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Padma Awards 2021 Declared



The Padma Awards are the highest civilian honors in India announced annually on the occasion Republic Day every year. The Padma Awards are categorized into three categories i.e. Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri. The Awards are given in various fields according to the achievement of the awardees. The award is presented for art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, etc. '

- ◆ 'Padma Vibhushan' is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service
- ◆ 'Padma Bhushan' for distinguished service of a high order
- ◆ 'Padma Shri' for distinguished service in any field.

Padma Vibhushan

S. No	Name	Field	State/ Country
1	Shri Shinzo Abe	Public Affairs	Japan
2	Shri S P Balasubramanian (Posthumous)	Art	Tamil Nadu
3	Dr Belle Monappa Hegde	Medicine	Karnataka
4	Shri Narinder Singh KAPANY (Posthumous)	Science and Engineering	United States of America
5	Maulana Wahiduddin Khan	Others-Spiritualism	Delhi
6	Shri B. B Lal	Others-Archaeology	Delhi
7	Shri Sudarshan Sahoo	Art	Odisha

Padma Bhushan

S N	Name	Field	State/ Country
1	Ms. Krishnan Nair Shantakumari Chithra	Art	Kerala

2	Shri Tarun Gogoi (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Assam
3	Shri Chandrashekhar Kambar	Literature and Education	Karnataka
4	Ms. Sumitra Mahajan	Public Affairs	Madhya Pradesh
5	Shri Nripendra Mishra	Civil Service	UP
6	Shri Ram Vilas Paswan (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Bihar
7	Shri Keshubhai Patel (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Gujarat
8	Shri Kalbe Sadiq (Posthumous)	Others-Spiritualism	UP
9	Shri Rajnikant Devidas Shroff	Trade and Industry	Maharashtra
10	Shri Tarlochan Singh	Public Affairs	Haryana

Padma Shri

The list of Padma Shri awardees from art, literature and education, social work, sports, medicine, etc. You can check out the complete list of Padma Shri awards from the official website of the Government of India.

PM Modi Launches RBI Direct Scheme and RB-IOS

On November 12, 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually launched 2 customer-centric initiatives of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) such as the RBI Retail Direct (RBI-RD) scheme & Reserve Bank - Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RB-IOS).

RBI Retail Direct (RD) Scheme:

The scheme will act as a medium for small investors such as the middle class, employees, small businessmen and senior citizens to have their small savings directly and securely in government securities issued by both Centre and state governments.

Through which, investors could easily open and maintain their government securities account online with the RBI, at free of cost.

RBI Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RB-IOS):

RB-IOS was aimed at further improving the grievance redress mechanism for resolving customer complaints against entities regulated by the RBI. The PM stated the scheme is based on 'One Nation-One Ombudsman'.

Through RB-IOS, RBI will provide a single reference point for the customers to submit documents, track the status of complaints filed and provide feedback. iii. The RBI after review decided to integrate the current 3 ombudsman schemes such as - the Banking Ombudsman Scheme (BOS), launched in 2006, the Ombudsman Scheme for Non-Banking Financial Companies (OS-NBFC), 2018 and the Ombudsman Scheme for Digital Transactions (OSDT), 2019 into one RB-IOS.

About Reserve Bank of India (RBI) :

- ◆ Establishment- April 1, 1935
- ◆ Headquarters- Mumbai, Maharashtra
- ◆ Governor- Shaktikanta Das
- ◆ Deputy Governors- Mahesh Kumar Jain, Michael Debabrata Patra, M. Rajeshwar Rao. T. Rabi Sankar

NHSRCL signs MoU with Japan's JRTC for Designs of HSR Track works for T-3 package for MAHSR Corridor Project

On November 11, 2021, National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Japan Railway Track Consultant Company Limited (JRTC) to design High Speed Rail (HSR) Track works for T-3 package for Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) Corridor Project.

- ◆ Under this MoU, JRTC will provide the detailed design and drawings of HSR track components like RC Track bed, Track slab arrangement and Continuous Welded Rail CWR for 116-kilometre long track T-3 package between Vadodara and Sabarmati Depot and Workshop in Gujarat.

Key Points :

- ◆ The ceremony was attended by ISAO Horiyama, President JRTC, H.L. Suthar, Principal Executive Director/Design, NHSRCL, other senior officers from NHSRCL, JICC, and JRTC.
- ◆ JRTC is the only specialized agency for this kind of highly technical work.
- ◆ Earlier, NHSRCL had earlier signed MoU for the designs of HSR track and track works for the 237-kilometre-long T-2 package between Vadodara and Vapi in Gujarat.

About National High-Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL):

- ◆ Establishment- 2016
- ◆ Managing Director (MD)- Satish Chandra Agnihotri
- ◆ Headquarter- New Delhi, Delhi

Wangala- "The Festival of 100 Drums" celebrated in Meghalaya



On 12th November 2021, Meghalaya state observed the 'Wangala', the festival of 100 Drums Festival. It is a post harvest festival of the Garos tribe which is being held every year to honour 'Saljong', the Sun God of Garos, which also marks the end of the harvest season.

The festival was inaugurated by Garo Hills Autonomous District Council (GHADC) Chief Executive Member (CEM) Benedic R Marak in the presence of GHADC Chairman Rakesh Sangma.

- ◆ The celebration usually lasts for two days, sometimes it can continue for even a week.

Highlights:

- ◆ The ceremony performed on the first day known as "Ragula" is performed inside the house of the chief, and the ceremony on the second day is known as "Kakkat".
- ◆ On the first day the Chibok Dance and the Koch Dance were performed. The Handloom and Handicrafts exhibition was also inaugurated in the state.

About Wangala Festival :

- ◆ The celebration also signifies the end of a long toil period in the field for the Garo tribe before the start of the winters.

- ◆ The Wangala is also known as the Festival of Hundred Drums and is celebrated with different forms of dances on the tunes of folk songs played on drums and primitive flute made of buffalo horns.

About Meghalaya :

- ◆ Tribe- Garo, Khasi, Jaintia
- ◆ Festivals- Ka Shad Suk Mynsiem, Nongkrem Festival, Behdienkhlam Festival

India's first grass conservatory developed in Ranikhet, Uttarakhand

On November 15, 2021, India's first 'grass conservatory' or 'germplasm conservation centre' spread over an area of 2 acres was inaugurated at Ranikhet in Almora district of Uttarakhand.

- ◆ This conservatory is funded under the Central Government's CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority) scheme and is developed by the research wing of Uttarakhand Forest Department.

Aim behind Grass Conservatory:

- ◆ To create awareness about the importance of grass species, promote their conservation, and facilitate research in the field, Need behind Grass Conservatory:
- ◆ Grasslands are facing various types of threats and their area is shrinking resulting in endangering the entire ecosystem of insects, birds, and mammals dependent on them. In order to cope up with this degradation, this conservatory has been developed.

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About Grass Conservatory :

- ◆ Around 90 different grass species segmented in seven different categories of grass species including aromatic, medicinal, fodder, ornamental, agricultural, and religious uses.
- ◆ Notably, as per research, grasslands are more effective in 'carbon sequestration' than forest land. Therefore this conservatory will cater the same. iii. Also, grasses are economically the most important of all flowering plants because of their nutritious grain and soil forming function.

About Uttarakhand :

- ◆ Chief Minister- Pushkar Singh Dhami
- ◆ Tiger reserve- Corbett Tiger Reserve, Rajaji Tiger Reserve

Gen Bipin Rawat inaugurates 14th edition of Cyber Security Conference 'cOcOn'

The 14th edition of Cyber Security 'cOcOn', an annual Hacking and Cyber Security Conference, was inaugurated by Chief of Defense Staff General Bipin Rawat and conducted in virtual format from November 10-13, 2021.

Theme for cOcOn 2021 - 'Improvise, Adapt and Overcome'.

- ◆ The conference was conducted by the Kerala police in association with two Non-Profit organisations, Society for the Policing of Cyberspace (POLCYB) and Information Security Research Association (ISRA).

Objective :

- ◆ To discuss at the international level the challenges facing the digital world during the COVID period and the solutions needed to overcome them

Key Highlights :

- ◆ The conference provides information on cyber security issues, enhancement of law enforcement through the improvement of the technical and administrative capabilities towards future challenges.
- ◆ Online security is beneficial even to children in the state where many crimes are taking place with the shift to online classes.
- ◆ The main focus is on Cyber-attacks on critical infrastructures, quantum computing, automotive cyber security, drone attacks detections using deep learning, data security and privacy
- ◆ The Kerala police will encourage women into Cyber security and provide equal opportunity for leadership

1st Janjatiya Gaurav Divas -15th November 2021

India observed the first ever Janjatiya Gaurav Divas (Tribal Pride Day) on 15th November 2021. The day marks the birth anniversary of Amar Shaheed Bhagwan Birsa Munda (Birsa Munda), a tribal leader who fought against British rule in India.

- ◆ The day also recognises the contribution of the tribal community who were a part of the freedom struggle and their efforts to preserve their cultural heritage.

Background :

- ◆ On 10th November 2021, the Union Cabinet of India chaired by Prime Minister (PM)

Narendra Modi declared the 15th November of every year as the Janjatiya Gaurav Divas to mark the birth anniversary of Birsa Munda who is considered as God (Bhagwan) by tribal communities across India.

Janjatiya Gaurav Divas Mahasammelan :

- ◆ Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi visited Madhya Pradesh(MP) to participate in Janjatiya Gaurav Divas Mahasammelan held at Jamburi Maidan, Bhopal, MP as a part of the Janjatiya Gaurav Divas.
- ◆ PM Inaugurated Bhopal's Habibganj Railway Station Renamed After Rani Kamalapati:
- ◆ On the occasion of 1st Janjatiya Gaurav Divas, PM Modi inaugurated the redeveloped Rani Kamalapati Railway Station, Bhopal, MP.
- ◆ The Habibganj railway station was renamed after Rani Kamalapati, the first Gond queen of Bhopal.

3rd Trilateral Maritime Exercise 'SITMEX-21' held between India, Singapore and Thailand in Andaman Sea

The 3rd edition of India, Singapore and Thailand Trilateral Maritime Exercise SITMEX-21 was held on November 15-16, 2021 in Andaman Sea as a 'noncontact, at sea only' exercise in view of COVID-19 restrictions.

- ◆ It was hosted by the Royal Thai Navy (RTN).
- ◆ Indian Navy (IN) was represented by INS (Indian Naval Ship) Karmuk, a 1350 tonne indigenously built Missile Corvette.

About Indian Navy :

- ◆ Chief of Naval Staff (CNS)- Admiral Karambir Singh

- ◆ **Navy Day- 4th December** (annually celebrated to commemorate the victory of 1971 Indo-Pakistan war)
- ◆ **Integrated Headquarters of Ministry of Defence (Navy)- New Delhi, Delhi**

PM Modi launches 'Ration Aapke Gram' scheme and 'Sickle Cell Mission in Madhya Pradesh

On 15th November 2021, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi inaugurated a series of Tribal Welfare programmes on his visit to Madhya Pradesh. PM Modi launched a welfare scheme named 'Ration Aapke Gram' scheme & 'Sickle Cell Mission' of Madhya Pradesh. He also laid the foundation stone for construction of 50 new Eklavya Model Residential Schools across India. i. The Indian Government decided to celebrate 15th November as the 'Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas' or 'Tribal Gaurav Diwas', every year starting from 2021.

Tribal Gaurav Diwas is celebrated on the birth anniversary of one of India's greatest tribal leaders - Bhagwan Birsa Munda.

The Inauguration made by PM Modi matched with the celebration of 1st ever Tribal Gaurav Diwas.

About Madhya Pradesh:

- ◆ **Governor - Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel**
- ◆ **Festivals - Lokrang Festival, Khajuraho Dance Festival, Bhagoria Haat Festival Tribes - Bhil, Gond, Kol, Korku, Sahariya, Baiga**

Fisheries Minister Parshottam Rupala Launches 'Nationwide AHDF KCC Campaign'

Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying (FAHD) Parshottam Rupala virtually launched the 'Nationwide AHDF (Animal Husbandry, Dairying, and Fisheries) KCC campaign' to expand the benefit of Kisan Credit Card to all eligible animal husbandry, dairy, and fishery farmers in India.

- ◆ The campaign, which is scheduled to be held for 3 months from November 15, 2021, to February 15, 2022, was organised by Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, in association with the Department of Fisheries (DOF) and the Department of Financial Services (DFS).
- ◆ The government is targeting to enrol around 2 crore people in the next 3 months.
- ◆ Over 14 lakhs fresh AHDF KCC has been sanctioned through a Special Drive which was organized in 2020 from June 1, 2020, to December 31, 2020, by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying in association with the Department of Financial Services, for providing AHDF KCC to eligible dairy farmers of Milk Cooperatives and Milk Producer Companies.

Note :

- ◆ On February 04, 2019, RBI has extended the KCC facility to Animal Husbandry farmers and Fisheries to support them to meet their working capital requirements.

About Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (FAHD) :

- ◆ **Union Minister - Parshottam Rupala** (Constituency - Gujarat)

- ◆ Minister of State - Sanjeev Kumar Balyan (Constituency - Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh)

India's first Food Museum launched in Thanjavur, TN by Union Minister Piyush Goyal

On November 15, 2021, Union Minister, Piyush Vedprakash Goyal virtually launched India's first Digital Food Museum in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu (TN). It is 1,860 -sqft museum co-developed by Food Corporation of India (FCI) and Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museums, Bengaluru (Karnataka) with an estimated outlay of Rs 1.1 crore.

- ◆ This museum showcases the Indian food evolution from nomadic hunter gatherers into settled agriculture producers will function from 11 am to 5 pm on all working days.
- ◆ Thanjavur is the cultural capital of Tamil Nadu.

Key Points :

- ◆ The technologies used in this museum are projection mapping, Radio Frequency Identification (RFID), touch screen kiosk, proximity sensors and touch sensors.
- ◆ It displays the ancient grain storage methods (both global and indigenous) and challenges in storage besides information about the journey of FCI.
- ◆ India is the 5th largest agricultural exporter in the world.
- ◆ Central Government is also establishing 10 tribal freedom fighters museums to acknowledge their contribution.

About Tamil Nadu :

- ◆ Chief Minister- Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin
- ◆ Wildlife Sanctuaries- Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary, Anaimalai Tiger Reserve, earlier known as Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary, Point Calimere Wildlife Sanctuary
- ◆ Biosphere Reserves- Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve, Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve, and Agasthiyarmalai Biosphere Reserve

6th India France Joint Military Exercise Ex-Shakthi 2021 Commences at Frejus

The 6th edition of India-France joint military exercise 'EX-SHAKTI 2021' commenced on 15th November 2021 at the southeastern French port town of Frejus, France. EX-SHAKTI is a biennial training exercise which is conducted alternatively in India and France.

- ◆ The joint exercise is being conducted from 15 to 26 November 2021.
- ◆ Focus - Counter-Terrorism operations in semi-urban terrain under the United Nations Mandate.

Note :

- ◆ The previous edition of Exercise SHAKTI was conducted at Foreign Training Node in Mahajan Field Firing Ranges, Rajasthan from October 31 to November 13, 2019.

About Indian Navy :

- ◆ Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) - Admiral Karambir Singh (24th CNS)
- ◆ Integrated Headquarters - New Delhi, Delhi.

About France :

- ◆ President - Emmanuel Macron
- ◆ Capital - Paris
- ◆ Currency – Euro

India launches 41st Scientific Expedition to Antarctica

India's Ministry of Earth Sciences launched the 41st Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica (41st ISEA) in November 2021. The first batch of 23 scientists and support staff has reached the Indian Antarctic station Maitri.

- ◆ The expedition has 48 members leaving for over winter at Antarctica and on return the vessel brings back the members of 40th expedition.
- ◆ Four more batches will be landing in Antarctica by air using DROMLAN facility and onboard chartered ice-class vessel MV Vasilii Golovnin by mid-January 2022.

About National Centre for Polar & Ocean Research (NCPOR) :

- ◆ Director - M.Ravichandran
- ◆ Headquarters - Vasco-da-Gama, Goa
- ◆ About Ministry of Earth Sciences
- ◆ Union Minister - Jitendra Singh
- ◆ Headquarters - New Delhi, Delhi

National Newborn Week 2021 - November 15-21

National Newborn Week is annually observed across India from 15th to 21st November to highlight the importance of newborn health as a vital area of the health sector and about the importance of the newborn case for child survival and development

- ◆ The theme of National Newborn Week 2021 is "Safety, Quality and nurturing Case-Birth Right of every newborn".

- ◆ The theme aims to ensure that every newborn is supported with quality health care at all service delivery platforms such as facility, community outreach and homes.

Significance :

- ◆ The reduction of newborn mortality rate and the week-long observance, dedicated to creating awareness about newborn health was conceptualised by former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

President Ram Nath Kovind Promulgate 2 Ordinances extending tenure of CBI and ED Directors for up to 5 years

On November 14, 2021, President Ram Nath Kovind signed two ordinances promulgated by the Ministry of Law and Justice amending the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946 with Delhi Special Police Establishment (Amendment) Ordinance 2021; and Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003 with Central Vigilance Commission (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021 to extend the tenure of Directors of probe agencies Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED) up to five years from current 2 years. Both ordinances will come into effect immediately.

- ◆ With the above amendments, the Central government also amended the Rule 56 (d) Fundamental Rules (FR), 1922 to bring them in sync with above amendments.
- ◆ It should be noted that the DSPE Act is the parent law for the CBI, and the Central Vigilance Act covers the appointment of the ED director.

What is in the ordinances?

- ◆ As per the ordinances, the central Government can extend the Directors' tenure of CBI and ED by a year for three consecutive years once they complete their fixed two-year term.
- ◆ Means their tenures can now be up to a maximum of five years from the present two years.

Note :

- ◆ Current ED Director is Sanjay Kumar Mishra (Set to Retire on November 17, 2021) \& Current CBI Director - Subodh Kumar Jaiswal

Key Points :

- ◆ No extension in tenure will be granted after the total 5 years.
- ◆ It should be noted that the initial fixed term of two years was aimed at ensuring the chiefs of CBI and ED work free from government interference without worrying about any adverse action by them.
- ◆ The original Rule 56 (d) of FR 1922 pertained to top functionaries like home secretary, defence secretary, foreign secretary, and chiefs of the Intelligence Bureau (IB) and Research \& Analysis Wing (RAW), whose tenures could be extended by the government up to a maximum of two years and beyond as specified.
- ◆ The amended Rule 56 (d) included directors of the ED and the CBI along with above,
- ◆ The Amended Fundamental Rules now allows the Centre to give extension in the public interest to the Defence Secretary, Home Secretary, Director of Intelligence Bureau

(IB), Secretary of Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) and directors of CBI and ED on a case-to-case basis, subject to the condition that the total term of such secretaries or directors, "does not exceed two years or the period provided in the respective Act or rules made thereunder"

- ◆ The ED Director is appointed by the central government on the recommendation of a committee chaired by the Central Vigilance Commissioner and members comprising of Vigilance Commissioners, Home Secretary, Secretary DOPT (Department of Personnel and Training) and Revenue Secretary. The ordinance shall be inserted in section 4 (1) of the DSPE Act, 1946.
- ◆ On the other hand, the Director CBI is selected on the basis of the recommendation of a committee consisting of the Prime Minister, the Chief of Justice of India and the Leader of Opposition. If there is no recognized leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha, then the leader of the single largest opposition party in the Lok Sabha would be a member of that committee.

India's 1st Fisheries Business Incubation Centre launched in Gurugram Haryana

Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (FAHD) Parshottam Rupala launched the India's first-of-its kind, dedicated business incubator known as LINAC-NCDC Fisheries Business Incubation Centre (LIFIC) in Gurugram, Haryana.

- ◆ The LIFIC is built at a cost of 3.23 crore to nurture fisheries start-ups under real market-led conditions.

