



pravahini

Monthly Compendium

SUCCESS MANTRA (GTB Nagar)

PREFACE

It gives us great pleasure to release the monthly edition of the PRAVAHINI - Monthly e-Compendium & Weekly e-Periodicals of Current Affairs. The magazine's members have shown considerable cooperation as well as devotion. We at successmantra.in work tirelessly to create this magazine and bring it to you with a great sense of gratitude.

The PRAVAHINI November-2021 eBook covers the current events that happened in the month of November. Current Affairs is a crucial component of any competitive exams including CLAT, AILET, DU-LLB, HM, CAT, IAS, PCS, SSC, Banking, MBA and various other competitive examinations.

Current Affairs play the bigger role in many competitive and government exams. It holds the power of making or breaking your chance of success. Therefore, the candidates should cover the Current Affairs thoroughly and smartly.

The PRAVAHINI November-2021 eBook is divided into different sections keeping in mind the need of various exams. The sections covered namely International, National, Economy, Ecology and Environment, Science & Technology, Legal Affairs, Sports, States News Makers and few others.

We would also be pleased to receive any suggestion that could assist us with the upcoming editions.

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The graphic is a promotional poster for Success Mantra GTB Nagar. On the left, a yellow vertical rectangle contains the word 'Why' in a large, black, cursive font, followed by the 'SUCCESS MANTRA' logo in bold black letters with a red horizontal bar through the 'S', and 'GTB NAGAR' below it. A large black question mark is at the bottom of this rectangle. To the right, a series of seven horizontal bars of different colors (yellow, red, purple, blue, teal, dark blue, and grey) are stacked and angled downwards from left to right. Each bar contains a circular icon and text describing a feature: a dollar sign icon for 'EXAM ORIENTED PREPARATION REASONABLE FEES', a bar chart icon for 'TOP-NOTCH CLASS FACULTY MEMBERS UNDER ONE ROOF PREVIOUS YEAR SELECTIONS', a clock icon for 'PREPARATION UNDER THE GUIDELINES OF EXPERT TEAM TIMELY COMPLETION OF SYLLABUS', a globe icon for 'SPECIAL ATTENTION TO EVERY STUDENT (BATCH SIZE IS APPROX. 35 - 40) MOCK TESTS AND CLASSROOM TEST', a person icon for 'ONLINE ARTICLE AND QUIZ ON OUR WEBSITE VIDEO LECTURES FOR REVISION PURPOSES', a computer monitor icon for 'FORM FILLING ASSISTANCE FOR KEY EXAMS POST RESULT COUNSELING', and a graduation cap icon for 'FORM FILLING ASSISTANCE FOR KEY EXAMS POST RESULT COUNSELING'. A cartoon illustration of a smiling man in a blue shirt and brown trousers stands to the right of the bars.

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We have **NO CONNECTION** With **CLEAR EXAM SUCCESS MANTRA**

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

INDIA'S 1ST MANNED OCEAN MISSION: SAMUDRAYAAN



Union Minister of State Dr Jitendra Singh launched India's first manned ocean mission Samudrayaan at the National Institute of Ocean Technology in Chennai.

With this launch of the Unique Ocean Mission, India joined the elite club of nations such as the **US, Russia, France, Japan, and China to have niche technology and vehicles** to carry out subsea activities.

This will open up more growth avenues to explore ocean resources for clean energy, drinking water, and blue economy.

Samudrayaan mission is India's first unique manned ocean mission that aims to send men into the deep sea in a submersible vehicle for **deep-ocean exploration and mining of rare minerals**.

The 200-crores Samudrayaan Mission will send three persons in a **manned submersible vehicle MATSYA 6000** to a depth of 6000 metres into the sea for deep underwater studies. Submarines go only about 200 metres.

The National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) had announced the Samudrayaan mission in sync with the **Gaganyaan mission of ISRO that aims to send a manned mission into space by 2022**.

The Samudrayaan mission is a part of the **Rs 6000-crores Deep Ocean Mission**. The proposal of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) on the '**Deep Ocean Mission**' was approved on June 16, 2021, by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.

The Deep Ocean Mission aims to **explore the deep ocean for resources, develop deep-sea technologies** for sustainable use of ocean resources, and support the **Blue Economy Initiatives of the Indian Government**.

The **manned submersible vehicle MATSYA 6000 under the Samudrayaan Mission** will facilitate the Ministry of Earth Sciences, MoES in conducting deep ocean exploration of resources such as **gas hydrates, polymetallic manganese nodules, hydro-thermal sulfides, and cobalt crusts** which are located at an approximate depth between 1000 and 5500 metres.

The National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) and Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) have

indigenously developed the manned submersible MATSYA 6000 with a depth capability of 6000 metres under the umbrella of Deep Ocean Mission.

The 'Samudrayaan Mission' is not increasing the scientific capacity of India but also building the national esteem of India. Developed countries have already carried out similar ocean missions. **India could be the 1st country among the developing nations to carry out a deep ocean mission**

PM MODI DEDICATED MULTIPLE NH & ROADS PROJECT

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone and **dedicated various National Highway and Road projects to the nation in the temple town of Pandharpur** in



Maharashtra, through video conference.

These initiatives are aimed at improving connectivity in the region **to facilitate the hassle-free and safe movement of devotees**.

About the Project: PM laid the foundation stone for four laning of five sections of **Sreesanth Dnyaneshwar Maharaj Palkhi Marg (NH-965)** and four laning of three sections of **Sant Tukaram Maharaj Palkhi Marg (NH-965G)**.

The Sreesanth Dnyaneshwar Maharaj Palkhi Marg **will be completed in five phases at estimated costs of more than Rs. 6690 crore** while Sant Tukaram Maharaj Palkhi Marg **will be completed in three phases at estimated costs of about Rs. 4400 crore**.

The project also includes the construction of dedicated **walkways for 'Palkhi' on either side of these National Highways**.

PM also dedicated to the nation more than 223 km of completed and upgraded road projects of over Rs. 1180 crore at different National Highways aimed at boosting connectivity to Pandharpur.

NMCG ORGANISED 'GANGA UTSAV 2021' BEGINS

The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) is **organising a three-day-long "Ganga Utsav 2021"** to mark the anniversary of Ganga being declared as the "National River".



The fifth edition of the **Ganga Utsav** is being considered as a 'River Festival' celebrating rivers across the Ganga Basin and involving more than 150 districts across the country.

This year the effort will be to take the experience of the celebration of Ganga Utsav 2021 to the **various river basins in India and promote the celebration of River Festival - 2021.**

The "Ganga Utsav 2021 - The River Festival " will not only celebrate the glory of the river Ganga but all the rivers of the country to promote the celebration of 'Nadi Utsav' (River Festival).

The 2021 event has been organised under the leadership of the **Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.**

About the event: The annual event is organised by the **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** jointly with the **Ministry of Jal Shakti** to mark the anniversary of the announcement of River Ganga as the 'National River' on November 04, 2008.

The 2021 celebrations will be part of the 75 years of Independence and **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.**

On the first day of the festival, the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) got registered in the Guinness Book of World Records for the highest number of photos of handwritten notes uploaded on Facebook in an hour.

National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) is the implementation wing of **National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA).**

It is a registered society, originally formed by the **Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** on 12th August 2011 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.

Main pillars of the programme include sewerage treatment infrastructure, river-front development, river-surface cleaning, biodiversity, afforestation, public awareness industrial effluent monitoring, and ganga gram.

DELHI GOVT. LAUNCHED SHRAMIK MITRA SCHEME

The Delhi government launched the **Shramik Mitra scheme to ensure all construction workers in Delhi are informed** and able to avail benefits of government schemes.

The Shramik Mitra scheme is an initiative by the **Delhi Government** to ensure that the benefits of all government schemes reach construction workers in Delhi.



Under the scheme, **around 800 Shramik Mitras will go door-to-door of all construction workers in the national capital** to make them aware of several government schemes in the interest of the workers.

The Shramik Mitra scheme will appoint at least 3 to 4 Shramik Mitras across all wards who will reach out to workers registered by the Construction Board at the ward level.

The Shramik Mitras will also help workers in applying and availing the benefits of these government schemes.

There are about 6 lakh construction workers in Delhi who have registered themselves with the **Construction Board through various registration campuses that were launched by the CM Arvind Kejriwal-led Delhi government.**

IAF PARTICIPATED IN INT. BIENNIAL EXERCISE 'BLUE FLAG'

The **Israeli Defence Force (IDF)** has hosted seven air forces at its biennial **Exercise Blue Flag** at Ovda Airbase near Eilat in southern Israel.



Blue Flag is described as an international training exercise hosting air forces from around the world to strengthen cooperation between the nations.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar visited Israel's Ovda Airbase to meet the Indian contingent participating in the biennial Blue Flag exercise involving Air Force missions from eight countries, that aims to share knowledge and combat experience to improve operational capabilities.

A total of 84 Indian Air Force (IAF) personnel are taking part in the exercises along with five upgraded **Mirage 2000 fighter aircraft.**

They are the latest updated technological version of the French aircraft, equipped with advanced avionics and weapons systems.

The **US, UK, Germany, France, Italy, Greece and Israel** are the other nations participating in the exercises, which will for the first time see the participation of **F-35 aircraft.**

India had also participated in this biennial event in 2017 with the focus then on boosting special operations capabilities, including search and rescue operations under different conditions and cross border counter-terrorist operations.

The theme of Blue Flag 2021: **Integration of fourth and fifth-generation aircraft in complex operational scenarios.**

The Blue Flag drill is a bi-annual exercise designed to strengthen Israel's military cooperation internationally.

Israel is among the top arms suppliers to India with sales ranging from Phalcon AWACS (airborne warning and control systems) and Searcher, Heron and Harop UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles) to Aerostat and Green Pine radars, Barak anti-missile defence and several types of missiles and laser-guided bombs.

CENTRE TO REPEAL THREE CONTENTIOUS FARM LAWS



Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that his government will repeal the three contentious agricultural laws and requested protesting farmers to go back to their fields and homes.

Addressing the nation on the occasion of Gurpurab, PM Modi said the three laws will be repealed in the **winter session of Parliament starting later this month.**

The announcement came on the **Gurupurab/Prakash Utsav festival**, when Sikhism founder Guru Nanak's birthday is celebrated in the country.

The decision comes **just ahead of state polls in Punjab and Uttar Pradesh** where the farm protests were predicted to dent the BJP's electoral fortunes. Last year, in September, **President Ram Nath Kovind** gave his assent for the three bills passed by the Parliament.

Since the three farm bills have already been passed into law, the government will have to formally bring three new bills to repeal them and get them passed in both Houses.

The three contentious bills are:

- The Farmer's Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020,
- The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020 and

- The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill.

MAMATA BANERJEE LAUNCHED 'DUARE RATION SCHEME'

Mamata Banerjee, the Chief Minister of West Bengal, launched the "Duare Ration Scheme" on November 16, 2021.



Around 10 crore individuals in the state would benefit from the **Duare Ration (ration at doorstep)** initiative.

The government has also agreed to increase ration dealers' commission from Rs 75 to Rs 150 per quintal of food grains.

Ten **crore individuals would receive their rations at their doorstep on a monthly basis under the plan.** Getting rations to each person's door is a difficult task. As a result, one locality will take around a year to finish.

Until then, the government will split a road into four halves to **distribute rations to the public.** The locals must be notified in advance of the distribution. The working capital for becoming a ration dealer would be reduced from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 50,000.

PM NARENDRA MODI LAUNCHED TWO SCHEMES IN MP

In MP, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the 'Ration Aapke Gram' initiative and the 'Sickle Cell Mission.'



On his visit to Madhya Pradesh, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** launched a range of tribal welfare schemes. PM Modi announced the commencement of Madhya Pradesh's 'Ration Aapke Gram' and 'Sickle Cell Mission.'

He also lays the foundation stone for 50 new Eklavya Model Residential Schools to be built across India.

Beginning in 2021, the Indian government will commemorate the 15th of November as '**Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas,**' or '**Tribal Gaurav Diwas.**' Modi alluded to his lengthy history with tribal people.

He was complimented for the diversity of their spiritual and cultural lives, and he stated that every component of tribal culture, including songs and dances, has a life lesson, and they have a lot to offer.

CENTRE EXTENDED TENURE OF CBI & ED DIRECTORS

Recently, the President promulgated two ordinances that would allow the Centre to **extend the tenures of the directors of the Central Bureau of Investigation & the Enforcement Directorate** from two years to up to five years.



The Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946 and the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) Act, 2003 have been amended to give the government the power to keep the two chiefs in their

posts for one year after they have completed their two-year terms.

The chiefs of the Central agencies currently have a fixed two-year tenure, but can now be given three annual extensions.

Amendments in DSPE Act: Provided that the period for which the Director holds the office on his initial appointment may, in public interest, on the recommendation of the **Committee (the committee led by the Prime Minister and leader of Opposition and CJI as members)** and for the reasons to be recorded in writing, be extended up to one year at a time.

Provided further that no such extension shall be granted after the completion of a period of five years in total including the period mentioned in the initial appointment.

Amendments in CVC Act: Provided that the period for which the Director of Enforcement holds the office on his initial appointment may, in public interest, on the recommendation of the **Committee (comprising of CVC chief, Revenue and Home Secretaries among others)** and for the reasons to be recorded in writing, be extended up to one year at a time.

Provided further that no such extension shall be granted after the completion of a period of five years in total including the period mentioned in the initial appointment.

PM MODI INAUGURATED PURVANCHAL EXPRESSWAY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the **341-km long Purvanchal Express in Sultanpur district, Uttar Pradesh.**

The expressway links state capital **Lucknow with Ghazipur** and has been constructed at an estimated cost of **Rs 22,500 crore.**

PM Modi landed on the Purvanchal Expressway airstrip in a military transport aircraft. **The key feature of the Expressway is the 3.2 km long airstrip to enable landing and take-off of Indian Air Force fighter planes in case of emergency.**



About the Purvanchal Expressway: The Purvanchal Expressway **starts from village Chaudsarai in the Lucknow district and ends at Haidaria village** on National Highway number 31, 18 kilometres east of the Uttar Pradesh-Bihar border.

The expressway is 6-lane wide which can be expanded to 8-lane in the future.

This expressway is set to give a boost to the economic development of the eastern part of Uttar Pradesh especially the districts of **Lucknow, Barabanki, Amethi, Ayodhya, Sultanpur, Ambedkar Nagar, Azamgarh, Mau and Ghazipur.**

PM MODI TO INAUGURATE KASHI CORRIDOR PROJECT

On December 13, 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the **Kashi Vishwanath Temple Corridor project in Varanasi.**

The initiative, which will be inaugurated before the state's scheduled Assembly elections, is noteworthy in terms of cultural politics.

Around 400 households were required to leave the region for this project. To make place for this project, several encroachments around the old temple were removed.

The vision of Ahalya Bai Holkar, the Holkar queen of Indore, is embodied in this project. She built a network of temples and vistas leading to the Ganga ghat.

Kashi Vishwanath Temple Corridor project

This project links the Kashi Vishwanath temple to the Holy Ganga's ghats. It is made out of a 320-meter-long and 20-meter-wide paved promenade. It also features a museum, a library, a **Mumuksha Bhawan (salvation house)**, and a pilgrim facilitation centre.

The cost of this project is estimated to be **Rs 600 crore.** It was first released in March of this year. Around **Rs 300 crore** was spent on land and buildings surrounding the temple complex, as well as compensation.

INDIA LAUNCHED E-AMRIT PORTAL ON ELECTRIC VEHICLES



India on November 10, 2021, launched an electric vehicle awareness web portal called e-Amrit at the ongoing COP26 Summit in Glasgow, UK.

NITI Aayog on November 10, 2021, launched the e-AMRIT (Accelerated e-Mobility Revolution for India's Transportation) web portal at COP26 Summit in Glasgow.

e-AMRIT web portal has been developed in collaboration between NITI Aayog and the UK Government as part of the India-UK Joint Roadmap 2030.

The e-AMRIT portal aims at creating awareness about electric mobility in India. It has been developed as a 'one-stop site' for all the information related to the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) in India.

The web portal will be accessible through different devices such as PCs, mobile phones, tablets, screen readers. NITI Aayog is working on adding more features and innovative tools to make the e-AMRIT portal more interactive and user-friendly.

CABINET APPROVED CONTINUATION OF O-SMART SCHEME



The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has authorised the continuance of the "Ocean Services, Modelling, Application, Resources, and

Technology (O-SMART)" umbrella programme for the period 2021-26.

The continuance was approved at a cost of Rs 2177 crore. The autonomous institutions of the Ministry of Earth Sciences are in charge of implementing all of the sub-schemes.

The O-SMART programme is a government initiative that was started on August 29, 2018, with the goal of encouraging ocean research and establishing early warning weather systems.

It also intends to handle activities related to ocean development such as technology, services, science, resources, and observations.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences is in charge of implementing this plan. O-SMART is an interdisciplinary ongoing programme.

It will strengthen the nation's capabilities in the oceanographic sector at the world level through intensive research and technology development initiatives.

In the next five years, this scheme will provide even more comprehensive coverage by bolstering ongoing activities aimed at **delivering cutting-edge technology applicable to the marine domain**, understanding biodiversity in order to develop conservation strategies, forecasting and warning services, and so on.

Objectives: The O-SMART system has the following goals,

- To deliver forecasts and services based on continuous ocean observation,
- To create technology and conduct exploratory studies in order to exploit ocean resources in a sustainable manner.
- To encourage cutting-edge research in ocean sciences.

PARLIAMENT POWERS TO REPEAL A LAW

Recently, the Prime Minister of India announced that the three contentious farm laws that were passed in 2020 would be repealed in the upcoming winter session of Parliament.



Article 245 of the Constitution gives Parliament the power to make laws for the whole or any part of India, and state legislatures the power to make laws for the state.

Parliament draws its power to repeal a law from the same provision. **For repeal, the power of Parliament is the same as enacting a law under the Constitution.**

A law can be repealed either in its entirety, in part, or even just to the extent that it is in contravention of other laws.

Sunset Clause: Legislation can also have a "sunset" clause, a particular date after which they cease to exist.

For example, the **anti-terror legislation Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act 1987**, commonly known as TADA, had a sunset clause, and was allowed to lapse in 1995.

Repealing: For laws that do not have a sunset clause, Parliament has to pass another legislation to repeal the law.

Laws can be repealed in two ways - **either through an ordinance, or through legislation.**

Ordinance: In case an ordinance is used, it would need to be replaced by a law passed by Parliament within six months. If the ordinance lapses because **it is not approved by Parliament, the repealed law can be revived.**

Repealing through Legislations: The government will have to pass the legislation to repeal the farm laws in both Houses of Parliament, and receive the President's assent before it comes into effect. **All three farm laws can be repealed through a single legislation.**

Usually, Bills titled Repealing and Amendment are introduced for this purpose. It is passed through the same procedure as any other Bills.

The last time the **Repealing and Amending provision was invoked was in 2019** when the Union government sought to repeal 58 obsolete laws and make minor amendments to the Income Tax Act, 1961 and The Indian Institutes of Management Act, 2017.

ANDHRA PRADESH TO HAVE ONLY ONE CAPITAL: AMRAVATI



Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu announced that Andhra Pradesh will have only one capital- Amravati.

Andhra Pradesh Govt withdraws Andhra Pradesh

Decentralisation & Inclusive Development of All Regions Bill 2020 at the State Assembly.

Jagan Mohan Reddy-led YSRCP government had earlier proposed three different capitals for the state-

- **Amravati**-Legislative capital
- **Visakhapatnam**- Executive capital
- **Kurnool**- Judicial capital.

The **Andhra Pradesh state assembly** had passed two acts- Andhra Pradesh Decentralisation and Inclusive Development of All Regions Bill, 2020 and **Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development (Repeal) Act** in June 2020 amid resistance from the TDP. Both the acts were later signed by the then governor, Biswa Bhushan Harichandan.

The **Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development (Repeal) Act** was aimed at abolishing the authority

created by the previous TDP government in 2015 to develop Amravati as the state capital.

