite into space on its own technology.
- ◆ South Korea is hoping to send an explorer to the moon by 2030. The plans to launch communication satellites and military satellites demonstrate the country's progress towards "Korea Space Age".

Pakistan to remain on 'Grey List' of global terror financing watchdog FATF

The global terror financing watchdog Financial Action Task Force (FATF) retained Pakistan in the 'Grey List' until it signifies the actions being taken against Jamaatud-Dawah chief Hafiz Saeed and Jaish-e-Mohammed founder Masood Azhar who are listed as global terrorists by the United Nations (UN). It was announced at the fifth Plenary of the FATF under

the German Presidency of Dr. Marcus Pleyer, that took place on 19-21 October.

- ◆ This decision has been taken during the virtual meeting of the FATF Plenary which was attended by delegates from 206 members of the Global Network and observer organizations including the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the UN and the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units.
- ◆ FATF also added Jordan, Mali and Turkey in its grey list.
- ◆ Mauritius and Botswana have been removed from the Grey List.

Key Points :

- ◆ Grey list is also called 'increased monitoring list'. Those countries who have failed to curb issues like money laundering and terror financing in their countries added in this category.
- ◆ Pakistan has two concurrent action plans with a total of 34 action plan items. It has now largely addressed 30 of the items.
- ◆ Pakistan was placed on the grey list by the FATF in June 2018 and was given a plan of action to complete it by October 2019. Since then, the country continues to be in that list due to its failure to comply with the FATF mandates.

About Financial Action Task Force (FATF):

- ◆ Executive Secretary- David Lewis
- ◆ President - Dr. Marcus Pleyer(Germany)
- ◆ Presidency - Germany (2020-2022)
- ◆ Headquarter - Paris, France

Highlights of EAM S Jaishankar's Visit to Israel from October 17 to 21

External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar made a 5-day official visit to Israel from 17-21 October 2021 to strengthen the strategic partnership between the two countries. This was S Jaishankar's 1st visit to Israel as EAM.

Key Points:

- ♦ As a part of the visit, the EAM had a 1st virtual meeting with the foreign minister of Israel, the UAE (United Arab Emirates) and the US (United States) and they have decided to establish an international forum for economic cooperation, which was termed as 'New QUAD'.
- ♦ India and Israel agreed to restart both the nations' Free Trade negotiations from November 2021 and conclude by June 2022.
- ♦ Israel's energy minister Karine Elharrar has officially signed the agreement on Israel's accession to the International Solar Alliance (ISA) in the presence of Israeli Foreign minister Yair Lapid and India's EAM S Jaishankar.
- ♦ Every year the Indian Army commemorates September 23 as the Haifa Day to pay respects to the three brave Indian Cavalry Regiments - Mysore, Hyderabad and Jodhpur Lancers - which helped to liberate Haifa.

EAM Unveils Plaque:

- ♦ EAM visited the Indian Hospice in Jerusalem and unveiled a plaque there to symbolise India's age-old civilisational connection to the region.

- ♦ EAM also unveiled the 'Bhoodan Grove' plaque at the Jerusalem Forest.
- ♦ EAM S. Jaishankar visited Israel's Ovda Airbase to meet the Indian contingent participating in the biennial exercise Blue Flag 2021, which involves Air Force missions from 8 countries, to share knowledge and combat experience to improve operational capabilities.

About Israel:

- ♦ Capital - Jerusalem
- ♦ Currency - Israeli Shekel
- ♦ Prime Minister - Naftali Bennett

G7 Countries launches 'G7 Digital Trade Principles' to facilitate Digital Trade

On 22nd October 2021, the G7 or Group of Seven countries finalised a set of principles that will govern cross-border data usage & digital trade. The principles named 'G7 Digital Trade Principles', were adopted by the respective Trade Ministers of G7 members (UK, USA, France, Germany, Italy, Canada, Japan) during the G7 Trade Summit that was held at Mansion House, in London, Britain. Principles - Open Digital Markets; Cross border data flows; Safeguards for workers, consumers & businesses; digital trading systems; Fair & inclusive Global governance.

Key obstacles under consideration were on data localisation & cross-border data flows, thereby protecting intellectual property rights, and security of users.

Note :

- ♦ Google India became the 1st technology company which is qualified as 'Significant Social Media Intermediaries (SSMIs)' to

publish a Transparency report under India's new IT Rules

- ◆ The principles were established in consideration of the highly regulated data protection rules of European countries and the more open ones of the United States.
- ◆ These new principles will liberalise hundreds of billions of dollars worth international trade.

Note :

- ◆ G7 countries have introduced a Global Minimum Corporate Tax rate of at least 15 % on Multinational Companies (MNCs).

About G7:

- ◆ Founded - 1975
- ◆ Members - 7 (U.S., U.K., France, Germany, Italy, Canada, and Japan and additionally EU)
- ◆ 2021 Presidency - United Kingdom

Annual Ocean Plastic Pollution is Projected to Triple by 2040: UNEPs Report Titled from Pollution to Solution

The new comprehensive assessment report titled "From Pollution to Solution: a global assessment of marine litter and plastic pollution" released by the United Nations (UN) Environment Programme (UNEP) has stated that without proper efforts to reduce ocean plastic pollution, the amount of plastic waste entering the aquatic ecosystem is estimated to triple from 9-14 million tons per year in 2016 to 23-37 million tons per year by 2040 .

With another approach, plastic pollution is estimated to double from 19-23 million tons in 2016 to around 53 million tons by 2030.

- ◆ At present, the amount of plastics in the oceans is estimated to be around \$75-199\$ million tons.

Note :

- ◆ This report will inform the discussion at the 5th session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA 5.2) in 2022.

About United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP):

- ◆ Executive Director- Inger Andersen
- ◆ Headquarters- Nairobi, Kenya
- ◆ Incepted in 1972

Singapore to Launch Guidelines for Renewable Energy Certificates

Singapore plans to launch standardized guidelines for renewable energy certificates (REC) in an effort to decarbonise its power sector and develop a regional grid.

Key Points of guidelines:

- ◆ Supports deployment of renewable energy in Singapore to develop regional grid which taps different types of low carbon energy sources in the region.
- ◆ This is the first of its kind in Southeast Asia which defines the types of renewable energy sources such as solar, wind and biomass that are eligible to generate RECs.

About Renewable energy Certificates (REC) :

- ◆ The certificates are market-based instruments where their prices are determined by market demand contained between 'floor price' (Minimum price) and 'forbearance price' (maximum price)

specified by Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC).

- ◆ One certificate represents one megawatt-hour (MWh) of electricity generated from renewable energy source and delivered to the grid.
- ◆ REC acts as a tracking mechanism for solar, wind, and other green energies as they flow into the power grid and named as Green tag, Tradable Renewable Certificates (TRCs), Renewable Electricity Certificates, or Renewable Energy Credits.

About Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) :

- ◆ Founded -24 July 1998
- ◆ Headquarters - New Delhi

CAG, Auditor General of Maldives inked MoU to Strengthen Public Finance Audit

On October 24, 2021, Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) and Auditor General of Maldives signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen the audit process of public finance.

Signatories:

It was signed by Girish Chandra Murmu, CAG of India and Hussain Niyazy, Auditor General of Maldives in Male, capital of Maldives

Key Points:

- ◆ The MoU aims at exchanging information in the field of public sector audit between the two countries.
- ◆ Both sides will develop and strengthen respective institution's professional capacity

and improve methodologies in the field of audit of public finance.

- ◆ There will be training programs in their respective countries for their staff on a need basis.
- ◆ Sustainable development is the forefront of this partnership between the two SAIs (Supreme Audit Institutions),
- ◆ Both nations will also work towards Natural Resource Accounting (NRA), which provides an outline of resource bases, and embeds environmental aspects into the economic indices.
- ◆ India, a signatory to the Environmental Accounting efforts of the UN is committed to monitor 25 environment-related targets with particular attention being paid to target no 15.9 related with Environmental-Economic Accounting.
- ◆ Both institutions are the members of the Asian Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI) and the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI).
- ◆ CAG is already supporting the Auditor General of Maldives and its staff by providing relevant training through its International Centre for Information Systems and Audit (iCISA) and International Training Centre for Environment Audit and Sustainable Development (iCED).

WMO's State of the Climate in Asia 2020: India Lost \$87 Billion in 2020 due to Disasters Linked to Climate Change

According to the State of the Climate in Asia 2020, a first of its kind multiagency report published by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), India has suffered an average annual loss (AAL) of around 87 billion USD due to tropical cyclones, floods and droughts.

- ◆ China experienced the highest AAL of around 238 billion USD followed by India and Japan (83 billion USD).
- ◆ The highest AAL was associated with drought.

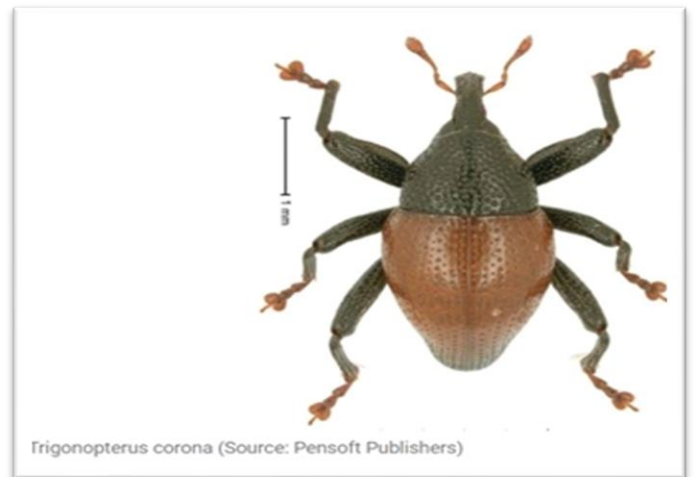
State of the Climate in Asia 2020 :

- ◆ The report provides an overview of land and ocean temperatures, precipitation, glacier retreat, shrinking sea ice, sea-level rise and severe weather.
- ◆ The report also examines the socio-economic impacts in a year when the region is also affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ◆ The report covers every affected region of Asia, from the Himalayas to the Coastal areas, densely populated areas to deserts from the Arctic to the Arabian seas.

About World Meteorological Organization (WMO):

- ◆ WMO is an intergovernmental organization with a membership of 193 Member States and Territories.
- ◆ Secretary-General- Petteri Taalas
- ◆ Headquarters- Geneva, Switzerland

Trigonopterus corona: New Beetle Species Named after Coronavirus



Museum scientists from Indonesia and Germany have discovered 28 new species of beetles (all of genus *Trigonopterus*) from the Indonesian island of Sulawesi. One of the new beetle species has been named "*Trigonopterus corona*", which reflects the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on this project.

- ◆ Most of these species were collected by Raden Pramesa Narakusumo, curator of beetles at the Museum Zoologicum Bogoriense (MZB), Indonesian Research Center for Biology, from two localities of Central Sulawesi Province: Mt. Dako and Mt. Pompango.
- ◆ The species are described in the journal Zookeys.

Other species named after Coronavirus:

- ◆ *Potamophylax coronavirus* - new species of caddisfly
- ◆ *Stethantyx covida*- new wasp species

Global Media and Information Literacy Week 2021- 24th-31st October

United Nations (UN)'s Global Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Week is annually observed across the globe from 24th October to 31st October to review and celebrate the progress made towards "Media and Information Literacy for All".

- ◆ The year 2021 marks the 10th Global MIL Week and this also marks the first UN-recognised Global MIL Week
- ◆ Global MIL Week 2021 is hosted by South Africa and co-organised by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
- ◆ The theme of 2021 Global MIL Week is "Media and Information Literacy for the Public Good".

