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# MANTHAN

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*A General Awareness Weekly*

**31<sup>st</sup> May to 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2021**

# PREFACE

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**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  
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## National



### NITI Aayog released the SDG India Index & Dashboard, 2020-21

- **The third rendition of India's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index was launched by NITI Aayog on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2021. First launched in December 2018, the index has become the primary tool for monitoring progress on the SDGs in the country and has simultaneously fostered competition among the States and Union Territories by ranking them on the Global Goals.**
- **NITI Aayog Vice Chairperson Dr Rajiv Kumar launched the report titled, SDG India Index and Dashboard 2020–21: Partnerships in the Decade of Action, in the presence of Dr Vinod Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog, Shri Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog, and Ms.Sanyukta Samaddar, Adviser (SDGs), NITI Aayog. Designed and developed by NITI Aayog, the preparation of the index followed extensive consultations with the primary stakeholders—the States and Union Territories; the UN agencies led by United Nations in India; Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), and the key Union Ministries.**
- **With one-third of the journey towards achieving the 2030 agenda behind us, this edition of the index report focuses on the significance of partnerships and is titled “SDG India Index & Dashboard, 2020-21: Partnerships in The Decade of Action”. The initiative to further refine and improve this important tool, with each edition, has been steered by the need to continuously benchmark performance and measure progress, and account for the availability of latest SDG related data on States and UTs. From covering 13 Goals, 39 targets, and 62 indicators in the first edition in 2018-19 to 17 Goals, 54 targets and 100 indicators in the second; this third edition of the index covers 17 Goals, 70 targets, and 115 indicators.**
- **The SDG India Index 2020–21, developed in collaboration with the United Nations in India, tracks progress of all States and UTs on 115 indicators that are aligned to MoSPI's National Indicator Framework (NIF). The initiative to refine and improve this important tool with each edition has been steered by the need to continuously benchmark performance and measure progress, and to account for the availability of latest SDG-related data on States and UTs. The process of selecting these 115 indicators included multiple consultations with Union Ministries.**
- **The SDG India Index 2020–21 is more robust than the previous editions on account of wider coverage of targets and indicators with greater alignment with the NIF. The 115 indicators incorporate 16 out of 17 SDGs, with a qualitative assessment on Goal 17, and cover 70 SDG targets. This is an improvement over the 2018–19 and 2019–20 editions of the index, which had utilised 62 indicators across 39 targets and 13 Goals, and 100 indicators across 54 targets and 16 Goals, respectively.**

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**.

## Uttar Pradesh launches Bal-Seva Yojana for children who lost their parents due to COVID

- **Uttar Pradesh Government also launched Bal-Seva Yojana for the children who lost their parents due to COVID pandemic.** Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced a slew of measures for the care for such children and said, the assistance will be provided to the care taker, if none of the parents are alive.
- **The State Government will provide financial assistance of Rs. 4,000 per month** to such children. Government will also provide laptop/Tablet to such children if they are getting education in any school or are doing any professional course. **Financial assistance of Rs. 1,01,000 will be provided for the marriage of girl children who lost their parents in this pandemic.**

**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.**

## Ministry of Education launches YUVA- Prime Minister's Scheme for Mentoring Young Authors

- **The Ministry of Education launched YUVA- Prime Minister's Scheme for Mentoring Young Authors.** It is an Author Mentorship programme to train young and budding author's belows 30 years.
- **The launch of YUVA (Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors) is in tune with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to encourage young writers to write about India's freedom struggle.** YUVA is a part of India@75 Project to bring to the fore the perspectives of the young generation of writers on themes like Unsung Heroes, Freedom Fighters, Unknown and Forgotten Places.

**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. The Ministry is held currently by Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank. He represents the Haridwar constituency of Uttarakhand in the 17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha. 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.**

## WHO names Covid-19 variants first found in India as 'Kappa' and 'Delta'

- **The B.1.617.1 and B.1.617.2 variants of the Covid-19, first identified in India, has been named as 'Kappa' and 'Delta' respectively,** the World Health Organisation (WHO) announced as it named various variants of the coronavirus using Greek alphabets. **The UN health agency named the B.1.617.1 variant of the Covid 19 as 'Kappa' while the B1.617.2 variant was dubbed 'Delta.'** Both the variants were first found in India.
- **The WHO's move came nearly three weeks after India objected to the B.1.617 mutant of the novel coronavirus being termed an "Indian Variant"** in media reports with the Union Health Ministry pointing out that the UN's top health organ has not used the word "Indian" for this strain in its document.
- **The ministry dismissed as "without any basis and unfounded" media reports that have used the term "Indian variant" for the B.1.617 mutant strain,** which the WHO recently said was a "variant of global concern".

**The World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for international public health. The WHO Constitution, which establishes the agency's governing structure and principles, states its main objective as "the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health". It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, with six semi-autonomous regional offices and 150 field offices worldwide. The WHO was established by constitution on 7 April 1948 which is commemorated as World Health Day. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has been serving since 2017 as Director-General of the World Health Organization. Tedros is the first African in the role, and was endorsed by the African Union. Before serving as Director-General, he held two high-level positions in the government of Ethiopia: Minister of Health from 2005 to 2012 and Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2012 to 2016.**

## Centre introduces new system for processing of Insurance claims under PMGKP Insurance Scheme for Health Workers fighting COVID-19

- **The Government of India has been on the forefront of the fight against COVID19** and has been supporting the efforts of States and UTs under the ‘Whole of Government’ approach. In this endeavour, **the Union Government had already extended the ‘Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP) Insurance Scheme for Health Workers Fighting COVID-19’ for one year w.e.f 24.04.2021.**
- **Safety of the Frontline Healthcare providers remains the top priority of the Central Government** and therefore the Central Government had revived this insurance policy for a period of one year so as to **continue to provide the safety net to the dependents of health workers**, who are deputed to take care of COVID-19 patients.
- **‘Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP) Insurance Scheme for Health Workers Fighting COVID-19’ was launched w.e.f. 30.03.2020 initially for a period of 90 days to provide comprehensive personal accident cover of Rs. 50 lakh to all healthcare providers, including community health workers and private health workers drafted by the government for the care of Covid-19 patients** and for those who may have come in direct contact of COVID-19 patients and were at risk of being impacted by it. **The scheme is being implemented through an Insurance policy from New India Assurance Company (NIACL).** The insurance policy has been extended twice so far.
- **States and other stakeholders had been raising the matter that the processing of the insurance claims was getting delayed.** In order to cut down on these delays and to further streamline and simplify the processing of the insurance claims, it has been decided to start a new system for approval of claims as per which the due diligence will be done by State Governments at the level of District Collector. **The District Collector in each case will be certifying that the claim is in accordance with SoP of the Scheme. On the basis of this certificate of the Collector, Insurance Company will approve and settle the claims within a period of 48 hours.** Further, for the sake of uniformity and prompt disposal, the District Collector will also do due diligence and certify the claims even in case of Central Government hospitals/ AIIMS/ Railways etc. **The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has informed all States Governments and UT Administrations about this new system which comes into effect immediately.**

## GIFT constituted with CM as chairman in Goa

- **The State government constituted Goa Institution For Future Transformation (GIFT), which will function on the lines of NITI Aayog to assist, advise and guide the government in policy making and formulation, implementation, monitoring of sustainable development goals and evaluation of various development plans, programmes and schemes.**
- **“The Government of Goa is pleased to constitute ‘GOA INSTITUTION FOR FUTURE TRANSFORMATION’ (GIFT) with immediate effect from the date of publication of this Notification in the Official Gazette. The Chairman of GIFT shall be the Chief Minister. The functioning of GIFT is to be on par with the NITI Aayog and will be backed up with Article 309 of the Constitution of India for attaining autonomy.”**
- **The cabinet had recently approved the proposal for the setting up GIFT. Then Chief Minister late Manohar Parrikar had disbanded the State Planning Board with effect from April 1, 2017 after disbanding of the Planning Commission at the national level.**
- **Later, Sawant in his budget speech had announced the formation of the State Institution for Transforming Goa (SIT-Goa) later renamed as GIFT, which will also serve as a knowledge hub to the State replicating best practices which are suited for the sustainable development of the State.**

**Article 309 of the Constitution of India provides that acts of the appropriate Legislature may regulate the recruitment and conditions of service of persons appointed to public services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or any State. It also provides that pending provision in this behalf being made by or under an Act, the President or such persons as he may direct shall be competent to make, in the case of services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union, rules regulating the recruitment and other service conditions of persons appointed to such services and posts.**

## One Nation, One Standard Scheme launched

- **One Nation, One Standard** scheme has been launched with an aim to synergize standards adopted by various Standard Development Organisations in the country. The voluntary integration scheme of multiple standard formulating bodies will bring uniformity in the quality of goods & services produced in the country and will boost the 'Brand India' image.
- The scheme was launched in a joint virtual event organised by the Ministry of Railways and the Ministry of Consumer Affairs. Research Designs & Standards Organisation (RDSO), Lucknow has become the first organisation in the country to join the One Nation, One Standard scheme.
- The scheme has been formulated under the aegis of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and talks are on with several other organisations including DRDO and Indian Roads Congress among others.

The 'One Nation, One Standard' scheme was launched in 2019 with the objective to develop one template of standard for one given product in the country, instead of having multiple agencies set it, thereby building a 'Brand India' identity in the long run. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is the implementing agency for the 'One Nation, One Standard' scheme.

## NSA Ajit Doval commissioned Indian Coast Guard Offshore Patrol Vessel Sajag

- National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval has commissioned Indian Coast Guard Offshore Patrol Vessel Sajag and dedicated it to the nation for safeguarding maritime interests. Sajag has been constructed by Goa Shipyard Limited.
- Mr Doval commended Goa shipyard for indigenously developing ships for the Maritime Armed forces on time with state-of-the-art machinery and latest technology sensors and equipment. Sajag is the third in a series of five offshore patrol vessels indigenously designed in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Make in India' vision.

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) is a maritime law enforcement and search and rescue agency of India with jurisdiction over its territorial waters including its contiguous zone and exclusive economic zone. The Indian Coast Guard was formally established on 1 February 1977 by the Coast Guard Act, 1978 of the Parliament of India. It operates under the Ministry of Defence. Krishnaswamy Natarajan, is the current Director General of the Indian Coast Guard who assumed the office on 1 July 2019.

