
MANTHAN

A General Awareness Weekly

6th December to 12th December, 2021

PREFACE

Dear Students,

The 'Current Affairs' section is an integral part of any examination. This edition of Manthan has been developed by our team to help you cover all the important events of the Week. This comprehensive bulletin will help you prepare the section in a vivid manner. We hope that our sincere efforts will serve you in a better way to fulfill aspirations.

Happy Reading

Team CL



Career
Launcher

National



Thrissur and Nilambur in the UNESCO Global Cities City Network

- Kerala Local Government Minister MV Govindan has said that the **government's recommendation to include the Thrissur Corporation and the Nilambur Municipality in the UNESCO Global Learning City (Global Learning City) network** has been accepted.
- **For the first time in the country, two cities in Kerala are rising to the status of global learning cities.** The Central Government approved the recommendation of the State Government and recommended Thrissur and Nilambur for the Global Study City Plan.
- **KILA in the Thrissur Corporation and the School of Architecture and Planning in the Thrissur College of Engineering are jointly developing it into a global learning city.** The plans are for ten years. **International standard knowledge centers will be set up in Nilambur.**
- **The projects required to uplift other cities in Kerala globally will be implemented at the behest of KILA.** It intends to co-operate with UNESCO to elevate the Kochi Corporation to the status of City of Design, to transform the Kozhikode Corporation into the City of Literature and to elevate the Kannur Corporation to the City of Craft and Focus. The Minister explained that he would work with UNSDG to transform the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation into a City of Peace and IUCN to transform the Kollam Corporation into a Biodiversity City.

UNESCO is the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and is a specialised agency of the United Nations (UN). It seeks to build peace through international cooperation in Education, the Sciences and Culture. UNESCO's programmes contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals defined in Agenda 2030, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015. **Political and economic arrangements of governments are not enough to secure the lasting and sincere support of the peoples.** Peace must be founded upon dialogue and mutual understanding. Peace must be built upon the intellectual and moral solidarity of humanity. It is headquartered at the World Heritage Centre in Paris, France. Audrey Azoulay is a French civil servant and politician who has been serving as the Director-General of the UNESCO since 2017, becoming the second female leader of the organization.

Cyclone Jawad is first cyclone to hit Odisha in December in 130 years

- **Cyclone Jawad hits Odisha coast as predicted, it was the first one to do so to the state in December in India** Meteorological Department (IMD)'s **nearly 130 years of recorded history.** Heavy rains lashed parts of Odisha as remnants of cyclone Jawad, which has weakened into a deep depression, neared the coast, officials said.
- **The coastal state has been hit by more than 100 cyclones since 1891, when IMD started compiling cyclone data. "However, none of the cyclones hit the state in December in around 130 years".**

Saudi Arabia has given the cyclone its name 'Jawad'. The meaning 'Jawad' is liberal or merciful. The carries significance as this cyclonic storm will not be as severe as the previous ones. **Cyclones are formed over the oceanic water in the tropical region.**

Centre forms three-member committee to review criteria for EWS quota

- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment announced the formation of a three-member committee to review the criteria for Economically Weaker Section (EWS) reservations.
- The committee will comprise Former Finance Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey, Member Secretary ICSSR Prof VK Malhotra and Principal Economic Advisor to the Indian government Sanjeev Sanyal. The committee will examine various approaches followed in the country so far for identifying the economically weaker sections. It will also send its recommendations to the Centre in the next three weeks.
- The office memorandum issued by the ministry, signed by joint secretary RP Meena, states that the committee is being set up “in accordance with the commitment” given to the Supreme Court to “revisit the criteria for determining the economically weaker sections in terms of the provisions of the explanation to Article 15 of the Constitution”.
- The government had submitted to the Supreme Court that it would revisit the Rs 8 lakh annual income criteria for EWS to be eligible for reservation benefits. The issue had arisen after NEET aspirants challenged notification dated July 29 which had announced a 27 per cent quota for OBCs and 10 per cent reservation for EWS in under the All-India Quota category. The government told the court that NEET counselling will be deferred till a decision is taken on the matter.
- In previous hearings, the Supreme Court had questioned the government on how the figure of Rs 8 lakh had been arrived at as the maximum income limit for the EWS quota.
- The government had in the past cited the Sinho Commission report of 2010 to push 10 per cent reservation for EWS. The commission had, however, not explicitly recommended a quota for EWS but said that they should get access to welfare schemes.

The One Hundred and Third Amendment of the Constitution of India, officially known as the Constitution (One Hundred and Third Amendment) Act, 2019, introduces 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) of society for admission to Central Government-run educational institutions and private educational institutions (except for minority educational institutions), and for employment in Central Government jobs. The Amendment does not make such reservations mandatory in State Government-run educational institutions or State Government jobs. However, some states have chosen to implement the 10% reservation for economically weaker sections. Currently, the quota can be availed by persons with an annual gross household income of up to Rs. 8 lakh. Families that own over 5 acres of agricultural land, a house over 1,000 square feet, a plot of over 100-yards in a notified municipal area or over a 200-yards plot in a non-notified municipal area cannot avail the reservation. Persons belonging to communities that already have reservations such as Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the “creamy layer” of Other Backward Classes are also not eligible for reservation under this quota.

PM Narendra Modi in Dehradun to lay foundation of Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Dehradun, Uttarakhand where he inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of multiple projects including the ambitious Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor worth around Rs. 18,000 crore.
- The corridor will also have Asia’s largest wildlife elevated corridor (12 km) for unrestricted wildlife movement. Also, the 340-metre long tunnel near Dat Kaali temple, Dehradun will help reduce the impact on wildlife, the government has stated.
- The corridor is expected to boost the overall economy of the region. In the statement, the government said that this project will provide seamless connectivity and reduce logistics costs. The construction of the Delhi-Dehradun corridor is also expected to give impetus to the development of tourism, especially in Haridwar, a popular pilgrimage site.
- Apart from this, he also laid the foundation stone of 10 development projects and inaugurate seven others. Most of these projects are focused on improving the road infrastructure of Dehradun, making travel safer to the city, situated at the foothills of the Himalayas.

GRSE launches first large survey vessel Sandhayak for Indian Navy

- **Indian shipbuilder Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) has achieved a new milestone with the launch of the first large survey vessel for the Indian Navy. Called Sandhayak, the vessel is the first in the series of four ships being built under the Survey Vessel Large (SVL) project. It has been built at GRSE.**
- **Indian State Defence Minister Ajay Bhatt, who was present at the launch ceremony, said that the ship's launch is a new milestone for the country's vision of 'New India' by 2030. In October 2018, the Indian Ministry of Defence and GRSE signed the contract to build the four survey ships. Featuring over 80% indigenous content by cost, the ships are fully designed by GRSE and are being built using 'Integrated Construction' concepts.**
- **The 'Launch' symbolizes the "birth" of the ship as she makes her first contact with water and is floated out for from her building berth. The ceremony was conducted in true maritime traditions with the application of vermilion, breaking of coconut on the ship's bow and chanting of vedic mantras.**

Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd, abbreviated as GRSE, is one of India's leading shipyards, located in Kolkata, West Bengal. It builds and repairs commercial and naval vessels.

Social Justice and Empowerment Minister launches SRESHTA scheme for socio economic upliftment of SC students

- **Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Dr Virendra Kumar launched Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas (SRESHTA) for socio-economic upliftment and overall development of Scheduled Castes students.**
- **The scheme was launched on the occasion of Mahaparinirvan Diwas of Dr B R Ambedkar in New Delhi. The scheme will enable bright SC students to have a better future by getting high-quality education. It will also aid in controlling dropout rates of SC students from class 9th to 12th.**
- **In the next five year the Ministry will extend support to around 25 thousand meritorious SC students involving 300 crore rupees for providing them quality residential education. The Ministry also transferred Post Matric Scholarship to more than four lakh SC and ST students through Direct Benefit Transfer amounting to over 245 crore rupees. 50 percent of these beneficiaries are women.**

Centre initiates Scheme for Protection and Preservation of Endangered Languages of India

- **The Government of India has initiated a Scheme known as "Protection and Preservation of Endangered Languages of India" (SPPEL), being implemented by Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysore. This scheme aims at protection, preservation and documentation of all the mother tongues/languages of India which are spoken by less than 10,000 people.**
- **The University Grants Commission (UGC) has a Scheme for "Establishment of Centres for Endangered Languages" under which centres were approved in respect of nine Central Universities. Further the UGC has been implementing a scheme namely 'Funding support to the State Universities for study and research in indigenous and endangered language in India' under which seven Universities were approved for grants. In addition, a collaborative project between Maharaja Sayajirao University, Baroda and BHASA, a Non Governmental Organisation working for Promotion and Preservation of Indigenous and Endangered languages was approved by UGC.**

Article 343 of the Indian Constitution stated that the official language of the Union is Hindi in Devanagari script, with official use of English to continue for 15 years from 1947. Later, a constitutional amendment, The Official Languages Act, 1963, allowed for the continuation of English alongside Hindi in the Indian government indefinitely until legislation decides to change it. The Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution lists 22 languages, which have been referred to as scheduled languages and given recognition, status and official encouragement. In addition, the Government of India has awarded the distinction of classical language to Kannada, Malayalam, Odia, Sanskrit, Tamil and Telugu. Classical language status is given to languages which have a rich heritage and independent nature. Despite the misconceptions, Hindi is not the national language of India; the Constitution of India does not give any language the status of national language

NITI Aayog CSE and release 'Waste-wise cities' – compendium of best practices in municipal solid waste management

- **India's solid waste management sector has witnessed unparalleled growth in last few years. The Swachh Bharat Mission Phase 2 is launched to further strengthen the efforts for a clean India.** The report, titled "Waste-Wise Cities: Best Practices in Municipal Solid Waste Management", documents best practices from 28 cities in 15 states of India.
- The new report is the result of a country-wide study and survey jointly conducted by NITI Aayog and CSE. The repository is the result of five months of **extensive on-ground collective research that was initiated in July 2021.**
- **The entire gamut of municipal solid waste management has been seen from a cross-section of 10 different aspects that explains a sustainable value chain.** These thematic aspects range from source segregation, material recovery and technological innovations to the management of different kinds of wastes and systems such as biodegradables, plastics, e-waste, C&D waste and landfills.

Waste management in India falls under the purview of the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC). In 2016, this ministry released the Solid Wastage Management (SWM) Rules, which replaced by the Municipal Solid Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, and 2000 of which had been in place for 16 years. This national policy plays a significant role in the acknowledgement and inclusion of the informal sector (waste pickers) into the waste management process for the first time. India generates 62 million tonnes of waste each year. About 43 million tonnes (70%) are collected of which about 12 million tonnes are treated and 31 million tonnes are dumped in landfill sites. Waste segregation at source is mandatory. Households are required to separate waste into three streams - Organic or Biodegradable waste, Dry waste (such as plastic, paper, metal and wood), and Domestic Hazardous waste (diapers, napkins, mosquito repellents, cleaning agents). Further, bulk waste generators such as hotels and hospitals are expected to treat organic waste either onsite or by collaborating with the urban local body.

Education Ministry launches mobile app called Bhasha Sangam

- **Education Ministry has launched a mobile app called Bhasha Sangam in order to help people acquire basic conversation ability in languages other than one's mother tongue** to at least 75 lakh people.
- This language learning initiative has been taken **under Ek Bharat -Shrestha Bharat Programme as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.** The App has more than 100 sentences of common usage, both in text and audio format, in 22 Indian languages.

The Ministry of Education (MoE), previously the Ministry of Human Resource Development (1985-2020), is responsible for the implementation and formulation of the National Policy on Education approved by Union cabinet of India and to ensure that it is implemented in letter and spirit. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad is the First Minister of Education in the Indian. He is commonly remembered as Maulana Azad; the word Maulana is an honorific meaning 'Our Master' and he had adopted Azad (Free) as his pen name. The current Union Minister for Education is Dharmendra Pradhan since 7 July 2021. Shri Pradhan currently represents Madhya Pradesh in the Rajya Sabha as Member of Parliament.