- ◆ National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) is an implementing agency for the LIFC.

Note :

- ◆ Union Minister Rupala also inaugurated Sardar Patel Auditorium at the LINAC premises.

About Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (FAHD) :

- ◆ Union Minister - Parshottam Rupala (Constituency- Gujarat)
- ◆ Minister of State - Sanjeev Kumar Balyan (Constituency - Muzaffarnagar, Uttarpradesh)

About National Cooperative Development Corporation

- ◆ Established - 1963
- ◆ Headquarters - New Delhi, Delhi
- ◆ Managing Director - Sundeep Kumar Nayak

MHA approves new Rajya Sainik Board for Ladakh for Sainik Welfare

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) approved the establishment of Rajya Sainik Board for the Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh responsible for welfare and resettlement of 60,000 ex-servicemen, war widows, widows, non-combatants, serving personnel, including their dependents.

- ◆ It will be headed by a director.

Key Points :

- ◆ The board is the apex body under which Zila Sainik Welfare Offices, Leh and Kargil will function on all matters related to the welfare and resettlement of exservicemen.

- ◆ It will also act as a bridge between the Centre and the UT administration for implementing various policies for Sainik welfare under the Raksha Mantri Exservicemen Welfare Fund or as laid down by the Ministry of Defence \$(M o D)\$. iii.The Ladakh Scouts regiment will accrue maximum benefit from the welfare schemes as the majority of ex-servicemen availing benefits belongs to this regiment.

About Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) :

- ◆ Union Minister- Amit Shah (Constituency- Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat) Ministers of State- Nityanand Rai (Constituency- Ujiarpur, Bihar), Ajay Kumar Mishra (Constituency- Kheri, Uttar Pradesh)

Indian Army and IAF Conducts Joint Airlift Exercise- 'Op Hercules'

On 15th November 2021, the Indian Air Force (IAF) and Indian Army conducted a joint airlift exercise, 'Op Hercules' to strengthen the logistics supply in the Northern sector and to augment winter stocking in the operational areas.

- ◆ The platforms utilised for the airlift were C-17 and IL-76 and An-32 aircraft, which took off from one of the forward bases of Western Air Command.
- ◆ The airlift is a real-time demonstration of the Indian Air Force in ensuring the ability to quickly respond to any contingency during the past.

Note :

- ◆ In October 2021, India conducted its 1st Tri-Service Exercise with the United Kingdom, named as "Konkan Shakti 2021.

About Indian Army :

- ◆ Headquarters - New Delhi, Delhi
- ◆ Commander-in-chief - President of India (Ram Nath Kovind)
- ◆ Motto- "SEVA ASMAKAM DHARMA" or "Service is our Creed"

About India Air Force :

- ◆ Headquarters - New Delhi, Delhi
- ◆ Chief of the Air Marshall - Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari
- ◆ Motto (2021) - "Touch the Sky with Glory"

Secretary of DOT K. Rajaram Inaugurated Public Procurement Policy Portal for Telecom Product

K. Rajaraman, Secretary, Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and Chairman, Digital Communication Commission (DCC), inaugurated the Public Procurement Policy (Make In India) portal for Telecom Product.

- ◆ The portal will enable the manufacturers/vendors and other stakeholders to register their grievances and track the status of their complaints.

Other Inaugurations :

- ◆ He released the technical report on 'Emerging Communication Technologies and Use Cases in the Internet of Things (IoT) Domain', Concept paper on 'Optical Fibre & Cable in Indian Telecom
- ◆ Network', and the 'TEC (Telecommunication Engineering Centre) Handbook-2021' documented by IoT, Regional TECs and Regional Coordination \$(R C)\$ Division of TEC respectively.

- ◆ He inaugurated the Nationwide Mandatory Testing and Certification of Telecom Equipment (MTCTE) Helpdesk and Evaluation Centre infrastructure and Control Lab, situated in TEC premises.
- ◆ K. Rajaraman along with DCC Member Deepak Chaturvedi, Member (Services) and other senior officers of DoT visited the TEC labs such as IOT Experience Centre, IPV6 (Internet Protocol version 6), and Green Passport lab.

About Ministry of Communications :

- ◆ Union Minister - Ashwini Vaishnaw (Constituency - Odisha)
- ◆ Minister of State - Devusinh Chauhan (Constituency - Kheda, Gujarat)

Cabinet Approval on November 17, 2021

On November 17, 2021, the Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved - the 4G, mobile services in over 7,000 uncovered villages of 44 Aspirational Districts across 5 states and continuation of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)-I and PMGSY-II up to September 2022 & approved continuation of Road Connectivity Project for Left Wing Extremism Affected Areas (RCPLWEA) upto March, 2023.

Key Points :

- ◆ The Cabinet has approved a project to provide 4 G based mobile services in the 7,287 uncovered villages of 44 Aspirational Districts across five States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, and Odisha at an estimated cost of

implementation about Rs 6,466 crore including operational expenses for 5 years.

- ◆ The project will be funded by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) and it is projected to be completed within 18 months after signing the Agreement and likely to be completed by November 23.
- ◆ Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the proposals by the Union Rural Development Ministry for continuation of the PMGSY-I and PMGSY-II up to September 2022 to complete road and bridge works.
- ◆ The cabinet cleared a proposal to lay 32, 152 km of roads in remote areas of the country at a cost of Rs 33,822 crore, out of which, the Centre would spend Rs 22,978 crore.
- ◆ A total of Rs 1,12,419 crore, including state share, is expected to be incurred from 2021-22 to 2024-25 for completion of all the ongoing interventions of PMGSY.
- ◆ The CCEA also approved continuation of the Road Connectivity Project for Left Wing Extremism Affected Areas (RCPLWEA) up to March, 2023

About Ministry of Rural Development :

- ◆ Union Minister - Giriraj Singh (Constituency - Begusarai, Bihar) Minister of State - Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti (Constituency - Fatehpur, Uttar Pradesh), Faggan Singh Kulaste (Constituency - Mandla, Madhya Pradesh)

Ministry of FPI Signs MoU with DAHD, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (MoFAH&D) to provide benefits to beneficiaries of various schemes of MoFPI and DAHD.

- ◆ The beneficiaries will get credit support in establishing dairy processing, meat processing, animal feed plants etc.

Signatories :

- ◆ The agreement was signed in the presence of Union Minister of MoFPI, Pashupati Kumar Paras, Union Minister of MoFAH&D, Prahlad Singh Patel and other ministers.

Objective :

- ◆ To achieve the goal for income generation, sustainable development of the rural poor & their economic empowerment through the extension of various schemes of MoFPI and DAHD.

What is in the MoU?

- ◆ Under this agreement the MoFPI and DAHD will work together and facilitate the beneficiaries to avail the benefits under the Prime Minister (PM) Kisan Sampada Yojana and PM Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises Scheme of the MoFPI and dairy development schemes of DAHD. Note- India is the world's largest producer and consumer of milk & milk products.

- ◆ The help will be provided in the form of financial assistance for strengthening of quality controls, value addition, infrastructure development and technology assistance.
- ◆ It will also encourage beneficiaries to avail benefits with facilitation for various activities which include Food Safety and Quality Assurance, dairy processing and value addition, meat processing & value addition, and animal feed, etc.

About Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) :

- ◆ Union Minister- Narendra Singh Tomar (Morena, Madhya Pradesh)
- ◆ Minister of State- Rameswar Teli (Dibrugarh, Assam)
- ◆ Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying_(MoFAH&D).
- ◆ Union Minister- Parshottam Khodabhai Rupala (Gujarat)
- ◆ Minister of State- Sanjeev Kumar Balyan (Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh), Dr Loganathan Murugan (Tamil Nadu)

India's 1st LIGO Project to come up in Hingoli, Maharashtra

On 17th November 2021, Maharashtra's Hingoli revenue department allotted 225 hectares of land at Dudhala in Aundha Nagnath town for setting-up India's 1st Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) project.

Aim :

- ◆ To Study Gravitational waves arriving to earth from cataclysmic events in the distant universe, and carry out experiments on them.

- ◆ LIGO India project will be built by by the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST)

Other Space Observatories in India :

- ◆ Mount Abu InfraRed Observatory (MIRO) - Mount Abu, Rajasthan
- ◆ Devasthal Optical Telescope - Nainital, Uttarakhand
- ◆ Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT) - Khodad, Maharashtra
- ◆ Stargate Observatory - Bhimtal, Uttarakhand

BDL inks Export Contract worth USD 21 million with Airbus Defense and Space for CMDS

On November 17,2021, Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) signed an export contract under which it will supply Counter Measures Dispensing System (CMDS) to Airbus Defense & Space, Spain. The contract value is estimated at USD 21 million.

Signatories :

- ◆ The export contract was inked by NP Diwakar, Director (Technical) BDL and Arnal Didier Dominique, Sr Vice President Airbus Defense and Space, at Bengaluru (Karnataka).

Point to be noted :

- ◆ BDL is also offering Akash Weapon System (surface-to-air missile), Astra Weapon System (air-to-air missile), Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon & Helina (air-to-surface weapon), Light Weight Torpedo and Heavy Weight Torpedo (underwater weapons), Counter Measures Dispensing System among others to friendly foreign nations.

About Bharat Dynamics Limited

- ◆ Chairman & Managing Director (CMD)- Commodore Siddharth Mishra (Retd)
- ◆ Headquarter- Hyderabad, Telangana

Giriraj Singh inaugurates 'Bhumi Samvaad' launches 'ULPIN' and NGDRS Portal

In November 2021, Giriraj Singh, Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj inaugurated 'Bhumi Samvaad' - a National Workshop on Digital India Land Record Modernisation Programme (DILRMP) at India Habitat Centre in New Delhi.

During the occasion, he also launched the Unique Land Parcel Identification Numbers (ULPIN) across India, and launched the National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS) portal and Dashboard.

Note :

- ◆ India targets for complete digitization of all land records by March 2023

About Ministry of Rural Development :

- ◆ Union Minister - Giriraj Singh (Begusarai, Bihar)
- ◆ Minister of State - Faggansingh Kulaste (Mandla, Madhya Pradesh); Niranjan Jyoti (Fatehpur, Uttar Pradesh)

Govt Procures Jaguar Flight Simulators from Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd

On 18th November 2021 Ministry of Defence signed a contract with the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the procurement of two simulators for Jaguar Aircraft at a cost of Rs. 357 crore.

- ◆ The contract is signed for procurement of two Fixed Base Full Mission Simulators (FBFMS) for Jaguar aircraft from HAL for IAF with five years comprehensive annual maintenance contract

Key Highlights :

- ◆ The simulators will be installed at AirForce station Jamnagar and Gorakhpur. ii.The simulators will help the Indian Air Force in enhancing the quality of its flying training to higher standards by exposing the pilots to various contingencies in the entire operating envelope.

Note :

- ◆ The first FBFMS with associated equipment shall be completed within 27 months from the signing of the contract at Air Force station Jamnagar -The 2nd FBFMS shall be completed within 36 months from the contract Air Force station Gorakhpur.

About Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) :

- ◆ Established - 1964
- ◆ Headquarters - Bengaluru, Karnataka
- ◆ Chairman & Managing Director - R Madhavan

Indian Navy Conducts Security Exercise 'Prasthan' in Western ODA off the Mumbai Coast

The Indian Navy conducted a security exercise, called "Prasthan", in the Offshore Development Area (ODA) off the coast of Mumbai.

- ◆ The exercise is conducted by Headquarters Western Naval Command, every six months.

- ◆ The exercise was conducted on the Mumbai High North (MHN) platform of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) located about 94 nautical miles west of Mumbai.

Objective :

- ◆ To ensure offshore security and integrate maritime stakeholders including the Navy, Airforce, Coast Guard, ONGC, Port Trust, Customs, State Fisheries department and Marine Police, towards refining Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for response to various contingencies that could occur in the ODAs

Key Points :

- ◆ The drill focused on contingencies such as terrorist intrusion, bomb explosion, major fire, oil spill, man overboard, casualty evacuation, loss of control of vessel and mass evacuation.
- ◆ The 'Exercise Prasthan' encourages coordinated operations and readiness to respond and combat contingencies in western ODAs.

About Indian Navy :

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

About Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC):

- ◆ ONGC is the largest crude oil and natural gas Company in India Chairman \& Managing Director - Subhash Kumar
- ◆ Established - 1956
- ◆ Headquarters - Vasant Kunj, New Delhi

November 19 celebrated as the 'National Integration Day' in India

National Integration Day also known as 'Quami Ekta Diwas' is celebrated every year on November 19 to commemorate the birthday of India's first Woman Prime Minister (PM) - Indira Gandhi. The year 2021 marks the 104th birth anniversary celebration of Indira Gandhi.

- ◆ National Integration Day was created in her honor as a way to encourage all Indians to integrate, regardless of race or religion.
- ◆ slogans by Indira Gandhi - "People tend to forget their duties but remember their rights" and "Garibi Hatao" ("Remove poverty")

Key Points :

- ◆ It is celebrated in Schools, colleges, and universities across India to remember Indira Gandhi's leadership and the ways in which she changed the country.
- ◆ The celebration of National Integration Day is carried out for an entire week with different themes associated with each following day.

About Indira Gandhi :

- ◆ Indira Gandhi (Indira Priyadarshini Gandhi Nehru), the first woman Prime Minister of India, was born on 19th of November 1917 in Allahabad. She was the daughter of the first Indian PM Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.
- ◆ Political career- She became a Cabinet member under Lal Bahadur Shastri's govt. and served as the Minister for Information and Broadcasting in 1964 , later in 1966 she became the Prime Minister of India.

MSME Minister Narayan Rane Launches SCLCSS for Service Sector

On 19th November 2021 Union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Narayan Tatu Rane launched the Special Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme for the Services Sector of the MSME North East Conclave to boost production in the North-eastern region

- ◆ Narayan Tatu Rane also laid the foundation stone of the Flatted Factory complex at Patgaon in Kamrup (Metro) district.

Focus :

- ◆ The scheme will help in meeting the technology-related requirements of enterprises in the service sector.
- ◆ The scheme provides a 25% capital subsidy for procurement of Plant and Machinery including service equipment through institutional credit to the SC-ST entrepreneurs without any sector-specific restrictions.

Significance of North East MSME Conclave :

- ◆ The Union Government has revised the 2020-2021 budget estimates to outlay Rs \$566.42\$ crore exclusively for the region that comprises Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura.
- ◆ During Financial Year 2021 (FY21) a total number of 2,437 new units under the Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) were assisted with a subsidy of Rs 62.71 Crore.

Note :

- ◆ MSME sector consists of over 6 crore units employing over 11 crore people in India and contributes over 30 percent Indian GDP and 49 per cent of overall exports from India.

Highlights of North-East MSME Conclave :

- ◆ The North East MSME Conclave encourages entrepreneurship and increases competitiveness of MSME entrepreneurs in India to become a 5 trillion USD economy.
- ◆ It will help to initiate dialogues among the state governments in the region and eventually in better planning and execution of policies.
- ◆ As of 18th November 2021, the number of Udyam registered MSMEs across the North East region were: 1,963 in Arunachal Pradesh; 59,155 in Assam; 1,647 in Meghalaya; 2,466 in Mizoram; 2,340 in Nagaland; 1,158 in Sikkim and 5,337 in Tripura.

About Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME):

- ◆ Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise was introduced by the Government of India in agreement with the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act, 2006.
- ◆ MSME is initiated and managed under the Ministry of MSME (MoMSME).
- ◆ Union Minister - Narayan Tatu Rane (Constituency - Maharashtra) Minister of State - Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma (Constituency Jalaun, Uttar Pradesh)

Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia inaugurates curtain raiser event about Wings, India 2022



On November 18, 2021, Union Minister Jyotiraditya Madhavrao Scindia, Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) inaugurated a curtain raiser of the 5th edition of Asia's largest event on Civil Aviation (Commercial, General and Business Aviation) namely 'Wings India, 2022'.

- ◆ This biennial event is scheduled on March 24-27, 2022 at Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad on the theme 'India@75: New Horizon for Aviation Industry'.
- ◆ It will be organized by MoCA, Airports Authority of India (AAI) and FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry) with the support of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

Key Points :

- ◆ India's aviation industry aims to become the third largest air passenger market by 2024. It expects to have around 220 airports in the next five to seven years.
- ◆ In the last seven years, the number of airports has been almost doubled to 136 by adding 62 more aerodromes. Earlier, it was only 74

airports, For affordable air connectivity, Government of India (GoI) had announced Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)- UDAN (UdeDesh Ka Aam Nagrik) in October 2016.

- ◆ As on date, 387 routes connecting 62 Airports including 6 Heliports and 2 Water Aerodromes have been made operational under RCSUDAN Scheme.

About Wings India 2022 :

- ◆ The event aims to bring together the key stakeholders of the Global Aviation market, International regulators, States Governments and business associations representing airlines, to facilitate direct interaction with various airlines, airport operators, cargo operators and other players.
- ◆ It will focus on every segment of the aviation industry including Drones, Aircraft & Helicopter Manufacturers, Space Industry, Airlines, Airline Services & Air Cargo, Aircraft Machinery & Equipment Companies, Airport Infrastructure, Skill development, Aircraft Interior, Aircraft Technologies & Innovation, Air Navigation Equipment Suppliers and Service Providers.

Participants :

- ◆ Minister of State (MoS), General Vijay Kumar Singh; Secretary, Civil Aviation Rajiv Bansal; and senior officials of MoCA

Union Minister Jitendra Singh Inaugurates World's Most Sophisticated MRI Facility at NBRC

The union minister for Science and Technology, Jitendra Singh, launched the first of its kind, latest, world's most

sophisticated MRI (Magnetic resonance imaging) facility, MRI Scanner Prisma from Siemens, Germany, at the National Brain Research Centre (NBRC), Manesar, Haryana.

- ◆ The new facility could reduce the scanning time for patients by almost a quarter from earlier-generation machines by running intense scanning modalities very fast.

Key Points :

- ◆ The new MRI Scanner facility is used to develop human cohort data for patients who are suffering from common brain and mental health disorders including Parkinson's Disease, Alziemer's Disease, anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), bipolar, anxiety, depression etc.
- ◆ The machine could detect and quantify highly sensitive receptors and antioxidants from the brain. It is also equipped to detect sodium levels and heavy metal deposition in the brain due to pollution/other factors.
- ◆ The facility is being used by many international initiatives, like the Brain initiative of the USA, and the European human brain project.
- ◆ The minister also had a meeting with the Director, senior scientists, and officials of the NBRC, and insisted them to make a Special Intervention Study on Alzheimer.

About National Brain Research Centre (NBRC) :

- ◆ NBRC is India's premier institute dedicated to Neuroscience Research and Education. It undertakes basic research to understand brain function in health and disease.
- ◆ NBRC is an autonomous institute funded by the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India.

- ◆ It was established in 1999 as an autonomous institution under the Societies Registration Act of 1860.
- ◆ Headquarters -Gurugram, Haryana
- ◆ Director - Pravat Kumar Mandal

Odisha Celebrates 'Boita Bandana' Festival



On 19th November 2021 Karthika Purnima, which is also known as Boita Bandana is celebrated at various water bodies of Odisha.

- ◆ People congregated in large numbers at sea beaches, river ghats and near other water bodies despite the restrictions imposed on mass gatherings at public places by Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) to prevent transmission of COVID-19.
- ◆ Devotees were largely seen on the banks of Bindusagar lake, Kuakhai and Daya rivers to perform the boat-sailing ritual.

Background:

- ◆ The festival is the maritime tradition that is celebrated as a testament to the maritime trade history of Kalinga, traders and mariners known as sadhabas travelled on boitas (boats) to trade with distant island nations that share borders with the Bay of Bengal like Indonesia, Java, Sumatra and Bali.