## Justice (Retd) Arun Kumar Mishra takes charge as NHRC chairman

- Justice (Retd) Arun Kumar Mishra took charge as the chairman of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in New Delhi.
- President Ram Nath Kovind appointed Justice Mishra as the NHRC chairperson based on the recommendation of a selection panel comprising Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha Harivansh and Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge. Justice Arun Mishra retired as Supreme Court Judge in September last year.
- The post of NHRC chairperson had been vacant since former Chief Justice of India H L Dattu retired in December last year. In March, former Supreme Court judge Justice Prafulla Pant, who has been an NHRC member, raised the issue of vacant posts in the National Commission and State Commissions, terming it a "matter of concern". Subsequently, Pant was appointed the acting chairperson of NHRC.
- In 2019, the Parliament had amended the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 to revise the eligibility criteria for the post of chairperson of NHRC and state human rights commissions. While only a retired Chief Justice of India could be appointed as NHRC chairperson earlier, the amended law allowed a judge of the Supreme Court to be considered for the position.

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India is a Statutory public body constituted on 12 October 1993 under the Protection of Human Rights Ordinance of 28 September 1993. It was given a statutory basis by the

**Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 (PHRA).** The NHRC is the National Human Rights Commission of India responsible for the protection and promotion of human rights, defined by the Act as “Rights Relating To Life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by the Constitution or embodied in the International Covenants and enforceable by courts in India”.

## Union Cabinet approves Model Tenancy Act for circulation to all States and UTs

- **The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the Model Tenancy Act for circulation to all States / Union Territories** for adaptation by way of enacting fresh legislation or amending existing rental laws suitably.
- It will help overhaul the legal framework with respect to rental housing across the country, which would help spur its overall growth.
- **The Model Tenancy Act aims at creating a vibrant, sustainable and inclusive rental housing market in the country.** It will enable creation of adequate rental housing stock for all the income groups thereby addressing the issue of homelessness. Model Tenancy Act will enable institutionalisation of rental housing by gradually shifting it towards the formal market.
- **The Model Tenancy Act will facilitate unlocking of vacant houses for rental housing purposes.** It is expected to give a fillip to private participation in rental housing as a business model for addressing the huge housing shortage.

## Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launches Seed Minikit Programme

- **Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched Seed Minikit Programme by distributing Seed Minikits, higher yielding varieties of seeds to farmers.** The mini kits are being provided by the Central Agencies, National Seeds Corporation, NSC, NAFED and Gujarat State Seeds Corporation and it is fully funded by the Government of India through the National Food Security Mission.
- The distribution of seeds will continue till 15<sup>th</sup> of this month so that the seeds reach the farmers before the Kharif sowing commences. **The Central government in collaboration with states has been implementing various activities to enhance production and productivity of pulses and oilseeds under the National Food Security Mission.**

The agriculture contribution in India's GDP in 2019 is 15.96 percent. According to latest report, agriculture is primary source of livelihood for 58% population in India. The Primary sector of the economy includes any industry involved in the extraction and production of raw materials, such as farming, logging, hunting, fishing, and mining. India is a global agricultural powerhouse. It is the world's largest producer of milk, pulses, and spices, and has the world's largest cattle herd (buffaloes), as well as the largest area under wheat, rice and cotton. It is the second largest producer of rice, wheat, cotton, sugarcane, farmed fish, sheep & goat meat, fruit, vegetables and tea. Narendra Singh Tomar is the Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Minister of Rural Development in the Second Modi ministry. He is a member of the 17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha from Morena, Madhya Pradesh.

## Thaawarchand Gehlot launched SAGE project to support India's elderly

- **Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Thaawarchand Gehlot launched the senior care Ageing Growth Engine (SAGE) project to select, support and create a one-stop access of elderly care products and services by credible start-ups.**
- **The SAGE project is shaped on the recommendations of the empowered expert committee report on start-ups for elderly.** Start-ups can apply for being a part of SAGE through a dedicated portal, which will be also launched.
- **The start-ups will be selected on the basis of innovative products and services,** which they should be able to provide across sectors such as health, housing, care centres, apart from technological access linked to finances, food and wealth management and legal guidance.
- **The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment will act as a facilitator, enabling the elderly to access the products through these identified start-ups.** As per surveys, the share of elders, as a percentage of the total population in the country is expected to increase from around 7.5 per cent in 2001 to almost 12.5 per cent by 2026.

**Thaawar Chand Gehlot is currently serving as the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment in the NDA Government. He is currently the Leader of the House in the upper house of Indian Parliament. He is a member of the Rajya Sabha, upper house of Indian Parliament, representing the state of Madhya Pradesh.**

## **Cabinet approves MoU between India & Maldives on cooperation in field of sustainable urban development**

- **The Union Cabinet was apprised of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India and Ministry of National Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, Government of Maldives on cooperation in the field of Sustainable Urban Development.**
- **The MoU will promote strong, deep and long-term bilateral cooperation in the field of Sustainable Urban Development between the two countries. The MoU came into effect on the date of signing by the two contracting parties and will remain in force for indefinite period.**

**Maldives is a South Asian country, located in the Indian Ocean, situated in the Arabian Sea. Male is the capital and most populated city, traditionally called the “King’s Island” for its central location. Maldivian rufiyaa is the currency of the Maldives. Ibrahim Mohamed Solih is the current President of the Maldives.**

## **India to soon get 8 new Flying Training Academies under liberalised FTO policy of AAI**

- **India will soon get eight new Flying Training Academies under the liberalised Flying Training Organisation (FTO) policy of the Airports Authority of India (AAI). This initiative will help the Indian flying training sector in becoming more self-sustaining under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat initiative.**
- **These academies will be set up at Belagavi, Jalgaon, Kalaburagi, Khajuraho and Lilabari. The set-up of these eight FTOs is aimed at making India a global flying training hub. It will also prevent the exodus of Indian cadets to foreign FTOs.**
- **Airports Authority of India had invited bids for the same in November 2020. The award letters were issued on 31 May 2021 to winning bidders: Asia-Pacific, Jetserve, Redbird, Samvardhane and Skynex. In order to make FTOs attractive for bidders, AAI reduced the minimum annual rental significantly to Rs 15 lakh. Furthermore, the concept of airport royalty was scrapped to make these ventures business-friendly.**

## **Kerala retains top rank, Bihar at bottom in Niti Aayog’s SDG India Index 2020-21**

- **Kerala has retained the top rank in Niti Aayog’s SDG India Index 2020-21, while Bihar has been adjudged as the worst performer, as per a report released.**
- **The Index for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) evaluates progress of states and union territories on social, economic and environmental parameters. The third rendition of India’s SDG Index was launched by Niti Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar.**
- **Kerala retained its rank as the top state with a score of 75. Both Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu took the second spot with a score of 74. Bihar, Jharkhand and Assam were the worst performing states in this year’s India index.**
- **Uttarakhand has emerged as one of the worst performing states in terms of sex ratio at birth, according to Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) released by the Niti Aayog. The state’s sex ratio is 840, against the national average of 899, the SDG showed.**
- **The best performer in this category was Chhattisgarh, where male-to-female ratio at birth stood at 958 - much above the national average - the Niti Aayog report further showed. Kerala is at the second place with a sex ratio of 957.**
- **States like Punjab and Haryana, which have seen low sex ratios, have improved their position. While Haryana recorded birth of 843 females per 1000 males, in Punjab the number has reached 890.**
- **The SDGs are an ambitious commitment by world leaders which set out a universal and an unprecedented agenda which embraces economic, environmental and social aspects of the wellbeing of societies.**

## Raimona becomes Assam's sixth national park

- **Raimona in Kokrajhar district** has become Assam's sixth national park. Eastern Assam's Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary, under stress for unregulated coal mining in the vicinity is in the process of becoming the seventh national park.
- **The five national parks that existed prior to the 422 sq. km Raimona are Kaziranga, Manas, Nameri, Orang and Dibru-Saikhowa.**

**Jagdish Mukhi is the current Governor of Assam and Assam is known for Assam tea and Assam silk. Dispur is the capital of the state of Assam. Guwahati is the largest city of Assam and Northeastern India. Himanta Biswa Sarma is current the Chief Minister of Assam. In 1874, on the formation of Assam as the Chief Commissioner's Province, it was chosen as the headquarters of the new administration because of its convenient location between the Brahmaputra and Surma valleys and more so because the climate of Shillong was much cooler than tropical India. Shillong remained the capital of undivided Assam until the creation of the new state of Meghalaya on 21 January 1972, when Shillong became the capital of Meghalaya, and Assam moved its capital to Dispur in Guwahati.**

## Startup Jupitice develops world's first private digital court

- **Chandigarh-based startup Jupitice has developed the World's First Private Digital Court to facilitate speedy resolution of domestic as well as cross-border disputes under the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism.**
- **Promoted by lawtech experts, the Jupitice platform will offer dispute resolution through traditional ADR mechanisms such as mediation, assisted-negotiation, arbitration and conciliation, thus ensuring easy and affordable access to justice to people, business entities and medium and large corporates.**
- **Being a fully online platform, Jupitice is a location-agnostic company that can be operated from anywhere. Currently, Jupitice is situated in IT Park, Chandigarh.**
- **Jupitice's Private Digital Court is a combination of the world's first end-to-end digital justice delivery platform that facilitates all the participants involved in the dispute to perform tasks (case filing to awards & settlement) online and on a single platform.**
- **Jupitice has also aggregated ADR professionals across the world to form its 'Marketplace' which makes it even easier for justice seekers to connect with justice providers.**

## DAC approves Navy's proposal for construction of 6 submarines

- **The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved the Navy's proposal for construction of six submarines at an approximate cost of Rs 43,000 crore. Defence minister Rajnath Singh chaired the meeting.**
- **This is a landmark approval, being the first case processed under the Strategic Partnership model. This would be one of the largest Make in India projects and it will create a tiered industrial ecosystem for submarine construction in the country.**
- **With this approval, India will be enabled to achieve its 30 year Submarine construction programme envisioned by the Government to acquire national competence in submarine construction.**
- **The availability of new technologies and advanced manufacturing capabilities to Indian Industry will be an important step towards enhancing the nation's quest for self-reliance in modern conventional submarine construction. It will also create direct and indirect job opportunities in the country.**
- **DAC also approved Air Defence guns and ammunition for the Army worth Rs 6000 crore under the 'Buy and Make Indian' category. This will enable the Armed forces to complete their emergent and critical acquisitions.**

**The Defence Acquisition Council is the highest decision-making body in the Defence Ministry for deciding on new policies and capital acquisitions for the three services (Army, Navy and Air Force) and the Indian Coast Guard. It was formed, after the Group of Ministers recommendations on 'Reforming the National Security System', in 2001, post Kargil War (1999). The Minister of Defence is the Chairman of the Council.**