Parliament passes HC and SC Judges (Salaries & Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2021

- **Parliament has passed the High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2021 with the Rajya Sabha returning it to the Lok Sabha after the discussion. As it was a money bill therefore the bill has been returned to the Lower House.** The Lok Sabha has already passed it. The Bill seeks to amend the High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1954, and the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1958.
- The Bill clarifies that a person will be **entitled to the additional pension or family pension from the first day of the month in which they complete the minimum age under the concerned age bracket.** The scale contains five age brackets with a minimum age of 80, 85, 90, 95, and 100 years, and the additional quantum increases with age from 20 percent to 100 percent of the pension or family pension. Replying to a debate on the bill in the

Rajya Sabha, **Union Minister for Law and Justice Kiren Rijju** said that the government will leave no unturned in strengthening the judicial system of the country.

- He informed that the government has **approved the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary for a further five years from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2026** at a **total cost of nine thousand crore rupees**. He said, the scheme will help construct court halls and residential units for judicial officers of District and Subordinate Courts, Lawyer Halls, and toilet complexes. Mr Rijju said that **90 percent of the pending cases are at Subordinate Courts** which needs to be strengthened. He said, the **issue of infrastructure development in High Courts and Subordinate Courts lies in the domain of State governments**.

Kiren Rijju is an **Indian lawyer and politician from Arunachal Pradesh who is the current Minister of Law and Justice of India**, in the Second Modi ministry from 7 July 2021. **He is a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party**. In the 2014 general election, **Rijju was again elected as a Member of Parliament in the 16th Lok Sabha, representing the Arunachal West constituency**.

Former CEC Sunil Arora joins Board of Advisors for International Institute for Democracy & Electoral Assistance

- **Former Chief Election Commissioner of India Sunil Arora joined the Board of Advisors for International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA)**. Mr. Arora has rich leadership experience, knowledge and skills to contribute significantly to the working of the International Institute. **The Institute is assisted by a 15 member Board of Advisors** who are eminent personalities or experts from a wide variety of backgrounds.
- **IDEA is an intergovernmental organization based in Stockholm, Sweden** with a mission to support sustainable democracy worldwide. **The organization currently has 34 member countries. India is one of the founding members of IDEA**. Election Commission of India, ECI firmly believes in deepening and strengthening Democracies worldwide through knowledge sharing among Election Management Bodies. **The organization is headquartered in Stockholm, Sweden**.

CURTAIN RAISER PANEX-21

- **The Indian Army is organizing an exercise named “PANEX-21” for the member nations of Bay of Bengal Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) countries**. The exercise will involve **BIMSTEC Countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand and India**.
- A Curtain Raiser Event for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief exercise, **PANEX-21, for the member nations of BIMSTEC countries**, was **held at Kothari Auditorium DRDO Bhawan, New Delhi**. **The exercise is planned to be conducted from 20-22 Dec 21 at Pune** and will witness **participation from subject matter experts and delegates from India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand**.
- To foster joint planning and build regional cooperation for responding to natural disasters. **The exercise will look at analyzing the capabilities of member states** and share **best practices for response to disasters**, including capability development and training. Protocols for military-to-military cooperation will also be discussed.

PM Narendra Modi inaugurates AIIMS, fertiliser plant in UP’s Gorakhpur

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation three mega projects, including an AIIMS and a major fertiliser plant, in Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath’s home turf Gorakhpur**. The other projects he inaugurated is a **Regional Medical Research Centre of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**.
- **The three big-ticket projects are worth over Rs 9,600 crore**. **The newly built fertiliser plant will be operated by the Hindustan Urvarak Rasayan Limited (HURL)**. **The Gorakhpur AIIMS, built at a cost of Rs 1,011 crore, will benefit not only the people of eastern Uttar Pradesh** but also a huge population of Bihar, Jharkhand and Nepal with its world-class health facilities. Similarly, the regional medical research centre set up at a cost of Rs 36 crore will facilitate the test and research of vector-borne diseases, they added. The high-tech lab will decrease the dependency of the area on big cities for tests related to vector-borne diseases.

Uttar Pradesh is the most populous state in India as well as the most populous country subdivision in the world. It was created on 1 April 1937 as the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh during British rule, and was renamed **Uttar Pradesh** in 1950, giving the acronym UP. The state is divided into 18 divisions and 75 districts with the capital being Lucknow. On 9 November 2000, a new state, Uttarakhand, was carved out from the state's Himalayan hill region. The two major rivers of the state, the Ganges and Yamuna, join at Allahabad and flow further east as Ganges. The state contributes 80 seats to the lower house of the Indian Parliament, Lok Sabha and 31 seats to the upper house of the Indian Parliament, Rajya Sabha.

NCW launches pan-India capacity building programme 'She is a Changemaker' for women in Politics

- To improve leadership skills of grassroots women political leaders, the National Commission for Women (NCW) launched a pan-India capacity building programme, 'She is a Changemaker' for women representatives at all levels, gram panchayats to parliament members and political workers including office bearers of National/State political parties. The capacity building programme will be undertaken in association with region-wise training institutes with an objective to undertake capacity building of women political leaders and improve their decision making and communication skills including, oration, writing, etc.
- The official launch of training programmes under 'She is a Changemaker' series was held in collaboration with RhambhauMhalgiPrabodhini, Thane, Maharashtra. The programme was launched by Ms Rekha Sharma, Chairperson, National Commission for Women.
- The three-day capacity building programme for 'Women in Municipal Corporation' was organised from 7th to 9th December. Speaking at the launch event, Ms Sharma said that increased women participation in politics is the need of the hour and the Commission is committed towards helping them in their journey to the Parliament.

The National Commission for Women (NCW) is the statutory body of the Government of India, generally concerned with advising the government on all policy matters affecting women. It was established on 31 January 1992 under the provisions of the Indian Constitution, as defined in the 1990 National Commission for Women Act. The first head of the commission was Jayanti Patnaik. Rekha Sharma is the current chairperson.

NITI Aayog launches 'e-Sawari India E-Bus Coalition' in tie-up with CESL

- Government think tank NITI Aayog announced the launch of 'e-Sawaari India Electric Bus Coalition' in partnership with Convergence Energy Service Ltd (CESL) and World Resources Institute, India (WRI India), with support from Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative (TUMI).
- The coalition has been launched with the aim to share knowledge and learnings on e-bus adoption in India among various stakeholders, including central and state governments, city-level government agencies, transit service providers, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), financing institutions and ancillary service providers.

The National Institution for Transforming India, also called NITI Aayog, was formed via a resolution of the Union Cabinet on January 1, 2015. It was established to replace the Planning Commission which followed a top-down model. NITI Aayog is the premier policy 'Think Tank' of the Government of India, providing both directional and policy inputs. The current chairman of NITI Aayog is Shri Narendra Modi, current vice chairman is Dr. Rajiv Kumar and the current chief executive officer is Shri Amitabh Kant.

FM Sitharaman virtually participates in G20 International Seminar hosted by G20 Presidency of Indonesia

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman virtually participated in the G20 International Seminar hosted in Bali by the G20 Presidency of Indonesia. The G20's theme for the year is, "Recover Together, Recover Stronger".
- Mrs Sitharaman stressed on the fact that for a strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive recovery of the global economy, it is imperative to ensure collective progress of all countries. She also stressed on the importance of Inclusion, Investment, Innovation and Institutions to support the path of global recovery.

The G20 (or Group of Twenty) is an international forum for the governments and central bank governors from 19 countries and the European Union (EU). Founded in 1999 with the aim to discuss policy pertaining to the promotion of international financial stability, the G20 has expanded its agenda since 2008 and heads of government or heads of state, as well as finance ministers, foreign ministers and think tanks, have periodically conferred at summits ever since. It seeks to address issues that go beyond the responsibilities of any single nation. The G20 members are: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Japan, India, Indonesia, Italy, Mexico, Russia, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union.

Cabinet gives nod to extension of Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin till March 2024; also approves Ken-Betwa river interlinking project

- The Union Cabinet has approved continuation of Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin till March 2024. Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said, Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana will ensure housing for all in rural areas. He said, the scheme will provide assistance for construction of remaining over 155 lakh houses and will achieve target of 2.95 crore pucca houses with basic amenities.
- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) is an initiative by the Government of India in which affordable housing will be provided to the urban poor with a target of building 2 crore (20 million) affordable houses by 31 March 2022. It has two components: Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) (PMAY-U) for the urban poor and Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (Gramin) (PMAY-G and also PMAY-R) for the rural poor. This scheme is converged with other schemes to ensure houses have a toilet, Saubhagya Yojana electricity connection, Ujjwala Yojana LPG connection, access to drinking water and Jan Dhan banking facilities, etc.
- On December 8, the Union cabinet approved the Ken-Betwa river interlinking project, apparently intended to address water scarcity of the Bundelkhand region across Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. In its current form, it entails the construction of a dam and a channel between the Ken and Betwa rivers. The project has a total outlay of Rs 44,605 crore.
- The Ken-Betwa river interlinking project will connect the Ken and Betwa rivers and transfer water from the former to the latter to irrigate agricultural tracts of and supply drinking water to the Bundelkhand region. The Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Chief Ministers of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh signed the project's memorandum of agreement in March 2021.
- According to them, the project will take eight years to set up, including building the 'Daudhan dam' on the Ken river in Madhya Pradesh's Chhatarpur district, inside the Panna Tiger Reserve. From here, a canal is expected to carry water from the Ken to the Betwa River through the districts of Chhatarpur and Tikamgarh in Madhya Pradesh and Jhansi in Uttar Pradesh.
- According to the cabinet's press release issued after its approval for the project, the project will reportedly generate 103 MW of hydroelectric power and 27 MW of solar power, bring drinking water to about 62 lakh people and irrigate some 10.62 lakh hectares of land – every year.

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Saryu Canal National Project in Uttar Pradesh

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Balrampur, Uttar Pradesh and inaugurated the Saryu Nahar National Project. The work on the project started in 1978 but due to lack of continuity of budgetary support, interdepartmental coordination, and adequate monitoring, it got delayed and was not completed even after nearly four decades. Prime Minister's vision for farmer welfare and empowerment, and his commitment to prioritize long pending projects of national importance, brought much-needed focus on the project.
- Consequently, in 2016, the project was brought under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana with the target to complete it in a time-bound manner. The renewed focus on the project has resulted in the project being completed in only about four years. The Saryu Nahar Project has been built with a total cost of more than nine thousand 800 crore rupees, out of which more than four thousand 600 crore rupees were provisioned in the last four years. The project also involves the interlinking of five rivers - Ghaghara, Saryu, Rapti, Banganga, and Rohini to ensure optimum usage of water resources of the region. The project will provide assured water for irrigation of over 14 lakh hectares of land and benefit about 29 lakh farmers of over six thousand 200 villages.

CDS Gen Bipin Rawat dies in air crash near Coonoor in Tamil Nadu

- **Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat** has died in the air crash. **General Bipin Rawat, his wife Madhulika Rawat and 11 other persons on board have died** in the unfortunate accident. **The accident occurred happened at Nanjappanchathiram area amid heavy mist and early visuals showed the helicopter in flames. The army chief was on his way to the Defence Staff College in Wellington.**
- The IAF said that a Court of Inquiry has been ordered into the accident. **The officials were travelling in an Mi-17VH chopper that took off from the Sulur IAF Station in nearby Coimbatore.** According to the IAF, **Group Captain Varun Singh is the sole survivor of the crash.** He is under treatment at the Military Hospital in Wellington.
- **General Bipin Rawat** was an alumnus of National Defence Academy, Defence Services Staff College and National Defence College. He was commissioned on 16th December in 1978 into the Fifth Battalion of the Eleventh Gorkha Rifles of the Infantry, the Battalion which was Commanded by his father.
- During his distinguished career in the Army, **Bipin Rawat commanded an Infantry Battalion along the Line of Actual Control in the Eastern Sector, a Rashtriya Rifles Sector, an Infantry Division in the Kashmir Valley and a Corps in the North East. Bipin Rawat had also commanded a Multinational Brigade in the Democratic Republic of Congo.**
- As an Army Commander, **he commanded a theatre of operations along the Western Front and was appointed the Vice Chief of the Army Staff before assuming office of Chief of the Army Staff.** The General was the Chief of the Army Staff from 31st December 2016 to 31st December 2019. As a first Chief of Defence Staff **Bipin Rawat assumed the charge on 1st January 2020.** He was awarded several gallantry and distinguished service awards during his service in the Army.