UN Recognition:

- ◆ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/75/267 on 25th March 2021 and proclaimed 24 to 31 October of each year as "Global Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Week".

Background:

- ◆ The idea of Global Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Week was initiated in 2011 in Fez, Morocco.
- ◆ The observance of the Global Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Week began in 2012

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

- ◆ Director-General- Audrey Azoulay

- ◆ Headquarters- Paris, France
- ◆ The UNESCO logo block is composed of :
- ◆ The emblem - the temple - including the UNESCO acronym.
- ◆ The complete name in one or several languages.
- ◆ A dotted line in a logarithmic progression.

India ranked 9th in world's top 10 for Climate Tech Investment, United States Tops

In accordance with the report 'Five years on: Global climate tech investment trends since the Paris Agreement' by London & Partners, and Dealroom.Co, India ranked 9th in the list of top 10 countries for climate technology investment from 2016 to 2021

Indian climate tech firms received USD 1 billion in venture capital (VC) funding in this period.

The list has been topped by the United States (US) with USD 48 billion which is followed by China USD 18.6 billion investment.

About London & Partners:

- ◆ Chief Executive Officer (CEO)- Laura Citron
- ◆ Headquarters- London, United Kingdom (UK)

Dr Bharati Pawar Addresses Leadership Session WHO SEAR High-Level Meeting for Renewed TB Response

Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar addressed the inaugural session of WHO SEAR High-Level Meeting for Renewed TB Response, which was co-chaired by India.

- ◆ The meeting was organized by ministries of health of India, Indonesia, and Nepal and WHO South-East Asia Regional Office.
- ◆ Among the six regions, the South-East Asia Region has the highest count of tuberculosis sickness.

Target :

- ◆ India Committed to eliminate TB by 2025, five years ahead of the global target.

Participants :

- ◆ Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, World Health Organisation (WHO), Dr Suman Rijal, Director, WHO, SEARO, Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh, Regional Director, WHO SEARO were also present in the meeting.

Key Points:

- ◆ Through the Nikshay Poshan Yojana, nutritional support is extended to all TB patients for the entire duration of their treatment.
- ◆ TB response is rigorously working towards Airborne Infection Control in hospital wards and outpatient waiting areas.
- ◆ TB case notifications have declined by 20-40 % and outreach activities specifically related to increased case finding, preventive treatment and psycho-social support have been disrupted.
- ◆ 'TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan' - a people's movement for TB elimination remains committed towards supporting countries in its neighbourhood with possible technical support and assistance.

Significance :

- ◆ Launching South-East Asia Region (SEAR), demonstrates the highest-level political commitment towards ending tuberculosis and increasing investments towards ending TB.
- ◆ Reaching the unreached and reaching them early becomes a great challenge.
- ◆ The South-East Asia Region (SEAR) should scale up preventive, diagnostic and treatment services and substantially strengthen social protection including undernutrition among the TB vulnerables at the next UN High-level Meeting (2023).
- ◆ Accelerating the development of new diagnostics, vaccines and drugs, also using digital technology, Artificial Intelligence, and other innovations advances TB response.

South Korea Builds World's Largest Hydrogen Fuel Cell Power Plant

The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy of South Korea held that the 'Shinincheon Bitdream Fuel Cell Power Plant' at the Shinincheon Bitdream headquarters of Korea Southern Power in Seo-gu, Incheon has been completed and inaugurated.

- ◆ The power plant is operated by South Korea's independent power production company, POSCO Energy and Doosan Fuel Cell.
- ◆ It has a capacity of 78 MW constructed in four stages from 2017.
- ◆ The project cost about 340 billion won (292 million).

Key Points :

- ◆ The world's largest hydrogen fuel cell power plant is capable of providing electricity to around 250,000 households per year.
- ◆ Hydrogen fuel cells are the solutions for eco-friendly power plants as they can generate electricity without producing harmful emissions.
- ◆ Hydrogen fuel cells are the solutions for eco-friendly power plants as they can generate electricity by emitting very little number of harmful gases like Nitrous Oxide (NO) and Sulfur Oxide (SO).

About South Korea :

- ◆ Capital - Seoul
- ◆ President - Moon Jae-in
- ◆ Currency - Korean Republic Won (KRW)

China successfully launches Optical Remote Sensing Satellite 'Jilin-1 Gaofen 02F'

On October 27, 2021, China successfully launched an optical remote sensing satellite namely 'Jilin-1 Gaofen 02F' from a low-cost small, solid-fuel carrier rocket Kuaizhou-1A (KZ-1A) in the Jilin-1 Earth-imaging constellation.

- ◆ It was launched from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in the northwestern Gansu Province.
- ◆ The Jilin-1 constellation will consist of up to 138 satellites by the end of the decade. It will contain different types of satellites to perform different roles.

Points to be noted:

- ◆ Jilin-1 Gaofen 02F will provide high-resolution images and high-speed data transmission.
- ◆ Kuaizhou-1A is a low-cost small solid-fuel carrier rocket with a short preparation period. Developed by the China Aerospace Science and Industry Corporation, it is designed to launch low-orbit satellites weighing less than 300 kg.

PM Narendra Modi Co-Chairs the 18th India-ASEAN Summit 2021 and participated in 16th EAS 2021

On October 28, 2021, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi co-chaired the virtual 18th India-ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Summit 2021 at the invitation of Sultan of Brunei, Hassanal Bolkiah (the current Chair of ASEAN). Leaders of ASEAN Member States have participated in the summit.

Key Points:

- ◆ As the year 2022 marks the 30th anniversary of the India-ASEAN Partnership, the ASEAN leaders announced 2022 as India-ASEAN Friendship Year.
- ◆ India's contribution in COVID-19: PM highlighted India's contribution of medical supplies worth USD 200,000 to ASEAN's humanitarian initiative for Myanmar and USD 1 million for ASEAN's Covid-19 Response Fund.

Trade:

- ◆ PM insisted on the need to revamp the India-ASEAN FTA (Free Trade Agreement).

- ◆ PM has welcomed Cambodia as the new chair of ASEAN (2022) and Singapore as the ASEAN country coordinator (for India) for dialogue relations (2021 - 2024).

PM Participated in 16th EAS

- ◆ On October 27, 2021, PM had virtually participated in the 16th East Asia Summit (EAS). The EAS leaders also accepted the 3 Statements on Mental Health, Economic recovery through Tourism, and Sustainable Recovery, which have been co-sponsored by India.

About Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN):

- ◆ Establishment - 8 August 1967
- ◆ Headquarters - Jakarta, Indonesia
- ◆ Secretary-General - H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi
- ◆ Members - 10 (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam)

South Asia Suffers most loss of Human Capital due to Air Pollution-World Bank Report

As per the latest "The Changing Wealth of Nations 2021: Managing Assets for the Future" released by the World Bank, South Asia suffered the most loss in the world on human capital due to air pollution. The report was prepared by the World Bank, measuring wealth creation & distribution in 146 countries covering a period of 20-years from 1995-2018.

As per the World Bank, Human Capital is defined as "Earning over a person's lifetime".

Parameters Measured - Economic Value of Renewable Natural Capital, Nonrenewable natural capital, human capital, produced capital, Net foreign assets.

- ◆ This is the 1st time that the report measured Blue natural capital (mangroves & ocean fisheries)

Findings on South Asia:

- ◆ Between 1995-2018, 50 % of wealth creation was made through Human capital.
- ◆ South Asia is the most severely affected country in the South Asian region due to air pollution, which also severely impacts human capital.
- ◆ Gender parity will increase human capital by 42 percentage points in South Asia, where men account for 80 % of wealth creation.

Other Findings:

- ◆ Human Capital, the largest source of wealth generation, accounted for 64 % of Total Global Wealth Generation in 2018.
- ◆ There was an 8 % per capita decline in Forest wealth in 2018 compared to 1995 among the Low & Middle-income countries.
- ◆ With 8 % of Global population, only 1 % of the wealth creation was made from the Low-income countries.

About World Bank:

- ◆ President - David R. Malpass (13th President)
- ◆ Headquarters - Washington DC, USA
- ◆ World Bank Country Director in India - Junaid Ahmad

USAID Launched 5 Year Initiative 'SAREP' to Accelerate Clean Energy Transition and Improve Energy Access in South Asia

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has launched South Asia Regional Energy Partnership (SAREP), a new 5 year, 49 million USD initiative to facilitate collaboration among Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.

- ◆ This initiative will harness the clean energy potential of the South Asian region to reduce emissions, combat climate change, and stimulate economic growth and powers health systems.
- ◆ The initiative aims to improve access to affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy.

SAREP :

- ◆ During the April 2021 Leaders Climate Summit, Joe Biden, President of America and Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India launched the US India climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 partnership.
- ◆ SAREP will support various regional activities established under this collaboration and assist both countries to demonstrate how the world can align swift climate action with inclusive and resilient development across the region.

Features :

- ◆ SAREP will offer opportunities to move forward using advanced technologies and infrastructure and assist to facilitate a transition to sustainable energy, including through innovative financing.
- ◆ The clean energy transition will support women's economic empowerment and lead

to a wide range of economic and health benefits for the 1.5 billion citizens of the South Asian region.

- ◆ The initiative which is customised to the priorities of each country will enable the deployment of renewable energy and energy-efficient technologies, transform and modernize utilities, drive regional cooperation, and stimulate private-sector participation and investments.
- ◆ SAREP also includes an additional 12 million USD Partnership Fund to issue several grants to demonstrate and advance innovative business models, technologies, and financing mechanisms.

About United States Agency for International Development (USAID):

- ◆ Administrator- Samantha Power
- ◆ Executive Secretary- Jeremy Bernton
- ◆ Created in 1961
- ◆ Headquarters- Washington, D.C, United States of America

ADB approved USD 250 Million Loan to Support India's NICDP

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved the 250 million USD (Rs 1873 crore) loan to support the National Industrial Corridor Development Program (NICDP) of India.

This is the first subprogram of the programmatic USD 500 million loan to develop 11 industrial corridors across 17 states.

- ◆ This loan is in line with India's reform agenda to strengthen industrial infrastructure and support to enhance the competitiveness of

India's manufacturing sector, increase the share of manufacturing in the Gross Domestic Products (GDP) and generate a high level of formal employment.

Features of the loan :

- ◆ This first subprogram loan will create opportunities for domestic and foreign investors by providing support to the government initiatives to strengthen the institutional framework and capacity development for industrial corridor planning, improve project readiness, and facilitate ease of doing business.

About National Industrial Corridor Development Program (NICDP):

- ◆ NICDP aims to develop world-class industrial nodes, supported by urban agglomerations and multimodal connectivity, international gateways like ports and airports and inclusive, climate-resilient, and sustainable infrastructure.
- ◆ The NICDP also desires to achieve strong institutional and regulatory frameworks. Industrial Park Rating System (IPRS):
- ◆ The Industrial Park Rating System (IPRS) has been upgraded to boost the industrial infrastructure competitiveness and support policies to enable industrialisation across India.
- ◆ As a part of NICDP, it is also developing guidelines for green corridor framework and climate-resilient infrastructure with a focus on enhancing skills of the female labour.

About Asian Development Bank (ADB) :

- ◆ President- Masatsugu Asakawa
- ◆ Managing Director General- Woonchong Um
- ◆ Establishment in 1966
- ◆ Members- 68 members (49 are from within Asia & the Pacific and 19 outside)
- ◆ Headquarters- Metro Manila, Philippines

PM Visited Italy and Participated in 16th G20 Summit from October 30-31

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Italy and participated in the 16th G20 (Group of Twenty) Leaders' Summit, which was held in Rome, Italy from October 30 to 31, 2021

Theme :

- ◆ The 2021 G20 is under the Italian Presidency. It is focusing on three broad, interconnected pillars of action: People, Planet, and Prosperity.
- ◆ Other G20 leaders who have participated in the summit include US President Joe Biden, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Emmanuel Macron and summit host Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi.

Key Points:

- ◆ To strengthen the partnerships in the energy transition, India and Italy agreed to explore the development of green hydrogen, setting up renewable energy corridors, and joint projects in the natural gas sector.
- ◆ The G20 committed to the Paris Agreement goal to hold the global average temperature increase well below 2 degrees and to pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels.

- ◆ G20 have reaffirmed their full support for the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and the Global Network and recognise that effective implementation of Anti-Money Laundering/Countering the Financing of Terrorism and Proliferation (AML/CFT/CPF).

About Group of Twenty (G20) :

- ◆ Establishment- 1999
- ◆ Members - 20 (19 countries + European Union)

2015-2021 Warmest Years on record- WMO State of the Global Climate 2021 Report

As per the provisional 'State of the Global Climate 2021 report' released by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the past seven years from 2015 to 2021 (1st 9-months) set to be witnessed the Warmest years on record. This increase in temperature is caused mainly due to the increase in atmospheric Greenhouse Gas (GHG) concentrations.

- ◆ 2021 will be between the 5 and 7 warmest year on record and that 2015 to 2021 will be the seven warmest years on record.
- ◆ The report provides a detailed pictures of climate indicators such as greenhouse gas concentrations, temperatures, extreme weather, sea level, ocean warming and ocean acidification, glacier retreat and ice melt, as well as socio-economic impacts.

Findings of the Report :

- ◆ The report is based on the data of first nine months of the year 2021 and the Global mean temperature in 2021 (1st 9-months) was 1.09°C above the $1850-1900^{\circ}\text{C}$ levels.

Ocean Level :

- ◆ Top 2000 -meter layer of the ocean reached a record high temperature in 2020 .
- ◆ Ocean absorbed around 23% of global anthropogenic CO₂ to the atmosphere and so is becoming more acidic

About World Meteorological Organization (WMO):

- ◆ Establishment -23 March 1950
- ◆ Headquarters - Geneva, Switzerland
- ◆ Secretary-General - Petteri Taalas

India unveils online Climate Equity Monitor Dashboard

The Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Bhupender Yadav has launched an online dashboard- the "Climate Equity Monitor" (CME) to assess equity in climate action, inequalities in emissions, energy and resource consumption across the world. It was launched in the United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP26 (Conference of Parties) 2021 in Glasgow (United Kingdom).

- ◆ The website included key features such as climate finance, technology transfer and adaptation.

Objective :

- ◆ To monitor the performance of Annex-I Parties(developed countries) under the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) based on the foundational principles of the Climate Convention,
- ◆ The principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC).

About United Nations Climate Change Conference or COP26 2021

- ◆ President of COP26 - Alok Sharma
- ◆ Location: Glasgow, Scotland (United Kingdom)
- ◆ Organised by: UK and Italy

Bordeaux Metropole signs MoU with Telangana Govt to Develop Sustainable City Projects

In October 2021, the Government of Telangana and Bordeaux Métropole has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the Conference Hall of Luxembourg Palace in Paris, France.

Objective : To develop joint projects in line with the transition to a sustainable city.

- ◆ The MoU was signed in the presence of KT Rama Rao, IT and Industries Minister of Telangana, during his recent visit to Paris, France.

Highlights:

- ◆ Through the agreement, the Government Telangana and Bordeaux Métropole will work together in order to develop joint projects in line with the transition to sustainable cities in the state.
- ◆ This partnership ensures continuity with the Cooperation Agreement initiated on October 13 th, 2015 between both Parties.
- ◆ The delegation from Telangana, also conducted a series of meetings with various French companies, including Servier, SAFRAN Aircraft Engines, Air Attaché.

About Telangana :

- ◆ Festival- Bathukamma, Ugadi, Bonalu

- ◆ Stadium- Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium, G. M. C. Balayogi Indoor Stadium, Lal Bahadur Shastri Stadium

Highlights of 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 26) -Part I

The 26th Conference of Parties (COP26) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is being held in Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom (UK) from 31st October - 12 November 2021.

- ◆ Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi Visited the UK to attend the COP26 from November 1 to 2,2021.
- ◆ The COP 26 is being hosted by the United Kingdom, in partnership with Italy.

India's 5 Commitments set at COP 26

- ◆ At the summit, the PM has set 5 ambitious targets for India to combat climate change. It includes that India will aim to attain net-zero emissions by 2070.
- ◆ The PM asserted that India is the only country that is delivering on the commitments on tackling climate change under the Paris Agreement.
- ◆ In order to support vulnerable island nations that are in danger of submerging because of rising sea levels, the PM urged the rich countries to provide 1 trillion in climate finance to the developing world to achieve its climate change mitigation targets.
- ◆ The PM also urged to make 'Lifestyle for Environment' a global mission.
- ◆ India's launch at COP26: At the COP26, PM launched a programme IRIS (Infrastructure for the Resilient Island States), a key India-

led initiative to boost infrastructure in small island nations.

- ◆ World's 1st Green Grids Initiative Launched by Indian and UK PM Modi and his British counterpart Boris Johnson jointly launched the world's 1st 'green Grids' Initiative, the One Sun One World One Grid (GGIOSOWOG) on the sidelines of the COP26 summit.

Countries pledge to cut methane, deforestation

- ◆ A Global methane pledge was launched to make a 30 percent reduction in global methane emissions from 2020 levels by 2030. The pledge is jointly led by the United States and the European Union. So far, over 90 countries have signed the pledge.
- ◆ The pledge to stop and reverse deforestation by 2030 (not a formal agreement) was also made in the same manner. Over 100 countries including the U.S., China and Brazil have signed on to it.

About United Kingdom (UK):

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

Vulnerable Nations doing most to tackle Climate Crisis: UNDP Report

In accordance with the report titled 'The State of Climate Ambition' 2021 released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), vulnerable nations are doing most to tackle the climate crisis while the biggest emitters or richer countries are showing slow response towards climate crisis.

- ◆ Vulnerable countries are often home to the world's poorest people who are on the frontlines of the climate crisis.

Key Points :

- ◆ Notably 93 % of the Least developed countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) had submitted enhanced national climate pledges, or plan to do so. This group of LDCs and SIDS comprising 78 countries is only responsible for 7 % of global GHG emissions.
- ◆ On the other hand, only 3 members from G20 (Group of Twenty) submitted new pledges that too by missing a key cut-off date 12 October 12,2021.
- ◆ The pledges were needed to be included in the ongoing United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Glasgow, Scotland for analysis.

Also, the 18 NDCs (Nationally determined contributions) submitted by G20 members, many are reliant on long-term targets lacking near-term ambition of reducing GHG (Greenhouse Gas) emissions.

The report featured the promising initiatives from ten countries that have been supported under the Climate Promise including Chile, Iraq, North Macedonia, Papua New Guinea, Zimbabwe, Somalia, etc.

About Report:

- ◆ It provides global assessment of both the pledges already submitted to the UNFCCC as well as ambition intentions of countries that are still planning to submit. It also compares current trends against those that were assessed in the first NDC Global Outlook report in 2019.

UNSC Adopted First of its Kind Resolution on 'Protecting education from Conflict'

On 29th October 2021, The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) adopted the first of its kind resolution (resolution 2601) on protecting schools and civilians connected with schools including children and teachers during armed conflict.

- ◆ The resolution condemns the attacks against schools, children and teachers and urges the conflict parties to safeguard the right to education.
- ◆ It also condemns attacks against schools and hospitals as well as denial of humanitarian access by parties to armed conflict and all other violations of international law.

China launches 3 Remote Sensing Satellites using Long March-2D



On 6th November 2021, China successfully placed 3-remote sensing satellites into orbit using the Long March-2D rocket. The satellites belonging to the Yaogan-35 family were launched from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in Sichuan province of China.

- ◆ This also marks the 396th mission for the Long March series carrier rockets.
- ◆ Long March rockets, developed by the China Aerospace Science and Technology

Corporation, are responsible for almost 96.4 % of all Chinese space missions.

- ◆ Previously in 2019, China made the 300th successful mission using Long March rockets, since its inception in the 1970s.

Frequency of Chinese Rocket Launch:

- ◆ 37 years for first 100 launches
- ◆ 7.5 years for second 100 launches
- ◆ 4 years for third 100 launches
- ◆ And in less than 2 years it is set to complete the next 100 launches.

Note :

- ◆ China previously launched the Core module of 'Tiangong Space Station' into Space. At present, Tiangong is the alternative to the International Space Station (ISS), which is set to retire in 2024.

About China:

- ◆ Capital - Beijing
- ◆ President - Xi Jinping
- ◆ Currency – Renminbi

Oxford Dictionary's Word of the Year 2021- 'Vax'

'Vax' has been chosen as the Word of the Year for 2021 by the Oxford English Dictionary (OED). In 2021, Vax which in turn refers to 'Vaccine' or 'Vaccination' repeatedly appeared in the news, and other written media more than any other word.

- ◆ The appearance of words related to Vax such as 'Vaccinate' have increased 34 times and 'Vaccination' have increased 18 times.

- ◆ The usage of the word Vaccine has been doubled due to Covid - 19 pandemic from September 2020 to September 2021.
- ◆ Vax or Vaccine is derived from the Latin word 'Vacca', meaning cow and defined as Vaccination.

Note :

- ◆ 'Lockdown' was selected as the Collins Word of the Year for 2020

2020 Oxford Word of the Year:

- ◆ In 2020, instead of choosing one word, Oxford Dictionary decided to name a series of words as 'Word of the Year for 2020, which includes - Covid-19, Lockdown, Bushfires, Black Lives Matter, WFH [Working from Home], Key workers and Furlough.

Australia to send Rover on Moon in 2024 to search Water



Private companies in Australia and Canada in collaboration with University of Technology Sydney are all set to send a rover on the moon to hunt water by mid-2024. This will be the first rover with Australian-made components to make it to the Moon.

- ◆ It will be launched through the Hakuto lander made by ispace, a lunar robotic exploration company based in Japan.

Features of Rover :

- ◆ Developer- ispace
- ◆ Weight- 10Kg
- ◆ Measurement- 60x50x50cm

Focus of mission :

- ◆ To identify regions on the Moon with abundant water sources that can produce more usable water for human consumption, sample processing, mining operations and food growth.
- ◆ This would also set the foundation for the establishment of a manned Moon base for further space exploration.

Key Points :

- ◆ The rover will have an integrated robotic arm created by the private companies Stardust Technologies (based in Canada) and Australia's EXPLOR Space Technology.
- ◆ The arm will collect high-resolution visual and haptic data using cameras and sensors which will be sent back to the mission control centre at the University of Technology Sydney.
- ◆ It will also collect information on the physical and chemical composition of lunar dust, soil and rocks.

Static :

- ◆ Moon experiences day and night cycles, just like Earth, but one day on the Moon lasts 29.5 Earth days.
- ◆ The surface temperatures of the moon reach up to 127 degrees Celsius during the day and falls as low as -173 degree Celsius at night.

Global Drug Policy Index 2021: India Ranks 18 out of 30 countries; Norway Tops

India ranked 18 out of 30 countries in the 1st edition of the Global Drug Policy Index which was released by the Harm Reduction Consortium in November 2021.

- ◆ The index ranks Norway, New Zealand, Portugal, the United Kingdom (UK) and Australia as the top 5 countries on humane and health-driven drug policies.
- ◆ The Global Drug Policy Index, a new tool that offers the first-ever data-driven global analysis of 30 countries' drug policies and their implementation in a systematic, comprehensive and transparent manner.

Highlights of MoS for External Affairs V Muraleedharan's Visit to Gambia Senegal

Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs, V. Muraleedharan undertook an official visit to the Republic of the Gambia and to the Republic of Senegal from 1-5 November 2021. It was his 1st visit to both countries.

Gambia:

- ◆ V. Muraleedharan visited the Gambia for 3 days from 1-2 November 2021 and during his visit, he released the design of a commemorative stamp marking 75 years of India's Independence.
- ◆ MoS has announced the repurposing of a US 500,000 grant for procuring dialysis machines for the West African nation.

Senegal:

- ◆ The MoS visited Senegal from 4-5 November 2021, and Co-Chaired the 3rd India-Senegal Joint Commission Meeting (JCM), with the

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Senegal, Aissata Tall Sall.

- ◆ India and Senegal signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on Health and Medicine in Dakar and both sides celebrated the 60th anniversary of their diplomatic ties.

About Ministry of External Affairs:

- ◆ Union Minister - Subrahmanyam Jaishankar (Constituency - Gujarat)
- ◆ Minister of State (MoS) - V Muraleedharan (Constituency - Maharashtra), Meenakshi Lekhi (Constituency - New Delhi, Delhi)

Morinari Watanabe Re-elected as President of International Gymnastics Federation

Morinari Watanabe was re-elected as the President of International Gymnastics Federation or Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique (FIG) for a period of three years.

Highlights:

- ◆ Morinari Watanabe defeated Azerbaijan's contender Farid Gayibov, in the FIG President election that was held during a conference in Turkey.
- ◆ Earlier, He was elected as the President of FIG in 2016 for a 4-year term.
- ◆ The next election for the President of FIG will be held in 2024, coinciding with the Summer Olympics to be held in Paris, France.

Note :

- ◆ In 2020 Tokyo Olympics, Deepak Kabra (Maharashtra) become the 1st Indian Gymnastics judge.

About International Gymnastics Federation:

- ◆ Headquarters- Lausanne, Switzerland
- ◆ Founded- 23 July 1881

India slips 6 ranks on Henley Passport Index to 90th, Japan and Singapore Tops

According to the 'Henley Passport Index (HPI) 2021 released by Henley and Partners, India's ranked has slipped by 6 places to 90th from 84th in Q2FY21 allowing its passport holders to travel 58 countries without visa.

- ◆ The index has been topped by Japan and Singapore as they allowed travel visa-free to {1922} countries to their passport holders.
- ◆ Notably, this for the 3 consecutive years that Japan has grabbed the top spot. iv. The toppers are followed by South Korea and Germany at 2nd position with travel visa to 190 countries.

About Henley & Partners :

- ◆ Chief Executive Officer (CEO)- Dr. Juerg Steffen
- ◆ Headquarters - London, United Kingdom

India Retains 10th Rank on Climate Change Performance Index 2022; Denmark at 4th

India has retained its spot in the top 10 best-performing countries (for the third year after

2020,2021) and ranked 10th in the global Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2022, which was released by Germanwatch in association with New Climate Institute and the Climate Action Network on the sidelines of COP26 (26th Conference of Parties).

Overall Results CCPI 2022:

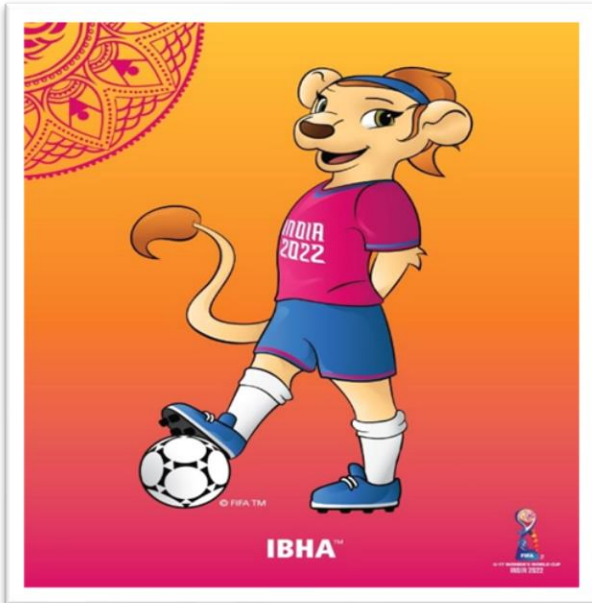
- ◆ The first three overall positions remain empty as no country performs well enough in all index categories to achieve an overall very high rating.

About Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI):

- ◆ The CCPI is an independent monitoring tool that was Published annually since 2005 for tracking the climate protection performance of 60 countries and the European Union.
- ◆ The climate protection performance of those countries, which together account for 92 % of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, is assessed in four categories: GHG Emissions, Renewable Energy, Energy Use and Climate Policy consisting of 14 indicators.



Fifa reveals Ibha, Asiatic lioness as mascot for U-17 2022 WWC



FIFA unveiled Ibha, an Asiatic lioness as the official mascot of the U-17 Women's World Cup India 2022. Ibha represents women power.

- ◆ The objective of the mascot is to inspire girls and women around the world to work up to their full potential.
- ◆ The seventh edition of biennial international football tournament, the 2022 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup is being hosted by India from October 11 to 30, 2022
- ◆ The announcement coincided with the International Day of the Girl Child.

About Ibha :

- ◆ Ibha is a strong, playful and charming Asiatic lioness.

- ◆ Aims to inspire and encourage women and girls by using teamwork, resilience, kindness and empowering others.
- ◆ It will play an important role in engaging with fans, as well as encouraging and inspiring more women and girls across India.
- ◆ Germany becomes first team to qualify for 2022 World Cup
- ◆ Germany became the first team to qualify for the 2022 World Cup by beating North Macedonia 4-0 and to secure top spot in qualifying Group J with two games to spare.

About FIFA :

- ◆ It stands for Federation Internationale de Football Association
- ◆ President -Gianni Infantino
- ◆ Headquarters - Zurich, Switzerland

Australia wins by 14 runs against India, seals multi format series by 11-5

Australia beat India by 14 runs in the third and final T20 Women's International to seal the multi-format series by 11-5 points.

- ◆ All three formats have been clubbed together and India after losing the WODI series by 1-2 margin, lost the WT20I 0-2.
- ◆ Unbeatable scores by opener Beth Monney 61 and Tahlia McGrath 44 helped Australia to put up a decent score of 149 for five.

- ◆ For India, left-arm spinner Rajeshwari Gayakwad took 2 wickets of 37, Renuka Singh 1 for 23, Pooja Vastrakar 1 for 24 and off-spinner Deepti Sharma 1 for 24.
- ◆ Chasing the total, Smriti Mandhana scored 49-ball 52 but India kept losing wickets to eventually manage only 135 for 6 in their stipulated 20 overs.
- ◆ Smriti Mandhana becomes first Indian woman to score ton in pink-ball test Indian women's cricket team opener Smriti Mandhana became the first Indian woman to score a century in a pink-ball Test, when she played a 127 -run knock against Australia in the one-off Pink Ball Test.
- ◆ She is also the Indian first woman to score a century on Australian soil.

About Australia :

- ◆ Prime Minister - Scott Morrison
- ◆ Capital - Canberra
- ◆ Currency - Australian dollar

Legendary Australian All-rounder Alan Davidson & Spinner Ashley Mallet Passed Away



The Australian all-rounder cricketer Alan Keith Davidson passed away at the age of 92. He was the first player to score 100 runs and take 10 wickets in a single Test match.

- ◆ Alan Davidson was the New South Wales (NSW) all-rounder and a left-arm swing bowler. He claimed 186 wickets and scored 1328 runs during his career.
- ◆ Alan Keith Davidson was born in 1929, Lisarow, Australia.
- ◆ He was the President of Cricket NSW for 33 years, served 20 years as a Trustee of the Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG) and 5 years as an Australian Test selector (ATS) between 1979-84.
- ◆ He played in 44 Tests for Australia and he was inducted into the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Hall of Fame in 2011.

Former Australian Test Star Ashley Mallett passes away

Former Australian Test spinner Ashley Mallett passed away at the age of 76 in Adelaide, South Australia. He was battling cancer.

- ◆ Ashley Mallett also was famous as "Rowdy" (nickname). He played 38 Tests from his debut against England in 1968.
- ◆ He was born on 13th July, 1945 in Sydney, New South Wales.

Manika Batra and Archana Kamath Wins Women's Table Tennis Doubles Title at WTT Contender Tournament, Lasko

On 7th November 2021, the Indian Table Tennis player Manika Batra and Archana Girish Kamath clenched the Women's Double title as a pair at the 2021 WTT (World Table Tennis) Contender Tournament in Lasko (Slovenia). The Indian pair, placed at 36th in World Ranking, defeated the Puerto Rican team of Melanie Diaz and Adriana Diaz. WTT Contender Lasko, is the sixth tournament WTT Contender Series.

- ◆ The WTT series is part of the revamped International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF).
- ◆ It features two tiers of events such as WTT Star Contender and WTT Contender.

Key points :

- ◆ In the singles tournament, Manika Batra won a Bronze Medal after being defeated by Wang Yidi by 2-4 in the semi-finals.
- ◆ These victories come ahead of the 2021 World Table Tennis Championships (WTTC), which is set to be held between 23rd-29th November at Houston, USA.

About International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) :

- ◆ President- Thomas Weikert
- ◆ Headquarters- Lausanne, Switzerland

Akash Kumar won Bronze at 21st AIBA World Boxing Championships 2021 in Belgrade, Serbia



The 21st AIBA Men's World Boxing Championship 2021 was held in Belgrade, Serbia from October 24 to November 6, 2021 in 13 men's weight categories. India's 21-year-old Akash Kumar from Bhiwani, Haryana grabbed the bronze medal in the category of 54kg (Bantamweight).

- ◆ With this win he became the 7th Indian male boxer who won a medal at the World Boxing Championships and also received 25,000 as prize money and a belt for his accomplishment.
- ◆ He suffered a 0-5 loss against Kazakhstan's Makhmud Sabyrkhan.

Key Points :

- ◆ The 2021 AIBA men's World Boxing Championships saw the participation of 650 boxers from 88 countries.
- ◆ The gold medalists of each category presented with 1,00,000 while silver and bronze medalists will be awarded 50,000 and 25,000 respectively.
- ◆ The total prize money at AIBA 2021 World Boxing Championship was 2.6 million.
- ◆ Boxers from Cuba received the trophy for best team and also clinched the maximum gold medals (3).
- ◆ Table showing earlier Indian Winners at Men's World Boxing Championships:

India wins 5 Medals in U23 World Wrestling Championship 2021

Indian wrestlers secured 5 medals at the U23 World Wrestling Championships (WWC) 2021 which was held in Belgrade, Serbia. This is India's highest ever medal tally, its previous highest medal count was 3 medals won during the inaugural edition of the event in 2017.

- ◆ In 2021's U23 WWC, the overall medal tally was topped by Russia with 145 points, followed by Iran & Armenia in the 2nd & 3rd spot.

About United World Wrestling (UWW) :

- ◆ UWW is the International Governing body for controlling wrestling.
- ◆ **President-** Nenad Lalovic
- ◆ **Headquarters** - Corsier-sur-Vevey, Switzerland

Max Verstappen wins Mexican Grand Prix



On 7th November 2021, Red Bull Racing's driver - Max Verstappen (Netherlands) won the Mexico Grand Prix (GP) Formula One (F1) tournament that was held at the Autódromo Hermanos Rodríguez racetrack in Mexico City.