The **Andhra Pradesh Decentralisation and Inclusive Development of All Regions Bill, 2020** was aimed at establishing three capitals for Andhra Pradesh.

PM MODI TO LAY FOUNDATION STONE OF NOIDA INT. AIRPORT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone of the **Noida International Airport at Jewar, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh** on November 25, 2021. With this, Uttar Pradesh will become the only state in India to have five international airports.



The **development of the Noida International Airport** is in line with the Prime Minister's vision towards boosting connectivity and creating a future-ready aviation sector.

The **Noida International Airport will be the second international airport** to come up in Delhi NCR and will help decongest the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport.

Five International Airports of Uttar Pradesh

- Lucknow International Airport
- Varanasi International Airport
- Kushinagar International Airport (Inaugurated on October 20, 2021)
- Ayodhya International airport
- Noida International Airport

The **first phase of the airport will be developed at a cost of over Rs 10,050 crore.** The first phase of the airport will have a capacity to serve around 1.2 crore passengers a year.

The **Noida International Airport will be India's first net-zero emissions airport.** The airport will have dedicated land that will be developed as a forest park using trees from the project site. The airport will also preserve all native species and be nature positive throughout its development.

GOVERNMENT TO BAN CRYPTOCURRENCY IN INDIA

The Government of India will introduce a '**Cryptocurrency Bill, 2021**' in India to ban all the private cryptocurrencies in the country. However, it will provide certain exceptions to facilitate the underlying **technology of Cryptocurrency.**

'The Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2021' will be among the 26 new bills that will be introduced by the Government of India for the Winter Session of Parliament starting from November 29, 2021.



The Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2021' aims to create a facilitative framework to create the official digital currency which will be issued by the Reserve Bank of India.

The bill will also seek to prohibit all the **private cryptocurrencies in India**. However, the Crypto bill or Cryptocurrency Bill, 2021 will allow certain exceptions for facilitating the underlying technology of cryptocurrency and its uses.

Parliament Winter Session

The **winter session of Parliament** will commence from November 29, 2021, and the **Central Government** is planning of introducing new bills before being taken up for passage.

Apart from the 26 new bills, including a bill to ban **Cryptocurrency in India**, **three bills** that are referred to the Standing Committees, are also on the agenda of the Indian Government for consideration and passage.

Crypto bill or 'The Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2021', was not listed earlier among the 23 bills in the tentative list of the Indian Government's legislative and financial business that was tabled in Lok Sabha during the Monsoon Session of Parliament.

PM LAID FOUNDATION OF INT. AIRPORT AT JEWAR IN UP

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the Foundation Stone of Noida **International Airport at Jewar in Uttar Pradesh**. The Jewar airport is the second international aerodrome in **Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR)**. It is the fifth international airport in Uttar Pradesh. Uttar Pradesh has now become the state with the highest number of international airports in India.



About the airport: The airport has been developed by **Zurich Airport International AG** over **1,330 acres of land area**.

The airport is expected to be operational by September 2024. Once operational, this airport will be the largest airport of India and **the first net-zero emissions airport of the country**.

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ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

INDORE GETS CLEANEST CITY TAG FOR 5TH YEAR IN A ROW

The **President of India Ram Nath Kovind** on November 20, 2021, conferred awards to 342 cleanest cities of India at the 'Swachh Amrit Mahotsav' as part of Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban 2.0 by the **Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi. More than 300 awards under various categories were given for recognizing the cleanliness and sanitation efforts of the towns, cities, States, and Union Territories under various initiatives of **Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban** such as the **Swachh Survekshan 2021**, Safai Mitra Suraksha Challenge, and certifications for Garbage Free Star rating for cities.



WHICH IS THE CLEANEST CITY IN INDIA 2021?

Under the **Swachh Survekshan 2021**, Indore has been awarded the 'Cleanest City' of India award for the 5th consecutive year in the 'more than 1 lakh' population category followed by Surat and Vijayawada on the 2nd and 3rd rank respectively. **Vita, Lonavala, and Sasvad** cities from Maharashtra have **ranked first, second, and third Cleanest Cities respectively** in the 'less than 1 lakh' population category. **Hoshangabad in Madhya Pradesh** emerged as the 'Fastest Mover City' in the 'more than 1 lakh' population category thus securing a place among the top 100 cities at 87th position. In other categories, **Varanasi won the 'Best Ganga Town'**, Ahmedabad Cantonment won 'India's Cleanest Cantonment' followed by Meerut Cantonment and Delhi Cantonment.

CLEANEST STATE IN INDIA 2021

Under the **Swachh Survekshan 2021**, **Chhattisgarh** has been awarded as the 'Cleanest State' of India for the 3rd consecutive year in the 'more than 100 Urban Local Bodies'. **Jharkhand** won the 'Cleanest State' of India for the second time in the 'less than 100 Urban Local Bodies' category. Karnataka emerged as the 'Fastest Mover State' in the 'more than 100 Urban Local Bodies' and **Mizoram** emerged as the 'Fastest Mover State' in the 'less than 100 Urban Local Bodies'.

Top performer cities, states under first Safai mitra Suraksha Challenge

Under the **Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge**, the top performer cities are Indore, Navi Mumbai, Nellore, and Dewas across different population categories among 246 participating cities while the top performer states are Chhattisgarh and Chandigarh. Under the Star Rating Protocol of Garbage Free Cities, 9 cities were certified as 5-star cities while 143 cities were certified as 3-star. The nine 5-star rated cities are Indore, Surat, New Delhi Municipal Council, Navi Mumbai, Ambikapur, Mysuru, Noida, Vijayawada, and Patan.

Top 10 cleanest cities in India: Indore, Surat, Vijayawada, Navi Mumbai, Pune, Raipur, Bhopal, Vadodara, Visakhapatnam, Ahmedabad

SWACHH SURVEKSHAN 2021: SIGNIFICANCE

The **President of India Ram Nath Kovind** on November 20, 2021, conferred the **awardees of Swachh Survekshan (SS) 2021** at the 'Swachh Amrit Mahotsav' which was organized by the **Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on November 20, 2021. The 'Swachh Amrit Mahotsav' marked the celebration of the achievements of cities and states in India over the past seven years of **Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban**. Launched on October 1, 2020, the Swachh Bharat Mission–Urban 2.0 focuses on ensuring complete access to sanitation facilities for all. Over the years, the **world's largest urban cleanliness survey Swachh Survekshan** has become an effective tool for innovations and best practices in sanitation and waste management across urban India. The Swachh Survekshan 2021 holds significance as it is commemorating the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' and recognizes the efforts of Safai Mitras (frontline sanitation workers) amid the COVID-19 pandemic.



Despite the pandemic, the **6th edition of Swachh Survekshan (SS2021)** was conducted in a record time of 28 days. A total of 4,320 cities participated. The SS2021 saw over 5 crores citizens' feedback compared to 1.87 crores in 2020. In

Swachh Survekshan 2021, Maharashtra won 92 awards which is the highest by any State this year followed by Chhattisgarh with 67 awards. Additionally, five cities – **Indore, Surat, Navi Mumbai, New Delhi Municipal Council, and Tirupati** were categorized as 'Divya' (Platinum) under a new performance category Prerak Daaur Samman in SS2021.

RELATED: PM MODI LAUNCHED SBM-URBAN 2.0 & AMRUT 2.0

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched **Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0** and **AMRUT 2.0**. The missions have been designed to make all our cities 'Garbage Free' and 'Water Secure'. The **Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 has been launched with the aim of making the cities garbage-free**. PM Narendra Modi said while launching the mission "that with the 2nd phase, we also aim sewage and safety management, making cities water-secure and ensuring that dirty nullahs don't merge into rivers."



SWACHH BHARAT MISSION-URBAN 2.0

- **SBM-U 2.0, announced in Budget 2021-22**, is the continuation of SBM-U first phase. The government is trying to tap safe containment, transportation, disposal of faecal sludge, and septage from toilets. **SBM-U first phase was launched on 2nd October 2014 aiming at making urban India Open Defecation Free (ODF)** and achieving 100% scientific management of municipal solid waste. It lasted till October 2019. It will be implemented over five years from 2021 to 2026 with an outlay of Rs.1.41 lakh crore
- **Aim:** It focuses on source segregation of garbage, reduction in single-use plastic and air pollution, by effectively managing waste from construction and demolition activities and bioremediation of all legacy dump sites. Under this mission, **all wastewater will be treated properly before it is discharged into water bodies**, and the government is trying to make maximum reuse a priority.
- **Mission outcomes:** All statutory towns will become ODF+ certified (**focuses on toilets with water, maintenance and hygiene**). All statutory towns with less than 1 lakh population will become ODF++ certified (focuses on toilets with sludge and septage management). 50% of all statutory towns with less than 1 lakh population will become Water+ certified (aims to sustain toilets by treating and reuse of water). All statutory towns will be at least 3-star Garbage Free rated as per MoHUA's Star Rating Protocol for Garbage Free cities.

PROGRESS UNDER SBM-U PHASE-I

4,324 urban **local bodies have been declared Open Defecation Free**, which has been made possible through the construction of more than 66 lakhs individual household toilets and over 6 lakhs community/public toilets, far exceeding the Mission's targets. Digital enablements such as Swachhata App, the **digital grievance redressal platform introduced by MoHUA in 2016**, has reinvented the way in which citizen grievance redressal is managed. Swachh Survekshan, the world's largest urban cleanliness survey covering over 4,000 Urban Local Bodies was initiated under SBM-Urban in 2016.

2ND PHASE OF AMRUT MISSION (AMRUT 2.0)

The **Prime Minister** also launched the second phase of **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT 2.0)**. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) is the nodal ministry for the scheme.

AMRUT MISSION 2.0

It is the **continuation of the AMRUT mission launched in June 2015** to ensure that every household has access to a tap with the assured supply of water and a sewerage connection.

AMRUT 2.0 aims to provide 100% coverage of water supply to all households in around 4,700 **ULBs (Urban Local Bodies)**. It also seeks to promote Atmanirbhar Bharat **through encouraging Startups and Entrepreneurs (Public Private Partnership)**.



#Reading Corner

When you read, you exercise your comprehension abilities and your analytical abilities. It fires up your imagination and stimulates the memory centers of your mind. It helps recall information as well as stabilize your emotions.

The importance of a reading habit is that it strengthens mental muscles. Reading is one of the best mental workouts there is.

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Objectives: It will build upon the progress of AMRUT to address water needs, rejuvenate water bodies, better manage aquifers, reuse treated wastewater, thereby promoting a circular economy of water. **It will provide 100% coverage of sewerage and septage in 500 AMRUT cities.** Recycling and reuse of treated wastewater is expected to cater to 20% of total water needs of the cities and 40% of industrial demand. Under the Mission, fresh water bodies will be protected from getting polluted to make natural resources sustainable. **Pey Jal Survekshan will be conducted in cities to ascertain equitable distribution of water,** reuse of wastewater and mapping of water bodies.

PERFORMANCE OF AMRUT PHASE-I

1.14 crore water tap connections have been provided taking total connections to 4.14 crore in AMRUT cities. Credit rating work has been completed in 470 cities. Of which, 164 cities have **received Investable Grade Rating (IGR)**, including 36 cities with rating of A- or above. Rs 3,840 crore has been raised through Municipal Bonds by 10 ULBs. The Online Building Permission System has been implemented in 2,471 cities including 455 AMRUT cities. This reform has helped improve India's rank in **Ease of Doing Business in construction permits to 27 in Doing Business Report (DBR) 2020 of World Bank from 181 in 2018.** 89 lakh conventional streetlights have been replaced with energy efficient LED lights, leading to estimated energy savings per annum & reduction in CO2 emission.



IMPACT OF THE LAUNCH

Swachh Bharat and AMRUT Mission have both succeeded in bringing about transformative changes in the lives of people since their launch. The missions have not only transformed the urban landscape by adopting scientific approach and engaging citizens, **but under Swachh Bharat Mission, urban areas of 35 States/ UTs have become open defecation free.** Besides this, over 73 lakh toilets have been built across India that has improved health and sanitation across the country and about 97% homes have door to door waste collection facilities. The missions signify a step towards effectively addressing the challenges of rapidly urbanizing India. **They will also aim to achieve the targets set under UN's Sustainable Development Goals 2030.**

WHAT IS SWACHH SURVEKSHAN?

Launched as a part of the Swachh Bharat Mission, it is an annual survey of cleanliness, hygiene and sanitation in cities and towns across India. The ranking exercise is taken up by the Government of India to assess rural and urban areas for their levels of cleanliness and active implementation of Swachhata mission initiatives in a timely and innovative manner. Swachh Survekshan-Urban is conducted by **the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.** Swachh Survekshan-Rural is conducted by **the Ministry of Jal Shakti.** Earlier, it was conducted by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation which was merged with the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation **to make a new Ministry of Jal Shakti in 2019.**

TENURE OF CBI & ED DIRECTORS EXTENDED UPTO 5 YEARS

Directors of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) may now continue in their jobs for up to five years if the government desires. Two ordinances signed by President Ram Nath Kovind have virtually extended the tenures of the chiefs of the two agencies for up to five years. Both posts currently have a fixed tenure of two years. The Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act and The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) Act have been amended to give the government the power to keep the two chiefs in their posts for one year after they have completed their two-year terms.



The centre's ordinance had sought three consecutive one-year term extensions for the directors of CBI and Enforcement Directorate. The current term of CBI and ED Chiefs is two years, as per the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) Act, 2003. The centre is expected to table a law in Parliament to replace the same.

- **CBI full form:** Central Bureau of Investigation
- **Current CBI Chief:** Subodh Kumar Jaiswal (incumbent since May 25, 2021)
- **ED full form:** Enforcement Directorate
- **Current ED Director:** Sanjay Kumar Mishra (incumbent since November 19, 2018)

AMENDMENTS IN DSPE ACT & CVC ACT

Provided that the period for which the Director holds the office on his initial appointment may, in public interest, on the recommendation of the Committee (the committee led by the Prime Minister and leader of Opposition and CJI as members) and for the reasons to be recorded in writing, be extended up to one year at a time. Provided further that no such extension shall be granted after the completion of a period of five years in total including the period mentioned in the initial appointment.

Provided that the period for which the Director of Enforcement holds the office on his initial appointment may, in public interest, on the recommendation of the Committee (comprising of CVC chief, Revenue and Home Secretaries among others) and for the reasons to be recorded in writing, be extended up to one year at a time. Provided further that no such extension shall be granted after the completion of a period of five years in total including the period mentioned in the initial appointment.

CENTRAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (CBI)

The CBI was set up in 1963 by a resolution of the Ministry of Home Affairs. Now, the CBI comes under the administrative control of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. The establishment of the CBI was recommended by the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption (1962-1964). The CBI is not a statutory body. It derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946. The CBI is the main investigating agency of the Central Government. It also provides assistance to the Central Vigilance Commission and Lokpal. It is also the nodal police agency in India which coordinates investigations on behalf of Interpol Member countries. The CBI is headed by a Director. The CBI has jurisdiction to investigate offences pertaining to 69 Central laws, 18 State Acts and 231 offences in the IPC.

APPOINTMENT OF CBI DIRECTOR

- The Director of CBI as Inspector General of Police, Delhi Special Police Establishment, is responsible for the administration of the organisation. The Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act (2013) amended the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act (1946) and made the following changes with respect to appointment of the Director of CBI:
- **Appointment Committee:** The Central Government shall appoint the Director of CBI on the recommendation of a three-member committee consisting of the Prime Minister as Chairperson, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India or Judge of the Supreme Court (SC) nominated by him.
- The Delhi Special Police Establishment (Amendment) Act, 2014 made a change in the composition of the committee related to the appointment of the Director of CBI. It



states that where 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.

DELHI SPECIAL POLICE ESTABLISHMENT ACT

The Central Bureau of Investigation traces its origin to the **Special Police Establishment (SPE) which was set up in 1941** by the Government of India. The functions of the SPE then were to investigate cases of **bribery and corruption in transactions with the War & Supply Deptt. Of India during World War II**. Even after the end of the War, the need for a Central Government agency to investigate cases of bribery and corruption by Central Government employees was felt. The **Delhi Special Police Establishment Act was therefore brought into force in 1946**. The CBI's power to investigate cases is derived from this Act.

WHAT IS ENFORCEMENT DIRECTORATE (ED)?

The **Enforcement Directorate (ED)** is a law enforcement agency of the Government of India that is responsible for enforcing Economic Laws and fighting Economic Crime. The **Directorate General of Economic Enforcement (Enforcement Directorate)** is a law enforcement and economic intelligence agency responsible for enforcing economic laws and fighting economic crime in India. It was formed with the purpose of handling **Exchange Control Law violations under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947**. Initially established under the Department of Economic Affairs in 1956 as an **'Enforcement Unit'**, it was later shifted to the Department of Revenue for administration in 1960. It was **renamed as the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in 1957**. Now, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) is administered by the Department of Revenue **under the Ministry of Finance**. The ED has its headquarters in New Delhi and has many regional offices all over the country. It is headed by the Director of Enforcement, who is an IRS officer (Indian Revenue Service).



ED enforces the following laws:

Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA): The legal framework for the administration of foreign exchange transactions in India is provided by the **Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999**. Under the FEMA, which came into force with effect from 1st June 2000, all transactions involving foreign exchange have been classified either as capital or current account transactions.

Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA): In India, the specific legislation dealing with money laundering is the **Prevention of Money-Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002**. The law was enacted to combat money laundering in India and **has three main objectives :**

- To prevent and control money laundering.
- To provide for confiscation and seizure of property obtained from laundered money.
- To deal with any other issue connected with money-laundering in India.

Under the PMLA Act, the Enforcement Directorate is empowered to conduct a Money Laundering investigation. Apart from the provisions of PMLA, **there are other specialised provisions such as RBI/SEBI/IRDA anti-money laundering regulations.**



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

PM MODI LAUNCHED 'OSOWOG INITIATIVE' WITH UK PM



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his British counterpart Boris Johnson jointly launched the 'One Sun, One World, and One Grid' (OSOWOG) initiative at the COP 26 Climate Meet in Glasgow.

This project is about setting a **'trans-national electricity grid to supply solar power** across the world.

About OSOWOG: **The vision behind OSOWOG is 'The Sun Never Sets.** It is a constant at some geographical location, across the globe, at any given point of time.

This is the most ambitious scheme undertaken by India and is significant in terms of economic benefits. **It has been taken up under the technical assistance program of the World Bank.**

This plan will also leverage the **International Solar Alliance (ISA).**

On the occasion, he also announced that **India's space agency, ISRO** will provide a calculator to the world soon, that can **measure the solar energy potential of any region.**

'One Sun, One World, One Grid' (OSOWOG) solution will be used to tackle the challenge of solar power.

Earth's atmosphere receives enough sunlight in one hour, **that can be used to power the electricity needed of every human on earth for a year.** However, solar energy is only available during the day. Another challenge is that it is dependent on weather conditions.

G20 ENDED WITH ADOPTION OF ROME DECLARATION



The **2021 G20 (Group of Twenty) Summit** was held in Rome, Italy on October 30 and 31, 2021. **It was the 16th meeting of the G20 group.**

The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi. **The summit concluded with the adoption of the Rome Declaration by G20 Leaders.**

Agenda and Motto of the Summit:

Motto: People, Planet, and Prosperity

Agenda: climate change, economic recovery, the pandemic and the global minimum corporate tax rate.

The final document committed the G20 member's nation leaders to the following:

- **Providing \$100 billion** every year from now until 2025 to counter climate change.
- To end **international financing** for all new coal plants by the end of 2021,
- Take action to limit global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.
- Strengthen the **WHO on Emergency Use Authorisation (EUA)** for Covid-19 vaccines.

Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi led the Indian delegation at the Summit. The Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal was India's G20 sherpa or personal representative of the head of government.

PM MODI AT COP-26 GLASGOW CLIMATE SUMMIT

Addressing the COP26 Glasgow Climate Summit held in Scotland, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that India will reach net-zero carbon emission by 2070.



PM Modi stressed on a **five-point plan or 'Panchamrit'** to fight the devastating effects of global warming and climate change.