The Chief of Defence Staff of the Indian Armed Forces (CDS) is the **military head and chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee of the Indian Armed Forces.** CDS is the **senior-most and highest-ranking uniformed officer on active duty in the Indian military,** and is the **principal staff officer and chief military adviser to the Minister of Defence.** The Chief also heads the **Department of Military Affairs.** The first Chief of Defence Staff was **Bipin Rawat** who took office on 1 January 2020, and held it until his death in a helicopter crash on 8 December 2021. The CDS is a **four-star officer** selected from among the serving officers of the Indian Armed Forces. While being “first among equals” among the service chiefs, the CDS is a single-point military advisor to the defence minister. The CDS heads the **Department of Military Affairs under the Ministry of Defence,** as its secretary. Apart from heading the DMA, the CDS is the **Permanent Chairperson of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (PC-CoSC).** The position of the Chief of Defence Staff was created with the aim of improving coordination, tri-service effectiveness and overall integration of the combat capabilities of the Indian armed forces.

Madhya Pradesh Government implements Police Commissionerate system in Bhopal and Indore

- **Madhya Pradesh government implemented Police Commissionerate system in Bhopal and Indore.** The Police Commissionerate system has been implemented in view of the law and order requirements arising out of geographical expansion and technology. **Inspector-General of Police level officer will be the Commissioner of Police in both the cities.** The Commissioner of Police will have the powers of the Executive Magistrate.
- Home Minister Dr. Narottam Mishra has informed that for **effective implementation of law and order and population of both the cities exceeding 10 lakh,** the State Government has declared urban areas and borders as metropolitan areas as per constitutional provisions.

Madhya Pradesh (meaning Central Province) is a state in central India. **Its capital is Bhopal, and the largest city is Indore.** **Madhya Pradesh is the second largest Indian state by area and the fifth largest state by population.** It borders the states of Uttar Pradesh to the northeast, Chhattisgarh to the southeast, Maharashtra to the south, Gujarat to the west, and Rajasthan to the northwest. **Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel is the current Governor of Madhya Pradesh.** **Shivraj Singh Chouhan is the current Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh,** having been elected to the same position 3 times in the past, and a Member of Legislative Assembly in Madhya Pradesh from Budhni.



Russia, Southeast Asia Conclude First Joint Naval Exercise

- **Russia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have concluded their first joint naval exercise, Indonesia's navy said as the region faces rising tensions with China.**
- **The three-day exercise off the coast of Indonesia's Sumatra Island aimed at increasing interoperability between the ASEAN member states and the Russian navy in the strategic maritime area. It comes amid rising tensions between major powers in the South China Sea, a resource-rich waterway of geopolitical significance.**
- **Russia and the Southeast Asian bloc held their fourth summit online in October, a meeting timed with the anniversary of relations between Russia and the 10-member regional grouping.**

ASEAN officially the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, is an economic union comprising 10 member states in Southeast Asia, which promotes intergovernmental cooperation and facilitates economic, political, security, military, educational, and sociocultural integration between its members and other countries in Asia. ASEAN's primary objective was to accelerate economic growth and through that social progress and cultural development. ASEAN itself was created on 8 August 1967, when the foreign ministers of five countries signed of the ASEAN declaration (Bangkok Declaration) by its founding fathers. Founding Fathers of ASEAN are: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. 1990s – Membership doubled after the changing conditions in the region following the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 and the Cold War in 1991. Addition of Brunei (1984), Vietnam (1995), Laos and Myanmar (1997), and Cambodia (1999). The 8th August is observed as ASEAN Day. ASEAN Secretariat is located in Indonesia, Jakarta. The motto of ASEAN is “One Vision, One Identity, One Community”.

Adama Barrow re-elected The Gambia's president

- **Adama Barrow has comfortably won a second term in The Gambia's presidential election, with thousands of supporters celebrating and opponents disputing the results. Barrow garnered 53 percent of the vote. The election was being closely watched as a test of the democratic transition in The Gambia, where Jammeh ruled for 22 years after seizing power in a bloodless coup in 1994.**
- **He was forced into exile in Equatorial Guinea in January 2017 after Barrow, then a relative unknown, defeated him at the ballot box. Jammeh lost to Barrow in the 2016 election but had to be removed by military intervention from other West African states.**

The Gambia is a country in West Africa. It is the smallest country within mainland Africa and is surrounded by Senegal, except for its western coast on the Atlantic Ocean. Banjul is the Gambian capital and the country's largest metropolitan area. Adama Barrow is the current President of the Gambia, in office since 2017.

Olaf Scholz sworn in as Germany's new Chancellor

- **In Germany, Social Democratic Party of Germany leader Olaf Scholz has been nominated as the country's next Chancellor by Parliament bringing the curtain down on Angela Merkel's 16-year reign.**
- **Olaf Scholz has cleared the final hurdle on his path to majority after Green Party members approved their coalition deal with his Social Democrats, SPD, and the Free Democrats, FDP.**

- Now the three parties have approved the coalition deal, this political grouping was sworn in and the era of Angela Merkel was officially give way to a new age under Social Democrat Scholz. While support of at least 369 lawmakers is required in the 736-seat lower house to take up the top job, the three coalition partners have 416 seats together, giving them a comfortable majority in the house.
- Olaf Scholz has been sworn in as Germany’s new chancellor, bringing to an end Angela Merkel’s historic 16 years as leader. He was voted in by the German parliament, where his three-party coalition has a substantial majority, and given a standing ovation.
- The German parliament, the Bundestag, backed his appointment by 395 votes to 303, and he was then formally appointed as the ninth federal chancellor by President Frank-Walter Steinmeier.

Germany is a country in Central Europe. It is the second-most populous country in Europe after Russia, and the most populous member state of the European Union. The nation’s capital and largest city is Berlin, and its financial centre is Frankfurt; the largest urban area is the Ruhr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier is serving as the President of Germany since 19 March 2017. Euro is the official currency of it.

Forbes feature Sitharaman in 100 most powerful women list; Nykaa’s Falguni Nayar makes debut

- For the third time in a row, Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman made it Forbes’ 100 most powerful women in the world. This year, she is ranked at number 37, up from last year when she was placed at 41.
- She is also two spots ahead of her American counterpart Janet Yellen. Every year, the American business magazine releases a list of 100 powerful women of the world. This year, the 18th annual list of power women included 40 CEOs, the most since 2015, who, according to the magazine, “oversee a record \$3.3 trillion in revenue.” The list also included 19 world leaders, an immunologist.
- In another remarkable highlight of the list, it also features a new number one for the first time in more than a decade, as philanthropist Mackenzie Scott replaced outgoing German Chancellor Angela Merkel. On number two is US vice president Kamala Harris, who moved up one spot than last year.
- The Indian-origin woman made history this year after she became the first female vice president and the highest-ranking female official in US history, as well as the first African American and first Asian-American vice president.
- Christine Lagarde, the president of the European Central Bank, is ranked at number three. Besides Sitharaman, Indians to feature on the list include HCL Corporation CEO Roshni Nadar Malhotra at 52); Biocon Executive Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw at 72. Nykaa founder Falguni Nayar also made her debut as she was featured on number 88. Other notable faces on the list are Facebook’s whistleblower Frances Haugen (100), Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed (43).

Forbes is an American business magazine owned by Integrated Whale Media Investments and the Forbes family. Published eight times a year, it features articles on finance, industry, investing, and marketing topics. Forbes also reports on related subjects such as technology, communications, science, politics, and law. Its headquarters is located in Jersey City, New Jersey. Primary competitors in the national business magazine category include Fortune and Bloomberg BusinessWeek. The magazine is well known for its lists and rankings, including of the richest Americans (the Forbes 400), of the America’s Wealthiest Celebrities, of the world’s top companies (the Forbes Global 2000), Forbes list of The World’s Most Powerful People, and The World’s Billionaires. The motto of Forbes magazine is “Change the World”. Its chair and editor-in-chief is Steve Forbes, and its CEO is Mike Federle.

China is world’s biggest captor of journalists: RSF Report

- A new report by Reporters Without Borders (RSF) has said China is the world’s biggest captor of journalists with at least 127 reporters currently detained. China has justified the arrests of reporters and citizen journalists by accusing them of provoking trouble.

- **The report titled ‘The Great Leap Backwards of Journalism in China’ reveals China’s violations against its own international commitments** to freedom of opinion and expression.
- **The RSF report also details how journalists are being pressured to act as Xi Jinping’s mouthpiece.** According to the report, journalists will soon be **required to attend a 90-hour annual training focused on Xi Jinping’s thoughts in order to get and renew their press cards.** In the year 2020, China’s intimidation of foreign reporters, based on surveillance and visa blackmail, forced 18 of them to leave the country, it also said.
- **The Chinese Communist Party also detained at least ten journalists and online commentators** in the same year, according to Reporters Without Borders, **for the mere act of telling the public about the Covid-19 situation in Wuhan. Two of them, Zhang Zhan and Fang Bin, remain detained in China to this day.**
- **Meanwhile, the government of China has also unveiled a series of plans that are seen to further consolidate the Chinese Communist Party’s control over the media.** It has long kept a tight grip on its press and flow of information to its public. Some press freedom organisations, however, claim that the ruling party has tightened control over the media.

Reporters Without Borders (RSF) is an international non-profit and non-governmental organization with the stated aim of safeguarding the right to freedom of information. It describes its advocacy as founded on the belief that everyone requires access to the news and information, **in line with Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that recognizes the right to receive and share information regardless of frontiers,** along with other international rights charters. **RSF has consultative status at the United Nations, UNESCO, the Council of Europe, and the International Organisation of the Francophonie. RSF was founded in Montpellier, France, in 1985 by Robert Menard, Remy Loury, Jacques Molenat and Emilien Jubineau. RSF’s head office is based in Paris.**

Dubai becomes first paperless government in the world

- **The Emirate of Dubai has achieved its objectives of the Dubai Paperless Strategy, launched in 2018, to establish itself as a leading digital capital and become the world’s first paperless government.**
- **The Crown Prince stated the next stage will be marked by advanced strategies to create and enhance digital life in Dubai over the next five decades.**

Dubai is the most populous city in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the capital of the Emirate of Dubai. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum is the Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), its Minister of Defence, and ruler of the Emirate of Dubai.

SAARC Charter Day being observed

- **The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Charter Day is observed every year on 8th December. On this day in 1985, SAARC Charter was adopted in Dhaka, during the first summit of the group. This year marks the 37th Anniversary of the regional group.**
- **As mentioned in its charter, the prime focus of SAARC is to work collectively to promote the welfare of people in the region and to improve their standard of living through social progress and economic development.**
- **The aim of SAARC members is to promote stability, peace and progress in the region. SAARC has organised 18 summits since 1985. These specialised bodies promote regional cooperation by SAARC members in various fields.**

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is the regional intergovernmental organization and geopolitical union of states in South Asia. Its member states are **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.** SAARC comprises 3% of the world’s area, 21% of the world’s population and 4.21% (US\$3.67 trillion) of the global economy, as of 2019. **SAARC was founded in Dhaka on 8 December 1985. Its secretariat is based in Kathmandu, Nepal.**



India 'very unequal', top 10% hold 57% of national income: Inequality Report

- India stands out as a “poor and very unequal country, with an affluent elite”, where the top 10 per cent holds 57 per cent of the total national income while the bottom 50 per cent’s share is just 13 per cent in 2021, according to the latest World Inequality Report 2022.
- The report has also flagged a drop in global income during 2020, with about half of the dip in rich countries and the rest in low-income and emerging regions. This is attributed primarily due to the impact of “South and Southeast Asia, and more precisely” India.
- “When India is removed from the analysis, it appears that the global bottom 50 per cent income share actually slightly increased in 2020,” states the report authored by economist and co-director of the World Inequality Lab, Lucas Chancel, along with economists Thomas Piketty, Emmanuel Saez and Gabriel Zucman.
- “While the top 10 per cent and top 1 per cent hold respectively 57 per cent and 22 per cent of total national income, the bottom 50 per cent share has gone down to 13 per cent. India stands out as a poor and very unequal country, with an affluent elite,” the report states.
- According to the report, India’s middle class is relatively poor with an average wealth of only Rs 7,23,930 or 29.5 per cent of the total national income, as compared with the top 10 per cent and 1 per cent who own 65 per cent (Rs 63,54,070) and 33 per cent (Rs 3,24,49,360), respectively.
- The average annual national income of the Indian adult population is Rs 2,04,200 in 2021. The bottom 50 per cent earned Rs 53,610, while the top 10 per cent earned over 20 times more (Rs 11,66,520), the report states. The average household wealth in India is Rs 9,83,010, with the bottom 50 per cent owning almost nothing, with an average wealth of 6 per cent of the total Rs 66,280.
- The share of the top 10% and bottom 50% in pre-tax national income has remained broadly constant since 2014. The quality of inequality data released by the government has seriously deteriorated, making it particularly difficult to assess recent inequality changes, the report says.
- As per the recent Multi-dimensional Poverty Index prepared by Niti Aayog, one in every four people in India was multi-dimensionally poor. Bihar has the highest such proportion (51.91%), followed by Jharkhand (42.16%) and Uttar Pradesh (37.79%).

