
MANTHAN

A General Awareness Weekly

6th September to 12th September, 2021

PREFACE

Dear Students,

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

Happy Reading

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Career
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National



11-member delegation led by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar met Prime Minister Narendra Modi to press the demand for a caste-based census

- Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar along with a 10-member all-party delegation from the state met Prime Minister Narendra Modi to press the demand for a caste-based census. The Centre had informed the Lok Sabha in July that it would not enumerate caste-wise population, except those for the SCs and STs.
- The issue of a caste-based census has been a longstanding demand of the political parties in Bihar. The Bihar legislature had twice unanimously passed resolutions for the caste-based census in 2019 and 2020. On both the occasions, all BJP MLAs had also voted in support of a caste based census.
- Every Census in independent India from 1951 to 2011 has published data on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, but not on other castes. Before that, every Census until 1931 had data on caste. However, in 1941, caste-based data was collected but not published. Caste Census is under the administrative control of Ministry of Home Affairs: Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India.

The Socio Economic and Caste Census 2011 (SECC) was conducted for the 2011 Census of India. SECC 2011 is also the first paperless census in India conducted on hand-held electronic devices by the government in 640 districts. With an approved cost of Rs 4,893.60 crore, the SECC was conducted by the Ministry of Rural Development in rural areas and the Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation in urban areas. The SECC data excluding caste data was finalised and published by the two ministries in 2016. SECC 2011 was the first caste-based census since 1931 Census of India, and it was launched on 29 June 2011 from the Sankhola village of Hazemara block in West Tripura district. The difference between Census and SECC: The Census provides a portrait of the Indian population, while the SECC is a tool to identify beneficiaries of state support. Since the Census falls under the Census Act of 1948, all data are considered confidential, whereas according to the SECC website, “all the personal information given in the SECC is open for use by Government departments to grant and/or restrict benefits to households.” Caste Census 2011 – Major Findings: 1. The number of households in India – 24.49 Crore, 17.97 crores live in villages. 2. 10.74 crore households are considered deprived. 3. Approximately 30% of households in rural areas are landless and they majorly get their income from manual labour. 5. 48% of the rural population is female.

Bilateral exercise – AUSINDEX between Indian Navy & Royal Australian Navy begins

- The bilateral exercise – AUSINDEX between Indian Navy and Royal Australian Navy commenced in Australia. This edition of exercise includes complex surface, sub-surface and air operations between ships, submarines, helicopters and Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft.
- The participating Indian Naval Ships Shivalik and Kadmatt are the latest indigenously designed and built Guided Missile Stealth Frigate and Anti-Submarine Corvette. The exercise will provide an opportunity for both Navies to further bolster inter-operability, gain from best practices and develop a common understanding of procedures for Maritime Security Operations. AUSINDEX started in 2015 as a bilateral maritime exercise between India and Australia.

Australia is the largest country in Oceania and the world's sixth-largest country by total area. Australia's capital is Canberra, and its largest city is Sydney. Elizabeth II is the Head of the Commonwealth and queen regnant of seven independent Commonwealth countries: the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Pakistan, and Ceylon. Scott Morrison is the current Prime Minister of Australia. The Australian dollar is the currency of Australia.

28th edition of Singapore-India Maritime bilateral exercise 'SIMBEX' concludes

- The three-day long 28th edition of Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise SIMBEX concluded. The Indian Navy was represented by Guided Missile Destroyer INS Ranvijay with a ship borne helicopter, ASW Corvette INS Kiltan and Guided Missile Corvette INS Kora and one P8I Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft.
- Participants from the Republic of Singapore Navy included one Formidable Class Frigate, RSS Steadfast, embarked with an S-70B naval helicopter, one Victory Class Missile Corvette, RSS Vigour, one Archer Class Submarine and one Fokker-50 Maritime Patrol Aircraft.
- Four F-16 fighter aircraft of the Republic of Singapore Air Force also participated in the exercise during the Air Defence Drills. Initiated in 1994, SIMBEX is the Indian Navy's longest uninterrupted bilateral maritime exercise with any foreign navy.
- This year's edition of SIMBEX was also a special occasion as it takes place during the ongoing celebrations of the 75th year of India's independence. The success of SIMBEX-2021 is yet another demonstration of the mutual resolve on both sides to strengthen the bilateral partnership further in the years ahead.
- Owing to the ongoing pandemic-related constraints, this year's SIMBEX was planned without any physical interactions as an at-sea only exercise hosted by the Republic of Singapore Navy in the southern fringes of the South China Sea.
- Defence Ministry said, India-Singapore Defence relations remain a very significant aspect of the overall bilateral relationship and cover a very wide spectrum of collaboration from conventional military-to-military exchanges to Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief HADR and cyber security. Both navies have a representation in each other's Maritime Information Fusion Centres and have also recently signed an agreement on mutual submarine rescue support and coordination.

Singapore is a sovereign city-state and island country in Southeast Asia. Singapore dollar is the official currency of Singapore. Lee Hsien Loong is the current Prime Minister of Singapore. Halimah binti Yacob is the current President of Singapore. She is the first female president in the country's history.

India to be the first Asian Country to launch a plastics pact

- World-Wide Fund for Nature-India (WWF India) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) have joined hands to develop a platform to promote a circular system for plastics. The new platform called, the 'India Plastic Pact,' was launched by British High Commissioner to India.
- India generates 9.46 million tonnes of plastic waste annually, of which 40 per cent is not collected; about half of all plastics produced in the country are used in packaging, most of it is single use in nature. Commitments made under the pact aim to keep plastic packaging in the economy and out of the natural environment. The statement mentioned 17 businesses including major FMCG brands, manufacturers, retailers and recyclers have committed to the pact as founding members, and nine have joined as supporting organisations.
- The pact, like similar one, has time-bound targets for reducing, innovating and re-imagining plastic packaging. Targets to be achieved by 2030 include defining a list of unnecessary or problematic plastic packaging and items and take measures to address them through redesign and innovation. About 100 per cent of plastic packaging to be reusable or recyclable, 50 per cent of plastic packaging to be effectively recycled and 25 per cent average recycled content across all plastic packaging.
- An initiative to reduce plastic waste in India has been launched by Prime Ministers Boris Johnson and Narendra Modi. The UK is proud to be India's biggest European research partner, with £400 million of joint investment since 2008.

Single-use plastics, or disposable plastics, are used only once before they are thrown away or recycled. These items are **things like plastic bags, straws, coffee stirrers, soda and water bottles and most food packaging.** Plastic is so cheap and convenient that it has replaced all other materials from the packaging industry but it takes hundreds of years to disintegrate. **In 2019, the Union government in a bid to free India of single-use plastics by 2022, had laid out a multi-ministerial plan to discourage the use of single-use plastics across the country.** Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 which extended the responsibility to collect waste generated from the products to their producers and brand owners.

Bharat Stage VI emission standards

- **A year ago, on April 1, 2020, the Supreme Court of India rolled out the Bharat Stage VI emission standards across the country, after India leapfrogged directly from BS-IV emissions standards to BS-VI. The announcement aims to cut emissions by 80-90% from the new vehicles.**
- **But the Indian auto industry, which was already grappling with the deadline of BS-VI emission norms, suffered a second blow during the period due to, then, newly imposed pandemic lockdown. According to the Society of Indian Car Manufacturers or SIAM, during this period, the automotive industry suffered a loss of about Rs 2,300 crore per day due to the lockdown.**
- **However, there has been a gradual boom in the economy for the past few months, and higher-than-expected sales of automobiles, particularly in the 2-wheeler segment. Retail sales of passenger vehicles grew 10.6% in February from a year earlier, as people invest in personal transport modes instead of shared mobility.**
- **With an aim to combat the rising levels of air pollution in Delhi-NCR region, petrol pumps in the capital from Sunday started supplying ultra-clean Bharat Stage VI grade fuel (both petrol and diesel). This move makes New Delhi the first city in the country to switch from BS-IV grade fuels to BS-VI (equivalent to fuel meeting Euro-VI emission norms). Other cities like Noida, Ghaziabad, Gurugram and Faridabad along with 13 major cities, including Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Pune, will also switch over to cleaner BS-VI grade fuel from January 2020. However, BS- VI fuel was rolled out in rest of the country in 1st April 2020.**
- **India's biggest oil firm, Indian Oil Corporation Limited has started supplying BS-VI fuel across India. With this, Indian Oil Corporation Limited has become 1st company to begin supply of BS-VI fuel across its 28,000 petrol pumps. The Government of India has set 01st April 2020 as the deadline to start the supply of BS-VI emission compliant fuels. In Delhi, this deadline was imposed by April 2019 by the Government of India.**

The Bharat Stage (BS) are standards instituted by the government to regulate the emission of air pollutants from motor vehicles. With appropriate fuel and technology, they limit the release of air pollutants such as nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, Particulate Matter (PM) and sulfur oxides from vehicles using internal combustion engines. As the stage goes up, the control of emissions becomes stricter. The standards and the timeline for implementation are set by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The standards are based on European Union regulations that were first introduced in 2000. The major difference in standards between the existing BS-IV and the new BS-VI auto fuel norms is the presence of sulphur. The newly introduced fuel is estimated to reduce the amount of sulphur released by 80 per cent, from 50 parts per million to 10 ppm. As per the analysts, the emission of NOx (nitrogen oxides) from diesel cars is also expected to reduce by nearly 70 per cent and 25 per cent from cars with petrol engines.

Centre launches five food processing projects in Assam, Gujarat, Karnataka

- **The Central Government inaugurated five food processing projects in Assam, Gujarat and Karnataka. These projects will benefit the farmers and provide employment opportunities. Union Food Processing Industry Minister Pashupati Kumar Paras and Minister of State for Food Processing Industry Prahlad Singh Patel virtually inaugurated these projects worth rupees over 124 crore rupees.**
- **Ministry is committed to reduce wastage of food crops and provide employment opportunities to farmers, women and young people. To commemorate 75 years of India's independence, the Government of India is celebrating the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.' As a part of the celebration, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries is celebrating 'Food Processing Week' from 6th to 12th September, 2021.**

The **Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MOFPI)** is a ministry of the Government of India **responsible for formulation and administration of the rules and regulations and laws relating to food processing** in India. The **ministry was set up in the year 1988**, with a view to develop a strong and vibrant food processing industry, to create increased employment in rural sector and enable farmers to reap the benefits of modern technology and to create a surplus for exports and stimulating demand for processed food. **Pashupati Kumar Paras** is an Indian politician from the state of Bihar and the **Minister of Food Processing Industries in the Union Cabinet**. He is **currently serving as a member of Lok Sabha from Hajipur (Lok Sabha constituency)**.

Govt constitutes task force & expert committee to prepare road map for coal based hydrogen production

- The Ministry of Coal has constituted a **Task Force and Expert Committee to Prepare Road Map for Coal based Hydrogen Production**. On India's 75th Independence Day, the Prime Minister had announced a **Hydrogen Mission** and Coal is one of the important sources of hydrogen making.
- The **Task Force** will be headed by **Additional Secretary in the Ministry**. Its broad terms and reference include **identification of role to be played by each stakeholder Ministry, monitoring of activities towards achieving coal based Hydrogen production** and setting up sub committees to achieve the objective.
- On the other hand, the **Expert Committee** will be headed by **Director General of the Federation of Indian Petroleum Industry, R.K. Malhotra**. Its terms and reference include identifying experts in **India and co-opting as members, desk based review of progress in hydrogen technology** and also review ongoing research projects in Hydrogen technology.
- The **Committee** will **prepare a road map for coal based Hydrogen production and usage including economic viability, environmental sustainability** and also assist the Task force in implementation of Coal based Hydrogen production and usage. Coal Ministry has said that the expert committee is expected to submit the report in three months.