More than 120 world leaders were present at the COP26 Glasgow Climate Summit.

India is the last of the **world's major carbon polluters to announce a net-zero target.**

China has said that it would reach the net-zero carbon emission goal in 2060 **while the United States and the European Union** are aiming for reaching the goal by 2050.

Highlights from PM Modi's speech

India would increase its 2030 target for an installed **capacity of 'non-fossil energy', mostly solar from 450 to 500 gigawatts.**

PM Modi said that India will **fulfil 50% of its energy requirement through renewable energy by 2030**. India is committed to reducing carbon emissions by 1 billion tonnes and a **net 45% carbon reduction among the five-point plan**.

The number of goods produced per unit of energy would be reduced by 45% by 2030. The previous goal was 35%.

GLOBAL METHANE PLEDGE LAUNCHED AT COP-26 SUMMIT



In the United Nations COP26 climate conference in Glasgow Global Methane Pledge was launched.

This promise has been signed by over 90 countries so far. The **United States and the European Union** are jointly leading the Global Methane Pledge.

Because methane is the second most abundant greenhouse gas in the atmosphere, this vow is significant.

The **US and EU originally launched the Global Methane Pledge in September 2021**. It's a deal to cut down on worldwide methane emissions.

This commitment was made with the goal of reducing methane emissions by 30% by 2030 when compared to 2020 levels.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, methane is responsible for around half of the 1.0 degree Celsius increase in global average temperature since pre-industrial times.

According to the United Nations, **methane is responsible for 25% of global warming**.

Methane is a greenhouse gas and a natural gas component. Its presence in the atmosphere raises the Earth's temperature. Methane is produced both by humans and by nature.

INDIA HOSTED A SECURITY DIALOGUE ON AFGHANISTAN



On November 10, 2021, India hosted a security dialogue on Afghanistan. The involvement of Russia, Iran, and the other Central Asian countries in the dialogue has been confirmed.

For the first time, all Central Asian countries will be represented, not just Afghanistan's close geographical neighbors.

China and Pakistan have also been invited to participate in the dialogue. Pakistan, on the other hand, has stated that it will not participate.

In the aftermath of the Taliban's takeover of power, **India is organizing a debate to address the overall security situation in Afghanistan**. The security dialogue will take place at the level of the participating countries' national security advisers.

The conference will be chaired by **Ajit Doval, India's National Security Advisor**. This format has been used for two previous sessions. In September 2018 and December 2019, meetings were held in Iran.

US BECOMES 101ST MEMBER OF INT. SOLAR ALLIANCE

The United States has become the 101st member country of the **International Solar Alliance**.

US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry formally signed the ISA framework agreement

on November 10, 2021 during the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow.



Green Grids Initiative – One Sun One World One Grid

India along with the United Kingdom had launched the Green Grids Initiative – One Sun One World One Grid on November 2, 2021 during the World Leaders Summit of the COP26 climate conference in Glasgow.

The steering committee of the initiative comprised five members- **India, Australia, France, the US and the United Kingdom**.

Under the initiative, 80 countries endorsing the **One Sun Declaration resolved to combine their efforts to create more interconnected grids** to deliver the vision of One Sun One World One Grid.

The **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** was launched in 2015 by India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and former French President Francois Hollande during the 21st session of the United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP-21) in Paris, France.

The then UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon had attended the conference along with the heads of state of about 120 nations who had affirmed their participation in the International Solar Alliance.

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an alliance of 124 countries, most of whom lie either completely or partly between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.

The main objective of the alliance is to work towards efficient consumption of solar energy to reduce dependence on fossil fuels. The initiative was proposed by PM Modi in a speech in November 2015 in the United Kingdom.

CHINA'S HISTORIC RESOLUTION TO BOOST XI'S POWERS



China's ruling Communist Party (CCP) passed a rare 'historical resolution' praising the president's pivotal role in the country's regeneration.

President Xi Jinping's hold on power has been strengthened by this decision. In the CCP's 100-year existence, this is the third resolution of its type.

The other two resolutions were passed during the reigns of **Mao Zedong, who brought the Communists to power in 1949**, and **Deng Xiaoping**, whose reforms transformed China into an economic powerhouse in the 1980s.

Resolution's Motive: It justifies the victor's journey to power by delivering verdicts to the losers in power battles. It establishes a case for the winner's party's exceptional achievement.

Importance Of Resolution: This is a major resolution for the ruling party since it effectively cements Xi's grip on power.

The President has placed himself at the center of his Party's and modern **China's great narratives through this resolution.**

RUSSIA DELIVERS S-400 MISSILE SYSTEM TO INDIA



Russia has begun delivering the S-400 missile system to India in order to improve the country's air defence capabilities.

In 2021, Russia began deliveries for deployment on schedule. In 2018, India paid \$5 billion for this system.

The contract between India and Russia got problematic as the **US threatened to impose penalties on countries that do business with Russia in the defence sector.**

India purchased five S-400 systems in 2018 and paid the first \$800 million instalment in 2019. **The S-400 is widely regarded as the world's most sophisticated air-defence system.**

The missile can defend itself against missiles, rockets, cruise missiles, and aeroplanes from within its air defence bubble.

S-400 Triumph: The S-400 Triumph is a surface-to-air missile (SAM) system that is transportable. In the 1990s, **Almaz Central Design Bureau for Marine Engineering** created it as an update to the S-300 series.

On August 6, 2007, **the first battalion of the newest surface-to-air missile systems reported for service.** In 2014, China became the first international customer of the missile.

Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Belarus, and India have all purchased or showed interest in the system since then. The 30K6E administrative system organises S-400 missile systems. It has a range of 400 kilometres.

INDIA, SINGAPORE & THAILAND MARITIME EXERCISE 'SITMEX-21'

The 3rd edition of the Trilateral Maritime Exercise named SITMEX-21 is being held from 15 to 16 Nov 21 in the Andaman Sea.



The Navies of India, Singapore and Thailand will participate in the event. **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Karmuk is participating in the 3rd edition from India.** It is an indigenously built Missile Corvette.

The event is being hosted by Royal Thai Navy (RTN) in the Andaman Sea with an aim to enhance the cooperation between the participating navies towards augmenting the overall maritime security in the region.

About the SITMEX: SITMEX is being conducted annually since 2019 with an aim to **enhance mutual inter-operability and imbibing best practices between the Indian Navy (IN), RSN and RTN.**

The **maiden edition of SITMEX was hosted by IN off Port Blair in September 2019.** RSN hosted the second edition of the exercise in November 2020. **The 2021 edition of the exercise is being hosted by RTN in the Andaman Sea.**

1ST JOINT NAVAL EXERCISE: US, UAE, ISRAEL & BAHRAIN



Forces from the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Israel and the United States Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT) began a multilateral maritime security operations exercise in the Red Sea.

This is the first publicly acknowledged naval exercise between the **United States, Israel and the two Gulf countries.**

The **UAE and Bahrain in 2020 normalised diplomatic relations with Israel** under a US-brokered deal known as the **Abraham Accords**, brought together by shared worries about Iran and hopes of economic gains.

The **US 5th Fleet/NAVCENT is based in the Gulf island state of Bahrain** and operates in the Arabian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, Red Sea and parts of the Indian Ocean.

Since February 2021, Iran and Israel have been accused of **engaging in what analysts have called a "shadow war"**, in which vessels linked to each nation have come under attack in waters around the Gulf in tit-for-tat exchanges.

Negotiations between Iran and major powers (P5+1) on reviving a 2015 nuclear deal will resume in Vienna on 29th November 2021, with failure carrying the risk of a sharp spike in regional tensions.

The five-day exercise in the **Red Sea is intended to enhance interoperability between participating forces.**

Maritime collaboration helps safeguard freedom of navigation and the free flow of trade, which are essential to regional security and stability.

The exercises include boarding, search and seizure training on the **USS Portland, an amphibious transport dock ship.**

32ND INDO-THAI COORDINATED PATROL (CORPAT)



Recently, the **32nd edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT)** between the Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy was conducted.

India and Thailand have been carrying out CORPAT along their International Maritime Boundary Line twice a year since 2005.

Indian Naval Ship (INS) Karmuk, an indigenously built Missile Corvette and His Majesty's Thailand Ship (HTMS) Tayanchon, a Khamrosin Class Anti-submarine Patrol Craft, along with Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both navies participated in the CORPAT.

The exercise is aimed towards reinforcing maritime links between the two countries and with an aim of keeping this vital part of the Indian Ocean safe and secure for international trade.

It facilitates institution of measures to prevent and suppress **unlawful activities like Illegal Unreported Unregulated (IUU) fishing, drug trafficking, maritime terrorism, armed robbery and piracy.**

It further helps enhance the operational synergy by exchange of information for prevention of smuggling, illegal immigration and for conduct of search and rescue (SAR) operations at sea.

INDIA RE-ELECTED TO UNESCO'S EXECUTIVE BOARD

India has been re-elected to the **United Nations' cultural and education organisation (UNESCO) Executive Board** for a four-year term from 2021-25. India was re-elected to the board with 164 votes.



India has been re-elected to the UNESCO board in Group IV Asian and the Pacific States along with **Japan, Vietnam, Philippines, Cook Islands and China.**

India had earlier been elected in 2017 for a four-year term till 2021. In Group I, **Iceland, Austria and Turkey have been elected.**

In Group II East European Group, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Lithuania have been elected. In Group III, **Chile, Mexico, Paraguay, Saint Lucia, Grenada and Haiti** have been elected.

In Group V(a), Congo, South Africa, Botswana, Angola, Djibouti and the United Republic of Tanzania were elected.

Kuwait, Egypt and Jordan were elected to the UNESCO board in Group V(b).

UNESCO Executive Board

The **UNESCO Executive Board** is one of the three constitutional organs of UNESCO. The other two are the General Conference and the Secretariat.

The **UNESCO Executive Board** is elected by the General Conference. The board mainly examines the programme of work for the organisation and corresponding **budget estimates submitted to it by the UNESCO Director-General**.

UNESCO Executive Board Members: The board comprises 58 member-states, each with a four-year term of office. UNESCO has a total of 193 member states.

All the **newly elected or re-elected member states will serve a four-year term from 2021-2025**. The election took place on November 17, 2021 during the ongoing 41st session of the UNESCO General Conference.

JOE BIDEN INVITED INDIA AT DEMOCRACY SUMMIT



The **President of the United States** Joe Biden has invited more than 100 countries to a **virtual summit on democracy** to be held on December 9-10, 2021.

The invite list of the democracy summit includes **India and Taiwan** but excludes China, a move which is bound to anger the country.

The virtual democracy summit was a campaign pledge by the **US President**, who placed the struggle between the democracies and the autocratic governments at the **heart of his foreign policy**. The Summit for Democracy will be taking place ahead of an in-person **meeting at its second edition in 2022**.

The main rivals of the **United States- Russia and China** have been excluded from the list, however, the inclusion of Taiwan is guaranteed to further escalate **the tensions between US and China**.

It is widely known that China resists any use of the word **'Taiwan'** as it lends a **sense of international legitimacy** to the democratic self-ruled island, which China claims as part of its territory and has also vowed to seize one day.

To a virtual summit on democracy, including the major western alliances, the **US has invited India and Pakistan from the South Asia region**. From East Asia, Japan is invited to the summit.

Taiwan is invited to the virtual summit on democracy. A major diplomatic move that will further escalate the tensions between US and China.

Among the **Middle East countries**, only Iraq and Israel have been invited to the summit on Democracy.

Brazil is invited even though Jair Bolsonaro, Brazil's far-right President has been criticized as having an authoritarian bent. He was also a firm supporter of **Donald Trump**.

Poland has been invited to the summit despite the continuous tension with the **EU over its human rights record**. In Africa, South Africa, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Niger, and Nigeria are invited to **the Biden Democracy Summit**.

China and Russia, the principal rivals of the United States are not invited to the Democracy Summit.

Turkey is missing from the participant's list. **The country is also US's NATO ally**. Traditional Arab allies of the United States- Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates, are not on the democracy summit invite list.

Three principal themes at democracy summit While announcing the **Democracy Summit back in August 2021**, the US had said that the meeting on democracy will stimulate the initiatives and commitments across three principal themes:

- Defending against **authoritarianism**
- Fighting Corruption
- Promoting **Respect for Human Rights**

BARBADOS BECOME THE WORLD'S NEWEST REPUBLIC

Barbados has become the World's newest republic, around 400 years after it became a British colony.

Barbados, the Caribbean Island nation, removed Queen Elizabeth II as the head of the state. Dame Sandra Prunella Mason, took over as **the President of Barbados**.



Mason was selected to become the first president of Barbados in October 2021. Mason was selected as President of **Barbados, at a joint meeting of both the Houses of Parliament of Barbados**.

His name was announced by **Speaker of the House of Assembly, Arthur Holder**.

Since 2018, **Mason has been the governor-general of Barbados**. Mason completed her judicial education in London, after studying at Queen's College.

She also completed a judicial fellowship in Canada. She started her career as a teacher and worked in the **banking sector until 1978**.

She became the first female sworn in as Court of Appeal Judge of the Barbados Supreme Court in 2018. In 2014, she became the first Barbadian to be a member of **Commonwealth Secretariat Arbitral Tribunal (CSAT)**. She also became the first female president of the SCAT in 2017.

Barbados is said to have been made a 'slave society' by the British. It first became an English colony in 1625. **It gained its independence in 1966**.

NUCLEAR POWERED SUBMARINE DEFENCE ALLIANCE



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.

Under the AUKUS deal, Australia will be provided with 8 nuclear-powered submarines capable of stealthy and long-range missions. It is the first agreement on technology signed by the three countries after the formation of the **defence alliance AUKUS (Australia-UK-US)**.

About AUKUS: It is a trilateral Security Alliance of the **USA, UK and Australia** which will focus on advancing strategic interests in **the Indo-Pacific region**.

The **USA denied the allegation** that it is forming this security alliance in order to contain and counter China's growing influence and aggression in the **Indo-Pacific Region**, especially in the South China Sea.

Official Mandate: Grouping said that the '**AUKUS partnership** will work to protect our people and support a peaceful and **rules-based international order**.

AUKUS will foster deeper integration of security and defense-related science, technology, industrial bases, and supply chains.

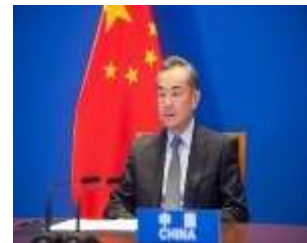
Nuclear-powered submarines to Australia: The **AUKUS grouping** has decided to share Nuclear Submarine Technology with Australia in the coming future with an aim to enhance the nuclear capability of Australia in the Indo-Pacific region.

The only prior instance when the **USA shared its nuclear submarine** defense submarine technology with a country is **Great Britain in 1958**.

This makes it a very significant step in terms of upping the ante in the **Indo-Pacific region**. With this, now Australia is all set to join an elite group of only six countries – **India, the US, the UK, France, Russia and China** – that operate nuclear-powered submarines.

18TH RIC FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING

Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar chaired the 18th meeting of Foreign Ministers of Russia, India, and China virtually on November 26, 2021.



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov had taken part in the meeting through video conference. India had taken over the chairmanship of the RIC after the **last RIC Foreign Ministers** meeting in Moscow in September 2020.

The **RIC Chairmanship** will now pass on to China's Foreign Minister for the next year.

India has not recognized the **Taliban government in Afghanistan** and has been initiating talks on restoring peace in the nation and providing all necessary aid to its citizens.

India had recently hosted an **NSA-level meeting on Afghanistan** last month and had also taken part in the Moscow dialogue on Afghanistan before that.

What is RIC?

Russia-India-China (RIC) is a strategic grouping that was established in the late 1990s under the leadership of Yevgeny Primakov, the then **Russian foreign minister and Prime Minister (1998-99)**.

The grouping was created to form a platform to counterbalance **the western hegemony**.

The group's three-member countries- **Russia, India and China-constitute 19 percent** of the global geographical space and contribute to almost 33 percent of the global GDP.

The **RIC grouping** provides an opportunity for the three countries to identify and work on common interests and tensions. It enables the formation of a more **egalitarian global economic** order that can counterbalance US dominance.

The **three RIC nations** also form the core of **BRICS and SCO** grouping and hence, they can work together on how they would want to influence the global order in the coming times, through these larger platforms.

G7 FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING TO BE HOSTED BY UK



The **United Kingdom** is all set to host a summit of **Foreign and Development Ministers from the G7** in December 2021 in the city of Liverpool, UK.

The **Foreign Secretary of the UK Liz Truss** will welcome the counterparts from **France, the US, Italy, Canada, Germany, European Union, and Japan** over three days i.e. from December 10 to 12, 2021.

The **United Kingdom is holding the G7 Presidency in 2021** and this will also be the second in-person gathering of the **G7 Foreign Ministers in 2021**. The leaders met in May this year.

Notably, the countries from the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations** will also attend the **G7 Foreign Ministers' Meetings** for the first time, indicating UK's growing Indo-Pacific tilt.

The **UK Foreign and Development Ministers** will be discussing the range of global issues, global health, economic resilience post-COVID, and human rights.

G7 Ministers Meet comes after a series of global summits around the UK in 2021. The other meetings include the **COP Climate summit in Glasgow** and the **G7 Leaders Summit** hosted by the Prime Minister of the UK in June 2021.

Among the **ASEAN Foreign Ministers** who will attend the G7 Foreign Ministers meeting are those from **Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia**.

Liverpool has been chosen for hosting the meeting because of its history as an iconic city with a global outlook, strong ties around the world, and a thriving musical, **cultural and sporting heritage**.

The meeting of **G7 Foreign and Development Ministers** in Liverpool will be a fantastic opportunity of showcasing Liverpool to the world, further highlighting the best of **British culture, commerce, and creativity**.

KAMALA HARRIS: 1ST FEMALE ACTING PRESIDENT OF US



US Vice-President Kamala Harris on November 19, 2021, became the **first female acting President of the United States** for one hour and 25 minutes when US President Joe Biden temporarily transferred power

to Harris while he went under anesthesia for a routine colonoscopy.

With this development, 57-years-old Kamala Harris is now the first woman ever who held presidential powers in the 250-years-old history of the US.

Kamala Harris is the first woman, first African-American and first Asian-American, first Indian-American who holds the second-most powerful position in the US.

Harris was elected US Vice-President on November 7, 2020, after Joe Biden was declared the President of the United States in the US Presidential Elections 2020.

Section 3 of the 25th Amendment to the US Constitution says the President can send a letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate declaring they are "unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, and until he transmits to them a written declaration to the contrary, such powers and duties shall be discharged by the Vice President as Acting President."

The **25th Amendment of the US Constitution** comprises the procedure through which a President or Vice-President of the US can be replaced in the **event of death, resignation, removal or incapacitation**. The 25th Amendment was enacted following the death of former US President John F Kennedy who was assassinated.

DOSTI TRILATERAL EXERCISE: INDIA, MALDIVES & SRI LANKA

The **15th session of the biennial trilateral coast guard exercise 'Dosti'** is being held in the **Maldives by India, the Maldives, and Sri Lanka**.

The **Dosti Trilateral Coast Guard Exercise** will celebrate its 30th anniversary in 2021. The drill began on November 20 and will be completed on November 25.



ICGS Apoorva and ICGS Vajra of the Indian Coast Guard joined the **SLCGS Suraksha** of the Sri Lanka Coast Guard during the five-day drill.

The **trilateral exercise 'Dosti'** was organised with the goal of strengthening friendships, increasing cooperation between the three nations' coast guards, and improving mutual operational capacity and exercising interoperability.

The **Maldives and Sri Lanka** are strategically important to India and its maritime security interests, hence this exercise is essential for India.

The **inaugural Dosti Coast Guard Exercise** took place in 1991. Previously, these drills were bilateral, including the Indian and Maldives coast guards.

For the first time, Sri Lanka took part in these drills in 2012. It has since evolved into a trilateral exercise. These exercises cover a wide range of topics. Such cooperation is beneficial in the event of a marine catastrophe or an environmental disaster such as an oil leak.