Large emerging economies such as China and India experienced faster increases than wealthy countries after they transitioned away from communism (in China and Russia) or from a highly regulated economic system (in India). In India, private wealth increased from 290% in 1980 to 560% in 2020. Global inequalities seem to be about as great today as they were at the peak of Western imperialism in the early 20th century, the report said.

World’s First Sustainable Blockchain Ecosystem 5ire announces the launch of 5ire Capital

- 5ireChain, the world’s first sustainable blockchain, announced it has raised \$1.5 million in its second round of private sale. Per the spokesperson at 5irechain, Launchpool Web3 Accelerator, Alphabit Fund & Magnus Capital led the funding round with participation from X21 Ventures, Coach K, Brotherhood Capital, and prolific high profile angel investors.

- **SireChain**, which is **focused on solving the environmental concerns of blockchain at the core**, launches **Sire Capital - a VC arm of Sire to promote the overall growth of the Sire ecosystem** and invest in environmentally sustainable projects with their mission of having a prosperous planet for all.
- SireChain, a fifth generation blockchain ecosystem that seeks to address sustainability issues that **no blockchain has been able to solve**, announces the launch of **Sire Capital, a VC arm of the Sire ecosystem**.
- This announcement follows the company's recent **\$10 Million funding raise from private Sales to expand blockchain adoption and support sustainability-driven projects** that accelerate financial inclusion, eliminate poverty, and preserve the environment.

HUL chairman Sanjiv Mehta to take over as FICCI president

- **Sanjiv Mehta, Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) will be appointed as Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) President. Currently, Sanjiv Mehta is also the President of Unilever South Asia and is a member of the 'Unilever Leadership Executive' which is Unilever's Global Executive Board. He will be succeeding Uday Shankar, the current President of FICCI.**

The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) is a non-governmental trade association and advocacy group based in India. Established in 1927, on the advice of Mahatma Gandhi by Indian businessman Mr. G.D. Birla and Purshottamdas Thakurdas. It is the largest, oldest and the apex business organisation in India. It is a non-government, not-for-profit organisation. FICCI draws its membership from the corporate sector, both private and public, including SMEs and MNCs. It is involved in sector-specific business building, business promotion and networking. It is headquartered in the national capital New Delhi.

India's mission to WTO inks MoU with 2 institutes for capacity building, research in international trade law

- The government said that **India's permanent mission to the World Trade Organization, the Centre for Trade and Investment Law (CTIL) of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, and the Centre for Trade and Economic Integration of The Graduate Institute, Geneva have signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding to begin collaboration towards research and capacity-building in the field of international trade law and policy.**
- **The MoU seeks to provide academic and research opportunities to the professional staff of CTIL and the officials of the Indian government in the field of international trade and investment law, and would establish collaboration channels between CTIL and CTEI while the mission will play a facilitative role for activities. The tripartite MoU establishes collaboration channels between CTIL and CTEI while the PMI will play a key facilitative role for activities under the MoU.**

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is an intergovernmental organization that regulates and facilitates international trade between nations. Governments use the organization to establish, revise, and enforce the rules that govern international trade. It officially commenced operations on 1 January 1995, pursuant to the 1994 Marrakesh Agreement, thus replacing the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) that had been established in 1948. The WTO is the world's largest international economic organization, with 164 member states representing over 98% of global trade and global GDP. The WTO facilitates trade in goods, services and intellectual property among participating countries by providing a framework for negotiating trade agreements, which usually aim to reduce or eliminate tariffs, quotas, and other restrictions; these agreements are signed by representatives of member governments and ratified by their legislatures. **The WTO also administers independent dispute resolution for enforcing participants' adherence to trade agreements and resolving trade-related disputes.** The organization prohibits discrimination between trading partners, but provides exceptions for environmental protection, national security, and other important goals. **The WTO is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.** Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala is a Nigerian-American economist, fair trade leader, environmental sustainability advocate, human welfare champion, sustainable finance maven and global development expert. **Since March 2021, Okonjo-Iweala has been serving as Director-General of the World Trade Organization. Notably, she is the first woman and first African to lead the World Trade Organization as Director-General.**

Shivalik Small Finance Bank, Indigold partner to launch India's first loan against digital gold

- **Shivalik Small Finance Bank (SSFB) announced a partnership with fintech firm Indigold to launch a loan product against digital gold.** Digital gold is an affordable medium to own and save with gold without the trouble of physically handling and storing the asset.
- **“This collaboration will enable customers to use their digital gold balance to avail instant and digital loans up to Rs 60,000.** On repayment of the loan, customers will have an option to either renew the loan or get their gold home delivered”.

Shivalik became the first Small Finance Bank in India's history to transition from an Urban Co-operative Bank. The Bank is powered by Infosys Finacle Core Banking and Digital Banking Suite including internet and mobile banking. Small finance banks are a type of niche banks in India. Banks with a small finance bank license can provide basic banking service of acceptance of deposits and lending. The aim behind these is to provide financial inclusion to sections of the economy not being served by other banks, such as small business units, small and marginal farmers, micro and small industries and unorganised sector entities.

HAL, BEL, Indian Ordnance Factories among top 100 global arms manufacturers in 2020

- **Three companies from India have been included in the top 100 global companies making arms, weapons, military planes, and equipment.** Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Indian Ordnance Factories were among the top 100 global arms-producing and military services companies in 2020, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) said.
- **The US ranks first with 54% and China is second with 13%.** England is in third and Russia in fourth place. The arms sales of HAL, ranked 42nd, and BEL, ranked 66th, increased by 1.5 per cent and 4.0 per cent.
- According to the SIPRI report, **the US accounts for 54% of the total arms trade globally.** China's participation is 13%, England's is 07, and Russia's is 05%. South Korea and India have an equal share (1.2%).
- According to the SIPRI report for the year 2020, **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is ranked 42nd in the list of the world's 100 largest arms companies, Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) is at 60th and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) is at 66th position.**
- **The report mentions that despite the Coronavirus pandemic, the global arms market has been flourishing as there has been no decrease in the arms trade worldwide. Rather there was an increase of 1.3% as compared to 2019.**

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) is an international institute based in Stockholm. It was founded in 1966 and provides data, analysis and recommendations for armed conflict, military expenditure and arms trade as well as disarmament and arms control. The research is based on open sources and is directed to decision-makers, researchers, media and the interested public.

India Ranked Fourth Most Powerful Country in Asia Power Index 2021

- **India has risen as the fourth most powerful country in Asia,** according to a report by Lowy Institute Asia Power Index 2021. It has been ranked fourth among the 26 countries and territories in Indo-Pacific for comprehensive power.
- In terms of points rated by the Index, in 2021, **India had the greatest gains in 'resilience' (+1.7) and has improved in 'military capability' (+0.5).** However, it lost on the parameters of 'cultural influence' (-7.9), 'economic relationships' (-5.1), 'diplomatic influence' (-2.4), 'defence networks' (-2.1) and 'economic capability' (-1.3) as compared to last year.
- **Lowy Institute is an independent think tank that releases the Asia Power Index by assessing the resources and influence** to rank the relative power of states in the Indo-Pacific region. Lowy Institute has been releasing this index every year since 2018.
- According to Lowy's report, **India performs best in future resources measures and stands behind the US and China.** However, it lost growth potential largely due to “the impact of the coronavirus pandemic has led to a diminished economic forecast for 2030.”

- As per the report, India exerts less influence than expected in the region due to its negative power gap score. **As India and Japan, are lagging behind, Asia is becoming more and more ‘bipolar’ as the US and China continue to hold more power in the region.**

Yes Bank, NPCI Launch Credit Card On RuPay Platform

- **YES Bank announced that it partnered with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to launch a new RuPay co-branded credit cards for customers on the indigenously developed payment platform.**
- **The YES Prosperity Rewards Plus credit card variant - crafted for the private sector lender’s YES Prosperity segment, will offer multiple benefits for customers, according to a recent statement shared by YES Bank. The credit card will offer rewards points that mount up with every purchase, fuel surcharge waiver, accelerated rewards points on YES Card and merchant offers enabled by the private bank’s collaboration with NPCI.**
- **NPCI has developed the RuPay card payment network. Additionally, a variety of deals and special offers across various merchant categories are available for YES Bank credit card holders. The deals are aimed at increasing customer’s savings.**

Yes Bank Limited is an Indian private sector bank headquartered in Mumbai, India and was founded by Rana Kapoor and Ashok Kapur in 2004. It offers wide range of differentiated products for corporate and retail customers through retail banking and asset management services. On 5 March 2020, in an attempt to avoid the collapse of the bank, which had an excessive amount of bad loans, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) took control of it. RBI later reconstructed the board and named Prashant Kumar, former chief financial officer and deputy managing director of State Bank of India, as MD & CEO of Yes Bank, along with Sunil Mehta, former non-executive chairman of Punjab National Bank, as Yes Bank’s non-executive chairman.

World Talent Ranking: European countries top list

- **A global ranking of 63 countries has found that investing in education at all levels boosts competitiveness by developing and attracting talent. Meanwhile India’s ranking in IMD competitive ranking slipped from 59 in 2019 to 62 in 2020. India’s performances in various factors are 63 in Investment and Development, 55 in Appeal, 25 in Readiness and 62 is India’s overall performance.**
- **The IMD World Talent Ranking scores countries across three factors of Investment & Development, Readiness and Appeal. The Appeal factor evaluates the extent to which an economy attracts foreign and retains local talent. And the Readiness factor measures the quality of the skills and competencies that are available in a country’s talent pool.**
- **International Institute for Management Development (IMD) is a business education school based in Switzerland. The Institute for Management Development’s (IMD) World Competitiveness Center take a three-pronged approach in measuring talent in economies. Switzerland balances a high-quality education system that earns top marks for those being channeled into university and for those embarking on apprenticeships.**

Paytm Payments Bank gets RBI nod to function as scheduled payments bank

- **Paytm Payments Bank has gained central bank approval to function as a scheduled payments bank helping it to expand its financial services operations.**
- **As a scheduled payments bank, Paytm Payments can participate in government and companies’ request for proposals, primary auctions, fixed-rate and variable rate repos, and reverse repos, along with participation in Marginal Standing Facility. It will also be eligible to be a partner in government-run financial inclusion schemes.**

Paytm (“pay through mobile”) is an Indian multinational technology company that specialises in digital wallet, e-commerce, payment system and financial technology company, based in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India. Paytm was founded in August 2010 with an initial investment of \$2 million by its founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma in Noida, a region adjacent to India’s capital New Delhi. It started off as a prepaid mobile and DTH recharge platform, and later added data card, postpaid mobile and landline bill payments in 2013.



Inventions/Discoveries

India successfully tests extended range version of multi barrel rocket launcher system, Pinaka-ER

- **The Pinaka-ER Multi Barrel Rocket Launcher System** was successfully tested at Pokharan range. Successful tests of Pinaka Extended Range (Pinaka-ER), Area Denial Munitions (ADM) and **indigenously developed fuzes** have been carried out at various test ranges.
- The system is jointly designed by laboratories of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) - Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE), Pune and High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL), Pune.
- The Industry Partner has manufactured enhanced Pinaka Mk-1 rockets with DRDO's hand holding during the production and Quality Assurance. The Pinaka - ER is the upgraded version of the earlier version of Pinaka which has been in service with the Indian Army for the last decade. The system has been designed in the light of emerging requirements with advanced technologies enhancing the range.
- The DRDO, along with the Army, conducted series of performance evaluation trials of these industry-produced rockets at Field Firing Ranges during the last three days. In these trials, enhanced range Pinaka rockets were test fired at different ranges with various warhead capabilities. **All the trial objectives were met satisfactorily.**
- A number of 24 rockets were fired for different ranges and warhead capabilities to meet the objectives of accuracy and consistency. With this, the initial phase of technology absorption of Pinaka-ER by the Industry Partner has successfully been completed making the Industry Partner ready for series production of the rocket system.
- The ARDE, Pune has developed different fuzes for Pinaka rocket for different types of applications. After design validation trials, dynamic performance evaluation of these fuzes have been evaluated with flight testing.