Hydrogen is the most abundant element on earth and is also a **much cleaner fuel**. **National Hydrogen Energy Mission** will emphasise hydrogen from clean sources. It also envisages linking the country's growing renewable energy capacity with the hydrogen economy. **India's target for 2022 for renewable energy generation is 175 GW** and this mission is expected to bolster the process. **The renewable energy target for 2030 is 450 GW**. The country has set to **decarbonise by 2050**. Based on the source of production, hydrogen can be classified into four types. **1. Grey Hydrogen:** In this case, **Hydrogen produced from hydrocarbons (natural gas, fossil fuels) is called grey hydrogen. This is the most common method of production of hydrogen today. It produces carbon dioxide as a by-product.** **2. Black/Brown Hydrogen** is the **oldest method of producing hydrogen and involves transforming coal into gas.** **3. Blue Hydrogen:** This is the name given to the **hydrogen produced from hydrocarbons where the emissions generated from the process are captured and stored.** **4. Green Hydrogen:** In this case, hydrogen is generated from renewable sources of energy like solar and wind.

Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav inaugurates country's first functional smog tower in Delhi

- **Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Bhupender Yadav dedicated the first functional Smog Tower in India at Anand Vihar, Delhi.** He expressed hope that the pilot smog tower project will yield fruitful results and supplement the air quality improvement efforts.
- Central Government has launched several initiatives **to improve air quality in the entire country in view of the goal set for holistic improvement in air quality in more than 100 cities.** 86 cities showed better air quality in 2019 in comparison to 2018, which increased to 104 cities in 2020.

India, Kazakhstan carries out 5th edition of joint military drills KAZIND-21

- **India and Kazakhstan carried out the 5th edition of the annual bilateral joint exercise KAZIND-21** strengthening military diplomacy between the two countries.
- "Troops of India and Kazakhstan carrying out the demonstration of a raid on a terrorist hideout **during the joint military exercise KAZIND-21 at Training Node Aisha Bibi, Kazakhstan.**

- **The Indian Army contingent represented by a battalion of The Bihar Regiment** consists of a total of 90 personnel led by a Contingent Commander. **The Kazakhstan Army represented by a company group.**
- The Exercise will provide an **opportunity to the Armed Forces of India & Kazakhstan to train for Counter Insurgency/ Counter Terrorism operation in mountainous, rural scenario under UN mandate.**

Kazakhstan is a country in Central Asia, it has borders with Russia in the north, China in the east, and Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan in the south. The capital is Nur-Sultan, formerly known as Astana. Kazakhstan is the world's largest landlocked country, and the ninth-largest in the world. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has been serving as the President of Kazakhstan since 20 March 2019. The tenge is the currency of Kazakhstan.

India to host G-20 summit in 2023 for the first time; Goyal appointed sherpa for grouping

- **The government appointed commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal as India's Sherpa for the G20. Goyal is also India's minister for consumer affairs, food & public distribution, and textiles besides being the Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha.**
- **G20 is a major international grouping that brings together 19 of the world's major economies and the European Union, with its members accounting for more than 80% of global GDP, 75% of global trade and 60% of global population.**
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been leading India's representation at G20 Summits since 2014. India has been a member of the G20 since its inception in 1999. India will be holding the G20 Presidency from 1 December 2022 and will convene the G20 Leaders' Summit in 2023 for the first time. The next G20 Summit is scheduled for October 30-31, 2021 under Italian Presidency.**

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

PM Narendra Modi chaired 13th BRICS Summit

- **As part of India's ongoing Chairship of BRICS in 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the 13th BRICS Summit in virtual format. The meeting was attended by the President of Brazil Jair Bolsonaro, President of Russia Vladimir Putin, President of China Xi Jinping and President of South Africa Cyril Ramaphosa.**
- **The theme for the Summit is BRICS@15: Intra-BRICS cooperation for continuity, consolidation and consensus. India had outlined four priority areas for its Chairship. These are Reform of the Multilateral System, Counter Terrorism, Using Digital and Technological Tools for achieving Sustainable Development Goals and Enhancing People to People exchanges.**
- **This is the second time Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the BRICS Summit. Earlier, he had chaired the Goa Summit in 2016. The Indian Chairship of BRICS this year coincides with the fifteenth anniversary of BRICS, as reflected in the theme for the summit.**

BRICS is the acronym coined to associate five major emerging economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. Since 2009, the governments of the BRICS states have met annually at formal summits. Originally the first four were grouped as "BRIC" (or "the BRICs") before the induction of South Africa in 2010. The term "BRIC" is believed to be coined in 2001 by then-chairman of Goldman Sachs Asset Management, Jim O'Neill, in his publication Building Better Global Economic BRICs. But, it was actually coined by Roopa Purushothaman who was a Research Assistant in the original report. The BRIC grouping's 1st formal summit, also held in Yekaterinburg, Russia, commenced on 16 June 2009.

First India-Australia 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue

- **India hosted the first-ever 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue with Australia** on September 11. Foreign Minister Marise Payne and Defence Minister Peter Dutton from the Australian side met with External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
- **India have 2+2 Ministerial format meetings with very few countries, including the USA and Japan.** A similar decision was taken for Russia but no dates have been announced yet.
- **The inaugural 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue is being held pursuant to the elevation of India-Australia bilateral relations to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** during the India-Australia Leaders' Virtual Summit on 04 June 2020. **The agenda for the Dialogue will cover a range of bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest.**
- **To maintain an open, free, prosperous and rules-based Indo-Pacific region (in line with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)).** To support India's Indo-Pacific Oceans' Initiative. Need for renewed efforts by the Quad member countries to expand cooperation in the region.
- **Focus on Supply Chain Resilience Initiative:** To work together through multilateral, regional and plurilateral mechanisms to diversify supply chains between trusted and reliable trading partners for critical health, technology and other goods and services. In this context, they welcomed the **launch of the Supply Chain Resilience Initiative by the Trade Ministers of India, Australia and Japan.**

2+2 Ministerial is the highest-level institutional mechanism between the two countries. It is a format of dialogue where the defence/foreign ministers or secretaries meet with their counterparts from another country. India holds such talks with Australia, Japan and the USA.

Chhattisgarh launches 'Millet Mission' to become Millet hub of India

- Small grains may prove to a big game-changer in Bastar. **The Bhupesh Baghel government has included all seven districts of the Maoist-hit Bastar division in its 'Millet Mission' launched.**
- **Chhattisgarh is the first state to give input assistance for millet.** It has **fixed support price for kodo-kutki at Rs 3,000 per quintal.** The government signed an MoU with the Hyderabad-based Indian Institute of Millet Research (IIMR) for technical knowhow and to train farmers to turn Chhattisgarh into a 'millet hub'.

Chhattisgarh was formed on 1 November 2000 by partitioning 10 Chhattisgarhi and 6 Gondi speaking southeastern districts of Madhya Pradesh. **Naya Raipur, officially known as Nava Raipur, (also known as Atal Nagar) is an upcoming planned and fully developed city in Indian state of Chhattisgarh. It is planned to replace Raipur as the capital city of Chhattisgarh. Anusuiya Uikey is present Governor of Chhattisgarh. Bhupesh Baghel is serving as the third and current Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh.** In India, there are **five landlocked states which do not have an international boundary are Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Telangana.**

Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani resigns

- **Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani tendered his resignation to governor Acharya Devvratas and said he is ready to take new responsibilities assigned to him by the party.**
- **The resignation is in accordance with the party's principle of providing all party workers an equal opportunity.** Gujarat is slated to go to the polls in 2022.

Gujarat is a state on the western coast of India with a longest coastline of India 1,600 km (990 mi). Its capital city is Gandhinagar, while its largest city is Ahmedabad. Gujarat International Finance Tec-City is a business district promoted by the Government of Gujarat through a joint venture company. GIFT City is India's first operational smart city in the Ahmedabad and international financial services centre. Acharya Devvrat is Governor of Gujarat and Bhupendra Patel is the current Chief Minister of Gujarat. Gujarat has become the first state to implement newly-introduced 10 per cent reservations in government jobs and higher education for the economically weaker sections in the general category and followed by Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh.

President Ram Nath Kovind appoints new Governors in four states

- **President Ram Nath Kovind** has appointed new Governors in Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand. Nagaland Governor RN Ravi has been appointed as Governor of Tamil Nadu. Lieutenant General (Retd) Gurmit Singh has been appointed Governor of Uttarakhand.
- **Governor of Tamil Nadu Banwarilal Purohit** who was holding additional charge of the Governor of Punjab has been appointed as regular Governor of Punjab. The President's Secretariat said, Governor of Assam Prof. Jagdish Mukhi has been appointed to discharge the functions of the Governor of Nagaland in addition to his own duties, until regular arrangements are made.

In the Republic of India, a governor is the constitutional head of each of the twenty-eight states. Governors exist in the states while lieutenant governors or administrator exist in union territories including National Capital Territory of Delhi. The governor is appointed by the President of India for a term of five years, and holds office at the President's pleasure. The governor is de jure head of the state government; all its executive actions are taken in the governor's name. However, the governor must act on the advice of the popularly elected council of ministers, headed by the Chief Minister, which thus holds de facto executive authority at the state-level. The Constitution of India also empowers the governor to act upon his or her own discretion, such as the ability to appoint or dismiss a ministry, recommend President's rule, or reserve bills for the President's assent. Although in Union Territories real power lies in lieutenant governor or administrator, except in NCT of Delhi, Puducherry and Jammu and Kashmir where he/she shares power with a council of ministers headed by a Chief Minister. According to 7th Constitutional Amendment Act 1956, the same person can be the Governor of two or more states.

NIRF Rankings 2021: IIT Madras tops charts in overall category

- **IIT Madras** has topped the Rankings in the overall category in National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF). IISc Bengaluru has come second, which is followed by IIT Bombay at the third place in the ranking. Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan released the NIRF Rankings 2021.
- The Rankings have been released under various categories, including, **Engineering, Pharmacy, Management and Overall, Research**. The rankings for all colleges and universities across the country given by the Ministry were based on teaching, learning, and resources; research and professional practice, graduation outcome; outreach and inclusivity; and peer perception.

India, Denmark jointly launched 'Centre of Excellence on Offshore Wind'

- **Union Minister for Power and New and Renewable Energy R. K. Singh** met Denmark's Minister for Climate, Energy and Utilities **Dan Jørgensen** in New Delhi. Mr Singh underlined to the Danish side that energy transition towards green is an important part of India's policy. **The two Ministers jointly launched 'Centre of Excellence on Offshore Wind'** as part of the Green Strategic Partnership.
- He pointed out that **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** in his Independence Day speech has set a target of **450 Giga Watt of Renewable Energy capacity by 2030**. The Minister went on to say that **India's whole renewable energy portfolio is already at 146 GW**.
- He stated that **India is the only G-20 country whose actions are in consonance with the Paris Climate agreement with regard to global rise in temperature**. Discussing the potential of green energy, the Minister said that India is looking at making Ladakh and islands such as Andaman Nicobar and Lakshadweep green in energy including transport.

Denmark is a Nordic country in Northern Europe. The Kingdom of Denmark is constitutionally a unitary state comprising metropolitan Denmark and the two autonomous territories. The Nordic countries, or the Nordics, or Norden (literally "the North"), are a geographical and cultural region in Northern Europe and the North Atlantic, which includes the sovereign states of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden as well as the autonomous countries of the Faroe Islands and Greenland (both part of the Kingdom of Denmark). **Mette Frederiksen** has been Prime Minister of Denmark since June 2019. The krone is the official currency of Denmark, Greenland, and the Faroe Islands, introduced on 1 January 1875.