These drills aid in the development of a better understanding of other country's coast guards. It **will also aid in improving coordination between missions.**

RUSSIAN PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN TO VISIT INDIA



Russian President Vladimir Putin is scheduled to pay an official visit to New Delhi on December 6, 2021.

President Putin is coming to attend the 21st **India-Russia**

Annual Summit with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

This summit will be the first face-to-face meeting between both the leaders, following their meeting of the **BRICS Summit in November 2019 in Brasilia.**

Background: India-Russia Annual Summit was last held in September 2019. In 2019, PM Modi visited Vladivostok (Russia). The Annual Summit of 2020 was postponed due to Covid-19 pandemic.

Agenda of 2021 summit: During the 2021 Summit, both the leaders will review the state and prospects of bilateral relations.

They will discuss ways to further strengthen the **strategic relationship between both the countries.** Summit will also provide an opportunity to exchange views on international, multilateral and regional issues of mutual interest.

They will exchange views on topical issues on the international agenda, such as joint work within the **BRICS, G20, and Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).**

2+2 Ministerial dialogue: The 2+2 Ministerial dialogue will be held between both the countries on December 6, 2021.

It will be held by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov & Defence Minister Sergey Shoigu **with their Indian counterparts, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.**

India-Russia Relations: Presently, Russia is the largest Defence Supplier of India. India has bought defence systems like the S-400 from Russia. India and Russia are members of **BRICS and Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.**

Russia also supported India's permanent membership at the **United Nations Security Council (UNSC).**

Astronauts who have been shortlisted for the **Human Space Flight** Programme of India were trained by Russia. Russia is also helping India in building the **Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant in Tamil Nadu.**

UAE'S AHMED AL RAISI AS PRESIDENT OF INTERPOL

The International Criminal Police Organization (**INTERPOL**) has elected Inspector General Ahmed Naser Al-Raisi (United Arab Emirates) as its President for a 4-year term at the 89th Interpol general assembly meeting held in Istanbul, Turkey.



He replaces **Kim Jong Yan** from South Korea.

In the final round, **the UAE candidate** received 68.9 percent of votes cast by member countries.

As president, **Al Raisi's role during his four-year term** will be to chair meetings of the executive committee which supervises the implementation of decisions taken at the **General Assembly.**

- INTERPOL Formed: **1923.**
- INTERPOL Headquarters: **Lyon, France.**
- INTERPOL President: **Ahmed Naser Al-Raisi.**
- INTERPOL Member states: **195.**
- INTERPOL Secretary-General: **Jürgen Stock.**

PETR FIALA NAMED AS NEW PM OF CZECH REPUBLIC

Petr Fiala has been named as the new Prime Minister of Czech Republic. President Milos Zeman named him as the PM on November 28, after his electoral win in October.



Petr Fiala leads a center-right coalition. He ousted the outgoing populist Prime Minister Andrej Babis with the help of several left-wing parties.

Fiala heads the three-party coalition namely, Civic Democratic Party, TOP 09 party and Christian Democrats, together.

This coalition garnered him 27.8 per cent of the vote in October. **This alliance narrowly defeated ANO movement**, which was led by billionaire Babis.

The centrist group of Mayors & Independents besides the left-wing Pirate Party joined the coalition of Fiala to remove Babis. **Babis had served as prime minister since 2017.**

The Czech Republic: Czech Republic is also known as Czechia and was formerly known as Bohemia. It is a landlocked country, **located in Central Europe.**

The country is bordered by **Austria, Germany, Poland, and Slovakia.** It is a unitary parliamentary republic and developed country having an advanced, **high-income social market economy.** It is a welfare state comprises a European social model, tuition-free university education and universal health care.

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ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

PM MODI ATTENDED 16TH G20 & COP-26 SUMMIT

Prime Minister Modi had attended the 16th G20 Summit which was scheduled to be held in Rome on October 30-31, 2021. He paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his first day of arrival in Rome and he also called on Pope Francis in the Vatican during his two-day visit. Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Rome and the Vatican City from October 29 to October 31, 2021, at the invitation of Prime Minister of Italy Mario Draghi.



In the recently concluded G20 summit, the leaders made a commitment to reach carbon neutrality by or around mid-century. They have adopted the Rome Declaration (the current presidency of G20 countries is being held by Italy). Earlier, the G20 Climate Risk Atlas was released which provides climate scenarios, information, data and future changes in climate across the G20 countries.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DECLARATION

- **Roadmap for COP 26:** It urged leaders of the world's biggest economies to put their action plans to tackle the global climate change crisis. This is a significant step in the context of the upcoming UN climate conference (COP 26) in Glasgow, Scotland.
- **Restricting Aid to Coal Based Plants:** It included a pledge to halt financing of overseas coal-fired power generation by the end of this year (2021).
- **PPP Model of Finance Mobilisation:** Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) are the only way to achieve the trillions of dollars in annual investment needed to transition to clean, sustainable energy sources that will mitigate the warming of global temperatures.
- **Declaration by India: Addressing Vaccine Inequality:** Underlining the need to address vaccine inequity across the world, India is ready to produce over 5 billion vaccine doses by the end of next year (2022). India also emphasised on vaccine research, manufacturing and innovation.
- **One Earth One Health:** The vision of "One Earth One Health", or the need for a collaborative approach in the international domain in the fight against the pandemic.
- **Resilient Global Supply Chains:** India highlighted the need for resilient global supply chains and invited G-20 countries to make India their partner in economic recovery and supply chain diversification.
- **Support for Global Minimum Tax:** India also lauded the G-20's decision to come up with a 15-percent minimum corporate tax to make the global financial architecture "more just and fair".
- **Welcoming Indo-Pacific Strategy:** India welcomed the European Union's Indo-Pacific strategy and French leadership in it.



ASSOCIATED CONCERNS

- **Half-Hearted Steps:** The statement contained few concrete actions and made no reference to a specific 2050 date to achieve net-zero carbon emission. Moreover, the statement removed references in a previous draft to the target to "reduce emissions significantly".
- **No target for Phasing out Coal:** It set no target for phasing out coal domestically, a clear nod to top carbon polluters China and India. For example, China has not set an end date for building domestic coal plants at home. Coal is still China's main source of power generation, and both China and India have resisted attempts for a G-20 declaration on phasing out domestic coal consumption.
- **No resolution on Vaccine Patent Waiver:** It did not touch upon the dispute over vaccine patent waivers.

- **Pressing India's developmental Imperative:** Climate negotiators from the US, EU and UK had made a number of visits to India over the past few months, pressing for India to update its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to include its **target of 450 GW of renewable energy by 2030.**

ABOUT G-20 (GROUP OF TWENTY)

It is an **informal group of 19 countries and the European Union (EU)**, with representatives of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. It does not have a permanent secretariat or Headquarters. The membership comprises a mix of the world's largest advanced and emerging economies, **representing about two-thirds of the world's population, 85% of global gross domestic product, 80% of global investment and over 75% of global trade.**

Members: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the EU.

NEW PLEDGES AT COP-26 GLOBAL CLIMATE SUMMIT

Recently, **leaders at the CoP26 global climate conference in Glasgow** have pledged to stop deforestation by the end of the decade and slash emissions of methane to help slow climate change. Earlier, **India announced that it will reach carbon neutrality by 2070** as part of a five-point action plan that included **reducing emissions to 50% by 2030.**

METHANE PLEDGE MADE AT THE SUMMIT

The **European Union (EU) and the US have launched a landmark pledge** to slash emissions of the powerful greenhouse gas methane, a commitment that **could prevent 0.2 degrees Celsius of global warming.** The alliance's members will seek to lower global emissions of methane - **the second-largest contributor to climate change after carbon dioxide - by 30% below 2020 levels by 2030.** Besides the EU and the US, more than 103 countries have signed up so far, **including major methane emitters like Nigeria and Pakistan.** The Global Methane Pledge (US), first announced in September 2021, now covers emissions from two-thirds of the global economy. **China, Russia and India - have not signed up, while Australia has said it will not back the pledge.**

Methane: A Concern

Methane is more short-lived in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide but 80 times more potent in warming the earth. Humanity has also boosted the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere by hacking away at the forests that absorb roughly 30% of carbon dioxide emissions, according to the **nonprofit World Resources Institute.** Human sources of methane include landfills, oil and natural gas systems, agricultural activities, coal mining, wastewater treatment, and certain industrial processes.

Deforestation Pledge: More than 100 national leaders pledged to halt and reverse deforestation and land degradation by the end of the decade, **underpinned by USD 19 billion in public and private funds** to invest in protecting and restoring forests. In 2020, the world lost 258,000 sq km of forest — **an area larger than the United Kingdom, according to WRI's Global Forest Watch.** The agreement vastly expands a commitment made by 40 countries as part of the 2014 New York Declaration of Forests, and promises more resources.

CALL FOR CLIMATE FINANCE

India noted that climate finance cannot continue at the levels decided in 2009 (100 billion USD), and emphasised that it should be at least USD 1 trillion to meet the goals of addressing climate change. India underlined the unity and strength of **Like-Minded Developing Countries (LMDC) as fundamental in the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) negotiations.** To preserve the interest of the Global South in the fight against climate change, India highlighted that recognition of the current challenges being faced by developing countries required intensified multilateral cooperation, not intensified global economic and geopolitical competition and trade wars. India requested the LMDC members to join hands with India to support the global initiatives it has pioneered, **including the International Solar Alliance (ISA), Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) and the Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT).**



Infrastructure for Resilient Island States:

India launched this initiative as a part of the CDRI that would focus on building capacity, having pilot projects, especially in small island developing states. Small Island Developing States or SIDS face the biggest threat from climate change, India's space agency ISRO will build a special data window for them to provide them timely information about cyclones, coral-reef monitoring, coast-line monitoring etc. through satellite.

GREEN GRIDS INITIATIVE - OSOWOG LAUNCHED

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 2, 2021, launched the **Green Grids Initiative - One Sun One World One Grid (GGI-OSOWOG)** initiative jointly with his UK counterpart Boris Johnson at the event 'Accelerating Clean Technology Innovation and Deployment' at **COP26 Climate Summit at Glasgow**. In May 2021, India and the UK had agreed to combine the **Green Grids Initiative and the One Sun One World One Grid and jointly launch GGI-OSOWOG** at the COP26 Climate Summit in Glasgow in November 2021.

WHAT IS GREEN GRIDS INITIATIVE?

With sustainable development and climate change mitigation at the heart of the **Green Grids Initiative - One Sun One World One Grid (GGI-OSOWOG) initiative**, the **(GGI-OSOWOG) initiative** can aid in developing a common and strong global grid. The GGI-OSOWOG initiative is being developed by **India, UK jointly in collaboration with the World Bank and India's International Solar Alliance (ISA)**. The GGI-OSOWOG initiative was unveiled by the International Solar Alliance (ISA), India Presidency of the ISA, and the UK COP Presidency at COP26 Climate Summit in Glasgow on November 2, 2021. The launch was followed by the One Sun declaration which has been endorsed by 83 ISA member countries. India is a member of the GGI-OSOWOG Steering Committee along with four countries namely the UK, the US, France, and Australia.

What is One Sun One World One Grid initiative?

The idea of the **One Grid (OSOWOG)** proposed by PM the **First Assembly Solar Alliance (ISA)** OSOWOG initiative interconnecting harness solar energy. **OSOWOG** is 'The simple terms, establish a single solar energy across power the world renewable energy, dependence or renewable energy

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One Sun One World One Grid initiative was Narendra Modi at of the **International** in October 2018. The aims at global grids to **The vision of the Sun Never Sets**. In OSOWOG will global grid to share different countries, with **clean & and** reduce usage of non-such as coal.

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

YAHOO INC. DISCONTINUED ITS SERVICES IN CHINA



Because of the increasingly difficult commercial and regulatory environment in China, **Yahoo Inc. announced its exit** on November 2, 2021.

Yahoo's services in China will be discontinued on November 1, 2021. This decision was made in accordance with Yahoo's commitment to user rights and free and open internet.

This judgment falls on the same day that China's Personal Information Protection Law goes into effect. Companies operating in China are compelled by Chinese law to provide extra data if authorities make such a request.

Lawmakers chastised Yahoo in 2007 after it gave over data on two Chinese dissidents to Beijing. Chinese dissidents were imprisoned as a result. **Yahoo's operations in China have previously been halted. In the year 2015, it shuttered its Beijing office.**

Because Yahoo's services and web gateway had previously been restricted in China, the move is mostly symbolic. During the 2010s, **China also shut down Yahoo's music and email services on the mainland.**

INDIA'S 1ST GLOBAL HACKATHON 'HARBINGER 2021'



The Reserve Bank of India has launched its first global hackathon named **"HARBINGER 2021 - Innovation for Transformation"**.

The theme of HARBINGER 2021 is **'Smarter Digital Payments'**.

The Hackathon invites participants to identify and develop solutions that have the potential to make digital payments accessible to the under-served, enhance the ease of payments and user experience while strengthening the security of digital payments and promote customer protection.

HARBINGER 2021 invites innovative ideas for the following problem statements in the payment and settlement systems landscape:

- Innovative, easy-to-use, non-mobile digital payment solutions for converting small-ticket cash transactions to digital mode.
- Context-based retail payments to remove the physical act of payment.
- The alternate authentication mechanism for digital payments.
- Social Media Analysis Monitoring tool for detection of digital payment fraud and disruption.

Being part of HARBINGER 2021 gives an opportunity to the participants to get mentored by **industry experts and exhibit their innovative solutions before an eminent jury** and win exciting prizes in each category.

GOOGLE & SIDBI COLLABORATION TO SUPPORT MSMEs

The **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and Google India Pvt Ltd (GIPL)** have teamed together to help micro, small, and medium businesses (MSMEs).



The **collaboration will test a social impact loan initiative that would provide MSMEs with up to Rs 1 crore** in funding at competitive interest rates.

As a crisis reaction to the Covid-19 outbreak, it will provide a \$15 million fund to MSMEs. **SIDBI is implementing a lending programme for micro firms** (with a revenue of up to Rs 5 crore) as part of the deal. The loans ranged in amount from Rs 25 lakh to Rs 1 crore.

The **collaboration between SIDBI and GIPL** will enhance the efforts in expanding MSME sector's access to credit.

It also marks the launch of a paperless journey of SIDBI to its customers, right from on-boarding to the disbursal stage.

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)

SIDBI is India's apex regulatory organisation in charge of licencing and regulating micro, small, and medium enterprise financial companies.'

It is under the **Ministry of Finance's control**. SIDBI is based in Lucknow and has offices around the country.

It was established with the goal of providing banks and financial institutions with refinancing options. SIDBI

provides term loans and working capital financing to businesses.

It is also the primary financial institution in the MSME sector. **An Act of Parliament formed SIDBI on April 2, 1990**

SITHARAMAN LAUNCHED 'TEJASVINI & HAUSALA SCHEME'



Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman has launched two schemes named 'Tejasvini & Hausala schemes' of J&K Bank for girls.

Under 18-35 years of age to start their businesses and 'Shikhar & Shikara' schemes of Punjab National Bank (PNB) for development of tourism in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).

About the Tejasvini Scheme:

Tejasvini Scheme in the course of the credit score outreach programme in Jammu. The scheme goals to offer monetary help as much as **Rs 5 lakh to younger ladies** for establishing gainful self-employment ventures, suited to their expertise, aptitude & native situations.

Tejasvini scheme focuses on offering monetary help of Rs. 5 lakh to ladies between **18-35 years** for beginning their enterprise.

About the Hausla Scheme 2021 for Women Entrepreneurs:

Hausla Scheme beneath the J&K Trade Promotion Organisation for empowering present ladies entrepreneurs to be role models of their respective sectors.

It not solely supplies ability improvement, but additionally, credit score assist, **advertising assist & mentorship**.

About the 'Shikhar & Shikara': **Shikhar** scheme focuses on meeting credit requirements up to **INR 2 crore** for the hotel, tour & tourism industry.

'**Shikara**' which goals to supply finance for the acquisition of the latest shikara and restore & upkeep of shikara and houseboats by means of collateral-free time period loans with handy reimbursement beneath EMI mode in seven years. **Shikara scheme** will prove credit up to INR 15 lakh for purchase/repair of Shikaras is provided in **Kashmir valley**.

INDIA BECAME WORLD'S LARGEST RECIPIENT OF REMITTANCES

India, the **world's largest recipient of remittances**, received **\$87 billion in 2021** with the United States being the biggest source, accounting for over 20 percent of these funds, according to the World Bank.



India is followed by **China, Mexico, the Philippines, and Egypt**, the Washington-based global lender said in its report released on Wednesday.

In India, remittances are projected to grow three per cent in 2022 to \$ 89.6 billion, reflecting a drop in overall migrant stock, as a large proportion of returnees from the Arab countries await return, it said.

Factors for Remittance Growth:

Migrants' determination to support their families in times of need, aided by economic recovery in Europe and the United States which in turn was supported by the Fiscal Stimulus and employment support programs.

In the **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)** countries and Russia, the recovery of outward remittances was also facilitated by stronger oil prices and the resulting pickup in economic activity.

The severity of Covid-19 caseloads and deaths during the second quarter (**well above the global average**) played a prominent role in drawing substantial flows (including for the purchase of oxygen tanks) to the country.



ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

PM MODI LAUNCHED TWO IMPORTANT 'RBI INITIATIVES'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched two Reserve Bank of India initiatives on November 12, 2021 through video conferencing. The two innovative customer-centric initiatives include the **RBI Retail Direct Scheme** and the **Reserve Bank - Integrated Ombudsman Scheme**.



RBI RETAIL DIRECT SCHEME

- Recently, the **Prime Minister has launched the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)- Retail Direct Scheme** to open up the Government bond market for the retail investors. In February 2021, RBI proposed to allow retail investors to open gilt accounts with the **central bank to invest in Government securities (G-secs) directly**. Under the scheme, retail investors (individuals) will have the facility to open and maintain the **'Retail Direct Gilt Account' (RDG Account) with the RBI**. Retail Investor is a non-professional investor who buys and sells securities or funds that contain a basket of securities such as mutual funds and **Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs)**. A Gilt Account can be compared with a bank account, except that the account is debited or credited with treasury bills or government securities instead of money. The **scheme places India in a list of select few countries offering such a facility**.
- Aim:** The move is aimed at diversifying the government securities market, which is dominated by institutional investors such as banks, insurance companies, mutual funds and others. **While foreign portfolio investors were allowed to invest in G-secs**, their holding is around 2-3% in the overall market.
- Scope:** It offers a portal avenue to invest in Central government securities, treasury bills, State development loans and sovereign gold bonds. They can invest in primary as well as secondary market government securities markets. **Negotiated Dealing System-Order Matching Segment (NDS-OM)** means RBI's screen based, anonymous electronic order matching system for trading in **Government securities in the secondary market**.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SCHEME

- Building an Atmanirbhar Bharat:** So far, in the government securities market, small investors class, salaried class, small traders had to **invest through banks and mutual funds in an indirect manner**.
- Improved Ease of Access:** It will make the process of G-sec trading smoother for small investors therefore it will **raise retail participation in G-secs and will improve ease of access**.
- Facilitate Government Borrowings:** This measure together with relaxation in mandatory Hold To Maturity (securities that are purchased to be owned until maturity) provisions will facilitate smooth completion of the government borrowing programme in 2021-22.
- Financialise Domestic Savings:** Allowing direct retail participation in the **G-Sec market** will promote financialisation of a vast pool of domestic savings and could be a game-changer in India's investment market.

Other Measures Taken to Increase Retail Investment in Government Securities:

Introduction of non-competitive bidding in primary auctions. Non-competitive bidding means the bidder would be able to participate in the auctions of dated government securities without having to quote the yield or price in the bid. Stock exchanges to act as aggregators and facilitators of retail bids. Allowing a **specific retail segment in the secondary market**. The secondary market is the market where investors buy and sell securities they already own. Primary market deals with new securities being issued for the first time.

WHAT IS GOVERNMENT SECURITY?