Pinaka is a multiple rocket launcher produced in India and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for the Indian Army. The system has a maximum range of 40 km for Mark-I and 60 km for Mark-I enhanced version.

First privately developed, 3D-printed cryogenic engine

- Hyderabad-based startup Skyroot Aerospace has successfully demonstrated the country's first privately developed cryogenic rocket engine named Dhawan-1 after eminent rocket scientist Satish Dhawan.
- The company will use the engine as the upper stage of its Vikram-2 launch vehicle. Skyroot, one of the few startups that have come to prominence since India opened up its space sector last year, has a series of three Vikram rockets that can carry payloads up to 720 kg to the low earth orbit.
- The engine has been completely 3D printed and made in India. The company used a superalloy for 3D printing the engine, which reduced the manufacturing time by 95%.

India, Russia sign pact to deepen space cooperation

- **India and Russia** vowed to deepen collaboration in the space sector, including in the human spaceflight programme, and signed an agreement for cooperation in the building as well as operation of launch vehicles. The pact was signed during the India-Russia summit held between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin
- **India and Russia** reaffirmed their commitment for increasing sourcing of Russian crude oil on long-term contracts through preferential pricing, strengthening LNG imports to India, and the possible utilisation of the Northern Sea Route for energy supplies.
- A joint statement issued after the summit said the two countries welcomed the **enhanced cooperation between the Russian State Space Corporation ‘Roscosmos’ and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) including in the human spaceflight programmes and satellite navigation.**

New ‘Made-In-India’ Missile Successfully Tested

- To Strengthen Navy **India successfully flight tested the indigenously developed new Vertical Launch Short Range Surface-to-Air Missile (VLSRSAM) from the coast off Balasore, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) official.**
- **The quick reaction surface-to-air-missile missile developed by DRDO** was test launched from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur at about 3.08 pm from a vertical launcher against an electronic target at a very low altitude. **The missile has an operational range of 50 to 60 km** and features mid course inertial guidance through fiber optic gyroscope and active radar homing in terminal phase.

IISc researchers find that Hydrogen sulphide gas suppresses HIV infection

- **The researchers at the Indian Institute of Science** have found out that hydrogen sulphide gas can suppress the Human Immunodeficiency Virus or HIV virus.
- **A team from the Department of Microbiology and Cell Biology and the Center for Infectious Disease Research in IISc** have ascertained that increased hydrogen sulphide in the body reduces the rate at which the HIV virus multiplies in the immune cells.
- **The finding will pave the way for developing a more comprehensive therapy against HIV.** The study published in eLife says that maintenance of HIV latency and reactivation are closely linked to the hydrogen sulphide levels in infected cells. According to Amit Singh, Associate Professor in IISc and corresponding author of this study, the findings open the door for a relook at the treatment of HIV patients.

Asia’s first mulberry fossil unearthed in Rajasthan’s lignite mines

- **Scientists have unearthed Asia’s first fossil record of mulberry from the Gurha lignite mines near Bikaner in western Rajasthan,** a finding that they say, indicates the existence of a warm, humid climate in north-western India 56 million years ago.
- **Although mulberry (Morus genus) is now widely grown in India and Asia,** no fossils of the tree have yet been found in the continent, say a team of scientists from HBN Garhwal University in Uttarakhand, University of Calcutta, and Sidho Kanho Birsa University in Purulia in West Bengal. They report in the journal

IISER Bhopal unveils turmeric genome for the first time in the world

- **A team of IISER Bhopal researchers, led by Dr Vineet K Sharma, Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences,** have sequenced the genome of the turmeric plant for the first time in the world. With increasing interest in herbal medicines all over the world, researchers are focusing on the poorly understood areas of herbs such as their genetic backgrounds.
- **The developments in DNA and RNA sequencing technologies have spurred on a new discipline called ‘herbal genomics’ that are targeted to understanding the genetic composition of herbs** and their relationship to the medicinal traits. Given the nascency of the field of herbal genomics and the complexity of herbal systems, only a few well assembled herbal genomes have been studied so far.

India International Science Festival 2021 in Panaji, Goa

- Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush Shri Sarbananda Sonowal **attended the India International Science Festival (IISF) 2021 in Panaji, Goa. IISF is an annual event considered to be the biggest platform in the country** which brings together students, the public, researchers, innovators and artists from around the globe.
- IISF 2021 is **being organised jointly by the MoES, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Biotechnology, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, in collaboration with Vijnana Bharati.**

Indian woman researcher discovers over 50 species of frogs

- **Sonali Garg has won a prestigious postdoctoral fellowship on biodiversity to Harvard University.** From tiny frogs that can sit on a thumbnail to a mysterious species of a frog that appears for less than a week for breeding activities and lives a secretive lifestyle for the rest of the year, **Sonali Garg, a researcher at Delhi University, has described 50 new species of frogs from India, Sri Lanka and Indonesia.**
- **Not only is Dr. Garg India's first woman researcher to discover 50 new frog species, she was awarded the prestigious Edward O. Wilson Biodiversity Postdoctoral Fellowship to work at Harvard University.**

New 'super-Jupiter' breaks the mold on where planets can exist

- **One of the largest planets ever detected orbits at an enormous distance around two stars with a combined mass up to 10 times greater than our sun, an extreme celestial family that shatters assumptions about the type of places where planets can exist.**
- **The planet, located about 325 light years from Earth, is a gas giant apparently similar in composition to Jupiter but about 11 times more massive.** It belongs to a planetary class called "super-Jupiters" exceeding the mass of our solar system's largest planet. It orbits a pair of stars gravitationally bound to one another, called a binary system.
- It has what might be the **widest orbit of any known planet – about 100 times wider than Jupiter's orbit around our sun and about 560 times wider than Earth's.** Until now, no planet had been found orbiting a star more than three times the sun's mass. Stars larger than that emit so much radiation that they were thought to torch the planetary formation process.

India's first pure play climate tech fund may kick off by March end

- **Entrepreneur Harsha Moily and venture capital veteran Balaji Srinivasan are set to kick off what they claim will be India's first climate technology-focused fund** as the country joins global efforts to deal with the climate challenge. **Nature-Fix Climate (NFC) Ventures, their Bengaluru-based fund, aims to close the first round of \$80-\$100 million by March 2022 and the rest by December, taking the overall fund size to \$200 million. The fund is backed mostly by US-based investors.** In the last six years, **International Solar Alliance has become an example of positive global climate action through partnerships to benefit global energy growth and development.**

UN General Assembly grants Observer Status to International Solar Alliance

- **UN General Assembly has granted Observer Status to International Solar Alliance.** He said, in the last six years, **International Solar Alliance has become an example of positive global climate action through partnerships to benefit global energy growth and development.**

The **International Solar Alliance** is a common platform for cooperation among sun-rich countries lying fully or partially between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn. The initiative was launched at the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris at the end of 2015 by the then, President of France and the Prime Minister of India. In January 2016, Narendra Modi, and the then, French President François Hollande jointly laid the foundation stone of the International Solar Alliance headquarters and inaugurated the interim Secretariat at the National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) in Gwalpahari, Gurugram, India. Ajay Mathuri is the current Director General of ISA.



Sports Personalities in News

PV Sindhu settles for silver in BWF World Tour Finals

- **Indian shuttler PV Sindhu settled for a silver medal after going down meekly to South Korea's An Seyoung 16-21 12-21 in the summit clash of the BWF World Tour Finals.** The reigning world champion Indian ace had no answer to the in-form world number six Korean, who dictated terms from the word go.

New Zealand's Ajaz Patel creates history becomes third bowler in Test cricket to claim all 10 wickets in an innings

- **In the 2nd Test between India and New Zealand, left-arm spinner Ajaz Patel created history by taking all 10 wickets in an innings and became the third bowler after Jim Laker and Anil Kumble to achieve the feat.** He dismissed all 10 Indian batsmen in the first innings at the Wankhede Stadium. Patel finished with figures of 10/119 as India were bowled out for 325.

Lewis Hamilton wins thrilling Saudi Arabian Grand Prix

- **Lewis Hamilton beat Max Verstappen in a chaotic and controversial Saudi Arabian Grand Prix to set up a winner-takes-all title finale in Abu Dhabi next weekend.**
- **Hamilton won despite crashing into the back of Verstappen** at one point during a race in which the Dutchman twice had to cede a position to the Mercedes driver that he had gained illegally.

Virat Kohli scripts history, becomes first player in international cricket to complete 50 wins in each format

- A true modern-day great, **Virat Kohli led the Indian cricket team to another stupendous performance in the longest format of the game, winning the 2-match Test series 1-0 against New Zealand.**
- The occasion put Kohli in another illustrious list of records in international cricket as the **India skipper became the first cricketer ever to register 50 wins or more in each of the three formats of the game.**

ITF World Tour Championships: Pranjala beats Sowjanya to clinch women's singles title

- **Pranjala Yadlapalli clinched the KSLTA ITF World Tour Championships women's singles title** beating Sowjanya Bavisetti, in Bengaluru.
- Yadlapalli, who played two back-to-back three-setters in her quarterfinal and semifinal matches and suffering cramps, dreaded yet **another three-setter in the title clash against statemate Sowjanya.**

Sabari J becomes the first World Boxing Council India welterweight champion

- **Chennai's Sabari J became the inaugural winner of the World Boxing Council's (WBC) India welterweight title,** defeating the more experienced Akashdeep Singh of Chandigarh in an eight-round bout.
- In the WBC Asia silver lightweight title bout, **Karthik Satish Kumar defeated Hero Tito of Indonesia in a hard-fought eight-round encounter.**

Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships: Sanket Mahadev Sargar wins gold medal in Men's 55 kg snatch category

- **Sanket Mahadev Sargar won the gold medal in the Men's 55 kg snatch category** at the ongoing Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships 2021 in Tashkent.
- For the top-podium finish, the **Indian lifted the weight of 113 kg**. With this lift, Sargar also created the new snatch national record. **The Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships 2021 is currently being held concurrently in Tashkent along with World Weightlifting Championships 2021** from December 7 to 17. India, being a Commonwealth nation is competing in both.

India's Jeremy Lalrinnunga wins Gold at Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships in Tashkent

- **India's teenage weightlifting sensation Jeremy Lalrinnunga won the gold medal in the men's 67 kg category** at the Commonwealth Championships, in Tashkent.
- **The 2018 Youth Olympics gold medallist has lifted the total weight of 305 kg with 141 kg in Snatch and 164 kg in Clean and Jerk**. His personal best total is 306 kg with 140 kg in Snatch and 166 kg in Clean and Jerk which came in 2019.

Magnus Carlsen claims fifth successive world chess crown

- **Norway's Magnus Carlsen claimed his fifth world chess crown in Dubai** with a crushing 7.5-3.5 victory against Ian Nepomniachtchi, who faded badly after going toe-to-toe with the Norwegian defending champion in the early games.
- **Carlsen retained his status as undisputed king of world chess**. It is his **fifth successive world title (starting in Chennai in November 2013)**. Besides, he is world No. 1 in all formats including rapid and blitz. **Anand had won five official World titles but only three were in Matchplay, considered as the ultimate test**.
- **Viswanathan Anand is an Indian chess grandmaster and the fifteenth undisputed world chess champion. He became the first grandmaster from India in 1988**, and is one of the few players to have surpassed an Elo rating of 2800, a feat he first achieved in 2006.

National Helpline against Atrocities on SCs, STs to be launched on Dec 13

- A National Helpline against Atrocities on Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes to be launched. Social Justice and Empowerment launched the helpline with an aim to ensure proper implementation of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act which was enacted with a view to preventing atrocities on members of SCs and STs.
- The Helpline will be available round the clock on toll-free number- 14566. The Service will be available in Hindi, English and Regional Language of the States and Union Territories. The objective of the helpline is to build informed awareness about the provisions of the Law that are aimed at ending discrimination and provide protection to all.