### NATO conducts massive war games

- As tensions with Russia simmer, **thousands of NATO troops, several warships and dozens of aircraft are taking part in military exercises stretching across the Atlantic**, through Europe and into the Black Sea region.
- The war games, dubbed **Steadfast Defender 21**, are aimed at **simulating the 30-nation military organization's response to an attack on any one of its members**. It will test NATO's ability to deploy troops from America and keep supply lines open.
- **Russia's decision last month to send thousands of troops to the border area with Ukraine has raised concern at the military alliance**, which launched one of its biggest ever defense spending initiatives after Russian troops annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in 2014.
- **Top NATO brass insist that the military exercises, involving some 9,000 troops from 20 nations, are not aimed at Russia specifically, but they focus on the Black Sea region, where Russia stands accused of blocking the free navigation of ships.**

**North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), also called the North Atlantic Alliance, is an intergovernmental military alliance between 30 European and North American countries.** NATO constitutes a system of collective defence whereby its independent member states agree to mutual defence in response to an attack by any external party. **NATO's Headquarters are located in Haren, Brussels, Belgium**, while the headquarters of Allied Command Operations is near Mons, Belgium. **Jens Stoltenberg is a Norwegian politician who has served as the 13<sup>th</sup> Secretary General of NATO since 2014.**

### Mali's constitutional court declares coup leader Goita as interim President

- **Mali's constitutional court declared Assimi Goita, the colonel who led a military coup while serving as Vice President, to be the new interim President. Goita became interim vice president after leading the coup last August that overthrew President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita.**
- **The court made the move following what it described as a "vacancy in the presidency," which emerged after the alleged forced resignation of Ndaw. Soldiers backing Goita had detained Ndaw and interim Prime Minister Moctar Ouane, before releasing them after they agreed to resign from their posts.**
- **Goita previously assumed the role of interim vice president after leading another coup in August that overthrew the then President, Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, following mass protests over perceived corruption and his failure to quell a violent jihadist insurgency. The transitional government headed by Ndaw and Ouane had been installed under the threat of regional sanctions, and was supposed to restore Mali to full civilian rule within 18 months.**

**Mali is a landlocked country in West Africa. Bamako is the capital and largest city of Mali. The West African CFA franc is the currency of eight independent states in West Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo.**

### EAGLE Act, seeking to remove cap on employment-based immigrant visas in US

- **A legislation to remove the per-country cap on permanent residency visas, or green cards, for the US has been introduced in the House of Representatives.**

- Democrat Representative Zoe Lofgren and Republican John Curtis, **introduced the Equal Access to Green cards for Legal Employment (EAGLE) Act of 2021**, which, according to their statement, will “**benefit the US economy by allowing American employers to focus on hiring immigrants based on their merit, not their birthplace**”.
- **The bipartisan act seeks to phase out the seven per cent per-country limit on employment-based immigrant visas and raises the per-country limit on family-sponsored visas from seven per cent to 15 per cent.**
- **It provides for a nine-year period for the elimination of this limit.** The seven per cent limit was introduced in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, which has led countries with relatively small populations to be allocated the same number of visas as a relatively large-population country.

The **United States of America (U.S.A. or USA)**, commonly known as the **United States (U.S. or US)** or **America**, is a country primarily located in **North America**. It consists of **50 states**, a federal district, five major unincorporated territories, 326 Indian reservations, and some minor possessions. **The national capital is Washington, D.C., and the most populous city is New York City.** **Joe Biden is the current and the 46<sup>th</sup> President of the United States.** At 78, Biden is the oldest president in US history and only the second Roman Catholic President. A member of the **Democratic Party**, he served as the **47<sup>th</sup> Vice President from 2009 to 2017 under Barack Obama** and represented Delaware in the **United States Senate from 1973 to 2009.** In January 2017, **Barak Obama awarded Biden the Presidential Medal of Freedom with distinction.**

### **Finland breaks ground on World’s First Deep Geologic Nuclear Waste Repository**

- In early May the **Finnish waste management company Posiva Oy, announced the start of excavation on their deep geologic nuclear waste repository for their spent nuclear fuel (SNF) at ONKALO.** The repository will be the **first in the world to start final disposal of spent nuclear fuel.**
- The Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority of Finland has certified the process. **Operation of the repository is expected to begin in 2023. The total cost estimate is about €2.6 billion (\$3.4 billion).**
- **Finland has a policy of direct disposal of nuclear waste without reprocessing of SNF.** Posiva’s plan is for used fuel to be packed inside copper-steel canisters at an above-ground encapsulation plant, from where they will be transferred into the underground tunnels of the repository.

**Finland is a Nordic country in Northern Europe. Helsinki is the country’s capital and largest city. Sanna Mirella Marin has been the Prime Minister of Finland since 10 December 2019. At 35, she is the world’s youngest female state leader and Finland’s youngest-ever Prime Minister. Euro is the official currency of it.**

### **China allows couples to have three children after relaxation in its one-child policy failed**

- **In a major shift in its population policy, China announced that couples may have up to three children, from the existing limit of two after recent census data showed a dramatic decline in births in the world’s most populous country.**
- **The decision in 2016 to relax China’s one-child policy and allow people to have a second child had failed to reverse the country’s falling birth rate** as the high cost of raising children in Chinese cities deterred many couples from starting families.
- **The policy change will come with “supportive measures, which will be conducive to improving our country’s population structure, fulfilling the country’s strategy of actively coping with an ageing population and maintaining the advantage, endowment of human resources”.** It did not specify the support measures.

**China is a country in East Asia and the world’s most populous country, with a population of around 1.404 billion. Beijing is the capital of the People’s Republic of China. Xi Jinping is serving as president of the People’s Republic of China. National People’s Congress is the national legislature of the People’s Republic of China. With 2,980 members in 2018, it is the largest parliamentary body in the world. China’s currency yuan joins the International Monetary Fund’s basket of reserve currencies.** China claims sovereignty over all of the South China Sea, a huge source of hydrocarbons. **However, several ASEAN member countries, including Vietnam, Philippines and Brunei, have made counterclaims. Chinese claims in the South China Sea are described in part by the nine-dash line.**

## Isaac Herzog elected as Israel's 11<sup>th</sup> President

- Labor Veteran Isaac Herzog has been elected as Israel's 11<sup>th</sup> President. Israel's parliament elected Herzog in a vote as opposition lawmakers were holding negotiations to form a coalition to end Prime Minister Netanyahu's 12 straight years in office.
- Herzog replaces President Reuven Rivlin, who was elected in 2014 to the largely ceremonial position decided by the parliament, or Knesset. He defeated former headmistress Miriam Peretz. The Israeli presidency exerts little power, primarily meeting with party leaders after legislative elections and tasking candidates with forming governments. It is the country's prime minister who wields actual executive authority.

Israel is a country in the Middle East, Jerusalem is one of the oldest cities in the world, and is considered holy to the three major Abrahamic religions—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Both Israel and the Palestinian Authority claim Jerusalem as their capital, however, neither claim is widely recognized internationally. Knesset is the unicameral national legislature of Israel. Israeli new shekel is the currency of Israel. Benjamin Netanyahu is serving as the 9<sup>th</sup> and current Prime Minister of Israel since 2009.

## 12<sup>th</sup> Clean Energy Ministerial is held in Chile

- The 12<sup>th</sup> Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) is currently underway which is being organized by Chile. The Ministry of Power has said that India along with the United Kingdom has launched a new work stream to promote industrial energy efficiency under the CEM's Industrial Deep Decarbonization Initiative.
- It added that the IDDI initiative has been supported by Germany and Canada, with more countries expected to join soon. The objective is to infuse green technologies and stimulate demand for low-carbon industrial material.

Chile is a country in western South America. It occupies a long, narrow strip of land between the Andes to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west. The country's capital and largest city is Santiago. The peso is the currency of Chile. Sebastian Pinera has been president of Chile since 2018.

## At least 40% global crops lost to pests every year: FAO

- As much as 40 per cent of the world's agricultural crops are lost to pests each year. Invasive pests cost countries at least \$70 billion annually and are one of the main drivers of biodiversity loss, according to estimates from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).
- The scientific review analysed 15 plant pests and found that climate change will increase the risk of pests spreading in agricultural and forestry ecosystems, especially in cooler Arctic, boreal, temperate and subtropical regions.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger and improve nutrition and food security. It was founded in October 1945. It is headquartered in Rome, Italy.

## Bahrain tops Global financial attractiveness rankings for 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year

- Bahrain has topped the globally-recognised AIRINC Global 150 Cities Index financial attractiveness ranking for the third straight year, leading impressive rankings for MENA capitals – with seven leading MENA cities in the top 16 places.
- Aside from the capital of Bahrain in first place, other cities ranked included Riyadh, Kuwait City, Amman and Abu Dhabi. The rankings evaluate the salary levels, cost of living, and taxes in a particular market in order to create an overall score for financial attractiveness.

Bahrain is a sovereign state in the Persian Gulf. Manama is the capital and largest city of Bahrain. Prince Salman bin Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa is the heir apparent and first deputy Prime Minister of the Bahrain. The dinar is the currency of Bahrain. The kingdom shares maritime borders with Iran, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia.



## Government sets up expert panel to fix minimum pay, national floor wage

- The Labour and Employment Ministry constituted an expert group to provide technical inputs and recommendations on fixation of minimum wages and national floor for minimum wages. The expert group announced has been constituted for a period of three years and is chaired by Ajit Mishra, Director, Institute of Economic Growth.
- Under the Code on Wages, which is yet to be enforced, a National Floor Level Minimum Wage will be set by the Centre to be revised every five years, while states will fix minimum wages for their regions, which cannot be lower than the floor wage. The current floor wage, which was fixed in 2017, is at Rs 176 a day, but some states have minimum wages lower than it.
- The expert group announced has been constituted for a period of three years and is chaired by Ajit Mishra, Director, Institute of Economic Growth. It includes Tarika Chakraborty, IIM Calcutta; Anushree Sinha, Senior Fellow, NCAER; Vibha Bhalla, Joint Secretary; H Srinivas, Director General, VVGNI as the members and DPS Negi, Senior Labour and Employment Advisor as the Member Secretary.
- A National Floor Level Minimum Wage will be set by the Centre and will be revised every five years, while states will fix minimum wages for their regions, which cannot be lower than the floor wage.

**Minimum Wage:** International Labour Organisation defines it as “the minimum amount of remuneration that an employer is required to pay wage earners for the work performed during a given period, which cannot be reduced by collective agreement or an individual contract”. The minimum wage includes the bare needs of life like food, shelter, and clothing.

## India’s largest crypto exchange launches country’s first NFT marketplace

- India’s largest crypto exchange, WazirX, announced the country’s first NFT marketplace. The platform, which will be used to trade Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs), is run on the Binance Smart Chain, a blockchain platform created by Binance, one of the largest crypto exchanges in the world, which acquired WazirX back in 2019.
- According to the company, the marketplace currently has 15 creators, and WazirX has received over 15000 applications from creators and collectors already. It will have no listing price and “minimal gas fees” of \$1 for transactions.