A G-Sec is a **tradable instrument** issued by the Central Government or the State Governments. It acknowledges the Government's debt obligation. Such securities are short term (usually called treasury bills, with original maturities of less than one year- presently issued in three tenors, namely, 91 day, 182 day and 364 day) or long term



(usually called Government bonds or dated securities with original maturity of one year or more). In India, the Central Government issues both treasury bills and bonds or dated securities while the State Governments issue only bonds or dated securities, which are called the **State Development Loans (SDLs)**. G-Secs carry practically no risk of default and, hence, are called risk-free gilt-edged instruments. Gilt-edged securities are high-grade investment bonds offered by governments and large corporations as a means of borrowing funds.

RBI INTEGRATED OMBUDSMAN SCHEME

Recently, the **Prime Minister has launched the integrated ombudsman scheme**. In 2019 the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had launched the **Complaint Management System (CMS)** in order to improve the customer experience in the grievance redressal process of banking services.

The PM has also launched the **RBI's Retail Direct Scheme**.

WHAT IS OMBUDSMAN?

A **government official who deals with complaints made by ordinary people against public organizations**. This concept of Ombudsman arrived from Sweden. It means an officer appointed by the Legislature to handle complaints against a service or administrative authority. In India an Ombudsman is appointed to resolve grievances in the following sectors.

- Insurance Ombudsman
- Income Tax Ombudsman
- Banking Ombudsman

It amalgamates three ombudsman schemes of RBI - **banking ombudsman scheme of 2006**, ombudsman scheme for NBFCs of 2018 and ombudsman scheme of digital transactions of 2019. The unified ombudsman scheme will provide redress of customer complaints involving deficiency in services rendered by **RBI regulated entities viz. banks, NBFCs (Non banking Financial Companies)** and pre-paid instrument players if the grievance is not resolved to the satisfaction of the customers or not replied within a period of 30 days by the regulated entity. It also includes non-scheduled primary co-operative banks with a deposit size of Rs 50 crore and above. The integrated scheme makes it a **"One Nation One Ombudsman" approach and jurisdiction neutral**.

Need: The first ombudsman scheme was rolled out in the 1990s. The system was always viewed as an issue by consumers. One of the primary concerns was the lack of maintainable grounds on which the **consumer could challenge the actions of a regulated entity at the ombudsman** or a rejection of the complaint on technical grounds, resulting in a preference for the consumer court notwithstanding the extended timelines for redressal. The move to integrate the systems (**banking, NBFC, and digital payments**) and expand the grounds for complaints is expected to see a positive response from consumers.

FEATURES OF THE SCHEME

- The Scheme defines 'deficiency in service' as the ground for **filing a complaint**, with a specified list of exclusions. Therefore, the complaints would no longer be rejected simply on account of "not covered under the grounds listed in the scheme". The scheme is jurisdiction neutral and a centralised receipt and processing centre has been **set-up in Chandigarh for initial handling of complaints in any language**. RBI had created a provision for the use of Artificial Intelligence tools so that banks and investigating agencies could coordinate in a better way in the fastest time possible. The **bank customers will be able to file**



TELEGRAM



complaints, submit documents, track status, and give feedback through a single email address. There will also be a multilingual toll-free number that will provide all relevant information on grievance redress. The regulated entity will not have any right to appeal in cases where an award is issued by the ombudsman against it **for not furnishing satisfactory and timely information.**

- **Appellate Authority:** RBI's Executive Director-in charge of Consumer Education and Protection Department would be the Appellate Authority under the integrated scheme.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SCHEME

This will help in improving the grievance redress mechanism for resolving customer complaints against RBI's regulated entities. It is expected to ensure uniformity and streamlined user-friendly mechanisms which will add value to the scheme and bring customer delight and financial inclusion. 44 crore loan account holders and **220 crore deposit account holders would directly** benefit from the single ombudsman, they would now be able to lodge a complaint and track their complaints on the same platform.



APPOINTMENTS

SHAKTIKANTA DAS REAPPOINTED AS RBI GOVERNOR



Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das has been reappointed to the post for a term of three years.

Shaktikanta Das's current term was scheduled to end on December 10, 2021. The reappointment will keep him at the bank's helm to aid recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Shaktikanta Das was appointed as the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in December 2018 for a term of three years.

Under his leadership, the apex bank worked to support growth and keep the economy afloat by maintaining liquidity through the worst pandemic the world has ever seen in the 21st century.

Shaktikanta Das was first appointed as the 25th RBI Governor in 2018, after the resignation of his predecessor Urjit Patel. He is a retired 1980 batch IAS officer of Tamil Nadu cadre.

Das has vast experience in various areas of governance. He has held several important positions in the Central and Tamil Nadu state government.

He has earlier been a member of the Fifteenth Finance Commission and India's Sherpa to the G20. He has represented India in various other international forums as well including SAARC, IMF and BRICS.

SHEEL VARDHAN APPOINTED AS HEAD OF CISF



The government has announced the appointment of chiefs of two key Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF).

These are the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).

Special Director in the Intelligence Bureau Sheel Vardhan Singh has been appointed as the new CISF DG, while National Police Academy Director Atul Karwal has been appointed as the NDRF DG.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Home Affairs for appointments.

Singh, a 1986 batch Indian Police Service officer of Bihar cadre, is currently Special Director in the Intelligence Bureau. Singh has been appointed as the Director-General, CISF up to August 2023.

AMWAY ROPED IN AMITABH BACHCHAN AS AMBASSADOR

Amway India, a Direct Selling FMCG company announced the appointment of Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan as its brand ambassador.



It is a time in moment as the two brands have come together to proliferate the message on the significance of holistic health & wellness, women empowerment, and inspiring youth towards entrepreneurship for a progressive India.

As a part of this momentous association, the veteran actor will endorse the brand Amway and the Nutrilite range of products across all platforms, encourage women and youth empowerment through guided entrepreneurship thereby reinforcing Amway's vision of helping people live healthier and better lives.

Building on the heightened awareness for health and nutrition, the company is aggressively exploring innovative solutions to cater to the evolving and growing market.

Toward this, Amway had recently launched powerful nutritional products such as Nutrilite Vitamin C Cherry Plus and Nutrilite Vitamin D Plus which have proved game changers in the category.

R HARI KUMAR TO TAKE OVER AS NEXT NAVY CHIEF

Western Naval Command (WNC) chief Vice Admiral R Hari Kumar will take over as the next Navy chief from Admiral Karambir Singh on November 30.

Commissioned in the executive branch of the Navy in January 1983, Vice Admiral Kumar has served in a variety of command, staff and instructional appointments.

Among other warships, he has commanded aircraft carrier INS Viraat and guided-missile destroyer INS

Ranvir as well as also served as the chief of integrated defence staff.

He had taken over the reins of the Mumbai-based WNC, called the sword-arm of the Navy, in February this year. Southern Naval Command chief Vice Admiral Anil Chawla retires on the same day as Admiral Karambir Singh.

BIMA PATEL ELECTED TO INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION



Professor Bimal Patel from India has been elected to the **International Law Commission** for a 5-year-term starting January 1, 2023, by topping the Asia-Pacific group for the election at the United Nations on

November 12, 2021.

Patel is a Vice-Chancellor at Rashtriya Raksha University and a Member of the National Security Advisory Board of India.

Patel topped the **Asia-Pacific group with 163 votes in the UN General Assembly** out of 192 members present and voting.

India's **Bimal Patel** elected to International Law Commission during election at the United Nations. **Professor Bimal Patel from India topped the Asia-Pacific group with 163 votes in the UN General Assembly out of 192 members** present and voting during the election to the International Law Commission.

The term of office of the present 34-members of the International Law Commission will expire at the end of 2022.

The election of the members of the Commission for a five-year term beginning on 1 January 2023 took place at the 76th session of the UN General Assembly on 12 November 2021.

Who is Bimal Patel?

Professor Bimal Patel from India has been elected to the International Law Commission for a 5-year-term starting January 1, 2023, by topping the Asia-Pacific group for the election at the United Nations.

During his career over three decades, Parel has worked in several roles such as a member of the 21st Law Commission of India and the Director at the Gujarat National Law University.

Patel has worked for 15 years across different global organizations such as the United Nations of Youth and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) at the Hague, Netherlands.

International Law Commission

The **UN General Assembly established the International Law Commission in 1947** to undertake the mandate of the Assembly to 'initiate studies and make recommendations for the purpose of encouraging the progressive development of international law and its codification'.

The **34-members of the International Law Commission** are elected every five years by the UN General Assembly from a list of candidates nominated by the Governments of States Members of the United Nations based on their expertise and qualifications.

The allocation of seats on the Commission **for the five-year term beginning on 1 January 2023 will be as follows:**

- 9 nationals from the African States,
- 8 nationals from the Asia-Pacific States,
- 3 nationals from the Eastern European States,
- 6 nationals from Latin American and the Caribbean States,
- 8 nationals from Western European and other States.

SN PRADHAN APPOINTED AS DIRECTOR GENERAL OF NCB

The **Senior Indian Police Service (IPS) Officer Satya Narayan Pradhan** has been appointed as the **Director-General of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)** on a deputation basis.



SN Pradhan has been given the position till the date of his superannuation on August 31, 2024, or until further orders.

SN Pradhan was currently holding additional charge of NCB Chief despite holding the responsibility of **Director-General of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)**.

Pradhan was given the additional charge of NCB Director-General after Rakesh Asthana was appointed as the Delhi Police Commissioner.

SN Pradhan has been **appointed as the Director-General of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)** on a full-time basis, after IPS Officer Atul Karwal was

appointed as the NDRF Director-General on November 9, 2021.

Who is SN Pradhan?

Satya Narayan Pradhan is an IPS Officer of the 1988 batch from Jharkhand Cadre. SN Pradhan, new Director-General of NCB, is a native of Odisha, he was born in Patna, Bihar. Pradhan had also served as the Senior IPS officer from the Odisha State.

Pradhan is the former **Joint Secretary, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region.**

National Narcotics Bureau (NCB): NCB is the Indian central law enforcement and intelligence agency. It comes under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

The central agency has been tasked with combating drug trafficking and the use of illegal substances **under the provisions of the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act.**

PARAG AGARWAL APPOINTED AS CEO OF TWITTER



Indian-origin technology executive, Parag Agrawal has been appointed as the new CEO of Twitter after the social media giant's co-founder **Jack Dorsey** stepped down.

He is now the youngest CEO in the S&P 500 elbowing **Meta Platform Inc. CEO Mark Zuckerberg.** However, Agrawal is 37 and the same age as Mark Zuckerberg.

Parag joined Twitter 10 years ago when there were fewer than 1,000 employees. He has been behind every critical decision that helped turn this company around. **He's curious, probing, rational, creative, demanding, self-aware and humble.**

About Parag Agrawal: Parag did his undergrad at the prestigious **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay.**

Following this, he went on to do his masters from Stanford University. He completed his **PhD in Computer Science** from the same place in 2012.

ICC APPOINTED G. ALLARDICE AS PERMANENT CEO OF ICC

The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has appointed **Geoff Allardice** as the permanent CEO of the International Cricket governing body. He was serving as interim CEO for more than eight months.

He replaces **Manu Sawhney** who officially resigned from his position in July 2021.

Allardice, a former Australian first-class cricketer and administrator, was the ICC General Manager, Cricket for eight years. **He had previously held a similar role at Cricket Australia.**



The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** is the world governing body of cricket. It was founded as the Imperial Cricket Conference in 1909 by representatives from **Australia, England and South Africa.**

It was renamed as the **International Cricket Conference in 1965**, and took up its current name in 1987. The ICC has its headquarters in **Dubai, UAE.**

- ICC Headquarters: **Dubai, United Arab Emirates**
- ICC Founded: **15 June 1909**
- ICC Deputy Chairman: **Imran Khwaja**
- ICC Chairman: **Greg Barclay**

INDIA'S CANDIDATE IN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF INTERPOL

Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) special director **Praveen Sinha** was elected the delegate for Asia in the executive committee of the **International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol)**



following a tough contest involving China.

In the election, four contestants were **China, Singapore, South Korea and Jordan.**

India's National Central Bureau (NCB-India) reached out to its counterparts around the world to campaign for this election. The elections were held in **Istanbul, Turkey** during the ongoing **89 INTERPOL General Assembly.**

About the INTERPOL: **Interpol is the world's largest international police organization** with a National Central Bureau in all 195 member states. **It has seven regional bureaus all over the world.**

It was formed in 1923. Its motto is connecting police for a safer world. It is headquartered in **Lyon, France.** **Kim Jong Yang** is its President.

VIVEK JOHRI APPOINTED AS CHAIRMAN OF CBIC



Senior bureaucrats, Vivek Johri has been appointed

as the new Chairman of the **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)**.

He will succeed M Ajit Kumar who is completing his tenure. He is a 1985-batch **Indian Revenue Service (Customs and Indirect Taxes)** officer.

He is currently working as a member in CBIC. His appointment was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.

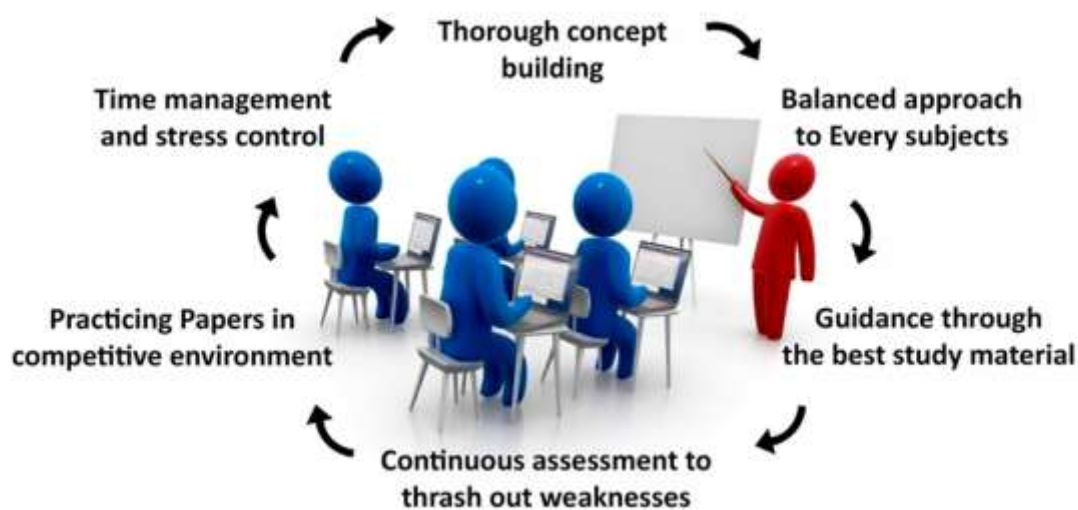
Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC):

CBIC is the nodal national agency to administer GST, Customs, Central Excise, Service Tax & Narcotics in India.

The Customs & Central Excise department was established by the British Governor-General of India in 1855, for administering customs laws and for collecting import duties or land revenue. CBIC is one of the oldest government departments in

PRAVAHINI

IDEAL MENTORING CYCLE BY SUCCESS MANTRA



AWARDS & HONOR

TEDROS ADHANOM HONOURED WITH NIZAMI GANJAVI AWARD



World Health Organisation (WHO) Director General Tedros Ghebreyesus and UN Geneva Office Director General Tatiana Valovaya were honoured with the Nizami Ganjavi International Award on November 4, 2021.

The Nizami Ganjavi International Award was established in 2012. The award celebrates the great Azerbaijani poet Nizami Ganjvai and is presented to distinguished personalities and institutions who embody the values that Nizami Ganjavi promoted through his poetry.

Who was Nizami Ganjavi?

Nizami Ganjavi is the greatest representative of the Eastern Renaissance. He was born in the 12th century in Ganja, Azerbaijan.

He epitomized the global citizen of his day and represented the quintessence of world literature in his immortal work "Khamse" (Five).

Nizami Ganjavi's poetry has been centred around humanity and his mission has been to apply his creativity to the service of his people.

The main theme of his work include people and nations, gender equality, peaceful coexistence, cross-cultural understanding, ideal leadership and respect among classes.

Ganjavi was also a social reformer and his works reflect a genuine, deep concern for the human condition, for all people and the status of women. He is not just celebrated in his native Azerbaijan but in the whole world.

Nizami Ganjavi International Award winners

The Nizami Ganjavi International Award 2019 was conferred to Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani for his contribution to international security and peace.

In 2018, the award was bestowed upon Mehriban Aliyeva, the first Vice-President of Azerbaijan for her role in fostering global projects for the development of science, education and culture and M.V.Vardinoyannis, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for her humanitarian and cultural endeavors.

DAMON GALGUT WINS BOOKER PRIZE FOR 'THE PROMISE'

Damon Galgut just became the third South African novelist to win the Booker Prize for his novel, The Promise.



The novel which won the author 50,000-pound (\$69,000) prize centers around a white African family and the promise they made to their black house help, Salome, of giving her the house she stays in along with the land.

The Promise," a novel about one white family's reckoning with South Africa's racist history.

Galgut's ninth novel traces members of the Swart family _ the word is Afrikaans for black _ haunted by an unkept promise to give their Black maid, Salome, her own house.

The book is structured around a series of funerals over several decades; Galgut has said he wanted to make readers fill in the narrative gaps themselves.

He is the third South African novelist to win the Booker Prize, after Nadine Gordimer in 1974 and J.M. Coetzee, who won twice, in 1983 and 1999.

The Promise" was selected over five other novels, including three by U.S. writers: Richard Powers' **Bewilderment**," the story of an astrobiologist trying to care for his neurodivergent son; Patricia Lockwood's social media-steeped novel 'No One is Talking About This' and Maggie Shipstead's aviator saga 'Great Circle'.

Spanning several decades, the book shows the family's growing disintegration as the country emerges into democracy.

Mr. Galgut took the prize on his third time as a finalist, for a book the judges called a "tour de force." He was previously shortlisted for "The Good Doctor" in 2003 and "In a Strange Room" in 2010, but lost both times.

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS ANNOUNCED PADMA AWARDS

The Ministry of Home Affairs has announced a list of 119 personalities who will be conferred the Padma Awards by President Ram Nath Kovind this year.



These awards cater to various disciplines including **art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports and civil service.**

While 'Padma Shri' is awarded for distinguished service in any field, 'Padma Bhushan' is awarded for distinguished service of a high order.

On the other hand, 'Padma Vibhushan' is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service. Among the 2021 awardees, **29 are women, one is transgender, 10 are foreigners/NRIs/OCI and 16 have passed away.** There will be no recipient of the Bharat Ratna in 2021.

Film producers **Karan Johar, Ekta Kapoor, actor-filmmaker Kangana Ranaut, veteran actor Sarita Joshi, playback singer Suresh Wadkar and music composer Adnan Sami** were among 61 Padma Shri awardees for the year 2020 who received the country's fourth-highest civilian honour at a ceremony held in the Rashtrapati Bhavan here.

Padma Vibhushan awards List

- Shinzo Abe, Japan
- S P Balasubramaniam (Posthumous), Tamil Nadu
- Belle Monappa Hegde, Karnataka
- Narinder Singh Kapany (Posthumous), USA
- Maulana Wahiduddin Khan, Delhi
- B. B. Lal, Delhi
- Sudarshan Sahoo, Odisha

Padma Bhushan Awards List

- Krishnan Nair Shantakumari Chithra, Kerala
- Tarun Gogoi (Posthumous), Assam
- Chandrashekhara Kambara, Karnataka
- Sumitra Mahajan, Madhya Pradesh
- Nripendra Misra, Uttar Pradesh
- Ram Vilas Paswan (Posthumous), Bihar
- Keshubhai Patel (Posthumous), Gujarat
- Kalbe Sadiq (Posthumous), Uttar Pradesh
- Rajnikant Devidas Shroff, Maharashtra
- Tarlochan Singh, Haryana

PRESIDENT OF INDIA PRESENTED GALLANTRY AWARDS



President of India, **Ram Nath Kovind** presented **Gallantry Awards** and Distinguished Service Decorations in Defence Investiture Ceremony at **Rashtrapati Bhavan.**

Gallantry Awards have been instituted by the Government of India to honour

the acts of bravery and sacrifice of the officers/personnel of the **Armed Forces as well as other lawfully constituted forces and civilians.**

The order of precedence of these awards is **Vir Chakra, Kirti Chakra and Shaurya Chakra.**

Vir Chakra: Group Captain **Abhinandan Varthaman** was accorded the Vir Chakra by President Ram Nath Kovind for his role in pushing back **Pakistan's fighter jets in February 2019.**

Abhinandan Varthaman was Wing Commander then. In the ensuing aerial dogfight, he shot down a **Pakistani F-16 fighter aircraft on February 27, 2019.**

Kirti Chakra: President Kovind accorded the second-highest peacetime gallantry award **Kirti Chakra (posthumously)** to Sapper Prakash Jadhav for neutralising terrorists in an operation in Jammu and Kashmir. His wife and mother received the award.