Significance :

- ◆ Kartik Purnima is celebrated on the full moon day during the month of Karthik for 5 days and the days are Tulsi Vivah, Bhishma Panchaka, Vaikunth Chaturdashi, and Dev Diwali.
- ◆ The celebrations of Kartik Purnima begin on the day of Prabodhini Ekadashi or Devuthanna Ekadashi which falls on the eleventh day and Purnima is observed on the fifteenth day of Kartika month.
- ◆ On this day small boats made of the banana stem are floated by people to commemorate the rich maritime glory of the state.

About Odisha :

- ◆ Ports - Gopalpur port, Paradip Port, Dhamra Port Ramsar sites - Bhitarkanika Mangroves, Chilika Lake
- ◆ Stadium - Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium (Multipurpose- indoor), East Coast Railway Stadium (cricket - outdoor)

Enrollment in govt schools rose by 5 percentage points in 2021: ASER Survey 2021

The latest Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) survey highlighting the transition in the education system in the country was released by Wilima Wadhwa, Director, ASER Centre. As per the report, children enrollment in government schools has increased from 65.8 % in 2020 to 70.3 in 2021 . It was 64.3 % in 2018.

The report was prepared based on a phone survey covering 75,234 children aged 5-16 across 581 rural districts in 25 states.

About Annual Status of Education Report (ASER)

- ◆ It is a nationwide survey of rural education and learning outcomes in terms of reading and arithmetic skills that has been conducted by the NGO Pratham for the last 15 years.
- ◆ ASER 2020 is the first ever phone-based ASER survey and it was conducted in September 2020, the sixth month of national school closures.

Highlights of 3-day 'Rashtra Raksha Samparpan Parv' held in Jhansi, UP

The 3-day 'Rashtra Raksha Samarpan Parv' was held in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh (UP) from November 17-19, 2021 as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahaotsav' celebration.

- ◆ The event was inaugurated by Minister of Defence, Rajnath Singh in Jhansi, UP on November 17, 2021. It was organised along with the Government of UP.

Highlights of Different Initiatives Inaugurated at the event :

- ◆ At the event, in Mahoba, UP, the Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi participated and dedicated various developmental projects including the Arjun Sahayak Project, Ratauli Weir Project, Bhaoni Dam Project, and Majhgaon-Chilli Sprinkler Project.
- ◆ The PM also inaugurated Atal Ekta Park in Jhansi, UP, which is named after former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee. It was built at a cost of over Rs 11 crore.

- ◆ During the 'Rashtra Raksha Samarpan Parv', PM handed over the indigenously built Light Combat Helicopters (LCH), developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, to the Indian Air Force (IAF) chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari as a part of boosting the nation's selfreliance in the defence sector.
- ◆ The PM handed over the Advanced Electronic Warfare suite 'Shakti' for the naval warships to the Indian Navy chief Admiral Karambir Singh.
- ◆ The PM also referred to the setting up of 100 Sainik schools.
- ◆ Recently, the Cabinet approved the setting up of 100 Sainik Schools throughout India.
- ◆ The 3-day 'Rashtra Raksha Samarpan Parv' event ended with the 193rd birth anniversary of Rani Lakshmi Bai on November 19, 2021.

About Ministry of Defence :

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

IPF Survey on SMART Policing 2021: Telangana, Andhra Pradesh Tops; Bihar, UP Lowest

Almost 7 years after the launch of the SMART policing, a Delhi-based think tank, IPF (Indian Police Foundation) has published a survey named 'IPF Citizen Satisfaction Survey on SMART Policing, 2021 to identify the public perception of the police.

- ◆ As per the survey, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have the highest 'SMART policing index' scores of 8.11 and 8.1 respectively on a

scale of 1-10. Uttar Pradesh and Bihar scored the lowest score of 5.81 and 5.74 respectively.

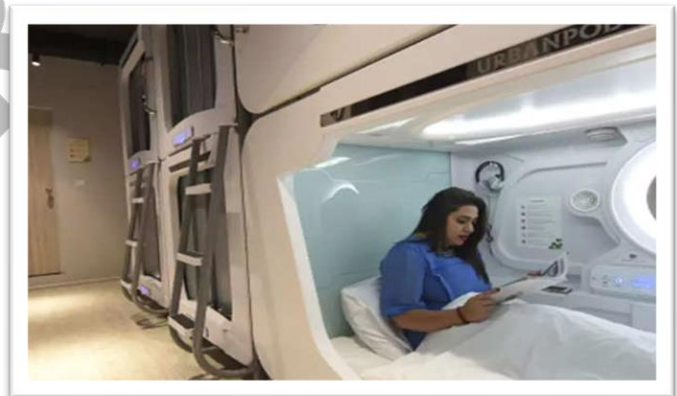
Background :

- ◆ The SMART Policing idea was introduced in 2014 by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Conference of DGPs (Director General of Police) of State and Central Police Organizations, to transform the Indian Police to be SMART.

About IPF (Indian Police Foundation) :

- ◆ Establishment - 2015
- ◆ Headquarters - New Delhi, Delhi
- ◆ President - N Ramachandran

IRCTC: Rail Minister Inaugurated India's 1st Pod Hotel at Mumbai Central Railway Station



Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and Indian Railways have developed India's first state of the art Pod Hotel (Pod concept retiring room), named 'Urban Pod' at Mumbai Central Railway station. The facility was virtually inaugurated by Raosaheb Dadarao Patil Danve, Minister of State of Railways, Coal and Mines.

- ◆ Urban Pod Pvt Ltd has been awarded the contract to Set-up, Operate and Manage the POD hotel for 9 years.
- ◆ The facility of approx. 3000 ft consists of a total Pod inventory of 48.
- ◆ A capsule hotel or Pod hotel was first developed in Japan.

VP Venkaiah Naidu inaugurates 24th Bengaluru Tech Summit

Vice President (VP) Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the 24th edition of Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS), Asia's Largest Technology Event, that was conducted between 17th to 19th November in the Hybrid format. For the 1st time, BTS hosted the United States (US) Tech Conclave.

- ◆ Theme of 2021 BTS - 'Driving the Next'

International Representation :

- ◆ This year's event saw the virtual participation of Australian PM Scott Morrison and Israeli PM Naftali Bennett.
- ◆ BTS 2021 saw participation from over 30 countries, including the 1st time participation from South Africa, Vietnam and the UAE.

Establishment of Australia-India Centre of Excellence :

- ◆ During his address, Australian PM Scott Morrison, announced the establishment of the Australia-India Centre of Excellence for Critical and Emerging Technology Policy in Bangalore, Karnataka.

About Karnataka :

- ◆ Governor - Thawar Chand Gehlot
- ◆ Coorg is nicknamed as 'Scotland of India'
- ◆ Bangalore is nicknamed as 'Garden City of India'
- ◆ Tiger Reserve - Kali Tiger Reserve, Bhadra Tiger Reserve

Airbus Defence and Space Signed Pact with BEL to manufacture and Supply RWR and MAWS

Airbus Defence and Space, an aircraft manufacturer, has signed a contract with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Indian Government-owned aerospace and defence electronics company, for the manufacture and supply of Radar Warning Receiver (RWR) and Missile Approach Warning System (MAWS).

- ◆ This is a part of Airbus's Offset commitments under the C295 aircraft programme of the Government of India.
- ◆ This contract with Airbus and Space is in line with the 'Make in India' policy of India and this is the biggest ever export order received by BEL.
- ◆ According to BEL, the export order is worth USD 93.15 million (INR 692 Crore).

Signatories :

- ◆ The contract was signed by Vinay Kumar Katyal, Director (Bengaluru Complex) and M V Raja Sekhar, Director (Research & Development) of BEL, and Dominique Arnal, Senior Vice President, Procurement, Supply Chain & Logistics, and Annika Mulder, Vice President, Procurement Structure, Materials & IT of Airbus Defence & Space.

About Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) :

- ◆ Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) is a Navratna PSU under the Ministry of Defence.
- ◆ CMD- Anandi Ramalingam
- ◆ Headquarters- Bengaluru, Karnataka

Swachh Survekshan 2021 Awards: Indore Became India's Cleanest City for 5th time



In November 2021, the President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, felicitated the awardees of the cleanest cities of India at the 'Swachh Amrit Mahotsav' hosted as part of Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 (SBM-U 2.0) by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi.

- ◆ The award ceremony was organized to recognize the work done for Swachhata by towns and cities, States and Union Territories (UTs) under various initiatives of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), such as, Swachh Survekshan 2021 (SS 2021), Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge, and certifications for Garbage Free Star rating for cities.
- ◆ More than 300 awards were given under various categories.

Key Points :

- ◆ For the 5th consecutive year, Indore, Madhya Pradesh (MP), was awarded the title of India's Cleanest City under SS 2021, while Surat, Gujarat and Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, bagged the 2nd and 3rd spots respectively in the 'more than 1 lakh population' category.
- ◆ Vita, Lonavala, and Sasvad, cities from Maharashtra bagged the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd positions respectively in the India's cleanest cities under 'less than 1 lakh population' category.
- ◆ In SS 2021, Maharashtra bagged the highest number of awards i.e., a total of 92 awards, followed by Chhattisgarh with 67 awards.

Star rating system :

- ◆ A total of 9 cities - Indore, Surat, New Delhi Municipal Council, Navi Mumbai, Ambikapur, Mysuru, Noida, Vijayawada and Patan- have been certified as 5-star cities while 143 cities have been certified as 3 stars.
- ◆ Prerak DAUUR Samman: A new category of awards titled Prerak DAUUR Samman as part of Swachh Survekshan 2021.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh Announced 30 STI Hubs for STs by End of 2022; Inaugurated "Tech NEEV"

Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister, Ministry of Science & Technology has announced that the centre will set up 30 Science Technology and Innovation (STI) Hubs across India for Scheduled Tribes (STs) by the end of 2022 for their overall socio-economic development. The STI hubs are aimed to promote scientific talent among tribal communities.

- ◆ 20 out of the 75 proposed STI Hubs for SCs/STs, have already been established by the Department of Science and Technology.
- ◆ He also inaugurated "Tech NEEV/ नीव @75" as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- ◆ This 75 -hour programme is a year-long celebration highlighting the impact of Science Technology Innovation (STI) in empowering the community for creating equitable inclusive economic growth.

Southern Command of Army Launched Military Exercise- Dakshin Shakti

In November 2021, Pune-based Southern Command of the Army launched a military exercise named 'Dakshin Shakti' in the training area of Rajasthan and Gujarat to validate the battle readiness and operational effectiveness of troops of the Southern Army, which covers about 41 percent of the country's landmass.

- ◆ The exercise will be stress testing new concepts of war fighting in all domains, including air, space, cyber, electronic and information warfare.
- ◆ Focus - To exploit new and indigenous technologies like advanced light helicopter (weapon system integrated), Dhruv, swarm drones, to provide a cohesive intelligence, surveillance, and recce architecture.
- ◆ The exercise is being conducted in the backdrop of the soon-to-emerge Integrated Theatre Commands that give major emphasis on tri-service integrated operations.

Exercise 'Sagar Shakti' :

- ◆ A four-day multi-agency exercise named 'Sagar Shakti' was organised between

November 19 and 22, 2021, as part of the 'Dakshin Shakti'.

- ◆ The Indian Army, Indian Navy, Indian Air Force, Indian Coast Guard, Border Security Force and Gujarat security apparatus took part in the Sagar Shakti exercise that was held in the creek sector of Kutch peninsula in Gujarat.
- ◆ Gujarat agencies, including the police, marine police and the fisheries department also participated in the exercise.

About Indian Army :

- ◆ Chief of the Army Staff - Manoj Mukund Naravane
- ◆ HQ - New Delhi, Delhi

Coast Guards of India, Maldives and Sri Lanka conducts Biennial Trilateral Exercise- 'Dosti'

The 5-day long, 15th edition of the Maldives, India, and Sri Lanka biennial Trilateral Exercise 'Dosti' was conducted in Maldives from 20-24 November 2021 as part of regional security formation for peaceful and stable Indian Ocean Region. The Exercise is conducted biennially among the Coast Guards of the 3 countries.

- ◆ This year marks the 30th year since the initiation of the exercise.

Aim :

- ◆ To strengthen the friendship, enhance mutual operational capability and to build cooperation between the Coast Guards to safeguard the Indian Ocean Region.

Significance :

- ◆ Indian Coast Guard vessels, Integrated Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Vajra and Apoorva along

with Sri Lanka Coast Guard Ship (SLCGS) Suraksha Participated in the exercise.

- ◆ The Exercises provides assistance in sea accidents, eliminates sea pollution, and creates Coast Guard's procedure and conduct during situations such as oil spills.

About Exercise Dosti :

- ◆ The exercise was initiated in 1991 between the Indian & Maldivian Coast Guards. Sri Lanka joined the exercise for the first time in 2012

Note :

- ◆ The Indian Navy's INS Visakhapatnam was formally commission at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai in the presence of Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

About Maldives :

- ◆ President - Ibrahim Mohamed Solih
- ◆ Capital - Male
- ◆ Currency - Rufiyaa

About Sri Lanka :

- ◆ Prime Minister - Gotabaya Rajapaksa
- ◆ Capital - Jayawardenepura Kotte
- ◆ Currency - Sri Lankan Rupee

Minister of Health and Family Welfare Rajesh Bhushan Releases NHA Estimation for India for 2017-18

On 29th November 2021 Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Rajesh Bhushan released the findings of the National Health Accounts (NHA) Estimates for India for 2017-18.

- ◆ This is the 5th consecutive NHA report produced by National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC), designated as

National Health Accounts Technical Secretariat (NHATS) in 2014 by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW)

- ◆ The Government's OOPE as a share of total health expenditure has dropped to 48.8 % in 2017-18 from 64.2 % in 2013-14.
- ◆ The share of primary healthcare in current government health expenditure has increased from 51.1% in 2013-14 to 54.7 % in 2017-18.

About Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) :

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

Varanasi (UP) 1st Indian City to Start Ropeway Service as Mode of Public Transport



Varanasi, a city in Uttar Pradesh (UP) is all set to become the first Indian city to start ropeway service as a mode of public transport in order to ease the traffic congestion. The proposed ropeway will be constructed between Cantt Railway Station (Varanasi Junction) to Church Square (Godauliya) covering an aerial distance of 3.45 km

- ◆ Its outlay is over Rs 400 crore which is divided between Central Government and State Government at 80:20.
- ◆ India will be the third country in the world after Bolivia and Mexico to use a ropeway for public transport.

Key Points :

- ◆ The ropeway will reduce the journey between the two stations to only 15 minutes.
- ◆ Around 220 trolleys will run at a height of 45 metres, and will move in a gap of 90 seconds to 120 seconds.
- ◆ It will be based on a public-private partnership (PPP) model with a capacity of 4,500 people.
- ◆ Bidding proceedings for this project will be completed by December 11, 2021.
- ◆ The project is likely to be completed in 24 months.
- ◆ It should be noted that Varanasi is the constituency of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ◆ Varanasi is known as the Gateway of Eastern India.

Bhagwanth Khuba, MOS of MNRE Inaugurated 1st International Conference on Hydrogen Energy in New Delhi

Bhagwanth Khuba, the Minister of State (MoS) for New and Renewable Energy, Chemicals and Fertilizers inaugurated the 1st International Conference on Hydrogen Energy - Policies, Infrastructure Development and Challenges in Scope Convention Centre, New Delhi, Delhi.

- ◆ The event was organised by Central Board of Irrigation and Power (CBIP) on 24th -25th November 2021 with the support of Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE), Central Electricity Authority, and NTPC (formerly known as National Thermal Power Corporation Limited).
- ◆ The conference was formed to move a step ahead towards achieving the 5 ambitious targets for India, which were set by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi in the 26th Conference of Parties (COP26) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) which was held in Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom (UK).
- ◆ Around 200 participants from 60 organizations from India and 3 international experts from Germany, Japan, and Sweden have participated in the Conference.
- ◆ The conference has been sponsored by NHPC Ltd., SJVNL (Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam) as Platinum Sponsor and by POWERGRID (Power Grid Corporation of India Limited) and THDC India Ltd. as Silver Sponsors.

About Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) :

- ◆ Union Minister - Raj Kumar Singh (Constituency - Arrah, Bihar)
- ◆ Minister of State - Bhagwanth Khuba (Constituency - Bidar, Karnataka)

Govt Approves Continuation of 'Scheme for Investment Promotion' for 5 Years

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has approved the continuation of the Scheme for Investment Promotion (SIP) for five years from 2021-22 till 2025-26 with a financial outlay of Rs 970 crore.

- ◆ SIP is a Centrally Sponsored scheme, launched on 11th November 2008, to promote Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into India.
- ◆ Implementing Agency - Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)
- ◆ The scheme comprises a number of components and activities that enhance international co-operation for promoting investments through FDI and capacity building in India.

About Ministry of Commerce and Industry :

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

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment forms 3-Member panel to Review EWS Criteria

On November 30, 2021, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment announced the formation of a 3-member committee to review the annual income criteria for Economically Weaker Section (EWS) reservations in job and central education institutes.

About the Committee:

The 3 members of the Committee:

- ◆ Ajay Bhushan Pandey - Former Finance Secretary
- ◆ Prof VK Malhotra - Member Secretary, ICSSR (Indian Council of Social Science Research)
- ◆ Sanjeev Sanyal - Principal Economic Advisor to the Indian government (Member Convenor).
- ◆ The committee will now review the Rs 8 lakh family annual income ceiling for EWS to apply for 10 percent reserved seats in central education institutes and government jobs.
- ◆ The committee will examine various approaches followed in India so far for identifying EWS and recommend criteria.

About EWS :

- ◆ The 10 percent EWS quota was introduced under the 103rd Constitution (Amendment) Act, 2019. The 10 percent EWS reservation is given only for the General Category candidates apart from other category reservation benefits of OBC (27 %), SC (Scheduled Castes) (15 %), and ST (Scheduled Tribe) (7.5 %)

About Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment :

- ◆ Union Minister - Virendra Kumar (Constituency - Tikamgarh, Madhya Pradesh)
- ◆ Minister of State - Ramdas Athawale (Constituency - Maharashtra, Pratima Bhoumik (Constituency - Tripura West, Tripura), A. Narayanaswamy (Constituency - Chitradurga, Karnataka)

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal Inaugurated 40th Edition of IITF 2021; Bihar won Gold Award

Union Commerce and Industry Minister, Piyush Goyal inaugurated the 40th edition of the India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2021 at Pragati Maidan in Delhi.

- ♦ IITF 2021 was held on November 14 to 27, 2021. It was organized by the India Trade Promotion Organisation with 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' as the theme and to further promote the idea of 'Vocal for Local'.
- ♦ An estimated 3,000 exhibitors from India and abroad have participated in the fair. The fair was not held in 2020 due to the COVID-19.
- ♦ Piyush Goyal listed five pillars of India as Economy, Exports, Infrastructure, Demand, and Diversity.
- ♦ Partner state: Bihar is the partner state for the 40th IITF and the focus states are Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand.
- ♦ Bihar won Gold award at IITF 2021
- ♦ The Bihar pavilion once again won the gold medal by showcasing the state's art and cultural richness through handicrafts like Madhubani, Manjusha arts, terracotta, handlooms and other indigenous products of state at IITF 2021.
- ♦ This is the 6th gold medal for the Bihar pavilion in the last 7 years for its outstanding implementations at the IITF 2021.
- ♦ Bihar has been adjudged the 'First for Excellence' in display in the 40th IITF in the category of the State Government or Union Territory pavilions.

- ♦ Silver Medal: Assam Pavilion has been awarded Silver Medal as the 2nd Best Pavilion among all the States and Union Territories at IITF 2021

About Bihar :

- ♦ Chief Minister - Nitish Kumar
- ♦ Wildlife Sanctuary - Rajgir Wildlife Sanctuary, Udaypur Wildlife Sanctuary, Valmiki Wildlife Sanctuary, Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Wildlife Sanctuary
- ♦ Tiger Reserve - Valmiki Tiger Reserve

Nagaland CM Neiphiu Rio and MoS Tourism Ajay Bhatt Inaugurated 9th International Tourism Mart for the North East Region at Kohima

Neiphiu Rio, Chief Minister(CM) of Nagaland, Ajay Bhatt, Minister of State(MoS) for Tourism inaugurated the three-day long 9th International Tourism Mart for the North East Region at Kohima, Nagaland.