## BSE signs pact with ESC to encourage listing of startups

- Leading stock exchange BSE has joined hands with Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC) to create awareness about the benefits of listing among small businesses and startups.
- In this regard, BSE has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with ESC. Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC) is an organisation sponsored by the Government of India with a mandate to promote the export of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector from the country and works as a bridge between the government and the industry on policy and promotional matters.

**BSE Limited, formerly known as the Bombay Stock Exchange Ltd., is an Indian stock exchange located at Dalal Street, Mumbai. Established in 1875, the BSE Ltd., the oldest stock exchange in Asia. It is the world's 10<sup>th</sup> largest stock exchange. Ashishkumar Chauhan (Ashish Chauhan) is the current managing director and chief executive officer of the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).**

### **Niti Aayog submits names of 2 PSU banks to be privatised to govt panel**

- **Government think tank Niti Aayog has submitted to the Core Group of Secretaries on Disinvestment the finalised names of PSU banks to be privatised in the current fiscal as part of the disinvestment process.**
- **Niti Aayog has been entrusted with the task of selection of names of two public sector banks and one general insurance company for the privatisation as announced in the Budget 2021-22.**
- **The government has budgeted Rs 1.75 lakh crore from stake sale in public sector companies and financial institutions, including 2 PSU banks and one insurance company, during the current financial year. The amount is lower than the record budgeted Rs 2.10 lakh crore to be raised from CPSE disinvestment in the last fiscal.**

**A government-owned enterprise in India is called a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) or a Public Sector Enterprise. These companies are wholly or partly owned by the Government of India or one of the many state or territorial governments or both together in parts. Public Sector Banks (PSBs) are a major type of government owned banks in India, where a majority stake (i.e. more than 50%) is held by the Ministry of Finance of the Government of India or Ministry of Finance of various State governments of India. At present, there are 12 public sector banks in India.**

### **Income Tax Department to launch its new e-filing portal [www.incometax.gov.in](http://www.incometax.gov.in)**

- **The Income Tax Department will launch its new e-filing portal [www.incometax.gov.in](http://www.incometax.gov.in). The new e-filing portal is aimed at providing convenience and a modern, seamless experience to taxpayers. Taxpayers will be able to proactively update their profile to provide certain details of income including salary, house property and profession which will be used in pre-filing their ITR.**
- **The new taxpayer friendly portal is integrated with immediate processing of Income Tax Returns and quick refunds to taxpayers. Free of cost ITR preparation software available with interactive questions to help taxpayers.**

### **Ranjitsinh Disale appointed as Advisor to World Bank**

- **Ranjitsinh Disale, the first Indian teacher to receive the Global Teacher Award has been appointed by the World Bank as an Advisor to the World Bank. The World Bank has appointed 12 advisors from world over and Mr. Disale is one of them representing India.**
- **World Bank has recently launched the Global Coach Program, a new initiative focused on accelerating learning by helping countries improve in-service teacher professional development (TPD) programs and systems. This program forms part of the World Bank's broader agenda to tackle the global learning crisis (WDR, 2018). Coach focuses on supporting countries improve in-service TPD through a two-pronged approach.**
- **The Coach program focuses on helping countries transform their TPD programs and policies to ones that adhere to a set of four key principles that have been shown to be linked to improved teaching quality. Disale's work through the Advisory Board will impact the work World Bank on the ground, currently supporting over 18 million teachers around the world. He will be an advisor to the World Bank till December 2024.**

**The World Bank is a vital source of financial and technical assistance to developing countries around the world. The World Bank Group comprises five institutions managed by their member countries. It was established in 1944, the World Bank Group is headquartered in Washington, D.C. David Robert Malpass is an American economic analyst and former government official serving as President of the World Bank Group since 2019. Together, IBRD and IDA form the World Bank, which provides financing, policy advice, and technical assistance to governments of developing countries. IDA focuses on the world's poorest countries, while IBRD assists middle-income and creditworthy poorer countries.**



## Inventions/Discoveries

### NASA Selects 2 Missions to Study ‘Lost Habitable’ World of Venus

- **NASA has selected two new missions to Venus, Earth’s nearest planetary neighbor.** Part of NASA’s **Discovery Program**, the missions **aim to understand how Venus became an inferno-like world when it has so many other characteristics similar to ours – and may have been the first habitable world in the solar system, complete with an ocean and Earth-like climate.**
- **These investigations are the final selections from four mission concepts NASA picked in February 2020** as part of the agency’s **Discovery 2019 competition.** Following a competitive, peer-review process, the two missions were chosen based on their potential scientific value and the feasibility of their development plans. The project teams will now work to finalize their requirements, designs, and development plans. **NASA is awarding approximately \$500 million per mission for development. Each is expected to launch in the 2028-2030 timeframe.**

**Venus is the second planet from the Sun. It is named after the Roman goddess of love and beauty. As the brightest natural object in Earth’s night sky after the Moon, Venus can cast shadows and can be, on rare occasions, visible to the naked eye in broad daylight. Venus lies within Earth’s orbit, and so never appears to venture far from the Sun, either setting in the west just after dusk or rising in the east a little while before dawn. Venus orbits the Sun every 224.7 Earth days.**

### IIT Ropar develops unique detector ‘FakeBuster’ to detect imposters attending a virtual conference

- **The Indian Institute of Technology in Punjab’s Ropar said that the institute along with Australia based Monash University has developed a unique detector named ‘FakeBuster’ to detect imposters attending a virtual conference without anybody’s knowledge.**
- **‘FakeBuster’ can function online and offline. It uses a 3D convolutional neural network for predicting video segment-wise fakeness scores. ‘Deepfake’ has been extensively trained on datasets such as Deeperforensics, DFDC, VoxCeleb, and deepfake videos created using locally captured (for video conferencing scenarios) images.**

### China reports world’s first case of a human infected with H10N3 avian influenza

- **China has reported the world’s first case of a human infected with H10N3 avian influenza in its eastern province of Jiangsu. The case, detected in a male aged 41 and living in Zhenjiang, a city in the eastern part of the province, was an occasional poultry-to-human transmission.**
- **The risk of spreading on a large scale was very low, adding that there hasn’t been any case of human infection of H10N3 reported in the world before.**
- **Many different strains of bird flu are present in China and some sporadically infect people, usually those working with poultry. There is no indication that H10N3 can spread easily in humans. H10N3 is low pathogenic, which means it causes relatively less severe disease in poultry and is unlikely to cause a large-scale outbreak**

## IFFCO introduces world's first Nano Urea for farmers

- **Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) introduced the world's first Nano Urea for the farmers.** It is easy on the pocket of farmer and will be effective in increasing farmer's income.
- **A 500 ml bottle of Nano Urea Liquid will replace at least one bag of conventional Urea. IFFCO has priced Nano Urea at 240 rupees per 500 ml bottle for the farmers** which is 10 percent cheaper than the cost of a bag of conventional Urea.
- **Nano Urea Liquid increases the production with improved nutritional quality** and also give a huge positive impact on the quality of underground water, very significant reduction in the global warming with an impact on climate change and sustainable development.
- The Cooperative has planned a massive countrywide campaign exercise to demonstrate and train the farmers about its usage and application. It will be primarily available to farmers through its cooperative sales and marketing channel apart from its sale on IFFCO's e-commerce platform. **The Nano Urea Liquid is indigenously developed after many years of dedicated and sincere research of IFFCO's Scientists and Engineers.**

**Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited, also known as IFFCO is a Multi-state cooperative society engaged in the business of manufacturing and marketing of fertilisers headquartered in New Delhi, India. Started in 1967 with 57 member cooperatives it is today the biggest co-op in the world by turnover on GDP per capita with around 35,000 member cooperatives reaching over 50 million Indian farmers.**

## India's first COVID hospital set up by a local self-government body opened

- **Samudrika Hall at Willingdon Island in Kochi has become India's first Covid hospital set up by a local self-government body.** The 102-oxygen-bed hospital will be inaugurated by Cochin Port Trust chairman M Beena.
- **The district administration's focus on setting up a temporary Covid treatment facility in association with BPCL at Ambalamedu delayed the operations of this hospital** as the district administration had to approve the supply of oxygen.

## IIT-Ropar develops AmbiTAG, India's first indigenous temperature data logger for cold chain management

- **Indian Institute of Technology, IIT Ropar in Punjab has developed a device - AmbiTag that records real-time ambient temperature during the transportation of perishable products, vaccines and even body organs and blood.** This device will help to know that the item transported from anywhere in the world is still usable or perished because of temperature variation.
- Education Ministry said, this information is particularly critical for vaccines including Covid-19 vaccine, organs and blood transportation. Shaped as USB device, **AmbiTag continuously records the temperature of its immediate surroundings from - 40 to 80 degrees in any time zone for a full 90 days on a single charge.**

## A new spider cricket from Chhattisgarh

- **Jayanti has become the twelfth subgenus, or species, of cricket identified under the genus Arachnomimus Saussure, 1897.** Found in the Kurra caves of Chhattisgarh in April 2021 by a team of zoologists headed by Dr Ranjana Jaiswara of the Zoology Department of Panjab University, Chandigarh, the new subgenus was named Jayanti after Professor Jayant Biswas, one of the leading cave explorers in the country.
- **Arachnomimus is the genus name given by Swiss Entomologist Henri Louis Frédéric de Saussure in 1878 to crickets that resembled spiders.** This is apt because crickets of this group are commonly called spider crickets because of their smaller body size and long legs.

## Climate Breakthroughs Summit

- **World leaders convened at the Climate Breakthroughs Summit – collaboration between the World Economic Forum, Mission Possible Partnership, the UN Climate Champions, and the UK COP26 Presidency – to demonstrate progress in critical sectors of the global economy, including steel, shipping, green hydrogen and nature.**

- At the Summit, **Maersk was among the major new joiners of the Race to Zero campaign, committing to halving their emissions by 2030 in line with achieving the long-term goal of full decarbonization under the Paris Agreement.** Other companies that reiterated their commitment to the Race to Zero at the Summit included IKEA, Orsted and ENGIE.
- The announcement comes as the World Meteorological Organization reports that there **is about a 40% chance of the annual average global temperature temporarily reaching 1.5°C in at least one of the next five years,** with a 90% likelihood of at least one year between 2021-2025 becoming the warmest on record.

### Britain to host Health Ministers from G7 countries in Oxford for two-day summit

- **Britain will host the Health Ministers from the Group of Seven (G7) countries in Oxford for a two-day summit.** A G7 report on progress in efforts to improve health in developing countries will also be published.
- Many organizations have been stressing that **Britain should support a temporary waiver on intellectual property rights of pharmaceutical firms.** Anna Marriott, Oxfam's Health Policy Manager said that the G7 may be getting the vaccines they need but too much of the world is not and people are paying for patent protection with their lives.

