



Current Affairs Supplement

August 2021

Registered/ Corporate Office

DELHI

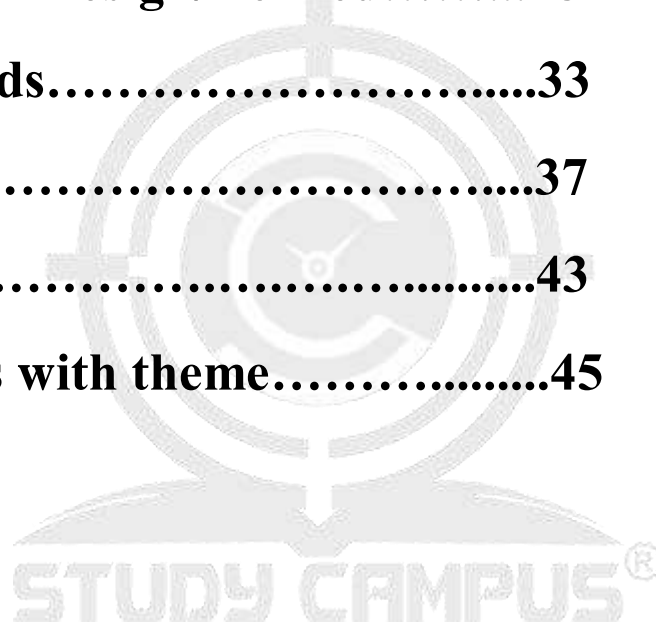
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National

Karnataka, 1st Indian state to provide 1% Horizontal Reservation for Transgender in Govt Services

Karnataka has become the first state in the country to provide 1% horizontal reservation for the transgender in each category of general, Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST) and Other Backward Classes (OBC) for all government services after amending the **Rule 9 Sub Rule (1D) Karnataka Civil Service (General Recruitment) Rule, 1977**.



- The information for the same was provided to the division bench of the Karnataka high court headed by Chief Justice **Abhay Shreeniwas Oka**.
- The notification for the same was already issued on July 6, 2021.

Key Points:

i. 1% reservation specifies all general as well as reserve categories for the third gender.

- In case of non-availability of transgender candidates, the job could be given to male or female from the same category

ii. There should not be any discrimination to the transgenders in the process of selection.

Background:

Initially, the state government proposed to consider reservation for transgender persons under one of the OBC categories. This amendment is the result of Jeeva NGO (Non-Governmental Organisation) petition who sought reservation for transgender persons in a horizontal manner.

- A draft notification issued on May 13, 2021 proposed to amend Rule 9 for the purpose.

About Karnataka:

Capital– Bengaluru

Chief Minister– Basavaraj Bommai

Haryana Police secures 1st Position in India under CCTNS

The Haryana Police with 100 per cent marks, secured the 1st position in India under Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS). Gujarat Police secured the 2nd position, while Himachal Pradesh was placed third.

- CCTNS was created for a comprehensive and **integrated system for effective policing through e-Governance**.

Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS)

i. The system was approved by the Cabinet in 2009. An allocation of **INR 2000 crores** was made for the CCTNS Project.

ii. It is a Mission Mode Project under the National e-Governance Plan (**NeGP**) of Government of India and is implemented by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

Lok Sabha passes Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment Bill), 2021

The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment Bill), 2021** presented by Minister of State for Corporate Affairs, Rao Inderjit Singh was passed in the Parliament without any discussions. The bill proposes a **pre-packaged insolvency resolution process** for Corporate debtors under the MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) Development Act, 2006.

- It will replace the Insolvency Amendment Ordinance 2021 promulgated by the President Ram Nath Kovind on April 4, 2021.
- The Ordinance amended the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.

Proposed Changes

- The bill specifies a minimum threshold of not more than **INR 1 crore** for initiating the pre-packaged insolvency resolution process (Government has already prescribed the threshold of INR 10 Lakh for this purpose).
- It provides penalty for fraudulent or malicious initiation of pre-packaged insolvency resolution process or with intent to defraud persons.



About Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Union Minister – Nirmala Sitharaman (Rajya Sabha – Karnataka)

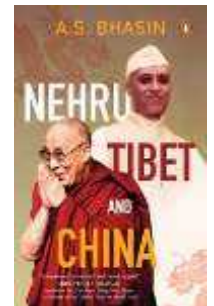
Minister of State – Rao Inderjit Singh (Lok Sabha – Gurgaon, Haryana)

Avtar Singh Bhasin's New Book Titled "Nehru, Tibet and China"

Avtar Singh Bhasin, the publisher of original archival documents, has authored a new book titled "**Nehru, Tibet and China**". The book published by Penguin Random House India features the various details and events that took place from the Independence of India to the 1962 Indo-China war.

About the book:

- This book on the Indo-China relationship focuses on Tibet, boundary issues before the war, occupation of Tibet by China, and the fleeing of the 14th Dalai Lama from Tibet to India.
- The authentic and credible narrative of the book is written with the aid of official documents and archives.



About the author:

- Avtar Singh Bhasin has served in the Ministry of External Affairs for around 30 years and retired in 1993 as the Director of the Historical Division.
- He has served in the National Archives of India and the Ministry of Defence.
- He has edited and authored various books on South Asian Affairs like India in Sri Lanka: Between Lion & the Tigers; India – Pakistan Relations 1947-2007: A Documentary Study in Ten Volumes; India's Foreign Relations- 2007: Documents (Part I & Part II).

BRO Constructed World's Highest Road in Ladakh at 19,300 Feet Altitude; Beats Bolivia's Record

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) constructed the world's highest **52-km-long** tarmac road or motorable pass at Umling LA Pass in eastern Ladakh at an altitude of 19,300 feet which has surpassed the record of a road in Bolivia, South America at 18,953 ft which connects to its volcano **Uturuncu**.

- This road will enhance socio-economic conditions and promote tourism in Ladakh.



Points to be noted

- The road has been constructed at an altitude higher than the base camps of Mount Everest. The north base in Tibet is at **16,900 feet**, whereas the south base camp in Nepal is **17,598 feet**.
- It is also above the altitude of Siachen Glacier which is at 17,700 feet and the Khardung LA Pass in Leh, Ladakh is at an altitude of 17,582 feet.

iii. It connects the important towns in Chumar sector of eastern Ladakh by offering an alternate direct route connecting Chisumle and Demchok from Leh.

Governors can Pardon Prisoners, including Death Row ones under Article 161: Supreme Court

A Supreme Court bench comprising Justices Hemant Gupta & AS Bopanna held that the **Governor of a state can pardon prisoners**, including death row convicts, even before they have served a minimum 14 years of prison sentence, as per constitutional powers granted to Governors under **Article 161** of the Indian Constitution.

i. The court also noted that the sovereign power of a Governor to pardon a prisoner under **Article 161 is actually exercised by the State government** and not the Governor on his own. So, the advice of the appropriate government will be binding on the Governor.

ii. The **Section 433-A** of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), will not affect the constitutional power conferred on the President/Governor to grant pardon to convicts (under Articles 72 or 161 of the Indian Constitution).

About Supreme Court

Chief Justice – Justice N.V. Ramana

Articles 124 to 147 in Part V of the Constitution of India deals with the Supreme Court.

India's first Water Villas will be set up in Lakshadweep

For the first time in India, water villas will be set up in the Union Territory (UT) of Lakshadweep with an outlay of **Rs 800 crore**. Similar to water villas in Maldives, these will be solar-powered and eco-friendly to provide world-class facilities.

- The decision behind this development is to develop Lakshadweep like Maldives in order to promote tourism and to benefit local residents.



About Lakshadweep:

It is India's smallest Union Territory (UT).

Capital– Kavaratti

Governor– Praful Khoda Patel

Karnataka Became 1st State to Issue Order for Implementing NEP 2020

On August 8, 2021, the Karnataka government issued an order for the implementation of the **National Education Policy (NEP) – 2020** from the current academic year 2021-2022.

- Through this, Karnataka has become the 1st state in India to issue an order on the implementation of NEP-2020.

About NEP -2020:

i. It is the 1st education policy of the 21st century launched by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi on 29th July 2020 by replacing the National Policy on Education, 1986 (NPE, 1986).

- It proposes to increase the investment in education to reach 6 percent of total Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

- The 5 pillars of the policy include Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability and Accountability

ii. In July 2020, PM launched different initiatives such as Vidya Pravesh, SAFAL (Structured Assessment for Analysing Learning), NISHTHA 2.0 (National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' holistic Advancement) to mark the 1st Anniversary of the NEP 2020. Click here to know more

iii. NEP aims to increase the Gross Enrollment Ratio in higher education from 26.8 percent in 2018 to 50

percent by 2035 will bring in sweeping reforms in the area of education.

Benefits under NEF for Karnataka:

i. Once implemented the National Skills Qualification Framework will become part of the state's graduation programme and they could get a maximum of 40 percent credits through official online courses and 50 percent credits from any University.

Gurkhas will not be Prosecuted under Citizenship Act, 1955: Assam Cabinet

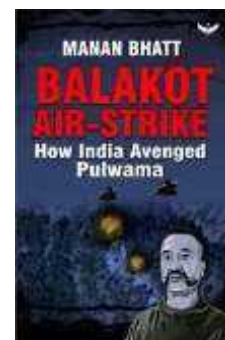
The Assam cabinet has decided to **not prosecute any Gurkha member under the Citizenship Act, 1955**. All the pending cases relating to Gurkhas will also be withdrawn from the Foreigners Tribunal (FTs).



- It will also **remove the illegal immigrants or foreigners tag** for the Gurkhas who are original inhabitants of Assam and are bona fide Indian citizens.
- The Assam cabinet has also included Gurkhas & 4 other indigenous communities – Ahoms, Morons, Motoks and Chutias as **'protected classes of persons'** in Sadiya tribal belt of the state.

"Balakot Air Strike: How India Avenged Pulwama" New Book Authored by Manan Bhatt

Manan Bhatt a veteran of the Indian Navy, has authored a new book titled **"Balakot Air Strike: How India Avenged Pulwama"**. The book published by Garuda Prakashan provides a detailed account of the Pulwama terror attack in the Kashmir Valley and the subsequent Balakot Air-Strike.



- The book features every detail from the moments before the Pulwama attack to the Balakot airstrike and the events that took place in those 12 days.

Pulwama Terror Attack:

- On 14th February 2019, a Jaish suicide bomber attacked the CRPF vehicle at Pulwama, Jammu & Kashmir of which around 40 personnel were martyred.
- The responsibility for the attack was claimed by Pakistan based terror group Jaish-e-Mohammed.

Balakot Air-Strike:

12 days after the Pulwama attack, on 26th February 2021, the Balakot air strike piloted 12 Mirage 2000 fighter jets that violated the Line of Control (LoC) in the Muzaffarabad sector and attacked the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terror camp in Balakot, Pakistan.

About Manan Bhatt:

- Manan Bhatt from Rajkot, Gujarat, has served onboard Frigates and Corvettes during his 15 years of service in the Indian Navy.
- He has served in Operation Talwar, during the Kargil War and Operation Parakram.
- He also served at the integrated headquarters of Defence and Defence Research and Organisation.

IAF builds One of the World's Highest Mobile ATC tower in Ladakh

One of the **world's Highest Mobile Air Traffic Control (ATC) towers** has been built by the Indian Air Force (IAF) in the Nyoma area of Ladakh at the Advanced Landing Ground.



- Main purpose of ATC is to control the operation of fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters in the East Ladakh region.
- It will help in controlling China's activity in the Pangong Tso region of Ladakh and boost surveillance in Line of Actual Control (LAC).
- India is also planning to develop Airfields in locations of eastern Ladakh such as Daulat Beg Oldi (DBO), Fukche and Nyoma.

Strategic locations in Ladakh

- **Siachen Glacier** – Located in east Karakoram range, it is one of the World's highest battle grounds. Also called '3rd pole of the world'.
- **Pangong Tso** – World highest salt water lake.

About Indian Air Force (IAF)

Founded: 8 October 1932

Commander-in-Chief: President Ram Nath Kovind

Chief of Air Staff: Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria

PPBL Became the 1st Bank to Cross 1 Crore FASTags

Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) became the **1st** bank in India to achieve the milestone of issuing **1 crore** FASTags. It has ~28 percent share as FASTag issuer bank.

- As per the data of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), around 3.47 crore FASTags were issued by all banks together till the end of June 2021.
- PPBL also exists as India's largest acquirer of **toll plazas** under the National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC) program. As per PPBL data, out of the total 851 toll plazas across the national and state highways 280 were using PPBL payment gateway to collect toll charges digitally.

India's Cleanest City Indore Declared as 1st Water Plus City of India

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has declared **Indore, Madhya Pradesh, the cleanest city of India**, as the **1st 'water plus' city** of India.