In world first, bitcoin becomes legal tender in El Salvador

- **El Salvador became the first country in the world to adopt bitcoin as legal tender**, a real-world experiment proponents say will lower commission costs for billions of dollars sent home from abroad but which critics warned may fuel money laundering.
- **The plan spearheaded by the young, charismatic and popular President Nayib Bukele is aimed at allowing Salvadorans to save on \$400 million spent annually in commissions for remittances**, mostly sent from the United States.

El Salvador is a country in Central America. El Salvador's capital and largest city is San Salvador. Nayib Armando Bukele Ortiz is the current President of El Salvador. US Dollar is the currency of it.

Cryptocurrency is a specific type of virtual currency, which is decentralised and protected by cryptographic encryption techniques. Bitcoin, Ethereum, Ripple are a few notable examples of cryptocurrencies. Bitcoin is a type of digital currency that enables instant payments to anyone. Bitcoin was introduced in 2009. Bitcoin is based on an open-source protocol and is not issued by any central authority. The origin of Bitcoin is unclear, as is who founded it. A person, or a group of people, who went by the identity of Satoshi Nakamoto are said to have conceptualised an accounting system in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis. In 2018, The RBI issued a circular preventing all banks from dealing in cryptocurrencies. This circular was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in May 2020. Recently, the government has announced to introduce a bill; Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2021, to create a sovereign digital currency and simultaneously ban all private cryptocurrencies.

Top Indian and Chinese commanders agreed to a speedy resolution of outstanding issues on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) at the 12th round of military talks held in the Ladakh sector

- **Top Indian and Chinese commanders agreed to a speedy resolution of outstanding issues on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) at the 12th round of military talks held in the Ladakh sector**, with the dialogue focusing on disengagement of rival troops from the remaining flashpoints on the contested border, said a joint statement issued.
- The corps commander-ranked officers met in the latest attempt to reduce border tensions between the two countries, amid hopes in some quarters of reaching an understanding on the **disengagement of rival soldiers from Hot Springs and Gogra**.
- The joint statement described the talks as “a candid and in-depth exchange of views on resolution of remaining areas related to disengagement along the LAC in the Western Sector of India-China border areas.”
- **The latest round of talks was held following the meeting of the Indian and Chinese foreign ministers on July 14, in Dushanbe**, and the 22nd meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) on June 25. **India and China have been locked in a border row for almost 15 months, a phase that witnessed a deadly skirmish in the Galwan Valley** and saw tensions spiral between the rival armies **on the north and south banks of Pangong Tso last year**.

- **Major Friction Points:** Apart from PP15 and PP17A, PP14 in Galwan Valley, and Finger 4 on the north bank of Pangong Tso and Rezang La and Rechin La on the south bank of Chang Chenmo River, were identified as friction points.
- **Current Disengagement:** The agreement on Patrolling Point (PP) 17A (Gogra post) was reached but China is not inclined to move back from PP15 (Hot Springs area); China continues to insist that it is holding its own side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC).
- **The disengagement at PP17A is likely to follow the process that was adopted for PP14 in the Galwan Valley and Pangong Tso** where a time-frame was set for withdrawal. Both sides agreed to resolve these remaining issues in an expeditious manner in accordance with the existing agreements and protocols and maintain the momentum of dialogue and negotiations. **Both sides also agreed that in the interim they will continue their effective efforts in ensuring stability along the LAC in the Western sector and jointly maintain peace and tranquility.**

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. China and India are the two neighbouring countries in Asia. India shares 3488 km of border with China that runs along the states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand and Arunachal Pradesh. The Belt and Road Initiative, known in Chinese and formerly in English as One Belt One Road or OBOR for short, is a global infrastructure development strategy adopted by the Chinese government in 2013 to invest in nearly 70 countries and international organizations.

Pangong Tso Lake is located in the Union Territory of Ladakh. It is situated at a height of almost 4,350m and is the world's highest saltwater lake. Extending to almost 160 km, one-third of the Pangong Lake lies in India and the other two-thirds in China.

In World First, Cuba Starts Covid Jabs For Toddlers

- **Cuba became the first country in the world to vaccinate children from the age of two against Covid-19, using home-grown jabs not recognized by the World Health Organization.**
- **The communist island of 11.2 million people aims to inoculate all its children before reopening schools** that have been closed for the most part since March 2020. The new school year started but from home via television programs, as most Cuban homes do not have internet access. Having completed clinical trials on minors with its Abdala and Soberana vaccines, Cuba kicked off its inoculation campaign for children starting with those 12 and older.

Cuba is located in the northern Caribbean where the Caribbean Sea, Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean meet. Havana is the largest city and capital. In Cuba, until 1 January 2021, there were two currencies, both called peso. One is the "Cuban peso" (CUP) and the other is the Cuban convertible peso. On 10 December 2020, it was announced that CUCs will start to be withdrawn from circulation from 1 January 2021, leaving the CUP as the only currency in circulation, pegged at US\$1 = 24 CUP.

In Rotterdam, the world's first 'floating farm' is helping save agricultural land

- **In Rotterdam, the world's first 'floating farm' is helping save agricultural land. The port of Rotterdam is not only the largest in Europe, but also the location of an unusual farm. Since 2019, dairy cows have been kept here - in a barn that floats in the harbour basin.**
- **The world is under pressure and there is less and less agricultural land", co-owner Minke van Wingerden explains. "Our idea is that we can create a farmland near the city that can adapt to the climate."**

Bangladesh I&B Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud inaugurates Bangabandhu Media Centre

- **Bangladesh Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud inaugurated the Bangabandhu Media Centre at the Press Club of India in New Delhi.** Dr. Mahmud said, this initiative will strengthen the Indo-Bangladesh relationship.
- Remembering the contribution of Bangabandhu, Dr. Mahmud said, **Sheikh Mujibur Rahman sacrificed his life for the freedom and the people of Bangladesh. He thanked India for playing a critical role in the liberation efforts of Bangladesh** saying that it had not been possible to liberate Bangladesh without the help of India.
- **High Commissioner of Bangladesh in India, Mr. Muhammad Imran said, this is the 50th year of diplomatic relation between India and Bangladesh.**

Bangladesh is a country in South Asia. It shares land borders with India and Myanmar (Burma). Nepal, Bhutan and China are located near Bangladesh but do not share a border with it. Dhaka is its capital and largest city, followed by Chittagong, which has the country's largest port. Bangladeshi taka is the currency of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman often shortened as Sheikh Mujib or Mujib, was a Bangladeshi politician, statesman and Founding Father of Bangladesh who served as the first President and later as the Prime Minister of Bangladesh from 17 April 1971 until his assassination on 15 August 1975. Mohammad Abdul Hamid is the 16th and current President of Bangladesh, in office since April 2013. Sheikh Hasina is the current Prime Minister of the Bangladesh. India shares its longest international border with Bangladesh (4,096-kilometer) (2,545-mile).

Taliban Unveils New Cabinet, Includes US-Designated Terrorist

- **Mullah Mohammad Hassan, the little-known head of the Taliban's leadership council, was named as acting prime minister. Taliban co-founder Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, the main public face of the group who signed a peace deal with the Trump administration last year, will serve as his deputy.**
- **Sirajuddin Haqqani, leader of the Haqqani Network who is on the FBI's most wanted list for terrorism, will serve as acting interior minister.** That may complicate any moves by the U.S. to cooperate with the Taliban, particularly as President Joe Biden urges the Taliban to cut all ties with terrorist groups.
- **At least 14 members of the Taliban's hardline interim government in Kabul are on the UN Security Council's terrorism blacklist, including acting Prime Minister Mullah Mohammad Hasan Akhund and his both deputies, raising concern of the international community over the composition of the new Cabinet in Afghanistan.**
- **Specially designated global terrorist Sirajuddin Haqqani, who carries a reward of \$10-million US bounty on his head, is the acting interior minister. Acting Defence Minister Mullah Yaqoob, acting Foreign Minister Mullah Amir Khan Muttaqi and his deputy Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanikzai are all listed under the UNSC 1988 Sanctions Committee.**
- **The 33-member interim Cabinet includes four of the five leaders known as the "Taliban Five" who were once held at the Guantanamo Bay prison. They include Mullah Mohammad Fazil (deputy defence minister), Khairullah Khairkhwa (information and culture minister), Mullah Noorullah Noori (Borders and Tribal Affairs minister) and Mullah Abdul Haq Wasiq (Director of Intelligence). The fifth member of the group, Mohammad Nabi Omari, has been appointed as governor of eastern Khost Province recently. Acting Prime Minister Mullah Hasan has been described as "a close associate" of Taliban founder Mullah Omar in a UN sanctions report. Both Deputy Prime Ministers — Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar and Maulvi Abdul Salam Hanafi, who is involved in drug trafficking, are also on the UN blacklist.**

Afghanistan is a landlocked country at the crossroads of Central and South Asia. It is bordered by Pakistan and India to the east and south, Iran to the west, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan to the north, and China to the northeast. It is inhabited by 31.4 million people as of 2020, with 4.6 million living in the capital and largest city, Kabul. Hibatullah Akhundzada is the third Supreme Commander of the Taliban and the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. Abdul Ghani Baradar is the First Vice Emir of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. The afghani is the currency of it. The twenty-year-long war between the government and the Taliban reached a climax with the 2021 Taliban offensive and the resulting fall of Kabul which returned the Taliban to power.

World's largest plant designed to suck carbon dioxide from air starts in Iceland

- **The world's largest plant designed to suck carbon dioxide out of the air and turning it into rock started running in Iceland. The plant, named Orca, after the Icelandic word orka meaning energy, consists of four units, each made up of two metal boxes, similar in appearance to the containers used for maritime transport.**
- **Constructed by Switzerland's Climeworks and Iceland's Carbfix, when operating at capacity the plant will draw 4,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide out of the air every year, according to the companies.**
- According to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), that equates to the emissions from about 870 cars. To collect the carbon dioxide, the plant uses fans to draw air into a collector, which has a filter material inside. **Proponents of so-called carbon capture and storage (CCS) believe these technologies can become a major tool in the fight against climate change.**

Iceland is a Nordic island country in the North Atlantic Ocean and the most sparsely populated country in Europe. The capital and largest city is Reykjavík. Katrin Jakobsdottir is an Icelandic politician serving as the prime minister of Iceland since 2017. The krona is the currency of Iceland.

Dubai gets world's first 'green' mosque

- **Dubai just got the world's first 'green' mosque. As per the reports, Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) inaugurated the world's first green mosque, which also received platinum rating for green buildings by the Leadership for Energy and Environmental Design (LEED v4) from the US Green Buildings Council (USGBC) with 83 points.**
- The mosque has a 25 m high minaret, green charger station, car and motor bicycle parking, and other facilities. **Reportedly, the mosque conserves around 55 per cent of water and 26.5 per cent of energy. Solar photovoltaic panels have been installed and a water treatment unit to reuse the water for cleaning and irrigation.**

India, Japan holds sixth Maritime Affairs Dialogue in virtual format

- **India and Japan held their sixth Maritime Affairs Dialogue in a virtual format. The consultations involved exchanges on developments in the maritime security environment, regional cooperation activities and opportunities for cooperation between the two countries in the Indo-Pacific region.**

Naruhito is the Emperor of Japan. He acceded to the Chrysanthemum Throne on 1 May 2019, beginning the Reiwa era, following the abdication of his father, Emperor Akihito, on 30 April 2019. He is the 126th monarch according to Japan's traditional order of succession. Tokyo is the capital city of Japan and yen is the official currency of Japan and it is the third most traded currency in the foreign exchange market after the United States dollar and the euro. The current Prime Minister is Yoshihide Suga.