Shaurya Chakra: Major Vibhuti Shankar Dhoundiyal was accorded the **Shaurya Chakra (posthumously)** for his role in an operation where five terrorists were eliminated and 200 kg explosive material was recovered.

His wife **Lt Nitika Kaul** and mother received the award. Naib Subedar Sombir was accorded the Shaurya Chakra posthumously for killing an **A++ category** terrorist during an operation in Jammu and Kashmir. His wife Suman Devi and mother **Rajendra Devi** received the honour.

The President also conferred the **Shaurya Chakra** to **Major Maheshkumar Bhure** who is an alumnus of Sainik School Satara. According to the citation, Major Bhure led an operation in which six top terrorist commanders were killed.

About the Gallantry Awards:

The prestigious awards are usually conferred to the **awardees/Next-of-Kins (NoKs) by the President** at the Defence Investiture Ceremony held every year at the **Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi.**

The gallantry awards are announced twice a year first on the occasion of Republic Day and then on Independence Day. The order of precedence of these awards is **Param Vir Chakra, Ashoka Chakra, Mahavir Chakra, Kirti Chakra, Vir Chakra and Shaurya Chakra.**

PRATHAM NGO WINS INDIRA GANDHI PEACE PRIZE 2021

The **Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2021** has been given to Pratham NGO for its efforts to broaden the scope of education in India.



Pratham NGO was given the **Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development** for 2021 for its pioneering efforts in ensuring that every child has access to quality education for more than a quarter-century.

Its frequent **examination of educational quality** Its quick reaction in encouraging youngsters to learn despite the limits **imposed by Covid-19**.

The **Indira Gandhi Peace Prize** is a prominent honour given out every year. Indira Gandhi, the previous **Prime Minister of India**, was the inspiration for the name.

Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust has given it out every year since 1968. It includes a monetary **prize of Rs. 25 lakh** as well as a citation.

It honours people or organisations for their innovative achievements in the following areas: establishing a **new global economic order** Promoting **international development** and peace Assuring that scientific discoveries be used to broaden the scope of freedom and benefit mankind as a whole.

Pratham NGO: Pratham NGO is a learning organisation that was founded to improve the quality of education in India. **Farida Lambay and Madhav Chavan co-founded the NGO**. It is one of the country's major non-governmental organisations.

It focuses on **high-quality, low-cost, and reproducible initiatives** for closing educational disparities. It was founded in **Mumbai in 1994** to provide pre-school education to children living in slums.

POCHAMPALLY SELECTED AS BEST TOURISM VILLAGE (UNWTO)



Recently, **Pochampally village in Telangana** was selected as one of the Best Tourism Villages by **United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO)**.

The award will be given on the occasion of the 24th session of the **UNWTO General Assembly in December 2021 in Madrid, Spain**.

The **Union Ministry of Tourism** has also drafted a Rural Tourism Policy which will not only promote tourism within our villages but also revitalise local arts and crafts and promote rural economy.

Earlier, **Rudreswara Temple, (also known as the Ramappa Temple) at Mulugu district, Telangana** was inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage list.

Pochampally Village: Pochampally in Nalgonda district is often referred to as the silk city of India for the exquisite sarees that are woven through a unique style called Ikat.

This style, **Pochampally Ikat**, received a Geographical Indicator (GI Status) in 2004.

Pochampally's unique weaving styles and patterns received special focus through the Prime Minister's mantra of Vocal 4 Local as a part of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

In 2015, to recognise the diversity of weaving techniques and our rich handloom tradition, the Prime Minister inaugurated the first National Handloom Day on 7th August as a tribute to the formal proclamation of the **Swadeshi Movement that was made in a meeting at the Calcutta Town hall on the same day in 1905**.

Pochampally is also known as Bhoodan Pochampally to commemorate the Bhoodan Movement that was launched by Acharya Vinobha Bhave from this village on 18th April, 1951.

Vinoba Bhave was the first international figure to receive the **Ramon Magsaysay Award in 1958**. He was awarded Bharat Ratna posthumously in 1983.

INDIAN FILM PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR AWARD 2021

Actor and BJP leader **Hema Malini**, and lyricist and former CBFC chief **Prasoon Joshi** will be facilitated with the Indian Film Personality of the Year award at the International Film Festival of India 2021.



Their **contributions to the field of Indian cinema** spread over decades and their body of work has enthralled audiences across generations.

Malini is a two-time Member of Parliament from Mathura, and Joshi was appointed by the government as the chairperson of the **Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) in 2017**.

Joshi has previously written a campaign song for Prime Minister Narendra Modi when the BJP leader was announced the party's PM candidate ahead of the 2014 general elections.

SPORTS

RAHUL DRAVID APPOINTED AS HEAD COACH



Rahul Dravid was appointed as the head coach of Team India (Senior) on November 3, 2021. He was unanimously chosen for the post by the Cricket Advisory Committee comprising

Sulakshana Naik and RP Singh.

The former India skipper will take charge of the Indian cricket team from the upcoming home T20 series against New Zealand.

The Indian team is currently in a state of transition with many youngsters coming in and they have all worked with Dravid, as he was the head coach of India Under 19 and India A side.

Rahul Dravid was appointed as the head of the National Cricket Academy in 2019, a position which he will leave before taking over as India's head coach.

Before this, he was serving as the Head Coach for the India Under-19 and India A teams from 2016 to 2019.

Under his mentorship, the India under-19 team was runners-up at the 2016 under-19 Cricket World Cup and winners at the 2018 u-19 Cricket World Cup.

Known as 'The Wall' and Dependable, Dravid is widely regarded as one of the greatest batsmen in the history of cricket.

The current Team India coach Ravi Shastri's contract ends with the T20 World Cup that is currently being held in Oman and UAE.

The BCCI board congratulated Shastri and other coaches, B. Arun (Bowling Coach), R. Sridhar (Fielding Coach) and Vikram Rathour (Batting Coach) for their successful tenure.

The board noted that under Shastri's tenure, Team India adopted a bold and fearless approach and performed creditably both in-home and away conditions and also climbed to the top position in the Test format and made

it to the final of the inaugural World Test Championship in England.

DWAYNE BRAVO TO RETIRE FROM INT. CRICKET

The International Cricket Council informed on November 5, 2021 that West Indies all-rounder Dwayne Bravo has confirmed that he will retire at the end of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup.



The news comes after the West Indies were knocked out of the T20 World Cup 2021 after losing to Sri Lanka by 20 runs in the Super 12 Group stage, their third loss in the tournament. The defending champions are now out of contention for a semifinal spot.

Dwayne Bravo initial retirement and return

Dwayne Bravo had announced his retirement from Test cricket in January 2015. He had then announced his retirement from all formats of international cricket except franchise T20 cricket in October 2018. Since 2011, Bravo has been a part of the Chennai Super Kings IPL team.

He had later come out of international retirement in December 2019 ahead of the 2020 T20 World Cup. He was then named in the West Indies squad for the 2021 ICC Men's T20 World Cup.

Dwayne John Bravo is a former Trinidadian cricketer and former captain of the West Indies cricket team.

The all-rounder is a right-handed batsman and right-arm medium-fast bowler. He is regarded as one of the best death bowlers in T20 Cricket.

Since his debut in 2004, Bravo has played 40 Tests, 164 ODIs and 66 Twenty20 Internationals for the West Indies. He had been an integral part of the West Indies team that had won the 2012 ICC T20 World Cup and 2016 ICC T20 World Cup.

In IPL, he was initially a part of the Mumbai Indians team for the first three seasons. He was picked up by CSK during the 2011 IPL auctions.



DATES & DAYS

WORLD TSUNAMI AWARENESS DAY: 5TH NOVEMBER



In December 2015, the **United Nations (UN)** selected 5 November as the **World Tsunami Awareness Day** to call on international bodies, civil society, and countries to raise awareness about the natural disaster.

The UN also wanted countries and other related bodies to share innovative approaches to risk reduction in the future.

For the unversed, this day is a brainchild of Japan. Over the years, **Japan has developed major expertise on Tsunami** early warning as well as public action due to the country's sad and repeated experience with the disaster.

The word "tsunami" comes from the Japanese words "tsu" meaning (harbour) and "nami" meaning (wave).

It is a series of gigantic waves that are created by an underwater disturbance, generally associated with earthquakes. These underwater disturbances occur near or below the ocean.

The things that can generate a Tsunami are; submarine landslides, volcanic eruptions, coastal rock falls as well as a large asteroid impacting the ocean. Surprisingly, these huge tsunami waves look like walls of water that can be dangerous for hours. Also, the waves come every 5 to 60 minutes.

Most deadliest Tsunami ever:

As per a report by the UN, the worst Tsunami ever occurred was in December 2004 that took place in the Indian Ocean. It surpassed any other natural hazard that has occurred in the past 100 years.

During that Tsunami, nearly millions of deaths took place and 14 countries were badly affected by it. Among the many hit countries, the worst affected was Thailand. However, an estimate suggests that nearly 2,27,000 died alone in India, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia.

NATIONAL AYURVEDA DAY OBSERVED ON 2ND NOVEMBER

Every year since 2016, the **National Ayurveda Day** is observed on the occasion of Dhanwantri Jayanti, the

birth anniversary of the **Lord Dhanwantri** which occurs on Dhanteras.

Lord Dhanwantri is believed to be the God of **Ayurveda** who bestowed the knowledge of Ayurveda to mankind.



This year, the **National Ayurveda Day 2021** is being celebrated on November 2, 2021, to promote the Ayurvedic principles of wellness and healing.

On the occasion of 6th Ayurveda Day which is being celebrated on November 2, 2021, a report titled 'AYUSH Sector in India: Prospects and Challenges' was released during the event Ayur-Udyam. The report highlighted that the AYUSH market size has crossed \$18 billion and it is expected to reach \$23.3 billion in 2022.

'Ayurveda for Poshan' is the theme of the 6th Ayurveda Day being celebrated on Dhanwantri Jayanti on November 2, 2021.

The first Ayurveda Day in India was celebrated on October 28, 2016, on the occasion of Dhanwantri Jayanti.

The Ministry of AYUSH decided to observe Dhanwantri Jayanti every year as the **National Ayurveda Day** as this day marks the birth anniversary of Lord Dhanwantri, the God of Ayurveda.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF RADIOLOGY: 8TH NOVEMBER

Every year on November 8, the world celebrates **International Day of Radiology**.

The purpose of the day is to raise public awareness of the importance of radiology in providing safe patient care and to improve public knowledge of the critical role that radiologists and radiographers play in the healthcare system.

Radiology is a medical specialty that involves the use of medical imaging to diagnose and treat diseases in both animals and humans.

To diagnose or treat diseases, a range of imaging techniques are utilized, including **X-ray radiography, ultrasound, computed tomography (CT), nuclear**



medicine, including positron emission tomography (PET), fluoroscopy, and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

Interventional radiology is the practice of performing minimally invasive medical operations under the supervision of imaging techniques such as those listed above.

The discovery of x-rays by Wilhelm Roentgen in 1895 is also commemorated on this day. The first World Radiology Day was held in the year 2012.

NATIONAL LEGAL SERVICES DAY: 9TH NOVEMBER

National Legal Services Day is marked across the country annually on 9 November.



The day is observed to commemorate the enactment of the Legal Services Authorities Act and to create awareness about the various provisions related to the act.

The Legal Services Authorities Act was enacted in 1987 to provide a "statutory base to legal aid programmes" in India on a uniform pattern, according to the website of the National Legal Services Authority of India (NALSA).

After a lot of deliberation and some amendments, the Legacy Services Authorities Act came into existence on 9 November 1995.

The purpose of the Act is to provide competent and free legal aid to people who belonged to marginalised socio-economic communities in the country. The Act also mentions the setting up of Lok Adalats for the settlement of disputes amicably.

Since then, the passing of the Act has been every year through awareness programmes and camps about the provisions of the Legal Services Authorities Act.

What does the Legal Services Authorities Act entail?

The Legal Services Authorities Act provides free legal aid to a person if any of the following criteria are met:

- They are a member of a Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe
- They are a woman, child, specially-abled or mentally challenged
- They have been a victim of human trafficking or beggar
- An industrial workman

- Have an annual income of less than Rs 9,000 or any such amount laid down by the government
- A victim of "a mass disaster, ethnic violence, caste atrocity", natural or industrial disaster
- In custody, juvenile home or protective custody or in a psychiatric nursing home or hospital

The NALSA will bear the costs of filing or defending the case, as well as provide the person with counsel at the expense of the state.

Ayurveda comprises traditional and non-conventional systems of healthcare including diet, yoga, yogic breathing, herbal treatment, etc.

NATIONAL CANCER AWARENESS DAY: NOVEMBER 7TH

The National Cancer Awareness Day is observed annually in India on November 7, to spread awareness on cancer, its symptoms and treatment.



According to the World Health Organization (WHO), cancer is the second leading cause of death globally.

In 2018, approximately 18 million cases were there globally, of which, 1.5 million were in India alone. In 2018, there were around 0.8 million cancer deaths in India against 9.5 million globally.

National Cancer Awareness Day 2021 History:

On 7 November 2014, Former Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare Dr. Harsh Vardhan announced that seventh November will be celebrated as national Cancer awareness day every year to highlight the contributions of an eminent scientist who is important and a role model for all those who are fighting cancer.

WORLD URBANISM DAY OBSERVED ON 8TH NOVEMBER

The 8th of November is World Urbanism Day, often known as "World Town Planning Day."



Its goal is to acknowledge and promote the importance of planning in the development of livable communities.

World Urbanism Day is an occasion to examine planning from a global perspective in order to raise awareness of the environmental consequences of urban and territorial development.

The International Society of City and Regional Planners hosts WUD (ISOCARP).

Professor Carlos Maria della Paolera of the University of Buenos Aires inaugurated the day in 1949 to **promote public and professional interest in planning**. ISOCARP was founded in 1965 and is headquartered in The Hague, Netherlands.

NOVEMBER 15TH TO BE OBSERVED AS JANJATIYA DIWAS



The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi on November 10, 2021, approved the declaration of November 15 as **Janjatiya Gaurav Divas** to commemorate the brave tribal freedom fighters as part of the year-long celebrations of 75 years of India's Independence.

The date November 15 also marks the birth anniversary date of Birsa Munda who is revered as God by tribal communities across India. Munda fought for India's Independence against the exploitative system of British colonial system and spearheaded movement.

The Janjatiya Gaurav Divas will make the coming generations aware of the **sacrifices of the tribal freedom fights during India's freedom struggle**.

Munda fought for India's Independence from the exploitative system of the British colonial system and spearheaded the movement. **Birsa Munda was born on November 15, 1875.**

He belonged to the Munda tribe. He spearheaded an Indian tribal religious Millenarian movement during the British rule in the late 19th century **across the tribal belt of modern-day Jharkhand and Bihar.**

NATIONAL EDUCATION DAY OBSERVED ON NOVEMBER 11TH

In India, the **National Education Day is celebrated on 11 November** every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the first education minister of independent India.

The day was announced by the Ministry of Human Resource Development on 11 September 2008.

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad served as education minister from 15 August 1947 to 2 February 1958.

History of National Education Day:

On 11 September 2008, the Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) has announced to commemorate the birthday of the great person by recalling the **contribution of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad in the field of education** by celebrating 11 November as National Education Day.

Since 2008, every year in India, **National Education Day is celebrated without declaring it a holiday.**

About Maulana Abul Kalam Azad:

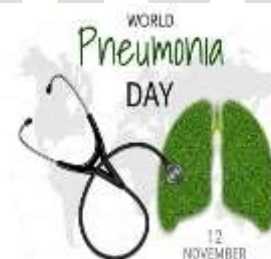
Maulana Abul Kalam Azad was born in Mecca, Saudi Arabia in 1888. His mother was an Arab and the daughter of Sheikh Mohammad Zaher Watri and Azad's father, Maulana Khairuddin, was a Bengali Muslim of Afghan origins who came to Arab during the Sepoy Mutiny and proceeded to Mecca and settled there.

He came back to Calcutta with his family in 1890 when **Abul Kalam was two years old.** Maulana Abul Kalam Azad's contributions in the field of education, nation-building, and institution-building are exemplary.

He is the **key architect of education in India.** He was awarded Bharat Ratna posthumously, India's highest civilian honour in 1992.

WORLD PNEUMONIA DAY OBSERVED ON NOVEMBER 12TH

World Pneumonia Day is observed across the world on November 12 every year to raise awareness, promote prevention and treatment and produce action to combat the disease.



World Pneumonia Day 2021 is an annual event that was first celebrated in the year 2009.

To end the preventable burden of childhood pneumonia and deaths there is a need to:

Raise awareness about pneumonia, **the leading killer of young children.**

Strengthen, accelerate and sustain **interventions to prevent and treat pneumonia.**

Focus on equitable access to, and delivery of comprehensive pneumonia prevention and control programs.

Design **specific strategies to reach the "harder-to-reach" populations** to improve their accessibility to available interventions.

Conduct research to develop innovative strategies to reduce the burden of pneumonia.

World Pneumonia Day history:

The day was celebrated on November 12 in 2009 by the **Global Coalition against Child Pneumonia**. Since then the day has provided an annual forum for the world in standing together against the disease.

The day is celebrated all over the **world through various events and activities related to Pneumonia**.

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY: NOVEMBER 14TH



Children's Day is celebrated across India on **November 14, 2021** to commemorate India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru's birthday.

Jawaharlal Nehru also known as '**Chacha Nehru**' among children was extremely fond of them and was a strong advocate of their all-rounded education, calling them the real strength of a nation and foundation of the society.

Hence, Children's Day is celebrated in India **to raise awareness of the rights, care and education of children**. The day is observed by conducting several educational programs across the country.

Children's Day is observed not only as a tribute to India's first Prime Minister, **but it also speaks of Children's rights, care and education**.

Nehru is known to have said, "The children of today will make the India of tomorrow. The way we bring them up will determine the future of the country".

Till 1956, **Children's Day in India was celebrated annually on November 20-** the day marked by the United Nations. India decided **to celebrate Children's Day on November 14 after Jawaharlal Nehru's death** to mark his birth anniversary.

Children's Film Society: Jawaharlal Nehru had set up a **Children's Film Society India** in 1955 so that children could see themselves represented in cinema.

NATIONAL PRESS DAY OBSERVED ON 16TH NOVEMBER



National Press Day is observed annually on 16 November to **honour the establishment of the Press Council of India (PCI)**.

The council acts as a moral watchdog for the Indian press, ensuring that journalists are not motivated by external influences or factors while reporting any story.

The duty of PCI is to regulate, check and monitor all journalistic activities in the country. It ensures that the credibility of journalism remains intact as in India, the press is also considered the fourth pillar of democracy.

The council also examines the quality of reportage of the Indian press. It keeps a check on journalistic activities, monitoring that journalism is not being compromised.

Facts about the Press Council of India:

Justice J R Mudholkar, a Supreme Court judge at the time, became the Chairman of the Press Council of India when it was constituted on 4 July, 1966, as a statutory, quasi-judicial body.

The Council came into effect from 16 November later that year. **The Council was formed under the Press Council Act of 1978.**

The present chairman of the Press Council of India is Justice Chandramauli Kumar Prasad, who succeeded Justice Markandey Katju (2011-2014). He became the chairman of the council in 2014 and has been appointed for a second term recently.