- Indore received the 1st Swachh Certification of Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) Water Plus from the MoHUA under the Swachh Survekshan 2021 (SS2021).
- It is a certificate provided by the **MoHUA** to a city for maintaining cleanliness in rivers and drains of its administration.
- A city/ward/circle/zone could be declared as Water Plus **only if** all wastewater released from households, etc. is treated before releasing it to the environment.
- The certification of SBM Water Plus is valid for 6 months and the certification process needs to be carried out every 6 months.



About Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA):

Union Minister – Hardeep Singh Puri (Constituency – Uttar Pradesh)

Minister of State – Kaushal Kishore (Constituency – Mohanlalganj, Uttar Pradesh)

CoinDCX becomes India's first Crypto Unicorn

CoinDCX has become the first Indian cryptocurrency exchange to grab the title of 'unicorn' with valuation

to \$1.1 billion (Rs 8,150 crore). The exchange achieved this status after a \$90-million (Rs 668 crore) series-C funding round, led by Facebook co-founder **Eduardo Saverin's B Capital**.

- It should be noted that Unicorns are startups with a valuation of \$1 billion or more.

Utilization of Funds:

- The funds will be used for marketing, strengthening, and on new business initiatives to expand crypto investor base and to make crypto a popular investment in India.
- The exchange has earmarked **Rs 10 crore** for its educational initiatives across platforms.
- It is also looking forward to entering into partnerships with key fintech players to set up a research & development (R&D) facility, strengthening the policy conversations through public discourse, working with the government to introduce favourable regulations, education, and ramping up the hiring initiatives.

Points to be noted:

- Other startups that attained an unicorn status in August 2021 are Bharatpe, MindTickle, and Upgrad.

- Now, India has 22 startups that became Unicorns in 2021 tally taking the total to 63 (as per Inc42).

ii. The company, co-founded in 2018 by its Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Sumit Gupta and Neeraj Khandelwal and is registered as Primestack Pte. in Singapore. Its Headquarter is Mumbai, Maharashtra.

- It helps people buy and sell crypto tokens along with crypto-based financial products such as lending.

'How the Earth Got Its Beauty' New Book Authored by Sudha Murty

Padma Shri **Sudha Murty**, Chairperson of the Infosys Foundation, has authored a new children's book titled "**How the Earth Got Its Beauty**", a part of the chapter book series for young readers.

- The book is published by Puffin Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House.
- Sudha Murty who hails from Shiggaon, Karnataka, has received a number of awards which includes, R.K. Narayan Award for Literature and Padma Shri in 2006, and the Attimabbe Award from the government of Karnataka in 2011.

Arvind Kejriwal launched 33 faceless transport services in Delhi; 1st Indian state to make transport services online

On August 10, 2021, the Chief Minister (CM) of Delhi, Arvind Kejriwal launched the state transport department's **33 'faceless' services** during a function at IP Depot Regional Transport Office (RTO), New Delhi.

- This will enable people to get various transport-related documents online along with obtaining an **e-learning licence (eLL)** by undertaking online test using Aadhaar authentication.
- With this, Delhi has become the first Indian state to bring all transport-related services online, thereby saving people's time and money.



Key Points:

- This step will curtail the need of visiting a **motor licensing office (MLO)** and also of mediators, making it a hassle-free process.

- The only requirement to visit the transport office is for driving test and car fitness check.
- ii. All the faceless applications will be processed within a period of **seven days**.
- iii. As a part of this move, four zonal offices i.e. IP Estate, Sarai Kale Khan, Janakpuri and Vasant Vihar are being closed. The Vahan and Sarathi related work will be looked after by MLOs of South zone, Raja Garden and Dwarka, respectively,
- These MLOs will serve as **facilitation centres for public** who are not having access to computers to file online applications and will also be responsible to look into the complaints.
- iv. According to standard operating procedure (SOP), the applicants can avail the services online with or without Aadhaar number.

Chandrayaan-2 Orbiter Detects Presence of Water Molecules on Moon

The Imaging Infrared Spectrometer (IIRS) instrument on the **Chandrayaan-2 lunar orbiter** has *detected* the presence of both Hydroxyl ions (OH) and Water Molecules (H₂O) on the surface of the moon.



- The findings will be crucial for future planetary exploration for resource utilisation and have been published in the journal ‘**Current Science**’.
- It is **authored by Former ISRO Chairman AS Kiran Kumar**.
- ISRO’s Chandrayaan-2 mission was launched in 2019.

“The Earthspinner” a new novel authored by Anuradha Roy

Indian novelist Anuradha Roy has authored a new novel titled “**The Earthspinner**”, a story about the changing ways of loving and living in the modern world.

The book will be published by Mountain Leopard Press London and Hachette India which will publish the book in September 2021.

About the book:

- i. The book moving between India and England reflects the encounters of East and West.
- ii. It narrates the story about 2 people who struggle to free themselves from the constraints such as community, religion, state harassment.

About Anuradha Roy:

Anuradha Roy from Ranikhet, Uttarakhand works as a graphic designer at Permanent Black, an independent press.

Along with her husband Rukun Advani, she founded the Indian publishing house, **Permanent Black** in 2000.

Her books were translated into more than 15 languages.

Books and honours:

- i. Her first book was “**An Atlas of Impossible Longing**”.
- ii. She won the DSC Prize for Fiction 2016 for her book “**Sleeping on Jupiter**”.
- iii. She was honoured with the **Nilimarani Sahitya Samman** for her outstanding contribution to Indian literature in 2020.

MoEF&CC notifies Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021 to Prohibit Single Use Plastic Items by 2022

i. On August 13, 2021, in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 6, 8 and 25 of **Environment (Protection) Act 1986**, (29 of 1986), the Central Government amended the Plastic Waste Management

(PWM) Rules, 2016 with Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2021.

ii. These new rules were notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) prohibits the identified single use plastic items with low utility and high littering potential w.e.f. **July 1, 2022**.

iii. With effect from **September 30, 2021**, the thickness of plastic carry bags has been increased from 50 microns to **75 microns**.

About Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC):

Union Minister– Bhupender Yadav (Constituency- Rajasthan)

Minister of State (MoS)– Ashwini Kumar Choubey (Constituency- Buxar, Bihar)



India's 4 New Sites from Gujarat, Haryana Added to Ramsar List; Haryana Got 1st Ramsar sites

In August 2021, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change announced the addition of **4** more wetlands from India, 2 each from **Gujarat and Haryana** in 'The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance' / **Ramsar Convention**.

Key Points:

i. Ramsar sites that are included:

- **Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary, Gujarat**
- **Wadhvana Wetland, Gujarat**
- **Sultanpur National Park, Gurgaon, Haryana**
- **Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary, Jhajjar, Haryana**

ii. With this, the number of Ramsar sites in India became **46** and the surface area covered by the Ramsar sites became 1,083,322 hectares.

iii. Haryana got its **1st Ramsar sites** and Gujarat's total sites count reached **3** (along with Nalsarovar, which was declared in 2012).

About Ramsar Convention:

i. The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands is an intergovernmental treaty that was recognised by the United Nations (UN) and registered with the UN. The Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention is hosted & administered by International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

ii. It provides framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.

iii. The Convention was adopted in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971 and came into force in 1975.

Note – World Wetlands Day will be celebrated on February 2nd every year. The theme of 2021 is "Wetland and Water".

Chhattisgarh became 1st Indian state to recognize Community Forest Resource Right

On the occasion of International Day of **World's Indigenous People Day** i.e. August 9, 2021, the Chief Minister (CM) of Chhattisgarh Bhupesh Baghel recognized Community Forest Resource Rights in an urban area, making it the first state in India to do so.

- In this regard, certificates for the same were distributed during a program in **Raipur, Chhattisgarh**.

Areas in which rights were recognized: Dhamtari district & Sitanadi Udanti Tiger Reserve



The state has recognized forest rights of three wards in Nagari nagar panchayat of Dhamtari district with 4,132.33 hectares of forests. These include the following:

- 41 hectares for Nagari ward
- 18 hectares for Churiyara
- 2,746.74 hectares for Tumbahara ward.

What is Community Forest Resource Right?

Section 3 (1) (i) of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (**Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006**, recognized by Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006, gives right to protect, regenerate or conserve or manage any community forest resource which the people from tribal communities have been traditionally protecting and conserving for sustainable use.

- For example:** Presently, in Chhattisgarh, the villagers were not even allowed to pick tendu leaves, a forest produce, in core areas of tiger reserve. Now, with this recognition, they can be allowed in the forest falling within their traditional boundaries.

Key Points:

- The CM unveiled an **atlas of tribal communities** living in Chhattisgarh.
- He also launched a special **five-part teaching module** on the all-round development of tribal areas. It will be used to train public representatives and members of the Panchayati Raj system.
- Tribals account for more than 31% of Chhattisgarh's population.

Overview of PM Narendra Modi's Address on India's 75th Independence Day Celebrations

On August 15th 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort in New Delhi on occasion of India's 75th Independence Day Celebrations.

- PM Modi laid the vision for the country for the next 25 years, he stated "**Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas**".
- He launched several initiatives on the occasion.

Pradhan Mantri 'Gati Shakti' National Master Plan for Infrastructure

Gati Shakti will act as the '**National Infrastructure Master Plan**' and will help in setting a holistic and integrated approach in infrastructure construction. INR 100 Lakh Crore will be allotted for the Gati Shakti programme.

75 Vande Bharat Trains

75 Vande Bharat trains to be rolled out in **75 weeks of Amrit Mahotsav of Independence** to connect every corner of India.

Fortified Rice by 2024

To fight malnutrition, the government has set a target to provide fortified rice to the poor through the Public Distribution System, Mid-Day meals Scheme and Others by 2024.

Sainik Schools for Girls

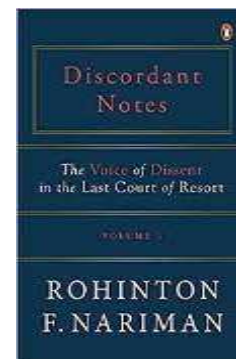
PM Modi announced, **For the 1st time Ever**, Girls will be allowed to enroll in the Sainik Schools across the country.

National Hydrogen Mission

PM Modi announced the **launch of the National Hydrogen Mission** to make India the global production hub for clean hydrogen fuel production and exports.

“Discordant Notes: The Voice of Dissent in the Last Court of Resort” – Book by Former SC Judge Rohinton Fali Nariman

The book “Discordant Notes: The Voice of Dissent in the Last Court of Resort” by retired Supreme Court (SC) **Judge Rohinton Fali Nariman** was launched. It will be published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI).



- The book will trace, explore and analyse all dissenting judgments in the history of the Supreme Court of India. It will emphasize the value of dissent in an ‘Democracy’.
- It will consist of 2 volumes. It discusses the dissenting opinions given by Justice Fazl Ali, Justice Vivian Bose and Justice Subba Rao.

Justice Rohinton Fali Nariman

He was appointed the Solicitor General of India in July 2011. Later on, he became the 5th SC Judge to get elevated directly from The Bar Council without being made a judge in the High Court. He retired as a Judge of the Supreme Court in August, 2021.

Solicitor General of India (SGI) – An SGI is the second law officer of India and assists the Attorney General (AGI).

Present Solicitor General – Tushar Mehta

Term of Office – 3 years

TCS hits Rs 13 lakh crore market-cap; 1st IT & 2nd Indian company to achieve the feat

The market capitalisation (**market-cap or m-cap**) of the Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has reached around **Rs 13 Lakh crore** on BSE. TCS became the **first** Information Technology (**IT**) company to cross the 13 lakh crore mark and the **2nd Indian company** after Reliance Industries Limited (**RIL**) to achieve the feat.

- According to the BSE, as of 17th August 2021, In the overall market cap ranking, TCS stands second with Rs 1314051.01 crore, and RIL stands first with Rs. 1371823.79 crore market cap.

Bloomberg Billionaires Index: D-Mart owner Radhakishan Damani among World’s 100 richest People; Elon Musk topped

Radhakishan Damani, who owns the retail chain **D-Mart** under Avenue Supermarts has made it to the **top 100 richest people in the world**. He is now **ranked 97** on the Bloomberg Billionaires Index with a net worth of 19.3 billion USD (around Rs 1.4 lakh crore). Elon Musk topped the list, followed by Jeff Bezos, Bernard Arnault.



- A total of 6 Indians are featured among the top 100, with Mukesh Ambani(12), Gautam Adani(23), Azim Premji(36), Shiv Nadar(52) and Lakshmi Mittal(71).
- Radhakishan Damani has made a major investment in India Cement over the past 2years with a stake of 12.7% worth Rs 674 crore.