INA market becomes first 'clean and fresh fruit and vegetable market' in Delhi

- Delhi's INA fruit and vegetable market becomes the first market to be certified as the 'clean and fresh fruit and vegetable market' in the national capital by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- The FSSAI 'Clean and Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Market' aims to revolutionise fruit and vegetable markets by promoting availability of safe and hygienic fruits and vegetables to consumers.

Bharat Gaurav Trains: Southern Railway becomes Indian Railways' first zone to get registered service provider

- Southern Railway becomes Indian Railways' first zone to get the first Registered service provider under the newly launched 'Bharat Gaurav Trains' Scheme.
- The first-of-its-kind Bharat Gaurav Trains scheme was recently introduced by Indian Railways with the sole purpose of showcasing the country's rich cultural heritage as well as magnificent historical places to the public. Under this scheme, Indian Railways will offer service providers, the "Right to Use" of its rakes.

Govt expands SCALE committee, appoints 3 new members

- The government has expanded the SCALE committee (Steering Committee for Advancing Local Value-Add and Exports) by adding three new members, hailing from diverse industry backgrounds, according to an industry insider.
- The new appointees are Panasonic India Chairman and CEO Manish Sharma, Toyota Kirloskar Vice-Chairman Vikram S Kirloskar, and Asian Paints co-promoter and Chairman Addverb Technologies Jalaj Dani.

PERSONS IN NEWS

Indian-origin Gautam Raghavan elevated to Head of White House personnel office

- **Indian-origin Gautam Raghavan** has been elevated to **Head of the White House personnel office**. He replaces Catherine Russel who has been appointed **Executive Director of Unicef**. Raghavan was Russel's Deputy at the **White House Office of Presidential Personnel**.
- **UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres** announced was appointing Russel to head the UN arm devoted to the welfare of children, and almost simultaneously US President Joe Biden appointed Raghavan to succeed her at the White House.

India's T-Series becomes first channel globally to surpass 200 million subscribers on YouTube

- Raising the bar higher and shattering all records, **India's largest music label and movie studio, T-Series** has crossed the milestone of **200 Million subscribers on YouTube**, the first ever channel across the world to do so.
- **The achievement comes after T-Series witnessed a remarkable growth**, churning out not only finest music but also a wide range of films under its banner. **With a cumulative of 29 channels across languages and genres**, the total subscriber base for the T-Series network is more than **383 million with over 718 billion views**.

Gattipally Shivpal becomes India's first dwarf to obtain driving license

- **Gattipally Shivpal**, who hails from **Hyderabad**, has become the first dwarf in the country to obtain a driver's license.
- The 42-year-old man with a height of about **three feet** has beaten all odds and has become the first to complete his degree as a handicapped in his district **Karimnagar**. Shivpal finished his degree in **2004**.

Indian-origin USAF doctor Anil Menon among 10 chosen by NASA for as astronauts future missions

- **Indian-origin physician Anil Menon**, a lieutenant colonel at the **US Air Force**, has been selected by **NASA** along with nine others to be **astronauts for future missions**, the American space agency has announced.
- **SpaceX's first flight surgeon, helping to launch the company's first humans to space during NASA's SpaceX Demo-2 mission** and building a medical organisation to support the human system during future missions.

Shaktikanta Das started his extended 3-year tenure as RBI governor

- **Shaktikanta Das** has started his extended **three-year tenure as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor**. **The decision for this extension** was taken by the appointments committee of the cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- **He is the fifth governor to get tenure this long as RBI governors are usually given a five-year term**. If completed, **Shaktikanta Das will be the longest-serving governor of the central bank after Sir Benegal Rama Rau**, who was in office for **7 years and 197 days** between **July 1, 1949**, and **January 14, 1957**.
- Before him, **the other four governors who served office for more than five years were Bimal Jalan, James Taylor, BP Bhattacharya and CD Deshmukh**. Shaktikanta Das has held several positions in the state and central governments in the areas of finance, taxation, industries, and infrastructure. As the economic affairs secretary from 2015 to 2017, Das worked closely with the RBI and spearheaded the 2016 demonetisation of high-value currency notes.

AWARDS

Akarsh Shroff of Bengaluru and a student of BITS Pilani was conferred the United Nations V-award

- **Akarsh Shroff of Bengaluru and a student of BITS Pilani was conferred the United Nations V-award for his commitment to the welfare of orphans and underserved children. V-Awards is an initiative by the UN Volunteers India which aims to celebrate 10 extraordinary young people under the age of 30 who work to change the lives of communities around them through their acts of volunteerism.**
- **YuvaSpark, Bengaluru-based NGO co-founded by Akarsh, has impacted more than 82,000 people across eight districts in three States of India through its education and COVID-19 relief programmes.**

Jane Goodall conferred Sanctuary award

- **Legendary scientist, ethologist, conservationist, and messenger of peace, Jane Goodall has been conferred with the “Legend Award” by Sanctuary Nature Foundation.**
- **Retired civil servant, ornithologist, mammalogist, artist, and author Anwaruddin Choudhury was conferred with the prestigious “Lifetime Service Award”.**
- **The Sanctuary Wildlife Awards were instituted in the year 2000 to recognise and draw national attention to the contribution of individuals working for the protection of wildlife and natural habitats in India. Since its inception in 2000, the Sanctuary Wildlife Awards have unearthed and spotlighted the inspirational work of thousands of quiet Earth Heroes across the country.**

Konkani writer Damodar Mauzo conferred with 57th Jnanpith Award

- **Renowned Konkani writer Damodar Mauzo has been conferred with 57th Jnanpith Award for the year 2022. Noted Assamese poet Nilmani Phookan has bagged 56th Jnanpith award for the year 2021.**
- **Mauzo is second Konkani writer to receive the highest literary award, earlier being given to Writer Ravindra Kelekar in 2006. Mauzo is short story writer, novelist and screenplay writer. His novel Karmelin had bagged Sahitya Akademi award in 1983. His several short stories are translated into other languages and have appeared in various magazines. Stories of Mauzo depict the struggle of poor people, their agonies and sorrows.**
- **Phookan is a Sahitya Akademi and Padma Shri awardee. Based out of Guwahati, he is a poet of renown and has written Surya Henu Nami Ahe Ei Nodiyedi, Gulapi Jamur Lagna, and Kobita. Phookan is the third Assamese writer to have received the Jnanpith. The previous awardees were Birendra Kumar Bhattacharya in 1979 and Mamoni Raisom Goswami in 2000.**

Jnanpith Award is the oldest and the highest Indian literary award presented annually by the Bharatiya Jnanpith to an author for their “outstanding contribution towards literature”. Instituted in 1961, the award is bestowed only on Indian writers writing in Indian languages included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India and English, with no posthumous conferral. From 1965 till 1981, the award was given to the authors for their “most outstanding work” and consisted of a citation plaque, a cash prize and a bronze replica of Saraswati, the Hindu goddess of knowledge and wisdom. The first recipient of the award was the Malayalam writer G. Sankara Kurup who received the award in 1965 for his collection of poems, Odakkuzhal (The Bamboo Flute), published in 1950.

Hindi writer Wajahat to be awarded 31st Vyas Samman for 2019 play

- **The award, instituted in 1991 and given by the KK Birla Foundation, recognises outstanding literary work in Hindi authored by an Indian citizen and published in the previous 10 years. It carries a cash prize of ₹4 lakh.**
- **Noted Hindi writer Asgar Wajahat will be awarded the 31st Vyas Samman for his play Mahabali, which was published in 2019. The award, instituted in 1991 and given by the KK Birla Foundation, recognises outstanding literary work in Hindi authored by an Indian citizen and published in the previous 10 years. It carries a cash prize of ₹4 lakh. The recipient is chosen by a selection panel, which is headed by famous Hindi litterateur Prof. Ramji Tiwari. Ram Vilas Sharma is the first recipient of it.**

Indian Mathematician receives 2021 DST-ICTP-IMU Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians from Developing Countries

- **Professor Neena Gupta, a mathematician at the Indian Statistical Institute in Kolkata, has been awarded the 2021 DST-ICTP-IMU Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians from developing countries for her outstanding work in affine algebraic geometry and commutative algebra.**
- **Professor Gupta is the third woman to receive the Ramanujan Prize, which was first awarded in 2005 and is administered by the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) jointly with the Department of Science and Technology (DST) Government of India and the International Mathematical Union (IMU).**
- **Ramanujan Prize is given annually to an eminent Mathematician who is less than 45 years of age on 31 December of the year of the award and has conducted outstanding research in developing countries by International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), Trieste and is sponsored by the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India. The DST-ICTP-IMU Ramanujan Prize committee, composed of eminent mathematicians from around the world, commented that Gupta's work "shows impressive algebraic skill and inventiveness".**

IIT-Kanpur Scientist Ropesh Goyal bags "Young Geospatial Scientist" Award

- **Ropesh Goyal from IIT-Kanpur won the 'Young Geospatial Scientist' award in recognition of his unique contribution to developing the Indian Geoid Model and computation software. Member of Space Commission, Government of India, and former ISRO Chairman AS Kiran Kumar presented the award to Goyal during the inaugural event of the DigiSmart India 2021 conference hosted by the Geospatial World.**
- **The 'Young Geospatial Scientist' award and a gold medal have been presented every year since 2011 to promising scientists below 35 years of age in memory of Rachapudi Kamakshi, a strategic analyst with a strong inclination towards geography and geospatial studies. The Rachapudi Kamakshi Memorial Trust is an organisation founded to help and encourage students and young and talented individuals with great ideas and research work in the field of geospatial sciences.**



IMPORTANT DAYS

World Soil Day 5 December

- **World Soil Day (WSD) is held annually on 5 December** as a means to focus attention on the importance of healthy soil and to advocate for the sustainable management of soil resources. An international day to celebrate soil was recommended by the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) in 2002. Under the leadership of the Kingdom of Thailand and within the framework of the Global Soil Partnership, FAO has supported the formal establishment of WSD as a global awareness raising platform.
- **The theme for World Soil Day 2021 is “Halt soil salinization, enhance soil production”.**

International Civil Aviation Day 7 December

- In 1996 the United Nations General Assembly **proclaimed that 7 December was to be the International Civil Aviation Day. The day has been celebrated by the International Civil Aviation Organization since 7 December 1994, the 50th anniversary of the signing the Convention on International Civil Aviation.**
- The Council has decided that from now until 2023, the **theme will be: “Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development”.**

International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime, 9 December

- **9 December 2021 marks the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime, as well as the 73rd anniversary of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (the “Genocide Convention”), the first human rights treaty adopted by the General Assembly.**
- **The Convention signifies the international community’s commitment to “never again” and provides the first international legal definition of “genocide,” widely adopted at national and international levels. It also establishes a duty for State Parties to prevent and punish the crime of genocide.**

International Anti-Corruption Day 9 December

- **The Assembly also designated 9 December as International Anti-Corruption Day, to raise awareness of corruption and of the role of the Convention in combating and preventing it.**
- International Anti-corruption day 2021’s **theme is “Your right, your role: say no to corruption.”**

Human Rights Day

- **Human Rights Day is celebrated annually around the world on 10 December every year. The date was chosen to honor the United Nations General Assembly’s adoption and proclamation, on 10 December 1948, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the first global enunciation of human rights and one of the first major achievements of the new United Nations.**
- The United Nations has announced that the **theme of Human Rights Day this year will be “equality”.** It has taken the theme from Article 1 of the UDHR, which says: “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.”