History of Press Council of India:

In the year 1956, the First Press Commission decided to form a body with statutory authority which has the responsibility of maintaining the ethics of journalism.

The Commission felt that a managing body was required in order to connect the people of the press and also to arbitrate on any issues that arose.

Hence, ten years later, **the PCI was formed on 16 November, 1966 by the Press Commission**. The National Press Day of India is since then celebrated on 16 November every year to commemorate the establishment of the council.

WORLD'S CHILDREN'S DAY OBSERVED ON 20TH NOVEMBER

The **Universal/World Children's Day** is celebrated on 20 November annually to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children's welfare.



November 20th is an important date as it is the date in 1959 when the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child. 2021 marks the 32nd anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Universal/World Children's Day 2021 Theme: **A Better Future for Every Child**

History of the day: World Children's Day was first established in 1954 as Universal Children's Day and is celebrated on 20 November each year.

In 1959, **UN General Assembly** adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child. It is also the date in 1989 when the **UN General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child.**

CONSTITUTION DAY OR SAMVIDHAN DIWAS: 26TH NOVEMBER



India celebrates November 26 every year as 'Constitution Day' or 'Samvidhan Divas' to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India.

On November 26, 1949, India had adopted the Constitution which later came into effect on **January 26, 1950**. Today, the country marks the 72nd anniversary of the historic event that also marked the dawn of a new era back in 1949.

Constitution Day of India, also known as 'Samvidhan Divas' or 'National Constitution day' or 'National Law Day' aims at raising awareness about the Indian Constitution.

In 2015, the BJP-led government had announced that **November 26 will be observed as the 'Constitution Day'** to promote the Constitutional values among the Indian Citizens.

India celebrates Constitution Day on November 26 every year. The **Union Ministry of Social Justice** had notified back in 2015 that the Central Government had decided to celebrate **November 26 as Constitution Day.**

Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, who also became the first Law Minister of India, was appointed as the Chairman of the Constitution drafting committee in 1947.

He was given the **responsibility of writing the new Constitution** after India gained Independence from the British on August 15, 1947.

History behind the birth of Constitution of India

India celebrates its **Independence on August 15, 1947**, and celebrates Republic Day on January 26, 1950, to mark the enforcement of the Constitution of India.

In 1934, the demand of the Constituent Assembly was made by **M.N. Roy**, a Communist Party leader. It was

later taken up by the Congress Party and the demand was accepted by the Britishers in 1940.

Before India gained Independence, the Constituent Assembly of India had met for the first time on December 9, 1946. **Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha became the first President of the Constituent Assembly** and the meeting continued till January 24, 1950.

The Drafting Committee of the Indian Constitution finished their work on November 26, 1949, and on January 26, 1950, the Constitution of India came into force.

Importance of Indian Constitution: The Indian Constitution is the supreme law of India. The document lays down the framework that outlines the fundamental political structure, code, powers, procedures, and duties of the Indian Government institutions.

The Indian Constitution is significant as it also outlines the **fundamental rights, duties of citizens of India, and directive principles.**

NATIONAL MILK DAY OBSERVED ON 26TH NOVEMBER

Every year November 26 is celebrated as **National Milk Day in India.**

The day is being observed since 2014 to commemorate the birth anniversary of the **Father of India's White Revolution, Dr Verghese Kurien.**



He is also nicknamed as "Milkman of India". To celebrate National Milk Day, the College of Dairy Science & Technology (CODST) and **Guru Angad Dev Veterinary & Animal Sciences University (GADVASU)** is organizing "Milk Adulteration Testing Camp" on 25 and 26 November 2021.

Significance of the day: The National Milk Day is observed with the objective of providing information regarding the need and importance of milk in human's life. Milk is the first food that a child consumes after birth. It is perhaps the food consumed throughout life.

Who was Dr Verghese Kurien?

Dr Verghese Kurien is known as the 'Father of the White Revolution in India. He was a social entrepreneur. He led **Operation Flood**, which is the largest agricultural dairy development programme worldwide.

This operation made India the largest milk producer of the world, from a milk-deficient country. This

movement doubled the milk available per person as well as increased milk output four-time, in some 30 years. **World Milk Day** is observed on 1 June every year by the United Nations.

WORLD. FISHERIES DAY OBSERVED ON 21ST NOVEMBER



World Fisheries Day (WFD) is observed on the 21st November every year.

The award ceremony was organised by the ministry of fisheries, animal husbandry and dairying, in

Bhubaneswar on the occasion of WFD. Balasore district (Odisha) has been awarded India's "Best Marine District".

WFD is celebrated to demonstrate solidarity with all fisherfolk, fish farmers and concerned stakeholders throughout the world.

It was started in the year 1997 when "World Forum of Fish Harvesters & Fish Workers" met at New Delhi leading to formation of "World Fisheries Forum" with representatives from 18 countries and signed a declaration advocating for a global mandate of sustainable fishing practices and policies.

It is aimed at drawing attention to overfishing, habitat destruction and other serious threats to the **sustainability of marine and inland resources.**

Fishing is the capture of **aquatic organisms in marine, coastal and inland areas.** Marine and inland fisheries, together with aquaculture, provide food, nutrition and a source of income to around **820 million people around the world, from harvesting, processing, marketing and distribution.**

For many it also forms part of their traditional cultural identity. One of the greatest threats to the sustainability

of **global fishery resources is illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.**

In 2019-20, with an overall production of 142 lakh tons, India produced 8% of the global share.

During the same time period, India's fisheries exports stood at Rs 46,662 crore, constituting about 18% of India's agricultural exports.

India aims to achieve a target of producing **22 million metric tonnes of fish by 2024-25.**

UNITED NATIONS OBSERVED 'INT. DAY OF SOLIDARITY'

United Nations observes the "International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People" on November 29, every year. The day is observed to mark the adoption of the UN's resolution to divide Palestine into two states.



The **UN traditionally celebrates** the day by undertaking its annual debate on the question of Palestine.

The observance of this day is held at **United Nations Headquarters in New York** as well as United Nations Offices at Geneva and Vienna.

International Day of Solidarity solemnly commemorates the adoption of resolution 181 (II), by the assembly on November 29, 1947.

This resolution provided for the **partition of Palestine into two States, one Arab and one Jewish.** The day is usually observed on November 29. But in 2003, it was observed on December 1.

The annual observance of this day was established by **UN General Assembly Resolution 32/40 B**, on December 2, 1977. Its observance finally started in 1978.

REPORT & INDEXES

EDELGIVE HURUN INDIA PHILANTHROPY LIST 2021



The Edelgive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2021 was jointly released by Hurun India and EdelGive.

Azim Premji, the founder and chairman of Wipro,

topped the list with a donation of Rs 9,713 crore in fiscal 2020-21, or roughly Rs 27 crore each day.

Shiv Nadar of HCL held second place on the list with a 59 percent increase in annual donations to Rs 1,263 crore.

With an annual donation of Rs 577 crore, **Mukesh Ambani, chairman of Reliance Industries,** and his family came in third on the philanthropy list.

Despite the **cut-off being up 54 percent this year**, according to Hurun India and EdelGive, there is only one new face in the India Top 10 this year.

After five years, three persons remain in the India Top 10, led by **Shiv Nadar and followed by Mukesh Ambani and Bajaj & family.**

Top 5 Philanthropists In the List

- Azim Premji
- Shiv Nadar
- Mukesh Ambani
- Kumar Mangalam Birla
- Bajaj & Family

6TH EDITION OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS INDEX (PAI 2021)



According to the 6th edition of the **Public Affairs Index (PAI 2021)** report by the **Public Affairs Centre (PAC)**, a Bengaluru-based non-profit think tank, the top three slots have been taken

by Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana among 18 large states.

PAI 2021 highlights the state government's quality governance and especially the state's government involvement over the curb of Covid-19.

Toppers among large states

- Kerala (1.618)
- Tamil Nadu (0.857)
- Telangana (0.891)

Toppers among small states

- Sikkim (1.617)
- Meghalaya (1.144)
- Mizoram (1.123)

Toppers among Union Territories

- Puducherry (1.182)
- Jammu and Kashmir (0.705)
- Chandigarh (0.628)

Public Affairs Index (PAI 2021) **ranks the states and Union Territories** based on three pillars of equity, growth and sustainability along with 5 themes, 14 **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and **43 indicators.**

2021 TRACE GLOBAL BRIBERY RISK INDEX

India has slipped to 82nd position in 2021, five places down from the 77th rank last year, in a global list that measures business bribery risks.



The list by **TRACE, an anti-bribery standard setting organisation**, measures business bribery risk in 194 countries, territories, and autonomous and semi-autonomous regions.

According to this year's data, **North Korea, Turkmenistan, Venezuela and Eritrea** pose the highest commercial bribery risk, while Denmark, Norway, Finland, Sweden and New Zealand present the lowest.

In 2020, India ranked 77 with a score of 45 while this year, the **country stood at 82nd position with a score of 44**, the data showed.

This **score is based on four factors** – business interactions with the government, anti-bribery deterrence and enforcement, government and civil service transparency, and capacity for civil society oversight which includes the role of the media.

India fared better than its neighbours – **Pakistan, China, Nepal and Bangladesh.** **Bhutan**, meanwhile, secured 62nd rank, the data showed.

Vanuatu, Peru, Northare Macedonia and Montenegro also scored 44, the same as that of India, in the matrix.

The **TRACE Bribery Risk Matrix** measures the likelihood of bribe demands in 194 jurisdictions. It was originally published in 2014 to meet a need in the business community for **more reliable and nuanced information about the risks of commercial bribery worldwide.**

The **TRACE Bribery Risk Matrix** aggregates relevant data obtained from leading public interest and international organisations, including the **United Nations, World Bank, V-Dem Institute** at the University of Gothenburg and World Economic Forum

INDIA RANKED 10TH IN CLIMATE CHANGE PERFORMANCE INDEX

India has been **placed at 10th spot in the global Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2022** released by Germanwatch on the side-lines of the COP26.

In 2020 also India was at 10th position. India has retained its position as the top 10 best-performing countries with higher climate performance for the third year in a row.

About the Index:

Meanwhile, the top three places in the overall ranking is once again empty as none of the **country performed well enough to achieve an overall very high rating in CCPI.**

Moving ahead, Denmark occupied a fourth place as the highest-ranked country in CCPI 2022, followed by Sweden (5th), and Norway (6th) respectively.

Other countries in the top 10 are the United Kingdom (7th), Morocco (8th) and Chile (9th).

NITI AAYOG RELEASED MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX



Recently, NITI Aayog has released the **Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI).**

Earlier, **Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2021** was released by the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative (OPHI).**

The MPI seeks to measure poverty across its multiple dimensions and in effect complements existing poverty statistics based on per capita consumption expenditure.

According to Global MPI 2021, India's rank is 66 out of 109 countries. The National MPI is aimed at

deconstructing the Global MPI and creating a globally aligned and yet customised India MPI for drawing up comprehensive Reform Action Plans with the larger goal of improving **India's position in the Global MPI rankings.**

It has three equally weighted dimensions – **health, education, and standard of living.**

These three dimensions are represented by 12 indicators such as nutrition, school attendance, years of schooling, drinking water, sanitation, housing, bank accounts among others.

Findings of the Index:

Poverty Levels: Bihar has the highest proportion of people of the state's population followed by **Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh** who are multidimensionally poor.

Kerala registered the lowest population poverty levels, followed by **Puducherry, Lakshadweep, Goa and Sikkim.**

Malnourished People: Bihar also has the highest number of malnourished people followed by **Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh.**

INDORE AS CLEANEST INDIAN CITY FOR 5TH YEAR IN ROW

The President of India **Ram Nath Kovind** conferred awards to 342 cleanest cities of India at the 'Swachh Amrit Mahotsav' as part of Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban 2.0 by the **Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi.



More than 300 awards under various categories were given for recognizing the cleanliness and sanitation efforts of the towns, cities, States, and Union Territories under various initiatives of Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban such as the **Swachh Survekshan 2021, Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge, and certifications for Garbage Free Star rating for cities.**

Under the Swachh Survekshan 2021, Indore has been awarded the 'Cleanest City' of India award for the 5th consecutive year in the 'more than 1 lakh' population category followed by Surat and Vijayawada on the 2nd and 3rd rank respectively.

Vita, Lonavala, and Sasvad cities from Maharashtra have ranked first, second, and third Cleanest Cities respectively in the 'less than 1 lakh' population category.

Hoshangabad in Madhya Pradesh emerged as the 'Fastest Mover City' in the 'more than 1 lakh' population category thus securing a place among the top 100 cities at 87th position.

In other categories, **Varanasi won the 'Best Ganga Town'**, Ahmedabad Cantonment won 'India's Cleanest Cantonment' followed by Meerut Cantonment and Delhi Cantonment.

Under the Swachh Survekshan 2021, **Chhattisgarh has been awarded as the 'Cleanest State' of India for the 3rd consecutive year** in the 'more than 100 Urban Local Bodies'. Jharkhand won the 'Cleanest State' of India for the second time in the 'less than 100 Urban Local Bodies' category.

Karnataka emerged as the 'Fastest Mover State' in the 'more than 100 Urban Local Bodies' and Mizoram emerged as the 'Fastest Mover State' in the 'less than 100 Urban Local Bodies'.

ANDHRA PRADESH TOPPED IPF SMART POLICING INDEX

Andhra Pradesh Police has topped the '**IPF Smart Policing' Index 2021**, among 29 states and Union Territories, released by the **Indian Police Foundation (IPF)**.

Andhra Pradesh has secured the first rank with an overall score of 8.11 out of 10. **Telangana Police is in the**

second position with 8.10 points while Assam Police has secured the third position with an overall rating of 7.89. With a score of 5.81, Uttar Pradesh is ranked at 28th position and **Bihar** has occupied the last position with 5.74 points.



What is IPF SMART POLICING SURVEY 2021?

The **SMART Policing idea** was envisioned, articulated and introduced by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Conference of DGPs** of State and Central Police Organizations, held at Guwahati, in 2014 and it envisaged systemic changes to transform the Indian police to be strict and sensitive, modern and mobile, alert and accountable, reliable and responsive, **techno-savvy and trained**.

The purpose of the **IPF survey** was to gather information on citizens' perceptions of the impact of the **SMART policing** initiative and to gauge public perceptions of the quality of policing in India and the level of public trust in the police.

The experts from various Institutions of repute, including **IIT-Kanpur and Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS)** in Mumbai were involved in this survey.



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ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

NATIONAL LOGISTICS INDEX - LEADS REPORT 2021

Gujarat ranked 1st among 21 states on the national logistics index 2021 chart for its 'well-developed infrastructure and services driven by a responsive government'. The logistics index chart released in the **Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) 2021** report by commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal assessed the logistics efficiency of states in 2021. Gujarat was ranked number one in the LEADS 2019 index as well. **There was no ranking in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.** In the top ten states of LEADS 2021 report, Gujarat is followed by Haryana, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana. Uttar Pradesh jumped seven places to rank 6th in LEADS 2021 compared to its 13th position in LEADS 2018 report. In the North-Eastern States and Himalayan Union Territories, Jammu and Kashmir ranked at the top. Among other Union Territories, Delhi ranked at the top position.



Gujarat retains no. 1 rank in LEADS 2021 Index for third consecutive year

Gujarat again ranked 1st in the LEADS 2021 Index among 21 states for its 'proactive policies, well-developed infrastructure and services driven by a responsive government'. Gujarat retained its top position in the 3rd edition of the **national logistics index similar to the previous two rankings in 2018 and 2019.** Gujarat retains its top position for its logistics efficiency due to its integrated logistics policy and a logistics park policy, creation of institutional framework up till the city level, and creation of suitable port-related infrastructure. Gujarat has ranked on top over 20 other states in indicators such as quality and availability of infrastructure, **ease of obtaining all approvals, the extent of facilitation, implementation of LEADS 2019 recommendations** such as introducing faceless services in license renewals, widening of roads, expansion of warehousing, etc.

HARYANA, PUNJAB, TAMIL NADU, MAHARASHTRA AMONG TOP 5

Haryana ranked 2nd in the LEADS 2021 Index due to its timeliness of cargo delivery during transportation, quality of warehousing, the efficiency of regulatory services, operating and regulatory environment. **Haryana has gained four places to reach the No. 2 rank compared to its No.6 rank in the LEADS 2021 report.**

Punjab ranked 3rd in the LEADS 2021 Index for its proactive policies including fiscal incentives under the **Industrial and Business Development Policy**, single-window clearance mechanism for regulatory approvals, development of warehousing zones, and grievance redressal mechanism. These policies have had a significant effect on the logistic ecosystem however the participating government agencies in the certification process do not have their testing facilities near Ludhiana results in sending samples to Delhi for testing and certification, clearance of imports and exports thereby increasing transaction time. **Punjab moved one place down compared to its rank no 2 in the LEADS 2019 report.**

Tamil Nadu ranked 4th in the LEADS 2021 Index for its proactive policies such as developing a State Integrated Logistics Plan and granting priority status to logistics. **However, Tamil Nadu scored low for poor road infrastructure, road freight rates, and prices of terminal services.**

Maharashtra ranked 5th in the LEADS 2021 Index as the state scored low due to poor road infrastructure, poor connectivity, congestion at ports, increased cost of transportation, road freight rates, and prices of terminal services.

NEED OF THE HOUR

India's logistics costs account for 13-14% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), compared to 7-8% in developed countries. The government was aiming to bring down logistics costs by 5% over the next 5 years. **Estimated logistics costs in India are currently about 14%,** which is quite high compared to 8-10% globally. Efficient logistics was pivotal to bring ease and empowerment to businesses as well as citizens. Logistics contributed immensely **in our fight against Covid-19 by taking** essential supplies including liquid Medical Oxygen throughout the country during the 2nd wave.

WHAT IS THE LEADS INDEX?

The **Logistics Ease across Different** by the **Commerce and Industry Ministry** states on the score of their logistics economic growth. The **LEADS 2018** assessed the efficiency of the logistics **LEADS 2019 looked into domestic** and assessed the domestic and EXIM logistics survey was conducted between May to perception indicators, and **4 objective indicators**. The **ranking parameters of each state on the LEADS 2021 Index** were based on the availability of logistics infrastructure, timeliness, the competitiveness of pricing, and services. The **LEADS Index aims to push states into adopting policies that improve their logistics infrastructure**.



States (LEADS) Index was launched in 2018 and Deloitte. The **LEADS Index** ranks services and efficiency that are indicative of looked into import-export trade and ecosystem in each state and UT. The **international trade**. The **LEADS 2021** ecosystem of each state. The **LEADS 2021** August 2021 that included 21 indicators, 17

RELATED INITIATIVES BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT

PM Gati Shakti Master Plan: The government of India has launched the **ambitious Gati Shakti scheme or National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity plan**, with the aim of coordinated planning and execution of infrastructure projects to bring down logistics costs. The Aim is to ensure **integrated planning and implementation of infrastructure projects** in the next four years, with focus on expediting works on the ground, saving costs and creating jobs. The Gati Shakti scheme will subsume the Rs 110 lakh crore **National Infrastructure Pipeline that was launched in 2019**. Besides cutting logistics costs, the scheme is also aimed at increasing cargo handling capacity and reducing the turnaround time at ports to boost trade. **It also aims to have 11 industrial corridors and two new defence corridors - one in Tamil Nadu and other in Uttar Pradesh**. Extending 4G connectivity to all villages is another aim. Adding 17,000 kms to the gas pipeline network is being planned. It will help in fulfilling the ambitious targets set by the government for 2024-25, including expanding the length of the national highway network to 2 lakh kms, creation of more than 200 new airports, heliports and water aerodromes.



Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC): It is a high speed and high capacity railway corridor that is exclusively **meant for the transportation of freight, or in other words, goods and commodities**. DFC involves the seamless integration of better infrastructure and state of the art technology.