SC allows Women to appear in NDA exam for the 1st time in 65 years

The Supreme Court (SC) in its interim order has allowed Women candidates to appear in the

upcoming **National Defense Academy (NDA)** examination. Women will be appearing **for the 1st time in the 65 years** history of the NDA examination.

- Women candidates will be permitted to sit for the NDA exam which is Rescheduled on November 14th, 2021 and their **admission into the NDA will be subject to final orders of SC.**
- Students between age group of 16 to 19 and those who are in Class 12 or above can apply for the NDA
- NDA examination is conducted by the **Union Public Services Commission (UPSC)**



About National Defense Academy (NDA)

- It was Established in December **1954** in **Khadakwasla, Pune, Maharashtra** .
- NDA is the **joint defense service training institute** of the Indian Armed forces where the cadets of the Indian Army, the Indian Navy & the Indian Air force train together.
- It is the **1st tri-service academy** in the world.

President RamNath Kovind approved the Constitution (127th Amendment) Bill, 2021

The President of India, RamNath Kovind approved the Constitution (127th Amendment) Bill, 2021. After his assent, the bill has changed into the **Constitution (105th Amendment) Act, 2021** which will **restore the power of states and Union Territories (UTs)** to identify and specify **Socially and Educationally backward Classes (SEBCs)**.

- The Constitution 127th Amendment Bill was passed by the Parliament on 11th August, 2021 in the Monsoon Session.
- It has amended articles **338B** , **342-A** and **366(26C)** of the Indian Constitution

Article 338B – It deals with the structure, duties and powers of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)

Article 342-A – It empowers the President to notify a particular caste as SEBC and also enables the parliament to change the list

Article 366(26C) – gives the definition for SEBCs

About National Commission For Backward Classes (NCBC)

It is a constitutional body under **Article 338B** of the Constitution of India under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment

Chairman – Bhagwan Lal Sahni

Delhi-Chandigarh Highway Becomes India's 1st EV-Friendly Highway

Dr Mahendra Nath Pandey, Union Minister of Heavy Industries inaugurated the state of the art electric vehicle (EV) **charging station** in (Karnal Lake Resort)Karnal, Haryana, installed by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (**BHEL**).



- The EV charging station is located at the midpoint of **Delhi-Chandigarh Highway**, makes the Delhi Chandigarh Highway as **India's first EV-friendly Highway**.
- The charging station has been established by BHEL under the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid) and Electric Vehicles in India(**FAME-I**) scheme of the Ministry of Heavy Industries(**MHI**)

Empowering the States | The 127th Constitution Amendment Bill benefits 671 castes in the country and restores the States' rights to make their own list of OBCs

- The Bill seeks to restore the power of the States to identify OBCs that are socially and educationally backward after a Supreme Court order in May 2021 empowered only the Centre for this.
- The amendment was thought necessary because the SC, in its order on Maratha reservations, upheld the 102nd Constitutional Amendment Act, which said the President of India, in consultation with Governors, would specify socially and educationally backward classes, taking away the powers of the State governments to do so.
- Several parties also demanded a caste-based census to get a real idea of the number of OBCs in the country and to remove the 50% cap on reservations currently in place.

You (BJP) tweaked the Constitution by birthing the 102nd Constitutional Amendment Bill, which gave people the opportunity to go to court and finally the SC removed the States' power. **ADHIR RANJAN CHOUDHURY, CONGRESS LEADER**

When the Amendment was brought, the government's intent was that both at the Central and State level, OBC lists will be maintained. **EMUPONORA YADAV, LABOUR MINISTERS**

General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Amendment Act, 2021 got the Assent of the President

General Insurance Business(Nationalisation) Amendment 2021 got assent of the President Ramnath Kovind. This bill will amend the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act of 1972.

Purpose of amendment :- The Act was enacted to nationalise all private companies undertaking general insurance business in India and it makes private sector participation in the public sector insurance companies regulated under the Act.

Background:-

- **General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC)** was set up under the 1972 Act. The businesses of the companies nationalized under the Act were restructured in four subsidiaries of GIC: (i) National Insurance, (ii) New India Assurance, (iii) Oriental Insurance, and (iv) United India Insurance.
- The Act was amended in 2002 and the control of these four subsidiary companies has been transferred from GIC to the central government, the share holding of the Central Government in the General Insurance Corporation of India and the insurers referred to in **section 10A (specified insurers)** shall not be less than 51 per cent.

Points to be noted on New Amendment Bill

Change in the Definition

The Act classifies **the General Insurance Business** for fire, marine, or miscellaneous insurance. It excludes capital redemption and annuity certain business from the definition. The Bill removes this definition and instead, refers to the definition provided by the Insurance Act, 1938. Under the Insurance Act capital redemption and annuity certain are included within general insurance business.

NTPC Launched India's Largest Floating Solar PV Project in Simhadri

India's largest Power Producer, NTPC Ltd launched **India's largest Floating Solar PV (Photovoltaic) project** with the capacity of **25MW** on the reservoir of its **Simhadri thermal station** in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

- The floating solar PV project became the **1st** project to be set up under the **Flexibilisation Scheme**, which was notified by the Government of India in 2018.
- **Potential:** The floating solar project has the potential to generate electricity from more than 1 lakh solar PV modules.
- The project was inaugurated by Sanjay Madan, Regional Executive Director (WR2 & SR), NTPC.
- Now, NTPC Group has 71 power stations including 29 renewable projects with a total installed capacity of 66,900 MW.



India's first Smog Tower Inaugurated by Arvind Kejriwal in Delhi

India's first smog tower launched in **Delhi** as a pilot project by the Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal at Baba Kharak Marg, Connaught Place. It was developed by IIT-Delhi and IIT-Bombay.

Objective – To improve the air quality.

Nodal Agency – Delhi Pollution Control Committee(DPCC).

About the Smog Tower:

i. The new tower- It is about 20m tall, set up to improve the air quality in a radius of around 1 km.



ii. Financial Outlay-The tower was built at the cost of INR 20 crores, which was financed by the government of Delhi.

iii. The towers have 1200 air filters. Which are developed by experts of University of Minnesota of the United States.

iv. Working Process:

- A total of 40 fans have been installed at the bottom of the tower. Air will be sucked in from the top of the tower, filtered and released through the fans at the bottom.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Launched National Monetisation Pipeline

Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, **Nirmala Sitharaman** launched the asset monetisation pipeline of Central ministries and public sector entities named **National Monetisation pipeline (NMP)**.

- The NMP report was developed by NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) in consultation with infrastructure line ministries.
- **Objective:** To list out the government's (govt) infrastructure assets that are to be sold in the next 4 years.
- The aggregate monetisation potential under NMP through core assets of the central govt over the 4-year period (i.e. from FY22 to FY25) is estimated at **Rs 6 lakh crores**.
- **Monetisation:** It is the process of earning revenue from an asset business by converting the assets into cash or a form that is easily convertible into cash.

GoI launches 'Operation Devi Shakti' to Evacuate Indians from Afghanistan

The Government of India (GoI) has launched a rescue mission named '**Operation Devi Shakti**' to evacuate stranded Indians from the **Taliban-Captured Afghanistan**.

- The operation is carried out by the Indian Air Force (**IAF**), Air India & the officials at the Ministry of External Affairs (**MEA**) in collaboration with the US and several other countries.
- India has evacuated more than 800 people so far, since the Taliban captured Afghanistan.



Recent Developments in Afghanistan

i. Taliban has taken control of Afghanistan nearly 20 years after the US led military alliance left the country.

ii. **Amrullah Saleh**, Afghanistan's 1st Vice President declared himself as the **caretaker president of Afghanistan**, after former President Ashraf Ghani fled the country.

About Afghanistan

Former President – Ashraf Ghani

Capital – Kabul

Currency – Afghani

'The Kapil Sharma Story', a Biography of Indian Stand-up Comedian Launched by Ajitabha Bose

The renowned writer Ajitabha Bose wrote a book 'The Kapil Sharma Story', a biography of the famous Indian Stand-up comedian and self-made superstar, Kapil Sharma. The book narrates about the journey and struggling life of Kapil Sharma.

- It was published by Ajitabha Publishers in association with Rohan Trust.

- The royalties earned from the book will be directly given to social welfare organizations like NGOs. The book also contains real life experiences of several celebrities such as Dharmendra, Archana Puran Singh, Sonu Sood, Kiku Sharda and many more with Kapil Sharma.

About Kapil Sharma:-

i. He belongs to Amritsar, Punjab and is a well known Indian Television host of the show ‘Comedy nights with kapil’ .

ii. He won many awards including **Indian Television Academy Award** in 2019 and **Indian Telly Award** in 2015.

Rajnath Singh Inaugurates Stadium Named After Neeraj Chopra

Minister of Defence, Rajnath Singh renamed Army Sports Institute stadium of Army Sport Institute (ASI), Pune as “**Neeraj Chopra Stadium**”, after the Olympic Gold Medalist Neeraj Chopra. The inauguration ceremony was held in the presence of Army Chief General MM Naravane and Neeraj Chopra.

Key points

- ASI Pune is a prestigious institute of the country. The athletes have secured 34 Olympians, 22 Commonwealth medals, 21 Asian games medals, 13 Arjuna awards and many more.



About Neeraj Chopra

i. Neeraj Chopra, an Indian javelin thrower from Panipat, Haryana, won the gold medal at the Men’s Javelin throw at the Tokyo Olympics 2020.

ii. He became the first track and field athlete to win a gold medal for Independent India.

iii. He won the gold medal at both the Commonwealth Games and Asian Games held in 2018,

iv. He was honoured with the Arjuna Award in 2018

Govt Introduced BH Vehicle Registration Series to Ensure Seamless Transfer Across States

Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH), Government of India has introduced a new vehicle number registration series called **BH- series (Bharat Series)** to ensure seamless transfer of vehicles across states or union territories (UT).

The BH series will allow the users to avoid the re-registration process while shifting from one state or UT to another.

About BH Series registration:

i. The BH Series will be available voluntarily to defence personnel, government employees (central/state), employees of central/state public sector undertakings and private sector companies or organisations, that have offices in four or more states or UTs.

ii. The vehicles with BH series registration shall not require the assignment of a new registration mark while shifting from one state to other.

Motor Vehicle Tax:

i. The tax will be imposed for 2 years or in multiples of 2.

ii. After the completion of 14 years, the tax will be imposed annually and the amount will be half of the earlier amount.

Existing rules:

Under section 47 of the Motor Vehicles Act 1988, motor vehicles registered in one state can be kept in another state for 12 months.

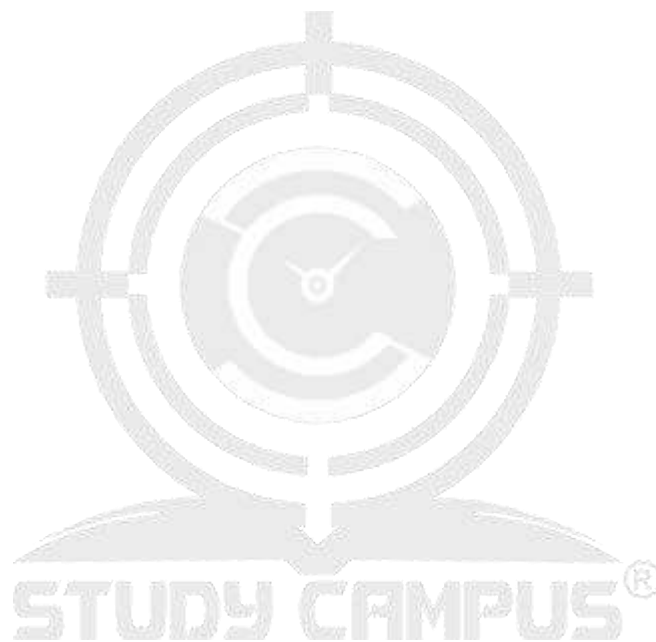
These vehicles should be re-registered before the end of the 12 months.

PM Dedicated 'Renovated Jallianwala Bagh Smarak' in Punjab to India; Inaugurated Museum Galleries at Smarak

In August 2021, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi virtually dedicated the renovated complex of **Jallianwala Bagh Smarak** at Amritsar in Punjab to the nation.



- PM also inaugurated the **Museum Galleries at the Smarak**. 4 Museum galleries have been created through adaptive reuse of redundant and underutilised buildings.
- India decided to observe **14th August** every year as '**Partition Horrors Remembrance Day**'.
- 13th April 2021 marked the 102nd anniversary of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre.
- Jallianwala Bagh Massacre/Massacre of Amritsar was an incident held on **April 13, 1919**, in which British troops under the command of General Reginald **Edward Dyer** fired on a large crowd of **unarmed Indians** in an open space known as the Jallianwala Bagh, Amritsar, Punjab.