### IIT Hyderabad develops nano-fibre technology based oral tablets of Amphotericin B to treat fungal infections

- **The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Hyderabad has developed nano-fibre based oral tablets of Amphotericin B, called as AmB,** to treat fungal infections post COVID treatment. Currently the AmB is available in injectable form.
- **The IIT Hyderabad researchers have decided to keep the technology free of intellectual property rights** and ready for technology transfer for mass production of the drug, which is reportedly cheaper and higher AmB absorption and less Nephrotoxicity.
- **The researchers are confident that the technology can be transferred to suitable pharma partners for large-scale production. The researchers recalled that Kala-Azar treatment is being currently used as a treatment for Mucormycosis in the country** and opined that the immediate trial of this oral drug should be taken up to increase affordability and availability of the drug.

### WHO joins the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration on World Environment Day

- **On the occasion of World Environment Day 2021, WHO has joined the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, a partnership aimed at preventing, halting and reversing the degradation of our ecosystems and the diversity of life they sustain.**
- **WHO has joined the partnership as a collaborating agency, along with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and a large number of partners. WHO will host an online #Generation Restoration event in July 2021, in collaboration with key partners and stakeholders.**

### In Nashik's Buddhist caves complex

- **Almost two centuries after a British military officer documented the Trirashmi Buddhist caves also known as Pandav Leni in a hill in Nashik,** the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has found three more caves in the same area.
- **The antiquity of the caves which may have been dwellings of Buddhist monks is yet to be established; archaeologists studying them,** however, believe they could be older than the Trirashmi caves. The Trirashmi or Pandav Leni caves are a group of 25 caves that were carved out of Trirashmi Hill between the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC and 6<sup>th</sup> century AD. **The caves complex was documented in 1823 by one Captain James Delamaine; it is now an ASI protected site and a tourist destination.**

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## Sports Personalities in News

### Oman beats India to become host of first Hockey5s World Cup 2024

- **Oman has beaten India, Pakistan and Singapore to win the bid to host the first edition of the FIH Hockey5s World Cups for men and women, to be played in January 2024.** Matches will take place in Omani capital Muscat.
- Upon recommendation from the task force events bidding – comprising Executive Board members of all five continental federations), the Executive Board of the FIH – has appointed Oman as the host country for the inaugural FIH Hockey5s World Cups.

### Novak Djokovic clinches Belgrade Open title

- **In Tennis, world number one Novak Djokovic clinched the Belgrade Open title after defeating Slovakia's Alex Molcan in Serbia.** With this win, Djokovic has so far captured three titles at his home nation and over all he secured 83 singles titles in his career.

### FTX Crypto Cup: Magnus Carlsen clinches world's first bitcoin chess event

- **Magnus Carlsen is the world's first bitcoin chess champion after overcoming Wesley So in a thrilling FTX Crypto Cup final.** The Norwegian takes home the \$60,000 first prize plus a 0.6 bitcoin bonus offered by tournament sponsor FTX. It is the largest prize pot ever offered in an elite online chess event.

### Sanjeet clinches gold for India at Asian Boxing Championships

- **Indian heavyweight boxer Sanjeet defeated Olympic silver-medallist Vassiliy Levit in the 91 kg final to clinch gold medal at the Asian Boxing Championships in Dubai.** Defending Champion Amit Panghal and Shiva Thapa settled for silver medals at the Asian Boxing Championship in Dubai.

### Brazil to host Copa America for 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive time

- **In football, Brazil will host Copa America for the second consecutive time after Colombia and Argentina were stripped of hosting rights for the tournament.** Colombia was removed as co-host as street protests against President Ivn Duque rocked the nation.

### Sports Ministry launched short movies on journey of Tokyo-bound athletes

- **The Sports Ministry launched short films encapsulating the journeys of the Tokyo-bound Indian athletes to mark 50 days to the Summer Games.** The films, charting the journey from the early days to the Olympic participation of the prominent sportspersons, will be launched on Doordarshan.

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## MISCELLANEOUS

### In a first, Indian Railways successfully implements online payment system for freight

- **Indian Railways' Western Railway zone has implemented the Online Payment System for Freight Charges on TMS and Ahmedabad Division of WR has become the first division over entire railways to implement this system.**
- **Railways had rolled out the policy guidelines regarding Online Payment System for Freight Charges in April 2021, to make the process of payment of freight charges simpler, convenient, speedier and transparent."**

**Indian Railways (IR) is the fourth-largest railway network in the world by size. There are a total of 18 Railway zones. South Coast Railway Zone is the newest and 18<sup>th</sup> railway zone, headquartered at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. Piyush Vedprakash Goyal is currently serving as the Minister of Railways and Commerce in the Government of India. He was elected as the BJP candidate from Maharashtra for the Rajya Sabha on 3 June 2016. The practice of a separate Railway Budget was started by the British in 1924 under the recommendation of a 10-member Acworth Committee headed by British economist William Mitchell Acworth in 1920-21. On 21 September 2016, Government of India approved the merger of the Railway Budget with the Union budget of India, and thus came to end — a 92-year-old practice of separate rail and general budgets.**

### Book on Veer Savarkar to hit stands

- **Historian Vikram Sampath's concluding volume on the life and works of Veer Savarkar will hit the stands on July 26, Penguin Random House India announced on the occasion of 138<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of the Hindutva ideologue.**
- **The book, titled "Savarkar: A contested Legacy (1924-1966), will cover the story of one of the most contentious political thinkers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century from 1924 to 1966 — the year he died.**
- **The first volume, "Savarkar: Echoes from a Forgotten Past" released in 2019, covered Savarkar's life from his birth in 1883 to his conditional release from prison in 1924.**

### Indian Broadcasting Foundation to be renamed

- **The Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF), the apex body of broadcasters, is being renamed Indian Broadcasting and Digital Foundation (IBDF), as it expands its purview to cover digital platforms to bring all digital over-the-top streaming firms under one roof. IBDF is in the process of forming a new wholly-owned subsidiary to handle all matters pertaining to digital media.**

### Ladakh Lt. Governor R K Mathur launches YounTab scheme 2021 to encourage digital learning

- **Lieutenant Governor R K Mathur launched the YounTab scheme 2021, from Leh. YounTab scheme has been formulated to encourage digital learning, bridge the digital divide between connected and un-connected and mitigate the COVID pandemic disruptions.**
- **Each Android 10 based 32 GB Tab with Eight inch screen Tab has online and offline Apps along with 35 books in PDF format for class 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> students. In the first phase of YounTab Scheme, 9 to 12 class students are handed over Educational Tabs in Leh and Kargil.**

### RailTel completes work of setting up Centralized Security Control Room for IP based VSS under Nirbhaya Fund

- **RailTel has completed work of setting up Centralized Security Control Room for IP based Video Surveillance, VSS at ten Railway Zones under Nirbhaya Fund. These centralized control room will display video feeds from VSS installed by RailTel at stations of respective zones.**
- **Railway Board has entrusted RailTel, with the work of providing Video Surveillance at all category of railway stations and coaches of premium trains and suburban EMU. This project is being executed by utilizing the Nirbhaya fund aimed at providing better safety for women. Currently 269 Railway stations have been provided with IP based VSS by RailTel.**

## Centre liberalises insurance compensation schemes under ESIC, EPFO

- Centre has enhanced and liberalised the insurance compensation schemes under Employees State Insurance Corporation and Employees Provident Fund Organization with a view to mitigate the financial difficulties faced due to death of single earning member in the family.
- The decision on the relief measures were taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in an important meeting held in New Delhi. Under the relief measures announced, **benefit of ESIC pension scheme for employment related death cases has been extended to even those who have died due to COVID.**
- **Dependent family members of such persons will be entitled to the benefit of pension equivalent to 90 per cent of average daily wage drawn by the worker as per the existing norms.** Additionally, the insurance benefits under the Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme (EDLI) have been **enhanced to seven lakh rupees.**
- **The provision of minimum insurance benefit of two lakh 50 thousand rupees** has been **restored** and will also apply retrospectively from 15<sup>th</sup> of February last year for the next three years.

## N S Tomar launches Horticulture CDP to ensure holistic growth of horticulture

- Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar virtually launched the Horticulture Cluster Development Programme (CDP) to ensure holistic growth of horticulture.
- **The programme aims at growing and developing identified horticulture clusters to make them globally competitive.** In a pilot phase, the programme will be **implemented in 12 horticulture clusters out of the total 53 clusters selected for the programme.** CDP will benefit about ten lakh farmers and related stakeholders of the value chain.

## The Asia University Rankings 2021: IIT Ropar in top 100, PU slips

- **The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Ropar, emerged at the 55<sup>th</sup> spot in the ninth edition of Times Higher Education (THE) Asia University Rankings 2021 released.**
- **With three Indian institutions in the top 100, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, ranked highest in the country at 37.**
- **IIT Ropar is placed at 55<sup>th</sup> rank and IIT Indore at 78<sup>th</sup> rank among the top 100 universities.** Last year, 7 IITs including Delhi, Bombay and Madras, had decided to boycott the ranking due to lack of "transparency" in the ranking parameters.
- **Tsinghua University, China has gained the first position in the Asia university rankings 2021.** The second place is also secured by China's Peking University. The third and fifth ranks have been secured by Singapore varsities. Whereas, University of Hong Kong is at fourth rank.

## Languages of Truth by Salman Rushdie

- **Languages of Truth, comprising his non-fiction from 2003-20.** It is divided into four parts: reflections on interlinked stories and the power of the myth unveiling insights about our existence; **essays World Milk Day 2021**
- **The World Milk Day is observed every year on 1 June to recognise the importance of milk as a global food.** The main objective of this day is to focus on activities that are connected to the dairy sector.

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# PERSONS IN NEWS

## India's first transgender international beauty queen wins Empress Earth 2021-22 title

- **Naaz Joshi, a Delhi-based transgender female, won the Empress Earth 2021-22 title, an international title in a virtual contest. The first runner-up was Valentina from Colombia and the second runner-up was Olivia from Mexico.**
- The contest which was to take place in Dubai on June 1, 2021, was cancelled due to the pandemic and on the advice of the contestants was held in virtual mode. In the online contest, more than 15 countries participated in Empress Earth 2021. The countries that entered the top five were Colombia, Spain, Brazil, Mexico, and India.

## Chinese Climber Becomes First Blind Asian To Scale Mount Everest

- **Chinese Zhang Hong has scaled the tallest peak in the world from the Nepal side, becoming the first blind man in Asia and the third in the world to climb Mount Everest.** Born in southwestern Chinese city of Chongqing, Zhang lost his sight at the age of 21 due to glaucoma.

## Amul's RS Sodhi elected to board of International Dairy Federation

- **The International Dairy Federation (IDF) unanimously elected R S Sodhi, managing director, Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd or GCMMF that sells Amul branded products in India, to its board during the general assembly held on 1 June.**
- **IDF is an international non-governmental, non-profit association and represents the global dairy sector.** The federation ensures that right policies, standards, practices and regulations monitor the production of dairy products globally.

## Death of Former Mauritius President Anerood Jugnauth

- **Anirudh Jagannath passed away at the age of 91. He has served as both the Prime Minister and President of Mauritius.**

## Dr Patrick Amoth appointed as Chair of WHO Executive Board

- **Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan completed his tenure as Chairman of WHO Executive Board on June 02.** During the 149<sup>th</sup> session of the WHO Executive board, Vardhan announced a new Chair of WHO Executive Board. **The Acting Director-General for Health Dr. Patrick Amoth has been elected the chairperson of the Executive Board of the World Health Organization (WHO).**

## India's Nagraj Adiga elected in International Association of Ultrarunners Council as Asian representative

- **India's Nagraj Adiga has been elected as the Asia-Oceania representative at the 2021 International Association of Ultrarunners (IAU) Congress.** For the Asia-Oceania representative, a total of ten countries from the Asia and the Oceania region casted their online vote. Adiga, who was nominated for elections by the Athletics Federation of India, got elected by a margin of 7-3 against South Korea's Gilsoo Park.

## Jagjit Pavadia elected as president of Vienna based International Narcotics Control Board

- **Jagjit Pavadia, former Narcotics Commissioner of India and a retired officer of the Indian Revenue Service (Customs), has been elected president of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB).**
- **She is the first Indian to be heading the Vienna-based organization and the second woman to hold this office. The INCB is a quasi-judicial body responsible for the implementation of the United Nations international drug control convention.**
- **It monitors the compliance of UN member states with the three international drug control conventions and the functioning of the international drug control system. The INCB also helps governments in access to controlled drugs during emergency situations.**

# AWARDS

## International Booker Prize: David Diop becomes first French winner

- **David Diop** has become the first French writer to win the International Booker Prize. His second novel, *At Night All Blood is Black*, was inspired by his Senegalese great-grandfather's silence about his experiences in World War One.
- The **£50,000 prize** will be split between Diop and the book's translator - US author and poet **Anna Moschovakis**. It fended off competition from five other shortlisted titles, including **Éric Vuillard's** *The War of the Poor*. The International Booker Prize is awarded every year for a single book that is translated into English and published in the UK or Ireland.
- **David Diop** is the first French author to win the International Booker Prize. Raised in Senegal, he now lives in France, where he is a professor of 18<sup>th</sup>-century literature at the University of Pau. *At Night All Blood is Black* is Diop's second novel. It was shortlisted for 10 major prizes in France and won the Prix Goncourt des Lycéens as well as the Swiss Prix Ahmadou Korouma. It is currently being translated into 13 languages and has already won the Strega European Prize in Italy.

## Dr. D Nageshwar Reddy bestowed with the renowned Rudolf V. Schindler Award

- **Dr D Nageshwar Reddy, Chairman, AIG Hospitals** has been bestowed with the renowned **Rudolf V. Schindler Award** from The American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE), one of the apex bodies in the world of GI Endoscopy.
- The award was presented to **Dr Reddy** in ASGE's annual **Crystal Awards** at a virtual ceremony. **Rudolf V. Schindler Award** is the highest category in the prestigious Crystal Awards named after **Dr Schindler** who is considered as "the father of gastroscopy."
- **Dr D Nageshwar Reddy** became the first-ever Indian medical practitioner to get this recognition from ASGE for his exemplary work in the field of endoscopy.

## WHO honours Dr Harsh Vardhan for efforts in tobacco control

- **World Health Organisation (WHO)** has awarded **Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan** with 'WHO Director-General Special Recognition Award' for his accomplishments in the area of tobacco control. Every year, WHO recognises individuals or organisations in each of the six WHO Regions for their accomplishments in the area of tobacco control.
- This year WHO Director-General Special award has been given to **Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan**. Every year, the World Health Organization, WHO recognizes individuals or organizations in each of the six WHO Regions for their accomplishments in the area of tobacco control.
- **Director-General of WHO, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus** has said that **Dr Harsh Vardhan** leadership was instrumental in the 2019 national legislation to ban E-cigarettes and heated tobacco products.

# IMPORTANT DAYS

## International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers

- The “**International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers**”, **May 29**, is “**an international day to pay tribute to all the men and women who have served and continue to serve in United Nations peacekeeping operations** for their high level of professionalism, dedication, and courage and to honor the memory of those who have lost their lives in the cause of peace.” The **theme** of the **International Day of UN Peacekeepers 2021** is “**The road to a lasting peace: Leveraging the power of youth for peace and security**”.

## World No Tobacco Day 2021

- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** observes ‘**World No Tobacco Day**’ on **May 31** of every year. The Member States of the **World Health Organization** created **World No Tobacco Day in 1987** to draw global attention to the tobacco epidemic and the preventable death and disease it causes.
- This year, the theme is ‘**Quit tobacco to be a winner**’.

## World Bicycle Day 3 June

- Acknowledging the uniqueness, longevity and versatility of the bicycle, which has been in use for two centuries, and that it is a simple, affordable, reliable, clean and environmentally fit sustainable means of transportation, fostering environmental stewardship and health, the **General Assembly decided to declare 3 June World Bicycle Day**.

## International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression 4 June

- On 19 August 1982, at its emergency special session on the question of Palestine, the General Assembly, “appalled at the great number of innocent Palestinian and Lebanese children victims of Israel’s acts of aggression”, **decided to commemorate 4 June of each year as the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression**.

## World Environment Day 5 June

- **World Environment Day is celebrated on 5 June**. The theme of this year’s **World Environment Day** is ‘**Reimagine. Recreate. Restore.**’ as the year 2021 marks the beginning of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

## World Food Safety Day 7 June

- **World Food Safety Day on 7 June aims to draw attention and inspire action to help prevent, detect and manage foodborne risks, contributing to food security**, human health, economic prosperity, agriculture, market access, tourism and sustainable development.
- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** and the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)** jointly facilitate the observance of **World Food Safety Day**, in collaboration with Member States and other relevant organizations. The **theme** of **World Food Safety Day 2021** is “**Safe food now for a healthy tomorrow**”.

### References:

The Hindu  
The Economics Times  
Indian Express  
Press Information Bureau of India  
The Times of India  
Business Standard  
News on AIR  
Hindustan Times

# QUESTIONS

- Which of the following state governments also launched Bal-Seva Yojana for the children who lost their parents due to COVID pandemic recently?  
(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Haryana (d) Chhattisgarh
- India's first Covid hospital set up by a local self-government body is to come up in \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Kochi (b) Panaji (c) Kavaratti (d) Diu
- The war games, dubbed Steadfast Defender 21 was organized by \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) BRICS (b) NATO (c) ASEAN (d) IMF
- Which of the following countries constitutional court declared Assimi Goita serving as Vice President, to be the new interim President?  
(a) Mali (b) Suriname (c) Haiti (d) Fiji
- The Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF), the apex body of broadcasters, is being renamed \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Indian Broadcasting and Digital Foundation (IBDF)  
(b) Indian Broadcasting and Digital Federation (IBDF)  
(c) Indian Broadcasters and Digital Fiscal (IBDF)  
(d) Indian Broadcasting and Desperate Fiscal (IBDF)
- Which of the following Indian institutes along with Australia based Monash University has developed a unique detector named 'FakeBuster' to detect imposters attending a virtual conference without anybody's knowledge?  
(a) Indian Institute of Technology in Hyderabad  
(b) Indian Institute of Technology in Mandi  
(c) Indian Institute of Technology Ropar  
(d) Indian Institute of Technology Delhi
- Who won the Belgrade Open title of Men's Single in Tennis?  
(a) Novak Djokovic (b) Alex Molcan (c) Roger Federer (d) Andy Murray
- Name the historian who concluded volume of book on the life and works of Veer Savarkar titled "Savarkar: A contested Legacy (1924-1966).  
(a) Ajit Parashar (b) Vikas Anjum (c) Vikram Sampath (d) Deepak Ranade
- Who has been bestowed with the renowned Rudolf V. Schindler Award from The American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE), one of the apex bodies in the world of GI Endoscopy?  
(a) Dr Janardan Shah (b) Dr Vibhor Gupta  
(c) Dr Atul Diwakar (d) Dr D Nageshwar Reddy
- The "International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers" is observed every year on:  
(a) May 21 (b) May 23 (c) May 25 (d) May 29
- Recently, the World Health Organisation (WHO) announced that B.1.617.1 and B.1.617.2 variants of the Covid-19, first identified in India, have been named as \_\_\_\_\_ respectively.  
(a) 'Kappa' and 'Delta' (b) 'Lappa' and 'Psi' (c) 'Comma' and 'Sigma' (d) 'Stuff' and 'Trigger'
- Which of the following Indian fertilizers companies introduced the world's first Nano Urea for the farmers?  
(a) Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited  
(b) Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited  
(c) Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers & Chemicals Limited  
(d) Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited

13. Which of the following IIT's has developed a device - AmbiTag that records real-time ambient temperature during the transportation of perishable products, vaccines and even body organs and blood?  
(a) Indian Institute of Technology, IIT Ropar  
(b) Indian Institute of Technology, IIT Mandi  
(c) Indian Institute of Technology, IIT Madras  
(d) Indian Institute of Technology, IIT Hyderabad
14. Who won the world's first bitcoin chess championship in a thrilling FTX Crypto Cup final?  
(a) Alex Tsiparas (b) Michael Riveria (c) Magnus Carlsen (d) Wesley So
15. Recently, who among the following scaled the tallest peak in the world from the Nepal side, becoming the first blind man in Asia?  
(a) Fiang Ho (b) Giang Jhau (c) Siang Yoh (d) Zhang Hong
16. Who among the following virtually launched the Horticulture Cluster Development Programme (CDP) to ensure holistic growth of horticulture?  
(a) Dr Harshvardhan (b) Narendra Singh Tomar  
(c) Narendra Modi (d) Amit Shah
17. India's largest crypto exchange \_\_\_\_\_ announced the country's first NFT marketplace.  
(a) WazirX (b) CoinSwitch (c) Zebpay (d) AfterExchange
18. Name the Indian boxer who won the 91 kg final to clinch gold medal at the Asian Boxing Championships in Dubai recently?  
(a) Sumit Kumar (b) Sanjeet (c) Amitabh Phogat (d) Amit Panghal
19. The World Health Organization (WHO) observes 'World No Tobacco Day' on \_\_\_\_\_ of every year.  
(a) May 21<sup>st</sup> (b) May 25<sup>th</sup> (c) May 28<sup>th</sup> (d) May 31<sup>st</sup>
20. Who has been recently elected in International Association of Ultrarunners Council as Asian representative?  
(a) Nagraj Adiga (b) Jalaj Saxena (c) Vidhut Prakash (d) Vipul Panghal
21. Which of the following organizations has become the first organisation in the country to join the One Nation, One Standard scheme?  
(a) Research Designs & Standards Organisation (RDSO), Lucknow  
(b) National Rail and Transportation Institute (NRTI), Vadodara  
(c) Defence Research and Development Organisation, New Delhi  
(d) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Lucknow
22. Which of the following countries has recently reported the world's first case of a human infected with H10N3 avian influenza?  
(a) Japan (b) India (c) China (d) South Korea
23. In a major shift in its population policy, which of the following countries announced that couples may have up to three children, from the existing limit of two?  
(a) Japan (b) India (c) China (d) Singapore
24. Recently, the insurance benefits under the Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme (EDLI) have been enhanced to \_\_\_\_\_ rupees.  
(a) Three lakh (b) Five lakh (c) Seven lakh (d) Nine lakh
25. Recently, National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval has commissioned Indian Coast Guard Offshore Patrol Vessel \_\_\_\_\_ and dedicated it to the nation for safeguarding maritime interests.  
(a) Sahaj (b) Sajag (c) Jalaj (d) Swati

26. Recently, The Centre has introduced a new system for processing of the Insurance claims provided under \_\_\_\_\_ Insurance Scheme for the Health Workers Fighting COVID-19.  
 (a) Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP)  
 (b) Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Programme (PMGKP)  
 (c) Pradhan Mantri Garib Karyakram Process (PMGKP)  
 (d) Pradhan Mantri Garib Kausal Protsahan (PMGKP)
27. What is the name of the twelfth subgenus, or species, of spider cricket identified under the genus *Arachnomimus* Saussure, 1897?  
 (a) Amrit (b) Jayanti (c) Deepti (d) Jyoti
28. Which of the following Indian states has constituted GIFT, which will function on the lines of NITI Aayog to assist, advise and guide the government in policy making and formulation?  
 (a) Haryana (b) Chhattisgarh (c) Maharashtra (d) Goa
29. Which of the following countries will host Copa America 2021 international men's football championship?  
 (a) Argentina (b) Chile (c) Brazil (d) Italy
30. The World Milk Day is observed every year on \_\_\_\_\_ to recognise the importance of milk as a global food.  
 (a) 31<sup>st</sup> May (b) 1<sup>st</sup> June (c) 2<sup>nd</sup> June (d) 5<sup>th</sup> June
31. Who among the following took charge as the chairman of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)?  
 (a) Justice (Retd) Arun Kumar Mishra (b) Justice (Retd) Mohan Shantanagoudar  
 (c) Justice (Retd) Abhay Manohar Sapre (d) Justice (Retd) Deepak Gupta
32. Recently, who has been elected as Israel's 11<sup>th</sup> President?  
 (a) Isaac Herzog (b) Reuven Rivlin (c) Naftali Bennett (d) Yair Lapid
33. World Bicycle Day is celebrated across the world on:  
 (a) 21<sup>st</sup> May (b) 27<sup>th</sup> May (c) 1<sup>st</sup> June (d) 3<sup>rd</sup> June
34. The World Meteorological Organization reported that there is about a 40% chance of the annual average global temperature temporarily reaching \_\_\_\_\_ in at least one of the next five years.  
 (a) 0.5°C (b) 1.5°C (c) 2.5°C (d) 3.5°C
35. Which of the following stock exchanges has joined hands with Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC) to create awareness about the benefits of listing among small businesses and startups?  
 (a) BSE (b) India International Exchange  
 (c) NSE (d) OTC Exchange of India
36. The third rendition of India's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index will be launched by \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) Ministry of Corporate Affairs (b) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs  
 (c) NITI Aayog (d) Ministry of Finance
37. The 12<sup>th</sup> Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) is organized by \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) Peru (b) Chile (c) Argentina (d) Mozambique
38. Who among the following launched Seed Minikit Programme by distributing Seed Minikits, higher yielding varieties of seeds to farmers?  
 (a) Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman  
 (b) Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar  
 (c) Prime Minister Narendra Modi  
 (d) Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog Dr Rajiv Kumar

39. Who has been elected president of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) recently?  
(a) Jagjeet Randhawa (b) Amrita Ahluwalia (c) Kuljeet Sandhu (d) Jagjit Pavadia
40. Which of the following ministries launched short films encapsulating the journeys of the Tokyo-bound Indian athletes to mark 50 days to the Summer Games?  
(a) Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports  
(b) Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions  
(c) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology  
(d) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
41. The 'Languages of Truth: Essays 2003-2020' is authored by:  
(a) Arundhati Roy (b) Vikram Kocchar  
(c) Salman Rushdie (d) Chetan Bhagat
42. The Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Thaawarchand Gehlot launched the \_\_\_\_\_ project to select, support and create a one-stop access of elderly care products and services by credible start-ups.  
(a) NAHE (b) SAGE (c) KAGE (d) MAGE
43. Which of the following IIT's has developed nano-fibre based oral tablets of Amphotericin B, called as AmB, to treat fungal infections post COVID treatment?  
(a) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Hyderabad  
(b) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati  
(c) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras  
(d) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mandi
44. Name the first Indian teacher who received the Global Teacher Award has been appointed as an Advisor to the World Bank.  
(a) Ranjitsinh Disale (b) Atul Borkar (c) Deepak Pingale (d) Arun Kumar
45. Which of the following countries hosted the Health Ministers from the Group of Seven (G7) countries for a two-day summit?  
(a) Britain (b) Germany (c) France (d) Portugal
46. Which of the following countries won the bid to host the first edition of the FIH Hockey5s World Cups for men and women, to be played in January 2024?  
(a) Oman (b) Singapore (c) Pakistan (d) India
47. Which of the following has recently submitted to the Core Group of Secretaries on Disinvestment the finalised names of PSU banks to be privatised in the current fiscal as part of the disinvestment process?  
(a) NITI Aayog (b) Reserve Bank of India  
(c) Ministry of Finance (d) SEBI
48. Name the railway zone which has implemented the Online Payment System for Freight Charges on TMS.  
(a) Western Railway zone (b) Southern Railway zone  
(c) Northern Railway zone (d) Eastern Railway zone
49. The International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression is celebrated every year on:  
(a) 2<sup>nd</sup> June (b) 4<sup>th</sup> June (c) 6<sup>th</sup> June (d) 8<sup>th</sup> June
50. Recently, the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India and Ministry of National Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, Government of \_\_\_\_\_ on cooperation in the field of Sustainable Urban Development.  
(a) Mauritius (b) Maldives (c) Seychelles (d) Sri Lanka

51. Which of the following states has been ranked as the best state in the country in achieving the targets under Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index and Dashboard?  
 (a) Himachal Pradesh (b) Kerala (c) Karnataka (d) Tamil Nadu
52. Who has become the first French writer to win the International Booker Prize recently?  
 (a) David Diop (b) Tom Kurian  
 (c) Thomson Jonathan (d) Albert Herber
53. Which of the following has topped the globally-recognised AIRINC Global 150 Cities Index financial attractiveness ranking for the third straight year?  
 (a) Bahrain (b) Dubai (c) Paris (d) London
54. Which of the following countries has introduced a legislation also known as EAGLE Act to remove the per-country cap on permanent residency visas, or green cards?  
 (a) Canada (b) France (c) Germany (d) USA
55. Recently, The Labour and Employment Ministry constituted an expert group to provide technical inputs and recommendations on fixation of minimum wages and national floor for minimum wages. Who will chair this group?  
 (a) Mukund Agarwal (b) Ajit Mishra (c) Mahesh Jain (d) Karthik Dhuli
56. Trirashmi Buddhist caves also known as Pandav Leni is in:  
 (a) Nashik (b) Bhopal (c) Mangalore (d) Panaji
57. Recently, NASA selects 2 missions to study 'Lost Habitable' world of \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) Jupiter (b) Venus (c) Mars (d) Saturn
58. According to third edition of the Sustainable Development Goals SDG India Index and Dashboard 2020-21, India's overall SDG score in 2020-21 is \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) 52 (b) 56 (c) 60 (d) 66
59. Recently, Anirudh Jagannath passed away. He was the former President and Prime Minister of:  
 (a) Maldives (b) Seychelles (c) Fiji (d) Mauritius
60. Who has been appointed as Chairman of WHO Executive Board?  
 (a) Dr Patrick Amoth (b) Dr Alex Cazaria  
 (c) Dr Rohinton Nariman (d) Dr Anthony Waaz
61. In the recent released ninth edition of Times Higher Education (THE) Asia University Rankings 2021, which of the following institutes ranked highest in the country?  
 (a) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Ropar  
 (b) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras  
 (c) Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru  
 (d) All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi
62. According to Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) released by the Niti Aayog, which is the best performing state in terms of sex ratio at birth?  
 (a) Kerala (b) Jharkhand  
 (c) Tamil Nadu (d) Chhattisgarh
63. Which of the following has developed the World's First Private Digital Court to facilitate speedy resolution of domestic as well as cross-border disputes under the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism in India?  
 (a) Jupitice (b) Justice  
 (c) Megalark (d) Allentra

64. According to estimates from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), As much as \_\_\_\_\_ of the world's agricultural crops are lost to pests each year.  
(a) 20 percent (b) 30 percent (c) 40 percent (d) 50 percent
65. Recently, The International Dairy Federation (IDF) unanimously elected R S Sodhi, managing director GCMMF that sells \_\_\_\_\_ branded products in India, to its board during the general assembly held on 1 June.  
(a) Dabur (b) Mother Dairy (c) Amul (d) Anik
66. The Income Tax Department launched its new \_\_\_\_\_ www.incometax.gov.in.  
(a) e-filing portal (b) e-notifying portal (c) e-fulfilled portal (d) e-naming portal
67. Recently, Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh R K Mathur launched the \_\_\_\_\_ scheme 2021.  
(a) YounTab (b) YouLab (c) YounagTab (d) DerangTab
68. Recently, Raimona became the sixth national park of:  
(a) Chhattisgarh (b) Jharkhand (c) Odisha (d) Assam
69. World Food Safety Day is observed every year on:  
(a) 3<sup>rd</sup> June (b) 5<sup>th</sup> June (c) 7<sup>th</sup> June (d) 9<sup>th</sup> June
70. Who won the Empress Earth 2021-22 title, an international title in a virtual contest recently?  
(a) Deepa Luthra (b) Anamika Joshi (c) Mrinal Kulkarni (d) Naaz Joshi



## ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATION

1. **b** Uttar Pradesh Government also launched Bal-Seva Yojana for the children who lost their parents due to COVID pandemic.
2. **a** Samudrika Hall at Willingdon Island in Kochi will become the country's first Covid hospital set up by a local self-government body.
3. **b** The war games, dubbed Steadfast Defender 21, are aimed at simulating the 30-nation military organization's response to an attack on any one of its members. As tensions with Russia simmer, thousands of NATO troops, several warships and dozens of aircraft are taking part in military exercises stretching across the Atlantic, through Europe and into the Black Sea region.
4. **a** Mali's constitutional court declared Assimi Goita, the colonel who led a military coup while serving as vice president, to be the new interim president.
5. **a** The Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF), the apex body of broadcasters, is being renamed Indian Broadcasting and Digital Foundation (IBDF)
6. **c** The Indian Institute of Technology in Punjab's Ropar said that the institute along with Australia based Monash University has developed a unique detector named 'FakeBuster' to detect imposters attending a virtual conference without anybody's knowledge.
7. **a** In Tennis, world number one Novak Djokovic clinched the Belgrade Open title after defeating Slovakia's Alex Molcan in Serbia.
8. **c** Historian Vikram Sampath's concluding volume on the life and works of Veer Savarkar will hit the stands on July 26, Penguin Random House India announced on the occasion of 138<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of the Hindutva ideologue.
9. **d** Dr D Nageshwar Reddy, Chairman, AIG Hospitals has been bestowed with the renowned Rudolf V. Schindler Award from The American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE), one of the apex bodies in the world of GI Endoscopy.
10. **d** The "International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers", May 29, is "an international day to pay tribute to all the men and women who have served and continue to serve in United Nations peacekeeping operations for their high level of professionalism, dedication, and courage and to honor the memory of those who have lost their lives in the cause of peace."
11. **a** The B.1.617.1 and B.1.617.2 variants of the Covid-19, first identified in India, has been named as 'Kappa' and 'Delta' respectively, the World Health Organisation (WHO) announced as it named various variants of the coronavirus using Greek alphabets.
12. **b** Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) introduced the world's first Nano Urea for the farmers. It is easy on the pocket of farmer and will be effective in increasing farmer's income.
13. **a** Indian Institute of Technology, IIT Ropar in Punjab has developed a device - AmbiTag that records real-time ambient temperature during the transportation of perishable products, vaccines and even body organs and blood.
14. **c** Magnus Carlsen is the world's first bitcoin chess champion after overcoming Wesley So in a thrilling FTX Crypto Cup final.
15. **d** Chinese Zhang Hong has scaled the tallest peak in the world from the Nepal side, becoming the first blind man in Asia and the third in the world to climb Mount Everest.

- 16. b** Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar virtually launched the Horticulture Cluster Development Programme (CDP) to ensure holistic growth of horticulture.
- 17. a** India's largest crypto exchange, WazirX, announced the country's first NFT marketplace.
- 18. b** Indian heavyweight boxer Sanjeet defeated Olympic silver-medallist Vassiliy Levit in the 91 kg final to clinch gold medal at the Asian Boxing Championships in Dubai.
- 19. d** The World Health Organization (WHO) observes 'World No Tobacco Day' on May 31 of every year.
- 20. a** India's Nagraj Adiga elected in International Association of Ultrarunners Council as Asian representative
- 21. a** Research Designs & Standards Organisation (RDSO), Lucknow has become the first organisation in the country to join the One Nation, One Standard scheme.
- 22. c** China has reported the world's first case of a human infected with H10N3 avian influenza in its eastern province of Jiangsu.
- 23. c** In a major shift in its population policy, China announced that couples may have up to three children, from the existing limit of two after recent census data showed a dramatic decline in births in the world's most populous country.
- 24. c** Additionally, the insurance benefits under the Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme (EDLI) have been enhanced to seven lakh rupees.
- 25. b** National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval has commissioned Indian Coast Guard Offshore Patrol Vessel Sajag and dedicated it to the nation for safeguarding maritime interests.
- 26. a** The Centre has introduced a new system for processing of the Insurance claims provided under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP) Insurance Scheme for the Health Workers Fighting COVID-19.
- 27. b** Jayanti has become the twelfth subgenus, or species, of cricket identified under the genus *Arachnomimus* Saussure, 1897.
- 28. d** The State government constituted Goa Institution For Future Transformation (GIFT), which will function on the lines of NITI Aayog to assist, advise and guide the government in policy making and formulation, implementation, monitoring of sustainable development goals and evaluation of various development plans, programmes and schemes.
- 29. c** In football, Brazil will host Copa America for the second consecutive time after Colombia and Argentina were stripped of hosting rights for the tournament.
- 30. b** The World Milk Day is observed every year on 1 June to recognise the importance of milk as a global food.
- 31. a** Justice (Retd) Arun Kumar Mishra took charge as the chairman of the National Human Rights Commission, NHRC in New Delhi.
- 32. a** Labor Veteran Isaac Herzog has been elected as Israel's 11<sup>th</sup> President.
- 33. d** The General Assembly decided to declare 3 June World Bicycle Day.
- 34. b** The World Meteorological Organization reports that there is about a 40% chance of the annual average global temperature temporarily reaching 1.5°C in at least one of the next five years

- 35. a** Leading stock exchange BSE has joined hands with Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC) to create awareness about the benefits of listing among small businesses and startups.
- 36. c** The third rendition of India's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index will be launched by NITI Aayog on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2021.
- 37. b** The 12<sup>th</sup> Clean Energy Ministerial, CEM is organized by Chile.
- 38. b** Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched Seed Minikit Programme by distributing Seed Minikits, higher yielding varieties of seeds to farmers.
- 39. d** Jagjit Pavadia, former Narcotics Commissioner of India and a retired officer of the Indian Revenue Service (Customs), has been elected president of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB).
- 40. a** The Sports Ministry will launch short films encapsulating the journeys of the Tokyo-bound Indian athletes to mark 50 days to the Summer Games.
- 41. c** Gathering pieces written between 2003 and 2020, Languages of Truth chronicles Salman Rushdie's intellectual engagement with a period of momentous cultural shifts.
- 42. b** Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Thaawarchand Gehlot will launch the senior care Ageing Growth Engine, SAGE project to select, support and create a one-stop access of elderly care products and services by credible start-ups.
- 43. a** The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Hyderabad has developed nano-fibre based oral tablets of Amphotericin B, called as AmB, to treat fungal infections post COVID treatment. Currently the AmB is available in injectable form.
- 44. a** Ranjitsinh Disale, the first Indian teacher to receive the Global Teacher Award has been appointed by the World Bank as an Advisor to the World Bank.
- 45. a** Britain hosted the Health Ministers from the Group of Seven (G7) countries in Oxford for a two-day summit.
- 46. a** Oman has beaten India, Pakistan and Singapore to win the bid to host the first edition of the FIH Hockey5s World Cups for men and women, to be played in January 2024.
- 47. a** Government think tank Niti Aayog has submitted to the Core Group of Secretaries on Disinvestment the finalised names of PSU banks to be privatised in the current fiscal as part of the disinvestment process.
- 48. a** Indian Railways' Western Railway zone has implemented the Online Payment System for Freight Charges on TMS and Ahmedabad Division of WR has become the first division over entire railways to implement this system.
- 49. b** On 19 August 1982, at its emergency special session on the question of Palestine, the General Assembly, "appalled at the great number of innocent Palestinian and Lebanese children victims of Israel's acts of aggression", decided to commemorate 4 June of each year as the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression.
- 50. b** The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India and Ministry of National Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, Government of Maldives on cooperation in the field of Sustainable Urban Development.
- 51. b** Himachal Pradesh has been ranked as the second best state in the country after Kerala in achieving the targets under Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index and Dashboard.
- 52. a** David Diop has become the first French writer to win the International Booker Prize.

- 53. a** Bahrain has topped the globally-recognised AIRINC Global 150 Cities Index financial attractiveness ranking for the third straight year, leading impressive rankings for MENA capitals – with seven leading MENA cities in the top 16 places.
- 54. d** A legislation to remove the per-country cap on permanent residency visas, or green cards, for the US has been introduced in the House of Representatives.
- 55. b** The expert group announced has been constituted for a period of three years and is chaired by Ajit Mishra, Director, Institute of Economic Growth.
- 56. a** Almost two centuries after a British military officer documented the Trirashmi Buddhist caves also known as Pandav Leni in a hill in Nashik, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has found three more caves in the same area.
- 57. b** NASA has selected two new missions to Venus, Earth's nearest planetary neighbor.
- 58. d** According to report, the country's overall SDG score has improved by 6 points, from 60 in 2019 to 66 in 2020-21.
- 59. d** Anirudh Jagannath passed away at the age of 91. He has served as both the Prime Minister and President of Mauritius.
- 60. a** Dr Patrick Amoth appointed as Chair of WHO Executive Board.
- 61. c** With three Indian institutions in the top 100, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, ranked highest in the country at 37.
- 62. d** The best performer in this category was Chhattisgarh, where male-to-female ratio at birth stood at 958 - much above the national average - the Niti Aayog report further showed.
- 63. a** Chandigarh-based startup Jupitice has developed the World's First Private Digital Court to facilitate speedy resolution of domestic as well as cross-border disputes under the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism.
- 64. c** As much as 40 per cent of the world's agricultural crops are lost to pests each year.
- 65. c** The International Dairy Federation (IDF) unanimously elected R S Sodhi, managing director, Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd or GCMMF that sells Amul branded products in India, to its board during the general assembly held on 1 June.
- 66. a** The Income Tax Department launched its new e-filing portal [www.incometax.gov.in](http://www.incometax.gov.in). The new e-filing portal is aimed at providing convenience and a modern, seamless experience to taxpayers.
- 67. a** Lieutenant Governor R K Mathur launched the YounTab scheme 2021, from Leh.
- 68. d** Raimona in Kokrajhar district has become Assam's sixth national park. Eastern Assam's Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary, under stress for unregulated coal mining in the vicinity is in the process of becoming the seventh national park.
- 69. c** World Food Safety Day on 7 June aims to draw attention and inspire action to help prevent, detect and manage foodborne risks, contributing to food security, human health, economic prosperity, agriculture, market access, tourism and sustainable development.
- 70. d** Naaz Joshi, a Delhi-based transgender female, won the Empress Earth 2021-22 title, an international title in a virtual contest.