International Mountain Day celebrated

- **The International Mountain Day is being celebrated on 11th of December every year.** The day aims to encourage sustainable development in mountains. The increasing attention to the importance of mountains led the UN to declare 2002 the UN International Year of Mountains. The International Day was celebrated for the first time the following year, 2003.
- **The theme of this year’s International Mountain Day is ‘Sustainable mountain tourism’.**

QUESTIONS

- Name the Economic corridor which will also have Asia's largest wildlife elevated corridor (12 km) for unrestricted wildlife movement.
(a) Delhi-Meerut Economic Corridor
(b) Delhi-Lucknow Economic Corridor
(c) Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor
(d) Delhi-Mumbai Economic Corridor
- Name the Hyderabad-based startup which has successfully demonstrated India's first privately developed cryogenic rocket engine named Dhawan-1.
(a) Skyroot Aerospace (b) Unique Aerospace (c) Command Aerospace (d) Xerographic Aerospace
- Recently, The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment announced the formation of a _____ member committee to review the criteria for Economically Weaker Section (EWS) reservations.
(a) Two (b) Three (c) Four (d) Six
- Name the cyclone which if hits Odisha coast as predicted, will be the first one to do so to the state in December in India Meteorological Department (IMD)'s nearly 130 years of recorded history.
(a) Cyclone Jawad (b) Cyclone Unique (c) Cyclone Mirage (d) Cyclone Sharad
- The World Soil Day (WSD) is held annually on _____ as a means to focus attention on the importance of healthy soil and to advocate for the sustainable management of soil resources.
(a) 1 December (b) 3 December (c) 5 December (d) 7 December
- Recently, which of the following countries and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have concluded their first joint naval exercise?
(a) Russia (b) China (c) Japan (d) South Korea
- Recently, who has been conferred with the "Legend Award" by Sanctuary Nature Foundation?
(a) Adwin Jane (b) Jane Goodall (c) Michael Fredrick (d) Dimitry Uzuluck
- Name the shuttler who settled for a silver medal in the summit clash of the BWF World Tour Finals.
(a) PV Sindhu (b) Carolina Marin (c) Saina Nehwal (d) An Seyoung
- Who among the following along with a student of BITS Pilani was conferred the United Nations V-award for his commitment to the welfare of orphans and underserved children?
(a) Amit Rathaur (b) Akarsh Shroff (c) Ashwin Bonappa (d) Deepak Luthra
- Who among the following created history by taking all 10 wickets in an innings of the test match and became the third bowler?
(a) Ajaz Patel (b) Tim Southee
(c) William Sommervielle (d) Rachin Ravindra
- Recently, The Centre has initiated a Scheme for the Protection and Preservation of Endangered Languages of India. The scheme at present covers _____ languages.
(a) 74 (b) 87 (c) 99 (d) 117
- Recently, Adama Barrow has comfortably won a second term in presidential election of _____.
(a) Eritrea (b) Djibouti (c) The Gambia (d) Somalia
- For the first time in the country, two cities in _____ are rising to the status of global learning cities
(a) Karnataka (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Kerala (d) Andhra Pradesh

14. Recently, Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Dr Virendra Kumar launched _____ for socio-economic upliftment and overall development of Scheduled Castes students.
 (a) SAARTHAK (b) SUVIDHA
 (c) SRESHTA (d) NAYAK
15. Who will be appointed as Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) President?
 (a) Rajeev Sahota (b) Sanjiv Mehta
 (c) Aneesh Ranjan (d) Bhupesh Patel
16. Which of the following two countries have vowed to deepen collaboration in the space sector, including in the human spaceflight programme, and signed an agreement for cooperation in the building as well as operation of launch vehicles?
 (a) India and Japan (b) India and Australia
 (c) India and France (d) India and Russia
17. Who won the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix, recently?
 (a) Lewis Hamilton (b) Charles Lecrec (c) Max Verstappen (d) Valtteri Bottas
18. Who became the first cricketer ever to register 50 wins or more in each of the three formats of the game recently?
 (a) Kane Williamson (b) Virat Kohli (c) Rohit Sharma (d) Ross Taylor
19. Which of the following companies has crossed the milestone of 200 Million subscribers on YouTube, the first ever channel across the world to do so?
 (a) HMV (b) T-Series (c) Venus (d) Tips
20. Who has become the first dwarf in the country to obtain a driver's license recently?
 (a) Anit Yadav (b) Dushyant Jayant
 (c) Gattipally Shivpal (d) Nillotpal Khurana
21. Which of the following small finance banks announced a partnership with fintech firm Indiagold to launch India's first loan against digital gold?
 (a) AU Small Finance Bank (b) Utkarsh Small Finance Bank
 (c) Shivalik Small Finance Bank (d) Jana Small Finance Bank
22. Recently, India successfully flight tested the indigenously developed new Vertical Launch Short Range _____ from the coast off Balasore, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) official.
 (a) Surface-to-Surface Missile (b) Air-to-Air Missile
 (c) Surface-to-Air Missile (d) Surface-to-Water Missile
23. Which of the following companies along with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Indian Ordnance Factories were among the top 100 global arms-producing and military services companies in 2020?
 (a) HAL (b) SAIL (c) BHEL (d) OIL
24. Who among the following became the inaugural winner of the World Boxing Council's (WBC) India welterweight title?
 (a) Sabari J (b) Mithun K (c) Kaustubh L (d) Aniket K
25. In Germany, who is nominated as the country's next Chancellor by Parliament bringing the curtain down on Angela Merkel's 16-year reign?
 (a) Olaf Scholz (b) Almund Bistri (c) Peter Mclaf (d) Nathan Kjolf
26. Who among the following clinched the KSLTA ITF World Tour Championships women's singles title, recently?
 (a) Pranjala Yadlapalli (b) Sowjanya Bhavisetti
 (c) Aishwarya Tirath (d) Manya Muskan

27. Recently, the Swachh Bharat Mission Phase 2 is launched to further strengthen the efforts for a clean India. The report is titled as _____.
- (a) "Waste-Wise Cities: Best Practices of Solid Waste Management"
 (b) "Waste-Wise Urban Areas: Best Practices in Municipal Solid Waste Management"
 (c) "Waste-Wise Cities: Best Practices in Municipal Solid Waste Management"
 (d) "Waste-Wise Rural Areas: Best Practices in Municipal Solid Waste Management"
28. Every year, International Civil Aviation Day is celebrated on _____.
- (a) 3 December (b) 7 December (c) 9 December (d) 15 December
29. Name the former Chief Election Commissioner of India who joined the Board of Advisors for International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA)?
- (a) Navin Chawla (b) S Y Quereshi (c) Sunil Arora (d) Ashok Kumar
30. Name the Indian-origin physician who has been selected by NASA along with nine others to be astronauts for future missions.
- (a) Hitesh Modi (b) Saumitra Mahajan (c) Anil Menon (d) Deepak Khajuria
31. Recently, Education Ministry has launched a mobile app called _____ in order to help people acquire basic conversation ability in languages other than one's mother tongue to at least 75 lakh people.
- (a) Bhasha Sahitya (b) Bhasha Yugma (c) Bhasha Sangam (d) Bhasha Samman
32. Recently, A Curtain Raiser Event for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief exercise _____ for the member nations of BIMSTEC countries, was held at Kothari Auditorium DRDO Bhawan, New Delhi.
- (a) PASSEX-21 (b) UNIQUE-21 (c) PANEX-21 (d) AllOUT-2021
33. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation three mega projects, including an AIIMS and a major fertiliser plant, in Uttar Pradesh at _____.
- (a) Varanasi (b) Gorakhpur (c) Prayagraj (d) Deoria
34. Recently, The researchers at the Indian Institute of Science have found out that _____ gas can suppress the Human Immunodeficiency Virus or HIV virus.
- (a) Carbon Monoxide (b) Potassium Sulphate (c) Boron Sulphide (d) Hydrogen Sulphide
35. Recently, National Commission for Women (NCW) launched a pan-India capacity building programme _____.
- (a) She is a Changemaker, for women in Engineering
 (b) She is a Changemaker, for women in Medicos
 (c) She is a Changemaker, for women in Architect
 (d) She is a Changemaker, for women in Politics
36. Which of the following fruit and vegetable markets becomes the first market to be certified as the 'clean and fresh fruit and vegetable market' in the national capital by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)?
- (a) Delhi's INA (b) Delhi's Khan Market (c) Delhi's Sarita Vihar (d) Delhi's Karol Bagh
37. Who has been recently conferred with 57th Jnanpith Award for the year 2022?
- (a) Damodar Mauzo (b) Akhilesh Sahoo (c) Mahant Panda (d) Vipul Deshpande
38. Who won the gold medal in the Men's 55 kg snatch category at the ongoing Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships 2021 in Tashkent?
- (a) Sanket Mahadev Sargar (b) Hitesh Modi
 (c) Ambuj Khanna (d) Mukesh Gupta
39. Recently, which of the following becomes Indian Railways' first zone to get the first Registered service provider under the newly launched 'Bharat Gaurav Trains' Scheme?
- (a) Southern Railway (b) Northern Railway (c) Western Railway (d) Eastern Railway

40. Name the first Chief of Defence Staff who has died in the air crash recently.
 (a) General Yogesh Pawar (b) General Mahesh Jha
 (c) General Anuj Khandelkar (d) General Bipin Rawat
41. Which is the first major centrally-driven river interlinking project in the country?
 (a) Son-Betwa river linking project (b) Ken-Betwa river linking project
 (c) Chambal-Tapi river linking project (d) Son-Gandak river linking project
42. Recently, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman virtually participated in the G20 International Seminar hosted by the G20 Presidency of _____.
 (a) France (b) Italy (c) Indonesia (d) Canada
43. Recently, Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman made it to Forbes' 100 most powerful women in the world. This year, she is ranked at number _____.
 (a) 21 (b) 26 (c) 34 (d) 37
44. According to a report by Lowy Institute Asia Power Index 2021, India has risen as the _____ most powerful country in Asia.
 (a) Second (b) Third (c) Fourth (d) Seventh
45. According to a new report by Reporters Without Borders (RSF), which of the following countries is the world's biggest captor of journalists?
 (a) Saudi Arabia (b) China (c) Taiwan (d) UAE
46. Which of the following announced the launch of 'e-Sawaari India Electric Bus Coalition' in partnership with Convergence Energy Service Ltd (CESL) and World Resources Institute, India (WRI India), with support from Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative (TUMI)?
 (a) Finance Ministry (b) NITI Aayog (c) PMO (d) NDMA
47. Which of the following banks recently announced partnership with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to launch a new RuPay co-branded credit cards for customers on the indigenously developed payment platform?
 (a) HDFC Bank (b) YES Bank (c) ICICI Bank (d) Axis Bank
48. Recently, Scientists have unearthed Asia's first fossil record of mulberry from the Gurha lignite mines in _____.
 (a) Gujarat (b) Rajasthan (c) Punjab (d) Haryana
49. Every year, International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime is observed on _____.
 (a) 5 December (b) 7 December (c) 9 December (d) 12 December
50. Name the writer who will be awarded the 31st Vyas Samman for his play Mahabali, which was published in 2019.
 (a) Asgar Wajahat (b) Nurul Islam (c) Mithun Kumar (d) Mohammad Yunus
51. Recently, Madhya Pradesh government implemented Police Commissionerate system in which of the following two cities of the state?
 (a) Jabalpur and Gwalior (b) Satna and Rewa (c) Bhopal and Indore (d) Gwalior and Khandwa
52. Which of the following became the world's first paperless government?
 (a) Dubai (b) Kuwait (c) Qatar (d) San Marino
53. India's ranking in IMD competitive ranking slipped from 59 in 2019 to _____ in 2020.
 (a) 60 (b) 62 (c) 65 (d) 69
54. According to the latest World Inequality Report 2022, In India the top 10 per cent holds _____ per cent of the total national income.
 (a) 38 (b) 49 (c) 57 (d) 66