International

Mumbai, Bangalore Ranked above 100 in QS Best Student Cities 2022

Mumbai, Maharashtra and Bangalore, Karnataka ranked above 100 in the 'QS Best Student Cities 2022' ranking of QS Quacquarelli Symonds, they became the **only 2 cities** to get ranked from India.

- **Mumbai** ranked as **52nd** among the top 100 cities globally in the 'employer activity' indicator and Bangalore, Karnataka ranked **42nd** among the top-10 under the indicator of 'affordable cities' for students.

- QS Best Student Cities 2022 is the annual ranking used to provide an overview to international students for the best places to live and study around the world based on the current students' opinions on affordability, quality of life, and the standard of University.



Overall QS – Best Student Cities 2022 Ranking:

Rank	City
106	Mumbai
110	Bangalore
1	London (United Kingdom)
2	Munich (Germany)
3	Seoul (South Korea) and Tokyo (Japan)

About QS Quacquarelli Symonds:

Establishment – 1990

Headquarters – United Kingdom

Founder and CEO – Nunzio Quacquarelli

Italy Hosted 1st G20 Culture Ministers' Meeting 2021

The **1st G20 Culture Ministers' Meeting 2021** was held in July 2021, virtually in **Rome, Italy**. It was hosted by Italy as it assumed the G20 2021 Presidency on 1 December 2020.

- From India, **Meenakshi Lekhi**, the Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture participated in the meeting.
- The Culture Ministers adopted the **1st G20 Culture declaration 'Rome Declaration of the G20 Culture'**



Ministers' for submission to the G20 Leaders' 2021 to recognize the economic value of Culture and advocate the introduction of Culture within the G20 process.

- Meenakshi Lekhi addressed the meeting and highlighted various measures taken by India to develop the culture and creative sectors like the 'One District One Product' scheme of Uttar Pradesh, Tourism circuits, promotion of Yoga and Ayurveda etc.

About the G20:

i. G20 members: 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. Spain is also invited as a permanent guest.

ii. G20 members account for more than 80 percent of world GDP, 75 percent of global trade and 60 percent of the world population.

Germany becomes 5th country to sign ISA Framework Agreement after Revisions

Germany became the **5th country** to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Framework Agreement after amendments to the ISA Agreement entered into force on **8th January 2021**.

- Germany's Ambassador to India, Walter J. Lindner deposited signed copies of the ISA Framework Agreement with the Ministry of External Affairs, which is the depositary of ISA Framework Agreement.
- The Signed copies of the ISA Framework Agreement were handed over to the Additional Secretary (Economic Relations) in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

Revised ISA Framework Agreement

- The new amendment opened the alliance membership **to all Member states of the UN**. Prior to this, it was open only to countries that were partially or entirely located within the Tropics.

International Solar Alliance (ISA)

It was launched by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi & the then-French President Francois Hollande.

- Objective – To work for efficient consumption of solar energy for reducing dependence on fossil fuels & contribute to the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement through the massive deployment of solar energy.
- In Total, 98 countries have signed the ISA Framework Agreement.

About International Solar Alliance (ISA)

Director General – Dr. Ajay Mathur

Headquarters – Gurugram, Haryana

PM Narendra Modi Chaired UNSC Open Debate on Maritime Security; UNSC Adopted PRST on Maritime Security

In August 2021, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** virtually chaired the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) High-level Open Debate on 'Enhancing Maritime Security – A Case for International Cooperation'.

- As India holds the **presidency** of the UNSC for the month of **August 2021**, Narendra Modi presided over the maritime security debate.
- Narendra Modi was the **1st** Indian PM to preside over a UNSC Open Debate.



- **PM's Remarks:** He outlined 5 principle frameworks to preserve and use the common maritime heritage, and to frame a global roadmap of maritime security cooperation.
- The 15-member body, UNSC unanimously **adopted** the **Presidential Statement (PRST)** on Maritime Security, which was given by Narendra Modi.
- This is the **1st** comprehensive UNSC document on maritime security.

About United Nations Security Council (UNSC):

- UNSC is the only U.N. body that can make legally binding decisions like imposing sanctions and authorizing use of force.
- India is the non-permanent member of the UNSC.

Delhi Airport ranked 45th, Doha Airport World's Best

In the Skytrax World Airport Awards 2021 list, Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport secured 45th rank (from 50 in 2020 rankings), while Qatar's Doha Hamad Airport topped the rankings. Delhi's IGI has been awarded as the '**Best Airport in India & Central Asia**' for the **3rd Consecutive time**.

i. Three Other Indian Airports featured in the Top-100 list – Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport – 64, Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport – 65, Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport – 71.

ii. The Skytrax best Airports Awards are voted based on customer reviews. It is regarded as the quality benchmark for the world airport industry.



Rank	Airport
1	Doha's Hamad International Airport, Qatar
2	Tokyo Haneda Airport, Japan
3	Changi Airport Singapore
45	Indira Gandhi International (IGI), Delhi

UP's Ghaziabad 2nd Most Polluted City in 2020; China's Hotan at 1st: HouseFresh Report

British company **HouseFresh** has released a report on the 50 'most polluted cities' in the world in 2020 titled – 'The World's Best and Worst Towns and Cities for Clean Air', in which, **Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad city** ranked as the **2nd** most polluted city in the world in **2020**.

- **China's Hotan city** in Xinjiang province topped the list and was adjudged as the most polluted city.

- As per the report, **India** became the **3rd** most polluted country. **Bangladesh** ranked as the most polluted country across the world in 2020 followed by Pakistan, India and Mongolia.
- Out of the 50 most polluted cities of the world, 49 are in Bangladesh, China, Pakistan, and India.

4th Safe Cities Index 2021: New Delhi & Mumbai named in 60 global cities; Copenhagen Tops

i. The Capital City and Financial Capital City of India i.e. New Delhi and Mumbai respectively have found place in 4th Safe Cities Index 2021 of 60 global cities, released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) sponsored by NEC. The index report is titled as ‘**Safe Cities Index 2021- New expectations demand a new coherence**’.

ii. While New Delhi is placed at **48th** position with 56.1 scores, the dream city Mumbai ranked at **50th** with a score of 54.4.

iii. The index has been topped by Denmark’s capital Copenhagen with 82.4 making it as the world’s safest city.



About Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)

Establishment– 1946

Managing Director– Robin Bew

Headquarter– London, United Kingdom (UK)



Defence

Lockheed Martin gets USD 328 mn Indian Contract to Support C-130J Aircraft Fleet

Lockheed Martin, US based Company has received **USD 328 Million** worth Contract from the Indian Government to provide comprehensive support for the Indian Air Force (IAF) fleet of 12C-130J-30 **Super Hercules Aircraft** for a period of **5 years**.



- Through this contract, Lockheed Martin will provide Logistics & Engineering support elements necessary to the IAF's Fleet.
- It is used to support various missions like humanitarian aid, Airlift, Natural disaster support and search & rescue operations.

About C-130J Super Hercules Aircraft

- Lockheed Martin is the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) of these planes.
- It is a 4 Engine Turboprop **military transport Aircraft**.
- Government of India has purchased 6 C-130J Super hercules Airlifter in 2008 and India received additional C-130J in 2017 & 2019.

DefExpo-2022 to be held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat

DefExpo-2022 (12th Edition), the land and naval systems show of the Ministry of Defence has been scheduled to be held at **Gandhinagar, Gujarat** from March 11-13, 2022. It is a **biennial event** and is organised by the Ministry of Defence.



- The last edition of Defence Expo 2020 was held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- The Ministry of Defence organises military exhibitions each year in the form of Defence Expo and the Aero India.

TT Exercise held between India's Tri-Service Forces for the 1st Time

For the 1st time, a **Table-Top (TT) war-gaming exercise** was held between India's 3 Armed Services (Indian Army, Indian Air Force, Indian Navy). It was held to fine-tune the model of Integrated tri-service theatre commands.

- During the exercise, Scenarios like facing a two-front war from China and Pakistan were war-gamed.
- It also included a frank and freewheeling exchange to evolve best practices on theatrisation.

Creation of Integrated Theatre Commands

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to announce the creation of **4 new Integrated theatre commands** from the Red Fort on August 15, 2021.

- The 4 New Commands will be West, East, Integrated Maritime Theatre Command (IMTC) and Integrated Air Defence Command (IADC).
- The new commands will be raised and operationalized over a two-year period and will be ready by August 2023.

- At present the **Indian Armed Forces has 17 commands** (7 commands each of the Army & Air Force, while the Navy has 3 commands).
- There is only **1 Joint Tri-Service Theatre Command** of the Indian Armed Force – Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC), based at Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands of India.

About Indian Army

Chief of Defence Staff – General Bipin Rawat

Commander-in-Chief of Indian Armed Forces – President of India (Ram Nath Kovind)

INS Vikrant – India's 1st Indigenous Aircraft Carrier begins Sea Trial

India's 1st Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC-1) **INS Vikrant** has been launched for sea trials off the coast of Kochi, Kerala. A sea trial is the last phase of testing.

i. INS Vikrant has been designed by the Directorate of Naval

Design (DND), Indian Navy and is built by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL).

ii. The total cost of the project is around INR 23,000 crore. Over 76% of the material and equipment on board is indigenous

iii. It has been named as INS Vikrant in remembrance of **India's 1st Aircraft**

Carrier INS Vikrant, which played a major role in the 1971 war against Pakistan. It was decommissioned in 1997.

iv. After its induction, INS Vikrant will be the second aircraft carrier after **INS Vikramaditya**, the Navy's **only aircraft carrier at present** which entered service in 2013.



About Indian Navy

Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) – Admiral Karambir Singh

Integrated Headquarters of Ministry of Defence – New Delhi.

Naval Exercise "Zayed Talwar 2021" held between India and UAE

Indian Navy and United Arab Emirates (UAE) Navy undertook Bilateral Naval Exercise **Zayed Talwar 2021** off the coast of Abu Dhabi.

- The Indian Navy deployed **INS Kochi** and 2 Integral Sea King MK 42B helicopters, whereas the UAE participated in the exercise with **Al-Dhafra**, a Baynunah class guided missile corvette and one AS-565B Panther helicopter.
- The ships undertook tactical manoeuvres, over the horizon targeting, search and rescue operations and electronic warfare drills to enhance interoperability and synergy between the two navies.



About Indian Navy

Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) – Admiral Karambir Singh

Integrated Headquarters of Ministry of Defence – New Delhi.

About United Arab Emirates

President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

Capital – Abu Dhabi

Currency – UAE dirham

"AL-MOHED AL-HINDI-2021" – 1st ever Naval Exercise between India & Saudi Arabia

The Maiden Naval Exercise "**AL-MOHED AL-HINDI-2021**" between Indian Navy and the Royal Saudi Naval Forces commenced on August 9, 2021. **INS Kochi**, the flagship Destroyer of the Indian Western Naval Fleet, arrived at the Port-al-Jubail, Saudi Arabia representing India.

- A number of shore and sea based drills is scheduled to take place between the two Navies.

Pakistan test-fires Nuclear capable Ballistic Missile ‘Ghaznavi’

Pakistan successfully test-fired the Nuclear capable Surface to Surface **Ballistic Missile Ghaznavi (Hatf-III)**. It has a range of **upto 290 Km**.

- It is designed and developed by National Development Complex (NDC)
- The missile is equipped with a proper terminal guidance system and will enhance the operational readiness of Army Strategic Forces Command (ASFC) and revalidating technical parameters of the Weapon system.
- Other Medium Range Ballistic Missiles of Pakistan are Ghauri & Shaheen.

About Pakistan

Prime Minister – Imran Khan

Currency – Pakistani Rupee

Capital – Islamabad

‘Exercise INDRA-2021’, Joint Military Exercise between India and Russia in Volgograd, Russia

The 12th Edition of **Exercise INDRA-2021**, a bilateral **Military Exercise** held between Indian Army and the military forces of Russian Federation in **Volgograd, Russia** (from 1st to 13th August, 2021).

- It will further strengthen mutual confidence and interoperability between the Indian and Russian Armies and enable sharing of best practices between the contingents of both the countries.
- INDRA is a joint biennial military exercise started in **2003** between India and Russia.



Image tweeted by @PIB_India

India and UK Navies conduct ‘Exercise Konkan 2021’ in Portsmouth, UK

‘**Exercise Konkan- 2021**’, a bilateral Naval Exercise held **between the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of Britain** in Portsmouth, United Kingdom (UK).

- **Indian Naval Ship (INS Tabar)**, a Talwar class stealth frigate of Indian Navy and HMS Westminister of the Royal Navy undertook the exercise in non contact form due to Covid-19 pandemic.
- It aims to enhance interoperability, synergy and cooperation between both the Navies.

Exercise Konkan:

It is held annually since **2004** between the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of Britain. The 2019 Edition was held on the English Channel, UK.

About United Kingdom

Prime Minister – Boris Johnson

Capital – London

Currency- Pound Sterling

Counter Terrorism Exercise ‘Gandiv’ Conducted by NSG in India

The **3rd** Edition of the annual Counter Terrorism Exercise named ‘**Gandiv**’ is being conducted by

the **National Security Guard (NSG)** across National Capital Region (NCR), Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh & Gujarat. The Exercise will be held from August 22nd-28th, 2021.



- **Objective:** It aims to validate the planning parameters of the NSG in the event of a terrorist attack, hijack of an Aircraft or hostage situation.

Key points:

- Gandiv is the name of Arjuna's bow in Mahabharata.
- The exercise will strengthen the counter-terror skills of the State administration, Police, Anti-terrorist squads & create awareness among the public.
- It will be witnessed by officials from the ministries of external affairs, home affairs, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), State agencies and Foreign delegates.

About National Security Guard (NSG)

Founded in September **1986**. It is an Elite Counter-terrorism unit functioning under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

Headquarters – New Delhi. It has **5** regional hubs in Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Chennai & Gandhinagar.

Director General – M A Ganapathy

2nd 'Zair-Al-Bahr' Maritime Exercise 2021 conducted between India and Qatar

- On August 9-14, 2021, the 2nd edition of Bilateral Maritime Exercise Zair-Al-Bahr (Roar of the Sea) 2021 between the Indian Navy and Qatar Emiri Naval Force (QENF) was conducted in the Persian Gulf.
- It consisted of a three day harbour phase followed by a two day sea phase.
- Indian Navy Guided Missile Stealth Frigate **INS** (Indian Naval Ship) **Trikand** arrived at Qatar's capital city, Doha for participation in the sea phase. It was commanded by **Captain Harish Bahuguna**.

About Indian Navy:

Chief of Naval Staff (CNS)– Admiral Karambir Singh (24th)

Integrated Headquarters of Ministry of Defence (Navy)- New Delhi

Indian Army Receives 1st Batch of MMHG from EEL

Indian Army received the delivery of 1st batch of Multi-Mode Hand Grenade (MMHG) manufactured by Nagpur based private company Economic Explosives Limited (EEL).

- MMHG has been designed by Chandigarh based **Terminal Ballistic Research Laboratories (TBRL)** of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) & is manufactured by EEL, Nagpur.

- In October 2020, Ministry of Defence (MoD) has signed a contract with EEL for **supply of 10 lakh MMHG to Indian Army** at cost of around **INR 409 crore**

Multi-Mode Hand Grenade (MMHG)

- With distinctive design, the grenades can be used in both Offensive and Defensive mode.
- It has highly accurate delay time, very high reliability in usages & safe for carriage.

About Economic Explosives Limited (EEL)

EEL is a wholly owned subsidiary of Solar Industries

Chairman & Executive Director – Satyanarayan Nandlal Nuwal

Headquarters – Nagpur, Maharashtra

About Indian Army



Chief of the Army Staff – General Manoj Mukund Naravane
Headquarters – New Delhi

25th Edition of 'Exercise Malabar' held between the Navies of India, USA, Japan & Australia In Western Pacific Ocean

The **25th Edition** of Naval **Exercise Malabar** is conducted between the India Navy, the United States (US) Navy, Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) & the Royal Australian Navy (RAF) in the Western Pacific Ocean. The exercise is **hosted by the US Navy** from 26th-29th August, 2021.

- It aims to support free, open & inclusive Indo-Pacific and remain committed to a rules based international order
- The Sea phase of the exercise includes complex drills including anti-surface, anti-air and anti-submarine warfare drills, and other manoeuvres and tactical exercises.
- The Indian Navy's participation includes Indian Naval Ship (INS) **Shivalik** and **INS Kadmatt** and P8I patrol aircraft.

Exercise Malabar

- The Malabar Started is an annual bilateral exercise started in **1992** between the Indian Navy & the US Navy.
- Then it became a **trilateral exercise**, After Japan joined as the permanent member of the exercise in 2015.
- In the 2020 edition**, Australia participated in the exercise malabar.

About Indian Navy

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

DRDO Successfully Testfires Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test fired the Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile (ITCM) with a new Made-in-India **Turbofan Engine 'Manik'** from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Odisha.

- The missile flew for around 150 km with an indigenous cruise engine.
- The missile has been designed and developed by DRDO. It is an **Advanced version of Nirbhay Missile** – a Subsonic Cruise Missile.
- This is the **1st successful test firing** with the indigenous booster engine 'Manik', after the previous unsuccessful attempt in October, 2020.



Manik Engine

The Manik engine has been designed and developed by DRDO's Gas Turbine Research Establishment in Bengaluru. It will pave the way for development of different versions of the engine and long range cruise missiles.

About Defence Research & Development Organization (DRDO)

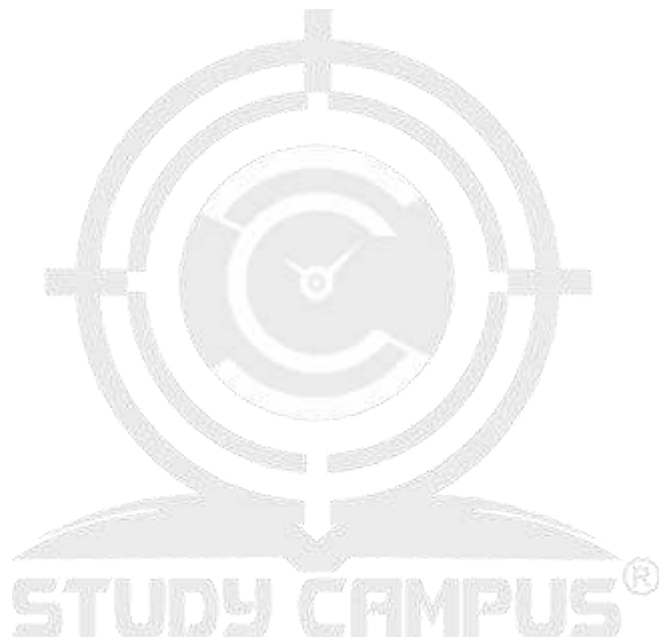
Chairman – Dr G Satheesh Reddy
Headquarters – New Delhi

Indian Navy Participates in the US Navy led Multilateral Naval Exercise 'SEACAT 2021' in Singapore

The Indian Navy participated in the United States (US) Navy led **Exercise South East Asia Cooperation and Training (SEACAT) 2021**, an annual Multilateral Naval Exercise held in **Singapore** virtually. This is the **20th Edition** of the Exercise.

Objective: It aims to foster enhanced cooperation between Southeast Asian countries by incorporating tactics, standardized training, and procedures to combat contingencies or illegal activities in the maritime domain.

- **Navies of 21 countries** participated in the exercise. They include Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, Canada, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Maldives, New Zealand, Philippines, South Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, East Timor, United Kingdom, United States, and Vietnam,



Appointments or Resign/Retired

Govt Appointed Deepak Das as 25th CGA

On August 1, 2021, the Government of India has appointed **Deepak Das**, the 1986-batch Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) officer as the **25th** Controller General of Accounts (CGA) under the Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure.

- He replaced **Soma Roy Burman**, (the 7th women CAS) who held the position from December 2019.
- Prior to his appointment as CGA, he was the principal chief controller of accounts in the Central Board of Direct Taxes.



About Deepak Das:

i. During his career as ICAS, he held different positions in Ministries such as Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade & Heavy Industries, Environment & Forest, Commerce & Textile, Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Science & Technology, Road Transport, Highways, Shipping, Home Affairs, and Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs.

ii. He also served as the Director of the Institute of Government Accounts and Finance (INGAF), the training academy of the ICAS.

About Controller General of Accounts (CGA):

CGA is the **Principal Accounting Adviser** to the Government of India, they will set up and manage a better Management Accounting System. They will prepare the accounts of the Union and State Government, and also control the exchequer and internal audits.

Myanmar's Military Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing Declared Himself as PM

Chief Senior General **Min Aung Hlaing**, the Chief of Myanmar's Military has declared himself as the Prime Minister (PM) of Myanmar. The state administration council of Myanmar has been reformed as the "Caretaker government of Myanmar" headed by Min Aung Hlaing as the PM.

- He will lead Myanmar as PM under the extended state of Emergency until the election which will be held by 2023.



Special Envoy for Myanmar:

i. The efforts of the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to negotiate between the military government and its opponents are stalled following the agreement to appoint a special envoy for Myanmar.

ii. **Virasakdi Futrakul**, Former Deputy Foreign Minister of Thailand was selected as the envoy.

About Min Aung Hlaing:

i. 5-star general Min Aung Hlaing has served as the Chairman of the State Administration Council of Myanmar which makes him the de facto leader of Myanmar.

ii. He is also a member of the National Defence and Security Council (NDSC).

In February 2021, He has taken power in Myanmar after removing the government headed by State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi.

Note:

i. The State of emergency was declared on 1st February 2021, when the military moved against the elected government.

Dhriti Banerjee Appointed Director of ZSI, 1st Women Director in 100 years

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the proposal for appointment of **Dhriti Banerjee (51)** as the Director of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), She will be the **1st Woman Director of ZSI in 100 years**. Dhriti Banerjee will succeed Dr. Kailash Chandra.

- Born in 1970 at Kolkata, West Bengal. She has had an illustrious career as a scientist, conducting research in taxonomy, zoogeography, morphology and molecular systematics.
- Since 2012, Dhriti Banerjee has been serving as the coordinator of ZSI's Digital Sequence Information Project.

i. In 2016, On the occasion of **ZSI's centenary celebrations**, Banerjee co-authored the document titled '**The Glorious 100 women's Scientific Contribution in ZSI**'. It highlights the contributions made by women scientists on studies related to different animal groups.

ii. Although formed in 1916, ZSI started hiring women scientists only from 1949. **Mira Mansukhani was the 1st women scientist of ZSI.**

iii. Thomas Nelson Annandale was the 1st Director-General of ZSI.

Background

- History of ZSI starts from the days of **Asiatic Society of Bengal** which was founded by **Sir William Jones** on January 15, **1784**. Asiatic Society of Bengal was the mother institution to Indian Museum (1875), Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) and Geological Survey of India (GSI).
- Asiatic Society of Bengal started to collect zoological and geological specimens in 1796.

About Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)

Founded in July **1916**, It comes under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (**MoEFCC**)

Director (Present) – Dr. Kailash Chandra

Headquarters – Kolkata

Rekha Sharma gets 3-year extension as Chairperson of NCW

The government of India has nominated Rekha Sharma as the Chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW) for another term of **3 years** with effect from 7th August 2021 or till the age of 65 or until further orders.

She has been serving as the chairperson of NCW since 7th August 2018.

About Rekha Sharma:

i. Rekha Sharma has been associated with the NCW since 2015 and she held the additional charges as the Chairperson from 29th September 2017 to 7th August 2018.

ii. She advocates gender sensitization of police personnel who are the first point of contact for the victims.

iii. She played a major role in establishing the special task force "Happy to help" during the COVID-19 pandemic to assist the elderly people who are struck alone during the lockdown.



ACC Approves Extension of Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Guaba's Tenure

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the extension of Tenure of Cabinet Secretary **Rajiv Guaba** by 1 year. He will continue till August 30, 2022.

- Rajiv Guaba was appointed to the post of Cabinet Secretary in 2019. He is a **Jharkhand care IAS officer of 1982 batch**.
- Previously, he has also served as Secretary in various Ministries like Home Affairs & Urban Affairs and Housing.
- He is known for his immense contribution in the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019.

Cabinet Secretary (CS)

Cabinet secretary is the senior most cadre of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS). It is ranked 11th in the order of precedence. A Cabinet Secretary works under direct charge of the Prime Minister.

Bulgari Appoints Priyanka Chopra Jonas as Global Brand Ambassador:

Italian luxury brand **Bulgari** has appointed Actress **Priyanka Chopra Jonas** as its Global Ambassador. As the brand ambassador, she will be promoting the brand across the globe with a focus on themes of women empowerment, diversity and inclusion.



About JK Tyre & Industries Limited:

Chairman & Managing Director– Dr Raghupati Singhanian

Managing Director– Anshuman Singhanian

Head Office– New Delhi

KM Birla Steps Down as Non-Executive Chairman & Director of Vodafone Idea ;Replaced By Himanshu Kapania

Kumar Mangalam Birla(**KM Birla**) has stepped down as the Non-Executive Chairman and Non-Executive Director from the board of Vodafone Idea with effect from 4th August 2021.

- The board of Vodafone Idea has elected telecom veteran **Himanshu Kapania** as a non-Executive Chairman. He is currently serving as the non-Executive Director.
- He was nominated by the Aditya Birla Group which has around 27% stake in Vodafone Idea.

Afghan first Vice President Amrullah Saleh declares himself as caretaker President

Afghanistan's 1st Vice President (VP) **Amrullah Saleh** declared himself as '**the caretaker President of Afghanistan**' after President Ashraf Ghani fled the Taliban captured country. Currently, Afghanistan is **under the control of Taliban**, capturing Kabul after the U.S led forces left the country.



- According to the Constitution of Afghanistan, 'In absence, escape, resignation or death of the President, the 1st VP will be the caretaker President' of the country.

The Taliban : History

i.The word '**Taliban meaning Students**' in the Pashto language, emerged in **1994** around the city of Kandahar, Afghanistan.

ii.It was one of the factions which were fighting a **civil war to rule the country** following the withdrawal of the Soviet Union in 1989 and the subsequent collapse of the government in 1992.

About Afghanistan

Former President – Ashraf Ghani

Capital – Kabul

Currency – Afghani

Ismail Sabri Yaakob Appointed as Prime Minister of Malaysia

The Supreme Head(**King**) of Malaysia has appointed former Deputy Prime Minister **Ismail Sabri Yaakob** as the Prime Minister(**PM**) of **Malaysia**. He replaced the caretaker Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin, who resigned after losing his parliamentary majority.

He is the 3rd Prime Minister of Malaysia since the 2018 elections.

- He is a member of the United Malays National Organisation (**UMNO**) party.
- Ismail Sabri Yaakob is supported by 114 members out of 222 members.

About Ismail Sabri Yaakob:

i. Ismail Sabri Yaakob served as the 13th Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia from July 2021 to August 2021 and he is the shortest-serving Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia.

ii. He has been serving as a member of the parliament since 2004.

iii. He has also served as the cabinet minister and held various portfolios like Minister of Rural and Regional Development, Agriculture and Agro-based Industry and Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism and Youth and Sports between 2008 and 2018.

About Malaysia:

Capital– Kuala Lumpur

Currency– Malaysian Ringgit

Alia Bhatt Appointed as Brand ambassador of Samsung India

Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Samsung India to endorse Galaxy Z, a series of foldable smartphones, in India. Samsung India is set to launch its Galaxy Z Fold3 5G and Galaxy Z Flip3 5G smartphones in India from 10th September 2021.

- As the brand ambassador of Samsung India, Alia Bhatt will drive the adoption of the Galaxy Z series among young Gen Z and millennial consumers.

Sunpure appoints Sonu Sood as brand ambassador:

Sunpure, an edible cooking oil brand based in Karnataka has appointed **Actor Sonu Sood** as its brand ambassador. Sunpure is sold by **MK Agrotech Pvt. Ltd**

Sunpure has launched a campaign **#EkRishtaShudhtaKa**, featuring Sonu Sood released in Hindi, Malayalam and Kannada.

As a part of the association with Sunpure, Sonu Sood will also lead various brand campaigns.

About Samsung:

Samsung is a South Korean company headquartered in Samsung Town, Seoul, South Korea.

Chairman– Jae-Wan Bahk

Vice-Chairman and CEO– Ki-Nam Kim



RBI Approves Reappointment of Sandeep Bakhshi as MD& CEO of ICICI Bank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the reappointment of **Sandeep Bakhshi** as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of **ICICI Bank** with effect from 15th October 2021 to 3rd October 2023.

He was appointed as the MD & CEO of ICICI Bank in 2018 following the resignation of Chanda Kochhar on 4th October 2018.

Background:

i. In August 2019, the ICICI bank's Shareholder meeting approved the appointment of Sandeep Bakshi as the MD & CEO for a period of 5 years with effect from 15th October 2018 to 3rd October 2023.

ii. The RBI approved his appointment for a period of 3 years against the 5-year term sought by the ICICI bank.

About ICICI Bank:

MD & CEO– Sandeep Bakhshi

Headquarters– Mumbai, Maharashtra

Incorporated in 1994

Tagline– Hum Hai Na, Khayal Apka

Sonu Sood Appointed as Brand Ambassador of Delhi Govt's 'Desh Ke Mentors' Program

Bollywood Actor, Sonu Sood will be appointed as brand ambassador of the programme of Delhi Government "Desh Ke Mentor" by the Chief Minister of Delhi Arvind Kejriwal. It's a **mentorship programme** where around 3 lakh experts and professionals will guide the 10 lakh Delhi government school students.

Highlights

- It's a welfare initiative, which will encourage children to enroll in the government schools of Delhi.
- The students will be guided in making career choices.



About Sonu Sood

i. Sonu Sood hails from Moga, Punjab. He is an Indian actor, film producer, model, humanitarian, and philanthropist

ii. He has supported to provide food and travel assistance to thousands of migrants who were stranded across India and helped them.

Indian Idol 2021 Winner Pawandeep Rajan Appointed as Uttarakhand's Brand Ambassador for Art, Tourism, Culture

Pushkar Singh Dhami, Chief Minister (CM) of Uttarakhand, has announced that **Pawandeep Rajan**, winner of the Indian Idol Season 12 (2021), a music reality show, has been appointed as the brand ambassador of **Uttarakhand's art, tourism and culture**.

- 23 years old Pawandeep Rajan hails from Champawat, Uttarakhand.



Honours/ Awards

Cyrus Poonawalla to receive Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2021

Dr. Cyrus Poonawalla, Founder and Chairman of the Serum Institute of India (SII), Pune has been selected for Lokmanya Tilak National Award, 2021.

i. Poonawalla will be honoured for his work during the COVID-19 pandemic by manufacturing Covishield vaccine and thereby saving many lives.

ii. Under his leadership, **Covishield** vaccines were produced on a larger scale at affordable prices in a record period of time.

iii. Currently, **SII is the World's Largest Vaccine Manufacturer** by the number of doses produced and sold globally.



Lokmanya Tilak National Award

i. It is awarded annually since **1983** by **Lokmanya Tilak Trust**. The award is given on August 1st, the death anniversary of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak. In 2021, due to a pandemic it will be given on August 13.

ii. The award includes a cash prize of Rs 1 Lakh and a memento. Several prominent personalities from different walks of life were the recipients of this award.

iii. Lokmanya Tilak National Award-2020 was awarded to **Sonam Wangchuk**, a renowned Education reformist.

About Serum Institute of India (SII)

CEO – Adar Poonawalla

Headquarters – Pune

About Lokmanya Tilak Trust

President – Deepak Tilak

19-Year Old Pakistan Climber becomes the Youngest to reach the Summit of K2

Shehroze Kashif, a 19-year old from Lahore, Pakistan became the Youngest person in the world to reach the summit of K2 (8,611 metres or 28,251 ft) in Karakoram range on the border of Pakistan and China.

- In May 2021, Kashif became the Youngest Pakistani to scale Mount Everest (8,849 metres), the highest peak in the world.
- Pakistan, Nepal, and China are home to the 14 highest peaks in the world, also known as the 8,000ers.



Indian Origin Entrepreneur Ajay Dilawri Awarded with Order of British Columbia in Canada

Ajay Dilawri, the Indian-origin entrepreneur, was honoured with **Canada's** highest prestigious **Order of British Columbia** award.

- Ajay Dilawri was one of the 16 recipients of the Order of British Columbia award.
- Dilawri Group – the largest automotive group in Canada was founded by Ajay along with his brothers Kap and Tony.
- The Dilawri Foundation has contributed to Canadian society; donated tens of millions of dollars to help charitable causes in health care, mental health, autism, education, and public safety.

About Order of British Columbia award:

It represents the highest form of recognition the Province can extend to its citizens. It recognizes the persons with the greatest distinction and excelled in any field of endeavour benefiting the people of British Columbia and beyond.

Fortune Global 500 list 2021-Mukesh Ambani's RIL Slips 59 places & Ranked 155th; Walmart Tops

Mukesh Ambani's oil-to-telecom conglomerate **Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL)** slipped 59 places to rank **155th** (due to COVID-19) on the **2021 Fortune Global 500 list**, this is the lowest ranking of RIL since 2017.

- Reliance's revenue fell by 25.3 percent due to rise in oil prices in the second quarter of 2020.

2021 Fortune Global List:

Rank	Name	Revenues (\$M)
155	Reliance Industries Ltd	\$62,912.1
205	State Bank of India (SBI) (Improved by 16 places)	\$51,919.4
212	Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)	\$50,433
1	Walmart	\$523,964
2	State Grid	\$383,906
3	Amazon	\$280,522

About Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL)

CMD – Mukesh D. Ambani

Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra

Economist Jagdish Bhagwati, C Rangarajan Awarded with C.R. Rao Gold Medal Award

The Indian Econometric Society (TIES) Trust has awarded the Economists **Jagdish Bhagwati** and **C Rangarajan** with the Prof. **C.R. Rao Centenary Gold Medal (CGM)** award.

About the Awardees:

i. Jagdish Bhagwati – He is the University Professor of Economics, Law, and International Relations at Columbia University and Director of the Raj Center on Indian Economic Policies.

- He received Padma Vibhushan Award in 2000 and Lifetime Achievement



Award by the Indian Chamber of Commerce in 2004.

ii.C. Rangarajan – He is the former chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, and former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

About the Award:

- i. It is the award presented once in two years by TIES to an Indian or Indian-origin scholar for their lifetime contributions to the fields of theoretical and applied aspects of quantitative economics and official statistics.
- ii. The award consists of a gold medal and citation. C R Rao is an Indian-American mathematician and statistician and he received Padma Vibhushan in 2001.

Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award Renamed as Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award

The Highest sporting honour of India, “**Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award**”, has been renamed as “**Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award**” in honour of the hockey Wizard Dhyan Chand.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that the renaming was based on the request from the citizens across India to name the Khel Ratna Award after Dhyan Chand



About Khel Ratna Award:

- i. The Khel Ratna Award named after former Prime Minister **Rajiv Gandhi** was instituted in **1991-1992** and the inaugural award was presented to Vishwanath Anand (Chess).
- ii. The award is annually presented by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- iii. The award consists of a cash prize of Rs 25 lakh, a medallion and a certificate.

About Dhyan Chand:

- i. Major Dhyan Chand, who was known as ‘The Wizard’, was an Indian Hockey player who represented the Indian hockey team from 1926 to 1949.
- ii. He has scored more than 400 goals during his career.
- iii. He has won 3 consecutive gold medals in the 1928, 1932 and 1936 Olympics.

Honours:

- i. The government of India has honoured him with the Padma Bhushan in 1956.
- ii. Since 2012, the birth anniversary of Dhyan Chand has been celebrated as National Sports Day (29th August).

Mahatma Gandhi: 1st Indian to posthumously conferred with Congressional Gold Medal

Mahatma Gandhi, the first Indian to posthumously receive the Congressional Gold Medal for his immense contribution to promote peace and non-violence. The congressional Gold Medal is the highest civilian award in the United States.

About the Award:

- The US Congress (legislature) has commissioned gold medals as its highest expression of national appreciation for distinguished achievements and contributions.
- The first recipients of the medal were participants of the American Revolution (1775-83), the War of 1812 and the Mexican War (1846-48).
- The scope was broadened to include actors, authors, entertainers, musicians, explorers, athletes, humanitarians and foreign recipients among pioneers in some other fields.



12th Indian Film Festival of Melbourne Awards 2021 Announced

The Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) announced the winners of the **12th Edition of IFFM Awards (2021)** over a virtual platform. The 12th edition of IFFM lined up the films (feature and short) from across India, representing the theme of diversity through cinema.

- The IFFM, founded in 2012, is an annual festival held in Melbourne, Australia.
- Surya Sivakumar (Best performance male), Vidya Balan (Best Performance Female), Anurag Basu (Best Director) are among the winners of the IFFM 2021 Awards. Soorarai Pottru also won the Best Feature Film.



Sports

F1: Esteban Ocon wins Hungarian Grand Prix 2021

Alpine Renault's Esteban Ocon (France) won the Formula One Hungarian Grand Prix 2021 held at Hungaroring, Budapest, Hungary. It is Esteban Ocon's maiden F1 victory.

- Mercedes' driver Lewis Hamilton (United Kingdom) finished 2nd, while Scuderia Ferrari's Carlos Sainz Jr (Spain) finished 3rd.
- Aston Martin Mercedes' driver Sebastian Vettel (Germany) who finished 2nd in the race was disqualified after the post race inspection which revealed insufficient fuel load.
- With the 2nd place finish, Lewis Hamilton regained the lead in the F1 2021 Drivers Championship.
- The F1 Championships are organised by Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA).



Part-I: Overview of Ongoing Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympics

The 32nd Edition of Olympic Games is taking place in Tokyo, Japan from 23rd July, 2021 – 8th August, 2021.

- The Specific Motto of the Tokyo Olympics is 'United by Emotion'.
- Japanese Emperor Naruhito officially declared the Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympics open, while Japanese Women's Tennis Players lit up the Olympic Cauldron.
- The Opening ceremony took place at the newly-built National Stadium, Tokyo.

Pakistan's Rizwan breaks World Record for most runs scored in T20I in a year

Pakistan's Wicketkeeper-Batsman **Mohammad Rizwan** has set a new **World Record for most runs** scored in a calendar year in Twenty20 (T20) International cricket. He has scored 752 runs in 2021 (14 innings of 15 matches).

- He has surpassed Ireland's Paul Stirling, who aggregated 748 runs in 20 innings of 20 matches at an average of 41.55 in 2019.



Cricket: England's James Anderson overtakes Anil Kumble as 3rd Highest wicket-taker in Test

England Fast Bowler James Anderson overtook **India's Anil Kumble** tally of 619 wickets to become the **3rd Highest Wicket-Taker in Test Cricket**.

- Sri Lanka's Muttiah Muralitharan (800) & Australia's Shane Warne (708) are leading wicket takers in Test Cricket.



Overview of Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympics

The 32nd Edition of Olympic Games took place in Tokyo, Japan from 23rd July, 2021 – 8th August, 2021.

- India finished with **7 Medals (1 Gold, 2 Silver, 4 Bronze)** and has been ranked at 48th Position. This was India's highest ever medals tally in an Olympics (Previous one was 6 medals 2012 London Olympics)
- The US topped the Medals tally with 113 Medals (39 G, 41 S, 33 B) followed by China & Japan.

Overall Medals Tally of India:

Name	Sport	Event	Medal
Neeraj Chopra	Athletics	Men's javelin throw	Gold
Saikhom Mirabai Chanu	Weightlifting	Women's 49 kg	Silver
Ravi Kumar Dahiya	Wrestling	Men's freestyle 57 kg	Silver
P. V. Sindhu	Badminton	Women's singles	Bronze
Lovlina Borgohain	Boxing	Women's WelterWeight (64-69kg)	Bronze
India men's national field hockey team (Captain - Manpreet Singh)	Field hockey	Men's tournament	Bronze
Bajrang Punia	Wrestling	Men's freestyle 65 kg	Bronze

About International Olympic Committee (IOC):

President – Thomas Bach

Headquarters – Lausanne, Switzerland

Cricket: ICC's Latest Test Players Rankings

According to the latest Test Players Rankings released by International Cricket Council (ICC), Indian Bowler Jasprit Bumrah has been ranked in the 9th Position in the bowler's rankings, while Indian Captain Virat Kohli slipped to 5th Position in the rankings for Batsmen.

- **Shikhar Dhawan** became the **4th fastest Batsman to reach 6000 runs** in One Day Internationals. He is the 10th Indian Batsman to achieve the feat.

Anurag Thakur launched Theme Song 'Kar De Kamaal Tu' for Paralympics

Union Sports Minister, Anurag Thakur and Minister of State for Home Affairs Nisith Pramanik has launched the Theme Song, 'Kar De Kamaal Tu' for India's Paralympic Contingent at the 2020 Tokyo Summer Paralympics Games.

The song is composed & sung by **Sanjeev Singh**, Divyang Cricket Player.

Maharashtra's Harshit Raja becomes India's 69th Chess GrandMaster

20 year old **Harshit Raja** from Pune, Maharashtra became the **69th Chess GrandMaster of India** after drawing his game against Dennis Wagner at the Biel Masters Open

- **He won** Silver in Under-13 National Chess Championship in 2014 held at Jamshedpur and **Gold** in School Games Federation of India (SGFI) **Nationals** held in Tamil Nadu in 2014.
- In April 2021, 18-years old Arjun Kalyan from Tamilnadu (TN) became India's 68th Chess GrandMaster(GM).

**Grandmaster Title**

i. GM is a title awarded by **FIDE**(International chess federation).It is the highest title a chess player can obtain apart from World Champion.

ii. In order to qualify for the title of GM, a player must achieve 3 GrandMaster norms in events covering a minimum of 27 games and an ELO(Electric Light Orchestra) rating of at least 2500 at any point in their career.

iii. **Vishwanathan Anand** is India's 1st GM, he achieved it in 1988.

- Subbaraman Vijayalakshmi is India's 1st Woman Grandmaster, while Gukesh D is India's Youngest GM.

About International Chess Federation(FIDE):

President – Arkady Dvorkovich

Headquarters – Lausanne, Switzerland.

Neeraj Chopra ranked 2nd in World Athletics Men's Javelin Throw Ranking 2021

Indian Javelin Thrower **Neeraj Chopra** was ranked **2nd** (up from 16) in the recently released **World Athletics Men's Javelin Throw Ranking 2021**. Neeraj was also ranked **129th** in the Men's Overall Athletics Ranking.

- Neeraj Chopra won Gold Medal in Tokyo 2020 Olympics.
- **Germany's Johannes Vetter (World No. 1)** continued to be Number 1 in the Men's Javelin Throw Ranking.
- The World rankings for Athletics are issued by the Sports governing body 'World Athletics'.

**Neeraj Chopra**

Neeraj Chopra was born in Panipat, **Haryana**. His Gold Medal is India's **1st Medal in a Track & Field event**.

- He threw the Javelin to a distance of **87.58m** to win the Gold Medal.
- Overall, it is only India's 2nd individual Gold Medal in an Olympics. India's 1st individual Gold Medal was won by Abhinav Bindra in 10m Air Rifle at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Overview of Tokyo 2020 Summer Paralympic Games

The Tokyo 2020 Summer Paralympic Games will be held from **24th August – 5th September, 2021**.

- The official Mascot is ‘Someity’.
- **For the 1st time**, Badminton & Taekwondo will be Introduced by replacing Sailing and 7-a-side football.

India sends largest ever contingent for Paralympics

India will field their largest contingent ever in the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics

- A total of **54 Athletes** will compete in **9 Sporting events**. Only 19 Indian Athletes competed in the 2016 Rio Paralympics.
- The 9 events are Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Para Canoeing, Powerlifting, Shooting, Swimming, Table Tennis and Taekwondo.
- **High Jumper Mariyappan Thangavelu** (Won Gold at the 2016 Rio Paralympics) will be the flag-bearer of India in the opening ceremony of the Tokyo Paralympics.

Manika Batra and G Sathiyam win Mixed Doubles Final in Table Tennis at WTT Contender 2021

The Indian duo of table tennis players Manika Batra and G Sathiyam defeated Hungary’s Dora Madarasz and Nandor Ecseki with 3-1 in the final match of World Table Tennis (WTT) Contender 2021 which held at Budapest, capital of Hungary. With this achievement, they became the first table tennis players from India to win a WTT Contender title.



- The duo played together in the 2018 Commonwealth Games, and defeated the 94th ranked players of Hungary’s Dora and Nandor .
- The duo will also take part in the upcoming Paris Olympics 2024 and next year’s Asian Games.
- Manika and Sathiyam achieved 400 points and a total amount of \$1200 from this victory

WTT Contender-

WTT Contender Series is a part of the revamped International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) scheduled event which launched in 2021 and features two tiers of events such as WTT Star Contender and WTT Contender.

Odisha Extended Sponsorship to Hockey India by 10 More Years

Naveen Patnaik, Chief Minister of Odisha, has announced that the government of Odisha has decided to continue the sponsorship of Hockey India for 10 more years (the current sponsorship ends in 2023). In 2018, after Sahara India withdrew its sponsorship, the government of Odisha signed a deal with Hockey India to sponsor the men’s and women’s hockey teams for a period of 5 years (2023).

Part-1: Overview of Ongoing Tokyo 2020 Summer Paralympic Games

The **16th** Edition of Paralympic Games is taking place in **Tokyo, Japan** from 24th August to 5th September, 2021.

- A total of **22 sports** are scheduled. For **the 1st time**, **Badminton** and **Taekwondo** will be making their debut at the



2020 Paralympic Games by replacing Sailing & 7-a-side Football.

- The official Mascot is ‘Someity’
- **The Paralympic Games symbol** of the “Three Agitos” has been installed on a giant floating platform in the Tokyo Bay area. **The 94-tonne steel monument** stands 17.5 m tall, is 23.4 m long and 2m wide.
- **Tek Chand** (Shot put Thrower & Javelin Thrower) was the **flag-bearer of India** in the opening ceremony of the Tokyo paralympics.

India's Performance

- India has won **7 Medals**– 2 Gold, 4 Silver & 1 Bronze till August 30

Avani Lekhara wins Gold Medal in Shooting

Avani Lekhara (Rajasthan) has won the Gold Medal in the Women's 10 m Air Rifle Standing 1 (SH 1) Shooting event by scoring 249.6 in the final.

- Avani became the **1st Indian Woman** to win a Gold Medal at the Paralympics & 4th Indian Gold medal at the Paralympics.

Javelin Throw:

i. Sumit Antil wins Gold Medal in Javelin Throw, F-46

Sumit Antil (Haryana) has won the Gold Medal in the Men's Javelin Throw **F-64 event** by throwing a distance of **68.55 m** in the finals.

ii. Devendra Jhajharia & Sundar Singh Gurjar wins Silver & Bronze respectively in Javelin Throw, F-46

- Devendra Jhajharia (Rajasthan) has won the Silver Medal in the **Men's Javelin Throw, F-46 category** by throwing a distance of 64.35 m.

Bhavinaben Patel wins Silver Medal in Table Tennis

Bhavinaben Patel (Gujarat) **won the Silver Medal** in the Women's Singles **Class 4 Table Tennis event** by losing 7-11, 5-11, 6-11 in the finals.

About International Paralympic Committee:

President – Andrew Parsons

Headquarters – Bonn, Germany



Formula One: Max Verstappen Wins Belgian Grand Prix, 2021

Red Bull driver **Max Verstappen** (Netherlands) has been declared the winner of the Belgian Grand Prix (GP), 2021. It was the **Shortest ever Grand Prix** in terms of distance Completed.

- The Belgian Grand Prix was held at the Circuit de Spa- **Francorchamps, Belgium** from August 27th-29th, 2021.
- Mercedes driver's from Britain George Russell Williams & Lewis Hamilton finished in 2nd & 3rd place respectively.
- The F1 Championships are organised by Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (**FIA**)

Highlights of Belgian GP, 2021

i. It is the **Shortest F1 Race ever in** terms of distance completed, surpassing the race in Australia, 1991.

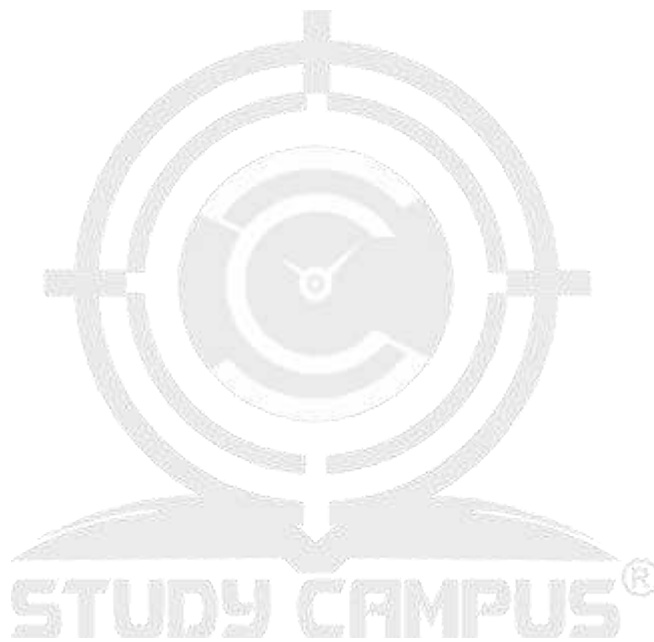
- **Rain shortened** the Belgian GP and **Half points** were awarded since 75% of the race distance was not completed.

ii. It was the **6th half-points race in F1 history**, following Spain 1975 (accident), Austria 1975 (rain), Monaco 1984 (rain), Australia 1991 (rain) and Malaysia 2009 (rain).

About Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA)

President – Jean Todt

Headquarters – Paris, France



Obituaries

Padma Shri awardee and Renowned Dogri writer Padma Sachdev Passed away

Padma Sachdev (81), the 1st Modern woman poet of Dogri language and Padma Shri awardee passed away at Mumbai hospital due to health reasons. She had won the **Sahitya Akademi Award** in 1971 for her anthology of poems – ‘**Meri Kavita Mere Geet**’.

i. Born in Purmandal, Jammu in 1940, Sachdev played a vital role in including Dogri language to the **Eighth schedule** of Indian constitution.

ii. She has authored many books in Dogri and Hindi.



Achievements

- She received Padma Shri, India’s 4th-highest civilian award, in 2001 for her contributions to Hindi and Dogri.
- **Kabir Samman for poetry** for 2007-08 awarded by the government of Madhya Pradesh,
- **Saraswati samman**, 2015 for **Chitt-Chete** her autobiography in Dogri language,
- **Dinu Bhai Pant LifeTime Achievement Award**, 2017 and others.

Fact

Schedule 8 of Indian Constitution deals with Languages recognized by the Indian Constitution, at present there are **22 Languages**.

Japan’s Maki Kaji, the Godfather of Sudoku passes away at 69

Maki Kaji (69), widely known as the **Godfather of Sudoku** for his role in creating one of the World’s most popular puzzles, passed away due to Bile duct cancer in **Tokyo, Japan**.

- Kaji was the Co-founder of Nikoli Limited, a Japanese based puzzle magazine launched in 1980.
- Kaji’s interest with a game called Number place was later renamed as ‘**Sudoku**’ – a **Japanese word meaning Single Numbers**.
- Sudoku challenges people to fill a grid of 9 x 9 blocks, with 9 boxes in each block so that all columns, both vertical and horizontal, contain the numbers from 1 to 9 without repetition



Former Uttar Pradesh CM Kalyan Singh Passes Away

The former Chief Minister (CM) of Uttar Pradesh (UP), BJP leader Kalyan Singh passed away at the age of 89 in Lucknow due to age related diseases. He was born in Atrauli, Uttar Pradesh.

About Kalyan Singh

i. Kalyan Singh served as Governor of Himachal Pradesh, Governor of Rajasthan (2014-19).

ii. He served as the Chief Minister of UP for 2 terms, i.e., 1991-92 & 1997-99.

iii. He also served as the Member of Parliament for Lok Sabha during 2009–2014.



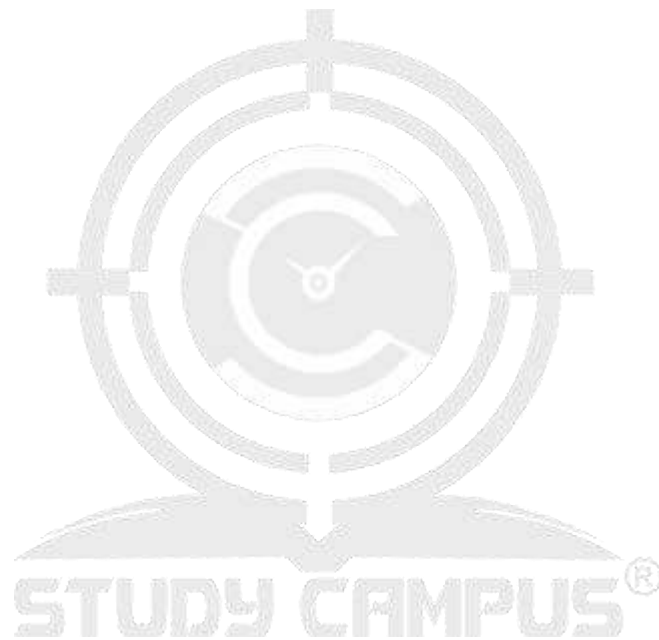
Agriculture Scientist and Padma Shri Awardee B V Nimbkar Passed Away in Maharashtra

The renowned **Agricultural Scientist** and Padma Shri award recipient, Bonbehari Vishnu Nimbkar (**B V Nimbkar**) passed away at the age of 90 years in Satara district of Maharashtra due to age related diseases.

He was born in 17 July 1931 in Goa.

Gist about B V Nimbkar

- Nimbkar was the founder of Nimbkar Agricultural Research Institute (**NARI**) is an NGO and a non-profit research and development institute in Maharashtra
- He was awarded with Padma Shri Award in 2006 for his immense contribution in the field of agriculture and animal husbandry.



Important Days with theme

Quit India Movement Day 2021 – August 8

The **Quit India Movement Day** is annually observed across India on **8th August** to commemorate the launch of the Quit India Movement on 8th August **1942**. The day remembers the sacrifices of the martyrs of the freedom struggle and pays homage to the freedom fighters.

The 8th August **2021** marks the **79th anniversary of the Quit India movement**.

The day is also known as **August Kranti Diwas** or India August Movement since the movement was held in August.



- National Archives of India, under the Ministry of Culture, is organizing an exhibition on the Quit India Movement as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav being celebrated to mark 75 years of Independence.

About National Archives of India:

Director-General– Chandan Sinha

Headquarters– New Delhi

World Biofuel Day 2021 – August 10

World Biofuel Day is annually observed across the globe on **10th August** to create awareness about the importance and significance of non-fossil fuels as a substitute for conventional fossil fuels.

Biofuels are renewable, biodegradable and sustainable sources of energy that can reduce the dependency on fossil fuels and promote clean energy.

World Biofuel Day in India:

i. World Biofuel Day has been observed by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (**MoPNG**), Government of India since **2015**.

ii. The day highlights the endeavours of the government in the biofuel sector.

iii. The oil and gas companies under the aegis of MoPNG, celebrate World Biofuel day with the theme **“Biofuels for Sustainability and Rural Income”**.



Background:

i. The World Biofuel day honours Sir Rudolf Christian Karl Diesel, inventor of the diesel engine, who successfully operated the mechanical engine with peanut oil on 9th August 1893.

ii. With that invention, Rudolf was able to predict the possibility of replacing the crude oil with vegetable oil.

About Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG):

Union Minister– Hardeep Singh Puri (Rajya Sabha – Uttar Pradesh)

Minister of State– Rameswar Teli (Constituency- Dibrugarh, Assam)

AFI to Celebrate August 7th as National Javelin Throw Day

The Athletics Federation of India (**AFI**) has declared the 7th August of every year, starting from 2022, as the National Javelin Throw Day. The day will commemorate the feat of Indian athlete (javelin) **Neeraj Chopra**, who won the gold medal at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

He became the first Indian athlete in the country's independent history to win an athletics medal at the Olympics.

About National Javelin Throw Day:

Objective: to promote javelin throw across India.

- i. The first National Javelin Throw Day will be celebrated on **7th August 2022**.
- ii. The AFI affiliated units will observe the day by organising state-level javelin competitions.

About Athletics Federation of India (AFI):

President– Adille J Sumariwalla
Secretary General– Ravinder Chaudhry
Founded– 1946
Headquarters– New Delhi

International Youth Day 2021 – August 12

United Nations (UN)'s **International Youth Day (IYD)** is annually observed across the globe on **12th August** to create awareness about the cultural and legal issues surrounding youth and to celebrate the potential of youths as the partners of the global society.



- IYD 2021 was virtually convened by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Major Group for Children and Youth.

The theme of International Youth Day 2021 is **“Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health”**.

The IYD 2021 theme highlights that the success of the global efforts will not be achieved without the participation of young people.

Background:

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) endorsed the International Youth Day in its resolution A/RES/54/120 in December 1999.

The **first** International Youth Day was observed on **12th August 2000**.

Union Minister Anurag Singh Thakur Presented National Youth Awards:

On the occasion of the International Youth Day 2021, the Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Singh Thakur announced and felicitated the winners of the **National Youth Awards 2017-2018 and 2018-2019**.

- He also felicitated the 10 young entrepreneur team who won the agri-enterprise challenge S.O.L.V.E.D 2021.

About Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MoYAS):

Union Minister– Anurag Singh Thakur (Constituency- Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh)
Minister of State– Nisith Pramanik (Constituency- Coochbehar, West Bengal)

Celebration of India's 75th Independence Day – 15th August 2021

India and the Indian's across the globe celebrated the 75th Independence Day on 15th August 2021. Independence day marks the day on which India became an independent nation within the British commonwealth.

The day remembers the sacrifices of the freedom fighters, irrespective of their gender, religion and ethnicity who fought to get independence.

The theme of the 75th Independence day is **“Nation First, Always First”**.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi unfurled the National Flag at the rampart of the Red Fort, New Delhi.

Honours & Awards Approved by President of India:

i. Ram Nath Kovind, the President of India and the Supreme Commander of the Indian Armed Forces, has

approved 144 Gallantry awards and other decorations to armed forces, police and paramilitary personnel on the eve of 75th Independence Day.

- The awards include one Ashok Chakra, one Kirti Chakra, 15 Shaurya Chakras, four Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry), 116 Sena Medals (Gallantry), five Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry) and two Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry).

World Humanitarian Day 2021 – August 19

The United Nations (UN)'s World Humanitarian Day (WHD) is annually observed across the globe on 19th August to honour and recognise the efforts of Humanitarians across the globe on protecting and supporting the people in need.

WHD is a campaign by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and humanitarian partners.



- 19th August 2021 marks the observance of 12th World Humanitarian Day.
- The WHD 2020 highlights the immediate human cost of the Climate Crisis by pressuring the world leaders to take climate actions for the vulnerable people across the globe.

Background:

i. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/63/139 on 11 December 2008 and proclaimed the **19th August** of every year as **World Humanitarian Day**.

ii. The First World Humanitarian Day was commemorated on **19th August 2009**.

Why August 19?

The day is marked in memory of the Canal Hotel bomb attack (19th August 2003) in Baghdad, Iraq, killing 22 people, including **Sergio Vieira Mello**, Chief Humanitarian in Iraq.

About United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA):

OCHA was established by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 46/182 (1991).

World Photography Day 2021 – August 19

World Photography Day is annually observed across the globe on **19th August** to celebrate the art, craft, science and history of photography. The day also inspires photographers across the globe to share one of their photographs to share their world with the world.

World Photography Day is also known as **World Photo Day**.

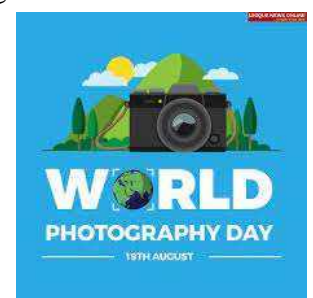
Background:

The first-ever World Photography day was observed on **19th August 2010**. The day was marked with the first global online gallery which was hosted with the photographs of more than 270 photographers.

Photography:

i. The term photography was coined by Sir John Frederick William Herschel in 1839.

ii. The word photography is derived from the Greek words photos (“light”) and graphé (“to draw”).



PM Modi Declared 14th August as “Partition Horrors Remembrance Day”

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi declared the **14th August** as the **“Partition Horrors Remembrance Day”** to acknowledge the difficulties faced by the Indians during the partition of India in 1947.

The day aims to remind the people that hatred and violence is never a solution and inspire them to work towards social harmony and sensitivity.

- **14th August 2021** is the first-ever Partition Horrors Remembrance Day.
- The 14th August is celebrated as Independence day in Pakistan.

Sadbhavana Diwas 2021 – August 20

Sadbhavana Diwas is annually celebrated across India on the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister **Rajiv Gandhi**. The day aims to promote national integration and communal harmony among the people of all religions and Languages.



- The Sabhavana Diwas literally means “**Harmony Day**”.
- The Sadbhavana Diwas **2021** marks the **77th** birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi. He was born on 20th August 1944.

His birth anniversary is also celebrated as **Rajiv Gandhi Akshay Urja Diwas**.

- The All India Congress Committee (AICC) of the Indian National Congress(INC) instituted the **Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Award** in **1992**, the year after his assassination.

National Sports Day 2021 – August 29

National Sports Day is annually observed across India on **29th August** to commemorate the birth anniversary of Olympian and Indian Hockey legend, **Major Dhyan Chand**, who is popularly known as the “**Hockey Wizard**” and “**the Magician**”.

He was born on 29th August 1905 in Allahabad, British India, present-day Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh.

The National Sports day aims to create awareness about the importance of sports and reminds the need for sporting activities in life.



Background:

i. The Government of India has decided to celebrate the birth anniversary of Major Dhyan Chand as the National Sports Day starting from 2012.

ii. The first National Sports Day in India was observed on 29th August 2012.

Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur Launched Fit India Mobile App:

On the occasion of the National Sports Day 2021, Union Minister Youth Affairs and Sports **Anurag Singh Thakur** launched the **Fit India Mobile app**, India’s most comprehensive fitness app, at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, Delhi.

- The mobile app launched as a part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav also celebrates the 2nd anniversary of the Fit India Movement.

Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports:

Union Minister– Anurag Singh Thakur (Constituency- Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh)

Minister of State– Nisith Pramanik(Constituency- Coochbehar(West Bengal)