- ♦ International Tourism Marts are organised in the North Eastern States on a rotation basis.
- ♦ Nagaland is hosting this Mart for the first time.

Objective :

- ♦ To highlight the tourism potential of the region in the domestic and international markets.
- ♦ 9th International Tourism Mart:
- ♦ Around 75 sellers from the North East region and about 50 buyers from across India are participating in the 9th International Tourism Mart for the North East Region.

- ◆ The Ministry of Tourism has organised a visit to Kisama Heritage Village, Kisama War Museum and Morungs, Khonoma Village and Kohima World War II War Cemetery, as a part of the event.

Dignitaries :

- ◆ High Commissioner, Brunei Darussalam, High Commissioner, Malaysia, Ambassador Extra Ordinary, Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Ambassador, The Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and several other diplomats participated in the event.
- ◆ In line with 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat', the delegation also includes students from across India.

Highlights of the event :

- ◆ The coffee table book on Nagaland was also launched during the event.
- ◆ Department of Tourism, Government of Nagaland and Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the operations of State Institute of Hotel Management & Catering Technology, Nagaland.

About International Tourism Marts :

- ◆ The International Tourism Marts is the biggest travel and tour networking event in the North Eastern Region of India.
- ◆ Previously the International Tourism Marts were organized in Guwahati, Assam;
- ◆ Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh; Shillong, Meghalaya; Gangtok, Sikkim; Agartala, Tripura; and Imphal, Manipur.

Big Loss to Nation: Tribute to CDS General Bipin Rawat, Chiefs Of Indian Armed Forces



Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat and 12 others -- including his wife Madhulika and 11 armed forces personnel -- lost their lives in a helicopter crash in Tamil Nadu's Coonoor on Wednesday. Group Captain Varun Singh, who survived the crash, is presently undergoing treatment.

About Bipin Rawat:

- ◆ 63 year old General Bipin Rawat was born on 16 th March 1958 in the northern Indian state of Uttarakhand.
- ◆ He topped during his military training and was awarded the 'Sword of Honour' at the National Defence College and the Indian Military Academy.

Awards :

- ◆ Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Uttam Yudh Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, Yudh Seva Medal, Sena Medal, Vishisht Seva Medal

Bipin Rawat as CDS:

- ◆ He was appointed as India's 1st Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) in 2019 who served till

death, and previously served as the Chief of the Indian Army since December 2016.

Note :

- ◆ As per the new military rules, a CDS can serve till the age of 65 and the all three Armed Service Chiefs have a tenure of 3-years or 62 years of age, whichever is earlier.

57th Border Security Force Raising Day -1st December 2021

The Border Security Force(BSF) of India annually celebrates the BSF raising day on 1st December to mark the day on which the BSF, India's First Line of Defence, came into existence in 1965.

- ◆ The 1st December 2021 marks the observance of the 57th BSF Raising Day.
- ◆ BSF is a paramilitary force charged with guarding India's land border during peacetime and preventing transnational crime.

History :

- ◆ Till 1965, the international borders between India and Pakistan were manned by Various State Armed Police Battalion.
- ◆ Pakistan attacked the Sardar Post, Chhar Bet and Beria Bet in Kutch in 1965, exposing the inadequacy of the State Armed Police to counter the armed aggression.

- ◆ Following this attack, the Government of India established a specialized centrally controlled force that is armed and trained to secure the International Border with Pakistan.
- ◆ On the recommendations of the Committee of Secretaries, The Border Security Force came into existence on 1st December 1965 with K F Rustamji as the first chief and founding father.

About BSF :

- ◆ The BSF, the world's largest border guarding force, is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- ◆ Border Security Force Act, 1968:
- ◆ Border Security Force Act, 1968, provides the constitution and regulation of an Armed Force of the Union for ensuring the security of the borders of India and for matters connected therewith.

Note:

- ◆ In October 2021, the BSF Act 1968 was amended to authorise the force to undertake search, seizure and arrest within a larger 50 km stretch, instead of the existing 15 km, from the international border in Punjab, West Bengal and Assam.
- ◆ Director-General- Pankaj Kumar Singh
- ◆ Headquarters- New Delhi, Delhi

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Daniel Ortega wins 4th Consecutive President Term of Nicaragua



José Daniel Ortega Saavedra, won his fourth consecutive presidential term in Nicaragua elections. According to the Supreme Electoral Council of Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega won the election with 75% of the total votes polled.

- ◆ This will be his fourth consecutive five-year term, and overall this is his 5th term as President.
- ◆ This election is widely regarded as rigged, as the opposition political leaders were either prisoned before the election or termed Terrorist & exiled from the country.

About José Daniel Ortega Saavedra :

- ◆ Daniel Ortega, born on November 11, 1945, La Libertad, Nicaragua.
- ◆ He is a Nicaraguan guerrilla leader, member of the Sandinista junta that took power in 1979 , and the elected president of Nicaragua.

About Nicaragua:

- ◆ Nicaragua is a Central American country, which is nicknamed as "The Land of Lakes and Volcanoes"
- ◆ Capital- Managua
- ◆ Currency- Nicaraguan córdoba

South Korea Conducts Tests on Urban Air Mobility Control Systems



On 11th November 2021, South Korea successfully demonstrated a system for controlling urban air mobility vehicles (UAM) which will serve as urban taxis service between major airports and downtown of Seoul by 2025, cutting travel time by two-thirds.

- ◆ UAM could cut travel time for distances between 30-50 km (19-31 miles) from an hour by car to 20 minutes by air.
 - ◆ UAM will become the common means of transportation in citizen's day-to-day life
- Features

- ◆ The air traffic control system that manages domestic and international flights at airports which monitors and manages UAM aircraft.
- ◆ The technology includes imaging equipment to detect and track the aircraft, and patented lighting systems for "vertiports" where drones land and take off.
- ◆ The Pilot flew a two-seat model made by Germany's Volocopter at Seoul's Gimpo Airport to test and demonstrate its control and coordination which is powered by helicopter-like rotors for vertical take-offs and landings
- ◆ The drone aircraft was also modeled where an operational 5 seat version with full sized prototype will be tested in 2022

About South Korea :

- ◆ President - Moon Jae-in
- ◆ Capital - Seoul
- ◆ Currency – Won

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

The 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was held from 31st October -12 November 2021 in Glasgow, Scotland, T Kingdom (UK), for better alignment with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- ◆ Egypt was chosen to host the upcoming session of the conference COP27 in 2022 and United Arab Emirates (UAE) was chosen to host COP28 in 2023

Highlights of COP26 :

- ◆ India launched a web portal on electric vehicles (EVs) named 'E-Amrit' at the COP26 Summit. The portal will act as a one-stop destination on all EV-related information and will raise awareness on EVs and sensitize consumers on the benefits of switching to EVs.
- ◆ Rameshwar Prasad Gupta, Secretary, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MOEFCC), has launched 'COP26 Charter of Actions', which was prepared by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI).
- ◆ The UK COP26 Presidency has selected transport as a priority theme and designated 10 November as the dedicated Transport Thematic Day.
- ◆ India joins with South Africa, Indonesia, and the Philippines as the first round of beneficiaries of Accelerating Coal Transition (ACT) Investment Program of CIF (Climate Investment Funds).
- ◆ At COP26, a first of its kind alliance of governments named 'Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance' (BOGA) was announced with commitment to phase out the production of oil and gas.
- ◆ Maharashtra became the only state in India to win the Inspiring Regional Leadership award at the inaugural leadership awards of the Under 2 Coalition held on the sidelines of the COP26 summit.
- ◆ Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav stated about India's agreement with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to set up the UNEP's country office in India.

- ◆ International Solar Alliance (ISA) and UNFCCC inked pact at COP26 conference in Glasgow to fight climate change.

About United Kingdom :

- ◆ Capital- London

Space X- Launches 53 Starlink Satellites into Orbit, Launches 4 Astronauts to ISS via Crew 3 Mission

In November 2021, SpaceX (Space Exploration Technologies Corp.) launched 53 Starlink satellites on a Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida, United States.

- ◆ The rocket's reusable first stage was successfully returned and landed on the 'Just Read the Instructions' drone ship in the Atlantic Ocean.
- ◆ The launch marks the 25th Falcon 9 mission for SpaceX so far in 2021.

About Starlink Satellite :

- ◆ SpaceX has been building Starlink, which is a satellite-based global internet system to bring internet access to underserved areas of the world.
- ◆ The first full stack of 51 Starlink broadband (internet) satellites on the Falcon 9 rocket was launched by SpaceX on September 14, 2021, from Space Launch Complex 4E at Vandenberg Space Force Station in California, United States. iii.SpaceX aims to launch around 30,000 Starlink satellites into orbit and expand its user pool to millions of customers.
- ◆ Crew-3 Mission: SpaceX Launch 4 Astronauts to ISS

- ◆ On November 10, 2021, SpaceX's Crew-3 mission carried 4 astronauts, such as NASA's (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) Raja Chari (Indian origin), Tom Marshburn, Kayla Barron, and European Space Agency's Matthias Maurer on a 22 - hour flight from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida and was docked successfully to the International Space Station (ISS).
- ◆ The Crew- 3 astronauts will spend 6 months aboard the space station and conduct new and exciting scientific research in areas such as materials science, health technologies, and plant science.
- ◆ The launch includes the 600th person to reach space in 60 years. Note - It was the 1st private company to send a cargo ship to the ISS (in 2012).

About SpaceX- Space Exploration Technologies Corp :

- ◆ It is an American aerospace manufacturer, space transportation services and communications company
- ◆ Founder and CEO - Elon Musk
- ◆ Establishment - 2002
- ◆ Headquarters - Hawthorne, California, United States

UN observed International Day for Tolerance on November 16

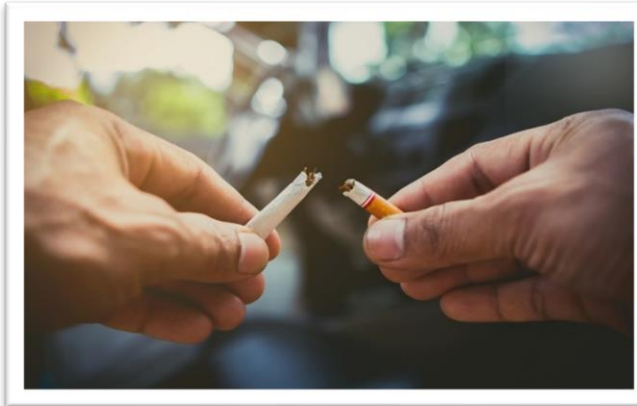
The 'International Day of Tolerance' is annually observed by the United Nations (UN) on the 16th of November. The day marks the signing of the 'Declaration of Principles of Tolerance' by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), on 16th November 1995.

- ◆ 1995 also marked the 125th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's birth paving the way for the proclamation of November 16, as the International Day for Tolerance by the UN.
- ◆ Marking Mahatma Gandhi's 125th Birth anniversary, the UN also observed 1995 as the 'International Year of Tolerance'.

About UNESCO :

- ◆ Headquarters- Paris, France
- ◆ Director General- Audrey Azoulay

4th Edition of WHO Global Report on Trends in Prevalence of Tobacco use 2000-2025



As per the 4th edition of the Global report on trends in prevalence of tobacco use 2000-2025 published by the World Health Organization (WHO) on November 16, 2021, the number of tobacco users (for both sexes combined) has decreased globally from 1.32 billion in 2015 to 1.30 billion in 2020 and is projected to further decline to 1.27 billion by 2025.

- ◆ Currently, tobacco use prevalence is defined as the proportion of the population aged 15 years and above who use one or more smoked or smokeless tobacco products on a daily or non-daily basis.

- ◆ According to the report, in 2020, 22.3 percent of the global population used tobacco, 36.7 percent of all men and 7.8 percent of the world's women.

Note :

- ◆ India is the second-largest consumer and producer of tobacco. Tobacco is the major cause of death and disease in India and accounts for nearly 1.35 million deaths every year.

About World Health Organization (WHO) :

- ◆ Establishment - 7 April 1948
- ◆ Headquarters - Geneva, Switzerland
- ◆ Director General - Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
- ◆ Member Countries - 194 (including India)

Overview of MoS V. Muraleedharan's 5 Day Visit to Uganda and Rwanda

On November 11-15, Minister of State (MoS) Vellamvelly Muraleedharan, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Ministry of External Affairs paid an Official Visit to Uganda and Rwanda.

He paid an official visit to the Republic of Uganda on November 11-13, 2021 to consolidate India-Uganda relations on the entire gamut of bilateral, regional and international issues, and set out a road map for future engagements.

iii. During visit to Rwanda, he co-chaired the first India-Rwanda Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) in Kigali, Rwanda along with Rwanda's Foreign Affairs Minister Vincent Biruta.

About Uganda :

- ◆ Capital- Kampala
- ◆ Currency- Ugandan Shilling
- ◆ About Rwanda:
- ◆ Capital- Kigali
- ◆ Currency- Rwandan franc

India Ranks 82 in 2021 Trace global Bribery Risk Rankings, Denmark Tops

India has slipped to 82nd position (drop by 5 slots from 2020) with a risk score of 44 in the global list of 2021 TRACE Bribery Risk Matrix (TRACE Matrix) that measures business bribery risks, which was released by TRACE International.

- ◆ In 2020, India ranked 77 with a score of 45.

About TRACE International :

- ◆ Global Headquarters - United States
- ◆ President and Founder - Alexandra Wrage

ISA, Elsevier Launched Journal 'Solar Compass' at COP26, Glasgow

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) an inter-governmental treaty-based international organisation and Elsevier, a Netherland based global information analytics company has launched the new journal, 'Solar Compass' during the United National Climate Change Conference COP26 held in Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom (UK).

- ◆ The journal will feature new technology, policy and economic developments to increase access to clean energy; successful case studies from across the globe which can be replicated elsewhere.

- ◆ All articles will be peer-reviewed before publication and an advisory board of visionary leaders will guide the directions of the journal.

UNESCO's 75th Anniversary 2021

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation(UNESCO) celebrated its 75 th anniversary on 12th November 2021 with a special ceremony organised at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris, France.

Events :

- ◆ Around 26 heads of state and government and an impressive list of artists, singers and musicians have participated in the special ceremony.
- ◆ The Eiffel Tower in Paris, France displayed "75 years" along with the UNESCO logo to celebrate the 75th anniversary of UNESCO.

History :

- ◆ The United Nations Charter that came into effect 16th November 1945, created a specialized agency in the fields of education and culture to be named the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
- ◆ In November 1945, a Conference to establish this Organization was held in London and the Constitution of UNESCO was signed by 41 States.
- ◆ The constitution came into force on 4th November 1946 after the ratification by 20 signatories.

Initiative of UNESCO :

- ◆ The initiatives of UNESCO are focused on 5 program areas: education, natural sciences, social and human sciences, culture, and communication and information
- ◆ UNESCO has several designating projects and places of cultural and scientific significance.

UNESCO's Global Geoparks :

- ◆ UNESCO Geoparks are territories presenting a unique geological heritage of international value.
- ◆ The Global Geoparks is a network of 169 countries from 44 countries across the globe.
- ◆ UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN)
- ◆ UCCN created in 2004 aims to promote cooperation with and among cities that have identified creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable urban development. Recently, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir has been added to the UCCN list of 295 creative cities network across 90 countries.
- ◆ There are 6 Indian cities on UCCN : Srinagar, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai, Jaipur & Varanasi.

UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) :

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- ◆ There are 6 Indian cities on UCCN: Srinagar, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai, Jaipur & Varanasi.

City of Literature:

- ◆ City of Literature, a part of Creative Cities Network, that aims to promote the social, economic and cultural development of cities in both the developed and the developing world.
- ◆ City of literature is a network of 39 cities from 28 countries.

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

- ◆ Director-General- Audrey Azoulay
- ◆ Members- 193 Members and 11 Associate Members
- ◆ Governed by - The General Conference and The Executive Board
- ◆ Headquarters- Paris, France,

Petroleum Minister Hardeep S. Puri Visited UAE to Attend ADIPEC

The Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, and Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri, visited UAE (United Arab Emirates) from 15th to 17th November 2021 by leading a business delegation to attend the Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition & Conference (ADIPEC).

- ◆ The minister visited UAE on the invitation of H. E. Suhail Mohamed Faraj Al Mazrouei, Minister of Energy and Infrastructure of UAE.
- ◆ ADIPEC event is hosted by the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), to provide Indian companies a world-class environment for showcasing their success stories across the industry's value chain.

Key Points :

- ◆ Hardeep Singh inaugurated India Pavilion, which was set up jointly by Federation of Indian Petroleum Industry (FIPI), Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH), and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- ◆ The Minister also inaugurated the Oil and Gas Sectoral floor at the India Pavilion of the Dubai Expo.
- ◆ The Minister participated in a Ministerial Round Table titled - Charting the Climate Action Path from COP 26 (26th Conference of Parties) to COP 27 and He will also participate in a roundtable meeting on "Opportunities in the Oil and Gas sector, to be hosted by DGH.
- ◆ He had a meeting with the Minister of Energy and Infrastructure of UAE, Suhail Mohamed Faraj Al Mazrouei, and Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and MD\$ and Group CEO of ADNOC, Sultan Ahmad Al Jaber, to discuss issues of energy cooperation within the overall framework of India-UAE Strategic Partnership.

About Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas :

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

India Becomes World's Largest Recipient of Remittances; Received USD 87 bn in 2021: WB Report

In accordance with the latest report by the World Bank (WB) titled 'World Bank's Remittance Prices Worldwide Database',

India became the world's largest recipient of remittances by receiving USD 87 bn in 2021. The United States (US) was its biggest source, accounting for over 20 % of these funds. India is followed by China, Mexico, the Philippines, and Egypt.

- ◆ In India, remittances are projected to grow 3 % in 2022 to USD 89.6 billion.

About World Bank :

- ◆ The World Bank was created at the 1944 Bretton Woods Conference, along with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- ◆ President- David Robert Malpass (13th President)
- ◆ Headquarters- Washington DC, United States of America

Scientists discover exoplanets 'TOI 1789b' bigger than Jupiter

The exoplanet search and study group at the Ahmedabad (Gujarat)-based Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) discovered a new exoplanet orbiting too close to an evolved or aging star with a mass of 1.5 times that of the Sun and located 725 light years away. The information for the same was provided by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

The study was led by Abhijit Chakraborty.

- ◆ The star is known as HD 82139 as per the Henry Draper catalogue and TOI (TESS Objects of Interest) 1789 as per the TESS (Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite) catalogue. Hence, the planet is known as TOI 1789 b or HD 82139 b as per the IAU (International Astronomical Union) nomenclature.

- ◆ This discovery work has been published in the refereed journal Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, titled 'Discovery of an inflated hot Jupiter around a slightly evolved star TOI-1789'.
- ◆ About the Planet - Mass - 0.7 Jupiter Mass; Radius - 1.4 Jupiter Radius; Surface Temp- 2000 K; Orbital Period - 3.2 days; Bulk Density - 0.31; Distance from Earth - 725 Light Years.