DFC consists of two arms: Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC) which starts at Sahnewal (Ludhiana) in Punjab and ends at Dankuni in West Bengal. The EDFC route has coal mines, thermal power plants and industrial cities. Feeder routes are also being made for these & **Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC)** which is the other arm around 1,500-km WDFC from Dadri in Uttar Pradesh to Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust in Mumbai, touching all major ports along the way. The WDFC covers Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh. It is being funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

Sagarmala Programme: The Sagarmala Programme was **approved by the Union Cabinet in 2015** which aims at holistic port infrastructure development along the 7,516-km long coastline through modernisation, mechanisation and computerisation. **Under this port-led development framework**, the government hopes to increase its cargo traffic three-fold. It also includes the establishment of rail/road linkages with the port terminals, thus providing last-mile connectivity to ports; **development of linkages with new regions, enhanced multi-modal connectivity including rail, inland water, coastal and road services**.

Bharatmala Pariyojana: It is an umbrella program for the highways sector envisaged by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. **Under Phase-I of Bharatmala Pariyojana**, implementation of 34,800 km of national highways in 5 years (from 2017 to 2022) **has been approved at an estimated outlay of Rs. 5,35,000 crore**. **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** has mandated the development of about 27,500 km of national highways under Phase-I. However, as per ICRA Limited, Phase-I is likely to be delayed by four years due to the prevailing uncertainty due to Covid-19 and consequent impact on valuations.

ICRA Limited is an Indian independent and professional investment information and credit rating agency. Phase-II envisages around 48,000 km of road network across India by 2024.

Objectives: To optimise the efficiency of freight and passenger movement across the country by bridging critical infrastructure gaps through effective interventions. The effective interventions include the development of **economic**

corridors, inter corridors and feeder routes, national corridor efficiency improvement, border and international connectivity roads, coastal and port connectivity roads and greenfield expressways.



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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

WANG YAPING: 1ST CHINESE WOMAN TO WALK INTO SPACE



Wang Yaping, a Chinese astronaut, has become the **first Chinese woman to walk in space**.

Wang Yaping's team performed a six-hour trip outside **Tiangong space station** as part of ongoing construction.

On November 7, 2021, Wang and her colleague **Zhai Zhigang** left **Tiangong**. They added a suspension system as well as transfer connectors.

This was the **Shenzhou-13 crew's first extravehicular activity**. They will stay on board the space station for six months.

Tiangong, which translates to "heavenly palace," is **China's most recent success in its quest to become a significant space force**. China has sent multiple missions to the Moon and has landed a rover on Mars. The **Tiangong's core module** was launched into orbit in 2021.

By 2022, this station should be operating. **Tiangong** is projected to be operational for around 10 years.

The crew set up equipment and test technology in preparation for future construction. **Zhai, the mission commander, is a veteran fighter pilot who made China's first spacewalk in 2008.**

China is building Tiangong, a space station in low Earth orbit. It is being built between 340 and 450 kilometres above sea level. It is the first long-term space station built by China. On April 29, 2021, the first module, **Tianhe core module**, was released.

WORLD'S FIRST EARTH SCIENCE SATELLITE: GUANGMU



China has launched the world's first Earth-science satellite, Guangmu or SDGSAT-1 into space from the **Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center** in the northern **Shanxi Province**.

The satellite was launched by the **Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS)** and developed by the **International**

Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals (CBAS).

About the **Guangmu**: **Guangmu** was launched by a **Long March-6 carrier rocket** which is the **395th flight mission**.

SDGSAT-1 is the first satellite customized according to the **UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** which was adopted in 2015 with 17 **SDGs** for peace and prosperity.

SPACE-X 'CREW-3 MISSION' TO LED BY INDIAN ORIGIN

US Space agency NASA and the Elon Musk-owned private rocket company SpaceX have launched the "**Crew 3**" mission on November 10, 2021.

The "**Crew 3**" mission consists of **Indian-origin NASA astronaut Raja Chari** as its **mission commander**.

The other three astronauts are **NASA's Tom Marshburn (pilot)**; and **Kayla Barron (mission specialist)**; as well as **ESA (European Space Agency) astronaut Matthias Maurer (mission specialist)**.



Under this mission, four astronauts have been sent to the **International Space Station (ISS)** for a six-month science mission until April 2022.

The four-member international crew of astronauts lifted off from **Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida** onboard the **SpaceX Crew Dragon** capsule named **Endurance** fixed to **Falcon 9** rocket.

RUSSIA SUCCESSFULLY TEST-FIRED ZIRCON MISSILE

Russia had carried out another successful test of its **Zircon hypersonic cruise missile**, one the latest additions to the country's arsenal of weapons called "**invincible**" by **President Vladimir Putin**.



Moscow has in recent years touted the development of weapons that it hopes will give it the edge in any arms race with the **United States at a time of growing tensions with the West**.

Hypersonics can travel more than five times the speed of sound and manoeuvre in mid-flight, making them much harder to **track and intercept than traditional projectiles**.

The **military** had fired the Zircon missile from the **Admiral Gorshkov warship** and hit a test target in **Russia's Arctic waters**.

The Zircon had already undergone several tests in recent years, including another launch from the **Admiral Gorshkov and from a submerged submarine**.

Putin used his state of the nation address in 2018 to reveal new **hypersonic weapons**, including the Zircon, saying it could hit targets at sea and on land with a range of **1,000 kilometres (620 miles)**.

The Zircon looks set to join Avangard hypersonic glide vehicles that were put into service in 2019 and the **air-launched Kinzhal (Dagger) missiles in Russia's arsenal**.



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ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

NASA ALL SET TO LAUNCH 'DART MISSION'

The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** is preparing to launch the **Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART)** mission that is a **planetary defense-driven test of technologies to prevent collision of Earth with an asteroid**. The mission is scheduled to be launched on November 24, 2021 on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from **Vandenberg Space Force Base in California**.



WHAT IS NASA'S DART MISSION?

The **Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) mission** directed by NASA is the first demonstration of the kinetic impactor technique to change the motion of an asteroid in space. **The target of the DART Mission is the binary near-Earth asteroid (65803) Didymos and its moonlet.** The Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory (APL) has built and developed the DART Mission's spacecraft.

Instruments and Systems: The DART spacecraft will have an onboard camera called **Didymos Reconnaissance and Asteroid Camera for OpNav (DRACO)**. **It will use Roll Out Solar Arrays (ROSA) to supply solar power** for its electric propulsion system after launch. The spacecraft will be equipped with advanced autonomous navigation algorithms. **The spacecraft will also test the Evolutionary Xenon Thruster - Commercial (NEXT-C) solar electric propulsion system by NASA.**

NASA's DART Mission will crash itself into an asteroid: The 'DART Mission's spacecraft' will use the onboard camera called **Didymos Reconnaissance and Asteroid Camera for OpNav (DRACO)** and advanced autonomous navigation algorithms during the crash. The spacecraft will attain the kinetic impact deflection by deliberately crashing into the moonlet of the **Didymos asteroid at a speed of roughly 6.6 km per second (24,140 km per hour)**

AIM OF THE MISSION

The **mission is to test the new technology to be prepared in case an asteroid heads towards Earth in the future.** The aim is to test the newly developed technology that would allow a spacecraft to crash into an asteroid and change its course. After the mission has collided with the asteroid, scientists will study its impact on the trajectory of the asteroid with a range of telescopes deployed on different regions of the planet. **DART will be the first demonstration of the kinetic impactor technique** to change the motion of an asteroid in space. The target of the spacecraft is a **small moonlet called Dimorphos (Greek for "two forms").** Dimorphos orbits a larger asteroid named Didymos (Greek for "twin"). It is a suicide mission and the spacecraft will be completely destroyed. The collision is expected to take place between 26th September and 1st October, 2022.

ABOUT THE MISSION

DART is a low-cost spacecraft. It has two solar arrays and uses hydrazine propellant for maneuvering the spacecraft. It also carries about 10 kg of xenon which will be used to demonstrate the agency's new thrusters called **NASA Evolutionary Xenon Thruster-Commercial (NEXT-C) in space.** NEXT-C gridded ion thruster system provides a combination of performance and spacecraft integration capabilities that make it uniquely suited for deep space robotic missions. The spacecraft carries a high-resolution imager called **Didymos Reconnaissance and Asteroid Camera for Optical Navigation (DRACO)**. Images from DRACO will be sent to Earth in real-time and will help study the impact site and surface of **Dimorphos (the target asteroid).** DART will also carry a small satellite or CubeSat named **LICIACube (Light Italian CubeSat for Imaging of Asteroids).** LICIACube is expected to capture images of the impact and the impact crater formed as a result of the collision.



RECENT SIGNIFICANT MISSIONS OF NASA

'LUCY MISSION' TO JUPITER'S TROJAN ASTEROIDS

NASA's Lucy Mission would be launched on October 16, 2021. It would be sent on a 12 year journey to the Planet Jupiter. **The mission of the spacecraft would be to study the Trojan Asteroid for initial life traces on Earth.** The solar-powered mission is estimated to be over 12 years long, during which the spacecraft will visit eight asteroids covering a distance of about 6.3 billion km to deepen the understanding of the "young solar system".



ABOUT THE MISSION

The mission is named after 'Lucy', a 3.2 million-year-old ancestor who belonged to a species of hominins (which include humans and their ancestors). The spacecraft will be launched on an Atlas V 401 rocket.

Asteroid Donald Johnson: The spacecraft's first encounter will be with an asteroid that lies in the main belt that can be found between Mars and Jupiter. **This asteroid is named 'Donald Johnson' after the paleoanthropologist who discovered the fossilised remains of 'Lucy'.**

Significance: The Trojan asteroids are believed to be **formed from the same material that led to the formation of planets nearly 4 billion years ago when the solar system was formed.** Therefore, the mission is designed to understand the composition of the diverse asteroids that are a part of the Trojan asteroid swarms, to determine the mass and densities of the materials and to look for and study the satellites and rings that may orbit the Trojan asteroids. Studying them will help scientists understand its origins and evolution, and why it looks the way it does.

WHAT ARE THE TROJAN ASTEROIDS?

These asteroids are named after Greek mythology and are left overs of the **formation of the Solar System.** Trojans encircle the Sun in two swarms: One that precedes Jupiter in its orbit of the Sun & One that follows Jupiter in its orbit of the Sun. **Lucy would be the first spacecraft to visit the Trojans and the first to examine so many independent solar system targets,** each in its own orbit of the Sun. Trojans are various clusters of rocks, snow and ice that could not coalesce into planets while the solar system was formed. They include the best evidence one can find from that period and thus can explain the solar system better than any other.

NASA'S PSYCHE MISSION

NASA's Psyche mission will be the first to be launched in August 2022 that will explore a **giant metal asteroid known as (16) Psyche** in the main asteroid belt. The asteroid Psyche is orbiting the Sun **between Mars and Jupiter.** The Psyche mission is one of the two missions of NASA to explore the early Solar System. The Lucy mission is another mission that will set out in September 2021 to **explore Jupiter's Trojan asteroids to study the early Solar System.**



What is NASA's Psyche mission?

NASA's Psyche mission is the first mission that will explore a **unique giant metal asteroid Psyche** that is orbiting the Sun between Mars and Jupiter. The Psyche mission is being led by Arizona State University. **NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory will be looking into mission management,** navigation, and operations. The Psyche mission was selected as one of the two missions of NASA to explore the early Solar System on January 4, 2017.

Scientific instruments on Psyche mission

- X-band Gravity Science Investigation
- Multispectral Imager
- Gamma Ray and Neutron Spectrometer
- Magnetometer

Objectives of Psyche mission

- Understand how planets and other bodies separated into their layers including cores, mantles, and crusts

- For the first time, **examine an asteroid made not of rock and ice, but metal**
- Explore the early eras of our solar system

ABOUT ASTEROID 'PSYCHE'

Psyche is the 16th asteroid that was discovered in 1852 by Italian astronomer **Annibale de Gasparis**. He named the asteroid Psyche after the Goddess of the Soul in ancient Greek mythology. Measuring 130 miles (210 kilometers) in diameter, the asteroid is 3 times farther from the Sun than the Earth. **Unlike other asteroids made up of ice or rock,** asteroid Psyche is **made up of mostly metallic iron and nickel** which is similar to the core of the Earth. Scientists believe that asteroid Psyche could be an exposed core of an early planet as large as Mars but it lost its outer rocky layers due to infinite violent collisions billions of years ago.

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MISCELLANEOUS

1ST STATE TO PASS WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN: MAHARASHTRA



The government of Maharashtra approved its own **Wildlife Action Plan 2021-2030**.

The Wildlife Action Plan was passed during the **17th meeting of the State Board for Wildlife (SBWL)**.

Wildlife Action Plan (2021-2030) will be implemented over the next 10 years.

Maharashtra became India's first state to pass its own Wildlife Action Plan.

The board has also approved the extension of the boundary of **Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve** in the **Chandrapur district** of the **Vidarbha region**.

It will be extended around 79 sq km. The plan has suggested **uniting climate change adaptation in wildlife conservation**.

It aims to develop a Climate Action Plan for the state's Coastal Region in sync with the '**State Climate Change Action Plan**' with particular emphasis on '**Climate Change Adaptation (CCA)**' and '**Disaster Risk Reduction (DDR)**'.

COVAXIN GETS MUCH AWAITED WHO APPROVAL



The **World Health Organisation (WHO)** granted its much-awaited **Emergency Use Listing (EUL)** to **India's first indigenously developed COVID-19 vaccine, Covaxin**.

The vaccine has now been added to the growing portfolio of vaccines that have received a **go-ahead from WHO for emergency use against COVID-19**.

The **WHO EUL Listing** will now enable **Covaxin** to get emergency use approval in other countries as well that haven't yet given it a go-ahead. The countries will now be able to expedite their regulatory approval processes to import and administer Covaxin.

This also means that **UNICEF, GAVI COVAX facility, Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO)**, will be able to procure Covaxin for distribution to countries worldwide.

Covaxin has shown 77.8 percent efficacy against symptomatic COVID-19 and **65.2 percent efficacy against the new Delta variant**.

Bharat Biotech has concluded the final analysis of the protection offered by Covaxin against the **COVID-19 virus** from its **Phase 3 trials**.

The Covaxin data was reviewed by **WHO's Technical Advisory Group and Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE)**.

The strategic advisory group recommended the use of the vaccine in two doses, with a dose interval of four weeks, in all age groups 18 and above.

The WHO approval finally came through upon the recommendation of the **Technical Advisory Group (TAG) for Emergency Use Listing (TAG-EUL)**.

The group determined that the **Covaxin vaccine meets WHO standards** for protection against COVID and that the benefit of the vaccine far outweighs risks and the vaccine can be used across the world.

The **Technical Advisory Group** is an independent advisory panel that was convened by WHO to provide recommendations on whether the **COVID vaccine should be listed for emergency use under the EUL procedure**. The advisory group is made up of regulatory experts from around the world.

WORLD'S 1ST ORAL PILL TO TREAT COVID-19

Recently, it is claimed that **Molnupiravir, an oral drug, can cut the risk of hospitalisation** in Covid-19 patients by half, in phase 3 trials.



In India, the **Optimus Group** recently announced the results of **phase 3 clinical trials**, which found **91.5% of patients given the drug tested RT-PCR (Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction) negative**.

Molnupiravir: It belongs to a class of broad spectrum antiviral drugs called **nucleoside analogues**.

They act by interfering with the function of viral RNA (Ribonucleic Acids) polymerases – **which are enzymes that make new viral RNA in infected cells.**

RNA is a polymer of ribonucleotides and an important biological macromolecule that is present in all biological cells.

It is principally involved in the synthesis of proteins, carrying the messenger instructions from Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA), which itself contains the genetic instructions required for the development and maintenance of life.

It works by causing viruses to make errors when copying their own RNA, introducing mutations that inhibit replication. It was initially invented as a drug for the influenza virus.

Mechanism: These drugs work by preventing the process of replication of the virus inside human cells.

A virus is a biological agent that can self-replicate inside a host cell. The infected cells by viruses may produce thousands of new copies of the original virus at an extraordinary rate. **It alters critical enzymes that were necessary to the virus for replicating in the human body cells.**

SRINAGAR AIRPORT DESIGNATED AS 'MAJOR AIRPORT'



On November 6, 2021, the Ministry of Civil Aviation designated "Srinagar International Airport" as a "Major Airport."

By exercising the powers provided by Subsection I of Section 2 of the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India Act, 2008, the airport was designated as a major airport.

Amit Shah, the Union Home Minister, had earlier inaugurated international flight operations at Srinagar airport on October 23.

The first direct international flight connecting **Srinagar, Sharjah, and the United Arab Emirates was launched (UAE).**

The Airports Economic Regulatory Authority will set the tariff for aeronautical services at **Srinagar Airport as a result of this decision (AERA).**

Under section 13 of the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India Act, 2008, AERA has been tasked

with determining tariffs for aeronautical services provided at major airports.

Tariffs at non-major airports are set by the Airports Authority of India (AAI). The AAI is a department of the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

HABIBGANJ RLY. STATION RENAMED AS RANI KAMALAPATI

Habibganj railway station has been redeveloped and renamed as **Rani Kamalapati station.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the newly revamped Rani Kamalapati railway station, India's first world class railway station to the nation.



Rani Kamalapati station has been renamed after the brave and fearless **Queen Kamalapati of the Gond kingdom.**

The station has been redeveloped in **Public Private Partnership (PPP)** mode with modern amenities that takes into account ease of mobility for persons with disabilities.

India's first world-class railway station

Rani Kamalapati Station boasts of world class interiors and modern amenities and facilities, similar to those at international airports, to provide unmatched convenience to passengers.

The **Rani Kamalapati Railway Station** has been redeveloped as a green building with solar led-LED lighting **under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode.**

It has been built by a **private company named Bansal Group under a public-private partnership.**

It boasts of all facilities that are available at the international airports. Its modern amenities take into account ease of mobility for persons with disabilities.

It has also been redeveloped as a hub for integrated multi-modal transport. It will offer direct connectivity to Bhopal Metro through a skywalk. It also has separate entry and exit gates to control the crowd.

INDIA'S 1ST FOOD MUSEUM IN TAMIL NADU

FCI – the Food Corporation of India, as a novel initiative has launched India's First Food Museum in Tamil Nadu.



The Museum has been set up at Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu, which is also the cultural capital of the state. The FCI Food Museum has been set-up to digitally exhibit the foodgrain production scenario in India

and across the globe also to also highlight the challenges with regards to Food Storage.

The museum has been established by FCI in association with Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum (VITM), Bengaluru.

The museum has been set-up at a cost of about ₹1.1 crore. Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution System Mr Piyush Goyal, inaugurated the museum through video conference. He was joined by FCI Chairman and Managing Director Atish Chandra for the ceremony.

FCI's Food Museum set up at Thanjavur showcases several themes and evolution of agricultural food practices in the country. Some of the important themes and points about FCI's Food Museum are as follows:

History of Foragers: The museum showcases evolution of agricultural systems for human race; right from the time of nomadic hunter gatherers to settled agricultural producers and farmers, which led to the beginning of civilizations.

Food Storage: The Food Museum also showcases different types of food storage methods that have been developed and used over the year, both in India as well as across the world.

It also exhibits the foodgrain production scenario in India and across the globe and the challenges in storage as part of the showcase at the Museum.

Last mile Distribution: Another important aspect that is showcased at the Food Museum includes the journey of the foodgrain from the farm to the consumers' plate and the role played by FCI in it.

Operations of FCI: Through Digital presentation, the Food Museum also showcases a host of technological features employed by FCI to streamline agricultural production and distribution networks.

The Museum exhibits various technologies such as projection mapping, Radio Frequency Identification (RFID), touch screen kiosk, proximity and touch sensors and virtual reality system.

SOUTH KOREA TO GET WORLD'S 1ST FLOATING CITY

South Korea is soon going to get the world's first floating city, to deal with the problem of floods due to rising sea levels.

The floating city project is a joint effort by the UN Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habit) and OCEANIX. The city will be built off the coast of Busan in South Korea and is likely to be completed by 2025.



About the city: The floating city will have 'flood-proof infrastructure' and comprise several man-made islands to eliminate the risk of flooding.

The self-sufficient city will be specifically designed to withstand natural disasters like tsunamis, floods, and Category 5 hurricanes.

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