Lebanon gets a new government, its first since last year's deadly port blast

- **A new government has been formed in crisis-ridden Lebanon, ending a more than year-long power vacuum that began shortly after the August 2020 Beirut port blast.**
- **Prime Minister Najib Mikati, a billionaire who has already twice served as premier, will lead a cabinet of ministers that will preside over an economic depression which the World Bank considers one of the world's worst since the mid-19th century.**
- **Mikati visited Lebanese President Michel Aoun at the Baabda Presidential Palace where he signed a decree to form the new government in the presence of Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri.**

Lebanon is a country in Western Asia. Beirut is the capital and largest city of Lebanon. The Lebanese pound is the currency of Lebanon. Michel Aoun is a Lebanese politician who serves as the President of Lebanon.



Government of India approves Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Textiles

- **Union cabinet has approved the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for the textile sector.** PLI scheme for Textiles is part of the overall announcement of PLI Schemes for 13 sectors made earlier during the Union Budget 2021-22, with an outlay of Rs. 1.97 lakh crore.
- **Union Cabinet approved the Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Textiles.** Under it, the incentives worth 10,683 crore rupees will be provided over five years. Briefing reporters in New Delhi, **Textiles Minister, Piyush Goyal** said, this will positively impact states like **Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Odisha.**
- The decision will **help in creating additional employment of over 7.5 lakh people directly and several lakhs more for supporting activities.** The scheme will promote production of high value Man Made Fabric, Garments and Technical Textiles in the country. The incentive structure has been so formulated that industry will be encouraged to invest in fresh capacities in these segments.

In order to boost domestic manufacturing and cut down on import bills, the union government in March 2020 introduced a PLI scheme that aims to give companies incentives on incremental sales from products manufactured in domestic units. Apart from inviting foreign companies to set shop in India, the scheme also aims to encourage local companies to set up or expand existing manufacturing units. The Scheme has also been approved for sectors such as automobiles, pharmaceuticals, IT hardware including laptops, mobile phones & telecom equipment, white goods, chemical cells, food processing, etc.

PhonePe starts first Indian digital payment interactive geospatial platform

- **Walmart-owned digital payments firm PhonePe has launched PhonePe Pulse, India's first interactive platform with data, insights and trends on digital payments in the country.**
- **The PhonePe Pulse website showcases more than 2000 crore transactions by consumers on an interactive map of India.** With over 45 per cent market share, PhonePe's data is representative of the country's digital payment habits.
- **PhonePe also launched the Pulse Report, an in-depth study on the evolution of digital payments over the past 5 years.** The report also has insights about how digital payment adoption across India has evolved since 2016, and includes detailed geographical and category-specific trends.

The 15th Finance Commission tied grants of Rs. 1,42,084 crore to ensure more funds to gram panchayats

- **The 15th Finance Commission has tied grants of Rs. 1,42,084 crore to ensure more funds to gram panchayats to make their water supply and sanitation-related plans,** the Ministry of Jal Shakti said.
- The Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance has **issued the guidelines for release and utilisation of grants recommended by the 15th Finance Commission (FC) for RLBs/PRIs during the period 2021-22 to 2025-26,** it said.

- **The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti will act as the nodal department for determining the eligibility of rural local bodies for the “15th FC tied grant for water and sanitation” and recommend the release of tied grant for this purpose.**
- **DDWS has recommended for the release of the first installment of the tied grant to 25 states for water and sanitation activities. In all, the 15th Finance Commission had recommended Rs. 2,36,805 crore to RLBs/PRIs for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26, it added.**
- **The 15th Finance Commission has recommended that states, along with Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir, be given 42 percent share in the divisible tax pool of the centre during the period 2021-22 to 2025-26. The panel’s report also provides a range for fiscal deficit and debt path of both the union and states. It further recommended additional borrowing room to states based on performance in power sector reforms.**
- **Excluding the union territories of Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir, the tax devolution share suggested by the Finance Commission is 41 percent of the total divisible pool, which is arrived at after deducting cesses and surcharges and cost of collection from total tax collection.**

The Finance Commission (FC) is a constitutional body that determines the method and formula for distributing the tax proceeds between the Centre and states, and among the states as per the constitutional arrangement and present requirements. Under Article 280 of the Constitution, the President of India is required to constitute a Finance Commission at an interval of five years or earlier. Parliament may by law determine the requisite qualifications for appointment as members of the commission and the procedure of selection. KC Neogy was the chairman of the first Finance Commission of India. The 15th Finance Commission was constituted by the President of India in November 2017, under the chairmanship of NK Singh. Its recommendations will cover a period of five years from the year 2021-22 to 2025-26. The 15th Finance Commission, for horizontal devolution, it has suggested 12.5% weightage to demographic performance, 45% to income distance, 15% each to population and area, 10% to forest and ecology and 2.5% to tax and fiscal efforts.

NALCO NAMASYA Mobile App

- **National Aluminium Company Ltd (NALCO), a Navratna CPSE under the Ministry of Mines, has been playing a key role in empowering the Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) through providing a modern & innovative platform ‘NALCO Micro And Small enterprise Yogayog Application’ (NAMASYA), a bi-lingual App developed exclusively for the benefit of the Company’s MSE Vendors.**
- **The NAMASYA App provides a platform to highlight the Company’s efforts towards development of MSEs. The App empowers MSEs with required information about vendor registration process, items which can be supplied by them with technical specification, vendor development and training programmes of NALCO.**

National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) is a government company having integrated and diversified operations in mining, metal and power under the ownership of Ministry of Mines, Government of India. Presently, Government of India holds a 51.5% equity in NALCO. It is one of the largest integrated Bauxite-Alumina-Aluminium-Power Complex in the country encompassing bauxite mining, alumina refining, aluminium smelting and casting, power generation, rail and port operations. It is based in Odisha.

Centre, ADB sign 300 million dollar loan to expand rural connectivity in Maharashtra

- **Indian government and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a 300 million dollar loan as additional financing to scale up improvement of rural connectivity to help boost rural economy in Maharashtra.**
- **The additional financing for the ongoing Maharashtra Rural Connectivity Improvement Project will help improve an additional 1,100 rural roads and 230 bridges for a total length of 2,900 kilometers in 34 districts. The ongoing project with 200 million dollar financing, approved in August 2019, is already improving and maintaining the condition and safety of 2,100 kilometers of rural roads**

Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a regional development bank established on 19 December 1966, which is headquartered in the Ortigas Center located in the city of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines. Masatsugu Asakawa, by career a Japanese civil servant, is the president of the Asian Development Bank. Asakawa, who took office on 17 January 2020, is the 10th president of ADB.

NPCI, Fiserv to open RuPay API platform

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has tied up with Nasdaq-listed fintech firm Fiserv to launch an application programming interface (API) platform for startups and banks looking to build credit card-based products on top of the RuPay rails.
- The collaboration comes at a time when card networks Mastercard and American Express have been barred by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from issuing any new cards owing to non-compliance with data localisation mandate resulting in a clutch of card-issuing banks migrating their networks to Visa and NPCI's homegrown RuPay.

Gujarat govt signs MoU with Amazon India to boost export of MSME sector

- Gujarat Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Amazon India to boost the export of MSME sector. The MoU will facilitate training sessions, webinars and workshops in Business-to-Commerce (B2C) e-commerce at MSME clusters in cities like Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Surat, Bharuch and Rajkot for taking the local products to global markets.
- It will also open up the link with the MSME sector in the state with Amazon's digital market operational in 17 countries like USA, Canada, Brazil, France, Germany, UK, Australia, Japan, Singapore, Turkey and UAE.

Bank of Baroda launches one-stop digital platform 'bob World'

- State-owned Bank of Baroda announced the launch of its digital banking platform 'bob World', aimed at providing all banking services under one roof. The lender aims to provide an all-inclusive and seamless virtual banking experience, encompassing all digital banking services under one roof for the convenience of customers.
- 'bob World' will offer a wide gamut of banking products and services, to be rolled out in phases, under four key pillars – Save, Invest, Borrow and Shop – the lender. Over 220 services will be converged into one single app, covering nearly 95 per cent of all retail banking services, which can be accessed by customers domestically and globally.

Bank of Baroda (BOB) is an Indian nationalised banking and financial services company. It is under the ownership of Ministry of Finance. It is the fourth largest nationalised bank in India. The government of India announced the merger of Bank of Baroda, Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank on September 17, 2018, to create the country's second largest lender.

Surety insurance cover limit set at 30% of project value: IRDAI

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) has said the limit of guarantee under surety insurance contracts should not exceed 30 per cent of the project value. Also, the contracts should be issued only to specific projects and not clubbed for multiple ones.
- The guidelines once approved and implemented promise to address the high funding requirement for construction and infra companies. Surety insurance contracts may be offered to construction companies in India that cover road projects, housing/commercial buildings and other infrastructure projects of the government and the private sector, Irdai said while unveiling the draft Irdai (Surety Insurance Contracts) Guidelines, 2021.

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) is a regulatory body under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Finance and is tasked with regulating and licensing the insurance and re-insurance industries in India. It was constituted by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999, an Act of Parliament passed by the Government of India. The agency's headquarters are in Hyderabad, Telangana, where it moved from Delhi in 2001. IRDAI is a 10-member body including the chairman, five full-time and four part-time members appointed by the government of India.



Inventions/Discoveries

NASA's \$10 Billion Space Telescope to launch in December

- **The James Webb Space Telescope**, which astronomers hope will herald a new era of discovery, will launch. The \$10 billion observatory, which is a joint project by NASA, the European Space Agency and the Canadian Space Agency, will blast off on an Ariane 5 rocket from Spaceport in French Guiana.
- Researchers want to use the space telescope, the **largest and most powerful ever built**, to look back in time over **13.5 billion years** to see the first stars and galaxies that formed, a few hundred million years after the Big Bang. A key feature is its ability to detect infrared, as by the time the light from the first objects reaches our telescopes, it has shifted towards the red end of the electromagnetic spectrum as a result of the universe's expansion. **The current premier space telescope, Hubble, only has limited infrared capacity.** Astronomers also hope the **James Webb Space Telescope will supercharge the discovery of alien worlds.**

The James Webb Space Telescope (JWST or "Webb") is a joint NASA-ESA-CSA space telescope that is planned to succeed the Hubble Space Telescope as NASA's flagship astrophysics mission. The JWST will provide improved infrared resolution and sensitivity over Hubble, and will enable a broad range of investigations across the fields of astronomy and cosmology, including observing some of the most distant events and objects in the universe, such as the formation of the first galaxies, and atmospheric characterization of potentially habitable exoplanets.

Chandigarh's first Pollen Calendar can help identify potential allergy triggers and guard sensitive people from exposure

- Chandigarh now has its first pollen calendar, which can identify potential allergy triggers and provide a clear understanding for clinicians as well as allergy sufferers about their causes to help limit their exposure during high pollen loads.
- About 20-30% of the population suffers from allergic rhinitis/hay fever in India, and approximately 15% develop asthma. Pollens are considered major outdoor airborne allergens responsible for allergic rhinitis, asthma, and atopic dermatitis in humans.
- Pollen calendars represent the time dynamics of airborne pollen taxa in graphical form in a particular geographical area. They yield readily accessible visual details about various airborne pollen taxa present throughout the year, with their seasonality in a single picture.
- Pollen calendars are location-specific, with concentrations closely related to locally distributed flora. Department of Community Medicine and School of Public Health, PGIMER, Chandigarh, examined the seasonal periodicities of airborne pollen spectrum and developed the first Pollen Calendar for Chandigarh city.
- This will help prepare early advisories and disseminate them through media channels to the citizens so that they can use protective gear during the period when the concentration of allergic pollens will be high. It is also a preventive tool for sensitive people to diminish exposure when the levels of aero-pollen are high during specific periods.