Key Points :

- ◆ The discovery was made using PRL Advanced Radial-velocity Abu-sky Search (PARAS) optical fiber-fed spectrograph, the first of its kind in India, on the 1.2 metre Telescope of PRL at its Mt. Abu Observatory
- ◆ The mass of the exoplanet TOI 1789 (b) is 70 % and size about 1.4 times that of the Jupiter. It was measured using PARAS.
- ◆ This newly discovered star-planet system is a very unique - the planet orbits the host star in just 3.2 days, thus placing it very-very close to the star at a distance of 0.05AU.
- ◆ The surface temperature of the planet can reach up to 2000K (extremely heated) because of the close proximity of the planet to its host star. It also has an inflated radius, making it one of the lowest density planets known (density of 0.31 gram per cc).
- ◆ Such close-in exoplanets around stars (with distance less than 0.1 AU (astronomical unit)) with masses between 0.25 to a few Jupiter masses are called "Hot-Jupiters".
- ◆ This is the second exoplanet discovered by PRL scientists using PARAS at 1.2 m Mt. Abu telescope.

IAF Contingent participates in Dubai Air Show; Akasa Air orders 72 Boeing 737 Max



The Biennial Dubai Air Show, that was held from 14 th to 18 th November 2021 at the Al Maktoum International Airport in Dubai, saw the participation of Indian Air Force (IAF) Contingent. The IAF contingent took part in the aerobatics and static displays, alongside Saudi Hawks, Russian Knights & UAE's Al Fursan.

IAF Contingent - Sarang Team, Suryakiran Team and 3 LCA (Light Combat Aircraft) Tejas

Akasa Air orders 72 Boeing 737 Max at the Dubai Air Show On 16th November, Indian Airline company Akasa Air placed an order for 72 Boeing 737 Max at the Dubai Air Show. The 9 billion worth order includes 2 versions of the Boeing Max Aircrafts: 737-8 and the high-capacity 737-8200, that are expected to be under operation by 2022 .

About Akasa Air :

- ◆ Akasa Air is a proposed airline that is backed by famous Indian Investor Rakesh Jhunjhunwala.
- ◆ CEO - Vinay Dube
- ◆ Headquarters - Mumbai, Maharashtra

About United Arab Emirates (UAE):

- ◆ President - Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan
- ◆ Capital - Abu Dhabi
- ◆ Currency - Emirati Dirham

India Virtually Participates in 21st Annual COM Meeting of IORA

India Virtually participated in 21st Annual Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) led by the Minister of State for External Affairs Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh highlighting India's contributions towards Disaster Risk Management (DRM) in IORA priority areas.

Objective :

- ◆ To promote peace, security and prosperity in the Indian Ocean region and in Indo-Pacific Region
- ◆ Bangladesh, as the incoming Chair of IORA, hosted the 21st IORA COM Meeting on 17 November 2021 and the 23rd Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) and its related Meetings from 15-16 November 2021, in a hybrid format (in-person & virtual).
- ◆ The IORA COM which was held in a hybrid format in Dhaka and Dhaka Communique was adopted at the end of the meeting.

About Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)

- ◆ Secretary General - Gatot Hari Gunawan
Established - 1997
- ◆ Headquarters - Ebene, Mauritius
- ◆ Ambassador - Salman Al-Farisi

Barbados to Become 1st Sovereign Nation to Host its Embassy on the Metaverse

Barbados, a Caribbean island nation, is set to become the first sovereign nation to host its Embassy, the world's first virtual-reality embassy, on the Metaverse.

- ◆ Barbados has signed an agreement with Decentraland, a blockchain metaverse platform to establish a digital embassy. Decentraland is a company that hosts a user-owned, 3D digital world, comprised of 90,601 plots of 'land'.
- ◆ Barbados is set to open the virtual embassy in January 2022.

Russia successfully test fires 'Zircon' Hypersonic Cruise Missile and Anti Satellite Missile

On 18th November 2021, Russian Navy successfully test fired the 'Zircon' Hypersonic Cruise Missile from Frigate - Admiral Gorshkov warship, that rightly hit the test target placed in the Russian Arctic waters. Previously, Russia also successfully conducted similar tests using the 'Zircon' missile from the Nuclear Submarine - Severodvinsk in the Barents Sea.

Russia destroys Satellite using ASAT system - 'Nudol'

On 15th November, Russia destroyed its own satellite in low-earth orbit using an Anti-Satellite (ASAT) Missile named 'Nudol', which led to formation of a cloud of space debris that could potentially destroy other orbiting satellites & the International Space Station (ISS).

This is Russia's 1st successful intercept of a satellite.

About Russia :

- ◆ President - Vladimir Putin (Term - 6 years)
- ◆ Capital - Moscow
- ◆ Currency - Ruble / Rouble
- ◆ Monuments - Catherine Palace (Saint Petersburg), Kremlin and Red Square (Moscow)

World Heritage Week 2021 - November 19 to 25

World Heritage Week is annually observed across India from 19th to 25th November to promote the conservation of the heritage and the culture of monuments. The week-long celebration aims to create awareness about the importance of culture and traditions and the need to protect them.

Background :

- ◆ The World Heritage Week is a part of the promotion activities planned by the government of India to promote the conservation of the heritage sites across India. Heritage sites in India:
- ◆ In India, around 3691 monuments are protected by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and among these monuments around 143 sites and monuments are ticketed. ii. 40 heritage sites across India are listed as UNESCO World Heritage sites which include 32 cultural, 7 Natural, and 1 Mixed site.

About Archaeological Survey of India (ASI):

- ◆ ASI under the Ministry of Culture is the premier organization for the archaeological researches and protection of the cultural heritage of India.
- ◆ Director-General (DG)- V Vidyavathi
- ◆ Headquarters- New Delhi, Delhi

French Navy hosts 7th Edition of IONS Conclave of Chiefs at Paris

The 7th edition of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Conclave of Chiefs is being hosted by the French Navy at Paris from 15-16 November 2021.

- ◆ Vice Admiral R Hari Kumar, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command, is leading a two member Indian Naval delegation for this Conclave.
- ◆ The Conclave of Chiefs is being attended by Chiefs of Navies or Heads of Lead Maritime Agencies of IONS nations.

About Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) :

- ◆ IONS was conceived by the Indian Navy in 2008 as a forum to enhance maritime cooperation among Navies of the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region
- ◆ The inaugural edition of IONS was held in Feb 2008 at New Delhi, with the Indian Navy as the Chair for two years. The IONS Chair is presently held in France.
- ◆ The chairmanship of IONS has been held by India (2008-10), UAE (2010-12), South Africa (2012-14), Australia (2014-16),
- ◆ Bangladesh (2016-18) and Islamic Republic of Iran (2018-21). Note - The 7th edition of

Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), a biennial event, was hosted by the French Navy at La Réunion from 28 June to 01 July 2021.

- ◆ IONS Conclave of Chiefs
- ◆ IONS Conclave of Chiefs (CoC) is the decision-making body at the level of Chiefs of Navies, which meets biennially. The 6th IONS and CoC was conducted by Iran Navy in April 2018 at Tehran

About France :

- ◆ Capital - Paris
- ◆ President - Emmanuel Macron
- ◆ Currency - Euro

PM Modi Addressed 'The Sydney Dialogue' on India's Technology Evolution and Revolution

On November 18, 2021 the Prime Minister (PM) of India, Narendra Modi addressed the 'Sydney Dialogue 2021' through video conferencing. He discussed the current development based on the theme of "India's technology evolution and revolution".

Objective:

- ◆ To bring together political, business and government leaders to debate, generate new ideas, and work towards common understandings of the opportunities and challenges.

Sydney Dialogue 2021:

- ◆ The Sydney Dialogue is an initiative of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute.
- ◆ It was organized from 17 to 19 November, 2021 in Sydney, Australia.

- ◆ It is an annual summit of cyber and critical technologies and discusses the challenges and development related to digital technologies and cyber law across the world.

About Australia :

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

US, Australia and UK signs key deal in Nuclear Submarine Alliance



On November 21, 2021 Australia officially became a part of the new Nuclear Powered Submarine defence alliance with the United Kingdom (UK) and the United States (US) after signing a deal with the countries in Canberra, Australia.

- ◆ Under the AUKUS deal, Australia will be provided with 8 nuclear powered submarines capable of stealthy and long range missions.
- ◆ It will also provide sharing cyber, artificial intelligence, quantum and unspecified undersea capabilities.

Signatories :

- ◆ Peter Dutton (Defence Minister of Australia), Michael Goldman (Defence Minister of US) and Victoria Treadell (British High Commissioner).

Key points :

- ◆ It is the first agreement on technology signed by the three countries after the formation of defence alliance AUKUS (Australia-UK-US).
- ◆ The agreement will allow the countries to share and exchange naval nuclear propulsion information.
- ◆ Through this agreement, the three countries will also share technologies like artificial intelligence, quantum and unspecified undersea capabilities.

What is the AUKUS:

- ◆ AUKUS is a trilateral security pact signed between Australia, UK & USA in September 2021.
- ◆ The first major initiative of AUKUS would be to deliver a nuclear powered submarine fleet for Australia.
- ◆ The nuclear-powered submarines will give Australia naval heft in the Pacific, where China has been particularly aggressive.
- ◆ While the US and Britain have had the capability for decades, Australia has never had a nuclear submarine.

About Australia :

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

Renewable wood-based products can help combat climate change: FAO

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN) released a new report titled 'Forest Products in the global bioeconomy: Enabling substitution by wood-based products and contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)'.

- ◆ The report highlighted the forestry's role in providing green solutions for Net Zero future, and the use of Renewable wood-based products to combat climate change and to achieve SDG.
- ◆ The event was hosted at the COP26 South African Pavilion by Jane Molony, CEO of Fibre Circle and Executive Director of the Paper Manufacturers of South Africa (PAMSA) and facilitated by Derek Nighbor, President of the International Council of Forest and Paper Associations (ICFPA) and President and CEO of Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC).

Key Points from Report :

- ◆ To tackle the challenges of climate change, Bioeconomy emerged as a solution with its two important components viz. forests and the forest sector.
- ◆ Engineered wood products and wood-based textile fibres are two emerging forest product categories. Lyocell fibres are modern woodbased textile fibres that have properties like viscose and polyester but are more environmentally friendly in production.
- ◆ Bio-based material is a substitute of fossil sources to produce energy, food, feed, fibre and other manufactured goods.

- ◆ China, New Zealand, Turkey, the United States of America and the European Union have a dedicated bioeconomy strategy or action plan
- ◆ The highest-level bioeconomy strategy is the National Bioeconomy Blueprint.
- ◆ The report also recommended governments, industry and international cooperation bodies to increase their contribution to sustainable development by developing awareness about the global forest product value chain.

Abdalla Hamdok Reappointed as Prime Minister of Sudan

Abdalla Hamdok was reappointed as the Prime Minister of Sudan after signing a political declaration to end the current political crisis with Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan, general commander of the Sudanese Armed Force.

- ◆ The signing ceremony of the declaration was aired live by Sudan's official TV.
- ◆ The deal faces opposition from pro-democracy groups that have demanded full civilian rule

Significance :

- ◆ The political declaration comprised of 14 items including,
- ◆ The reappointment of Hamdok as prime minister.
- ◆ Considering the constitutional document as the constitutional reference for the transitional period
- ◆ Release of the political detainees

- ◆ Completion of the transitional period institutions
- ◆ Investigation of the killing and injury of civilians and military personnel during the recent demonstrations.

About Abdalla Hamdok :

- ◆ Before becoming prime minister, Hamdok worked for the U.N. Econom Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and as a special adviser at the Trade and Development Bank in Ethiopia.
- ◆ He was named prime minister in August 2019 by the Sovereign Coun a ruling body of civilians and the army that was set up to oversee a transition towards democracy after long-ruling autocrat Omar al-Bashir was toppled.

About Sudan :

- ◆ Capital - Khartoum
- ◆ Currency - Sudanese Pound

NASA Selects ICNUS, a New Mission to Study Storms and Impacts on Climate Models

A mission namely 'Investigation of Convective Updrafts (INCUS)' has been selected by NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) as a new Earth science mission under its Earth Venture Mission-3 (EVM-3).

- ◆ INCUS is a collection of three SmallSats in tight coordination which will study the behavior of tropical storms and thunderstorms, including their impacts on weather and climate models.
- ◆ It is expected to launch in 2027 with an estimated outlay of 177 million. It does not include the launch costs.

Key Points :

- ◆ The principal investigator for INCUS is Susan van den Heever at Colorado State University in Fort Collins.
- ◆ INCUS will directly address why convective storms, heavy precipitation, and clouds occur, and exactly when and where they form.
- ◆ The investigation is based upon the 2017 Earth Science Decadal Survey by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

The mission will be supported by several NASA centers including the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Southern California, Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, with key satellite system components to be provided by Blue Canyon Technologies, and Tendeg LLC, both in Colorado.

- ◆ NASA will also select a launch provider in the future.

About Earth Venture Mission-3 (EVM-3) :

- ◆ EVM-3, a part of Earth Venture Program, envisages complete, space-based investigations to address important science questions and produce data of societal relevance within the Earth science field. NASA received 12 proposals for EVM-3 missions in March 2021. After detailed review, the agency selected INCUS to continue into development.

About Earth Venture Program :

- ◆ NASA's Earth Venture Program consists of science-driven, competitively selected, low-cost missions/investigations to better understand the current state of the Earth system and to improve predictions of future changes.

China Launched its 3rd Gaofen 11 High Resolution Reconnaissance Satellite

The China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC) launched China's 3rd Gaofen-11 (03) high-resolution reconnaissance satellite on 19th November 2021 from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in the northern province of Shanxi.

This is China's 44th launch of 2021.

- ◆ This marks the 397th mission for the Long March series carrier rockets.

About the launch :

- ◆ The satellite was launched by the Long March 4B rocket (also known as Chang Zheng 4B). The perigee height was 247 kilometers, the apogee height was 694 kilometers, and the orbital inclination was 97.5 degrees.
- ◆ This adds to the set of classified satellites with a high optical resolution to match the capabilities of the spy satellites of the United States of America (USA).
- ◆ The Gaofen-11 03 will be used for land surveys, city planning, land rights confirmation, road network design, crop yield estimation and disaster prevention and mitigation.

2021 Global Nutrition Report: India Made No Progress on Anemia and Childhood Wasting

According to the (GNR, 2021) 2021 Global Nutrition Report: The state of global nutrition, India is making no progress or worsening to meet the targets on Anaemia & Childhood wasting. The report also states that India is on course to meet 3 of the 13 global nutrition targets- Childhood stunting, Childhood overweight and Exclusive breastfeeding.

- ◆ The 2021 report indicates that India is off course in meeting the other 7 global nutrition targets.
- ◆ The report has stated that no country in the world is 'on course' to achieve the target for obesity.

About The Global Nutrition Report :

- ◆ The annual Global Nutrition Report is the world's leading independent assessment of the state of global nutrition.
- ◆ The report sets out progress towards global nutrition targets and provides a concise data-focused update on the state of diets and nutrition in the world.

India and Nepal signed MoU on Reciprocal Recognition of Covid Vaccination Certificate

India and Nepal have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for reciprocal recognition of COVID-19 vaccination certificate to ease the travel of fully vaccinated people of both India and Nepal.

- ◆ The MoU between the Health Ministers of India and Nepal was signed by Vinay M

Kwatra, Indian Ambassador to Nepal and Secretary, Ministry of health and Population, Government of Nepal at the ministry office, Kathmandu, Nepal.

- ◆ This MoU is one of the COVID-19 related cooperation and coordination between India and Nepal.

NASA Launches World 's 1st Planetary Defence Mission 'DART' on SpaceX Rocket

On 24th November 2021, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launched the world's first planetary defense mission, the Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) to intentionally smash a spacecraft into an asteroid Didymos at 15,000 miles per hour.

- ◆ A Falcon 9 SpaceX rocket has carried the DART spacecraft from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California, United States.
- ◆ NASA's Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) will be the first-ever space mission to demonstrate asteroid deflection by kinetic impactor

Goal :

- ◆ To slightly alter the trajectory of Dimorphos, a 'moonlet' around 525 feet (160 metres, or two Statues of Liberty) wide that circles a much larger asteroid called Didymos 500 feet in diameter. The Didymos-Dimorphos pair orbit the Sun together.

About National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) :

- ◆ Established - 1st October 1958
- ◆ Headquarters - Washington DC, USA
- ◆ Administrator : Bill Nelson (14th Administrator)

2021 Access to Seeds Index: India is among Top 6 Countries in Asia Attracting Investments in Seed Sector

As per the 2021 Access to Seeds Index (3rd Edition), which is launched as part of World Benchmarking Alliance (WBA), India is one among the 6 South and South-East Asian countries that attracts most investments in the domestic seed sector from the global seed industry.

- ◆ The Access to Seeds Index measures and compares the efforts of the world's leading seed companies to enhance the productivity of smallholder farmers.
- ◆ The 2021 Access to Seeds Index ranks 31 seeds companies (13 global and 18 regional companies selling vegetable and field crop) in South and South-East Asia on six measurement areas for increasing access to quality seeds of improved varieties to reach smallholder farmers with quality seeds in 14 countries.

2021 About Access to Seeds Index :

- ◆ Access to Seeds Index benchmarks 67 seed companies on their efforts to make their products available to smallholder farmer in 3 regions: South and Southeast Asia, Eastern and Southern Africa, and Western and Central Africa.
- ◆ All the 67 companies report their presence in 54 of 55 index countries.
- ◆ 2021 Access to Seeds Index is the 3rd index after 2016 and 2019 index. iii. The index also evaluates seed companies' contributions to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2: Zero Hunger.

FAO (SOFA) 2021 Report States the Need to Make Agri Food Systems Resilient to Address Food Security

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)'s The State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) 2021 Report entitled "Making agrifood systems more resilient to shocks and stresses" states the need to enhance the resilience of the agri-food systems to address food security.

- ◆ The report provides an assessment of the ability of national agrifood systems to respond to or recover readily from shocks and stressors
- ◆ This flagship publication (SOFA 2021) is part of The State of the World series of the FAO.

SOFA 2021 :

- ◆ The State of Food and Agriculture 2021 presents country-level indicators of the resilience of agri-food systems.
- ◆ The indicators measure the robustness of primary production and food availability, as well as physical and economic access to food.
- ◆ It discusses options to minimize trade-offs that building resilience may have with efficiency and inclusivity

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

- ◆ Director General- QU Dongyu
- ◆ Headquarters- Rome. Italy

China Successfully Launches new Shiyen-11 Satellite for Testing

China successfully launched the Shiyen-11 satellite aboard a Kuaizhou-1A carrier rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in the Gobi Desert in Inner Mongolia. The satellite entered its predetermined orbit.

About the satellite:

Shiyen- 11 is built for testing. Another series of Chinese satellites called 'Shijian' is used for technology verification.

The latest Shijian satellite, the Shijian-21, was launched in October 2021 to test and verify space debris mitigation technologies.

- ◆ The satellite was launched by a Long March-3B carrier rocket and it entered the planned orbit successfully.
- ◆ It was launched from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in southwest China's Sichuan Province.
- ◆ Kuaizhou-1A is a general-purpose, small-sized rocket series. It is designed and manufactured by the China Aerospace Science and Industry Corporation (CASIC) for commercial launches

Other Space Expedition of China :

- ◆ BeiDou-3 Navigation Satellite System (BDS)-
- ◆ In 2020 China has formally launched full global services of its BeiDou-3

Navigation Satellite System (BDS) :

- ◆ The navigation satellite system was completed in three steps: BDS-1 which provided services to China, BDS- 2 to provide services to the Asia-Pacific region and BDS-3 which provides services worldwide.

- ◆ It will be the fourth global satellite navigation system after the USA GPS (Global Positioning System), Russia's GLONASS and European Union's Galileo.

Mars Mission-Tianwen-1 :

- ◆ It lifts off on a Long March 5 rocket, from the Wenchang launch centre and carries 13 payloads (seven orbiters and six rovers) that will explore the planet.
- ◆ It is an all-in-one orbiter, lander and rover system

Lunar Mission- Chang'e-5 :

- ◆ The Chang'e-5 was launched on Nov- 24 2020.
- ◆ The objective of the mission was to bring back lunar rocks, the first attempt by any nation to retrieve samples from the moon in four decades.