- ◆ He was followed by Mercedes's Lewis Hamilton (United Kingdom) & Red Bull Racing's Sergio Pérez (Mexico) in the 2nd & 3rd positions.

Note :

- ◆ Lewis Hamilton became the 1st F1 driver to reach 100 career victories after winning the Russian Grand Prix in Sochi.
- ◆ With this victory Max Verstappen is 19 points ahead of Lewis Hamilton in the F1 Championship for 2021
- ◆ Max Verstappen wins in 2021 - Emilia Romagna GP; Monaco GP; French (GP); Styrian (GP); Austrian (GP).

About Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA).

- ◆ President - Jean Todt
- ◆ Headquarters - Paris, France

Novak Djokovic wins 37th Masters Title at Paris 2021

On 7th October 2021, Novak Djokovic (Serbia) defeated Daniil Medvedev (Russia) in the Men's Singles finals of 2021 Paris Masters, at Paris, France. This is his 6th Paris Masters Title & a record 37th Masters overall.

- ◆ In the finals, Djokovic, with an impressive 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 defeating Daniil Medvedev.
- ◆ With this win, Djokovic will remain at the ATP World Number 1 rank, for the record 7th consecutive year.

Note :

- ◆ Daniil Medvedev defeated Novak Djokovic in the finals to win the 2021 US Open Men's Singles Title.

ATP Men's Singles Ranking:

- 1 - Novak Djokovic
- 2 - Daniil Medvedev
- 3 - Alexander Zverev

Fencing: Bhavani Devi won Charlellville National Competition 2021 in France

India's top-ranked fencer Bhavani Devi has won the Women's Sabre Individual event at the Charlellville National Competition (National Seniors Circuit) organised by the Charleville-Mézières Fencing Circle in France on 17th October 2021.

About Bhavani Devi:

- ◆ Chadalavada Anandha Sundhararaman Bhavani Devi (C A Bhavani Devi), who hails from Tamil Nadu (TN), became the first fencer from India to qualify for the Olympics Games (Tokyo 2020).
- ◆ At present, according to the International Fencing Federation (FIE- Fédération Internationale d'Escrime) rankings, Bhavani devi is ranked 50th under the sabre category(women).
- ◆ The list (Sabre) is topped by Kharlan Olga(Ukraine) followed by Velikaya Sofya (Russia) and Brunet Manon(France) in 2nd & 3rd rank.

Fencing:

- ◆ Fencing is a group of 3 related combat sports. The 3 disciplines of modern fencing are the foil, the épée, and the sabre.

Viktor Axelsen wins 2021 Denmark Open Badminton Championship

In October 2021, Olympic Badminton Men's Singles Gold medalist, Viktor Axelsen (Denmark) won the 2021 Denmark Open badminton championship finals which was held in Odense, Denmark. In the finals, he competed with the current World Number 1 - Momota Kento of Japan.

- ◆ Viktor Axelsen won the finals scoring 20-22, 21-18, 21-12 in the 3-sets against Momota Kento.

About Badminton World Federation (BWF):

- ◆ President - Poul-Erik Høyer (Denmark)
- ◆ Headquarter - Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- ◆ Established – 1934

India Won Ooredoo SAFF Championship 2021 held in the Maldives; 8th SAFF title of India



Indian Football team (nicknamed: The Blue Tigers) won the 2021 South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship, known as Ooredoo SAFF Championship 2021 for sponsorship reasons, against the Nepal national football team (nicknamed: The Gurkhas) at the National Stadium in Male, Maldives. SAFF Championship 2021 is the 13th edition of the SAFF Championship.

- ◆ The 2021 championship title marks the 8th SAFF Championship title of India.
- ◆ India (winners) received a cash prize of 50000 USD (Rs 37.6 lakhs) and Nepal (Runners) received a cash prize of 25000 USD (18.8 lakhs).

Note:

- ◆ This is the first time for Nepal to reach the SAFF Championship finals.

About Ooredoo SAFF Championship 2021:

- ◆ SAFF Championship 2021 was held from 1st to 16th October 2021 at the National Football Stadium in Male' City, Maldives.
- ◆ The teams that participated in the SAFF Championship 2021 were India, Maldives, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

Record of Sunil Chhetri :

- ◆ During the SAFF Championship 2021, Sunil Chhetri broke legendary Brazilian football player Pele's record of 77 International goals.
- ◆ With the 5 goals scored during the SAFF Championship, Sunil Chhetri increased his international goal tally to 80 and became the 2 nd highest goal scorer equaling Lionel Messi(80) of Argentina.

India wins 5 Medals in Inaugural ISSF President's Cup in Wroclaw, Poland

Indian Shooters have won 5 medals (2 Gold, 2 Silver & 1 Bronze) in the inaugural edition of International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) President's Cup that was held between 3rd to 10th November 2021 at Wroclaw, Poland. Manu Bhaker Wins 2 Gold in Mixed Event:

- ◆ Indian Women's Shooter, Manu Bhaker has won 2 Gold medals in the inaugural ISSF President's Cup in Mixed team events.
- ◆ She partnered with Turkey's Ozgur Varlik in the 25 m Rapid Fire pistol Mixed Team event to win the Gold Medal.
- ◆ She also partnered with Iran's Javad Foroughi to win Gold in the 10 m Air Pistol Mixed Team event.

About International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF):

- ◆ President - Vladimir Lisin
- ◆ Secretary-General - Alexander Ratner
- ◆ Founded - 1907
- ◆ Headquarters - Munich, Germany



List of Important Days National & International



World Migratory Bird Day 2021 -October 9



World Migratory Bird Day(WMBD) is annually observed across the globe on two peak days each year (second Saturday in May and in October) to create awareness of migratory birds and the importance of international cooperation to conserve the migratory birds and their habitats. World Migratory Bird Day 2021 was celebrated on 8th May and 9th October 2021.

- ◆ World Migratory Bird Day 2020 was celebrated on 9th May and 10th October 2020.
- ◆ World Migratory Bird Day 2022 will be observed on 14th May and 8th October 2022
- ◆ The theme of the World Migratory Bird Day 2021 is "Sing, Fly, Soar - Like a Bird!", which focuses on the phenomena of bird song and bird flight.

2 day meeting of Central Asian Flyway countries:

- ◆ The two day Online Meeting of 30 countries (including India) under the Central Asian Flyway(CAF) region started on 6th October 2021.
- ◆ Bhupender Yadav, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India addressed the meeting and highlighted the importance of conservation of migratory birds.

World Arthritis Day 2021- October 12

World Arthritis Day (WAD) is annually observed across the globe on October 12th to create awareness about the existence and impacts of rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases(RMDs).

Arthritis is a term used for more than 100 joint-related diseases, which causes swelling in or around a joint, resulting in pain, stiffness, and sometimes difficulty moving.

12th October 2021 marks the observance of the 25th WAD.

Background:

- ◆ In 1996, the Arthritis and Rheumatism International (ARI) established World Arthritis Day(WAD), as a global initiative to raise awareness of issues affecting people with RMDs.

- ◆ EULAR celebrates WAD 2021 focusing on its Campaign entitled "Don't Delay, Connect Today: Time2Work".

About EULAR - European Alliance of Association for Rheumatology:

- ◆ President- Prof. Annamaria Iagnocco (Italy)
- ◆ Headquarters- Zürich, Switzerland

International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2021- October 13

The United Nations (UN)'s International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR) is annually observed across the globe on October 13th to promote the culture of risk awareness and disaster reduction and to recognise the progress towards reducing disaster risk and loss of lives, livelihoods and health.

- ◆ The day also highlights the efforts of people and communities across the globe toward reducing exposure to disasters and to create awareness about the importance of controlling the risk they face.
- ◆ IDDRR 2021 focuses on 'International cooperation for developing countries to reduce their disaster risk and disaster losses'. This is the 6th target of the Sendai Seven targets.

Background :

- ◆ In 1989, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted a resolution A/RES/44/236 and designated the 1990s as the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) and designated the 2nd Wednesday of October as International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction during the IDNDR.

- ◆ Following this UNGA adopted the resolution A/RES/64/200 on 21st December 2009 and proclaimed the 13th October of every year as the International Day for Disaster Reduction.

About United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)

- ◆ United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) formerly United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR).
- ◆ Head (Assistant Secretary-General)- Mami Mizutori
- ◆ Headquarters- Geneva, Switzerland

World Sight Day October 2021- October 14

World Sight Day is annually observed across the globe on the 2nd Thursday of October to create awareness on the global issue of eye health. The day also aims to focus the attention of vision impairment including blindness.

- ◆ World Sight Day is coordinated by the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB).
- ◆ World Sight Day 2021 was observed on 14th October 2021
- ◆ World Sight Day 2020 was observed on 8th October 2020.
- ◆ World Sight Day 2022 will be observed on 13th October 2022.

The theme of World Sight Day 2021 is "Love Your Eyes".

Background :

- ◆ World Sight Day was initiated by the SightFirstCampaign of the Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF).
- ◆ In 2000, the World Sight Day became an official event of IAPB.
- ◆ The first ever World Sight Day was celebrated on 8 October, 1998.

About International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) :

- ◆ CEO- Peter Holland
- ◆ Headquarters- London, United Kingdom
- ◆ Established on January 1,1975

World Student's Day 2021: October 15

World Students' Day was observed on October 15 annually. The day marks the birth anniversary of India's 11th President, Dr. A P J (Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen) Abdul Kalam, the one who gave uttermost importance to students and encouraged them at every event. This year it will be the 90th birth anniversary of the former president of India.

- ◆ About Dr. A P.J (Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen) Abdul Kalam
- ◆ Born : 15 October 1931, Rameswaram (Tamil Nadu)
- ◆ Died : 27 July 2015, Shillong (Meghalaya)
- ◆ Awards : Bharat Ratna, Hoover Medal, Padma Vibhushan and others

International Day of Rural Women 2021- October 15

The United Nations (UN)'s International Day of Rural Women is annually observed across the world on October 15th to highlight the role of rural women and girls, including

indigenous women, in ensuring the sustainability of rural households and communities, improving rural livelihoods, and overall well-being.

- ◆ The day also aims to eliminate gender stereotypes and discrimination against women and girls.
- ◆ The theme of International Day of Rural Women 2021 is "Rural Women Cultivating Good Food for All".

Background:

- ◆ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/62/136 on 18th December 2007, and proclaimed the 15th October of every year as the International Day of Rural Women.
- ◆ The first ever International Day of Rural Women was observed on 15th October 2008.

About UN Women:

- ◆ Executive Director- Sima Bahous
- ◆ Headquarters- New York, United States of America(USA)
- ◆ Established in July 2010

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2021- October 17

The United Nations (UN)'s International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is annually observed across the globe on October 17th to create awareness of the need to eradicate poverty and to ensure that the human rights of those living in poverty are not violated.

The theme of the 2021 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is "Building Forward Together: Ending Persistent Poverty, Respecting all People and our Planet."

Background:

- ◆ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/47/196 on 22nd December 1992 and proclaimed October 17th of every year as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.
- ◆ The first ever UN's International Day for the Eradication of Poverty was observed on 17th October 1993.

Poverty & COVID-19:

- ◆ In 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of people living in poverty is expected to have increased between 143 and 163 million. The pandemic has increased poverty by 8.1% in 2020 compared to 2019.
- ◆ Around 50 % of the new power will be in South Africa and more than one third will be in Sub-Saharan Africa.

World Osteoporosis Day 2021- October 20

World Osteoporosis Day (WOD) is annually observed across the globe on October 20th to create awareness about osteoporosis, a disease that makes bones weak and fragile. The day also highlights the importance of prevention, diagnosis and treatment of Osteoporosis and other related musculoskeletal diseases.

The day is annually organised by the International Osteoporosis Foundation (IOF).

Aim:

- ◆ To put bone health and fracture prevention on the global health agenda. The theme of the 2021 WOD campaign is "Take Actions for Bone Health".

Background:

- ◆ In 1996, The National Osteoporosis Society of the United Kingdom(UK) launched the "World Osteoporosis Day". The observance of the day is also supported by the European Commission.
- ◆ The first ever World Osteoporosis Day was observed on 20th October 1996 . Since 1996, the day has been organised by the IOF.

International Chefs Day 2021-October 20

International Chefs Day is annually celebrated by the World Association of Chefs Societies (Worldchefs) on 20th October to celebrate the profession of culinary arts and to create awareness about the importance of healthy food. The theme of International Chefs Day 2021 is "Healthy Food for the Future".

Background:

- ◆ In 2004 late Dr Billy Gallagher, former president of World Chefs, who was popularly known as "South Africa's father of fine food" created International Chefs Day to celebrate the profession and to inspire culinary professionals to use their knowledge and skills for good.
- ◆ In 2014, the Nestlé Professional joined the World Chefs to support the adaptation of the International Chefs Day campaign toolkit.

2021 International Chefs Day:

- ◆ The 2021 International Chefs Day focuses on sustainability and the environment to ensure a healthy planet for the next generations.
- ◆ As a part of the 2021 International Chefs Day, chefs across the globe will host their

own workshop on the theme "Healthy Food for the Future".

About World Association of Chefs Societies (Worldchefs):

- ◆ Worldchefs is a global network of more than 100 chefs associations that represents culinary professionals at all levels and specialities.
- ◆ Worldchefs was founded as the World Association of Cooks' Societies at Sorbonne University in Paris.
- ◆ President- Thomas Gugler
- ◆ Founded in October 1928.
- ◆ Headquarters- Paris, France.

International Stuttering Awareness Day 2021-October 22

International Stuttering Awareness Day (ISAD) is annually observed across the globe on October 22nd to create awareness about stuttering and spread the knowledge about stuttering and the stigma related to it.

The stuttering awareness campaign has used the sea green colour ribbon as the symbol since 2009.

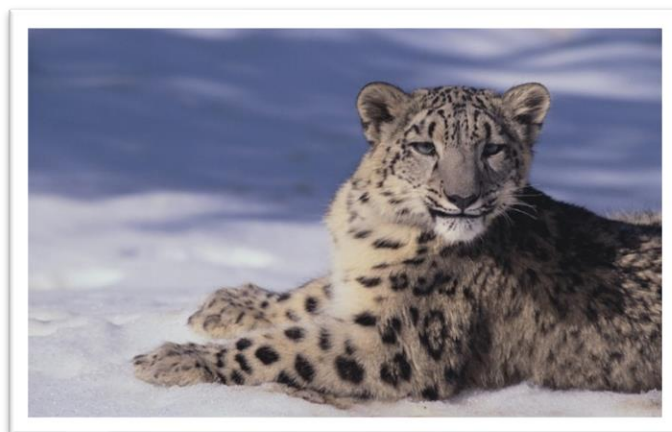
Background:

- ◆ In 1998, the 22nd October was established as the International Stuttering Awareness Day.
- ◆ The initiative was spearheaded by Michael Sugarman, Oakland, California. iii. The first ISAD was observed on 22nd October 1998.
- ◆ ISAD online conference 2021:

- ◆ The ISAD online conference 2021 (1st to 31st October 2021) marks the 24th ISAD online conference.

- ◆ The theme of ISAD online conference 2021 is "Speak the change you wish to see"

International Snow Leopard Day 2021- October 23



International Snow Leopard Day is annually observed across the globe on 23rd October to create awareness about the snow leopards and promote the conservation of the species and their natural habitat.

- ◆ On the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, the Snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*) is listed as a species vulnerable to extinction.

Background:

- ◆ During the first Global Snow Leopard Conservation Forum held from 22-23 October 2013 in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, the 12 snow leopard range countries adopted the 'Bishkek Declaration on the Conservation of the Snow Leopard' and declared the 23rd October of every year as the International Snow Leopard Day.
- ◆ The first ever International Snow Leopard Day was observed on 23rd October 2014

- ◆ The declaration has also declared the year 2015 as the International Year of the Snow Leopard.

12 snow leopard range countries:

- ◆ Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

World Day for Audiovisual Heritage 2021- October 27

The United Nations (UN)'s World Day for Audiovisual Heritage (WDAH) is annually observed across the globe on October 27th to honour audiovisual preservation professionals and institutions that safeguard our heritage for future generations. The day also aims to acknowledge the importance of audiovisual documents and create awareness about the measures to preserve them.

- ◆ The WDAH is an initiative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Coordinating Council of Audiovisual Archives Associations (CCAAA).
- ◆ The theme of the WDAH 2021 is "Your Window to the World".

Background :

- ◆ During the 33rd session of the UNESCO's General Conference held in October 2005, the resolution proclaiming the 27th October of every year as the World Day for Audiovisual Heritage was adopted.
- ◆ The first World Day for Audiovisual Heritage (WDAH) was observed in 2006.

About Coordinating Council of Audiovisual Archives Associations (CCAAA):

- ◆ CCAAA is a global network of nine international nongovernmental organizations dealing with all aspects of audiovisual archiving on a professional level.
- ◆ Chair (2020-2021)- Toby Seay
- ◆ Members- 9 members

World Occupational Therapy Day 2021-October 27

World Occupational Therapy Day is annually observed across the globe on October 27th to create awareness about occupational therapists and the global impact of occupational therapy.

- ◆ The World Occupational Therapy Day is annually organised by the World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT),
- ◆ World Occupational Therapy Day was first launched on 27th October 2010.

The theme of World Occupational Therapy Day 2021 is "Belong. Be You" which promotes the power of diversity and inclusion as we work together to build community and resilience.

What is Occupational therapy?

- ◆ Occupational therapy is concerned with promoting health and well-being through occupation.
- ◆ Occupational therapy aims to enable people to participate in the activities of everyday life.

About World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT):

- ◆ World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) is the global voice for occupational therapy and sets the standard for its practice.
- ◆ President- Samantha Shann

International Animation Day 2021-October 28

International Animation Day (IAD) is annually observed across the globe on October 28th to commemorate the first public performance of projected moving images at Reynaud's Theatre Optique in Paris, France on 28th October 1892. The day is annually coordinated by the Association Internationale du Film d'Animation (ASIFA) - International Animated Film Association.

28th October 2021 marks the observance of the 20th International Animation Day (IAD).

Background:

- ◆ In 2002 the Association Internationale du Film d'Animation (ASIFA) decided to observe the 28th October of every year as the International Animation Day to mark the birth of animation.
- ◆ The first International Animation Day (IAD) was observed on 28th October 2002

2021 IAD Poster:

- ◆ The 2021 IAD Poster was designed by Maryam Mohajer, a British-Iranian, BAFTA Winning animator-director.

About Association Internationale du Film d'Animation (ASIFA):

- ◆ ASIFA International is the oldest organisation globally that supports animation and a commitment to the welfare of art, creativity and the artist.
- ◆ ASIFA is affiliated with UNESCO (the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization).
- ◆ President- Sayoko Kinoshita
- ◆ Founded in 1960 in Annecy, France

8th India Sweden Innovation Day-26th October 2021

The 8th India Sweden Innovation Day was observed on 26th October 2021 with a focus on various aspects of climate change and the possible solutions to enable green transition.

The 8th India Sweden Innovation Day was hosted by India Unlimited in association with the Embassy of India in Sweden, Sweden-India Business Council and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

- ◆ The 7th India Sweden Innovation Day was observed on 27th November 2020.
- ◆ The 6th India Sweden Innovation Day was observed on 9th September 2019.

The theme/online event theme of 8th India Sweden Innovation Day is "Accelerating India Sweden's green Transition".

Online Event:

- ◆ The sessions of the online event organised as a part of the 8th India Sweden Innovation Day include the exchange of ideas over the implementation of digital technology and Artificial Intelligence to introduce climate-friendly solutions.

Key People:

- ◆ Dr Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Science and Technology, Government of India.
- ◆ Ibrahim Baylan, Minister for Business, Industry and Innovation, Government of Sweden.

India Sweden Relations:

- ◆ The relationship between India and Sweden was established in 1949.
- ◆ The first ever India Friendship Group was set up in Swedish Parliament in February 2006, and an India Sweden Friendship group has also been established in the Indian Parliament.
- ◆ Science and Technology cooperation between the 2 nations is an important component of the bilateral cooperation, which was initiated through the Bilateral Science & Technology Agreement signed on 9th December 2005.

International Internet Day 2021 - October 29

International Internet Day is annually observed across the globe on October 29th to celebrate the anniversary of the first-ever transmission of an electronic message from one computer to another over ARPANET (Advanced Research Projects Agency Network).

The day also commemorates the progress in the history of telecommunications and technology.

Background:

- ◆ The First ever International Internet Day was celebrated on 29th October 2005 to highlight the importance of the internet.

- ◆ The day is promoted by the Association of Internet Users (AIU).
- ◆ The 29th October was chosen to commemorate the anniversary of the transmission of the first ever electronic message.

Birth of Internet :

- ◆ The first working prototype of the Internet was made in the late 1960s with the creation of ARPANET, established by the Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA) of the United States Department of Defense.

World Stroke Day 2021-29th October

World Stroke Day is annually observed across the globe on October 29th to create awareness about the serious nature and high rates of stroke and to highlight the prevention and treatment for stroke to ensure better care and support for the survivors.

The World Stroke Day 2021 highlights the need to "Learn the signs of a Stroke: Save #Precioustime".

- ◆ The Precious Time campaign aims to communicate that Minutes can save lives, Minutes can save memories, Minutes can save mobility, Minutes can save speech and Minutes can save Independence.

Background:

- ◆ The World Stroke Day was established by the World Stroke Congress held on 29th October 2004 in Vancouver, Canada.
- ◆ The annual event of World Stroke Day was started by the World Stroke Organization in 2006.

- ◆ The WSO has also declared stroke as a public health emergency in 2010.

About World Stroke Organization (WSO) :

- ◆ President- Marc Fisher
- ◆ Executive Director- Mia Grupper
- ◆ Headquarters- Geneva, Switzerland

World Cities Day 2021- October 31

The United Nations(UN)'s World Cities Day(WCD) is annually observed across the globe on October 31st to promote the importance of community's interest in global urbanization and to advance the cooperation among the countries in meeting opportunities addressing challenges of urbanization and contributing to sustainable urban development around the world.

- ◆ The global observance was co-hosted by UN-Habitat and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt and it took place in Luxor, Egypt.
- ◆ The Global theme of World Cities Day 2021 is "Adapting Cities for Climate Resilience".
- ◆ The general theme of World Cities Day is Better City, Better Life, while each year a different sub-theme and a location is selected as Global theme or theme of WCD.

About UN-Habitat:

- ◆ The United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UN-HABITAT, is the United Nations agency for human settlements
- ◆ Executive Director- Maimunah Mohd Sharif,
- ◆ Headquarters- Nairobi, Kenya

Ayurveda Day 2021` - November 2



Ayurveda Day is observed annually across the globe on Dhanwantri Jayanthi or Dhanteras, the festival of Dhanvantari, the Hindu god of Ayurveda to create awareness about the significance of Ayurveda and to promote Ayurvedic principles of healing in society.

The day aims to promote and preserve the health science of Ayurveda in line with the United Nations(UN)'s Sustainable Development Goal(SDG) 3: to ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages.

- ◆ The Ayurveda Day 2021 falls on 2nd November 2021.
- ◆ Ayurveda Day, a global initiative by the Center for Public Diplomacy and Soft Power of India Foundation.
- ◆ Dhanteras is observed on the 13th day of Krishna Paksha on the month of Ashwin as per the Hindu calendar. Lord Dhanvantari is revered as a healer of all diseases.
- ◆ The Ministry of AYUSH celebrated the first National Ayurveda Day on 28th October 2016. The Ayurveda Day 2021 which falls on 2nd November 2021, marks the observance 6th Ayurveda Day in India.

Ayurveda Day in India:

- ◆ In September 2016, the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) announced its decision to annually celebrate the Dhanvantari Jayanthi or Dhanteras as National Ayurveda Day.
- ◆ The 5th Ayurveda Day was celebrated on 13th November 2020.

World Vegan Day 2021- November 1

World Vegan Day is annually observed by vegans across the globe on November 1st to encourage people to follow a vegan lifestyle which is beneficial to one's health as well as good for the environment.

- ◆ The day is celebrated to create awareness about the benefits of consuming a plant-based diet.
- ◆ November 1st also marks the formation of the Vegan Society in the United Kingdom (UK).

Background:

- ◆ On 1st November 1994, Louise Wallis, the chair of The Vegan Society, UK, established the observance of World Vegan Day.
- ◆ World Vegan Day was established to mark the golden jubilee of the establishment of the Vegan Society, UK.

International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists 2021- November 2

United Nations (UN)'s International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists (IDEI) is annually observed across the globe on 2nd November. The day aims to create awareness and to formulate ways to counter the

threats of violence and crimes against journalists to protect the freedom of expression for all. Significance of 2021 observance:

- ◆ The 2021 observance of the day highlights the role of prosecutorial services, in investigating and prosecuting the killing and threats of violence against journalists.
- ◆ The 2021 commemoration will pave the way for the 10-year anniversary of the UN Plan of Action on Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity which will be marked in 2022

Background:

- ◆ The United Nations General Assembly(UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/68/163 on 18th December 2013 and proclaimed the 2nd November of every year as the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists.
- ◆ The first ever International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists was observed on 2nd November 2014.
- ◆ This resolution of UNGA condemns all the attacks and violence against journalists and media workers.

Why 2nd November?

- ◆ The date, 2nd November, was chosen to commemorate the assassination of Claude Verlon and Ghislaine Dupon, French journalists at RFI radio, in Mali on 2nd November 2013

International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict 2021- November 6

The United Nations (UN)'s International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict is annually observed across the globe on November 6th to create awareness about the damages caused to the environment due to war and armed conflicts.

The exploitation of the environment in war and armed conflicts includes pollution of water wells, forest fire, deforestation, poisoning of soils, killing animals to gain military advantage.

Background :

- ◆ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/56/4

on 5th November 2001 and proclaimed the 6th November of every year as the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict.

- ◆ The first ever International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict was observed on 6th November 2002

About The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP):

- ◆ Executive Director- Inger Andersen
- ◆ Inception- 1972
- ◆ Headquarters- Nairobi, Kenya



1. What is the rank of India in the 2021 Mercer CFS Global Pension Index survey?
 (a) 30 (b) 45
 (c) 35 (d) 40
2. The World Osteoporosis Day (WOD) is an annual day celebrated on _____.
 (a) 18 October (b) 21 October
 (c) 20 October (d) 19 October
3. Bhavani Devi is an Indian athlete who represents the country in _____ event.
 (a) Gymnastics (b) Archery
 (c) Weightlifting (d) Fencing
4. The International Chefs Day is observed annually on which day?
 (a) 17 October (b) 18 October
 (c) 20 October (d) 19 October
5. Home Minister Amit Shah has launched Modi Vans under the 'Seva Hi Sangathan' programme in which of these districts?
 (a) Kaushambi (b) Raebareli
 (c) Kushinagar (d) Aligarh
6. Who is the author of the book "Actually... I Met Them: A Memoir"?
 (a) A. R. Rahman (b) Shabana Azmi
 (c) Gulzar (d) Shankar Mahadevan
7. Which state has launched 'Prashasan Gaon ke Sang' Campaign to provide Government services to Remote Villages?
 (a) Bihar (b) Uttar Pradesh
 (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Rajasthan

8. Which Life Insurance Company has introduced "Saral Bachat Bima Plan"?
- (a) SBI Life Insurance (b) India First Life Insurance Company
(c) ICICI Prudential Life insurance (d) HDFC Life Insurance
9. Who has been appointed as the President of Indian Weightlifting Federation?
- (a) Penpa Tsering (b) T V Narendran
(c) Ujjwala Singhania (d) Sahdev Yadav
10. Name the person who has been appointed as the new Chairman & Managing Director of National Research Development Corporation.
- (a) Pawan Kumar Goenka (b) Amit Rastogi
(c) Prativa Mohapatra (d) M Venugopa
11. What is the overall DA/DR rate announced by the government effective from July 01, 2021?
- (a) 21% (b) 31%
(c) 28% (d) 35%
12. Who has been honoured with the European Union's top human rights prize, Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought for 2021?
- (a) Kira Yarmysh (b) Alexei Navalny
(c) Boris Yeltsin (d) Roman Protasevich
13. RBI has recently imposed Rs 1 crore monetary penalty on which payments bank for violating norms under Section 26 (2) of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007?
- (a) Jio Payments Bank (b) Airtel Payments Bank
(c) Aditya Birla Payments Bank (d) Paytm Payments Bank
14. When is the International Stuttering Awareness Day observed?
- (a) 22 October (b) 20 October
(c) 19 October (d) 21 October
15. Which state government has announced the Implementation of "Mukhyamantri Ration Aapke Dwar Yojana" from November 2021?
- (a) Assam (b) Uttar Pradesh
(c) Odisha (d) Madhya Pradesh

16. What was the rank of India in World Justice Project's (WJP) Rule of Law Index 2021?
(a) 32 (b) 51
(c) 79 (d) 105
17. Who has been appointed as the MD of India Ports Global Limited (IPGL)?
(a) Neera Tanden (b) Alok Mishra
(c) Jagjit Pavadia (d) Arun Raste
18. Who has authored the book "Veer Savarkar: The Man Who Could Have Prevented Partition" launched by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh?
(a) Uday Mahurkar (b) Chirayu Pandit
(c) Jeet Thayil (d) Both a & b
19. Which of the following has recently acquired 40% stake in designer Manish Malhotra's MM Styles?
(a) Reliance Industries Ltd (b) Adani Group
(c) Aditya Birla Fashion & Retail Ltd (d) Infiniti Retail Ltd
20. Which of the following country has elected its first-ever president as it prepares to become a republic, removing Queen Elizabeth as head of state?
(a) Saint Lucia (b) Saint Vincent
(c) Barbados (d) Grenadines
21. In the month of October, which day is marked as the International Snow Leopard Day annually?
(a) October 21 (b) October 22
(c) October 20 (d) October 23
22. Which state's Chief Minister has launched "Shri Dhanwantri Generic Medical Store" Scheme?
(a) West Bengal (b) Jharkhand
(c) Chhattisgarh (d) Maharashtra
23. Which Bank with Mastercard, DFC, USAID, has launched a \$100 Million Credit Facility for Indian MSMEs?
(a) HDFC Bank (b) RBL Bank
(c) Axis Bank (d) ICICI Bank

24. Bharti AXA Life Insurance has entered into a Bancassurance Partnership with which Small Finance Bank?
(a) Jana Small Finance Bank (b) Suryoday Small Finance Bank
(c) Equitas Small Finance Bank (d) Utkarsh Small Finance Bank
25. Who is the author of the new book titled "The Cinema of Satyajit Ray"?
(a) Amitav Ghosh (b) Divya Dutta
(c) Avtar Singh Bhasin (d) Bhaskar Chattopadhyay
26. Which organisation has launched the Digi book "Innovations for You"?
(a) Invest India (b) NPCI
(c) Atal Innovation Mission (d) ISRO
27. India has collaborated with which countries to launch the Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS) initiative on the sidelines of the Conference of Parties (COP26)?
(a) United Kingdom and Japan (b) Australia, Japan and United Kingdom
(c) Japan and Australia (d) Australia and United Kingdom
28. Who has been appointed as the President of World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA) for 2021-2023?
(a) Germany (b) India
(c) Australia (d) United Arab Emirates
29. Name the Indian scientist who has been selected for the 2022 Joseph A. Cushman Award.
(a) Rajiv Nigam (b) Sunil Pal
(c) Kunal Kamra (d) Dhruv Bhusan
30. Which Formula One driver won the 2021 United States Grand Prix?
(a) Lewis Hamilton (b) Max Verstappen
(c) Sergio Perez (d) Valtteri Bottas
31. Which state became India's 1st state to pass its own Wildlife Action Plan 2021-30?
(a) West Bengal (b) Jharkhand
(c) Maharashtra (d) Chhattisgarh

32. Supreme Court has appointed a three-member committee to look into allegations of unauthorized surveillance using Pegasus. Who is the head of this committee?
(a) R V Raveendran (b) Kaushik Basu
(c) Tahmima Anam (d) Ramesh Babu
33. MeitY Startup Hub has partnered with which of the following company to launch 'Appscale Academy' Programme?
(a) IBM (b) Microsoft
(c) Google (d) Infosys
34. According to the report 'Five years on: Global climate tech investment trends since the Paris Agreement', what was the rank of India?
(a) 5th (b) 6th
(c) 7th (d) 9th
35. Google Pay has tied up with which General Insurance company to offer Health Insurance?
(a) SBI General Insurance Company (b) Oriental Insurance Company
(c) Religare Insurance Company (d) Bharti AXA General Insurance
36. Which of the following company has been awarded the 'Outstanding Renewable Energy User' at India Green Energy Award 2020?
(a) Hero MotoCorp (b) TVS Motor Company
(c) Bajaj Auto (d) India Yamaha Motor
37. Ryan ten Doeschate retired from International Cricket. He was associated with which cricket team?
(a) Scotland (b) Ireland
(c) England (d) Netherlands
38. Who has authored the book 'AIIMS Mein Ek Jang Ladte Hue'?
(a) Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank (b) Harsh Vardhan
(c) Kiren Rijiju (d) Narendra Modi
39. Who is the chairperson of Economic Advisory Council-PM?
(a) Vimal Kumar (b) Prakhar Mittal
(c) Rohit Sharma (d) Bibek Debroy

40. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi attended the _____ Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-India Summit.
(a) 16th (b) 17th
(c) 18th (d) 19th
41. Shaktikanta Das is the _____ Governor of RBI?
(a) 21st (b) 22nd
(c) 23rd (d) 25th
42. Which state has topped the State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) 2020?
(a) Gujarat (b) Kerala
(c) Rajasthan (d) Karnataka
43. Every year world thrifty is observed on the _____ across the globe.
(a) 29th October (b) 30th October
(c) 31st October (d) 28th October
44. Which country has inaugurated World's Largest Hydrogen Fuel Cell Power Plant?
(a) Hong Kong (b) Singapore
(c) Russia (d) South Korea
45. Which institute has topped among the Indian Institutes in Times Higher Education (THE)'s World Reputation Rankings 2021?
(a) IIFT-New Delhi (b) IISc -Bangalore
(c) IIT-Madras (d) IIM-Ahmedabad
46. Which institute has topped in Times Higher Education (THE)'s World Reputation Rankings 2021?
(a) Stanford University (b) California Institute of Technology
(c) Massachusetts Institute for Technology (d) Harvard University
47. In India, the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas or National Unity Day is observed every year on _____.
(a) October 31 (b) October 30
(c) October 29 (d) October 28

48. 'Ganga Utsav 2021 – The River Festival' will be celebrated during which of the following days?
- (a) From Oct 31 to Nov 4, 2021 (b) From Nov 1 to Nov 3, 2021
(c) From Nov 2 to Nov 5, 2021 (d) From Nov 5 to Nov 7, 2021
49. Tushil is an Indian Navy frigate of the P1135.6 class developed by which country?
- (a) Russia (b) US
(c) Japan (d) Isreal
50. Which of the following word has been chosen as the word of the year by the Oxford English Dictionary (OED) 2021?
- (a) Quarantine (b) Covid
(c) Vax (d) Samvidhaan
-



ANSWERS



1.(d) 40

Exp. India has been ranked at 40th position out of 43 countries in the 2021 Mercer CFS Global Pension Index survey. India had an overall index value of 43.3.