In a first, IISER scientists sequence genome of Giloy plant

- Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Bhopal have sequenced the genome of Giloy, a plant known for its medicinal properties.
- According to the team, the genome and transcriptome sequencing of Giloy (*Tinospora cordifolia*) is important due to its tremendous use in pharmaceuticals and ayurvedic formulations to treat various health conditions including COVID-19 and can provide deep insights into the genomic basis of its medicinal properties. The research, claimed by the IISER to be first in the world, has been published in the international “preprint server for biology-bioRxiv”.

India’s first floating missile test range Anvesh set to start sea trials

- Anvesh, India’s first floating missile test range, will commence its sea trials. Designed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation and built by the Cochin Shipyard, Anvesh is expected to be commissioned in the next couple of months.
- Anvesh’s sea trials come amid reports that India will induct surveillance ship Dhruv which can track nuclear and ballistic missile launches from a distance. According to reports, the commissioning of the 10,000-tonne Anvesh would ease the strain on land-based test platforms while conducting missile tests of 1500 km range for the two-tier ballistic missile defence system. The BMD system can engage and destroy adversary missiles at different altitudes.

Razan Al Mubarak becomes first woman from the Arab world to head IUCN

- Razan Al Mubarak, the Managing Director of both the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi and the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, was elected President of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), one of the world’s largest and best-known conservation institutions.
- Ms. Al Mubarak is the first woman from the Arab world to head IUCN and only the second woman to run lead the 73-year-old conservation organization. She will succeed Zhang Zinsheng.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is an international organization working in the field of nature conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. It is involved in data gathering and analysis, research, field projects, advocacy, and education. IUCN’s mission is to “influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable”. The organization is best known to the wider public for compiling and publishing the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, which assesses the conservation status of species worldwide. Its headquarters are in Gland, Switzerland.

World’s first water-from-air bottling water plant set up in Hyderabad

- Watertech startup Maithri Aquatech Pvt Ltd has set up the world’s first water-from-air bottling water plant with a capacity of generating 2.5 million litres per annum and bottling 3.4 million bottles per annum in Hyderabad. The BIS and FSSAI approved bottling plant will be equipped with multiple Meghdoot atmospheric water generators (AWG), which have been developed and patented by the company in partnership with CSIR-IICT. “For the first time in the world a packaged water bottling plant will utilise air to meet its water requirements”.

India’s first dugong conservation reserve

- India’s first Dugong conservation reserve will be built in Tamil Nadu for the conservation of Dugong, a marine animal that has been enlisted vulnerable to extinction on a global scale by the World Conservation Union (IUCN). In India, dugongs are seen in the Gulf of Mannar, Gulf of Kutch, Palk Bay, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- The dugong (*Dugong dugon*), also called the sea cow, is a herbivorous mammal. They can grow upto three meters long, weigh about 300 kilograms, and live for about 25 years, grazing on seagrass and coming to the surface to breathe. They are found in over 30 countries and in India are seen in the Gulf of Mannar, Gulf of Kutch, Palk Bay, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Dugong or the sea cow is the State animal of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. This endangered marine species survive on seagrass and other aquatic vegetation found in the area. It is the only herbivorous mammal that is strictly marine and is the only extant species in the family Dugongidae.

Tamil Nadu's \$10-billion green energy island to get Denmark aid

- **With Tamil Nadu looking to expand its footprint in green energy, the state is likely to see a \$5-10 billion renewable sector investment with Danish participation, including an energy island in the Gulf of Mannar.**
- **The island may produce 4-10 Gw. The value of Danish investment in Tamil Nadu between January 2003 and January 2021 is estimated at \$ 751.72 million. Companies that have marked their presence in other parts of India include Novo-Nordisk, A.P. Moller Maersk and Ramboll. In the last decade Denmark has invested over \$1 billion in the country. Around 200 Danish companies are operating in India.**

National Level Exhibition of the INSPIRE Awards – MANAK featuring student innovations from all over India begins

- **The 8th National Level Exhibition and Project Competition NLEPC for the INSPIRE Awards – MANAK Million Minds Augmenting National Aspiration and Knowledge began. It is showcasing the innovative ideas from 581 students representing various States and UTs of the country.**
- **The eighth edition of NLEPC corresponds to the students selected under INSPIRE Awards – MANAK program during Financial Year 2019-20 and owing to COVID-19, it was deferred last year.**
- **More than one thousand students attended the online programme, which will continue for five days. The award ceremony of the 8th NLEPC of the INSPIRE Awards – MANAK will be held in a virtual mode on 8th of this month wherein Science and Technology Minister Dr Jitendra Singh will give away the awards to the creative children of the country.**
- **The exhibition which features the best of the innovative ideas from over 3 lakh 92 thousand ideas and innovations received at the beginning of the season is open to all and can be accessed by visiting nlepc.nif.org.in between 4th to 8th September 2021.**
- **The INSPIRE Awards – MANAK scheme is aligned with the Start-up India initiative launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The scheme aims to motivate students in the age group of 10 to 15 years and studying in classes 6 to 10 to become future innovators and critical thinkers.**

IIT Bombay bags top honours at Dr APJ Abdul Kalam International Innovation Conclave

- **Sai Prasad from IIT Bombay won the first position for her innovative idea of a skin spray gun which helps in the rapid healing of wounds using the patient's own skin during the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam International Innovation Conclave which ended at Chandigarh University.**
- **“India currently houses the world's third-largest start-up ecosystem and there are over 40,000 registered startups in India. More than 50 firms are there in India which are valued at more than over US \$1 billion. From e-commerce to electric vehicles, Indian start-ups are the torch-bearers of the entrepreneurial spirit of India.”**
- **Jams O Rychard from Indonesia won the first prize in the International category, while Krishna from Brazil secured the second position and Marcos came third in the same category. Total prize money of Rs. 1.67 lakh was given to the winners of the conclave.**



Sports Personalities in News

India wraps up Tokyo Paralympic games with largest-ever haul of 19 medals; Games end with glittering closing ceremony

- At Tokyo Paralympics, in its best ever performance India bagged 19 medals with five Gold, eight Silver and six bronze. Indian finished 24th in the medals tally.
- Shooter Avani Lekhara was India's flag-bearer at the closing ceremony of Tokyo Paralympics. Lekhara has become the first Indian woman to win two medals in the same Paralympics in addition to being the first Indian woman to win gold at the Games.
- The 19-year-old has won Gold in the 10 metre air rifle and Bronze in 50 metre rifle 3 position. Indian Paralympic athletes have made the nation proud with their rich haul of medals at the Tokyo Games.

Lalinakere Yathiraj bagged a historic silver at paralympics

- India's Suhas Lalinakere Yathiraj has bagged a historic silver after going down fighting against top seed Lucas Mazur of France in the men's singles SL4 class final at the Tokyo Paralympics.
- The district magistrate of Gautam Buddh Nagar (Noida) thus also became the first-ever IAS officer to win a medal at the Paralympics.

Rohit Sharma Achieves Rare Milestone; Becomes First World Cricketer To Reach THIS Feat

- Indian opener Rohit Sharma scored his first overseas Test hundred as he smashed 127 runs in the third innings of the fourth Test match against England.
- With the ton, Sharma also became the first visiting opening batsman to score a hundred in all three formats in England. Sharma already had centuries as an opener in the one-day format in England and also had one ton in the shortest form of the game.

Pramod Bhagat creates history, becomes first Indian shuttler to win gold at Tokyo Paralympics 2020

- Indian para shuttler Pramod Bhagat created history at the Tokyo Paralympics 2020 as he became India's first badminton player to win a gold medal in the history of the para Games. Bhagat defeated Bethell in the final to clinch his first and India's fourth gold medal in the ongoing event.

IOC suspends North Korea until end of 2022 after it failed to send a team to Tokyo Games

- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has suspended North Korea until the end of 2022 after it failed to send a team to the Tokyo Games. The suspension means the country will miss out on the Beijing Winter Games.
- North Korea did not send a delegation to the Tokyo Games, saying it wanted to protect its athletes from Covid-19. IOC President Thomas Bach said the North Korean Olympic Committee would not receive financial aid during the suspension.

- Bach added that the IOC reserves the right to make decisions on any individual North Korean athletes who qualify for Beijing 2022 and to reconsider the duration of the country's suspension. At Rio Olympics 2016, North Korea had won two Golds, three Silvers and two Bronzes.

India's Jeev Milkha Singh becomes first golfer in world to be granted 10-year Dubai Golden Visa

- Star Indian golfer Jeev Milkha Singh has become the first professional golfer in the world to receive the prestigious 10-year Dubai Golden Visa in recognition of his outstanding achievements in the sport.

US Open: Rajeev Ram, Joe Salisbury clinch Men's Doubles title

- In US Open Tennis, second seed Daniil Medvedev cruised into the Men's Singles finals after producing a dominant performance to overcome 12th seed Canadian Felix Auger-Aliassime in New York.
- The Russian, is now one match away from capturing his first major title at Flushing Meadows. It was the first Grand Slam semi-final for 21-year-old Auger-Aliassime, who reached the Wimbledon quarter-finals earlier this year and has been hailed among the sport's brightest young stars.

British teenager Emma Raducanu clinches Women's Singles title; Joe Salisbury of Britain and his American partner Desirae Krawczyk win Mixed Doubles title

- Rising British sensation Emma Raducanu beat Leylah Fernandez of Canada to win Women's Singles title at US Open Tennis.
- The 18-year-old Emma Raducanu defeated her Canadian opponent in straight sets in the summit clash held at the Arthur Ashe Stadium in New York. She has become the first British woman to win the title in 53 years. Raducanu has also become the first British woman in 44 years to win a Grand Slam singles title.
- Joe Salisbury has become the first Briton to win two doubles titles at a Grand Slam in the Open era after claiming the mixed doubles title at the US Open a day after winning the men's doubles.
- Salisbury and American partner Desirae Krawczyk beat Mexico's Giuliana Olmos and El Salvador's Marcelo Arevalo 7-5 6-2 at Flushing Meadows.

MISCELLANEOUS

Times World University Rankings: Punjab University figures among top 10

- The Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2022 has been announced. The University of Oxford is at the top of the list, followed by California Institute of Technology and Harvard University at the second and third positions, respectively. The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, is placed between the 301-350 position. Incidentally, it is also the only university in the top 350 rankings.

Sardar Patel University becomes Gujarat's first accredited green varsity

- One of the greenest districts of Gujarat is now also home to state's first green university. Vallabh Vidyanagar-based Sardar Patel University (SPU) in Anand district has been accredited as the first green university of Gujarat with platinum ranking.
- The ranking has been granted by Green Mentors, a United Nations General Assembly's award-winning recognized institute for global green schooling and green university concepts.

Agriculture Minister visits Indian International Trade Saffron Spice Park in Kashmir

- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar accompanied by Minister of State (MoS) for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Kailash Choudhary and Minister of State (MoS) for Agriculture Sushri Shobha Karandlaje visited Indian International Trade Saffron Spice Park at Pampore in south Kashmir's Pulwama district and inspected various departments of the processing unit.

India's 1st emergency landing strip on highway inaugurated in Barmer

- Union ministers Rajnath Singh and Nitin Gadkari inaugurated an emergency landing strip at Gandhav Bhakasar section on National Highway-925 in Barmer, Rajasthan for Indian Air Force (IAF) planes. An IAF plane, carrying the two ministers, will conduct a mock emergency landing on the national highway. Singh, the Union defence minister, will also visit Jaisalmer where he will interact with IAF personnel.

President Kovind lays foundation stone for National Law University in Allahabad

- President Ram Nath Kovind said that Central and State governments are working with Judiciary for a better judicial system in the country. President was speaking at the function of foundation stones laying for Uttar Pradesh National Law University and new building complex of Allahabad High Court in Prayagraj. The proposed law University should be named after the first president of India Dr Rajendra Prasad.

Prez Kovind presents President's Colour to Indian Naval Aviation at INS Hansa in Goa

- President and the Supreme Commander of Indian Armed Forces, Ram Nath Kovind presented the President's Colour to Indian Naval Aviation at INS Hansa, Goa.
- The President's Colour is bestowed on a military unit, in recognition of exceptional service rendered to the Nation, both in peace and in war. Naval Aviation has distinguished itself with notable and gallant service to our Nation over the past seven decades.

Archeological Museum of Artefacts on existence of Ancient Tamils will be set-up at Tirunelveli

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin announced that an Archeological Museum of Artefacts on the existence of Ancient Tamils will be set-up at Tirunelveli.
- In a suo moto statement, the Chief Minister said that the archaeological findings from the sites at Keezhadi, Adhichanallur, Sivakalai, Korkai, Kodumunal, Mayiladumparai and Gangai Konda Cholapuram in the state will form a part of the museum. The Chief Minister said that the artefacts dated back to 1155 years B.C.

High-level India-Russia Inter-Governmental Consultation on Afghanistan held in New Delhi

- Russian National Security Advisor, General Nikolay Patrushev and his Indian counterpart Ajit Doval held high level consultations on Afghanistan in New Delhi. Later, the visiting Russian NSA also called on External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar.

- Dr Jaishankar said, very useful discussions were held on Afghanistan. **The Russian NSA also met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi** this evening. Mr Modi said that the visit of General Patrushev allowed useful discussions between both sides on important regional developments.
- External Affairs Ministry said, Secretary Patrushev briefed Prime Minister on his fruitful exchanges with NSA Ajit Doval and External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar. **Russia's strong commitment to further deepen its Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership with India.**

Aparna Sen-directorial 'The Rapist' will have the world premiere at 26th Busan International Film Festival

- National Award-winning director Aparna Sen's film "The Rapist", starring Konkona Sen Sharma, Arjun Rampal and Tanmay Dhanania, is set to have its world premiere at the 26th Busan International Film Festival (BIFF).
- The film, produced by Applause Entertainment in association with Quest Films Pvt. Ltd, is part of the 'A Window on Asian Cinema' section of the festival and is nominated for the prestigious Kim Jiseok Award. "The Rapist" chronicles the journey of three protagonists and how their lives get entwined because of one horrific incident.

Special train named Modi train launched from suburban Dadar station to run to Konkan region for Ganesh festival

- The Union Minister of State for Railways, Raosaheb Danve has said that a special train named Modi train was launched from suburban Dadar station to run to Konkan region for Ganesh festival on September 7. The special eight air conditioned trains service will be between Mumbai and Kudal in Sindhudurg district.

Kuvera ties up with Amazon Pay India for wealth management services

- Investment platform Kuvera.in has tied up with Amazon Pay India to provide its wealth management services to Amazon Pay's users. To begin with investments into mutual funds and fixed deposits will be made available.

LS Speaker Om Birla reaches Vienna to attend 5th World Conference of Speakers of Parliament

- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla reached Vienna to attend 5th World Conference of Speakers of Parliament by the Austrian Parliament, Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations. **The World Conference of Speakers of Parliament is held regularly every five years** with the goal to reinforce the Parliamentary dimension of global governance.

Varanasi-Chunar cruise service begins to boost tourism

- Adding a new dimension to the tourism facilities in Varanasi, the cruise service in Ganga river from Varanasi to historic Chunar fort in Mirzapur. Tourists travelling to Varanasi will now get a chance to travel around 30 km long journey in River Ganga. They can now hop onto the day-long luxury cruise ride which starts at around 9 a.m. in the morning from Ravidas ghat and after reaching at Chunar fort it comes back to Varanasi in the evening around 5 p.m. state government is planning to extend this journey till Sangam in Prayagraj.

PERSONS IN NEWS

PM Narendra Modi adjudged most popular world leader with 70 percent approval rating

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi has topped a global approval rating leaving behind all contemporary Heads of State and Heads of Government.**
- According to a survey conducted among all adults, **Mr Modi received a stellar approval rating of 70 per cent, while Mexico President Andrés Manuel López Obrador was second with 64 per cent and Italy Prime Minister Mario Draghi was number three with 63 per cent.**
- **German Chancellor Angela Merkel ranks 4th with 52 per cent and US president Joe Biden is at number 5 with 48 per cent.** The Morning Consult, an American data intelligence firm, tracks the approval rating for governmental leaders in Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, South Korea, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States. As per the intelligence firm, its ratings are based on a seven-day moving average of adult residents in each country.

Hament Dhanji SC appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court of NSW

- **Leading Sydney barrister Hament Dhanji SC has been appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court of NSW. Mr Dhanji has become the first Australian of Indian descent to serve on the NSW Supreme Court bench, having been admitted as a legal practitioner in 1990. He was called to the Bar in 1997 and took silk in 2010.**

Prativa Mohapatra becomes the first woman to lead Adobe India

- **Adobe Inc. has appointed Prativa Mohapatra as vice president and managing director for Adobe India, making her the first woman to lead the global software maker's operations in the country.**

Uttarakhand Governor Baby Rani Maurya resigns from the Post

- **Uttarakhand Governor Baby Rani Maurya has resigned from the Post. Mrs. Maurya sent her resignation to President. She was sworn in as the Governor of Uttarakhand on August 26, 2018.**

ACC proposes Pawan Goenka as chairperson of In-SPACE

- **Former managing director of Mahindra & Mahindra Pawan Kumar Goenka has been proposed as the chairperson of Indian National Space Promotion Authorization Centre (In-Space), the regulator for India's space industry**
- **The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the proposal of appointment on September 7, according to a notification. The Department of Space has to finalise the appointment.**

Sardar Iqbal Singh Lalpura takes charge as Chairman, National Commission for Minorities

- **Sardar Iqbal Singh Lalpura took charge as the Chairman, National Commission for Minorities in the presence of Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi in New Delhi.**
- **The Union Government set up the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992. Six religious communities, viz; Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Zoroastrians (Parsis) and Jains have been notified in Gazette of India as minority communities by the Union Government all over India. Original notification of 1993 was for five religious communities; Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis, Christians and Muslims, later in 2014, Jains community was also added.**

AWARDS

Author Namita Gokhale honoured with 7th Yamin Hazarika Woman of Substance Award at virtual event

- Writer Namita Gokhale has been chosen as the recipient of the seventh Yamin Hazarika Woman of Substance Award. She was conferred upon the honour recently in a virtual ceremony.
- Organised by a collective of women professionals from the year 2015, the annual award honours Yamin Hazarika, the first woman from Northeast India to be selected for DANIPS, a federal police service that administered Delhi and the Union Territories in 1977.

12-yr-old Mumbai boy wins 2021 International Young Eco-Hero award for project to save Powai Lake

- A 12-year-old environmental activist from Mumbai has been named as a 2021 International Young Eco-Hero in recognition of his efforts to solve tough environmental problems. Ayaan Shankta won the third place in the 8-14 age category for his project Conservation and Rehabilitation of Powai Lake.
- The Action for Nature, an NGO, based in San Francisco, hands out the awards annually to youngsters (8-16 age group) from across the globe for taking action to improve environment
- Ayaan Shankta, a Class VIII student, has won the third prize in the climate change activist category for his project 'Conservation and Rehabilitation of Powai Lake' in Mumbai

Susanna Clarke wins Women's Prize for Fiction for fantasy novel 'Piranesi'

- British writer Susanna Clarke won the prestigious Women's Prize for Fiction for her mind-tweaking fantasy novel 'Piranesi' - a book that chronic illness made her fear she would never get to write.
- Clarke was awarded the 30,000 pound (\$41,000) prize for her second novel, which was published 16 years after her first, 'Jonathan Strange & Mr. Norrell', became a global best-seller.

3 Indian villages nominated for UNWTO Award for rural tourism

- Ladhpora Khas, a village in Madhya Pradesh's Niwari district, has been nominated in the 'Best Tourism Village' category for the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Award.
- "The Union Ministry of Tourism has nominated Ladhpora Khas village near tourist town Orchha under the Best Tourism Village category for the United Nations World Tourism Organization Award. Along with this, two other villages have been nominated - (one each) from Meghalaya and Telangana,".
- The 'Rural Tourism Project' has been started in villages across the state, including in Ladhpora Khas, with an objective of giving shape to the concept of village tourism by adding new dimensions.
- Among these, suitable sites will be selected and developed around tourist places, including Orchha, Khajuraho, Mandu, Sanchi, Pachmarhi, Tamia, Panna National Park, Bandhavgarh National Park, Sanjay Dubri National Park, Pench and Kanha National Park, etc,".

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Literacy Day 8 September

- The 8th of September was proclaimed International Literacy Day by UNESCO in 1966 to remind the international community of the importance of literacy for individuals, communities and societies, and the need for intensified efforts towards more literate societies. The issue of literacy is a key component of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- International Literacy Day (ILD) 2021 will be celebrated under the theme "Literacy for a human-centered recovery: Narrowing the digital divide".

International Day to Protect Education from Attack, 9 September

- The International Day to Protect Education from Attack is an international observance established by a unanimous decision of the United Nations General Assembly in 2020. It is observed on September 9 of each year. The day generates attention to attacks on students, teachers, and education institutions during armed conflict, the use of schools for military purposes, as well as efforts aimed at promoting and protecting the right to education and facilitating the continuation of education in armed conflict, including the Safe Schools Declaration.

International Vulture Awareness Day

- International Vulture Awareness Day (IVAD) falls on the first Saturday in September every year and is a way to show the human kind's appreciation for vultures and the ecosystem services they provide. The initiative is run jointly by the Birds of Prey Programme of the Endangered Wildlife Trust in South Africa and the Hawk Conservancy Trust in England.

Hindi Day

- Hindi Day is celebrated every year on 14 September marking the declaration of Hindi language as official language of Union government of India. On 14 September 1949, Hindi was adapted as official language in India.
- Hindi, written in the Devanagari script along with English was adopted as the official language in India out of the 22 recognized Indian languages under Article 343 (1). Out of the 22 languages of the 8th Schedule of the Constitution of India, Hindi is used at the Union level.

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

- The Morning Consult, an American data intelligence firm, tracks the approval rating for governmental leaders. According to this firm, who among the following topped a global approval rating?
(a) Mario Draghi (b) Joe Biden (c) Narendra Modi (d) Andrés Manuel López Obrador
- At Tokyo Paralympics 2020, in its best ever performance India bagged _____ medals.
(a) 14 (b) 16 (c) 19 (d) 25
- Which of the following is the first Asian Country to launch a plastics pact?
(a) China (b) South Korea (c) India (d) Japan
- Which of the following IIT's bagged top honours at Dr APJ Abdul Kalam International Innovation Conclave?
(a) IIT Kanpur (b) IIT Delhi (c) IIT Bombay (d) IIT Kharagpur
- Recently, The three-day long 28th edition of _____ Maritime Bilateral Exercise SIMBEX concluded.
(a) Singapore-India (b) Singapore-Malaysia (c) Singapore-Indonesia (d) Singapore-Maldives
- Which of the following recently started first Indian digital payment interactive geospatial platform?
(a) Paytm (b) Amazon Pay (c) PhonePe (d) Google Pay
- Recently, The Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2022 has been announced. The _____ is at the top of the list.
(a) University of Oxford (b) California Institute of Technology
(c) Cambridge University (d) Harvard University
- Recently, A special train named _____ will be launched from suburban Dadar station to run to Konkan region for Ganesh festival on September 7.
(a) Balasaheb Train (b) Modi Train (c) Deshmukh Train (d) Atal Train
- Which of the following Indian Universities is also the only university in the top 350 rankings in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2022?
(a) Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru
(b) Delhi University (DU)
(c) Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU)
(d) Banaras Hindu University (BHU)
- International Vulture Awareness Day (IVAD) falls on the first _____ in September every year and is a way to show the human kind's appreciation for vultures and the ecosystem services they provide.
(a) Monday (b) Tuesday (c) Wednesday (d) Saturday
- The first-ever IAS officer of India to win a medal at the Paralympics in Badminton is
(a) Amit Bansal (b) Vinay Kumar Singh
(c) Suhas Lalinakere Yathiraj (d) M Manishankar
- Recently, the 5th World Conference of Speakers of Parliament was organized in:
(a) Madrid (b) Paris (c) Rotterdam (d) Vienna
- Name the recently launched NALCO app that provides a platform to highlight the Company's efforts towards development of MSEs.
(a) MAHASYA App (b) ATULIT App
(c) NAMASYA App (d) ISPAT App

14. Which of the following states / union territories now has its first pollen calendar, which can identify potential allergy triggers and provide a clear understanding for clinicians as well as allergy sufferers about their causes to help limit their exposure during high pollen loads?
 (a) Lakshadweep (b) Sikkim (c) Chandigarh (d) Goa
15. Indian President and the Supreme Commander of Indian Armed Forces, Ram Nath Kovind presented the President's Colour to Indian Naval Aviation at _____, Goa.
 (a) INS Hansa (b) INS Hans (c) INS Birat (d) INS Maas
16. Recently, Bangladesh Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud inaugurated the Bangabandhu Media Centre at the _____.
 (a) Char Minar in Hyderabad (b) Hawa Mahal in Jaipur
 (c) Press Club of India in New Delhi (d) Victoria Palace in Kolkata
17. The world's first 'floating farm' is located in:
 (a) London (b) Rotterdam (c) Venice (d) Tokyo
18. The bilateral exercise _____ is held between Indian Navy and Royal Australian Navy commenced in Australia.
 (a) AUSINDEX (b) AUSTRANDEX (c) MAITRAYI (d) MITRA SHAKTI
19. Recently, Researchers at the _____ have sequenced the genome of Giloy, a plant known for its medicinal properties.
 (a) Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Chandigarh
 (b) Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) New Delhi
 (c) Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Bhopal
 (d) Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Guwahati
20. Name the writer who has been chosen as the recipient of the seventh Yamin Hazarika Woman of Substance Award recently.
 (a) Namita Gokhale (b) Apoorva Ghatge
 (c) Mrinalini Ganguly (d) Manisha Kritika
21. Recently, Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Bhupender Yadav dedicated the first functional Smog Tower in India in _____.
 (a) Delhi (b) Mumbai (c) Chandigarh (d) Shimla
22. Recently, The Ministry of Coal has constituted a Task Force and Expert Committee to Prepare Road Map for Coal based Hydrogen Production. Who among the following is the head of this task force?
 (a) Secretary in the Ministry of Coal (b) Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs
 (c) Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Coal (d) Vice Chairman NITI Aayog
23. Recently, India and Kazakhstan carried out the 5th edition of the annual bilateral joint exercise _____ strengthening military diplomacy between the two countries.
 (a) Maitrayee (b) Dosti (c) KAZIND-21 (d) Mitrata- 21
24. Which is the first country in the world to vaccinate children from the age of two against Covid-19, using home-grown jabs not recognized by the World Health Organization?
 (a) Cuba (b) Portugal (c) Ireland (d) Suriname
25. Which is the first country in the world to adopt Bitcoin as legal tender?
 (a) Albania (b) Greece (c) El Salvador (d) Mexico
26. Name, India's first floating missile test range that will commence its sea trials?
 (a) Anvesh (b) Vishesh (c) Abhay (d) Amar

27. Which of the following states recently announced that a 500-sqkm dugong conservation reserve will soon be set up in the Palk Bay?
 (a) Kerala (b) Karnataka (c) Tamil Nadu (d) Maharashtra
28. India's first badminton player to win a gold medal in the history of the para Games at Tokyo Paralympics 2020 is
 (a) Amit Bhandari (b) Vidit Tyagi (c) Suhas L Y (d) Pramod Bhagat
29. Who among the following is the first visiting opening batsman to score a hundred in all three formats in England?
 (a) Babar Azam (b) K L Rahul (c) Rohit Sharma (d) David Warner
30. International Literacy Day is celebrated every year on:
 (a) 2nd September (b) 5th September (c) 7th September (d) 8th September
31. Who has been appointed as India's Sherpa for the G20 by Indian government?
 (a) Anurag Thakur (b) Mansukh Mandaviya (c) Piyush Goyal (d) Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi
32. Who has been recently named as acting Prime Minister of the new government in Afghanistan?
 (a) Mullah Mohammad Hassan (b) Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar
 (c) Sirajuddin Haqqani (d) Zabihullah Mujahid
33. The theme for the 13th BRICS Summit 2021 is _____.
 (a) "Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth"
 (b) BRICS: economic growth for an innovative future
 (c) 'BRICS@15: Intra-BRICS cooperation for continuity, consolidation and consensus'
 (d) 'BRICS in India: Collaboration for Inclusive Growth and Shared Prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution'
34. Who among the following has become the first Australian of Indian descent to serve on the NSW Supreme Court bench?
 (a) Atul Demale (b) Shaheen Gauhar (c) Deepak Kulshrestha (d) Hament Dhanji
35. Which of the following places recently got the world's first 'green' mosque?
 (a) Jeddah (b) Dubai (c) Tehran (d) Riyadh
36. The first woman to lead Adobe India is
 (a) Prativa Mohapatra (b) Aditi Jha (c) Gautami Raha (d) Deepika Gulati
37. Baby Rani Maurya has resigned as the Governor of _____.
 (a) Sikkim (b) Uttarakhand (c) Himachal Pradesh (d) Haryana
38. Which of the following states recently has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Amazon India to boost the export of MSME sector?
 (a) Gujarat (b) Karnataka (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Haryana
39. Who has become the first professional golfer in the world to receive the prestigious 10-year Dubai Golden Visa in recognition of his outstanding achievements in the sport?
 (a) Jeev Milkha Singh (b) Rory MacIlroy (c) John Rahm (d) Justin Thomas
40. Name the first Arab woman who was elected President of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), one of the world's largest and best-known conservation institutions recently.
 (a) Gauhar Khatoun (b) Razan Al Mubarak (c) Sulaik Al Mubarak (d) Mohima Zeenat
41. India's first emergency landing strip on highway is inaugurated in _____.
 (a) Noida (b) Jorhat (c) Bhopal (d) Bikaner

42. Which of the following countries will be hosting the inaugural India-Australia 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue?
(a) Australia (b) USA (c) France (d) India
43. Recently, the world's largest plant designed to suck carbon dioxide out of the air and turning it into rock started running in _____.
(a) Sweden (b) Finland (c) Iceland (d) Ireland
44. Which of the following Indian Institutes has topped the Rankings in the overall category in National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)?
(a) IISc Bengaluru (b) IIT Bombay (c) IIT Madras (d) AIIMS Delhi
45. Which of the following State-owned banks has announced the launch of its digital banking platform 'bob World', aimed at providing all banking services under one roof?
(a) Punjab National Bank (b) Bank of Baroda (c) State Bank of India (d) Canara Bank
46. Which of the following Indian states is looking to expand its footprint in green energy to see a \$5-10 billion renewable sector investment with Danish participation, including an energy island in the Gulf of Mannar?
(a) Kerala (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Maharashtra (d) Karnataka
47. Recently, International Olympic Committee (IOC) has suspended _____ until the end of 2022 after it failed to send a team to the Tokyo Games.
(a) Afghanistan (b) Yemen (c) North Korea (d) Singapore
48. International Day to Protect Education from Attack is observed on:
(a) September 2 (b) September 4 (c) September 6 (d) September 9
49. Recently, British writer Susanna Clarke won the prestigious Women's Prize for Fiction for her mind-tweaking fantasy novel _____ - a book that chronic illness made her fear she would never get to write.
(a) 'Piranesi' (b) 'Flight' (c) 'Light' (d) 'Doubt'
50. Name the 12-year-old Indian environmental activist from Mumbai who has been named as a 2021 International Young Eco-Hero in recognition of his efforts to solve tough environmental problems.
(a) Pankaj Kshitij (b) Niket Sharma (c) Prashant Dhoot (d) Ayaan Shankta
51. In Uttar Pradesh President Ramnath Kovind laid the foundation of Uttar Pradesh National Law University at:
(a) Varanasi (b) Prayagraj (c) Lucknow (d) Noida
52. Which of the following states has launched 'Millet Mission' recently?
(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Chhattisgarh (d) Bihar
53. Recently, Vallabh Vidyanagar-based Sardar Patel University (SPU) in _____ district has been accredited as the first green university of Gujarat with platinum ranking.
(a) Surat (b) Gandhinagar (c) Anand (d) Vadodara
54. Recently, Vijay Rupani tendered his resignation as Chief Minister of:
(a) Haryana (b) Jharkhand (c) Gujarat (d) Madhya Pradesh
55. Recently, Which of the following countries have held their sixth Maritime Affairs Dialogue in a virtual format.
(a) India and China (b) India and Norway (c) India and Japan (d) India and Finland
56. Recently, The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has said the limit of guarantee under surety insurance contracts should not exceed _____ of the project value.
(a) 10 per cent (b) 20 per cent (c) 30 per cent (d) 40 per cent

57. Recently, Researchers want to use the space telescope, the largest and most powerful ever built, to look back in time over _____ to see the first stars and galaxies that formed, a few hundred million years after the Big Bang.
 (a) 8.5 billion years (b) 12.5 billion years (c) 13.5 billion years (d) 16.5 billion years
58. Who won the Men's Singles finals at US Open Tennis?
 (a) Novak Djokovic (b) Felix Auger-Aliassime
 (c) Daniil Medvedev (d) Roger Federer
59. Hindi Day is celebrated every year on _____ marking the declaration of Hindi language as official language of Union government of India.
 (a) 12 September (b) 13 September (c) 14 September (d) 16 September
60. Which of the following districts of Madhya Pradesh's has been nominated in the 'Best Tourism Village' category for the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Award?
 (a) Niwari (b) Bhopal (c) Indore (d) Sehore
61. Recently, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin announced that an Archeological Museum of Artefacts on the existence of Ancient Tamils will be set-up at _____.
 (a) Madurai (b) Tirunelveli (c) Rameshwaram (d) Kanyakumari
62. Recently, who has been appointed as Governor of Tamil Nadu?
 (a) RN Ravi (b) Banwarilal Purohit
 (c) Lieutenant General (Retd) Gurmit Singh (d) Prof. Jagdish Mukhi
63. Recently, India along with _____ jointly launched 'Centre of Excellence on Offshore Wind' as part of Green Strategic Partnership?
 (a) Norway (b) Sweden (c) Ireland (d) Denmark
64. Union Cabinet approved the Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Textiles. Who is the current Textiles Minister?
 (a) Smriti Irani (b) Mansukh Mandaviya (c) Piyush Goyal (d) Amit Shah
65. Who is the new Prime Minister of Lebanon?
 (a) Najib Mikati (b) Lithak Jinaan (c) Saad Hariri (d) Menak Luthi
66. Name the Investment platform which has tied up with Amazon Pay India to provide its wealth management services to Amazon Pay's users.
 (a) Savera.in (b) Kuvera.in (c) Mivera.in (d) Livera.in
67. Watertech startup Maithri Aquatech Pvt Ltd has set up the world's first water-from-air bottling water plant with a capacity of generating 2.5 million litres per annum and bottling 3.4 million bottles per annum in _____.
 (a) Mysuru (b) Bengaluru (c) Hyderabad (d) Lucknow
68. Indian International Trade Saffron Spice Park is located in:
 (a) Sikkim (b) Arunachal Pradesh (c) Jammu & Kashmir (d) Madhya Pradesh
69. Who won Women's Singles title at US Open Tennis recently?
 (a) Emma Raducanu (b) Serena Williams (c) Leylah Fernandez (d) Monica Liblis
70. Who among the following took charge as the Chairman of National Commission for Minorities recently?
 (a) Mohammad Faizan (b) Thomas Matthew
 (c) Sardar Iqbal Singh Lalpura (d) Alex Nithan

ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATION

1. c Prime Minister Narendra Modi has topped a global approval rating leaving behind all contemporary Heads of State and Heads of Government.
2. c At Tokyo Paralympics, in its best ever performance India bagged 19 medals with five Gold, eight Silver and six bronze. Indian finished 24th in the medals tally.
3. c India is the first Asian Country to launch a plastics pact.
4. c Sai Prasad from IIT Bombay won the first position for her innovative idea of a skin spray gun which helps in the rapid healing of wounds using the patient's own skin during the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam International Innovation Conclave which ended at Chandigarh University.
5. a The three-day long 28th edition of Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise SIMBEX concluded.
6. c Walmart-owned digital payments firm PhonePe has launched PhonePe Pulse, India's first interactive platform with data, insights and trends on digital payments in the country.
7. a The Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2022 has been announced. The University of Oxford is at the top of the list, followed by California Institute of Technology and Harvard University at the second and third positions, respectively.
8. b The Union Minister of State for Railways, Raosaheb Danve has said that a special train named Modi train will be launched from suburban Dadar station to run to Konkan region for Ganesh festival on September 7.
9. b The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, is placed between the 301-350 position. Incidentally, it is also the only university in the top 350 rankings.
10. d International Vulture Awareness Day (IVAD) falls on the first Saturday in September every year and is a way to show the human kind's appreciation for vultures and the ecosystem services they provide.
11. c India's Suhas Lalinakere Yathiraj has bagged a historic silver after going down fighting against top seed Lucas Mazur of France in the men's singles SL4 class final at the Tokyo Paralympics.
12. d Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla reached Vienna to attend 5th World Conference of Speakers of Parliament by the Austrian Parliament, Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations.
13. c The NAMASYA App provides a platform to highlight the Company's efforts towards development of MSEs.
14. c Chandigarh now has its first pollen calendar, which can identify potential allergy triggers and provide a clear understanding for clinicians as well as allergy sufferers about their causes to help limit their exposure during high pollen loads.
15. a President and the Supreme Commander of Indian Armed Forces, Ram Nath Kovind presented the President's Colour to Indian Naval Aviation at INS Hansa, Goa.
16. c Bangladesh Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud inaugurated the Bangabandhu Media Centre at the Press Club of India in New Delhi.
17. b Among the cranes and containers of the port of Rotterdam is a surreal sight: a herd of cows peacefully feeding on board what calls itself the world's first floating farm.

- 18. a** The bilateral exercise – AUSINDEX between Indian Navy and Royal Australian Navy commenced in Australia.
- 19. c** Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Bhopal have sequenced the genome of Giloy, a plant known for its medicinal properties.
- 20. a** Writer Namita Gokhale has been chosen as the recipient of the seventh Yamin Hazarika Woman of Substance Award.
- 21. a** Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Bhupender Yadav dedicated the first functional Smog Tower in India at Anand Vihar, Delhi.
- 22. c** The Task Force will be headed by Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Coal.
- 23. c** India and Kazakhstan carried out the 5th edition of the annual bilateral joint exercise KAZIND-21 strengthening military diplomacy between the two countries.
- 24. a** Cuba became the first country in the world to vaccinate children from the age of two against Covid-19, using home-grown jabs not recognized by the World Health Organization.
- 25. c** El Salvador became the first country in the world to adopt bitcoin as legal tender, a real-world experiment proponents say will lower commission costs for billions of dollars sent home from abroad but which critics warned may fuel money laundering.
- 26. a** Anvesh, India's first floating missile test range, will commence its sea trials.
- 27. c** The Tamil Nadu State government announced that a 500-sqkm dugong conservation reserve will soon be set up in the Palk Bay.
- 28. d** Indian para shuttler Pramod Bhagat created history at the Tokyo Paralympics 2020 as he became India's first badminton player to win a gold medal in the history of the para Games.
- 29. c** Indian opener Rohit Sharma scored his first overseas Test hundred as he smashed 127 runs in the third innings of the fourth Test match against England.
- 30. d** The 8th of September was proclaimed International Literacy Day by UNESCO in 1966 to remind the international community of the importance of literacy for individuals, communities and societies, and the need for intensified efforts towards more literate societies.
- 31. c** The government appointed commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal as India's Sherpa for the G20.
- 32. a** Mullah Mohammad Hassan, the little-known head of the Taliban's leadership council, was named as acting prime minister.
- 33. c** The theme for the Summit is BRICS@15: Intra-BRICS cooperation for continuity, consolidation and consensus. India had outlined four priority areas for its Chairship.
- 34. d** Leading Sydney barrister Hament Dhanji SC has been appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court of NSW.
- 35. b** As per the reports, Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) inaugurated the world's first green mosque, which also received platinum rating for green buildings by the Leadership for Energy and Environmental Design (LEED v4) from the US Green Buildings Council (USGBC) with 83 points.
- 36. a** Adobe Inc. has appointed Prativa Mohapatra as vice president and managing director for Adobe India, making her the first woman to lead the global software maker's operations in the country.

- 37. b** Uttarakhand Governor Baby Rani Maurya has resigned from the Post.
- 38. a** Gujarat Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Amazon India to boost the export of MSME sector.
- 39. a** Star Indian golfer Jeev Milkha Singh has become the first professional golfer in the world to receive the prestigious 10-year Dubai Golden Visa in recognition of his outstanding achievements in the sport.
- 40. b** Razan Al Mubarak, the Managing Director of both the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi and the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, was elected President of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), one of the world’s largest and best-known conservation institutions.
- 41. d** Union ministers Rajnath Singh and Nitin Gadkari inaugurated an emergency landing strip at Gandhav Bhakasar section on National Highway-925 in Barmer, Rajasthan for Indian Air Force (IAF) planes.
- 42. d** India will be hosting the inaugural India-Australia 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue on 11 September 2021 in New Delhi. H.E. Ms. Marise Payne, Foreign Minister, and H.E. Mr. Peter Dutton, Defence Minister, of Australia will be visiting India on 10-12 September 2021 to take part in the Dialogue.
- 43. c** The world’s largest plant designed to suck carbon dioxide out of the air and turning it into rock started running in Iceland.
- 44. c** IIT Madras has topped the Rankings in the overall category in National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF).
- 45. b** State-owned Bank of Baroda announced the launch of its digital banking platform ‘bob World’, aimed at providing all banking services under one roof.
- 46. b** Tamil Nadu looking to expand its footprint in green energy, the state is likely to see a \$5-10 billion renewable sector investment with Danish participation, including an energy island in the Gulf of Mannar.
- 47. c** The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has suspended North Korea until the end of 2022 after it failed to send a team to the Tokyo Games.
- 48. d** The International Day to Protect Education from Attack is an international observance established by a unanimous decision of the United Nations General Assembly in 2020. It is observed on September 9 of each year.
- 49. a** British writer Susanna Clarke won the prestigious Women’s Prize for Fiction for her mind-tweaking fantasy novel ‘Piranesi’ - a book that chronic illness made her fear she would never get to write.
- 50. d** Ayaan Shankta won the third place in the 8-14 age category for his project Conservation and Rehabilitation of Powai Lake.
- 51. b** President was speaking at the function of foundation stones laying for Uttar Pradesh National Law University and new building complex of Allahabad High Court in Prayagraj.
- 52. c** The Bhupesh Baghel government has included all seven districts of the Maoist-hit Bastar division in its ‘Millet Mission’ launched.
- 53. c** One of the greenest districts of Gujarat is now also home to state’s first green university. Vallabh Vidyanagar-based Sardar Patel University (SPU) in Anand district has been accredited as the first green university of Gujarat with platinum ranking.
- 54. c** Gujarat chief minister Vijay Rupani tendered his resignation to governor Acharya Devvratas and said he is ready to take new responsibilities assigned to him by the party.

- 55. c** India and Japan held their sixth Maritime Affairs Dialogue in a virtual format.
- 56. c** The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) has said the limit of guarantee under surety insurance contracts should not exceed 30 per cent of the project value.
- 57. c** Researchers want to use the space telescope, the largest and most powerful ever built, to look back in time over 13.5 billion years to see the first stars and galaxies that formed, a few hundred million years after the Big Bang.
- 58. c** In US Open Tennis, second seed Daniil Medvedev cruised into the Men's Singles finals after producing a dominant performance to overcome 12th seed Canadian Felix Auger-Aliassime in New York.
- 59. c** Hindi Day is celebrated every year on 14 September marking the declaration of Hindi language as official language of Union government of India.
- 60. a** Ladhpora Khas, a village in Madhya Pradesh's Niwari district, has been nominated in the 'Best Tourism Village' category for the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Award.
- 61. b** Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin announced that an Archeological Museum of Artefacts on the existence of Ancient Tamils will be set-up at Tirunelveli.
- 62. a** Nagaland Governor RN Ravi has been appointed as Governor of Tamil Nadu.
- 63. d** Union Minister for Power and New and Renewable Energy R. K. Singh met Denmark's Minister for Climate, Energy and Utilities Dan Jørgensen in New Delhi. The two ministers jointly launched 'Centre of Excellence on Offshore Wind' as part of the GreenStrategic Partnership.
- 64. c** Union Cabinet approved the Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Textiles. Under it, the incentives worth 10,683 crore rupees will be provided over five years. Textiles Minister, Piyush Goyal said, this will positively impact states like Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Odisha.
- 65. a** Prime Minister Najib Mikati, a billionaire who has already twice served as premier, will lead a cabinet of ministers that will preside over an economic depression which the World Bank considers one of the world's worst since the mid-19th century.
- 66. b** Investment platform Kuvera.in has tied up with Amazon Pay India to provide its wealth management services to Amazon Pay's users.
- 67. c** Watertech startup Maithri Aquatech Pvt Ltd has set up the world's first water-from-air bottling water plant with a capacity of generating 2.5 million litres per annum and bottling 3.4 million bottles per annum in Hyderabad.
- 68. c** Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar visited the Indian International Trade Saffron Spice Park at Pampore and inspected various departments of the processing unit.
- 69. a** Rising British sensation Emma Raducanu beat Leylah Fernandez of Canada to win Women's Singles title at US Open Tennis.
- 70. c** Sardar Iqbal Singh Lalpura took charge as the Chairman, National Commission for Minorities in the presence of Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi in New Delhi.