About China :

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

India gets Elected to UNESCO World Heritage Committee for 4-year term

On 25th November 2021 India was elected to the World Heritage Committee of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) with 142 votes for a four-year term from 2021-2025.

Key Highlights :

- ◆ India is one among the 12 new members to the World Heritage Committee elected at the 23rd General Assembly of state parties to

the World Heritage Convention held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France under the chairmanship of H.E. Mr Tebogo Seokolo (South Africa).

- ◆ 12 new members - Argentina, Belgium, Bulgaria, Greece, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Zambia.

About World Heritage Committee :

- ◆ Chairman - Tian Xuejun (China)
- ◆ The World Heritage Committee meets annually which contains a Total of 21 representatives of the States Parties elected by the UN General Assembly.
- ◆ The Committee is responsible for reporting on conservation and implementing the World Heritage Convention and also decides on the inscription or deletion of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger and World Heritage List.

About UNESCO Executive Board :

- ◆ The UNESCO Executive Board is one of the three constitutional organs of the UN agency (Others - General Conference and the Secretariat) which is elected by the General Conference.
- ◆ It consists of 58 member states each with a 4-year term of office
- ◆ The Executive Board examines the programme of work and budget estimation for the UN organization.

Note :

- ◆ In November 2021, India was re-elected to the UNESCO Executive Board for a 4-year term.

About UNESCO :

- ◆ Director General - Audrey Azoulay
- ◆ Headquarters - Paris, France

41st Session of UNESCO's General Conference held in Paris, France from 9-24 November 2021

The 41st session of The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) General Conference was held in Paris, France from 9th to 24th November 2021.

- ◆ Ambassador Santiago Irazabal Mourão, Permanent Delegate of Brazil to UNESCO, has taken over as the President of the 41st session of the General Conference.
- ◆ Audrey Azoulay re-elected as the Director-General of UNESCO: Audrey Azoulay was reelected for a 2nd mandate as Director-General of UNESCO. She won the 2nd mandate at the 41st session of the General Conference with 155 votes out of a total of 169 ballots cast.

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

- ◆ Director-General- Audrey Azoulay
- ◆ Headquarters- Paris, France
- ◆ Members- 193 Members and 11 Associate Members.

Germany Announces 1.2 billion Euros for Clean Energy Commitments to India

Germany announced new development commitments over Euro 1.2 billion to India to support its fight against climate change and assist in projects like clean energy.

- ◆ Announcement for aid was made amid the visit of a Professor Dr Claudia Warning, Director General, German Ministry of Economic Cooperation & Development.
- ◆ The commitment of more than EUR 1.2 billion includes EUR 713 million for energy, EUR 409 million for urban development, and EUR 90 million for agro ecology and natural resources. The projects will support India's targets to expand solar power generation.

Indo-German Collaboration on climate change:

- ◆ India is Germany's largest development cooperation ally with four fundamental areas of collaboration such as climate change, urbanisation, natural resource depletion and strain on politics and society.
- ◆ India and Germany collectively contributed to roughly 9% of Global Greenhouse Gas (GHG).
- ◆ Comparing to 1990, Germany has planned to bring about climate neutrality by the year 2045 and also to reduce emissions by 77% in energy sector and 58% in the industrial sector while India aims to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2070.
- ◆ At 26th Conference of Parties (COP26), both the countries agreed to phase down unabated coal power. India has already identified $\mathbf{50}$ gigawatts (GW) of coal plants for retirement by 2027.

About Germany :

- ◆ President - Frank-Walter Steinmeier
- ◆ Capital - Berlin
- ◆ Currency - Euro
- ◆ German Ambassador to India - Walter Lindner

Vice President Venkaiah Naidu Addressed the Retreat Session of the 2-day 13th ASEM Summit

The Vice President, M. Venkaiah Naidu, led the Indian delegation and addressed the Retreat Session of the two-day 13th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit.

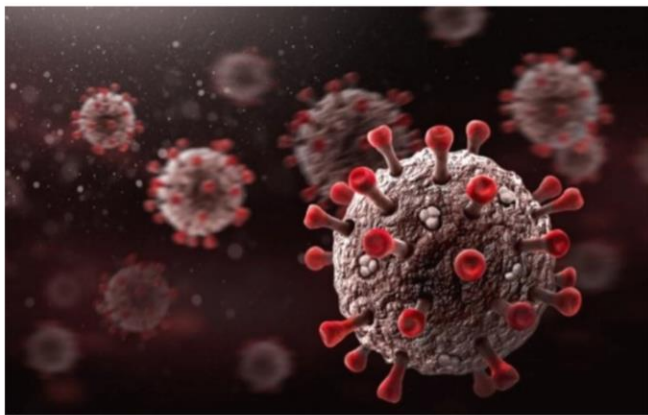
- ◆ The summit was held on November 25 and 26, 2021, in virtual format, from Phnom Penh, Cambodia, themed on 'Strengthening Multilateralism for Shared Growth'.
- ◆ The Vice President had made interventions in the Plenary Session of the Summit. He mentioned India's contribution in the fight against COVID-19.
- ◆ The summit is hosted by Cambodia as it is the current chair of the group.
- ◆ The ASEM agenda for 2021 Prioritises issues related to strengthening multilateralism, post-pandemic socio-economic recovery and development and other regional and global issues of common interest and concern.

Key Facts about ASEM :

- ◆ ASEM, which was established in 1996, is an informal platform for political dialogue and cooperation between the countries in Asia and Europe to exchange views on regional and global issues and strengthen cooperation in a wide range of areas.
- ◆ It brings together 53 partners (51 partner countries and 2 organisational partners (European Union and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)) and makes it the biggest international leaders' gathering after the United Nations General Assembly.
- ◆ The 13th ASEM summit marks the 25th anniversary of the ASEM process. The 12th ASEM Summit took place in Brussels on 18-19 October 2018.

- ◆ India's participation at the 7th ASEM summit (which was held in 2008) marks the first summit-level participation from India.
- ◆ The ASEM Summit is a biennial summit that is being held alternating between Asia and Europe to set priorities for cooperation between Asia and Europe on political, economic, financial, social, cultural and educational issues. The countries in ASEM represent 65 percent of the global GDP, 60 percent of the global population, 75 percent of global tourism and 55 percent of global trade.

WHO Designated New COVID-19 Strain, Named 'Omicron' as Variants of Concern



World Health Organisation (WHO) has designated the new, fast-spreading coronavirus variant, B.1.1.529, which was detected in South Africa named "Omicron" after a 15th letter of the Greek alphabet, as 'Variant of Concern(VOC)'.

Note :

- ◆ Currently designated VOCs are, Alpha (B.1.1.7), Beta (B.1.351), Gamma (P.1), Delta (B.1.617.2), and Omicron (B.1.1.529).

Background :

- ◆ Technical Advisory Group on Virus Evolution(TAG-VE), formally called the Virus Evolution Working Group reviews the data on the covid- 19 variant, B.1.1.529.
- ◆ The TAG-VE has advised the WHO to designate Omicron as VOC, based on the evidence presented indicative of a detrimental change in COVID-19 epidemiology.

About Omicron (B.1.1.529) :

- ◆ B.1.1.529 variant was first reported from South Africa on 24th November 2021 and the first known confirmed B.1.1.529 infection was from a specimen collected on 9 November 2021 .
- ◆ The variant announced by scientists in South Africa has also been detected in Belgium, Israel, Botswana, Denmark and Hong Kong.

Diagnostics :

- ◆ Current SARS-CoV-2 PCR diagnostics can detect this variant and several labs have reported that for one widely used PCR Test, 1 of 3 target genes is not detected, this is called S gene dropout or S gene target failure and this test is used as the marker of this variant.

Definition of Variants of Interest (VOI) :

- ◆ VOI is a SARS-CoV-2 variant with genetic changes which is known to affect virus characteristics like transmissibility, disease severity, immune escape, diagnostic or therapeutic escape.
- ◆ It is also identified to cause community transmission or multiple COVID-19 clusters, in multiple countries with increasing relative prevalence alongside an increasing number

of cases over time, or other apparent epidemiological impacts to suggest an emerging risk to global public health.

Definition of VOC :

- ◆ VOC is a variant that meets the definition of VOI and through a comparative assessment, has been demonstrated to be associated with one or more of the following changes,
- ◆ Increase in transmissibility or detrimental change in COVID-19 epidemiology
- ◆ Increase in virulence or change in clinical disease presentation
- ◆ Decrease in effectiveness of public health and social measures or available diagnostics, vaccines, therapeutics.

Dr S Jaishankar to Attend 20th Summit of SCO Council of Heads of Government



Dr. S. Jaishankar, Union Minister of External Affairs represented India at the 20th Summit of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of Government (CHG) was held on 25th November 2021 in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan under the Chairmanship of Kazakhstan

- ◆ The SCO CHG meeting is held annually and focuses on the trade and economic agenda of

the Organization and to approve its annual budget.

- ◆ The summit is held annually, with a focus on the trade and economic agenda of the Organization and to approve its annual budget.
- ◆ SCO was founded in 2001 by the Presidents of Russia, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan at a summit held in Shanghai, China
- ◆ India and Pakistan became SCO's permanent members in 2017.

1st CSC Focused Operation conducted between Maritime Security Agencies of India, Maldives and Sri Lanka

On November 27-28, 2021, the first 'Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) Focused Operation' was conducted between the trilateral Maritime Security Agencies viz. Indian Navy (IN), Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF) and Sri Lanka Navy (SLN).

It saw the participation of ships and aircraft belonging to these forces, in their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) in the Southern Arabian Sea. iii. Its aim is to keep the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) safe and secure for commercial shipping, international trade and conduct of legitimate maritime activities.

About Indian Navy :

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

65th Ballon d'Or: Argentina's Lionel Messi won the Ballon d'Or Award for the 7th time; Alexia Putellas won Women's Award



Argentina's Lionel Andrés Messi (Lionel Messi), who plays as a forward for Paris Saint-Germain has won the Ballon d'Or award for the 7th time and Barcelona's Alexia Putellas has won the Women's Ballon d'Or award. This is Alexia's first Ballon d'Or Award.

- ◆ The year 2021 marks the 65 edition of the Ballon d'Or Ceremony.
- ◆ The 2021 Ballon d'Or ceremony was held on 29th November 2021 in Théâtre du Châtelet, Paris, France.

Other Winners :

- ◆ Italy and PSG goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma has won the 2021 Yashin Trophy for the best goalkeeper.
- ◆ Bayern Munich and Poland striker Robert Lewandowski won the Striker of the Year award 2021.
- ◆ 19-year-old Pedro González López, known as Pedri, of Spain won the Kopa trophy which is

presented to the best male player age 21 or under.

- ◆ Chelsea FC won the 2021 Club of the Year at the Ballon d'Or awards ceremony.

Indian-American Parag Agarwal Takes Over as CEO of Twitter; Jack Dorsey Stepped Down

The board of directors of Twitter has decided to appoint Indian American, Parag Agrawal, the Chief Technology Officer (CTO) of Twitter, as the new Chief Executive officer(CEO) of Twitter. He was appointed following the resignation of Jack Dorsey, the co-founder of Twitter, from the post of CEO.

- ◆ Parag Agrawal will also be joining the board of directors of Twitter.
- ◆ Bret Taylor, a member of the board of Directors, Twitter, has been named as Independent Chair of the board succeeding Patrick Pichette.

About Parag Agrawal :

- ◆ Parag Agrawal is an alumnus of the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay and Stanford University.
- ◆ He joined Twitter in 2011 as a software engineer and has been serving as the CTO since October 2017.

About Jack Dorsey :

- ◆ Jack Dorsey the co-founder of Twitter is also the CEO and Co-Founder, Square, a digital payments company.

- ◆ Jack Dorsey will remain a member of the board of Twitter till 2022.
- ◆ He has served as the CEO of Twitter from 2006 to 2008, and again from 2015 to 2021.

About Twitter, Inc. :

- ◆ CEO- Parag Agrawal
- ◆ Headquarters- San Francisco, California, United States
- ◆ Founded in 2006

Sweden elected 1st Female Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson

On 29 November 2021, the former Finance Minister of Sweden, Eva Magdalena Andersson from the Social Democratic Party (SDP) won her 2nd election and became 1st female Prime Minister (PM) of Sweden.

- ◆ On 24 November 2021 she was first elected as the PM but later resigned after her coalition partner (Green Party) quit the government and the budget failed to pass.
- ◆ Sweden's Parliament is known as Riksdag.
- ◆ Sweden is the last Nordic country to get a female Prime Minister.

About Magdalena Andersson :

- ◆ Magdalena Andersson was born on 23 January 1967. She is a 54 year old Swedish politician and economist serving as the PM from the Social Democratic Party or SDP.
- ◆ She began her political career as a political adviser to then PM Goran Persson in 1996 and then as Director of Planning.

- ◆ In 2004 she began to work in the Ministry of Finance as State Secretary. iv. She became the head of the SDP on November 4, 2021. She is the second woman leader of the SDP.

About Sweden :

- ◆ It is among the five Nordic countries - Sweden, Norway, Finland, Iceland and Denmark.
- ◆ It is a member of the Arctic Council that comprises eight countries Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, and the United States.
- ◆ Capital- Stockholm
- ◆ Currency- Swedish krona

China Launches Zhongxing-1D Communications Satellite into Space

On 27 November 2021, China launched a new communications satellite named Zhongxing-1D from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in Sichuan Province, China. Zhongxing-1D is also known as ChinaSat-1D.

Key Points :

- ◆ The satellite was launched by a Long March-3B carrier rocket and entered the planned orbit successfully. This rocket is regarded as the mainstay of the Chinese space programme since 1970.
- ◆ The launch marked the 399th mission for the Long March series carrier rockets
- ◆ It was developed by the China Academy of Space Technology (CAST).
- ◆ Services provided: high-quality voice, data, and radio and television transmission services etc.

Other initiatives of China :

- ◆ In November 2021, China launched three new remote sensing satellites from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre. The satellites belong to the Yaogan-35 family.
- ◆ They were launched by a Long March-2D carrier rocket and entered the planned orbit successfully.
- ◆ This was the 396th mission for Long March series carrier rockets of China.

Micius- Quantum-Enabled Satellite :

- ◆ In 2020, Micius satellite of China sent light particles to Earth to establish the world's most secure communication link.
- ◆ Micius-It is the world's first quantum communications satellite, launched by China in \$2016 .\$.

About China :

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

Gita Gopinath appointed as IMF's First Deputy Managing Director

Indian-American and the first female Chief Economist of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Gita Gopinath is promoted as the IMF's First Deputy Managing Director (FDMD) serving under IMF Chief Kristalina Georgieva. She will succeed FDMD Geoffrey Okamoto who is set to be relieved from IMF.

About Gita Gopinath:

- ◆ She was born on 8 December 1971 in Kannur, Kerala.

- ◆ She has been serving as the Chief Economist of the IMF since 2019. In that role she is the Director of IMF Research Department and the Economic Counsellor of the Fund.
- ◆ Gita Gopinath was also appointed to various positions including as an advisory member to the US Federal Reserve Bank and also as an economic advisor to the Kerala Chief Minister (CM).

Global Trade Report of UNCTAD: Global Trade Expected to Rise by 23% to 28 trillion in 2021

As per the Global Trade update report (November 2021) of UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development), the Global trade is expected to increase by 23 percent to reach about US 28 trillion in 2021, when compared to 2020.

- ◆ Global trade growth stabilized during the second half of 202, increasing by 1 percent quarter-over-quarter.
- ◆ India's trade growth accelerated in Q3 2021 both in goods and services, while China remained relatively constant.

EIU's Worldwide Cost of Living Index 2021: Tel Aviv Ranks World's Costliest City; Paris, Singapore Ranks 2nd

According to the Economist Intelligence Unit's (EIU) Worldwide Cost of Living Index 2021, Tel Aviv, Israel has become the most expensive city in the world to live in 2021, pushing Paris, France and Singapore jointly to occupy the second spot with Zurich and Hong Kong at the fourth and fifth spots respectively.

- ◆ Tel Aviv climbed from 5th place to the top in 2021 due to the rising value of the Israeli currency shekel against US Dollar along with increase in the price of grocery and transport.
- ◆ Syria's Damascus was ranked as the world's cheapest city.
- ◆ The Worldwide Cost of Living Index examines the cost of living in 173 cities and measures impactful global events that are conducted twice a year.

About Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU) :

- ◆ Established - 1946
- ◆ Headquarters - London, United Kingdom
- ◆ Global Chief Economist, Managing Director(Asia) - Simon Baptist

HAL, BEL, Indian Ordnance Factories Ranked among SIPRI Top 100 Arms Producing Companies 2020

As per the report of Swedish think-tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) titled 'Top 100 arms-producing and military services companies, 2020', 3 Indian defence manufactures companies such as Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Indian Ordnance Factories, and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) ranks among the top 100 manufacturers globally.

- ◆ The HAL, ranked 42nd, and BEL, ranked 66th, Indian Ordnance Factories ranked 60th.
- ◆ Out of the top 100 Arms Manufacturing Companies, Companies from India contributes for \$1.2\$ percent of total arms sales of companies in the SIPRI Top 100 for

2020. US contributes for highest part of 54 percent.

- ◆ India's aggregated arms sales in 2020 was about \$ 6.5 billion, and it was \$1.7\$ percent higher than in 2019.

EAM S Jaishankar addresses 5th Indian Ocean Conference in Abu Dhabi

The Union Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Ministry of External Affairs (EAM) visited Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE) to attend the 5th Indian Ocean Conference on December 4-5,2021. The theme of the conference was 'Indian Ocean: Ecology, Economy, Epidemic'.

- ◆ The Conference is chaired by Sri Lankan President, Gotabaya Rajapaksa \& Vice Chairs are S.Jaishankar, Vivian Balakrishnan, Sayyid Badr Bin Hamad Bin Hamoud Al Busaidi.
- ◆ The conference is being organised by India foundation in collaboration with the RSIS Singapore, Institute of National Security Studies (INSS), Sri Lanka, and the Emirates Centre for Strategic Studies and Research (ECSSR), UAE.

Key Points :

- ◆ The Indian Minister met the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed where discussions were held to scale up the bilateral strategic ties between India and the UAE. ii.He also met his counterparts from Oman and Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and discussed bilateral cooperation with them.

G7 Finance Leaders set Guidelines for CBDCs

G7 (Group of Seven) advanced economies' central banks have been working to set common standards toward issuing 'Central Bank Digital Currency' (CBDC).

- ◆ As per the statement of G7, any CBDC issued by a central bank should not harm the bank's ability to fulfill its mandate on monetary and financial stability, and also should meet the standards.

What is CBDC?

- ◆ A CBDC is a legal tender that would be issued by the central bank in a digital form. It is exchangeable one-to-one with fiat currency and it would appear as a liability (currency in circulation) on a central bank's balance sheet.
- ◆ A CBDC would complement cash and could act like a liquid, safe settlement asset and an anchor for the payments system.

G7's Statement on CBDC :

- ◆ Any CBDC should be grounded in long-standing public commitments to transparency, rule of law and sound economic governance
- ◆ The currencies must be issued in a way that does not violate the central banks' mandates and meet rigorous standards of privacy, transparency and accountability for the protection of user data.
- ◆ CBDCs could enhance cross-border payments and minimize harmful spillovers to the international monetary and financial system.

Currently, China has been leading toward issuing a digital currency.

Note :

- ◆ In July 2021, the Reserve Bank of India's Deputy Governor **Dr. Ravi Sankar** stated about the RBI's plan for the phased introduction of a CBDC. [Click here to know more](#)

About G7 :

- ◆ **Members** - The G7 is an inter-governmental political forum consisting of 7 members (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States)
- ◆ **2021 Presidency** - United Kingdom

Adama Barrow wins second term as Gambia's President

The President of Gambia, Adama Barrow, won the second term as President during Gambia's presidential election by achieving over 53 % votes from 50 of 53 constituencies. He defeated his main challenger Ousainou Darboe who won 27.7 % of vote.