55. India International Science Festival (IISF) 2021 was recently organized in:
 (a) Panaji (b) Kolkata (c) Mumbai (d) Surat
56. Name the Indian who won a prestigious postdoctoral fellowship on biodiversity to Harvard University recently.
 (a) Aditi Rana (b) Sonali Garg (c) Mrinal Saha (d) Nandini Singh
57. Name the mathematician at the Indian Statistical Institute in Kolkata, who has been awarded the 2021 DST-ICTP-IMU Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians from developing countries.
 (a) Professor Amita Singh (b) Professor Aparajita Sinha
 (c) Professor Amrapali Hitesh (d) Professor Neena Gupta
58. Name the Multi Barrel Rocket Launcher System which was successfully tested at Pokharan range recently.
 (a) Teer (b) Pinaka (c) Rambaana (d) Trishul
59. Who won the gold medal in the men's 67 kg category at the Commonwealth Championships, in Tashkent?
 (a) Atulya Gupta (b) Jeremy Lalrinnunga (c) Amit Khanna (d) Dileep Rana
60. The International Mountain Day is celebrated on _____ every year.
 (a) 4th December (b) 8th December (c) 11th December (d) 12th December
61. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Saryu Nahar National Project at _____.
 (a) Basti, Uttar Pradesh (b) Balrampur, Uttar Pradesh
 (c) Darbhanga, Bihar (d) Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh
62. Recently, One of the largest planets ever has been detected at an enormous distance around two stars with a combined mass up to _____ greater than our sun.
 (a) 5 times (b) 7 times (c) 10 times (d) 15 times
63. Which of the following Payments Banks has gained central bank approval to function as a scheduled payments bank helping it to expand its financial services operations?
 (a) Airtel Payments Bank (b) Paytm Payments Bank
 (c) Jio Payments Bank (d) Ujjivan Payments Bank
64. Who has been elevated to head of the White House personnel office recently?
 (a) Vidyut Sharma (b) Atul Trivedi (c) Gautam Raghavan (d) Aniket Bhattacharya
65. Recently, Olaf Scholz has been sworn in as _____ new chancellor, bringing to an end Angela Merkel's historic 16 years as leader.
 (a) France (b) Germany (c) Serbia (d) Bulgaria
66. Recently, Shaktikanta Das started his extended _____ tenure as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor.
 (a) two-year (b) three-year (c) four-year (d) five-year
67. International Anti-Corruption Day is celebrated on _____.
 (a) 5 December (b) 7 December (c) 9 December (d) 11 December
68. Which of the following international bodies has granted Observer Status to International Solar Alliance recently?
 (a) UN General Assembly (b) UNICEF
 (c) World Bank (d) IMF
69. Who among the following claimed fifth successive world chess crown, recently?
 (a) Victor Kalarov (b) Amunov Kasrpov (c) Dmitri Ukolop (d) Magnus Carlsen
70. The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Charter Day is observed every year on _____.
 (a) 4th December (b) 6th December (c) 8th December (d) 10th December

ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATION

1. c Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Dehradun, Uttarakhand where he inaugurated and lay the foundation stone of multiple projects including the ambitious Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor worth around ₹18,000 crore.
2. a Hyderabad-based startup Skyroot Aerospace has successfully demonstrated the country's first privately developed cryogenic rocket engine named Dhawan-1 after eminent rocket scientist Satish Dhawan.
3. b The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment announced the formation of a three-member committee to review the criteria for Economically Weaker Section (EWS) reservations.
4. a If Cyclone Jawad hits Odisha coast as predicted, it will be the first one to do so to the state in December in India Meteorological Department (IMD)'s nearly 130 years of recorded history.
5. c World Soil Day (WSD) is held annually on 5 December as a means to focus attention on the importance of healthy soil and to advocate for the sustainable management of soil resources.
6. a Russia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have concluded their first joint naval exercise.
7. b Legendary scientist, ethologist, conservationist, and messenger of peace, Jane Goodall has been conferred with the "Legend Award" by Sanctuary Nature Foundation.
8. a Indian shuttler PV Sindhu settled for a silver medal after going down meekly to South Korea's An Seyoung 16-21 12-21 in the summit clash of the BWF World Tour Finals.
9. b Akarsh Shroff of Bengaluru and a student of BITS Pilani was conferred the United Nations V-award for his commitment to the welfare of orphans and underserved children.
10. a In the 2nd Test between India and New Zealand, left-arm spinner Ajaz Patel created history by taking all 10 wickets in an innings and became the third bowler after Jim Laker and Anil Kumble to achieve the feat.
11. d The scheme at present covers 117 languages.
12. c Adama Barrow has comfortably won a second term in The Gambia's presidential election, with thousands of supporters celebrating and opponents disputing the results.
13. c For the first time in the country, two cities in Kerala are rising to the status of global learning cities. The Central Government approved the recommendation of the State Government and recommended Thrissur and Nilambur for the Global Study City Plan.
14. c Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Dr Virendra Kumar launched Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas (SRESHTA) for socio-economic upliftment and overall development of Scheduled Castes students.
15. b Sanjiv Mehta, Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) will be appointed as Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) President.
16. d India and Russia vowed to deepen collaboration in the space sector, including in the human spaceflight programme, and signed an agreement for cooperation in the building as well as operation of launch vehicles.
17. a Lewis Hamilton beat Max Verstappen in a chaotic and controversial Saudi Arabian Grand Prix to set up a winner-takes-all title finale in Abu Dhabi next weekend.
18. b The occasion put Virat Kohli in another illustrious list of records in international cricket as the India skipper became the first cricketer ever to register 50 wins or more in each of the three formats of the game.

- 19. b** Raising the bar higher and shattering all records, India's largest music label and movie studio, T-Series has crossed the milestone of 200 Million subscribers on YouTube, the first ever channel across the world to do so.
- 20. c** Gattipally Shivpal, who hails from Hyderabad, has become the first dwarf in the country to obtain a driver's license. The 42-year-old man with a height of about three feet has beaten all odds and has become the first to complete his degree as a handicapped in his district Karimnagar. Shivpal finished his degree in 2004.
- 21. c** Shivalik Small Finance Bank (SSFB) announced a partnership with fintech firm Indiagold to launch a loan product against digital gold. Digital gold is an affordable medium to own and save with gold without the trouble of physically handling and storing the asset.
- 22. c** India successfully flight tested the indigenously developed new Vertical Launch Short Range Surface-to-Air Missile (VLSRSAM) from the coast off Balasore, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) official.
- 23. a** Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Indian Ordnance Factories were among the top 100 global arms-producing and military services companies in 2020, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) said.
- 24. a** Chennai's Sabari J became the inaugural winner of the World Boxing Council's (WBC) India welterweight title, defeating the more experienced Akashdeep Singh of Chandigarh in an eight-round bout.
- 25. a** In Germany, Social Democratic Party of Germany leader Olaf Scholz is nominated as the country's next Chancellor by Parliament bringing the curtain down on Angela Merkel's 16-year reign.
- 26. a** Pranjala Yadlapalli clinched the KSLTA ITF World Tour Championships women's singles title beating Sowjanya Bhavisetti, in Bengaluru.
- 27. c** The Swachh Bharat Mission Phase 2 is launched to further strengthen the efforts for a clean India. The report, titled "Waste-Wise Cities: Best Practices in Municipal Solid Waste Management", documents best practices from 28 cities in 15 states of India.
- 28. b** International Civil Aviation Day 7 December.
- 29. c** Former Chief Election Commissioner of India Sunil Arora joined the Board of Advisors for International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA).
- 30. c** Indian-origin physician Anil Menon, a lieutenant colonel at the US Air Force, has been selected by NASA along with nine others to be astronauts for future missions, the American space agency has announced.
- 31. c** Education Ministry has launched a mobile app called Bhasha Sangam in order to help people acquire basic conversation ability in languages other than one's mother tongue to at least 75 lakh people.
- 32. c** A Curtain Raiser Event for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief exercise, PANEX-21, for the member nations of BIMSTEC countries, was held at Kothari Auditorium DRDO Bhawan, New Delhi.
- 33. b** Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation three mega projects, including an AIIMS and a major fertiliser plant, in Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's home turf Gorakhpur.
- 34. d** The researchers at the Indian Institute of Science have found out that hydrogen sulphide gas can suppress the Human Immunodeficiency Virus or HIV virus.
- 35. d** National Commission for Women, NCW launched a pan-India capacity building programme - She is a Changemaker, for women in Politics.

- 36. a** Delhi's INA fruit and vegetable market becomes the first market to be certified as the 'clean and fresh fruit and vegetable market' in the national capital by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- 37. a** Renowned Konkani writer Damodar Mauzo has been conferred with 57th Jnanpith Award for the year 2022.
- 38. a** Sanket Mahadev Sargar won the gold medal in the Men's 55 kg snatch category at the ongoing Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships 2021 in Tashkent.
- 39. a** Southern Railway becomes Indian Railways' first zone to get the first Registered service provider under the newly launched 'Bharat Gaurav Trains' Scheme.
- 40. d** Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat has died in the air crash. General Bipin Rawat, his wife Madhulika Rawat and 11 other persons on board have died in the unfortunate accident.
- 41. b** Earlier this year, on March 22, an agreement was signed between the Centre and two states – Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh – to implement the Ken-Betwa river linking project, which is the first major centrally-driven river interlinking project in the country.
- 42. c** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman virtually participated in the G20 International Seminar hosted in Bali by the G20 Presidency of Indonesia.
- 43. d** For the third time in a row, Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman made it Forbes' 100 most powerful women in the world. This year, she is ranked at number 37, up from last year when she was placed at 41.
- 44. c** India has risen as the fourth most powerful country in Asia, according to a report by Lowy Institute Asia Power Index 2021. It has been ranked fourth among the 26 countries and territories in Indo-Pacific for comprehensive power.
- 45. b** A new report by Reporters Without Borders (RSF) has said China is the world's biggest captor of journalists with at least 127 reporters currently detained.
- 46. b** Government think tank NITI Aayog announced the launch of 'e-Sawaari India Electric Bus Coalition' in partnership with Convergence Energy Service Ltd (CESL) and World Resources Institute, India (WRI India), with support from Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative (TUMI).
- 47. b** YES Bank announced that it partnered with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to launch a new RuPay co-branded credit cards for customers on the indigenously developed payment platform.
- 48. b** Scientists have unearthed Asia's first fossil record of mulberry from the Gurha lignite mines near Bikaner in western Rajasthan.
- 49. c** 9 December 2021 marks the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime.
- 50. a** Noted Hindi writer Asgar Wajahat will be awarded the 31st Vyas Samman for his play Mahabali, which was published in 2019.
- 51. c** Madhya Pradesh government implemented Police Commissionerate system in Bhopal and Indore.
- 52. a** The Emirate of Dubai has achieved its objectives of the Dubai Paperless Strategy, launched in 2018, to establish itself as a leading digital capital and become the world's first paperless government.
- 53. b** India's ranking in IMD competitive ranking slipped from 59 in 2019 to 62 in 2020. India's performances in various factors are 63 in Investment and Development, 55 in Appeal, 25 in Readiness and 62 is India's overall performance.

- 54. c** India stands out as a “poor and very unequal country, with an affluent elite”, where the top 10 per cent holds 57 per cent of the total national income.
- 55. a** Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush Shri Sarbananda Sonowal attended the India International Science Festival (IISF) 2021 in Panaji, Goa.
- 56. b** Sonali Garg has won a prestigious postdoctoral fellowship on biodiversity to Harvard University.
- 57. d** Professor Neena Gupta, a mathematician at the Indian Statistical Institute in Kolkata, has been awarded the 2021 DST-ICTP-IMU Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians from developing countries for her outstanding work in affine algebraic geometry and commutative algebra.
- 58. b** The Pinaka-ER Multi Barrel Rocket Launcher System was successfully tested at Pokharan range.
- 59. b** India’s teenage weightlifting sensation Jeremy Lalrinnunga won the gold medal in the men’s 67 kg category at the Commonwealth Championships, in Tashkent.
- 60. c** The International Mountain Day is celebrated on 11th of December every year.
- 61. b** Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Balrampur, Uttar Pradesh and inaugurated the Saryu Nahar National Project.
- 62. c** One of the largest planets ever detected orbits at an enormous distance around two stars with a combined mass up to 10 times greater than our sun, an extreme celestial family that shatters assumptions about the type of places where planets can exist.
- 63. b** Paytm Payments Bank has gained central bank approval to function as a scheduled payments bank helping it to expand its financial services operations.
- 64. c** Indian-origin Gautam Raghavan has been elevated to Head of the White House personnel office.
- 65. b** Olaf Scholz has been sworn in as Germany’s new chancellor, bringing to an end Angela Merkel’s historic 16 years as leader.
- 66. b** Shaktikanta Das started his extended three-year tenure as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor.
- 67. c** The Assembly also designated 9 December as International Anti-Corruption Day, to raise awareness of corruption and of the role of the Convention in combating and preventing it.
- 68. a** UN General Assembly has granted Observer Status to International Solar Alliance.
- 69. d** Carlsen retained his status as undisputed king of world chess. It is his fifth successive world title (starting in Chennai in November 2013). Besides, he is world No. 1 in all formats including rapid and blitz.
- 70. c** The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Charter Day is observed every year on 8th December.