2.(c) 20th October

Exp. World Osteoporosis Day (WOD) is annually observed across the globe on October 20th to create awareness about osteoporosis, a disease that makes bones weak and fragile. The day also highlights the importance of prevention, diagnosis and treatment of Osteoporosis and other related musculoskeletal diseases. The day is annually organised by the International Osteoporosis Foundation (IOF).

3.(d) Fencing

Exp. India's top-ranked fencer Bhavani Devi has won the Women's Sabre Individual event at the Charlellville National Competition (National Seniors Circuit) organised by the Charleville-Mézières Fencing Circle in France on 17th October 2021.

About Bhavani Devi:

Chadalavada Anandha Sundhararaman Bhavani Devi (C A Bhavani Devi), who hails from Tamil Nadu (TN), became the first fencer from India to qualify for the Olympics Games (Tokyo 2020).

At present, according to the International Fencing Federation (FIE- Fédération Internationale d'Escrime) rankings, Bhavani devi is ranked 50th under the sabre category(women).

◆ The list(Sabre) is topped by Kharlan Olga

4.(c) 20 October

Exp. The International Chefs Day is observed every year on 20 October. International Chefs Day was created by Dr. Bill Gallagher, a renowned chef and the former president of the World Association of Chefs Societies (World Chefs), in 2004.

5.(a) Kaushambi

- Exp.** The Union Home Minister Amit Shah flagged off “Five Mobile Medical Vans” dubbed as Modi Van on October 19, 2021 in Kaushambi district of Uttar Pradesh.
- 6.(c)** Gulzar
- Exp.** Legendary Indian poet-lyricist-director Gulzar has come out with his new book title “Actually... I Met Them: A Memoir”.
- 7.(d)** Rajasthan
- Exp.** Rajasthan launched ‘Prashasan Gaon ke Sang’ Campaign to provide Government Services to Remote Villages.
- 8.(d)** HDFC Life Insurance
- Exp.** India First Life Insurance Company Limited (India First Life), a joint venture of Bank of Baroda and Union Bank of India introduced “India First Life Saral Bachat Bima Plan”. It is a savings and protection cover plan for the entire family.
- 9.(d)** Sahadev Yadav
- Exp.** Sahdev Yadav, former Secretary General of IWLF, was unanimously elected as the President of the Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWLF).
- 10.(b)** Amit Rastogi
- Exp.** Commodore Amit Rastogi (Retd) has been appointed as the new Chairman & Managing Director of National Research Development Corporation (NRDC).
- 11.(b)** 31%
- Exp.** The Union Cabinet has approved a further hike of 3 percent in Dearness Allowance (DA) and Dearness Relief (DR) for the central government employees and pensioners on October 21, 2021. The increase of 3% is over the existing rate of 28 percent of the basic pay/pension and will be effective from July 1, 2021. Now after this hike, the DA/DR will increase to 31%.
- 12. (b)** Alexei Navalny
- Exp.** The European Parliament has awarded the European Union’s top human rights prize, Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought for 2021, to the imprisoned Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny.
- 13. (d)** Paytm Payments Bank

Exp. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 1 crore on Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL) over certain specified violations, as referred in Section 26 (2) of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.

14.(a) 22 October

Exp. International Stuttering Awareness Day (ISAD) is annually observed across the globe on October 22nd to create awareness about stuttering and spread the knowledge about stuttering and the stigma related to it.

The stuttering awareness campaign has used the sea green colour ribbon as the symbol since 2009.

15. (d) Madhya Pradesh

Exp. The government of Madhya Pradesh (MP) has announced the implementation of the scheme "Mukhyamantri Ration Apke Dwar Yojana", which will start from November 2021.

16.(c) 79

Exp. India has ranked 79 out of 139 countries and jurisdictions in the World Justice Project's (WJP) Rule of Law Index 2021 report.

17.(b) Alok Mishra

Exp. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has appointed Captain Alok Mishra as the Managing Director of India Ports Global Limited (IPGL). He is currently serving as the Head of operation and transformation lead at the Gateway Terminals India Pvt Ltd (GTI), Mumbai Maharashtra.

18.(d) Both a & b

Exp. Defence Minister launched the book "Veer Savarkar: The Man Who Could Have Prevented Partition" authored by Uday Mahurkar and Chirayu Pandit.

19.(a) Reliance Industries Ltd

Exp. Reliance Industries Ltd's Reliance Brands Ltd (RBL) and famous designer Manish Malhotra have announced a strategic partnership to acquire a 40 percent stake in Malhotra's MM Styles Pvt Ltd. Launched in 2005, the Manish Malhotra luxury retail is spanned across four flagship stores in Mumbai, New Delhi, and Hyderabad, 2 SIS.

20.(c) Barbados

Exp. Barbados has elected its first-ever president as it prepares to become a republic, removing Queen Elizabeth as head of state. Dame Sandra Mason, 72, is set to be sworn in on 30 November, which will mark the country's 55th anniversary of independence from Britain.

21.(d) October 23

Exp. International Snow Leopard Day is annually observed across the globe on 23rd October to create awareness about the snow leopards and promote the conservation of the species and their natural habitat.

On the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, the Snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*) is listed as a species vulnerable to extinction

22.(c) Chhattisgarh

Exp. Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has virtually launched a new scheme named 'Shri Dhanwantri Generic Medical Store scheme' to provide low-cost generic medicines and enable seamless healthcare services to the vulnerable people of the state.

23.(a) HDFC Bank

Exp. HDFC Bank, Mastercard, DFC, USAID launched \$100 Million Credit Facility for Indian MSMEs.

24. (d) Utkarsh Small Finance Bank

Exp. Bharti AXA Life Insurance entered into a Bancassurance Partnership with Utkarsh Small Finance Bank.

25.(d) Bhaskar Chattopadhyay

Exp. A new book titled 'The Cinema of Satyajit Ray' written by the author Bhaskar Chattopadhyay and published by Westland details the life of legendary Indian Filmmaker – 'Satyajit Ray'.

26.(c) Atal Innovation Mission

Exp. The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) of NITI Aayog has launched a Digi-book named "Innovations for You". The sector in focus in this Digi-book is Healthcare.

27.(d) Australia and United Kingdom

Exp. India, Australia, and the UK in collaboration with small island developing states (SIDS), have planned to launch a new initiative "Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS)", on the sidelines of the Conference of Parties (COP26).

28.(b) India

Exp. Invest India, a young startup within the Government of India, has been unanimously elected as the President of the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA) for 2021-2023.

29.(a) Rajiv Nigam

Exp. Dr. Rajiv Nigam, the former Chief Scientist at CSIR-National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), Goa, has been selected for the 2022 Joseph A. Cushman Award for Excellence in Foraminiferal Research.

30.(b) Max Verstappen

Exp. Max Verstappen (Red Bull – Netherlands) has won the 2021 United States Grand Prix held at the Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas, United States.

31.(c) Maharashtra

Exp. During the 17th meeting of the State Board for Wildlife (SBWL), the government of Maharashtra approved its own Wildlife Action Plan (2021-2030), which will be implemented over the next 10 years.

32.(a) RV Raveendran

Exp. SC set up a committee to Probe unauthorized surveillance using Pegasus in India; headed by R V Raveendran.

33.(c) Google

Exp. MeitY Startup Hub, an initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), and Google partnered to launch 'Appscale Academy', a growth and development programme, to train early to mid-stage startups across India.

34.(d) 9th

Exp. In accordance with the report 'Five years on: Global climate tech investment trends since the Paris Agreement' by London & Partners, and Dealroom. Co, India ranked 9th in the list of top 10 countries for climate technology investment from 2016 to 2021.

35.(a) SBI General Insurance Company

Exp. SBI General Insurance made a technological partnership with Google Pay to enable the users to buy SBI General's health insurance on the Google Pay app.

36.(b) TVS Motor Company

Exp. TVS Motor Company has been awarded the 'Outstanding Renewable Energy User' at the third Edition of India Green Energy Award 2020 by the Indian Federation of Green Energy (IFGE).

37.(d) Netherlands

Exp. Ryan ten Doeschate, 41-year-old Cricket all-rounder from the Netherlands, announced retirement from International Cricket after Netherlands failed to qualify for the Super 12 stage of the International Cricket Council (ICC) T20 World Cup.

38.(a) Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank

Exp. Former Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal gifted his book 'AIIMS Mein Ek Jang Ladte Hue' to PM Modi.

39.(d) Bibek Debroy

Exp. Central Government has reconstituted the seven-member Economic Advisory Council to the PM (EAC-PM). Bibek Debroy continues to be the Chairman of the Council.

40.(c) 18th

Exp. On October 28, 2021, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi co-chaired the virtual 18th India-ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Summit 2021 at the invitation of Sultan of Brunei, Hassanal Bolkiah (the current Chair of ASEAN). Leaders of ASEAN Member States have participated in the summit.

41.(d) 25th

Exp. Shaktikanta Das assumed the charge as the 25th governor of RBI on December 12, 2018 for three years.

42.(d) Karnataka

Exp. Karnataka state has topped the State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) 2020. Rajasthan is on second rank followed by Haryana on third.

43.(c) 31st October

Exp. World Thrift Day is celebrated every year on October 31, across the world, but in India, the day is celebrated annually on October 30.

44.(d) South Korea

Exp. The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy of South Korea held that the 'Shinincheon Bitdream Fuel Cell Power Plant' at the Shinincheon Bitdream headquarters of Korea Southern Power in Seo-gu, Incheon has been completed and inaugurated.

45.(b) IISc-Bangalore

Exp. Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru ranked among the top 100 (91-100) has topped the Indian Institutes.

46.(d) Harvard University

Exp. Harvard University of the United States of America (USA) has topped the 2021 ranking. Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA and University of Oxford from the United Kingdom (UK) has secured the 2nd and 3rd rank respectively.

47.(a) October 31

Exp. In India, the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas or National Unity Day is observed every year on October 31 since 2014, to commemorate the birth anniversary of the Iron Man of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

48.(b) From Nov 1 to Nov 3, 2021

Exp. 'Ganga Utsav 2021 – The River Festival' will be Celebrated From 1st to 3rd Nov., 2021. National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) celebrates Ganga Utsav every year to mark the anniversary of announcement of River Ganga as the 'National River' i.e., 4th November. This year's Ganga Utsav is being organised from 1st to 3rd November, 2021.

49.(a) Russia

Exp. The ship has been developed under the Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) between India and Russia in 2016 for the construction of four additional P1135.6 class ships for Indian Navy.

50.(c) Vax

Exp. 'Vax' has been chosen as the word of the year by the Oxford English Dictionary (OED) in 2021.