- ◆ The results of the election were declared by Electoral commission Chairman Alieu Momarr Njai.

Point to be noted :

- ◆ Adama Barrow's assumption as President 5 years ago ended more than 20 years of dictatorship of former dictator Yahya Jammeh.

About Gambia :

- ◆ **Capital**- Banjul
- ◆ **Currency**- Gambian dalasi

South Korea to Get World's Sustainable First Floating City by 2025

South Korea is set to get the World's first floating city, a joint effort by OCEANIX and the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habit), which is likely to be completed by 2025 .

The floating city will be developed on the coast of Busan, South Korea, to tackle the problem of rising sea levels.

- ◆ In November 2021, Busan Metropolitan City of the Republic of Korea, UNHabitat, and New York designers OCEANIX, signed an agreement to build the world's first sustainable floating city.

Background :

- ◆ The concept of the floating city, dubbed Oceanix City, was presented by Bjarke Ingels Group(BIG) and Massachusetts Institute of Technology(MIT) at a roundtable discussion on Sustainable Floating Cities at the United Nations's New York Headquarters.

India ranked 66th at the Global Health Security Index 2021; USA Tops

As per the Global Health Security (GHS) Index 2021 , the world's average overall GHS Index score was reduced to \$38.9\$ (out of 100) in 2021, from a score of 40.2 in the GHS Index, 2019. India ranked 66 out of 195 countries with an overall Index score of 42.8 and along with a change of \$-0.8\$ from 2019

- ◆ The United States of America (USA) ranked 1st on the index with a score of \$75.9\$ followed by Australia and Finland.
- ◆ No countries scored in the top tier (no country scored above 75.9) of the GHS index, with 58 percent of countries scoring below average for rapid response to and mitigation of the spread of an epidemic.

Note :

- ◆ India ranked 57th in the GHS Index 2019 with a score of 46.5 out of 100 .

About GHS Index :

- ◆ It is an assessment and benchmarking of health security and related capabilities across 195 countries. It is developed in partnership with the Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) and the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security at the Bloomberg School of Public Health. It was 1st launched in October 2019.



Australia Wins its Maiden ICC T20 World Cup



On 14th November 2021, Australia defeated New Zealand in the finals of 2021 International Cricket Council (ICC) T20 World Cup tournament that was held at Dubai International Stadium, UAE, to win its maiden T20 world cup.

New Zealand failed to win the tournament despite posting 172 runs on board, the highest ever score in ICC T20 world cup finals.

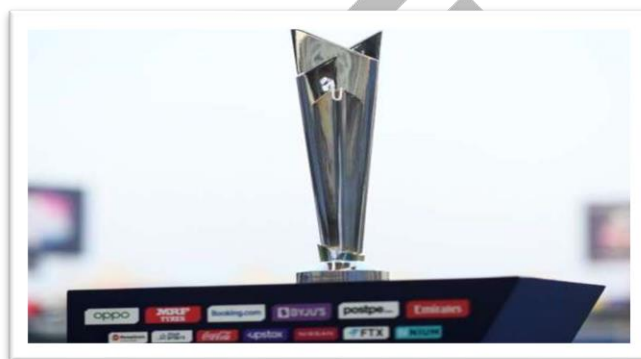
Awards:

- ◆ Player of the Match - Mitchell Marsh (Australia) for his 77 -run knock in the finals
- ◆ Player of the Tournament - David Warner (Australia) for his match winning contribution throughout the tournament

Note :

- ◆ 2021 T20 World Cup was set to be hosted by India, but due to COVID19 , the venue was later shifted to United Arab Emirates (UAE) & Oman.

India to Host 2029 ICC Men's Champions and Co-Host 2026 ICC T20 WC and 2031 50-over WC



The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the 14 host countries of the ICC men's white-ball events from 2024-2031. India is set to host the 2029 Champions Trophy and co-host the 2026 ICC Men's Twenty20(T20) World Cup (WC) with Sri Lanka and 2031 ICC Men's 50 -over World Cup with Bangladesh.

- ◆ Pakistan is set to host the 2025 ICC Men's Champions Trophy. This will be the first major global cricket tournament played in Pakistan since 1996.
- ◆ The ICC has named the United States of America (USA) the co-host of the 2024 ICC Men's T20 World Cup with West Indies and Namibia as the co-host of 2027 Men's 50 over the World Cup with South Africa and Zimbabwe. This is the first time for the USA and Namibia to host an ICC World Cup event.

Lewis Hamilton wins 2021 Brazilian Grand Prix

On 15th November 2021, Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton (United Kingdom) won the Brazilian Grand Prix 2021 in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Red Bull Racing's driver Max Verstappen (Netherlands), secured 2nd position in the race, followed by Valtteri Bottas & Sergio Perez in the third and fourth position respectively.

- ◆ This marks the 101st victory of Lewis Hamilton in Formula One racing, and the 6th win in 2021.

Note :

- ◆ In September 2021, Lewis Hamilton became the 1st Formula-One driver in the history to reach 100 wins, after winning the Russian Grand Prix (GP)

Lewis Hamilton's Wins in 2021 :

- ◆ Bahrain GP
- ◆ Portuguese GP
- ◆ Spanish GP
- ◆ British GP
- ◆ Russian GP

Lewis Hamilton wins Inaugural Qatar Grand Prix 2021

On 21st November 2021, Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton (United Kingdom) won the inaugural edition of Qatar Grand Prix 2021 that was organised at Losail International Circuit. Red Bull Racing's driver Max Verstappen (Netherlands) secured 2nd position in the race, while Alpine Racing driver Fernando Alonso secured 3rd place.

- ◆ Next Grand Prix session of 2021 will be held in Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi.
- ◆ This marks the 102st victory of Lewis Hamilton in Formula One racing, and the 7th win in 2021.

Note :

- ◆ In September 2021, Lewis Hamilton became the 1st Formula One driver in the history to reach 100 wins, after winning the Russian Grand Prix (GP).
- ◆ Lewis Hamilton registered back to back victories, after winning the Brazilian GP earlier in November 2021.

Davis Cup Finals 2021: Russia beats Croatia to win Title



The 2021 Davis Cup Finals title was clinched by Russia after defeating Croatia. It was Russia's third Davis Cup title after 2002 and 2006. Russia won for the 1st time in 15 Years after its last victory in 2006.

- ◆ Russia equalled Czech Republic and Germany in joint sixth place on the all time winners' list.
- ◆ It should be noted that it was Daniil Medvedev fifth consecutive victory at the 2021 Davis Cup. Daniil Medvedev of Russia

beats Marin Cilic by 7-6 (7), 6-2 in the second singles match.

- ◆ Andrey Andreyevich Rublev was named the Most Valuable Player of the tournament.

About Davis Cup 2021 :

- ◆ 2021 Davis Cup Finals, formerly known as World Group, was the highest level of Davis Cup competition in 2021. 2020-21 Davis Cup was the 109th edition of the Davis Cup. It was held on indoor hard courts at three venues in Innsbruck, Austria, Madrid, Spain and Turin, Italy on November 25 December 5, 2021.
- ◆ Davis Cup is an international team event in men's tennis. The women's equivalent of Davis Cup is Billie Jean King Cup. It is conducted by the International Tennis Federation (ITF).
- ◆ The Russian team is officially called as RTF (Russian Tennis Federation).
- ◆ Croatia is also a two times winner of Davis Cup title in 2005 and 2018.

Argentina Beat Germany to lift 12th MEN's FIH Junior Hockey World Cup 2021 in Bhubaneswar Odisha

Argentina junior men's hockey team defeated Germany by 4-2 in the final of the 2021 Men's FIH Hockey Junior World Cup (WC) or 12th edition of the Men's FIH Hockey Junior WC to clinch their second Junior Men's Hockey WC title at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. This was held from November 24, 2021 - December 5, 2021.

- ◆ This makes them only the third team after Germany (six titles) and India (2001, 2016) to win multiple Junior Hockey WC titles.

- ◆ The third place was clinched by France after defeating India by 3-1 in the Bronze medal match.

Point to be noted :

- ◆ This biennial men's under-21 field hockey world championship was organized by the International Hockey Federation (FIH).

Other Awards :

- ◆ Best Player of the Tournament: Timothée Clément (FRANCE) Best Goalkeeper of the Tournament: Anton Brinckman (GERMANY) Hero Top Scorer of the Tournament: Miles Bukkens (NETHERLANDS) (18 goals)

Odisha Fair Play Award: Team Chile :

- ◆ Odisha Fans Choice Award for Best Goal of the Tournament: Ignacio Nardolillo (ARGENTINA)
- ◆ Hockey India Maximum Team Goals: NETHERLANDS (45 goals)
- ◆ Hockey India Best Goal Saved of the Tournament: Mahmoud Seleem (EGYPT)
- ◆ AM/NS India Best Coach of the Tournament: Johannes Schmitz (GERMANY)

Viktor Axelsan, Tai Tzu Ying named 2021 BWF Male and Female Player of the Year

On 3 December 2021, Denmark's Viktor Axelsen and China's Taipei's Tai Tzu Ying were named Male and Female player of the year 2021 respectively by the Badminton World Federation (BWF).

- ◆ It was the first season-ending award in this category for both Viktor Axelsen and Tai Tzu Ying - the All-England champions of 2020.

Key Points :

- ◆ Viktor Axelsen is the Olympic champion and Tai Tzu Ying is the Tokyo Games silver medallist. Viktor Axelsen was rewarded for his extraordinary run starting from the Barcelona Spain Masters in February 2020.
- ◆ Tai Tzu Ying won the All England Open title in 2020 and all three finals at the three-tournament Asian Leg in January 2021. She also won the BWF World Tour Finals in 2020 and secured a silver medal at the Tokyo Olympics.
- ◆ All eight winners were honoured in a virtual broadcast

India wins 41 medals at Asian Youth Para Games

On 8th December 2021 at Indian's claimed 41 medals at 4th Asian Youth Para Games (AYPG), Asia's biggest event held at Riffa city, Bahrain.

- ◆ The event is organized by the National Paralympic Committee (NPC) of Bahrain with the support of the local government.
- ◆ Participants - Over 700 athletes from around 30 countries participated in the event from 3rd to 6th December 2021 .
- ◆ Sports - Para athletics, Para badminton, boccia, goalball, Para powerlifting, Para swimming, Para table tennis, Para taekwondo, and wheelchair basketball.

Note :

- ◆ The 5th edition of the Asian Youth Para Games 2025 will be hosted by Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

About Asian Paralympic Committee :

- ◆ President - Majid Rashed
- ◆ Headquarters - Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE)



List of Important Days National & International



World Pneumonia Day 2021- November 12

World Pneumonia Day is annually observed across the globe on November 12th to create awareness about pneumonia, the world's leading infection that kills children under the age of 5.

The day also aims to promote the interventions to protect against, prevent and treat pneumonia and to highlight the proven approaches and solutions in need of additional resources and attention.

Background :

- ◆ World Pneumonia Day was established by the Stop Pneumonia Initiative in 2009 to advocate a global action to prevent Pneumonia.
- ◆ The first world Pneumonia Day was observed on 12th November 2009.

World Usability Day 2021- November 11

World Usability Day is annually observed across the globe on the 2nd Thursday of November with an aim to raise standards so that technology works o harness human potential and to make the world a better place for consumers f every kind.

- ◆ The day is also known as 'Make Things Easier' Day.
- ◆ The World Usability Day 2021 falls on 11th November 2021.
- ◆ The World Usability Day 2020 was observed on 12th November 2020.
- ◆ The World Usability Day 2022 will be observed on 10th November 2022.
- ◆ The theme of World Usability Day 2021 is "Design of Our Online World: Trust, Ethics and Integrity".
- ◆ The 2021 theme aims to address important issues such as Dark patterns and Ethical design, Designing for Trust, and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

Background:

- ◆ This day was initiated by an organization called the Usability Professionals Association, also known as User Experience Professionals Association. The first World Usability Day was celebrated in 2005.

World Usability Initiative (WUI):

- ◆ World Usability Initiative (WUI), a United Nations Initiative, will be combined with the UN's work, specifically in regard to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals for 2030.

Goal:

- ◆ To connect the Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) and the User Experience (UX) field to the United Nations by establishing World Usability Day
- ◆ To create projects within developed and developing countries that connect with the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals.
- ◆ To create an UN-based World Usability Organization (WUO) which will focus on ensuring technology, products and services will be made accessible and usable for everyone.

Public Service Broadcasting Day 2021- November 12

Public Service Broadcasting Day is annually observed across India on November 12th to commemorate the first and only address by Mahatma Gandhi on All India Radio (AIR) on 12th November 1947.

Public Service Broadcasting Day is also known as Jan Prasaran Diwas.

Background :

- ◆ On 17th November 1947, Mahatma Gandhi visited the AIR Studios at Broadcasting House, New Delhi, Delhi to address the refugees (from Pakistan) who were camped in Kurukshetra, Haryana following the partition.
- ◆ On 12th November 1997, an event was organised at the AIR premises to commemorate the 50 years of Gandhi's visit to AIR studios.

- ◆ In 2001, the 12 th November was officially declared Public Service Broadcasting Day.
- ◆ The day was conceptualised by Suhas Borker, Convenor, Jan Prasar.

World Diabetes Day 2021- November 14

United Nations (UN) World Diabetes Day is celebrated annually on 14th November, to raise awareness of diabetes as a global public health issue and effective responsibility to be undertaken collectively and individually, for better prevention, diagnosis and management of the condition with the theme 'Access to Diabetes Care' for 2021-2023.

- ◆ 2021 celebrates the 100th year of insulin discovery and highlights the huge gap between the people who need access to insulin to control their diabetes along with essential technologies such as blood glucose meters and test strips.
- ◆ On January 23, 1922, Leonard Thompson (14-year-old) became the first person to receive an insulin injection as treatment for diabetes.

World Diabetes Day 2021: Blue Building :

- ◆ On this day, famous buildings and monuments all over the world are lit up in blue to spread the message about World Diabetes Day to people. The blue circle is the global symbol for diabetes awareness.

About International Diabetes Foundation (IDF):

- ◆ President - Andrew Boulton, United Kingdom

World Neuroendocrine Tumors (NET) Cancer Day 2021-November 10



World Neuroendocrine Tumor (NET) Cancer Day is annually observed across the globe on November 10th to create awareness about Neuroendocrine Tumor (NET), a very rare form of cancer that erupts in the pancreas, abdomen, bowel, lungs, or reproductive organs.

World NET Cancer Day is coordinated by the International Neuroendocrine, Cancer Alliance (INCA).

The campaign of World NET Cancer Day 2021 focuses on educating the general public & healthcare professionals to "Know the Symptoms. Push for Diagnosis".

Symbol:

- ◆ The zebra print ribbon is the emblem for neuroendocrine tumors including carcinoid cancer, Ehlers-Danlos Syndromes, and awareness of other rare diseases.

National Press Day 2021- November 16

The National Press Day is annually observed across India on November 16th to mark the presence of an independent and responsible press in India. The day also aims to highlight the importance of the independent press, the 4th pillar of democracy.

- ◆ The National Press Day marks the day on which the Press Council of India (PCI) came into effect in 1966.

Background:

- ◆ The first Press Commission (1954) concluded that a statutory authority body with people connected with the industry should be created to maintain professional ethics in journalism.
- ◆ This led to the creation of the Press Council of India (PCI) which was established on 4th July 1966 under the Press Council Act of 1978. It came into effect on 16th November 1966.
- ◆ Justice J.R. Mudholkar (then a Judge of Supreme Court) was appointed as the first Chairman of PCI.

About Press Council of India (PCI) :

- ◆ Chairman- Justice Chandramauli Kumar Prasad
- ◆ Headquarters- New Delhi, Delhi

International Students Day 2021- November 17

International Students' Day is annually observed on 17th November by the student's community across the globe. The day aims to ensure that every student across the globe has access to education.

- ◆ The day commemorates the anniversary of the 1939 Nazi attack on the University of Prague during World War II.
- ◆ At present, the day is observed as a nonpolitical celebration of the multiculturalism of international students.

Background :

- ◆ In 1939 Nazis attacked the University of Prague following the demonstration against the killing of Jan Opletal and worker Václav Sedláček and the German occupation of Czechoslovakia.
- ◆ The Nazis closed all the Czech higher education institutions and imprisoned more than 1200 students and sent them to concentration camps.
- ◆ On 17th November 1939, 9 students and professors were executed without trial.

National Naturopathy Day 2021-18th November 2021

The National Naturopathy Day is annually observed across India on November 18th to create awareness about naturopathy and to promote drugless systems of medicine to prevent diseases by altering diet and lifestyle.

- ◆ The day is annually observed by the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy (AYUSH).
- ◆ 18th November 2021 marks the observance of the 4th National Naturopathy Day.

National Conference on Naturopathy :

- ◆ As a part of the observance of National Naturopathy Day 2021 , the Ministry of AYUSH, Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy and the National Institute of Naturopathy has organised the National Conference on Naturopathy 17th to 18th November 2021 .
- ◆ The conference was held under the theme - "Poshan Aahar & Rog Mukh Bharath".

Women Entrepreneurship Day 2021- November 19

The Women's Entrepreneurship Day (WED) is annually observed globally on 19th November every year to celebrate, empower and support the Women Entrepreneurs in business across the world. The first day was held on November 19, 2014, and was observed in 144 countries that year.

- ◆ The inaugural event was held in New York City at the United Nations
- ◆ The day is organized by the Women's Entrepreneurship Day Organisation (WEDO) or #ChooseWomen founded by Wendy Diamond, Recipient of Ellis Island Medal of Honour.
- ◆ Nasdaq, Google for StartUps, MIT Innovation Labs, WEGate - European Commission and the Girls Scouts have all joined as partners with WEDO to celebrate the day.

About Women's Entrepreneurship Day Organisation (WEDO) :

- ◆ WEDO is a non-governmental, non-racial, non-gender, and non-political volunteer nonprofit organization founded in 2013
- ◆ Founder - Wendy Diamond
- ◆ Headquarters - New York, United States

World Toilet Day 2021-November 19

United Nations(UN)'s World Toilet Day is annually observed across the globe on November 19th to create awareness about the importance of sanitation for all. The day also highlights the importance of sanitation and hygiene in driving improvements in public health, gender equality, education, economic development and environmental protection.

- ◆ The World Toilet Day is organised by the UN-Water, the UN's coordination mechanism on water and sanitation and Taskforce which includes the World Health Organisation (WHO).
- ◆ The theme of World Toilet Day 2021 is "Valuing toilets".

Aim :

- ◆ To tackle the global sanitation crisis and achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)
- ◆ Water and Sanitation for all by 2030.

Background :

- ◆ The World Toilet Day was first established by the World Toilet Organisation in 2001
- ◆ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution A / R E S / 67 / 291 titled "Sanitation for All" on 24th July 2013 and proclaimed the 19th November of every year as World Toilet Day.
- ◆ The first UN's World Toilet Day was observed on 19th November 2013

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women 2021- November 25

United Nations (UN)'s International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women is annually observed across the globe on November 25th to create awareness about the violence and abuse against women and girls around the world.

The day aims to prevent and respond to violence against women and to educate people on the basic human rights of women and gender equality.

The global theme of International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women 2021 is "Orange the World: End Violence against Women Now!". The global theme 2021 is set by the UNiTE Campaign 2021.

- ◆ The colour orange represents a bright future free of violence against women and girls.
- ◆ Iconic buildings and landmarks across the globe will be 'oranged' to highlight the need for a violence-free future.

International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People 2021- November 29

The United Nations (UN)'s International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People is annually observed across the globe on 29th November to mark the day on which the resolution for partitioning Palestine into Arab State and a Jewish State was adopted.

