



## Current Affairs Supplement

December 2021

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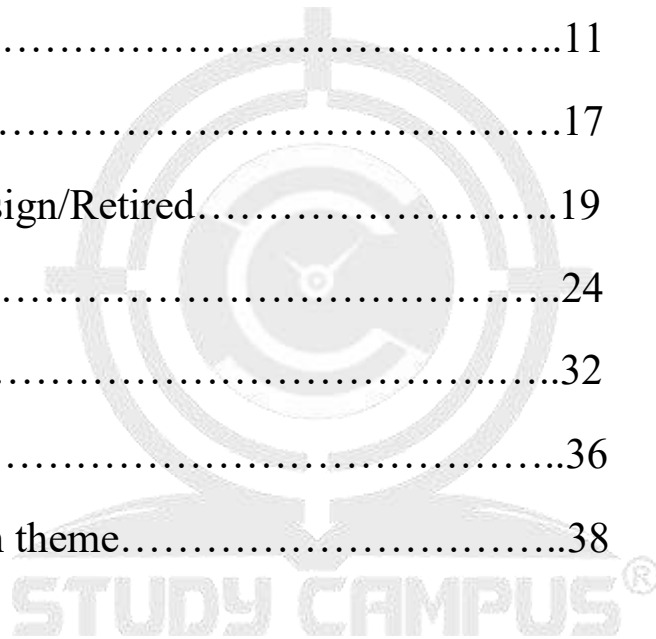
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## National

### A Book titled 'Pride, Prejudice and Punditry' by Dr Shashi Tharoor

- i. Former union minister and Lok Sabha Member of Parliament **Dr. Shashi Tharoor's** 23rd book titled '**Pride, Prejudice and Punditry**' was launched in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- ii. There are ten sections in this book, each devoted to a particular topic such as modern Indian history, Indian Politics, etc. He has won '**Sahitya Akademi Award**' for 2019, awarded to his book – '**An Era of Darkness**.'



### Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment forms 3-Member panel to Review EWS Criteria

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment announced the formation of a **3-member committee** to review the **annual income** criteria for Economically Weaker Section (**EWS**) reservations in job and central education institutes.

#### About the Committee

##### i. The 3 members of the Committee:

- Ajay Bhushan Pandey – Former Finance Secretary
- Prof VK Malhotra – Member Secretary, ICSSR (Indian Council of Social Science Research)
- Sanjeev Sanyal – Principal Economic Advisor to the Indian government (Member Convenor).

ii. The committee will now review the **Rs 8 lakh** family annual income ceiling for EWS to apply for **10 percent** reserved seats in central education institutes and government jobs.

iii. The committee will examine various approaches followed in India so far for identifying EWS and recommend criteria.

**About EWS:** The 10 percent EWS quota was introduced under the 103rd Constitution (Amendment) Act, 2019. The 10 percent EWS reservation is given only for the **General Category** candidates apart from other category reservation benefits of **OBC (27%)**, **SC (Scheduled Castes) (15%)**, and **ST (Scheduled Tribe) (7.5%)**.

### Ken-Betwa River Interlinking Project approved by Cabinet

i. **Ken-Betwa inter-linking of rivers project** has been approved by the Union Cabinet, which is chaired by Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi**. At 2020-21 price levels, the overall cost of the Ken-Betwa link project has been estimated at **Rs. 44,605 crore**.

ii. The Union Cabinet has approved central support for the project in the amount of Rs. 39,317 crore, which includes a grant of Rs. 36,290 crore and a loan of Rs. 3,027 crore.

iii. The project will be implemented through a **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)** known as the **Ken-Betwa Link Project Authority (KBLPA)**."

iv. The project includes the construction of the Daudhan dam across river Betwa from Ken and the transfer of water through a canal connecting the two rivers, Lower Orr project, Kotha barrage- and Bina complex multipurpose project.



### India joins G20's Troika with Indonesia and Italy

On 1st December 2021, Indonesia assumed the Presidency of G20 (Group of 20) from the outgoing Italy, which held the presidency for the last 1-year. With this Presidency change, India which is set to hold the G20 Presidency from 1st December 2022 to 31st November 2023 has entered the **G20 Troika**.

**i.** G20 Troika is a group comprising the **previous, current & the next G20 Presidencies of G20**.

**ii.** **G20 Troika** – Italy (December 2020-2021); Indonesia (December 2021-2022); India (December 2022-2023)

- **Theme** for G20 Leaders Summit 2022 – “Recover Together, Recover Stronger”.

**Note** – Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the G20 Summit 2021 held at Rome, Italy during 30-31 October 2021 where he raised the issue of Afghanistan's future and take over by Taliban.

**iii.** India is a founding member of the G20 and has used the platform to raise issues of vital importance and those that impact on the most vulnerable around the world.

### About G20:

**i.** The G20 is the premier forum for international economic cooperation established in **1999**.

**ii.** **Members of G20** – Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union.

### Rishabh Pant named as Uttarakhand's brand ambassador

- Uttarakhand Chief Minister **Pushkar Singh Dhami** has announced that Indian wicket-keeper batsman **Rishabh Pant** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of the state.
- The 24-year Pant, who was rested for the New Zealand Tests, is currently in South Africa as the Indian Team is all set to face Proteas in the three-match Test series, starting December 26.
- Rishabh Rajendra Pant is an Indian cricketer who plays as a middle-order wicket-keeper batsman for India, Delhi, and the Delhi Capitals in the Indian Premier League. In December 2015, he was named in India's squad for the 2016 Under-19 Cricket World Cup.



### 2021 Edition of WCM Report: IFFCO Ranks 1st Among top 300 Cooperatives in the World

The Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (**IFFCO**) has been ranked '**number one** Cooperative' among the top 300 cooperatives in the world in the **2021** edition of the 10th Annual World Cooperative Monitor (**WCM**) report, withholding its position from 2020 edition.

- WCM is a project designed to collect robust economic, organizational, and social data about cooperatives worldwide.
- The 2021 WCM report is published by the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) and European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises (Euricse).

### Agriculture and food industries:

**i.** IFFCO has ranked number one under the Agriculture and food industries section of WCM ranking, which includes all cooperatives that operate along the entire agricultural value chain, starting from the cultivation of agricultural products and livestock farming to the industrial processing of agricultural products and

animals.

ii. The section was further classified into two categories of Top 300 based on turnover in USD and the Top 300 turnover over GDP per capita (IFFCO became top under this category).

#### TOP 5 Turnover/GDP Per Capita:

Rank (2019)	Organisation	Country
1	IFFCO	India
2	Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd	India

#### Gujarat with 15.9% Manufacturing Growth became India's Largest Manufacturing Hub: RBI Data

i. In accordance with the data by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Gujarat has surpassed Maharashtra to become India's leading manufacturing hub. Its Gross Value Addition (GVA) in manufacturing grew **15.9%** annually between FY12 to FY20 to Rs 5.11 lakh crore.

ii. GVA indicates economic growth in supply of goods and services. It is GDP minus net product taxes.

iii. In terms of manufacturing, Maharashtra is followed by Tamil Nadu with a GVA of Rs 3.43 lakh crore at 3<sup>rd</sup> spot, Karnataka (4<sup>th</sup>) at Rs 2.1 lakh crore, and Uttar Pradesh-UP (5<sup>th</sup>) at Rs 1.87 lakh crore.

#### Static points about Reserve Bank of India (RBI):

-It was established on the recommendation of the Hilton Young Commission.

-RBI is responsible only for printing the currency notes. Minting of coins is done by the Government of India.

-Dr. Manmohan Singh is the only Prime Minister to have also served as the Governor of RBI.

#### Indian origin Anil Menon is SpaceX's first flight surgeon

i. Nasa-turned-SpaceX flight surgeon, Anil Menon is among the 10 latest trainee astronauts who will join the 2021 class of the American space agency as it plans for the first human missions to the moon in more than 50 years.

ii. He is born to Indian and Ukrainian parents and raised in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Menon is a lieutenant colonel in the US air force.

iii. He was SpaceX's first flight surgeon, helping to launch the company's first humans to space during NASA's SpaceX Demo-2 mission and building a medical organisation to support the human system during future missions.



#### India Skills Report 2022: Maharashtra Retains Top Position



- i. The **9th edition of India Skills Report (ISR) 2022**, released by Wheebox, **Maharashtra** has retained the top position in the list of states with the highest pool of employable talent followed by Uttar Pradesh and Kerala.
- ii. The theme of ISR 2022 – ‘**Rebuilding and Reengineering the Future of Work**’. India Skills Report is a full-fledged report about the future of work, education, and skilling to match the talent demand and supply in a growing India.
- iii. Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu are the 3 states that have a higher job demand.
- iv. **Pune** is the city with the most highly employable resources with 78% of the test takers scoring above 60 per cent.

#### Top 5 States with Highest Employability:

Rank	State	Employability %
1	Maharashtra	66.1
2	Uttar Pradesh	65.2
3	Kerala	64.2

#### PM Modi inaugurates Kashi-Vishwanath Dham project in Kashi

- i. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated the first phase of the **Rs 339 crore Kashi Vishwanath Corridor project** that connects the temple town’s two iconic landmarks – **Kashi Vishwanath temple and Ganga ghats**.
- ii. The idea behind the project is to ensure that all heritage structures get preserved.
- iii. A total of 23 buildings will be inaugurated in phase 1 of the project.
- iv. They will provide a variety of facilities to the pilgrims visiting Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple, including Yatri Suvidha Kendras, Tourist Facilitation Centre, Vedic Kendra, Mumukshu Bhavan, Bhogshala, City Museum, Viewing Gallery and Food Court, among others.
- v. The project is now spread over a massive area of about 5 lakh square feet, whereas earlier premises was limited to just around 3000 square feet.



#### PM Modi inaugurates the Saryu Nahar National Project in UP

- i. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated the **Saryu Nahar National Project** in **Balrampur, Uttar Pradesh**.
- ii. The project will provide assured water for irrigation to over 14 lakh hectares of land and benefit about 29 lakh farmers, mainly in eastern Uttar Pradesh.



- iii. Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya were among those present at the project inauguration programme.
- iv. The project has been completed at a cost of over **Rs 9,800 crore**, out of which more than **Rs 4,600 crore** was provisioned in the last four years.

### Wholesale inflation surges to 14.23% in November

- i. Producers' inflation based on the **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** has reached an all-time high in the current series at **14.23 per cent** in November.
- ii. This is the eighth successive month of double digits WPI (mainly due to the hardening of prices of mineral oils, basic metals, crude petroleum and natural gas).
- iii. Wholesale Price-based Index (WPI) inflation base year is **2011-12**. Also, the spike is highest since April 2005.



### UNESCO recognises Kolkata's Durga Puja as Intangible Cultural Heritage

- i. **UNESCO** has added **Durga Puja** in Kolkata to its 2021 list of **Intangible Cultural Heritage**, giving international recognition to the biggest religious festival of the 331-year-old city and the state of **West Bengal**.
- ii. The UNESCO's announcement was welcomed by **Bengal's ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC)** as chief minister Mamata Banerjee is widely recognized as the biggest patron of the festival.



### India to raise legal marriage age for women

- i. The proposal to raise the **minimum age of marriage for women from 18 to 21** was cleared by the **Union Cabinet**. Presently, the minimum age of marriage for men is 21 but for women, it is 18.
- ii. The government will now look to introduce amendments to the **Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, Special Marriage Act, and the Hindu Marriage Act** to bring the plan into action. This will give a chance to the girls to study more. They will be able to enjoy their independence. They will also get better employment opportunities."



### YouGov: PM Modi world's 8th most admired man in 2021

- i. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has ranked **8th** on the list of the world's top 20 most admired men, in a survey carried out by data analytics company **YouGov**. PM Modi is ahead of Shah Rukh Khan, Amitabh Bachchan and Virat Kohli. The list has been compiled taking feedback from 42,000 people in 38 countries.
- ii. Apart from PM Modi, the other Indian men who, according to the survey, were the most admired in 2021 include **Sachin Tendulkar, Shah Rukh Khan, Amitabh Bachchan and Virat Kohli**.



- iii. The list also includes the most admired Indian women of 2021 has Priyanka Chopra, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and Sudha Murty.

### PM Modi lays foundation stone of Ganga Expressway in Uttar Pradesh

- i. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has laid the foundation stone of **Ganga Expressway in Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh**. PM Modi also addressed a rally at Railway Ground, Rouza on the occasion.
- ii. After completion of work, it will become the longest expressway of Uttar Pradesh. It will connect the western and eastern regions of the state. It starts near the Bijauli village in Meerut. It will extend till near the Judapur Dandu village in Prayagraj.
- iii. Ganga Expressway is a **594 Km** long Expressway. It will be built at a cost of over **Rs 36,200 crore**.
- iv. It will pass through **Meerut, Hapur, Bulandshahr, Amroha, Sambhal, Budaun, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Unnao, Rae Bareli, Pratapgarh and Prayagraj districts**.
- v. 35 Km long airstrip for emergency take-off and landing of Air Force planes will also be constructed on the Expressway in Shahjahanpur.



### Goa's Liberation Day 2021

- i. **Goa Liberation Day** is observed on **19 December** every year in India and it marks the day Indian armed forces freed Goa in **1961** following **450 years of Portuguese rule**. The year 2021 marks the **60 years of Goa's independence**.
- ii. Goa Liberation Day is marked by an abundance of events and festivities in Goa though this time because of the pandemic the celebrations are expected to be muted. A torchlight procession is ignited from three different locations in the state, eventually all meeting at the Azad Maidan.

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Goa Capital: Panaji.
- Governor of Goa: P.S. Sreedharan Pillai.
- Chief Minister of Goa: Pramod Sawant.

### Jharkhand Assembly passes Bill to prevent mob violence, lynching

- i. **Jharkhand Assembly** has passed the **Prevention of Mob Violence and Mob Lynching Bill, 2021**, which aims at providing "effective protection" of constitutional rights and the prevention of mob violence in the state.
- ii. After including one amendment, the Bill was passed and sent to the Governor for his assent. Once notified, Jharkhand will become the fourth state to bring in such a law after **West Bengal, Rajasthan and Manipur**.



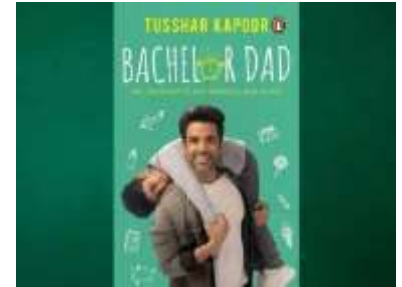
### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Chief Minister of Jharkhand: Hemant Soren; Governor: Ramesh Bais.



### Tusshar Kapoor released his debut book 'Bachelor Dad'

- i. **Tusshar Kapoor** has written his first book titled '**Bachelor Dad**'. The actor became a single father to son Lakshya Kapoor via surrogacy in 2016. He has shared his journey of being a single father in the new book.
- ii. The actor has shared his journey of the 'slightly unconventional road to fatherhood' in his debut book, Bachelor Dad. On the cover of the book, he can be seen carrying his son.



### India replace the UK to be 3rd top country hosting unicorns

- i. Adding **33** "unicorns" in a single year has helped **India** displace the **United Kingdom** to be third in the list of countries that are home to such enterprises valued at over **\$1 billion each**. The **US and China**, who occupy the first two ranks, are way ahead, according to the data compiled by Hurun Research Institute.
- ii. US and China are home to 74 per cent of the unicorn universe. The US added 254 unicorns and now totals 487 companies in the coveted list, while China added 74 to take its tally to 301 start-ups having a valuation of over \$1 billion. The UK added only 15 unicorns to take its total to 39, and hence got displaced by India.



### Former Chief of Army Staff, Gen. Nirmal Chander Vij releases his new book

- i. A new book by former Indian Army Chief of Staff Gen. **Nirmal Chander Vij (ret)** claims to offer a "full picture" of the conflicts in Jammu and Kashmir and the way forward.
- ii. The book published by HarperCollins India, the book of General Vij, The riddle of "**Kashmir: the quest for peace in a troubled land**".



### Good Governance Index 2021: Gujarat topped the ranking

- i. **Good Governance Index 2021** was launched by Union Minister **Amit Shah** on the occasion of the Good Governance Day on 25 December 2021.
- ii. GGI 2021 was prepared by the Department of Administration Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG). The GGI 2021 framework covered 10 sectors and 58 indicators.



### Govt set up high-level committee to examine of lifting Nagaland's AFSPA

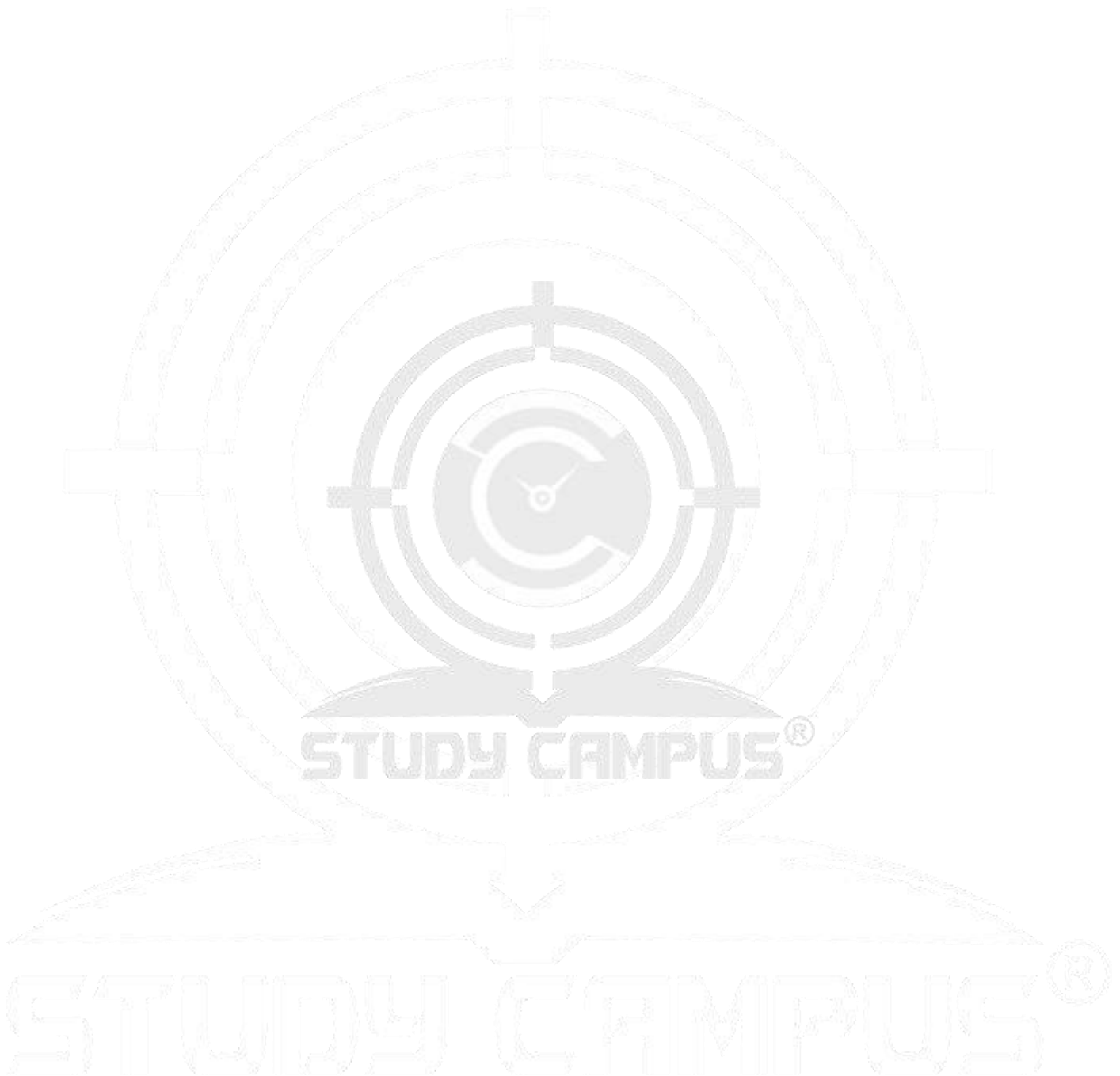
- i. The **Government of India** has decided to constitute a 'five-member' committee to look into the demand for withdrawal of **Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act "AFSPA"** in **Nagaland**.
- ii. The committee headed by **Vivek Joshi**, the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, would submit its recommendations within 45 days. Additional Secretary in the Home Ministry

Piyush Goyal will be its Member-Secretary. The Chief Secretary and DGP of Nagaland and the DGP of Assam Rifles will be the other members of the committee.

- iii. The AFSPA empowers security forces to conduct operations and arrest anyone without any prior warrant. It also gives immunity to the forces if they shoot someone dead.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Chief Minister of Nagaland: Neiphiu Rio; Governor of Nagaland: Jagdish Mukhi.



## International

### EIU's Worldwide Cost of Living Index 2021: Tel Aviv Ranks World's Costliest City; Paris, Singapore Ranks 2<sup>nd</sup>

According to the Economist Intelligence Unit's (EIU) **Worldwide Cost of Living Index 2021**, Tel Aviv, Israel has become the **most expensive city** in the world to live in 2021, pushing **Paris**, France and **Singapore** jointly to occupy the **second** spot with **Zurich** and **Hong Kong** at the **fourth** and **fifth** spots respectively.

- Tel Aviv climbed from 5th place to the top in 2021 due to the rising value of the Israeli currency shekel against US Dollar along with increase in the price of grocery and transport.
- Syria's **Damascus** was ranked as the world's cheapest city.

The Worldwide Cost of Living Index examines the cost of living in 173 cities and measures impactful global events that are conducted twice a year.

### Dubai 1st in World to go 100% Paperless

- i. **Dubai** became the world's first government to turn **100% paperless**, the announcement was made by the United Arab Emirate (UAE) Crown Prince, **Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum**. It will save around 3 billion Dirham (USD 350 million) and 14-million-man hours.
- ii. The digitization will provide all the govt. services to customers & reduce paper consumption by more than 336 million papers. All the exceptional digital services can be accessed by the Citizens through the "Dubai Now application".



### South Korea to Get World's Sustainable First Floating City by 2025

**South Korea** is set to get the World's first floating city, a joint effort by **OCEANIX** and the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (**UN-Habit**), which is likely to be completed by 2025. The floating city will be developed on the coast of Busan, South Korea, to tackle the problem of rising sea levels.

- In November 2021, Busan Metropolitan City of the Republic of Korea, UN-Habitat, and New York designers OCEANIX, signed an agreement to build the world's first sustainable floating city.

#### **Background:**

The concept of the floating city, dubbed **Oceanix City**, was presented by Bjarke Ingels Group (**BIG**) and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (**MIT**) at a roundtable discussion on Sustainable Floating Cities at the United Nations's New York Headquarters.

#### **Features of the floating city:**

- i. The city will be spread across an area of more than 75 hectares, and will be able to accommodate 10000 residents.
- ii. The floating city is designed to withstand natural disasters including floods, tsunamis and Category 5

hurricanes as its floating platforms will be anchored to the seafloor.

### HAL, BEL, Indian Ordnance Factories Ranked among SIPRI Top 100 Arms-Producing Companies 2020

As per the report of Swedish think-tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) titled ‘**Top 100 arms-producing and military services companies, 2020**’, 3 Indian defence manufactures companies such as Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Indian Ordnance Factories, and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) ranks among the top 100 manufacturers globally.

- The HAL, ranked 42nd, and BEL, ranked 66th, Indian Ordnance Factories ranked 60th.
- Out of the top 100 Arms Manufacturing Companies, Companies from India contributes for 1.2 percent of total arms sales of companies in the SIPRI Top 100 for 2020. US contributes for highest part of 54 percent.
- India’s aggregated arms sales in 2020 was about \$6.5 billion, and it was 1.7 percent higher than in 2019.

### Top arms-producing and military services companies in the world, 2020:

Rank	Company	Country	Arms sales, 2020 (in million US\$)	Change in arms sales, 2019–20 (%)
42	HAL	India	2970	1.5
60	Indian Ordnance Factories	India	1900	0.2
66	BEL	India	1630	4.0
1	Lockheed Martin Corp.	United States (US)	58210	7.7
2	Raytheon Technologies	US	36780	-5.7
3	Boeing	US	32130	-5.8

**About SIPRI:**

**Establishment** – 1966

**Headquarters** – Solna, Sweden

**Director** – Dan Smith

**World Inequality Report 2022: India's top 10% hold 57% of National Income**

As per the 'World Inequality Report 2022' released by Paris-based World Inequality Lab, India stands out as a 'poor and very unequal country, with an affluent elite'. In 2021 the top **10 percent** and top **1 percent** of the Indian population hold **57 percent** and **22 percent** of total national income respectively, whereas the share of the bottom 50 percent has gone down to 13 percent.

**Analysis on Inequalities in India:**

**i. Income inequality:** The average national income of the Indian adult population is Rs 204,200. The bottom 50 percent of the population in India earns Rs 53,610, the top 10 percent earns more than 20 times at Rs 11,66,520.

**ii. Wealth inequality:** Average household wealth in India is equal to Rs 983,010. The bottom 50 percent own 6 percent of the total (Rs 66,280). The middle class holds 29.5 percent of the total with an average wealth of only Rs 723,930. The top 10 percent and 1 percent own 65 and 33 percent of the total (i.e. of Rs 6,354,070 and Rs 32,449,360).

**iii. Gender inequality:** Gender inequalities in India are very high. The female labour income share is equal to 18 percent, which is lower than the average in Asia (21%, excluding China).

**UAE becomes first country to transition to 4.5-day Work Week**

- i. The **United Arab Emirates** has announced to change its existing five-day workweek to a four-and-a-half day starting **January 1**, becoming the world's first country to make the employee-friendly transition as part of its efforts to improve productivity and work-life balance.
- ii. According to the new schedule, Monday to Thursday the work timings would be from **7.30 am to 3.30 pm**, followed by a half-day on **Friday from 7.30 am to 12.00 pm**. Saturdays and Sundays are full-day holidays under the new rule.
- iii. The government's move is expected to make it come closer to the timings of the US, the UK, and Europe, boosting commerce. The Emirati govt of Dubai and Abu Dhabi have already announced the four-and-a-half day workweek.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- UAE Capital: Abu Dhabi;
- UAE Currency: United Arab Emirates dirham;
- UAE President: Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

**Asia Power Index 2021: India Ranked as 4th most Powerful Country in Asia**

As per the Lowy Institute **Asia Power Index 2021**, India Ranked **4th** most powerful country in Asia for comprehensive power out of 26 countries, with an overall score of **37.7** out of 100.

- India's overall score declined by 2 points compared to 2020.
- India again falls short of the major power threshold in 2021. India is one of 18 countries in Asia to trend downward in its overall score in 2021.

### Lowy Institute Asia Power Index 2021:

Rank	Country	Score/100
4	India	37.7
1	United States (US)	82.2
2	China	74.6
3	Japan	38.7
5	Russia	33.0

**Note-** The top 10 countries for overall power in the Asia-Pacific region are the US, China, Japan, India, Russia, Australia, South Korea, Singapore, Indonesia and Thailand.

### UNGA granted observer status to International Solar Alliance

- The **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** has granted Observer Status to **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** by adopting resolution 76/123. This decision has been taken based on the UNGA's Sixth Committee report.
- In November 2015, ISA was jointly launched by India and France during the 21st session of the United Nations Climate Change COP-21 in Paris, France to promote solar energy among its Member Countries.
- A total of **108 countries** participated in the Assembly, including 74 Member Countries and 34 Observer and Prospective Countries, 23 Partner Organizations and 33 Special Invitee Organisations.
- The launch of the ISA was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and former French President Francois Hollande in November 2015, at the 21st session of the UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties in Paris, France.



### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- International Solar Alliance Headquarters: Gurugram;
- International Solar Alliance Founded: 30 November 2015;
- International Solar Alliance Director-General: Ajay Mathur.

### TIME Magazine's 'Person of the Year' for 2021: Elon Musk

- i. The prestigious **TIME magazine** has named **Elon Musk**, the CEO of Tesla, as the “**2021 Person of the Year**.”
- ii. In 2021, US-based electric-vehicle startup Tesla became **\$1 trillion** company as Musk became the world's richest person with an estimated net worth of around US \$255 billion.
- iii. Musk is also the founder and CEO of rocket company **SpaceX**, and leads brain-chip start-up Neuralink and infrastructure firm The Boring Company.
- iv. US President **Joe Biden** and Vice President **Kamala Harris** were named as the Person of the Year for 2020 by Time magazine.



### NASA's launched world's largest telescope named James Webb Space

- i. NASA's \$10 billion telescopes **James Webb Space Telescope** designed to capture the first glimpse of the universe just shortly after the Big Bang is targeted for blastoff from the **European Space Agency's Kourou, French Guiana**.
- ii. The revolutionary world's first-of-its-kind space-science observatory of the next decade will capture the earliest galaxies believed to have formed during the early universe's formation. The new telescope will help scientists to probe the structures and origins of our universe and our place in it.
- iii. The telescope is unequalled in size and complexity. Its **mirror measures 6.5 metres (21 feet) in diameter** — three times the size of the Hubble's mirror — and is made of 18 hexagonal sections. It is so large that it had to be folded to fit into the rocket.



### Japan introduced the world's 1st Dual-Mode Vehicle

- i. **Japan** has introduced a minibus lookalike world's first **dual-mode vehicle (DMV)** in its town of Kaiyo. The vehicle can run on normal rubber tyres on the road but its steel wheels, which are in its underbelly, descend when it hits the rail tracks.
- ii. The DMV can carry up to 21 passengers and runs at a speed of **60km/h on rail tracks** and can go as fast as around **100km/h on public roads**.
- iii. The front tyres are lifted off the track and the rear wheels stay down to propel the DMV onto the railway. This feature of effectively changing into a train-like module easily on a rail track is the first of its kind.
- iv. Powered by diesel, the small fleet of vehicles comes in different colours. It runs along part of the coast of Shikoku island in southern Japan, connecting several small towns and offering passengers attractive seaside scenery.



**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Japan Capital: Tokyo;
- Japan Currency: Japanese Yen;
- Japan PM: Fumio Kishida.

**Egypt became fourth new member of New Development Bank**

i. **Egypt** added as the fourth new member of **BRICS New Development Bank**. **Bangladesh, UAE, and Uruguay** joined BRICS New Development Bank in September 2021.

ii. Membership expansion enables New Development Bank to position itself as a premier development institution for emerging economies.



- BRICS New Development Bank is a multilateral bank that was established by **Brazil, Russia, China, India, and South Africa** to finance sustainable development and infrastructure projects.
- New Development Bank Headquarter: Shanghai, China;
- New Development Bank President: Marcos Prado Troyjo;
- New Development Bank Founder: BRICS;
- New Development Bank Founded: 15 July 2014.



## Defence

### Russian Navy Test-Fired Zircon, a Hypersonic Missile, in the White Sea

On 29th November 2021, The Russian navy successfully test fired the Tsirkon/Zircon cruise missile, a hypersonic missile, in the White sea, a southern inlet of the Barents Sea, northwest coast of Russia. The **Admiral Gorshkov frigate** launched the Zircon cruise missile which struck the practice target at 400 kilometers (215 nautical miles) away.

- This is the latest launch in a series of tests of Zircon, will be commissioned into the Russian navy in 2022.

### About Zircon:

- Zircon, a anti-ship hypersonic cruise missile, is one of several hypersonic missiles under development in Russia.
- It is capable of flying at nine times the speed of sound and have a range of 1,000 kilometers (620 miles).
- This will boost the capability of Russia's military.
- Russia is planning to arm the Russian cruisers, frigates and submarines with Zircon.

### HAL signed contract with BEL for 83 LCA Tejas Mk1A fighters

- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** has signed a **Rs 2,400 crores** contract with **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)** for the development and supply of 20 types of systems for 83 LCA (Light Combat Aircraft) **Tejas Mk1A fighter aircraft programme**.
- The duration of the contract is 5 years i.e., from 2023 to 2028. Notably, this is HAL's biggest order on any Indian company thus boosting the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' campaign.
- The order for the supply of these systems will be executed by two units of BEL at Bengaluru (Karnataka), and Panchkula (Haryana).



### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited Founded: 1940;
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited Headquarter: Bengaluru, Karnataka;
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited CMD: R Madhavan.

### Indian Navy's 2nd indigenous stealth destroyer 'Mormugao' sailed

- On Goa Liberation Day, Indian Navy's indigenous stealth guided-missile destroyer '**Mormugao**' went for her maiden sea trials. This second indigenous stealth destroyer of the **Project 15 B (P15B) class**, is planning to be commissioned in **mid-2022**.
- Mormugao is being built at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd as part of Project 15B destroyers and incorporates several indigenous technologies. The destroyer is expected to add significantly to the capabilities of the Indian Navy, which got a major booster in the form of INS Visakhapatnam's and the fourth stealth scorpene class submarine INS Vela's commissioning.



- iii. INS Vela was also constructed at MDSL Mumbai in collaboration with M/s Naval Group, France, and was delivered to the Indian Navy on November 9, 2021. A total of six submarines are to be built under the project.

#### Indian Navy decommissioned INS Khukri after 32 years

- i. **INS Khukri** (Pennant number 49), the first indigenously built Missile Corvette, was decommissioned after **32 years of service** at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- ii. The warship was built by the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders (MSD) and commissioned on 23rd August 1989 and had been part of both the Western and Eastern Fleets.
- iii. The ship was commissioned in Mumbai by Shri Krishna Chandra Pant, the then Raksha Mantri and Mrs Sudha Mulla, wife of late Capt Mahendra Nath Mulla. Commander (now Retired Vice Admiral) Sanjeev Bhasin was the first Commanding Officer.



#### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Chief of Naval Staff: Admiral R Hari Kumar;
- Indian Navy Founded: 26 January 1950.

## Appointments or Resign/Retired

### Indian-American Parag Agrawal Takes Over as CEO of Twitter; Jack Dorsey Stepped Down

The board of directors of Twitter has decided to appoint Indian American, **Parag Agrawal**, the Chief Technology Officer(CTO) of Twitter, as the new **Chief Executive officer(CEO)** of Twitter.

He was appointed following the resignation of Jack Dorsey, the co-founder of Twitter, from the post of CEO.

- Parag Agrawal will also be joining the board of directors of Twitter.
- Bret Taylor, a member of the board of Directors, Twitter, has been named as Independent Chair of the board succeeding Patrick Pichette.

#### About Parag Agrawal:

i.Parag Agrawal is an alumnus of the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay and Stanford University.

ii.He joined Twitter in 2011 as a software engineer and has been serving as the CTO since October 2017.

#### About Jack Dorsey:

i.Jack Dorsey the co-founder of Twitter is also the CEO and Co-Founder, Square, a digital payments company.

ii.Jack Dorsey will remain a member of the board of Twitter till 2022.

iii.He has served as the CEO of Twitter from 2006 to 2008, and again from 2015 to 2021.

#### About Twitter, Inc.:

**CEO**– Parag Agrawal

**Headquarters**– San Francisco, California, United States

**Founded in** 2006

### Indian-American Gautam Raghavan elevated to key White House position

i. US President **Joe Biden** has elevated Indian-American political advisor **Gautam Raghavan** as the head of the **White House Office of Presidential Personnel**.

ii. White House Presidential Personnel Office (PPO), also written as Office of Presidential Personnel, is the White House office tasked with vetting new appointees. The PPO is one of the offices most responsible for assessing candidates to work at or for the White House.

iii. A first-generation immigrant, Raghavan was born in India, raised in Seattle and graduated from Stanford University. He is the editor of the book ‘West Wings: Stories from the Dream Chasers, Change Makers, and Hope Creators Inside the Obama White House’.



### Sweden elect 1st Female Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson

The former Finance Minister of Sweden, **Eva Magdalena Andersson** from the Social Democratic Party (SDP) won her 2nd election and became **1st female Prime Minister (PM)** of Sweden.

- On 24 November 2021 she was **first elected as the PM** but later **resigned** after her coalition partner (**Green Party**) quit the government and the budget failed to pass.
- Sweden's Parliament is known as Riksdag.
- Sweden is the last Nordic country to get a female Prime Minister.

#### About Magdalena Andersson:

i. Magdalena Andersson was born on 23 January 1967. She is a 54 year old Swedish politician and economist serving as the PM from the Social Democratic Party or SDP.

ii. She began her political career as a political adviser to then PM **Goran Persson** in 1996 and then as **Director of Planning**.

iii. In 2004 she began to work in the **Ministry of Finance as State Secretary**.

iv. She became the head of the SDP on November 4, 2021. She is the **second woman leader** of the SDP.

#### About Sweden:

i. It is among the **five Nordic countries** – Sweden, Norway, Finland, Iceland and Denmark.

ii. It is a member of the **Arctic Council** that comprises eight countries- Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, and the United States.

**Capital-** Stockholm

**Currency-** Swedish krona.

#### Army Chief Naravane takes charge as Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee

- Army Chief General **M.M. Naravane** has assumed the charge as the **chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee** that comprises the three service chiefs.
- The post fell vacant following the death of Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat in the Indian Air Force helicopter crash on December 8.
- General Naravane has been given the charge, as he is the senior-most among the three service chiefs. IAF Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhari and Navy Chief Admiral R. Hari Kumar had taken over their respective positions on September 30 and November 30.
- Before the creation of the post of the Chief of Defence Staff, the senior-most among the three service chiefs used to be the chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee.



#### Gita Gopinath appointed as the IMF's First Deputy Managing Director

Indian-American and the **first female Chief Economist** of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), **Gita Gopinath** is promoted as the **IMF's First Deputy Managing Director (FDMD)** serving under IMF Chief Kristalina Georgieva. She will succeed **FDMD Geoffrey Okamoto who is set to be relieved from IMF**.

#### About Gita Gopinath:

i. She was born on 8 December 1971 in Kannur, Kerala.

ii. She has been serving as the Chief Economist of the IMF since 2019. In that role she is the Director of IMF Research Department and the Economic Counsellor of the Fund.

iii. Gita Gopinath was also appointed to various positions including as an advisory member to the US Federal Reserve Bank and also as an economic advisor to the Kerala Chief Minister (CM).

#### About International Monetary Fund (IMF):

**MD-** Kristalina Georgieva

**Member countries-** 190

### Alka Upadhyaya appointed as New Chairperson of NHAI

Alka Upadhyaya, IAS officer (1990 batch) of Madhya Pradesh cadre appointed as **Chairperson of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** under Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (**MoRTH**) by the Government of India.

- She succeeded Giridhar Aramane, who was given additional charge of the Chairperson of NHAI after Sukhbir Singh Sandhu steps down.
- Prior to this appointment Alka Upadhyaya was serving as the **Additional Secretary (AS), Department of Rural Development.**

### Other appointments:

i. **Sanjay Bandopadhyay**, AS, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (**MoPSW**), has been appointed as the **Chairman of the Inland Waterways Authority of India.**

### About National Highways Authority of India (NHAI):

i. It is the nodal agency of Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (**MoRTH**)

### Catherine Russell appointed as the new head of UNICEF

- UN Secretary-General **Antonio Guterres** has appointed **Catherine Russell** as the head of UN children's agency UNICEF, also known as the **United Nations Children's Fund.**
- Catherine Russell is an assistant to US President Joe Biden. She also heads the White House Office of Presidential Personnel. Russell will succeed **Henrietta Fore**, who resigned in July 2021 because of a family health issue.
- UNICEF is governed by a 36-member executive board. The board establishes policies, oversees administrative & financial plans and approves programs. Board comprises of government representatives, who are elected by the United Nations Economic and Social Council. They are elected for three-year terms.



### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- UNICEF Headquarters: New York, United States of America;
- UNICEF Founded: 11 December 1946.

### British-Indian Leena Nair is the new global CEO of Chanel

- French fashion house **Chanel** named **Leena Nair**, an executive from Unilever, as its new global CEO. Nair's career at Unilever spanned 30 years, most recently as the chief of human resources and a member of the executive committee.
- The recruitment of Nair, who rose through the ranks of Unilever having started out as a trainee on the factory floor, comes as the fashion industry is under pressure to show a more inclusive approach.



### Mohit Jain Elected As New President Of Indian Newspaper Society

- i. **Mohit Jain** of The Economic Times has been elected President of **The Indian Newspaper Society for the year 2021-22**. He succeeds **L. Adimoolam** of Health & The Antiseptic.
- ii. The 82nd Annual General Meeting of the Indian Newspaper Society – an apex body of Publishers of Newspapers, Magazines & Periodicals in the country, was held through Video Conference.
- iii. While **K. Raja Prasad Reddy** (Sakshi) was elected the deputy president, **Rakesh Sharma** (Aaj Samaj) was the vice-president and **Tanmay Maheshwari** (Amar Ujala) was elected the honorary treasurer of the Society for 2021-22.

#### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- The Indian Newspaper Society Founded: 27 February 1939;
- The Indian Newspaper Society Headquarters location: New Delhi.

#### Gabriel Boric elected as youngest-ever President-elect of Chile

- i. 35-year-old, **Gabriel Boric**, has won Chile presidential elections, to become the youngest-ever President-elect of **Chile**. He defeated his opposition **Jose Antonio Kast** in the elections. Gabriel Boric will assume office in March 2022, will become the youngest president in Chile's history.
- ii. Official results gave Mr Boric **56%** of the votes against Mr Kast's **44%**. Mr Kast conceded defeat barely an hour-and-a-half after polls closed, and with around half of ballots counted.



#### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Chile Capital: Santiago;
- Chile Currency: Peso.

#### Indian-origin judge appointed to South Africa's highest judicial bench

- i. Indian origin, **Narandran 'Jody' Kollapen** has been appointed to **South Africa's** highest judicial bench, the **Constitutional Court**. The appointment of 64-year-old **Kollapen & Rammaka Steven Mathopo** as the latest additions to the Constitutional Court after a lengthy process of public interviews.
- ii. Both will take office from January 1, 2022. President **Cyril Ramaphosa** announced the appointment of Rammaka Steven Mathopo and Kollapen to the Constitutional Court after lengthy public interviews.



#### Diplomat Vikram Misri named as Deputy National Security Advisor

i. Diplomat **Vikram Misri** has been appointed as **deputy national security adviser** in the national security council secretariat. The appointment of Misri, a 1989-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, came after he served as the Indian ambassador to China for nearly three years.



ii. He served in various capacities at the headquarters of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) as well as in the Prime Minister's Office. Misri will report to national security adviser **Ajit Doval**.

iii. At present, **Rajinder Khanna, Pankaj Saran and Dattatray Padsalgikar** are serving as deputy NSAs. Misri has also served in various Indian Missions in Europe, Africa, Asia and North America. The government has already appointed Pradeep Kumar Rawat as India's new envoy to China.

**ITBP DG Sanjay Arora to hold SSB additional charge**

i. ITBP director general **Sanjay Arora** will hold the additional charge of another border guarding force **Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)** as the latter's chief **Kumar Rajesh Chandra** is set to retire on December 31.

ii. Arora, a 1988-batch officer of Tamil Nadu cadre, was appointed the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) DG in August and he took charge of the India-China LAC guarding force on September 1. The SSB is primarily tasked to guard unfenced Indian borders with Nepal and Bhutan.



## Honours/ Awards

### 52nd IFFI 2021 held in Goa; Hema Malini & Prasoon Joshi won 2021 Indian Film Personality of the Year

52nd edition of the Asia's oldest and largest film festival, International Film Festival of India (IFFI), held in Goa from **November 20 to 28, 2021** in hybrid mode to showcase the excellence of film art and filmmakers from all over the world while boosting creativity and cultural exchange.

- The festival is conducted jointly by the Directorate of Film Festivals (under Ministry of Information and Broadcasting) and the Entertainment Society of Goa, Government of Goa.
- Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Anurag Singh Thakur, announced the Indian Film Personality of the Year Award for 2021 which was conferred to **Hema Malini**, Actor, Member of Parliament from Mathura, Uttar Pradesh and **Prasoon Joshi**, Lyricist and Chairperson, CBFC (Central Board of Film Certification).
- **Uttar Pradesh** has been picked as the most friendly state for film shooting at 52nd IFFI. Additional Chief Secretary (Information) Navneet Sehgal received the award.

### India's Harnaaz Sandhu crowned 70th Miss Universe 2021

- Actor-model **Harnaaz Sandhu** made history as she was crowned **Miss Universe 2021** beating contestants from 80 countries, 21 years after India last brought home the title.
- While Paraguay's **Nadia Ferreira**, 22, finished second, South Africa's **Lalela Mswane**, 24, came third. Only two Indians before Ms Sandhu have won the title of Miss Universe— actors **Sushmita Sen** in 1994 and **Lara Dutta** in 2000.
- The 70th edition of the event was held in Eilat, Israel, where the 21-year-old bagged the coveted pageant.
- The ceremony was hosted by **Steve Harvey** and saw performances from American singer **JoJo**. The selection committee included actor and Miss Universe India 2015 **Urvashi Rautela**, Adamari López, Adriana Lima, Cheslie Kryst, Iris Mittenaere, Lori Harvey, Marian Rivera and Rena Sofer.



### 7-time champion Lewis Hamilton receives knighthood at Windsor Castle

- Lewis Hamilton** has picked up a new title only days after losing one on the track. The seven-time Formula One champion received a **knighthood at Windsor Castle, London**.
- Hamilton gets the honorary title of "Sir" after being knighted by the Prince of Wales for services to motorsports.
- Three other F1 drivers have been knighted: **Jack Brabham, Stirling Moss and Jackie Stewart**. Hamilton is the first to be awarded while still competing in the





sport.

### 65th Ballon d'Or: Argentina's Lionel Messi won the Ballon d'Or Award for 7th time; Alexia Putellas won Women's Award

Argentina's Lionel Andrés Messi (**Lionel Messi**), who plays as a forward for Paris Saint-Germain has won the **Ballon d'Or** award for the **7th time** and Barcelona's **Alexia Putellas** has won the **Women's Ballon d'Or** award. This is Alexia's first Ballon d'Or Award.

- The year **2021** marks the **65 edition of the Ballon d'Or Ceremony**.
- The 2021 Ballon d'Or ceremony was held on 29th November 2021 in Théâtre du Châtelet, Paris, France.

#### Other Winners:

**i.** Italy and PSG goalkeeper **Gianluigi Donnarumma** has won the 2021 Yashin Trophy for the best goalkeeper.

**ii.** Bayern Munich and Poland striker **Robert Lewandowski** won the Striker of the Year award 2021.

**iii.** **19-year-old Pedro González López**, known as **Pedri**, of Spain won the Kopa trophy which is presented to the best male player age 21 or under.

**iv.** **Chelsea FC** won the 2021 Club of the Year at the Ballon d'Or awards ceremony.

### Bhutan confers PM Modi with its highest civilian award

- Bhutan** has honoured **PM Modi** with its highest civilian award, **Ngadag Pel gi Khorlo**. Bhutan's Prime Minister **Lotay Tshering** has announced **PM Modi's** name for Bhutan's highest honour.
- The honour comes as an appreciation for India's friendly approach to Bhutan under **PM Modi's** governance. During the pandemic, India had extended support to the neighbouring country in the form of vaccines, medicines and other emergency services.



### V Praveen Rao VC of PJTSAU Wins 7th Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Award for 2017-19

V Praveen Rao, Vice-Chancellor (VC) of Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University (PJTSAU) wins the 7th Dr M S Swaminathan Award for the period 2017-19.

- It is a biennial national (every 2 year) award that was presented by Retired ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research) Employees Association (**RICAREA**) and **Nuziveedu Seeds Limited**. It carries a cash prize INR 2 lakh and a citation.

#### Highlights:

**i.** The **Selection Committee**, headed by former ICAR Director General, **RS Paroda** has decided to select **V Praveen Rao** for the award recognising his contributions in the fields of '**agricultural research, teaching, extension and administration**'.

**ii.** **Praveen Rao** handled 13 research and 6 consultancy projects on micro-irrigation in India, Israel and South Africa.

#### About Dr M S Swaminathan Award :

**i.** This prestigious Award was instituted in **2004** in the honour of **Dr. M.S. Swaminathan** the **main architect of India's Green Revolution**.

ii. This Award is a **lifetime achievement award** for outstanding contributions to agricultural research and development and for overall food security and sustainability of agriculture.

### A biography 'Naoroji: Pioneer of Indian Nationalism' by Dinyar Patel wins NIF Book Prize 2021

A biography titled 'Naoroji: Pioneer of Indian Nationalism', authored by **Dinyar Patel** and published by Harvard University Press selected as the winner of the **4th Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF (New India Foundation) Book Prize 2021**.

- The book marked the life events and legacy of Dada Bhai Naoroji. It also contains historical backgrounds of India's National Movement during the 19th century.

**Note-** Previous winners of the prize are **Milan Vaishnav (2018)**, **Ornit Shani (2019)**, and **Amit Ahuja and Jairam Ramesh (jointly, 2020)**.

i. The winning book was selected on the basis of a jury's decision chaired by political scientist Niraja Gopal Jayal, Nandan Nilekani and Manish Sabharwal and historians Srinath Raghavan and Nayanjot Lahiri.

#### About Dadabhai Naoroji:

Dadabhai Naoroji Dordi was born on 4 September 1825, in Mumbai, Maharashtra and also known as 'Grand Old Man of India' and 'Unofficial Ambassador of India'.

#### Political career:

i. He began his political career as the **Dewan of the Maharaja of Baroda** in 1874.

ii. He also became a **member of the Legislative Council of Mumbai** during 1885 – 88.

iii. Notably, he was the **first Asian to become a British MP (Member of Parliament)** when he was elected to the **House of Commons in 1892**.

iv. He was the **three times President** of the INC in **1886, 1893 and 1906**.

### PETA: Alia Bhatt India's 2021 Person of the Year

i. **People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India** has named Bollywood star **Alia Bhatt** its **2021 Person of the Year**. She is an animal lover and often shares pictures with her pets. This year, Alia Bhatt invested in Phool, the company behind Fleather, which is vegan leather made from discarded temple flowers.



ii. Her vegan kidswear line, Ed-a-Mamma, also won a 2021 PETA India fashion award for helping to nurture kids' love for animals and nature. Alia also starred in a pro-adoption PETA India campaign to help cats and dogs. She has used her position to call for stronger animal protection laws.

### Merriam-Webster Named 'Vaccine' as 2021 Word of the Year

Merriam-Webster, America's most trusted online dictionary, has chosen 'Vaccine' as the 2021 word of the year. The word of the year is chosen by data that states the significant increase in lookup at Merriam-Webster.com in the past 12 months.

Lookups for the 'Vaccine' increased 601% year-over-year from 2020 and were up 1048% from 2019.

- The terms vaccine and vaccination are derived from Variolae vaccinae (smallpox of the cow), the term devised by Edward Jenner. He coined the word vaccine from the Latin word 'vacca' for cow.

- **'Pandemic'** was the Merriam-Webster dictionary's word of the year 2020.

### Legendary Long Jump player Anju Bobby George wins Woman of Year Award from World Athletics

The former long jump legend from India, **Anju Bobby George** won the award for **'Woman of the Year'** 2021 from **World Athletics**. The award ceremony was held virtually on the World Athletics YouTube channel and Facebook page.

- She has been awarded for her efforts in **advancing sports** in the country and also efforts for **gender equality** as the Senior Vice President of the Indian Athletics Federation (IAF).

### Other Awards :

**i. World Athletes of the Year at the World Athletics Awards 2021** – Olympic champions Elaine Thompson-Herah of Jamaica and Karsten Warholm of Norway.

**ii. Jean-Pierre Durand World Athletics Photograph of the Year** – Ryan Piere's photograph of the women's high jump qualifying at the Tokyo Olympic Games.

- This year's award is dedicated to the memory of Jean-Pierre Durand, one of the sport's most prolific photographers who died in October 2021.

### About Anju Bobby George:

**i.** Anju Bobby George was born on 19 April 1977 in Kottayam, Kerala.

**ii.** She won a **bronze medal** in long jump at the **World Championship 2003** in Athletics held in Paris and became the **first Indian athlete** to win a medal in a World Championship in Athletics jumping 6.70m.

**iii.** In 2005 she also won a gold medal at the **IAAF (International Association for Athletics Federation) World Athletics Final**.

**Award:** Arjuna Award (2002), Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna award (2003), Padma Shri (2004), Lifetime Achievement Award from the BBC (2020).

### Balkrishna Doshi Awarded 2022 RIBA Royal Gold Medal for Architecture

- The **Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)** has announced that Indian architect **Balkrishna Doshi** will be the recipient of the **2022 Royal Gold Medal**.
- The distinction, approved by Her Majesty The Queen and awarded each year since 1848, is given to architects or practices in recognition of a lifetime's work and the impact on the evolution of the field and the built environment.



### Nilmani Phukan & Damodar Mauzo wins Jnanpith Awards

Assamese poet **Nilmani Phookan Jr** & Konkani novelist **Damodar Mauzo** won the country's **highest literary award**, the **Jnanpith award** for their outstanding contribution to literature.

- Assamese poet Nilmani Phookan Jr won the **56th** Jnanpith Award and Konkani novelist Damodar Mauzo won the **57th** Jnanpith Award.

#### About Damodar Mauzo:

i. Damodar Mauzo is **77 years old**, from Majorda, **Goa** has written many well known books and his books have been translated into several Indian languages.

ii. He has won the **Vimala V Pai Vishwa Konkani Sahitya Puraskar award** for his novel 'Tsunami Simon' in 2011.

- Some of his **short stories** were televised by **Doordarshan**, while the film '**Sood – The Revenge**' was based upon his novella of the same name.

**Note** – Damodar Mauzo is the **second** awardee of Jnanpith Award for a Konkani writer.

The **first** being **Ravindra Kelekar** in **2006**.

#### About Nilmani Phookan Jr:

i. Phookan is **90 years old** from **Guwahati, Assam** and has won **Sahitya Akademi** and **Padma Shri** awards.

ii. He is a **poet of renown** and has written **Surya Henu Nami Ahe Ei Nodiyedi**, **Gulapi Jamur Lagna**, and **Kobita**.

iii. He was one of the pioneering art critics from Assam, and worked on folklore and folk art

#### About Jnanpith Award:

i. The award is recognized as the **highest literary award** of the country for **English** and **other Indian languages**. It is sponsored by the cultural organization **bharatiya jnanpith**.

ii. It was instituted in **1961** by **Bharatiya Jnanpith trust** founded by the **Sahu Shanti Prasad Jain family** that owns the **Times of India** newspaper group.

#### WTA Award 2021: Australia's Ashleigh Barty won the WTA Player of the Year for 2nd time

Women's Tennis Association (WTA)'s World No.1 **Ashleigh Barty**, Australian professional tennis player, has won the **2021 WTA Player of the Year Award**. She won the award for the 2nd Time, previously she won the WTA Player of the year in 2019.

On 7th December 2021, **WTA** announced the winners of the WTA Player Awards 2021 as voted by the members of the International media that recognise the outstanding performance from the current season.

#### About Ashleigh Barty:

i. Ashleigh Barty ended the 2021 season securing WTA's World No.1 ranking for the 3rd consecutive year. She became the 5th woman to achieve this feat after Chris Evert, Martina Navratilova, Steffi Graf and Serena Williams.

ii. She won the tour leading 5 WTA Titles in 2021 including the 2021 Wimbledon Title, her 2nd career Grand Slam title. She won her first Grand Slam title at the French Open 2019.

#### Kumar Mangalam Birla receives Global Entrepreneur of the Year Award

- Aditya Birla Group's chairman, **Kumar Mangalam Birla** has received the **Global Entrepreneur of the Year Award-Business Transformation** from **The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE)** based out of Silicon Valley.



- ii. Birla is the first Indian Industrialist to receive the award for global entrepreneurship along with top global business leaders **Satya Nadella, Elon Musk, and Jeff Bezos**.
- iii. The awardees were selected by an independent jury chaired by Venture Capitalist, Tim Draper, Founder, Draper University.

### FM Nirmala Sitharaman Ranked 37th on Forbes' 2021 World's 100 Most Powerful Women; Nykaa's Falguni Nayar Ranked 88th

Finance Minister(FM) of India, **Nirmala Sitharaman** has ranked **37th** on the Forbes' list of the World's 100 Most Powerful Women 2021 or 18th Edition of Forbes' list of the World's 100 Most Powerful Women. She has been featured on the list for the 3rd year in a row. She was ranked 41st on the list in 2020 and 34th in 2019.

- India's seventh woman billionaire and the wealthiest self-made billionaire, **Falguni Nayar**, founder and CEO, Nykaa was ranked **88th** on the list.
- Only 4 Indian Women ranked in Forbes 2021 World's 100 Most Powerful Women List.

#### Other Indian women on the list:

**i.Roshni Nadar Malhotra**, Chairperson of the HCL Technology, the first woman to lead a listed IT company in India was ranked 52nd on the list.

**ii.Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw**, executive chairperson and founder of Biocon was ranked 72nd on the list. She founded India's largest listed biopharmaceutical firm in India in 1978.

#### Highlights of the list:

**i.**The 3rd richest woman in the world, **MacKenzie Scott**, philanthropist, author and ex-wife of Amazon founder Jeff Bezos was **topped** Forbes' 2021 World's 100 Most Powerful Women replacing the outgoing German chancellor Angela Merkel who topped the 15 out of 17 iterations of the list.

**ii.**Kamala Harris, the first woman and the first person of colour(Black) to become the Vice President of the United States of America was ranked 2nd on the list..

**iii.**Taylor Swift (31 years old) ranked 78th, is the youngest woman featured in the list and Queen Elizabeth II (95 years old) ranked 70th, is the oldest.

### Indian Mathematician Neena Gupta receives Ramanujan Prize 2021

- i. Indian Mathematician **Neena Gupta** has received the **2021 DST-ICTP-IMU Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians from Developing Countries** for her outstanding work in affine algebraic geometry and commutative algebra.
- ii. Professor Neena Gupta, a mathematician at the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) in Kolkata. She is the third woman to receive Ramanujan Prize, which was first awarded in **2005** and is administered by Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics jointly with Dept Science and Technology and International Mathematical Union.
- iii. The prize, named after Indian mathematician **Srinivasa Ramanujan**, was first awarded in **2005** and is administered by the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) jointly with



the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, and the International Mathematical Union (IMU).

### Sunil Gavaskar honoured with SJFI Medal 2021

- i. The **Sports Journalists' Federation of India (SJFI)** has decided to honour former Indian Cricketer and cricket commentator **Sunil Manohar Gavaskar** with its prestigious '**SJFI Medal 2021**' at SJFI Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Guwahati, Assam.
- ii. SJFI Medal is the highest honour of SJFI. SJFI was founded on 27th February 1976 at the Eden Gardens, Calcutta (now Kolkata), West Bengal.



### Other SJFI Awards:

Award	Winner
SJFI Sportsman of the year 2021	Neeraj Chopra (Javelin)
SJFI Sportswoman of the year 2021	Mirabai Chanu (Weightlifting)
SJFI Team of the Year 2021	Indian Men's Hockey team
SJFI Parathletes of the year 2021(Men)	Pramod Bhagat (Badminton) and Sumit Antil (Javelin)
SJFI Parathletes of the year 2021(Women)	Avani Lekhara (rifle shooter)
SJFI Special Recognition Award	Olympic Gold Quest (OGQ)

### Simone Biles named Time Magazine's 2021 Athlete of the Year

- i. **Simone Biles** was named **Time magazine's 2021 Athlete of the Year**. The world's most decorated gymnast, a four-time Olympic medalist, was hailed for putting her mental health first when she withdrew from four event finals at the Tokyo Olympics.
- ii. Despite the setback, the 24-year-old managed to earn a team all-around silver and a bronze in balance beam at the Tokyo Games. Biles along with hundreds of athletes accused the FBI, USA Gymnastics and the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee for failing to stop the abuse.
- iii. A month after the Tokyo Olympics, Biles gave an emotional testimony at a US senate hearing into former USA Gymnastics team doctor Larry Nassar sexual abuse scandal.



### Avani Lekhara won 'Best Female Debut' honour at 2021 Paralympic Sport Awards



- i. Indian shooter **Avani Lekhara**, who has created history by winning India's first Gold medal in Shooting at the **2020 Tokyo Paralympics**, won the "**Best Female Debut**" honour at the **2021 Paralympic Sport Awards**.
- ii. The Awards were announced by the International Paralympic Committee. She became the 1st Indian woman to win 2 Paralympic medals in a single edition of the Paralympic Games. India won an unprecedented 19 medals at the Paralympic Games including **5 Gold, 8 Silver & 6 Bronze**.

### SAIL honoured Golden Peacock Environment Management Award 2021

- i. **Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL)**, under the Ministry of Steel, has been awarded with the prestigious **Golden Peacock Environment Management Award 2021** for successive three years.
- ii. The Award is given to organizations for significant achievements in Environment Management by Environment Foundation (WEF) since 1998.
- iii. The company's environmental protection measures are focused on adopting various environmental measures including, upgrading of pollution control facilities, water conservation efforts with the aim to achieve Zero Liquid Discharge, efficient handling of different solid wastes (viz. process waste, hazardous waste, canteen/township waste), carbon sequestration through afforestation, eco-restoration of the mined-out area and etc.



### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- SAIL Founded: 19 January 1954;
- SAIL Headquarters: New Delhi;
- SAIL CEO: Soma Mondal.

### Divya Hegde won UN Women's Award for Leadership Commitment 2021

- i. **Divya Hegde**, an Indian Climate Action Entrepreneur from Udupi, Karnataka, has won **UN Women's Award for Leadership Commitment at the 2021 Regional Asia-Pacific Women's Empowerment Principles Awards Ceremony**.
- ii. She has been recognized for her sustained efforts in advancing gender equality through climate action efforts with her organization, Baeru Environmental Services.



### Other Winners:

- Youth Leadership: Pallavi Sherring
- Gender-inclusive Workplace: Natwaste Group
- Gender-Responsive Marketplace: Dharma Life
- Community Engagement & Partnerships: The Very Group
- Transparency & Reporting: Biocon Ltd India
- SME Champions: Namita Vikas

## Sports

### Saurav Ghosal won Malaysian Open Squash Championships 2021; Became 1st Indian To Win The Championship

Indian Squash player **Saurav Ghosal** won the Malaysian Open Squash Championships 2021, defeating Colombia's Miguel Rodriguez in the men's singles final held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

- Saurav Ghosal, seeded two and ranked 15th in the world, became the **1st Indian** to win the Malaysian Open Squash Championships.
- The Malaysian Open Squash Championships 2021 was held from 23rd to 27th November 2021. **Malaysia's Aifa Azman** won the women's singles title of the 2021 Malaysian Open squash championships 2021.

### Vijay Hazare Trophy 2021: Himachal Pradesh beats Tamil Nadu

- Himachal Pradesh** beat **Tamil Nadu** by 11 runs (VJD Method) in the final to win their maiden **Vijay Hazare Trophy title**, at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium, Jaipur. Batting first, Tamil Nadu posted a challenging total of 314 in 49.4 overs.
- In reply, Himachal were 299 for 4 in 47.3 overs when bad light stopped play and the chasing side were declared winners via the VJD (V Jayadevan rule) method.
- Shubham Arora's unbeaten century and his 148-run stand with Amit Kumar (74) for the fourth wicket powered Himachal Pradesh to their first-ever Indian domestic title win, Vijay Hazare trophy 2021-22 final.



### Lewis Hamilton Wins inaugural edition of Saudi Arabian GP

On 5<sup>th</sup> December 2021 Mercedes Driver **Lewis Hamilton** (Britain) won the inaugural edition of **Saudi Arabian Grand Prix (GP)**, by surpassing Max Verstappen (Netherlands) in the event held at the 30-kilometer (18.6-mile) coastal resort area in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

- Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, which is scheduled to be held on 12th December, is the last race of '**2021 Formula One World Championship**', which will decide 2021's Winner.
- Currently the top position is shared by Max Verstappen & Lewis Hamilton with 369.5 points each.

### Highlights:

- Hamilton has eight wins in the F1 season, who ties up with Verstappen.
- Red Bull Racing Honda's Max Verstappen (Netherlands) still leads the championship on most wins (9-8).

### About Lewis Hamilton

- He won his 1st World Driver's Championship in 2008.
- Records – Most F1 wins (102), only driver to have won 100 F1 races.



## India Wins Test & T20 Series Against New Zealand; Ajaz Patel bowls Historic 10 Wicket Test Innings

Indian Cricket Team has made a historic sweep win against the New Zealand team that visited India for a 3 match T20 (Twenty-20) series & a 2 match Test series. India defeated New Zealand with a 372 run difference in the 2nd Test to claim a 1-0 series win. Previously, India also defeated New Zealand in the T20 series by a 3-0 win.

### India secures 3-0 T20 Series win against New Zealand

In the 3 match T20 series, which was captained by Rohit Sharma, wins a T20 series by defeating New Zealand in all the 3 matches.

**Player of the Series** – Rohit Sharma (India), for scoring 159-runs from the 3 matches.

### India marks 1-0 Test Series win against New Zealand

Indian Men's team has won the 2 match Test series against New Zealand by 1-0, winning the 2nd match after ending up with a draw in the 1st.

**Player of the Series** – Ravichandran Ashwin (India), for taking 14-wickets.

1. This is **Ravichandran Ashwin's 9th 'Player of the Series'** award in Test Cricket, most by any Indian Player.
2. Ravichandran Ashwin becomes the 2nd Indian to take 300 wickets in home
3. Shreyas Iyer becomes 1st Indian to score a Century & a Half-century on Test debut

## Mohammed Shami becomes 11th Indian bowler to take 200 wickets in Test cricket

- i. **Mohammed Shami** became just the **11th Indian bowler** to claim **200 wickets** in Test cricket in just 55 test matches. During this process, he became the only 5th Indian pacer to bag 200 wickets in the purest format of the game.
- ii. Also, Shami is the third fastest Indian pacer to reach this milestone as Kapil Dev and Javagal Srinath bagged 200 Test wickets in 50 and 54 Tests respectively.



## Davis Cup Finals 2021: Russia beats Croatia to win title

The 2021 Davis Cup Finals title was clinched by Russia after defeating Croatia. It was Russia's third Davis Cup title after 2002 and 2006. Russia won for the 1st time in 15 Years after its last victory in 2006.

- Russia equalled Czech Republic and Germany in joint sixth place on the all-time winners' list.
- It should be noted that it was Daniil Medvedev fifth consecutive victory at the 2021 Davis Cup. Daniil Medvedev of Russia beats Marin Cilic by 7-6 (7), 6-2 in the second singles match.
- **Andrey Andreyevich Rublev** was named the Most Valuable Player of the tournament.

### About Davis Cup 2021:

2021 Davis Cup Finals, formerly known as World Group, was the highest level of Davis Cup competition in 2021. 2020–21 Davis Cup was the 109th edition of the Davis Cup. It was held on indoor hard courts at three venues in Innsbruck, Austria, Madrid, Spain and Turin, Italy on November 25 – December 5, 2021.

- Davis Cup is an international team event in men's tennis. The women's equivalent of Davis Cup is Billie Jean King Cup. It is conducted by the International Tennis Federation (ITF).

### Indian Shuttler PV Sindhu Won Silver at HSBC BWF World Tour Finals 2021; S.Korea's An Se-Young Won Gold

Indian Shuttler and 2-time Olympic medalist Pusarla V Sindhu (**PV Sindhu**), world's number 7, won the silver at the 2021 Badminton World Federation (**BWF**) **World Tour Finals**, officially known as the **HSBC BWF World Tour Finals 2021**, the final tournament of the Women's Singles 2021 BWF World Tour.

- The 2021 HSBC BWF World Tour Finals was held from 1st to 5th December 2021 in Bali, Indonesia.

#### Key Points:

The reigning world champion PV Sindhu has won the BWF World Tour finals in 2018 and became the only Indian to achieve the feat.

#### An Se Young Won Gold in Women's Singles at BWF World Tour Finals 2021:

**An Se Young** of South Korea(S.Korea), the world's number 6, has won the HSBC BWF World Tour Finals 2021 Women's Singles title defeating PV Sindhu. She became the first-ever Korean Woman to win a gold medal in the World Tour Finals Series.

- This marks her 3rd straight title in Bali following her win at the 2021 Indonesia Masters and 2021 Indonesia Open.

### Max Verstappen won the Abu Dhabi GP 2021 F-1 Drivers' championship

- Red Bull's **Max Verstappen** won his maiden **F1 Drivers' championship title** by beating Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes in the season-ending **Abu Dhabi GP 2021**.
- Mercedes bagged another World Constructor's Championship title but were denied the double they would have wanted. Verstappen ended the season with 10 wins to Hamilton's eight, having also led more laps and taken more poles and podiums.



### BWF World badminton championship : K Srikanth won silver

- Shuttler **Kidambi Srikanth** became the first Indian man to win a **silver medal** at **BWF World Championships**. In the final, Kidambi was defeated by Singapore's **Loh Kean Yew** by 21-15, 22-20.
- This was the first time that a men's player from Singapore won gold at BWF World Championships. The badminton tournament was held from December 12 to 19, 2021 in Huelva, Spain.



- 2021 BWF World Championships is officially known as "**TotalEnergies BWF World Championships 2021**" for sponsorship purpose. The badminton tournament was held from

December 12 to 19, 2021 in Huelva, Spain. Huelva was awarded this event in November 2018, when the announcement was made for 18 major badminton event hosts from 2019 to 2025.

### Asian Champions Trophy: India win bronze, Korea lift title

- i. **India** defeated **Pakistan 4-3** to secure the **bronze medal**, while **Korea** defeated **Japan 4-2** to emerge **Asian Champions Trophy men's hockey tournament** held in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- ii. The five-nation tournament came to an end with two matches being played on the last day of the game.
- iii. **Kanta Tanaka** of Japan was declared the best player of the tournament while **Suraj Karkera** of India was adjudged the best goalkeeper. **Jang Jonghyun** of Korea was the top scorer with 10 goals in the tournament.



### Indian off-spinner Harbhajan Singh announced retirement from cricket

- i. Senior Indian off-spinner, **Harbhajan Singh** has announced retirement from all forms of **cricket**. He was the 1st Indian Cricketer to take Hat-trick wickets in Test Cricket. He took 417 wickets in 103 Tests and is the 4th highest wicket-taker for India in Test cricket.
- ii. He made his debut to the national cricket team, during an ODI (One Day International) against New Zealand at Sharjah in **1998** and lastly represented India in 2016 during a T20 against the UAE at Dhaka, Bangladesh.



### Pankaj Advani won National Billiards Title 2021

**Pankaj Advani** has defended his **National Billiards Title** by winning his 11th tournament, after defeating his PSPB teammate **Dhruv Sitwala** in a 5-2 game final that was held in **Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**.

He represented the Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB) team in the National Billiards Championship. The 88th National Billiards and Snooker Championships 2021, organised by Cue Sports India at Bhopal, MP.



## Obituaries

### Seven-term Rajya Sabha MP and industrialist Mahendra Prasad passes away

i. Seven-time Rajya Sabha MP from the **Janata Dal (United) & industrialist, Mahendra Prasad** passed away. He was a seven-term Rajya Sabha MP from Bihar and was also elected to the Lok Sabha once.

ii. He was first elected to the Lok Sabha on a Congress ticket in 1980. Estimated to be one of the richest members of Parliament, the founder of Aristo Pharmaceuticals was a seven-term Rajya Sabha MP from Bihar and was also elected to the Lok Sabha once.



### Former TN Governor & AP CM Konijeti Rosaiah Passed Away

**Konijeti Rosaiah**, the former governor of Tamil Nadu(TN) and former Chief Minister(CM) of the Unified State of Andhra Pradesh (AP) has passed away at the age of 88 in Hyderabad, Telangana. He was born on 4th July 1933 at Vemur, Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh(Undivided).

#### About Konijeti Rosaiah:

- i. Konijeti Rosaiah was a member of the Indian National Congress(INC) and he was first elected as a member of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council in 1968.
- ii. From 1979 to 1983, he served as the Minister for Roads and Buildings, Housing, Transport and Home. Later, from 1989 to 1994, he held the portfolios of finance and transport.
- iii. He was the longest serving Finance Minister and has presented the state budget 16 times, the highest record in India.
- iv. He served as the CM of the undivided AP from 2009 to 2010 after the death of CM YS Rajasekhara Reddy.
- v. He Served as the Governor of Tamil Nadu from 2011 to 2016 and has given additional charge as Governor of Karnataka for two months in the year 2014.

### Senior Journalist Vinod Dua passed Away at 67

On 4 December 2021, Senior journalist Vinod Dua passed away at the age of 67 years in Delhi's Hospital. In 1996, he became the **first electronic media journalist** to receive the **Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Award**.

#### About Vinod Dua's Life & Career:

- i. He was born on March 11, 1954 in New Delhi. He has completed his Master's degree in Literature from the **University of Delhi (DU)**. He was the father of comedian Mallika Dua.
- ii. Vinod Dua made his first television appearance in Doordarshan's youth program **Yuva Manch**. He also anchored **Yuv Jan**, a youth show for the youth of Jaipur, Muzaffarpur, and Raipur for SITE (Satellite Instructional Television Experiment) in 1975..
- iii. **Awards: Padma Shri** for Journalism in 2008. RedInk Award for his lifetime achievement in journalism (2017)

**Coonoor helicopter crash's survivor Group Captain Varun Singh passes away**

- i. Group Captain **Varun Singh**, who was rescued after the helicopter crash that killed Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat and 12 others, has passed away.
- ii. He was being treated for severe burns at a Bengaluru military hospital after he was moved from Wellington in Tamil Nadu's Coonoor. His condition in the last few days continued to be "critical but stable".
- iii. In August this year, Group Captain Varun Singh was conferred the **Shaurya Chakra** for averting a possible mid-air accident after his **Tejas light combat aircraft** developed a major technical snag last year.

**Former SC Judge Justice GT Nanavati Who Headed '2002 Godhra Riots' passes away**

- i. Former Supreme Court judge, Justice **Girish Thakorlal Nanavati** who headed two inquiry commissions formed to probe into the **2002 Godhra Riots & 1984 Anti-Sikh Riots**, passed away.
- ii. Justice Girish Thakorlal Nanavati was 86. He was elevated as the Judge of the Supreme Court of India with effect in March 1995 and he retired as an SC Judge in February 2000.

**South African campaigner Archbishop Desmond Tutu passes away**

- i. **Archbishop Desmond Tutu**, Nobel Peace Prize laureate and veteran of South Africa's struggle against white minority rule, has died aged 90. He was awarded **Nobel Peace Prize in 1984** for his non-violent opposition to apartheid.
- ii. A decade later, he witnessed the ends of that regime and he chaired a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, set up to unearth atrocities committed during those dark days.



## Important Days with theme

### World AIDS Day 2021 – December 1

World AIDS (Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome) Day is annually observed across the globe on **1st December** to create awareness about HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus), a major public health issue that affects millions of people across the globe.

- HIV is a virus that attacks the body's immune system, specifically the white blood cells called **CD4 cells**.

**Symbol:** The **red ribbon** is the universal symbol of awareness and support for people living with HIV.

### Theme 2021:

The United Nations (UN), United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), & World Health Organization (WHO) observes World AIDS Day 2021 under the theme **“End inequalities. End AIDS”** with a focus on reaching people left behind.

- According to hiv.gov, the theme of World AIDS Day 2021 is **“Ending the HIV Epidemic: Equitable Access, Everyone's Voice”**.

### National Pollution Prevention Day 2021 – December 2

National Pollution Prevention Day or National Pollution Control Day is annually observed across India on **2nd December** to honour and memorialize the people who have lost their lives or suffered in the 1984 Bhopal Gas Calamity, which is also referred to as the Bhopal gas tragedy or Bhopal disaster. The day also aims to create awareness about the importance of pollution control acts.

- 2nd December **2021** marks the **37th anniversary** of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy.

### Bhopal Gas Calamity:

**i.** Bhopal Gas Tragedy was India's first major industrial disaster, a gas leak from the Union Carbide Plant that took place on the night of 2-3 December 1984.

**ii.** Around 45 tons of Methyl Isocyanate (also called MIC), a dangerous gas, leaked from the insecticide plant owned by the Union Carbide India Ltd (UCIL), the Indian subsidiary of the American firm Union Carbide Corporation.

### About Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB):

**Chairman**– Tanmay Kumar

**Headquarters**– New Delhi, Delhi

### Indian Navy Day 2021 – December 4

The **Indian Navy Day** is annually observed across India on **4th December** to commemorate the victory of India Navy's Operation Trident, launched during the 1971 Indo-Pak war and to pay homage to the martyrs who lost their lives in the line of duty.

The day reaffirms the Indian Navy's commitment to preserve, protect and promote India's maritime interest. The theme of 2021 Indian Navy Day is **‘Swarnim Vijay Varsh’**, which highlights the 50th anniversary of

the victory of the Indian armed forces in the 1971 Indo-Pak War.

### Armed Forces Flag Day 2021 – December 7<sup>th</sup>

Armed Forces Flag Day is annually observed across India on 7th December to honour the martyrs and the armed force personnel who fought and continue to fight to protect the honour of the country.

- The flag day highlights the commitment of the public to look after the soldiers who were affected by the war, Veer Naris and the families of the martyrs who lost their lives in the line of duty.

### Background:

i. On 28th August 1949, a committee set up under the then Defence Minister Baldev Singh decided to observe the Flag day annually on 7th December.

ii. The Armed Forces Flag day has been observed on 7th December since 1949.

### Human Rights Day: 10 December 2021

- Human Rights Day** is celebrated on **10 December** annually across the world. This Day came into existence on December 10, 1948, when the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the United Nations.
- This day is observed every year across the world, as it empowers us all. The day also acknowledges the advocates and defenders of human rights around the world.
- The theme for Human Rights Day 2021 is “**EQUALITY – Reducing inequalities, advancing human rights.**” This year’s Human Rights Day theme relates to ‘Equality’ and Article 1 of the UDHR – “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.”

### International Mountain Day observed on 11 December

- International Mountain Day** is observed globally on **December 11** every year. The day is celebrated to create awareness about the importance of mountains to life, to highlight the opportunities and constraints in mountain development and to build alliances that will bring positive change to mountain peoples and environments around the world.
- The theme of this year’s International Mountain Day (IMD) on 11 December will be **sustainable mountain tourism**. Sustainable tourism in mountains can contribute to creating additional and alternative livelihood options and promoting poverty alleviation, social inclusion, as well as landscape and biodiversity conservation.
- The day was established by the UN General Assembly in **2003** to encourage the sustainable development of mountains. United Nations had declared **2002** as the UN International Year of Mountains.



### International Tea Day: 15 December

- i. **International Tea Day** is observed every year on **December 15** in countries like **Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Vietnam, Indonesia, Kenya, Malawi, Malaysia, Uganda, India, and Tanzania**. It is the second most used drink in the world after water. For some people, tea is an integral part of life which adds rhythm.
- ii. China is currently the largest exporter of tea. According to a study conducted by the Tea Board of India in 2007, around 80 per cent of the total tea produced in India is consumed by the domestic population.
- iii. The first ITD was held in New Delhi in India in 2005. However, in 2015, the Indian government proposed to the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation to expand International Tea Day across the world. The reason for the UN celebrating May 21 as International Tea Day is that the season of tea production begins in May in most of the tea-producing countries.



### Nation Observes 50th Vijay Diwas on 16 December 2021

- i. In India, **Vijay Diwas (also called Victory Day)** is celebrated every year on **December 16**. The country is celebrating the **50th** Vijay Diwas in **2021**.
- ii. Vijay Diwas is observed to commemorate the service, valour, and sacrifices of the gallant men of the Indian Armed Forces' victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war.
- iii. On this day, we pay homage to all the soldiers who had defended the nation in the war. The Indo-Pakistan war of **1971** which began on **December 3** lasted for 13 days and officially ended on December 16, after which Pakistan surrendered to India.
- iv. It was on this day in 1971, the chief of the Pakistani forces, **General AA Khan Niazi**, along with 93 thousand troops, had surrendered unconditionally to the allied forces consisting of the Indian Army and Mukti Bahini. The end of the war also resulted in the subsequent secession of East Pakistan into Bangladesh.

### National Mathematics Day: 22 December 2021

- i. India observes the **National Mathematics Day** every year on **22 December** since 2012. The day is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of Mathematician **Srinivasa Ramanujan**.
- ii. This year nation celebrates his **134th** birth anniversary of Ramanujan. The main objective behind the celebration of National Mathematics Day is to make people aware of the development of mathematics and its importance in the growth of humanity.



### Indian National Farmer's Day : 23 December

- i. **Kisan Diwas or National Farmers' Day** is celebrated across the nation on **December 23** to commemorate the birth anniversary of the fifth Prime Minister of India, **Chaudhary Charan Singh**.
- ii. He brought farmer-friendly policies and worked towards the welfare of the farmers. He was the fifth Prime Minister of India and served the country as Prime Minister from 28 July 1979 to 14 January 1980.





- iii. In 2001, the government of India declared December 23, the day Chaudhary Charan Singh was born, to be celebrated as National Farmers' Day and for all the right reasons. Chaudhary Charan Singh breathed his last on January 14, 1980.

### National Consumer Rights Day 2021

- i. **National Consumer Rights Day** is observed every year on **December 24**. On this day in 1986, the Consumer Protection Act 1986 received Presidential assent and thus came into force. The Act aims to provide consumers with effective safeguards against different types of exploitation, such as defective goods, deficiency in services and unfair trade practices.
- ii. People often get confused between World Consumer Rights Day and National Consumer Rights Day. While both have the same purpose, they are observed on different dates. World Consumer Rights Day is celebrated annually on **March 15**.
- iii. The National Consumer Rights Day was observed for the first time in **1986** under the Consumer Protection Act. It's different from World Consumer Day, which is celebrated annually on **March 15**. The Consumer Protection Act came into force in 1986.
- iv. In 2019, the Consumer Protection Act 1986 was revised. Later, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution announced the **CPA 2019 bill put to effect on July 20, 2020**.



### Good Governance Day observed on 25 December

- i. In India, **Good Governance Day (Sushasan Divas)** is observed annually on **25th December**. On this day nation celebrates the birth anniversary of **Bharat Ratna** and former-Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- ii. In keeping with this principle, Good Governance Day has been declared to be a working day for the government. On **23rd December 2014**, former Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**, and Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya were announced to receive the highest civilian award of the nation, Bharat Ratna.
- iii. After the announcement, the newly elected prime minister **Narendra Modi** has announced 25th December to be celebrated and observed as the Good Governance Day.