- ◆ The day aims to reaffirm the commitment to the Palestinian people in their quest to achieve their rights and build a future of peace and dignity for both Palestinians and Israelis.
- ◆ The UN annually celebrates the day by undertaking its debate on the questions of Palestine.

Background :

- ◆ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/32/40 and proclaimed the 29th November as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

Why November 29?

November 29 was chosen to mark its meaning and significance to the Palestinian people.

On 29th November 1947, UNGA adopted the resolution known as Partition Resolution, which provided for the establishment in Palestine of a "Jewish State" and an "Arab State", with Jerusalem as a corpus separatum under a special international regime.

International Anti-Corruption Day 2021- December 9

The United Nations (UN) International Anti-Corruption Day is observed annually on 9th December to raise awareness of corruption and

of the role of the UN convention on combating and presenting corruption.

- ♦ The UN has set up a Global Task Force on Corruption to reinforce a One-UN approach to support in combating corruption.
- ♦ The Day highlights the role of every part of society - individuals, nongovernmental organisations, law enforcement, governments and media persons in tackling the issue of corruption.

Theme of 2021 –

"Your right, your role: say no to corruption".

Note :

- ♦ The UNGA declared 9th December as International Anti-Corruption Day in 2003



1. Which city has achieved top rank in the inaugural SDG Urban Index & Dashboard 2021-22?
 (a) Shimla (b) Guwahati
 (c) Chandigarh (d) Kochi
2. Which bank has topped the 2021 list of globally systemic banks (G-SIBs) released by the Financial Stability Board (FSB)?
 (a) Wells Fargo (b) JP Morgan Chase
 (c) Morgan Stanley (d) Goldman Sachs
3. The space agency of which country has launched DART mission to intentionally crash a spacecraft into asteroids?
 (a) Russia (b) Israel
 (c) China (d) USA
4. Which tennis player has won the 2021 ATP Finals?
 (a) Roger Federer (b) Daniil Medvedev
 (c) Stefanos Tsitsipas (d) Novak Djokovic
5. When is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women celebrated?
 (a) 24 November (b) 25 November
 (c) 23 November (d) 22 November
6. What is the theme of the 2021 International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women?
 (a) Orange the World: End Violence against Women Now!
 (b) Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect!
 (c) Orange the World: Raise Fund to End Violence against Women Now!
 (d) Orange the World: #HearMeToo

7. Which city's Patalpani Railway Station has been renamed after Tribal Icon Tantya Bhil?
(a) Patna (b) Jaipur
(c) Indore (d) Delhi
8. Name the Science and Technology Minister, who has launched India's first Virtual Science Lab for Children under CSIR Jigyasa Programme.
(a) Rao Inderjit Singh (b) Dharmendra Pradhan
(c) Ravi Shankar Prasad (d) Jitendra Singh
9. RBI has revealed a Draft Scheme for amalgamation of PMC Bank with _____.
(a) Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (b) A U Small Finance Bank
(c) Unity Small Finance Bank (d) ESAF Small Finance Bank
10. Which bank has signed an MoU with Pondicherry Co-op Milk Producers' Union Ltd (PONLAI) for financing individual dairy farmers?
(a) Bank of India (b) State Bank of India
(c) Bank of Baroda (d) Canara Bank
11. The foundation stone for the Rani Gaidinliu Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum has been laid down in which state recently?
(a) Manipur (b) Gujarat
(c) Telangana (d) Nagaland
12. As per the recent report of Goldman Sachs, what is the projected GDP growth rate of Indian economy in the financial year 2021-22?
(a) 8.8% (b) 9.1%
(c) 10.5% (d) 7.2%
13. Who has been conferred with the 2021 International Emmy Awards for Best Actor?
(a) David Tennant (b) Matt Smith
(c) Peter Capaldi (d) Michael Sheen
14. In India, November 24 is celebrated as Martyrdom Day of Guru Tegh Bahadur. He was the _____ Guru of Sikhs.
(a) 2nd (b) 4th
(c) 7th (d) 9th

15. Which bank has launched the online platform called 'Trade Emerge' to offer digital banking and value-added services?
(a) ICICI Bank (b) State Bank of India
(c) Punjab National Bank (d) HDFC Bank
16. Lachit Day is celebrated by which Indian state annually?
(a) Tamil Nadu (b) Goa
(c) Assam (d) Haryana
17. Which country has become a part of the new Nuclear-Powered Submarine defence alliance with the United Kingdom and the United States?
(a) Australia (b) Japan
(c) Russia (d) India
18. Abdalla Hamdok has been reappointed as which country's Prime Minister?
(a) Nigeria (b) Mali
(c) Eritrea (d) Sudan
19. Economic Advisory Council to PM (EAC-PM) has projected India's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth at _____ in FY23.
(a) 6-5-6.9% (b) 7.0-7.5%
(c) 8.9-9.5% (d) 9.8-10.3%
20. Which of the following has received awards at ABU – UNESCO Peace Media Awards-2021 at Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia?
(a) Doordarshan (b) All India Radio
(c) Vividh Bharati (d) Both a & b
21. The National Brain Research Centre (NBRC) under the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has launched world's first multimodal neuroimaging database called SWADESH. In which city is the DBT-NBRC based?
(a) Gurgaon (b) Pune
(c) Hyderabad (d) New Delhi

22. Where was the 20th Meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of Government (CHG) organised?
(a) Baku
(b) Nur-Sultan
(c) Bishkek
(d) Ashgabat
23. When is the National Organ Donation Day observed in India?
(a) 27 November
(b) 26 November
(c) 25 November
(d) 24 November
24. Which term has been chosen as the Word of the Year 2021 by Collins Dictionary?
(a) Meta
(b) Vax
(c) Crypto
(d) NFT
25. Which state has approved the proposal to create cyber tehsils in the state after that it will become the first state in the country to have a cyber tehsil?
(a) Bihar
(b) Uttar Pradesh
(c) Madhya Pradesh
(d) Odisha
26. Which company has partnered with the Ministry of Civil Aviation to promote regional air connectivity through the UDAN scheme?
(a) Ibibo
(b) IRCTC
(c) Yatra
(d) MakeMyTrip
27. Name the fourth Scorpene-class submarine which has been commissioned recently into services by Indian Navy at Mumbai's Naval Dockyard.
(a) Kalvari
(b) Vela
(c) Karanj
(d) Khanderi
28. Sananta Tanty passed away recently. He was a/an _____.
(a) Musician
(b) Classical singer
(c) Kathak dancer
(d) Poet

29. India now has _____ women for every 1000 men, is not getting any younger, and no longer faces the threat of a population explosion.
(a) 1,010 (b) 1,020
(c) 1,030 (d) 1,040
30. Army chief observes military exercise 'Dakshin Shakti' in _____.
(a) Jaisalmer (b) Ranikhet
(c) Surat (d) Dehradun
31. Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurated the Purvanchal Expressway in which state?
(a) Maharashtra (b) Uttar Pradesh
(c) Haryana (d) Gujarat
32. RBI has mandated all deposit-taking NBFCs (NBFCs-D) with _____ or more branches to appoint Internal Ombudsman within six months.
(a) 20 (b) 15
(c) 05 (d) 10
33. The campaign titled "Mooh Band Rakho" has been launched by which bank to raise awareness on fraud prevention?
(a) SBI (b) ICICI Bank
(c) HDFC Bank (d) Axis Bank
34. The World COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) Day is observed every year on which day?
(a) Third Monday of November (b) Third Wednesday of November
(c) Third Tuesday of November (d) Third Sunday of November
35. Internationally acclaimed bestselling author Wilbur Smith who has passed away recently was from which country?
(a) France (b) Australia
(c) Canada (d) South Africa

36. Currently what is the total corpus of Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) of RBI?
(a) Rs 614 crore (b) Rs 250 crore
(c) Rs 451 crore (d) Rs 525 crore
37. When is the National Epilepsy Day observed in India?
(a) November 16 (b) November 17
(c) November 15 (d) November 14
38. Which state government has approved the 'Pakke Tiger Reserve 2047 Declaration on Climate Change'?
(a) Assam (b) Tripura
(c) Telangana (d) Arunachal Pradesh
39. India's first 'grass conservatory' or 'germplasm conservation centre' has been inaugurated in which of the following state?
(a) Assam (b) West Bengal
(c) Nagaland (d) Uttarakhand
40. Which organization has launched 'WePOWER India Partnership Forum' to boost women participation in energy sector?
(a) World bank (b) Asian Development Bank
(c) International Monetary fund (d) Both a & b
41. As per UBS Securities, what is the projected GDP growth rate projection of India in 2021-22?
(a) 9.5% (b) 8.5%
(c) 10.5% (d) 11.5%
42. Who has been appointed as the new Chairman of the ICC Men's Cricket Committee?
(a) VVS Laxman (b) Sourav Ganguly
(c) Virender Sehwag (d) Sachin Tendulkar
43. When is the World Philosophy Day observed globally?
(a) Third Tuesday of November (b) Third Wednesday of November
(c) Third Thursday of November (d) Third Friday of November

44. India's first dedicated fisheries business incubator has been inaugurated in which place?
(a) Gurugram (b) Dehradun
(c) Kochi (d) Pune
45. How many athletes and coaches have been conferred with the first ever SAI Institutional Awards?
(a) 124 (b) 246
(c) 211 (d) 86
46. In India, the National Naturopathy Day is observed every year on _____.
(a) 15 Nov (b) 16 Nov
(c) 17 Nov (d) 18 Nov
47. Which state's 'Ration Aapke Gram' scheme & 'Sickle Cell Mission' has been launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi?
(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Uttar Pradesh
(c) Arunachal Pradesh (d) Madhya Pradesh
48. Piyush Goyal has launched India's first Digital Food Museum in which city?
(a) Coimbatore (b) Mysore
(c) Madurai (d) Thanjavur
49. Which company has launched 'Voice Trading', powered by artificial intelligence (AI)?
(a) Groww (b) Zerodha
(c) Paytm Money (d) Upstox
50. Which bank has got the ASSOCHAM award for Best Digital Financial Services under the 'Regional Rural Banks' (RRBs) category?
(a) Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (b) Aryavart Bank
(c) Canara Bank (d) Kerala Gramin Bank
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ANSWERS



1.(a) Shimla

Exp. Shimla has topped among the 56 urban areas while Dhanbad in Jharkhand is at the bottom.

2.(b) JP Morgan Chase

Exp. JP Morgan Chase has topped the 2021 list of globally systemic banks (G-SIBs) released by the Financial Stability Board (FSB). In total 30 banks have been identified as globally systemic banks (G-SIBs) by FSB. These 30 banks are divided into four "buckets".

3.(d) (d) USA

Exp. The US space agency NASA has launched a first-of-its-kind mission named DART to change the path of an asteroid by intentionally crashing a spacecraft into it. DART stands for Double Asteroid Redirection Test.

4.(d) Novak Djokovic

Exp. In Tennis, Alexander Zverev of Germany beat World No.2 Daniil Medvedev of Russia, 6-4, 6-4, in the men's single finals to clinch 2021 ATP Finals title on November 21, 2021, held at Turin in Italy.

5.(b) 25 November

Exp. The United Nations designated International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women is celebrated worldwide on November 25

6.(a) Orange the World: End Violence against Women Now!

Exp. The global theme of International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women 2021 is "Orange the World: End Violence against Women Now!". The global theme 2021 is set by the UNiTE Campaign 2021.

7.(c) Indore

Exp. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced the renaming of Indore's Patalpani railway station after tribal icon Tantya Bhil, who was well known as 'Indian Robin Hood' by the tribals.

- 8.(d)** Jitendra Singh
Exp. Science and Technology Minister, Jitendra Singh has launched India's first Virtual Science Lab for Children under CSIR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research) Jigyasa Programme. These labs will connect students with scientists across the country.
- 9.(c)** Unity Small Finance Bank
Exp. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) revealed a draft scheme for amalgamating the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank with the Delhi-based Unity Small Finance Bank Ltd. (USFB).
- 10.(b)** State Bank of India
Exp. The State bank of India (SBI) has signed an MoU with Pondicherry Co-op. Milk Producers' Union Ltd (PONLAIT) for financing individual dairy farmers up to Rs 3 Lakh.
- 11.(a)** Manipur
Exp. Union Home Minister Amit Shah laid the foundation for 'Rani Gaidinliu Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum' in Manipur.
- 12.(b)** 9.1%
Exp. Wall Street brokerage Goldman Sachs has predicted India's GDP for FY22 at 9.1% in its recent Macro Outlook 2022 report
- 13.(a)** David Tennant
Exp. David Tennant has been conferred with the 2021 International Emmy Awards for Best Actor
- 14.(d)** 9th
Exp. Every year, November 24 is celebrated as Martyrdom Day of Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth Guru of Sikhs, of Sikh religion.
- 15.(a)** ICICI Bank
Exp. Private sector lender ICICI Bank has launched an online platform called 'Trade Emerge' for Indian exporters and importers to offer them digital banking and value-added services.
- 16.(c)** Assam
Exp. Lachit Divas (Lachit Day) is celebrated annually in the Indian state of Assam, to mark the birth anniversary of the legendary Ahom army general Lachit Borphukan.

- 17.(a)** Australia
Exp. Australia officially became a part of the new Nuclear-Powered Submarine defence alliance with the United Kingdom and the United States after signing a deal with the countries in Canberra, Australia
- 18.(d)** Sudan
Exp. Sudan's removed Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok was reappointed after signing a political declaration to end the current political crisis by Hamdok and Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan, general commander of the Sudanese Armed Force.
- 19.(b)** 7.0-7.5%
Exp. Economic Advisory Council to PM projected India's GDP growth at 7.0-7.5% in FY23.
- 20.(d)** Both a and b
Exp. Doordarshan and radio show by All India Radio has received multiple awards at ABU – UNESCO Peace Media Awards-2021 at Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia. The awards were given by UNESCO in collaboration with Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union under 'Together for Peace' initiative.
- 21.(a)** Gurgaon
Exp. The unique brain initiative has been developed by the DBT-National Brain Research Centre (DBT-NBRC), Gurgaon, Haryana.
- 22.(b)** Nur-Sultan
Exp. The 20th SCO-CHG meeting was held in Nur-Sultan in virtual format under the chairmanship of Kazakhstan
- 23.(d)** 24 November
Exp. In India, the 'National Organ Donation Day' is observed every year on 27 November since past 10 years.
- 24.(d)** NFT
Exp. Collins Dictionary has named the term 'NFT' as the Word of the Year 2021. NFT is the acronym for "non-fungible token."
- 25.(c)** Madhya Pradesh
Exp. Madhya Pradesh Cabinet has approved the proposal to create cyber tehsils in the state of Madhya Pradesh. After this, MP will become the first state in the country to have a cyber tehsil.

26.(d) MakeMyTrip

Exp. MakeMyTrip partnered with the Ministry of Civil Aviation to promote regional air connectivity through the UDAN scheme. MakeMyTrip will now power UDAN flights on the 'AirSewa portal' and market them on its platform to promote its services.

27. (b) Vela

Exp. Indian Navy has commissioned indigenously built Scorpene-class submarine Vela at Mumbai's Naval Dockyard.

28.(d) Poet

Exp. Sahitya Akademi Award-winning, Eminent Assamese poet Sananta Tanty has passed away due to cancer in New Delhi.

29.(b) 1020

Exp. All three radical findings are part of the summary findings of the fifth round of the National Family and Health Survey (NFHS), which were released by the Union health ministry. India now has 1,020 women for every 1000 men, is not getting any younger, and no longer faces the threat of a population explosion

30.(a) Jaisalmer

Exp. Army chief General, M M Naravane has observed the military exercise 'Dakshin Shakti' being held here with the Army and the Air Force taking part in it. The exercise began in the deserts of Jaisalmer.

31.(b) Uttar Pradesh

Exp. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the Purvanchal Expressway at KarwaKheri in Sultanpur district of Uttar Pradesh on November 16, 2021. It will connect Lucknow with Ghazipur. The 341-km long Purvanchal Express has been constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 22,500 crore.

32.(d) 10

Exp. The Reserve Bank of India has announced to introduce the Internal Ombudsman mechanism for Deposit-taking NBFCs (NBFCs-D) with 10 or more branches.

33.(c) HDFC Bank

Exp. HDFC Bank Ltd has launched the second edition of its "Mooh Band Rakho" campaign to raise awareness on fraud prevention in support of International Fraud Awareness Week 2021 (November 14-20, 2021).

34.(b) Third Wednesday of November

Exp. World COPD Day is observed on Third Wednesday of November every year to raise awareness about chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and improve COPD care throughout the world. The World COPD Day 2021 falls on November 17, 2021.

35.(d) South Africa

Exp. Internationally acclaimed Zambia-born South African author Wilbur Smith has passed away. He was 88. The global bestselling author has authored 49 novels and sold over 140 million copies worldwide in more than 30 languages.

36.(a) Rs 614 crore

Exp. The total corpus of Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) of RBI has reached Rs 614 crore. The PIDF scheme was launched by RBI in January 2021, to subsidize deployment of payment acceptance infrastructure (PoS) in Tier-3 to Tier-6 centres with a special focus on the North-Eastern States of the country.

37.(b) November 17

Exp. In India, November 17 is observed every year as National Epilepsy Day by the Epilepsy Foundation, to create awareness about epilepsy.

38.(d) Arunachal Pradesh

Exp. The government of Arunachal Pradesh approved the 'Pakke Tiger Reserve 2047 Declaration on Climate Change Resilient and Responsive Arunachal Pradesh', which aims to promote "climate-resilient development" in the state.

39.(d) Uttarakhand

Exp. India's first 'grass conservatory' or 'germplasm conservation centre' spread over an area of 2 acres was inaugurated at Ranikhet in Almora district of Uttarakhand.

40.(d) Both a & b

Exp. The event was organized by the World Bank (WB) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) in association with the India Smart Grid Forum (ISGF). The event saw a panel discussion on expanding job opportunities for women in India's Clean Energy Transition'.

41.(a) 9.5%

Exp. UBS Securities has made GDP growth rate projections for India for 2021-22 (FY22) at 9.5%.

42.(b) Sourav Ganguly

Exp. The President of BCCI, Sourav Ganguly, has been appointed as the Chairman of the ICC Men's Cricket Committee, during the ICC Board Meeting held on 16 November 2021

43.(c) Third Thursday of November

Exp. World Philosophy Day is celebrated on Third Thursday of November each year. In 2021, the day falls on 18 November. It was first celebrated in 2002 by the United Nations.

44.(a) Gurugram

Exp. The first-of-its kind, dedicated fisheries business incubator has been inaugurated in Gurugram of Haryana to nurture fisheries start-ups under real market-led conditions. The incubator is known as LINAC- NCDC Fisheries Business Incubation Centre (LIFIC).

45.(b) 246

Exp. Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports Shri Anurag Thakur presented the first ever SAI Institutional Awards to 246 athletes and coaches on November 17, 2021 in New Delhi. From the total 246 awardees, 162 athletes and 84 coaches were honoured in the Outstanding Award and Best Award category.

46.(d) 18 Nov

Exp. The National Naturopathy Day is observed in India on 18 November every year, to promote positive mental and physical health through drugless system of medicine, called as Naturopathy.

47.(d) Madhya Pradesh

Exp. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a series of Tribal Welfare programmes on his visit to Madhya Pradesh. PM Modi launched a welfare scheme named 'Ration Aapke Gram' scheme & 'Sickle Cell Mission' of Madhya Pradesh.

48.(d) Thanjavur

Exp. Union Minister, Piyush Goyal virtually launched India's first Digital Food Museum in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu.

49.(c) Paytm Money

Exp. Paytm Money, the wholly-owned subsidiary of Paytm, has launched 'Voice Trading', powered by artificial intelligence (AI). It will allow users to place a trade or get information about stocks via single voice command.

50.(a) Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank

Exp. The Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) got the award for the best 'Digital Financial Services', in line with India's vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', under the 'Regional Rural Banks' (RRBs) category by Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM).