

RAS - 2021

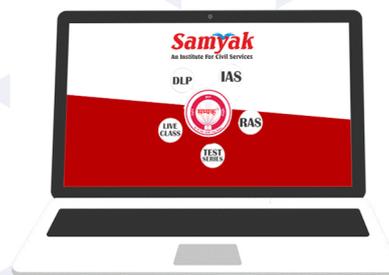
Current Affairs

January to August - 2021



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International Events

The UNSC: India is Non-Permanent Member

India's term as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council began on January 01, 2021. The term of its membership in the council will be two years i.e. the year 2021 and 2022.

Security Council:- The Security Council consists of five permanent members (USA, Russia, France, China and Britain) in addition to 10 non-permanent members. The term of non-permanent members is two years. Every year 5 non-permanent members are elected by the General Assembly for the Security Council.

Also know:-This is India's 8th term as a non-permanent member in UNSC. Before this, India has been a non-permanent member of the Security Council 7 times (1950-51, 1967-68, 1972-73, 1977-78, 1984-85, 1991-92 and 2011-2012). Whereas, Japan has been a non-permanent member of the Security Council 11 times.

UNSC:-UNSC is constituted by 15 members (5 permanent and 10 non-permanent). The five permanent members are the US, UK, France, Russia and China. Apart from the permanent member countries, 10 other countries are included in the Security Council as non-permanent members for two years. The 10 non-permanent seats are distributed on a regional basis, in which five members elected from Asian or African countries, two from South American countries, one from Eastern Europe and two from Western Europe or other regions.

The Joe Biden 46th President of America

Joe Biden was sworn in as the 46th President on January 10, 2021, after winning the US presidential election. He was administered the oath by the Chief Justice of the United States, John Roberts. Kamala Harris was sworn in as the 49th Vice President along with Biden.

The anno-uncement of elections in Palestine

In the West Asian country Palestine, the first national election after 14 years has been announced. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas announced on January 15, 2021 that parliamentary, presidential and national council elections in the country would be held between May-August, 2021.

The death penalty ended in Kazakhstan

The President of Kazakhstan has signed a resolution ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), with the complete abolition of the death penalty in Kazakhstan.

ICCPR:- The International covenant on Civil and Political Rights was adopted in the year 1966. These were implemented from the year 1976. It has been ratified by a total of 173 countries so far. The second Optional Protocol, which deals with the abolition of the death penalty, was adopted on 15 December 1989 and came into the effect in 1991. Under this protocol, all countries will not make provision for the death penalty and will try to abolish it within their jurisdiction. Under the protocol, the death penalty would be allowed only during war time.

The 'Solidarity and Stability' deal between the Gulf countries

Saudi Arabia and gulf countries have signed the 'Solidarity and Stability' deal at the 41st Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit held in Al Ula, Saudi Arabia in January 2021. In June 2017, Saudi Arabia and its allied countries (the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt) ended relations with Qatar and imposed a complete (aquatic, air and land) blockade against it. Qatar was accused of strengthening ties with Iran and supporting radical Islamist groups. Now the 'Solidarity and Stability' deal has been signed by the members of the Gulf Cooperation Council to remove all the sanctions imposed on Qatar.

GCC:- The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is a political, economic, social and regional organization, established in 1981 through an agreement between Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Its secretariat is located in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Russia withdrew from The Open Skies Treaty

Russia has announced its withdrawal from the 'Open Sky Treaty' (OST) in January 2021. According to Russia, the treaty allows the flight of non-weapon surveillance aircraft to check military activity across the borders of member states, and the US withdrawal from the treaty poses a serious threat to Russia's strategic interests. It is noteworthy that in November 2020, the US distanced itself from the OST, saying that this treaty is being clearly violated by Russia.

OST: The concept of this treaty was introduced by the US during the early years of the Cold War with the aim of reducing tensions. After the dissolution of Soviet Union the treaty was signed in March 1992 in Helsinki, the capital of Finland, between NATO members and the countries included in Warsaw Pact. The treaty allows 34 signatory countries (including the US and Russia) to fly non-weapon surveillance aircraft to check military activities within the borders of other countries involved in the treaty. Only imaging equipment is allowed during this surveillance. During this surveillance, members of that country can also participate in the surveillance process, which is being monitored.

Russia agrees on extension of The New START treaty

The extension of the 'New Start Treaty' has been approved by Russia. It is the only treaty between the US and Russia to limit nuclear weapons, which was to expire in February 2021. Extension of the New Star Treaty has been approved by both houses of the Russian Parliament (Kremlin) for Five years from February 5, 2021.

New START Treaty:- It is a treaty between the United States and Russia to reduce and limit the quantity of strategic offensive weapons. The treaty entered into force on 5 February 2011. The 'New START Treaty' replaced the 1991 STAR-I Treaty, which expired in December 2009.

The India-Japan ITC Agreement

India and Japan have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on January 15, 2021 with the aim of enhancing cooperation in the field of Information and Communication Technology (ITC). The Department of Telecommunications, Government of India and the Ministry of Communications, Government of Japan are concerned with 5G technologies, telecommunications security, submarine optical fiber cable systems for the island regions of India, spectrum management, smart cities, providing broadband access in high altitude areas, disaster management and Will increase mutual cooperation in the areas of public security etc. In addition, cooperation between Japanese industry partners and Indian government companies in the information technology sector will be promoted.

The military coup in Myanmar

Aung San SuuKy, the country's elected supreme leader in the military, captured the leaders of the ruling party 'National League for Democracy' (NLD) and took power on February 1, 2021. Simultaneously, emergency was imposed in the country for a period of one year. It is noteworthy that the NLD had won the general election held in Myanmar in November, 2020, but the army had alleged fraud in this election.

The India-Mauritius Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement

India and the Government of Mauritius have signed the 'India-Mauritius Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement'. The agreement, which took place on February 22, 2021, was signed by External Affairs Minister of India S-Jaishankar and Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth. This is the first trade agreement by India with any country of Africa.

US joins again in The Paris Climate Accord

The US rejoined it 107 days after it withdrew from the Paris climate accord. The US President's Special Envoy John Kerry made an announcement to this on February 19, 2021.

Paris Climate Accords:- It is an agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which was signed in the year 2016.

The India-China Hotline

India and China have announced an agreement to set up a hotline between the two countries. A hotline is a direct telephone line with continuous operation, which facilitates immediate communication. The hotline will help in timely communication and exchange of ideas between the two countries.

The Corruption Perception Index-2020

The 'Corruption Perception Index' (CPI) was released by the international non-governmental organisation 'Transparency International' on 28 January, 2021. India has been ranked 86th (Score: 40) in the index. In the year 2019, India was ranked 80 out of 180 countries. Denmark (score: 88) and New Zealand (score: 88) are among the top countries in this index released with 180 countries. They are followed by Finland, Singapore, Sweden and Switzerland, all of which have scored 85. At the same time, South Sudan (12) and Somalia (12) have been ranked low, followed by Syria (14), Yemen (15) and Venezuela (15).

Also read: The index uses a level pattern ranging from 0 to 100, where 0 represents the least corruption and 100 the most corrupt.

America re-joins The UNHRC

The United States has announced on February 8, 2021 that it will rejoin the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), having left it in 2018. The United States will currently join it as an observer, with the aim of being elected as a full member of the Council.

Also read: The Human Rights Council is an intergovernmental body within the United Nations system responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the world. It was constituted by the United Nations General Assembly on 15 March 2006. It replaced the previous United Nations Human Rights Commission. Its headquarter is located in Geneva, Switzerland. It is formed of 47 United Nations member states that are elected by the United Nations General Assembly.

The Democracy Index

The 'Democracy Index-2020' was released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) in February 2021. In this index, released with 167 countries, the countries have been classified into the categories of flawed democracy, hybrid regime and authoritarian regime. Norway has topped the index, while India has been ranked 53rd.

The Top 5 Ranked Countries:-

Rank	Country	Score
1	Norway	9.81
2	Iceland	9.37
3	Sweden	9.26
4	New Zealand	9.25
5	Canada	9.24

The lowest ranked 5 countries:-

Rank	country	score
163	Chad	1.55
164	Syria	1.43
165	Central African Republic	1.32
166	Republic of Congo	1.13
167	North Korea	1.08

The Sutej Jal Vidyut Nigam

The Government of Nepal has decided to give the contract for construction of 679 MW Arun Hydro Project to Satluj Hydroelectric Corporation Limited of India. The proposed project has an estimated power generation capacity of 679 MW and will be started in the districts of Sanhuwasabha and Bhojpur in of Nepal.

The Indo-French Year of Environment

India and France have launched a joint initiative named 'Indo-French Year of Environment' in January 2021 to strengthen cooperation in the field of sustainable development and work towards global environmental protection. This 'Indo-French Year of Environment' initiative to be held in the year 2021-2022 will mainly focus on five themes:- 1- Environment Protection, 2- Climate Change, 3- Biodiversity Conservation, 4- Sustainable Urban

Development, 5. - Development of renewable energy and energy efficiency. The initiative will also act as a forum to discuss important topics related to participation in the environment and allied sectors. It is to be noted that India has made significant progress towards climate change action and has already achieved 26 per cent reduction in emission intensity.

The Quad Summit

The Indian Prime Minister addressed the first summit of representatives of the 'Quad Group' in March 2021. The meeting was organised by the US on a virtual platform. Earlier in February 2021, the issues of military acquisition in the Indo-Pacific region and Myanmar were discussed in the Quad Ministerial Meeting. The Quad is a grouping of countries of India, the US, Australia and Japan, whose purpose is to protect the interests of democratic countries in the Indo-Pacific region and to address global challenges.

Quad:- 'Quadrilateral Security Dialogue- Quad is an informal strategic dialogue forum between India, US, Japan and Australia. It brings these countries together to ensure and support a 'free, open and prosperous' Indo-Pacific region. The concept of the Quad was first formally introduced by former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2007, however, it could not be carried forward due to Australia's withdrawal under pressure from China. The 'Quad' group was established in November 2017 to formulate a new strategy to keep the Indo-Pacific region free from the influence of any external power (especially China) and its first meeting was held a day before the ASEAN summit.

The Indo-Bangla Friendship Setu

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurated the Indo-Bangla Friendship Setu in South Tripura district. This bridge named 'Maitri Setu' has been constructed on the Feni river which flows between Tripura state of India and Bangladesh. The Feni river originates in the southern Tripura district. This river passes through the city of Sabroom towards the Indian border and after flowing into Bangladesh joins in the Bay of Bengal. This 1.9 km long bridge connects Sabroom (in Tripura) with Ramgarh (in Bangladesh). The name 'Maitri Setu'

signifies the growing bilateral and friendly relations between India and Bangladesh.

Significance:- After the inauguration of this bridge, now Agartala (the capital of Tripura) will become the nearest city to an international sea port in India. In addition, Tripura will become the 'Gateway to the Northeast' with access to Chittagong port in Bangladesh. Significantly, the distance between Chittagong port and Sabroom is only 80 km-.

The Global Happiness Report-2021

The Global Happiness Report 2021 was released on March 19, 2021 by the 'Sustainable Development Solutions Network' under the auspices of the United Nations. This year the report focuses on the effects of COVID-19 on the people of the world. Finland has been announced the happiest country in the world for the fourth year in a row. India has been ranked 139th out of 149 countries in the report. Last year, India was ranked 144 out of 156 countries.

Top Performing Countries:-

Country	Rank
Finland	1
Denmark	2
Switzerland	3
Iceland	4
Netherlands	5
Norway	6
Sweden	7
Luxembourg	8
New Zealand	9
Austria	10

The low performing countries: -

Country	Rank
Afghanistan	149
Zimbabwe	148
Rwanda	147
Botswana	146
Lesotho	145

The Indo-France: MoU in Renewable Energy Sector

The Union Cabinet has approved the Memorandum of Understanding between India and France in January 2021. It aims to promote bilateral cooperation in the new and renewable energy sector. This will help India achieve the target of installed renewable energy capacity of 450 GW by 2030.

The India-Philippines Agreement

India signed an agreement with the Philippines on March 2, 2021 for an implementation mechanism for the supply of military and defense equipment. The deal also includes a possible supply of Brahmos missiles.

The Kenya-Somalia dispute

There is a dispute between Somalia and Kenya over the delimitation of the marine boundary in the Indian Ocean. The main point of disagreement between the two countries is the direction in which their maritime boundary in the Indian Ocean should extend. Somalia maintains that the maritime boundary should extend in the same direction in which Somalia's land border moves towards the Indian Ocean, that is, towards the southeast. At the same time, Kenya's side is that the maritime boundary should be determined parallel to the equator.

Why in discussion: - Kenya has refused to participate in the proceedings of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the maritime boundary dispute in March 2021.

Significance of the disputed area:- The triangular area thus created by the dispute is about 1.6 lakh square kilometers long and the marine resources in this area are also there. Apart from this, oil and gas reserves are also claimed in this area.

International Court of Justice (ICJ):- ICJ was established in the year 1945 by the United Nations Charter and it started functioning in April, 1946. It is the main judicial part of the United Nations, which is located in the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands). It settles legal disputes between nations and provides advice in accordance with international law on legal questions referred to it. ICJ

decisions are binding, although the court does not have enforcement powers.

The India-Kuwait Joint Commission

India and Kuwait have announced the formation of a Joint Commission on March 18, 2021, to further strengthen their ties in various fields including energy and defense, and to prepare the roadmap for enhancing cooperation in the future. The Joint Commission will be co-chaired by the Foreign Ministers of both the countries.

It will function:- The Commission will act as an umbrella institution for all bilateral institutional partnerships such as Foreign Office Consultations and Joint Working Groups etc. This commission will work to strengthen relations in the fields of energy, trade, investment, skill, science and technology, IT, health and education etc. Apart from this, it will also review the existing bilateral agreements of both the countries and identify the obstacles in their implementation and find solutions.

Also read:- India is one of Kuwait's largest trading partners. There was a total bilateral trade of \$10.86 billion between the two countries during the financial year 2019-20. Kuwait was India's 10th largest oil supplier during the year 2019-20 and Kuwait fulfill the 3.8 percent of India's total energy needs. Kuwait is also home to about 9,00,000 non residential Indian.

Italy became a member of The International Solar Alliance

Italy has become a part of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) by signing the revised ISA Framework Agreement. It is noteworthy that after the implementation of the amendment made to the Framework Agreement of the ISA, now all the member countries of the United Nations can become part of the International Solar Alliance.

ISA :- It is an initiative launched by the Prime Minister of India and the President of France during the COP-21 organised in Paris, the capital of France on 30 November 2015. Its objective is to jointly solve the major challenges for the promotion of solar energy in the member countries. It is considered a leading organisation working towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and the

objectives of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Its headquarter is located in Gurugram (Haryana). The International Solar Alliance brings together countries with solar potential to consolidate the global demand for solar energy.

EU Joins The CDRI

The 27-member European Union joined India's Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) initiative in March 2021. It was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the United Nations Climate Change Summit in the year 2019. It is an international forum involving both the public and private sectors and aims to promote the resilience of new and existing infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks while supporting sustainable development. It is to be known that India has also formed the International Solar Alliance (ISA) through a coalition of various countries at the global level to increase the use of solar energy. Thus the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) and the International Solar Alliance (ISA) underline India's important role in tackling a serious challenge like climate change.

The Rooppur Atomic Power Plant

India will assist in the development of transmission lines for the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant as part of the credit line given to Bangladesh. The transmission lines of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant will be developed by Indian companies under a line of credit. The value of these transmission lines would be over a billion dollars.

Also read: The Government of Bangladesh is setting up its first nuclear power plant at Rooppur, on the eastern side of the Padma River. The project will consist of two units - Ruppur Unit-1 and Ruppur Unit-2. The capacity of both of will be 1.2 GW. The Rooppur Atomic Power Plant project was started in the year 2013 and its construction work started in the year 2017. The project is being implemented by Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission. This new plant will enhance the electricity generation capacity of Bangladesh and help make it self-reliant in the energy sector. Also, India's participation in this project will further strengthen the relationship between the two countries.

The US-India Homeland Security Dialogue

India and the US have announced the restart of the 'US-India Homeland Security Dialogue' focused on issues such as cyber security, modern technology and extremism. The 'US-India Homeland Security Dialogue' is an initiative initiated by the Obama Administration and the first such dialogue was held in May 2011. This type of ministerial dialogue has not been held since the second US-India Homeland Security Dialogue held in 2013.

The Mithali Express

A new passenger train connecting Bangladesh's capital Dhaka with New Jalpaiguri in India has been jointly inaugurated by the Indian Prime Minister and Bangladeshi PM Sheikh Hasina. This is the third passenger train after 'Maitree Express' (Dhaka-Kolkata) and 'Bandhan Express' (Kulna-Kolkata) to run between the two neighboring countries. This train named 'Mitali Express' will be operated between Dhaka Cantonment of West Bengal and New Jalpaiguri via Bangladesh's border railway station, Chilhati. It is noteworthy that last year India and Bangladesh started operations on the 'Haldibari-Chilahati route' for the movement of goods trains after a gap of more than 55 years.

The Global Hunger Index-2020

India has been ranked 94th out of 107 countries in the 'Global Hunger Index- 2020'. India is included in the 'severe' category with a score of 27.2 in the Hunger index.

India's performance on the basis of key indicators:-

14 percent of India's population is 'undernourished'.

The rate of 'stunting' among Indian children has been recorded at 37.4 percent.

Decreasing in India's position in child 'wasting' has been seen. India's score has been 17.3 percent.

The 'child mortality' rate has improved in India, which is now 3.7 percent.

India's election to the three UN bodies

India has been elected to the three main bodies of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in April, 2021.

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ):- The Vienna-based CCPCJ serves as the United Nations' premier policy-making body in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. It has a total of 40 member countries, which are elected by the ECOSOC. India's term will be for three years starting from 1 January, 2022.

World Food Programme (WFP):- It is the food-support arm of the United Nations, which works towards fighting the problem of blight and promoting food safety at the global level. Its executive board is the highest governing body. This board provides intergovernmental support, policy direction and supervision to the activities of the WFP. It includes a total of 36 countries. India's term will be for three years starting from January 1, 2022.

UN Women:- UN Women, formed by the United Nations General Assembly in the year 2010, mainly works in the field of women's safety and empowerment. Its executive board comprises a total of 41 countries, which are elected on a regional basis. India's term will be for three years starting from January 1, 2022.

The PM Modi's visit to Bangladesh

The Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi visited Bangladesh in March 2021 to participate in the celebrations of the Golden Jubilee of Bangladesh's independence, the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and 50 years of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Bangladesh. . On this occasion, Bangladesh thanked India for conferring the Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2020 to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Water Resources Cooperation: Bangladesh reiterated its request for settlement of the long pending interim agreement on sharing of Teesta river waters. The draft agreement has already been agreed to by the two governments in January 2011. India urged Bangladesh for early finalization of the draft

interim agreement for sharing of Feni river waters, which was agreed by both sides in 2011. Along with this, both the countries have also directed their water ministries to completion of interim agreement sharing the water of six other rivers namely Manu, Muhuri, Rowai, Gumti, Dharla and Dudhkumar.

The China-Iran Strategic Cooperation Agreement

China and Iran have signed a 25-year 'Strategic Cooperation Agreement' in April 2021. The agreement includes 'political, economic and strategic components'. It forms part of China's trillion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative, a plan to provide loans to infrastructure projects and increase influence abroad.

The Economic and Social Survey of the Asia-Pacific

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific – UNESCAP) The report titled Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2021 has been released. According to the report, India's economic growth is projected to be 7 percent in 2021-22, while a contraction of 7.7 percent was seen in the last financial year (2020-21) due to the impact of the pandemic on normal business activities. At the same time, the growth rate of developing Asia-Pacific economies is expected to average 5.9% in 2021 and 5% in 2022.

Also read: The Economic and Social Commission of the United Nations for Asia and the Pacific is a regional development arm of the United Nations for the Asia-Pacific region. It is a commission composed of 53 member states and 9 associate members. It was established in 1947. It is headquartered in the city of Bangkok, Thailand. It is responsible for the development of result-oriented projects, Performs important functions like providing technical support and capacity building.

The BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting

The 17th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting was held in April, 2021 through virtual medium under the chairmanship of Sri Lanka. The Foreign Minister of India participated in the meeting. During the meeting, India expressed its commitment to further enhance regional cooperation under the BIMSTEC framework and to make the organisation stronger, vibrant, more

effective and result-oriented. In the meeting, the progress made by India in various areas like terrorism, trans-national crime, transport and communication, tourism and environment and disaster management etc.

BIMSTEC:- 'Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation' is a regional organisation. Out of its 7 members, 5 members – Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka are from South Asia and two – Myanmar and Thailand are from South-East Asia. It provides a new platform for India to engage with its neighbours, as the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) has become insignificant due to controversies between India and Pakistan. Presently, BIMSTEC operates in 15 sectors, which include trade, technology, agriculture, tourism, fisheries, energy and climate change. Its secretariat is in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The India-Seychelles Meeting

The virtual meeting between the Indian Prime Minister and the President of Seychelles was held in April 2021. Inauguration of new magistrate building in Seychelles capital Mahe at a total cost of US \$ 3.5 million, 1 MW solar power plant worth US \$ 3.4 million and 10 community development projects in Seychelles inaugurated by the Indian Prime Minister and the President of Seychelles. All these projects have been completed with the help of India. PS Zoroaster, a fast patrol vessel, has been handed over by India to the island nation of Seychelles.

The India-Netherlands Summit

The Prime Ministers of India and the Netherlands participated in the virtual summit in April 2021. The two countries shared ideas to further strengthen their relations in various areas such as trade and economy, water management, agriculture sector, smart cities, science and technology, health and space. The both countries also shared their views on emerging regional and global challenges such as climate change, combating terrorism and the COVID-19 pandemic, and agreed to work together in new areas such as the Indo-Pacific region, supply chain sustainability.

The World Press Freedom Index

The World Press Freedom Index was released in April 2021 by the Paris-based non-profit organization 'Reporters Without Borders' (RSF). Norway ranks first in the index for five consecutive years. The second place went to Finland and the third place went to Denmark. Eritrea is ranked at the bottom of the index (180). It is followed by North Korea at 179th, China at 177th and Turkmenistan at 178th. India has been placed at 142nd position in the index prepared with 180 countries. The index is prepared on the basis of assessment of the level of pluralism, media freedom, environment for media and self-censorship, legal framework, transparency as well as the quality of infrastructure for news and information.

The India-UK Overseas Agreement

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and the United Kingdom on migration and movement. It aims to liberalize the visa process, to facilitate the movement of students, researchers and skilled professionals, and to strengthen cooperation on both sides on issues related to irregular migration and human trafficking. This MoU will also help in developing an innovation eco-system between the two countries through seamless flow of talent. The new Migration Agreement will provide opportunities for youth and professionals from both countries (India and the UK) to live and work in each other's countries, . will increase promoting work visas for Indian citizens and promoting migration cooperation between the two countries. Through this agreement, thousands of people aged 18 to 30 in India and Britain will be allowed to work and live in each other's country for two years.

The Russia-China nuclear project

Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on May 19, 2021. China has launched a nuclear power project to build four nuclear power plants at a cost of about US\$ 3 billion, promoting nuclear cooperation between countries. The Tianwan Nuclear Power Plant is located in the city of Lianyungang in eastern Jiangsu province. China and Russia signed a strategic package of

agreements on nuclear power in June 2018 to jointly build four nuclear power units, the largest-ever project between the two countries, with a total value of 20 billion yuan (about 3 billion US dollars). Once completed, the project is expected to effectively reduce carbon dioxide emissions from all four units.

The Net Zero Producers Forum

Saudi Arabia has announced to join the 'Net Zero Producers Forum' along with the United States, Canada, Norway and Qatar. Through this new forum, all countries will discuss ways to support the implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change. Along with this, through this forum, the goal of achieving net-zero emissions by the year 2050 will also be discussed. It is to be noted that Canada, Norway, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United States together represent 40 percent of global oil and gas production. Through this forum, some of the world's major oil and gas producing countries will focus on improving methane reduction, promoting a cyclic carbon economy approach, developing clean-energy, developing carbon capture, utilization and storage technology, hydrocarbon revenue. Various measures like diversifying from dependency will be discussed. Also, while developing these measures, the local conditions of different countries will also be taken into account. Saudi Arabia has set a target to generate 50 percent of the country's energy from renewable energy by 2030 to reduce its carbon emissions.

The Immunization Strategy - 2030

The Immunization Strategy- 2030 has been launched by the United Nations and other agencies during the World Immunization Week (last week of April). It will contribute to the achievement of the UN mandated Sustainable Development Goals (particularly SDG-3 which includes improved health and well-being). This decade sets out an ambitious, overarching global vision and strategy for vaccines and immunizations for 2021-2030.

The India-Oman Agreement

India and Oman renewed the MoU on military cooperation as well as maritime security in May 2021. Major bilateral agreements in defence sector cooperation include peaceful uses of outer space, enforcement, legal and judicial cooperation in civil

and commercial matters, agriculture, civil aviation, avoidance of double taxation, maritime issues, etc.

Maritime Cooperation: Oman is located at the entrance of the Strait of Hormuz through which India imports one fifth of its oil imports. The berth rights granted by Oman to Indian ships are crucial for the Indian Navy to carry out anti-piracy operations in the Sea of Aden. India signed an agreement with Oman in the year 2018 to access Duqan port of Oman.

Net Zero Emissions

The Roadmap for Net Zero Emissions named 'Net Zero by-2050' has been released by the International Energy Agency. This is the world's first comprehensive energy roadmap that will be adopted at the UN Conference of Parties COP-26. Conference on Climate Change to be held in Glasgow, Scotland in November 2021. 'Net zero emissions' refers to establishing an overall balance between greenhouse gas emissions produced and greenhouse gas emissions removed from the atmosphere.

Lithuania resigns from The China 17+1

Lithuania left China's 17+1 Cooperation Forum with Central and Eastern Europe on May 22, 2021, calling it 'divisive', reducing its form to 16+1.

17+1:- The 17\$1 (China and Countries of Central and Eastern Europe) initiative is a Chinese-led initiative, established in 2012 in Budapest between Beijing and member countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The CEE was established with the aim of enhancing cooperation on investment and trade in the region.

Member States:- In this initiative twelve member states of the European Union and five Balkan states (Albania, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Slovenia).

Aims and Objectives:- It focuses on infrastructure projects like modernization of bridges, motorways, railway lines and ports in member states. The forum is seen as an extension of China's Belt and Road Initiative. India has consistently opposed the BRI as a major part of it passes through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

The India-Israel Agreement on Agricultural Cooperation

India and Israel have signed a three-year action plan agreement on May 24, 2021 to enhance agricultural cooperation. The objective of this action plan is to develop existing Centers of Excellence, establish new Centers, enhance the value chain of Centers of Excellence, make Centers of Excellence self-reliant and support the private sector. Both India and Israel are implementing the 'India-Israel Agricultural Project Center of Excellence' and the 'India-Israel Village of Excellence' (IIVOE). It is noteworthy that the India-Israel Agricultural Cooperation Project was launched in 2008 after the signing of a three-year action plan based on a government-to-government agreement.

India in the probable list of The World Heritage Sites

6 places in India have been added to the tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in May 2021.

Provisional List:- Before the final inclusion of any monument/site in the list of World Heritage Site, it is mandatory to remain in the tentative list for one year. After it is nominated, it is sent to the World Heritage Center. A total of 38 sites (30 cultural, 7 natural and 1 mixed) of India have been included in this list so far.

Six new sites included in the tentative list:- Satpura Tiger Reserve (Madhya Pradesh), Ghats of Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Megalithic site of Haier Benkal (Karnataka), Maratha Military Architecture (Maharashtra), Bhedaghat-Lametaghat in Narmada Valley, Jabalpur (Central Pradesh) and temples of Kancheepuram (Tamil Nadu).

The Red Tourism

'Red tourism' in China refers to the places where the legacy of the modern revolution in China is present. The project, launched in 2004, aims to promote tourism to sites of historical and cultural importance in the history of the ruling Communist Party. Also, this will help local businesses a lot. The Communist Party of China is strengthening the party's ideology through history and tourism.

The Global Liveability Index-EIU

Auckland (New Zealand) has topped the Global Liveability Index released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) in June 2021. This index was prepared on 140 cities of the world.

Base of the ranking:- Under The Economist Intelligence Unit, a particular country is ranked in five categories, namely, Sustainability (25%), Culture and Environment (25%), Health Care (20%), Education (10%), Infrastructure (20%) rankings are provided.

Top 3 livable cities: Auckland (New Zealand), Osaka (Japan), Adelaide (Australia).

Lower Tier 3 livable cities: Damascus (Syria), Lagos (Nigeria), Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea).

The Indo-Thailand Coordinated Patrol

The 31st edition of the Indo-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT) was conducted between the Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy in June 2021. The organized version of this exercise was conducted in the Andaman Sea near the Straits of Malacca. This coordinated patrol has been conducted twice a year by India and Thailand along their International Maritime Boundary Line since 2005.

Purpose of the patrol: To ensure effective implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, to strengthen maritime links between the two countries and to keep this vital part of the Indian Ocean safe for international trade. Protection and conservation of natural resources, UNCLOS conduct the rescued operation for protection of the marine environment, prevention and suppression of illegal and uncontrolled fishing activities, drug trafficking, piracy, exchange of information for the prevention of smuggling, illegal migration and daily life at sea and Specifies the rules governing.

Other exercises between India and Thailand:- Friendship exercise - Army, Siam-India exercise - Air Force.

The Denmark joined ISAFA

Denmark has signed the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement (ISAFA) with India in June,

2021. Thus Denmark has become the first country to ratify this agreement after the amendment to the 'International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement' came into force on January 8, 2021. It may be noted that the main purpose of the amendment was to enable all the member states of the United Nations to obtain membership of the organization.

International Solar Alliance - It is a treaty based intergovernmental organization of solar-rich countries. However, after amending the framework agreement of the organization, all member states of the United Nations can join it. The International Solar Alliance was launched by India and France on 30 November 2015 during the Paris Climate Conference. Its headquarters are located in Gurugram (Haryana). ISA Key objectives of the U.S. include global deployment of more than 1000 GW of solar power generation capacity and mobilizing approximately +1000 billion for investment in solar energy by 2030. Its first meeting was held in New Delhi. The organization supports grassroots launch of solar projects and brings together solar potential rich countries to integrate the global demand for solar energy.

The Indo-Bhutan Agreement in the Environment Sector

India and Bhutan signed a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation between the two countries in the environment sector on June 18, 2021. It is a platform to enhance partnership and cooperation between India and Bhutan with exchange of best practices in the areas of air pollution prevention, waste management, chemical management, climate change etc.

The Israel-Palestine and India

India withdrew from voting at the United Nations Human Rights Council (NCHR) on a resolution that is related to the latest conflict between Israel and the Gaza Strip, a coastal part of the Palestinian Territories. After this, Palestine has blamed India for suppressing the human rights of Palestinian citizens.

UNHRC:- UNHRC is an intergovernmental body within the United Nations system, responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the world.

This was the resolution: - Through this resolution, the United Nations Human Rights Council was called upon to set up a permanent commission to investigate human rights violations in Gaza, the West Bank and Palestine. The resolution was adopted with a vote of 24 members. 9 members voted against it, while 14 members including India did not participate in it.

The SIPRI Report on Nuclear Weapons

The Global Expansion Report of the Nuclear Arsenal was released on June 14, 2021 by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. Accordingly, there has been an increase in the number of nuclear weapons prepared and deployed globally. Nuclear-armed countries had an estimated 13,080 nuclear warheads at the beginning of 2021. Russia and the US together have more than 90% of global nuclear weapons. At the beginning of the year 2021, India has 156 nuclear weapons, which was 150 at the beginning of last year (2020), while Pakistan had 160 last year which has now increased to 165.

Nine Nuclear Weapon Countries:- America, Russia, Britain, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea are the 9 nuclear-armed countries in the world.

The Security Council has 5 new non-permanent members

During the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana and the United Arab Emirates have been elected as the new five non-permanent member states of the Security Council. The newly elected non-permanent members will have a two-year term which effects from 1 January 2022. These countries will replace completed the temporary membership on December 31, 2021, Vietnam, St. Vincent and the Grenadines will Estonia, Niger and Tunisia.

The World Competitiveness Index

On June 17, 2021, IMD World Competitiveness Center released the World Competitiveness Index for 64 economies. India has maintained 43rd position in the index.

Top Ranked Countries:-

Rank	Country
1	Switzerland
2	Sweden
3	Denmark
4	Netherlands
5	Singapore
6	Norway
7	Hong Kong
8	Taiwan
9	United Arab Emirates
10	America

WCY: - WCY was first published in the year 1989 and has been compiled by the Institute for Management Development (IMD). In the year 2021, the IMD examined the impact of COVID-19 on the world's economies.

Here are the bases: - It measures the prosperity and competitiveness of countries by examining four factors - economic performance, government efficiency, business efficiency and infrastructure.

The G-7 Summit

The G-7 summit was held in the UK from 11-13 June 2021. Apart from the seven G-7 member states, the European Union, four guest countries (India, Australia, South Africa and South Korea) and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres participated in the conference. Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi virtually attended the conference on 12 June.

Highlights of the conference:- Launched the 'B-3W' (Build Back Better World) initiative to plan to fund infrastructure development in low and middle income countries. The G-7 countries signed the 'Carbague Way Declaration', which aims to prevent future epidemics.

G-7:- It is an inter-governmental organization which was formed in the year 1975. The bloc meets annually to discuss issues of common interest such as global economic governance, international security

and energy policy. The G-7 includes the UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the US.

The QS World University Rankings

Britain's global body Quacquarelli Symonds released the 'QS World University Rankings-2022' on June 9, 2021. The US-based Massachusetts Institute of Technology took the top spot in the rankings. In preparing the ranking, 1300 universities from around the world have been included.

Top 10 Ranked Institutions:-

Rank	Institute
1	Massachusetts Institute of Technology, US
2	University of Oxford, UK
3	Stanford University, USA
4	University of Cambridge, UK
5	Harvard University, USA
6	California Institute of Technology, US
7	Imperial College London, UK
8	ETH Zurich, Switzerland
9	UCL London, UK
10	University of Chicago, USA

Institutes of India included in the ranking:-

No Indian institute could make it to the top 100. However, 22 institutes from India have made it to the list of top 1000 universities.

Rank	Institute
177	IIT Bombay
185	IIT Delhi
186	IIMC
255	IIT Madras
277	IIT Kanpur
280	IIT Kharagpur
395	IIT Guwahati
400	IIT Roorkee

Delhi University between 501 to 510

JNU between 561 to 570

The World Energy Transition Outlook

The 'World Energy Transition Outlook' report has been released in June 2021 by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). According to this, by the year 2050, the share of hydrogen in the total energy mix will reach 12%. The agency also suggested that about 66% of this hydrogen used should be obtained from water rather than natural gas.

The Global Cyber Security Index: ITU

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) released the 'Global Cyber Security Index -GCI 2020' in June 2021. The US topped the index, followed by the UK and Saudi Arabia together in second place. Estonia ranked third in the index. India ranked 10th

ITU:- ITU is a specialized agency of the United Nations for Information and Communication Technology. It was established in the year 1865 to facilitate international connectivity in the communication network. Its headquarter is in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Lower Arun Hydroelectric Project

Nepal has signed a 1.3 billion USD agreement on July 11, 2021 with India's major hydropower 'Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam' (SJVN) to develop a 679 MW 'Lower Arun Hydroelectric Project' in eastern Nepal. This is the second mega project undertaken by India in Nepal. This is Nepal's biggest foreign investment project, which will be developed between the districts of Sanhuwasabha and Bhojpur in eastern Nepal. This is the second mega project undertaken by India after the 'Arun-3 Hydroelectric Project'. The Arun-3 Hydroelectric Project is located on the Arun River in the Sanluwasabha district of eastern Nepal.

The assassination of Haiti's President Jovenal Moise

Haiti's President Jovenal Moise was assassinated at his private residence on July 7, 2021. After this, a state of emergency has been declared in Haiti. Moise was sworn in as the President of Haiti on February 7, 2017. After the assassination of Moise, Arielle Henri took over as acting president on July 20, 2021,

The Liverpool have been removed from the World Heritage Site list

The city of Liverpool in England has been removed from the UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) list of World Heritage Sites in July 2021. It was declared a World Heritage Site in the year 2004. Liverpool is the third venue to be removed from the list. Earlier in the year 2007 the wildlife sanctuary of Oman and in the year 2009 Dresden Elbe valley in Germany have been removed from the list.

World Heritage Site: A World Heritage Site is a place that is listed by UNESCO for its special cultural or physical importance. The list of World Heritage Sites is maintained by the International World Heritage Program administered by the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO. Its objective is to identify and protect cultural and natural heritage, which are considered to be of outstanding value to humanity around the world.

The BRICS Agreement for Remote Sensing Data Sharing

Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) have signed agreement for cooperation in remote sensing satellite data sharing. According to the 'Indian Space Research Organisation' (ISRO), the agreement enables the BRICS countries to build a 'virtual installation' through designated remote sensing satellites of their space agencies, containing data from the ground stations of the respective countries. It will contribute to strengthen multilateral cooperation among BRICS space agencies in addressing challenges like global climate change, natural disasters and environmental protection. The agreement has been signed under the chairmanship of India in BRICS.

The Global Cyber Security Index

India has been ranked 10th in the 'Global Cyber Security Index-GCI 2020 released in June, 2021 by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

Top Ranking Countries: US has secured the first position, UK and Saudi Arabia second and Estonia third.

Basis of Assessment: The performance of cyber security is based on five parameters which are as follows – legal measures, technical measures, organizational measures, capacity development and cooperation.

International Telecommunication Union is a specialized agency of the United Nations for information and communication technology. It was established in 1865 for facilitate international connectivity in the communication network. Its headquarter is in Geneva, Switzerland. It aims to strengthen effective international maritime cooperation to respond holistically to natural and man-made factors to maritime security.

Matter will add PDF Page No. 15-19

The Jayanagar-Kurtha Rail Track

The rail track between Jayanagar in India and Kurtha in Nepal was successfully tested on 16 July, 2021. Trials were conducted with high speed train on this 34.50 km long rail track between Jaynagar in Madhubani district of Bihar and Kurtha in Dhanusa district of Nepal. Built at a cost of Rs 619 crore, this railway line includes five stations – Jayanagar, Inerva, Khajoori, Baidehi and Kurtha near Janakpur, a famous pilgrimage center in Nepal. The 17 km-long second phase of the project will connect Kurtha and Bhangha, while the 17-km-long third phase will connect Bhangha to Bardibas.

The Taliban's Control over Afghanistan

The Taliban took control of the whole of Afghanistan, including Kabul, in August 2021. There, many ministers, including the former President, have fled the country.

Taliban:- The Taliban is a terrorist organization that emerged in northern Pakistan after the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan in the early 1990s. It is currently an Islamic extremist political and military organization operating in Afghanistan.

Popular places

The Semeru Volcano of Indonesia

Semeru Volcano, located in the East Java province of Indonesia, was in the news due to the eruption in January 2021. Semeru is also known as 'The Great

Mountain'. It is the highest volcanic peak in Java and one of the most active volcanoes. It last exploded in December 2019. Indonesia has the largest number of active volcanoes in the world, as well as its location in the Pacific Ring of Fire, it is also prone to seismic upheaval. Other volcanoes located in Indonesia, including the Merapi volcano (Java) and the Sinabung volcano (Sumatra), exploded shortly before.

The Mount Merapi

Indonesia's most active volcano 'Mount Merapi' was in discussion due to the eruption in January and August 2021. The 2,968 m (9,737 ft) high volcano is located near the densely populated Indonesian island of Java and the ancient city of Yogyakarta. In 2010, a massive eruption on Mount Merapi killed 347 people.

Also know:- Indonesia is an island group of population of 270 million people, due to its location in the 'Ring of Fire', many active volcanoes are found here and this area comes under earthquake prone zone. The 'Ring of Fire' is an area around the Pacific Ocean where tectonic plates meet.

The Lalander (Mulberry) Dam

Lalandar (Mulberry) Dam is being constructed in Kabul city of Afghanistan for drinking water supply and irrigation. India and Afghanistan have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on February 9, 2021 for the construction of this dam. This is the second dam being built by India in Afghanistan. Earlier in the year 2016, the India-Afghanistan Friendship Dam (Salma Dam) was inaugurated.

The Sange Volcano

The Sange Volcano in Ecuador is one of the most active volcanoes in the world. The Sange is the southernmost mixed volcano (a volcano composed of alternating layers of lava and resin) located in the northern volcanic region of the Andes. It is 5230 meters high. In March 2021, Sange remained in the news due to the eruption of volcano.

The La Soufriere Volcano

Sulfur dioxide emitted from the April 2021 eruption at the La Soufriere volcano in the Caribbean island of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines reached India. Due

to this there was a possibility of acid rain in many places in India.

The Mount Sinabung

Mount Sinabung is an active volcano in Indonesia that erupted in May 2021. Sinabung Volcano is located in the Karo District of North Sumatra Province. Its height is 2,475 meters.

Appointment

Bhavya Lal

Indian-origin Bhavya Lal has been appointed as the acting chief of the US space agency NASA. He has also been elected a member of the International Aeronautical Academy for his contribution in the field of space.

NASA:- It is an independent agency of the executive branch of the United States federal government that is responsible for the civilian space program as well as aeronautics and space research. It was established in the year 1958. The headquarters of NASA is located in Washington, DC (USA).

The Anjoji Okonjo Iwela

Nigeria's Anjoji Okonjo-Iwela has been appointed as the Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in February 2021. She is the first woman and the first African head of the World Trade Organization. Her four-year term will begin from March 01, 2021.

World Trade Organization:- WTO was adopted in place of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) concluded in the year 1947. The background for the creation of the WTO was laid in the dialogue of the Uruguay Round of (the year 1986–94) and work was started by the WTO on 1 January, 1995. The agreement under which the WTO was established is known as the 'Marrakesh Accord'. It was signed in 1994 in Marrakesh, Morocco. The headquarter of WTO is located in Geneva, Switzerland. It includes 164 member countries including the European Union and 23 countries like Iran, Iraq, Bhutan, Libya etc. have observer status. India became a member of the GATT in the year 1947 and is a founding member of WTO.

Preeti Sinha

Indian-origin investment and development banker Preeti Sinha has been appointed as the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Capital Development Fund (NCHD). Preeti Sinha replaces Judith Karl in the organization, who retired in February after completing her 30 year working period at the United Nations Capital Development Fund.

UNCDF:- The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) is the capital investment agency of the United Nations for underdeveloped countries. It mainly works to provide public and private finance for the poor in less developed countries. It was established in the year 1966 as an autonomous organization under the United Nations. Its headquarter is in New York.

Mario Draghi

Mario Draghi, the former head of the European Central Bank (ECB), has been sworn in as the new Prime Minister of Italy on February 13, 2021. It is noteworthy that earlier in January, Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte had given resigned due to criticism regarding his handling of the Corona virus epidemic.

Dr. Ajay Mathur

Dr. Ajay Mathur has been appointed as the new Director General of International Solar Alliance (ISA). He will replace Upendra Tripathi in this post.

International Solar Alliance:- International Solar Alliance (ISA) is a joint initiative launched by India and France in the year 2015. Its objective is to make necessary joint efforts to reduce the financial cost and technology cost, mobilize the necessary investment for large scale solar power product and to make ready the way for future technology.

Thomas Bach

Germany's Thomas Bach has been reappointed as the President of the International Olympic Committee on March 10, 2021. His term will be of four years.

Narendra Batra

Narendra Batra of India has been re-elected as the President of International Hockey Federation in May 2021. He will remain in this post till the year 2024.

Also know:- The International Hockey Federation was established on 07 January, 1924 in Paris. This federation regulates hockey at the international level.

Hemant Biswa Sarma

Badminton Association of India President Hemant Biswa Sara has been appointed to the Badminton World Federation (BWF) on 22 May 2021. His term will last till the year 2025.

Klord Joseph

Klord Joseph has been nominated new Prime minister of Haiti in April 2021. It is noteworthy that Joseph Juth, who became Prime Minister on March 2020, resigned from his post on April 14, 2021.

Miguel Diaz Cannel

The current President of Cuba, Miguel Diaz Canel, has been elected as Secretary of the Communist Party after the retirement of Raul Castre, the secretary of the ruling Communist Party of Cuba. It is considered to be the most important and powerful post in the country.

Vanita Gupta

Indian-American civil rights advocate Vanitha Gupta has been appointed as the Associate Attorney General in the US in April 2021. With this, she has become the first Indian-American to hold this third most important position in the US Department of Justice. As Associate Attorney General of the US Department of Justice, Vanitha Gupta will be in charge of the department's 'Civil Rights Litigation' as well as its antitrust, civil and environmental divisions.

Martha Koome

Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta has appointed Martha Koome as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in May 2021. She is the first woman Chief Justice of the country.

G.C. Murmu

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) Girish Chandra Murmu has been elected as the external auditor of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). He has been elected for a three-year term.

Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons:- The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) is an independent organization (independent of the United Nations) supported by the United Nations, whose primary function is to implement the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). It came into existence on 29 April 1997 and is headquartered in The Hague, Netherlands. A total of 193 signatory countries involve in The OPCW, representing 98 percent of the global population. Its primary function is to protect and provide assistance to member states from the effects of chemical weapons. OPCW was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2013.

Penpa tsering

Penpa Tsering has been elected the head of the Tibetan government-in-exile Dharamsala, the 'Central Tibetan Administration', officially known as 'Sikyong'. It is to be known that Penpa Tsering is the former speaker of the exile parliament of Tibet.

Neera Tandon

Indian-American politician Neera Tandon has been appointed Senior Advisor to US President Joe Biden. Neera Tandon is currently serving as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Center for American Progress (CAP), America's progressive think-tank.

Sir David Attenborough

World famous natural historian Sir David Attenborough has been named the 'COP 26 People's Advocate' to preside over Britain during the 'United Nations Climate Change Summit' in Glasgow, Scotland in November 2021. Renowned conservationist Sir David Attenborough has been called upon to convey the importance of climate action to global leaders, key decision makers and the general public. Tasked with creating awareness, negotiating current progress and highlighting decisions and actions to be taken during COP 26. In addition, as 'COP 26 People's Advocate', David Attenborough will address global leaders at major international events over the next six months, including the G-7 Summit in Cornwall (England) in June, to address climate change. and make the issue of protecting nature a priority on the global agenda.

Nafatali Bennett

Nafatali Bennett sworn in as New Prime Minister of Israel in June 2021, Bennett is considered a religious-nationalist leader. His election as Israel's prime minister poses a challenge to Palestinians who advocate talks for peace.

Abdullah Shahid

Maldives Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid has been elected as the new President of the United Nations General Assembly in June 2021. The election of the President of the United Nations General Assembly is held annually among the various regional groups on a rotation basis. This time it was the turn of the Asia-Pacific Group at the 76th UN General Assembly session (Year 2021-22). It is noteworthy that this will be the first time that a representative of Maldives will hold the post of President of the United Nations General Assembly.

Also read:- The United Nations General Assembly was established in the year 1945 under the United Nations Charter. This General Assembly acts as a representative body on issues such as deliberation and policy making in the United Nations. The 193 member United Nations General Assembly provides an excellent forum for multifaceted and multilateral discussions on international issues covered under its charter. All member states of the United Nations are represented in the General Assembly. Each member state has one vote. Major issues such as international peace and security, acceptance of new members and the budget of the United Nations are decided by a two-thirds majority, while other matters are decided by a simple majority.

Justice Mahmood Jamal

Indian-origin Justice Mahmood Jamal has been nominated to the Supreme Court of Canada. he will replace Rosalie Silberman Abella, the first refugee and the first Jewish female judge of the Supreme Court of Canada.

Montek Singh Ahluwalia

Montek Singh Ahluwalia, former deputy chairman of the Planning Commission, has been named a member of a high-level advisory group set up by the World

Bank on the issues arising out of climate change and COVID-19.

K. Nagraj Naidu

Indian Foreign Service officer K. Nagraj Naidu has been elected 'Chef du Cabinet' to head the United Nations bureaucracy for a year. Abdulla Shahid, the Foreign Minister of Maldives and elected President of the United Nations General Assembly, has entrusted this responsibility to him. He will act as his assistant.

Ranjit Singh Disale

Ranjit Singh Disale, who was awarded the 'Global Teacher Award' in the year 2020, has been appointed as the World Bank Education Advisor in June 2021. He will remain in this post till June 2024.

The Ukhna Khural Sukh

Ukhna Khural Sukh took over as the 6th President of Mongolia on June 21, 2021. He replace the Khal tamagin Battulge in this post. In the election held on June 9, 2021, Khuralsukh of the People's Party got 72 percent of the valid votes. It is to be known that he has been the Prime Minister of Mongolia from October 4, 2017 to January 27, 2021.

Ibrahim Raisi President of Iran

Ibrahim Raisi has been elected as the 8th President of Iran. He will replace Hassan Rouhani in the post.

Antonio Guterres

The United Nations General Assembly appointed Antonio Guterres as the ninth United Nations Secretary General (UNSG) for a second term from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2026. It is to be known that India had expressed its support on this.

Also read: Under the United Nations Charter, the Secretary-General is appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council. Each Secretary-General has the option of a second term, for which he must have the enough support of the Member States.

Sher Bahadur Deuba

On 13 July, 2021, President Bidhya Devi Bhandari has appointed Sher Bahadur Deuba as the Prime Minister of Nepal's Congress, after the Supreme

Court of Nepal reinstated the House of Representatives, the lower house of parliament. Significantly, on May 21, 2021, Parliament was dissolved on the recommendation of Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli and ordered fresh elections to be held in six months. After this, neither K.P. Sharma Oli nor the opposition were able to show majority for the formation of the new government.

Seema Nanda

The United States Senate has appointed Seema Nanda, an Indian-American citizen, as a solicitor for the Department of Labor. Seema Nanda, former chief executive of the Democratic National Committee, also worked in the Labor Department during the Obama administration. Seema Nanda served as chief of staff, deputy chief of staff and deputy solicitor at the US Department of Labor in the Obama-Biden administration.

Pedro Castillo

Pedro Castillo has been appointed as the new President of Peru in July 2021. He is the first farmer to become the President of Peru.

Also read:- Peru is located on the coast of the Pacific Ocean. Its international borders are five countries Ecuador, Colombia, Brazil, Bolivia and Chile. It is the third largest country in South America by area.

Ban Ki Moon

Former United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has been re-elected as the chairman of the International Olympic Committee's Ethics Commission. He has been serving as the Chairman of the Ethics Commission since the year 2017 and will now hold this position for the next four years. Ban Ki-moon served as the Secretary-General of the United Nations from 01 January, 2007 to 31 December, 2016.

Muhideen Yasin

Malaysian Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin resigned from his post in August 2021. His term lasted for 17 months, which is the shortest term for any Malaysian prime minister. The King of Malaysia has appointed Muhyiddin Yassin as the acted prime

minister until the appointment of a new prime minister.

Hakande Hichilema

Zambia's opposition leader Hakande Hichilema has been elected the country's new president. He is one of the richest man in Zambia.

Death

Ved Mehta

Noted Indian-American writer Ved Mehta (56) has passed away in New York on January 9, 2021. Born in Lahore in 1934, Ved Mehta lost his sight at the age of four due to cerebrospinal meningitis. His first book 'Face-to-Face' was published in the year 1957.

Hamid bakayoka

Ivory Coast Prime Minister Hamid Bakayoka died in a hospital in Germany. Bakayoka, a former media executive, played a key arbiter in the Ivory Coast civil war during the first decade of the century.

Also know:- Ivory Coast or Cote d'Ivoire is a country located on the coast of West Africa. Since gaining independence from France in 1960, Ivory Coast (Cte d'Ivoire) is considered one of the most riches countries in West Africa, mainly due to cocoa production and exports. The official language here is French, although there are people who speak almost all the languages of Africa.

John Magufuli

Tanzanian President John Magufuli passed away on March 17, 2021. He was in this post since November 2015.

Prince Philip

Britain's Prince Philip (99) passed away on April 09, 2021. Prince Philip of Edinburgh, married Princess Elizabeth II of Britain in 1947, the longest-reigning woman in British history.

Idris Debbie

The President of Chad Idris Debbie has been killed in clashes with rebels in the country's northern region. He was battling rebels belonging to the FACT (Front for Change and Concorde in Chad) group. He came

to power after a coup from the year 1990. Since then he was the President of Chad.

FACT Group:- 'Front for Change and Concord in Chad' (FACT) is a political and military organization in the north of Chad, whose goal is to overthrow the government of Chad.

Sir Anirudh Jagannath

Sir Anirudh Jugnauth (91), former President and Prime Minister of Mauritius, passed away in June 2021. He was the Prime Minister of Mauritius between 1982 and 1995. Then he was the Prime Minister of Mauritius between 2000 and 2003 and between 2014 and 2017. Aniruddha Jugnauth also served as the President of Mauritius from the year 2003-2012.

Kenneth Konda

Kenneth Konda (97), the first president and founder of modern Zambia, passed away in June 2021. He played an important role in ending colonialism in Zambia.

Prize

ICC Awards of the Decade

The Players of the Decade Awards were announced by the International Cricket Council on 28 December 2020. Sir Garfield Sobers Award for Best Male Player has been given to Virat Kohli of India. Virat Kohli has also received the ODI player of the decade award. At the same time, Mahendra Singh Dhoni of India has been awarded the 'ICC Spirit of Cricket Award of Decade'.

Award Winner :-

- Male Cricketer of Decade (Sir Garfield Sobers Award) – Virat Kohli, India
- Men's ODI Player of the Decade – Virat Kohli, India
- ICC Spirit of Cricket Award of Decade - Mahendra Singh Dhoni, India
- Men's Test Cricketer of the Decade - Steve Smith, Australia
- Men's T20 Cricketer of the Decade - Rashid Khan, Afghanistan
- Women Cricketer of Decade (Rachel Hee Ho-Frillant Award) - Alyssa Perry, Australia

- Women's T20 Cricketer of the Decade - Alyssa Perry, Australia
- Women's ODI Cricketer of the Decade - Alyssa Perry, Australia
- Women's Associate Player of the Decade - Kyle Coetzer, Scotland
- Women's Associate Player of the Decade - Katherine Bryce, Scotland
- ICC Men's ODI Team of the Decade - India's Rohit Sharma, ViratKohli and MS Dhoni are included in the team.
- ICC Men's Test Team of the Decade - The team consists of ViratKohli and R Ashwin of India.
- ICC Men's T20 Team of the Decade - The team consists of ViratKohli, MS Dhoni and Jasprit Bumrah of India.
- ICC Women's ODI Team of the Decade - The team includes Mithali Raj and Jhulan Goswami of India.
- ICC Women's T20 Team of the Decade- India's Harman Preet Kaur and Poonam Yadav are included in the team.

Michael and Sheila Held Award

Indian young mathematician Nikhil Srivastava along with two other mathematicians has been awarded as the joint winners of the 2021 'Michael and Sheila Held' Prize. This award is being given to Nikhil Srivastava for solving long unanswered questions on the Cadison-Singer problem and Ramanujan graph. Apart from Nikhil Srivastava from the University of California (Berkeley), Adam Marcus of Switzerland and Daniel Alan Spielman of Yale University in the US have also been selected for this award.

The United States International Anti Corruption Champions Award

Anjali Bhardwaj, an Indian social activist working on issues of transparency and accountability, is selected among the 12 people to be honored with the 'United State International Anti-Corruption Champions Award'. The purpose of this award is to recognize people who have worked tirelessly to ensure transparency and accountability and combat corruption in their country. Social activist Anjali Bhardwaj has been a part of movements related to Right to Information, Lokpal, Whistleblower

Protection and Grievance Redressal and Right to Food etc. at the national level over the years. She is also the founder of a non-governmental organization called 'Satark Nagrik Sangathan', which is working towards empowering the common citizens of Delhi using the RTI Act.

International Federation of Film Archives

Actor Amitabh Bachchan will be honored with the 'International Federation of Film Archives' award 2021. He will be the first Indian to be honored with this award. This award is being presented to Amitabh Bachchan for his contribution and dedication in preserving the film heritage.

Also know:- The 'International Federation of Film Archives' (FIAP) award was started in the year 2001. Its primary objective is to recognize people who have contributed to the preservation of film and film culture. FIAP is a worldwide organization, consisting of film archives and museums around the world.

The Cera Week Global Energy and Environmental Leadership Award

The Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi has been honored with the 'Global Energy and Environmental Leadership Award' by Cambridge Energy Research Associate in March 2021. The award was given to the Prime Minister of India for his commitment to expanding sustainable development to meet the future energy needs of the country and the world.

Pritzker Architecture Prize - 2021

French architect duo Anne Lacton and Jean-Philippe Vassal were announced on March 16, 2021, to be presented with the 2021 Pritzker Architecture Prize. This award is the world's largest award given in the field of architecture. It is noteworthy that this award for the year 2018 was given to Bal Krishna Doshi of India.

The Booker Prize-2021

French novelist David Diop has been awarded the Booker Prize for 'At Night All Blood is Black'. Diop is the first writer from France to win this award. The award for the year 2020 was given to Marike Lukas Rijnveld of the Netherlands.

Also read: The International Booker Prize (erstwhile Man Booker International Prize) was instituted in the year 2005 as a part of the original Booker Prize. The 'International Booker Prize' focuses on writers working in languages other than the English language and under this, 50 thousand pounds, or 44 lakh rupees, are to be divided between the translator and the writer. It is noteworthy that this award is given annually to a fictional novel in any language, which has been translated into English and published in Britain or Ireland.

The United Nations Medal

Posthumously, 129 military, police and civilian personnel, including three Indian soldiers, were awarded the United Nations medal 'Dag Hammarskjold Medal' on May 27, 2021.

Honored Indian Soldier :- 1- Corporal Yuvraj Singh (served as Indian Peacekeeper in United Nations Mission in South Sudan), 2- Ivan Michael Picardo (Worked as Civil Peacekeeper in United Nations Mission in South Sudan), 3- Moolchand Yadav (Worked as a civilian peacekeeper in the Joint Assistance Mission in Iraq).

Etienne Glicht award to The Hockey India

Hockey India has been selected for the prestigious Etienne Glicht Award for its contribution to the development of hockey in India. The International Hockey Federation announced this during the 47th Congress. The award recognizes individuals, teams and organizations for their outstanding contribution to the sport and promotion of hockey.

Also rewarded: - 'Pablo Negre Award' by 'Uzbekistan Hockey Federation' for building better infrastructure and 'Theo Ikema Award' by 'Polish Hockey Federation' for training school children has won.

Hockey India:- Established on 20 May 2009, 'Hockey India' is the apex body to conduct men's and women's hockey activities in India. It is recognized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (Government of India) as the National Game Association to promote hockey in the country.

Oscar Awards-2021

The 93rd Oscar Awards ceremony was organized by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in Los Angeles, USA on April 25, 2021. Directed by Chloe Zhao, Nomadland won three Oscars (Best Picture, Best Actress and Best Direction). Dimple Kapadia starrer film Tenet won the Best Visual Effects award at the ceremony.

Award Winner :-

- Best Film - Nomadland
- Best Direction - Chloe Zhao (Film Nomadland)
- Best Actor - Anthony Hopkins - (film The Father)
- Best Actress - Frances McDormand (Film Nomadland)

Also know:- The Academy Awards or Oscars are presented annually by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, California. This award is given to honor all the achievements in the film industry. The Academy Awards were first presented in the year 1929 and the winners were presented with a gold statuette, commonly known as the 'Oscar'.

The World Food Prize

Indian-origin global nutritionist Dr. Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted has been selected for the 'World Food Awards-2021' for her research into developing a holistic nutrition-sensitive approach to aquatic food systems. Research on small native fish species in Bangladesh by Dr. Shakuntala Thilsted developed a nutrition-sensitive approach to aquatic food systems at all levels, from farms to food processing and final consumers, resulting in millions of vulnerable populations in Asia and Africa could get a better diet.

Also read: The World Food Prize is a major international honor in recognition of the achievements of individuals who ensure human development by improving the quality, quantity or availability of food around the world. It is an award given on an annual basis, which recognizes contributions made in any field involved in the world food supply, including plant, animal, soil science, food science and technology, nutrition and rural development, etc. In addition to a cash prize of \$ 250,000, the prize winner is presented with a

sculpture designed by renowned artist and designer, Saul Bass.

Miss Universe-2020

The final of the Miss Universe competition was held on 16 May, 2021 in Florida, USA. 74 participants from different countries took part in the competition. Andrea Meja (26) of Mexico won the title of Miss Universe-2020. Andrea Meza was crowned Miss Universe 2019 by Jozibini Tunzi of South Africa. Brazil's Julia Gama was the runner-up. Adeline Castelino of Mumbai represented India in the competition.

BAFTA Award

Britain's 74th BAFTA (British Academy of Film and Television Arts-BAFTA) awards were distributed in London on 10-11 April, 2021. The BAFTA Fellowship (Lifetime Achievement Award) for Outstanding Contribution to British Cinema was given to Taiwanese film director-producer and writer Ang Lee.

Award Winner :-

- Best Film – Nomad land
- Best Direction - Chloe Zhao (Film Nomadland)
- Best Actor - Anthony Hopkins - (film The Father)
- Best Actress - Frances McDormand (Film Nomadland)

France honors The Guneet Monga

Guneet Monga, producer of films like "The Lunchbox" and "Masaan", has been honored with France's second highest civilian honour, the Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters. French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian awarded Guneet Monga at the French Embassy in New Delhi on April 13, 2021.

Pulitzer Prize for Megha Rajagopalan

Indian-origin journalist Megha Rajagopalan was announced on 11 June, 2021, the Pulitzer Prize for her novel journalism in mass detention camps in China. Megha Rajagopalan has won the award for innovative reports using satellite technology to uncover the truth behind China's mass detention camps for Uighur Muslims and other minority ethnicities.

Also read: The Pulitzer Prize is considered America's most prestigious honor in the field of journalism. The award was instituted in the year 1917, which is administered by Columbia University and the Pulitzer Prize Board. The award is given in honor of the famous newspaper publisher Joseph Pulitzer. The prize winner is presented with a certificate and an amount of \$15,000. A gold medal is also given to the awardee in the 'Public Service Category'.

The Olympic Laurel Honors

On 23 July, 2021, Bangladesh's Nobel prize winner Muhammad Yunus was awarded the 'Olympic Laurel' during the opening ceremony of the Olympics. The award started from the 2016 Rio Olympics.

UNDP Equator Prize-2021

Two Indian entities have been selected for the prestigious 'Equator Prize' by the United Nations Development Fund (UNDP). Tamil Nadu based 'Adhimalai Pazhangudiyaner Producer Company Limited' and Karnataka based 'Snehkunj Trust' has been selected for this award for the work done by them in the field of conservation and biodiversity. The award is presented biennially to recognize community efforts to conserve biodiversity and reduce poverty through sustainable use.

Alexander Dalrymple Award

Vice Admiral 'Vinay Badhwar', India's leading hydrographer, has been awarded the 'Alexander Dalrymple' award by the British Government on 23 July 2021 for his work in the fields of hydrography and nautical cartography.

Also know: The 'Alexander Dalrymple' award was instituted by the 'United Kingdom Hydrographic Office' in the year 2006 and It was named on 'Alexander Dalrymple', the first hydrographer of the British Admiralty. The awardees are selected by the Executive Committee of the Hydrographic Office in recognition of their efforts to raise the standards of hydrography, cartography and navigation around the world.

Cannes Film Festival

The 74th Cannes Film Festival was held in Cannes, France from 6-17 July 2021. French film director Julia Ducournu was awarded the Palm d'Or, the

prestigious award for best film, for her film 'Titan'. The film 'The Hero' and 'Compartment No. 6' were selected for the 'Grand Prix', which is considered to be the second prize in the festival. At the same time, French film director Leos Carax was awarded the best director award for the film 'Annet'. Caleb Landry Jonas won Best Actor (Film Nitrum) and Rinette Rainsway won Best Actress (The Worst Person in the World).

Popular books

- **Vajpayee:** The Years That Changed India - Shakti Sinha
- **Atal to Atal hai** - Inder Singh Thakur
- **Kar Hai Maidan Fateh** - Vishal NangerPatil
- **Manohar Parrikar** - Off the Record – Vaman Subha Prabhu
- **Unfished:** A Memoir - Priyanka Chopra Jonas
- **How to Avoid a Climate Disaster** - Bill Gates
- **Beautiful Things** - Hunter Biden
- **The Race of My Life** - Milkha Singh
- **Transformation in Times of Crisis** – Nitin Rakesh and Jesse Wind (International Business Book of the Year)
- **Living Mountain** - Amita v Ghosh
- **Where About:** A Novel – Jhumpa Lahiri
- **It's a Wonderful Life:** Roads to Happiness - Ruskin Bond
- **Boond Bawri** – Padma Sachdev
- **The Light of Asia:** The Poem that Defined the Buddha - Jairam Ramesh
- **The Stranger in the Mirror** – Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra
- **The Rude Life: The Memoir** - Veer Singhvi

Major Day/Week/Year

January

- 04 January - World Braille Day
- 9 January - Indian Diaspora Day
- 10 January - World Hindi Day
- 12 January - National Youth Day
- 14 January - Veterans Day
- 15 January - Indian Army Day

- 23 January - Parakram Day (birth anniversary of Subhas Chandra Bose)
- 24 January - National Girl Child Day / International Education Day
- 25 January - National Voters' Day / National Tourism Day
- 30 January - Martyr's Day / Leprosy Prevention Day

February

- 01 February - Indian Coast Guard Raising Day
- 02 February - World Wetlands Day
- 04 February - World Cancer Day
- 10 February - World Pulses Day, National deworming day
- 11 February - World Unani Day
- 12 February - National Productivity Day
- 13 February - World Radio Day, National Women's Day
- 20 February - World Social Justice Day
- 21 February - International Mother Language Day
- 28 February - National Science Day

March

- 1 March - Zero Discrimination Day, World Civil Defense Day
- 3 March - World Wildlife Day
- 4 March - National Safety Day
- 1-7 March - Jan Aushadhi Week
- 7 March - Jan Aushadhi Day
- 8 March - World Women's Day
- 15 March - World Consumer Rights Day
- 18 March - Global Recycling Day
- 20 March - International Day of Happiness
- 21 March - International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, International Forest Day
- 22 March - World Water Day
- 24 March - World Tuberculosis Eradication Day
- 27 March - International Theater Day
- 30 March - Earth Hour, Rajasthan Day

April

- 3 April - Hindi Theater Day
- 4 April - International Charity Awareness Day
- 5 April - National Shipping Day
- 7 April - World Health Day
- 11 April - National Safe Motherhood Day
- 14 April - Fire Service Day
- 17 April - World Haemophilia Day
- 18 April - World Heritage Day
- 22 April - World Earth Day
- 23 April - World Book Day
- 24 April - National Panchayat Raj Day
- 25 April - World Malaria Day
- 26 April - World Intellectual Property Day
- 28 April - World Veterinary Day
- 29 April - International Dance Day

May

- 1 May - International Labor Day
- 4 May - International Firefighters Day
- 5 May - World Laughter Day
- 7 May - World Asthma Day (1st Tuesday of May)
- 8 May - International Thalassaemia Day, World Red Cross Day
- 11 May - National Technology Day, World Migratory Bird Day
- 12 May - International Nurses Day, Mother's Day
- 15 May - International Family Day
- 17 May - World Telecommunications and Information Society Day
- 18 May - International Museum Day
- 21 May - Anti-Terrorism Day
- 22 May - International Day for Biodiversity
- 28 May - World Hunger Day
- 29 May - United Nations Peacekeepers international day for
- 30 May - Hindi Journalism Day
- 31 May - World No Tobacco Day

June

- 2 June - World Milk Day
- 3-7 June - Financial Literacy Week
- 5 June - World Environment Day
- 7 June - World Food Safety Day
- 12 June - World Day for the Prohibition of Child Labor
- 14 June - World Blood Donation Day
- 16 June - Father's Day
- 19 June - International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence
- 20 June - World Refugee Day
- 21 June - International Yoga Day, World Music Day
- 29 June - National Statistics Day

July

- 1 July - National Medical Day, National Chartered Accountant Day
- 02 July - World UFO Day
- 04 July - Independence Day of the United States of America

- 04 July - International Cooperative Day
- 10 July - National Fish Farmers Day
- 11 July - World Population Day
- 15 July - World Youth Skills Day
- 17 July - World International Day of Justice
- 20 July - International Chess Day
- 22 July - World Brain Day
- 26 July - Kargil Vijay Diwas

August

- 1-7 August World Breastfeeding Week
- 3 August - Sanskrit Day
- 7th August National Handloom Day
- 9 August - World Tribal Welfare Day
- 10 August World Biofuel Day
- 12 August World Youth Day
- 13 August World Organ Donation Day
- 19 August World Photography Day
- 20 August Indian Renewable Energy Day
- 26 August World Sanskrit Day
- 9 August - National Sports Day

Samyak
An Institute For Civil Services

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International Events

India in the GAVI Board

The Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Harsh Vardhan has recently been named as a member of the GAVI Board by the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization. Earlier in May 2020, the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare was also elected as the Chairman of the Executive Board of the World Health Organization. Dr. Harsh Vardhan will represent the constituency of South East Zone Regional Office/Western Pacific Regional Office in the GAVI Board.. At present this membership is with Myanmar and will remain with India from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2023.

Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization:-

GAVI is an international organization which was established in the year 2000. It is a global vaccine alliance. It brings together the public and private sectors with a common goal of ensuring equitable access to new and untested vaccines for children living in the world's poorest countries.

'Global Pravasi Rishta' Portal and App

The Ministry of External Affairs has launched the 'Global Pravasi Rishta' portal and app to connect with around 3.12 crore Indian expatriates across the world. The purpose of this portal and app is to establish three-way communication between the Ministry of External Affairs, Indian Missions abroad and overseas Indians. The mobile app will be used by Overseas Indians and Indian citizens, while the portal web interface will be used by Missions abroad.

AIIMS in Rajkot

Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Rajkot, Gujarat on December 31, 2020. About 201 acres of land has been allotted in the state for this project. This AIIMS in Rajkot will be built at a cost of about Rs 1,195 crore. It is estimated to be completed by the middle of the year 2022. At present there are a total of 15 AIIMS hospitals across India. In this way, Rajkot AIIMS will be the 16th public medical institute in India after its construction.

The India Innovation Index-2020

The 'India Innovation Index Report, 2020' was released by NITI Aayog on January 20, 2021. In the index, Karnataka has retained the top position in the category of major states. The index has been developed on the lines of Global Innovation Index to improve the innovation ecosystem of Indian states and union territories and to formulate policies related to innovation in these areas.

The states and union territories have been divided into 17 major states, 10 northeastern and hill states and 9 urban states and union territories for comparison.

Major States:-

Rank	State	Score
1	Karnataka	42.50
2	Maharashtra	38.03
3	Tamil Nadu	37.91
4	Telangana	33.23
5	Kerala	30.58
6	Haryana	25.81
7	Andhra Pradesh	24.19
8	Gujarat	23.63
9	Uttar Pradesh	22.85
10	Punjab	22.54
11	West Bengal	21.69
12	Rajasthan	20.83
13	Madhya Pradesh	20.82
14	Odisha	18.94
15	Jharkhand	17.12
16	Chhattisgarh	15.77
17	Bihar	14.48

North-Eastern and Hill States:-

Rank	State	Score
1	Himachal Pradesh	25.06
2	Uttarakhand	23.50
3	Manipur	22.78
4	Sikkim	20.28
5	Mizoram	16.93
6	Assam	16.38
7	Arunachal Pradesh	14.90
8	Nagaland	14.11
9	Tripura	12.84
10	Meghalaya	12.15

Union Territories and Urban States:-

Rank	State	Score
1	Delhi	46.60
2	Chandigarh	38.57
3	Daman and Diu	26.76
4	Puducherry	25.23
5	Goa	24.92
6	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	22.74
7	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	18.89
8	Jammu and Kashmir	18.62
9	Lakshadweep	11.71

The Jal Jeevan Mission (Urban)

Jal Jeevan Mission (Urban) scheme has announced Under the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs as per the Sustainable Development Goal-6 (SDG-6) in the Union Budget for the financial year 2021-22 to provide universal coverage of water supply to households through functional taps in all cities, This is a complement to the Jal Jeevan Mission (Rural) which envisages a supply of 55 liters of water per person per day to all rural households by the year 2024 through Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC).

The Go Electric Campaign

The Union Government has launched the 'Go Electric Campaign' to spread awareness about the benefits of electric cooking with e-mobility and EV charging infrastructure in India. Its objective is to take the country towards 100% e-mobility and clean and safe e-cooking, raise awareness at the national level and reduce the country's import dependence (in terms of its own oil) and move forward on the path of low carbon economy. So that the country and the planet can be saved from the adverse effects of climate change.

The Intensive Mission Rainbow 3.0

Intensive Mission Rainbow scheme 3.0 has been introduced on 19 February, 2021 to cover children and pregnant women who have missed out on routine immunization during the COVID-19 pandemic. This

vaccination programme will be completed in two phases this year, which will be conducted in 250 pre-identified districts/urban areas of 29 States/UTs. For vaccination, 313 districts have been classified as low risk, 152 as medium risk and 250 as high risk districts.

The National Hydrogen Energy Mission

The National Hydrogen Energy Mission (NHM) has been announced under the Union Budget 2021-22, which will prepare the roadmap for using hydrogen as an alternative energy source. This initiative has the potential to transform the transport sector. Under the NHM initiative, one of the most abundant elements on earth (hydrogen) will be leveraged for a clean alternative fuel option.

The President's Rule in Puducherry

President's rule has been imposed in the Union Territory of Puducherry in February 2021 on the recommendation of the Lieutenant Governor after the V. Narayanaswamy led Congress government failed to get enough majority during the trust vote. The provisions of Articles 239 to Article 242 under Part VIII of the Constitution of India are related to the administration of Union Territories.

The National Urban Digital Mission

The National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM) has been jointly launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY). Develop a shared digital infrastructure for urban India working on three pillars namely 'People, Process and Platform' to provide holistic support to the isolated cities and towns. This mission will work towards realizing a citizen-centric and ecosystem-driven approach to urban governance and service delivery in 2022 cities by year 2022 and in all cities by the year 2024.

The Greater Tripaland

The demand for the formation of 'Greater Tripaland' in the Tripura state of Northeast India has intensified. Greater Tripaland is, in fact, an extension of the demand for 'Tripaland' by the Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT), which aims to create a separate state for the tribals of Tripura. In contrast to

'Tiplaland', the proposed model of 'Greater Tiplaland' also includes every tribal living in an indigenous area or village outside the 'Tripura Tribal Area Autonomous District Council'.

The Hoshangabad name change

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has announced to change the name of 'Hoshangabad' city in the state to 'Narmadapuram'. This wonderful and beautiful city of Madhya Pradesh, Hoshangabad, is situated on the central Narmada valley and the northern edge of the Satpura plateau. The city was initially known as 'Narmadapuram', however the city was later renamed 'Hoshangabad' after Hoshang Shah, the first ruler of 'Malwa'.

The Stars Project

An agreement has been signed between the Department of Economic Affairs and the World Bank to provide financial assistance for the implementation of the STARS project of the Ministry of Education. It is noteworthy that the former Union Council of Ministers had approved the proposal of the Stars project on 14 October, 2020. The total cost of the STARS project is Rs 5718 crore. Financial assistance of 500 million \$ (about Rs 3700 crore) will be provided for this project by the World Bank over a period of five years. States participating in the remaining amount scheme as their share.

States involved in the project:- Six states – Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Odisha are involved in this project.

The Hindi Word of the Year - Atmanirbhar

Oxford Languages has chosen the word 'Atmanirbhar' as the 'Hindi Word of the Year' for the year 2020. 'Samvidhan' was chosen as 'Hindi Word of the Year' for the year 2019, as the word has been discussed a lot in the year 2019 due to the Supreme Court's decision on Sabarimala issue, Article 370 and Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute etc. Declared by Oxford Languages, 'Word of the Year' is a word or expression that has attracted a lot of public attention in a particular year. Word usage data is collected by Oxford Languages as part of its language research

programme to select the 'Word of the Year' for any given year, and then select words based on usage. Oxford Languages has chosen the word 'Atmanirbhar' for the year 2020, because the word has been used a lot during the year 2020. In the Union Budget for the year 2021, this word has been given a prominent place. It may be noted that in May 2020, the Prime Minister, while announcing the Covid-19 recovery package, emphasized the need for 'self-reliance'.

The Wetland Conservation and Management Center

India's first dedicated center named 'Centre for Wetlands Conservation and Management' (CWCM) has been set up in Chennai for the conservation of wetlands on 2 February, 2021, on the occasion of World Wetlands Day. This elite institute is part of the National Center for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM) under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. This dedicated center will address the specific research needs and related knowledge and information related problems of wetlands and help in adopting an integrated approach for conservation and management of wetlands.

Also know:- A wetland is an area that is partially or completely filled with water throughout the year. There are 46 such places in the country which have been designated as 'Wetlands of International Importance' or Ramsar sites.

The Switch Delhi Campaign

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has launched 'Switch Delhi' campaign to promote electric vehicles. During the 'Switch Delhi' campaign, awareness will be raised about the benefits of electric vehicles and also the focus will be on how Delhi can be made clean and pollution free through electric vehicles.

The India's first geothermal power project

India's first geothermal power project will be started at Puga village in eastern Ladakh. Scientists have identified Puga as a hotspot of geothermal energy in the country. In the first phase of this project, drilling of up to 500 meters will be done by the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) to run a power plant with a capacity of one MW. The second phase of the project, located close to the Chinese

border and 170 km to the east of Leh, will carry out deeper digging to explore the potential of the geothermal reservoir. At the same time, a commercial power plant will also be set up in the third phase of this project. According to estimates, about 250 MW of electricity can be generated from this area. In the initial stages, with the help of this plant, it is planned to provide electricity to nearby Tibetan refugee settlements.

The 'Ease of Living' Index

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs released the final ranking of 'Ease of Living' Index-2020' in March 2021. The 'Ease of Living' index is an assessment tool that assesses the quality of life and impacts of various urban development initiatives. It provides a comprehensive understanding of the cities included in this index based on their standard of living, economic potential, sustainability and resilience. It aims to encourage cities to systematically assess themselves according to global and national benchmarks and shift them to an outcome-based approach to urban planning and management.

Million Plus Category:-

Top Performer:-

1- Bangalore, 2- Pune, 3- Ahmedabad

Worst Performer:-

1- Amritsar, 2- Guwahati,
3- Bareilly, 4- Dhanbad, 6- Srinagar

Below Million Population Category:-

Top Performer :-

1- Shimla, 2- Bhubaneswar, 3- Silvassa

Worst Performer :-

1- Aligarh, 2- Rampur, 3- Namchi,
4- Satna, 5- Muzaffarpur

The Municipal Work Performance Index-2020

It has been released jointly with the 'Ease of Living' Index, 2020. It examines the local government functions of municipalities in various areas of services, finance, policy, technology and governance. It also seeks to promote ethos in simplifying, assessing, transparency and accountability of complexities in local governance systems.

Million Plus Category :-

1- Indore, 2- Surat, 3- Bhopal

Population below million Category :-

1- NDMC, 2- Tirupati, 3- Gandhinagar

The India's Largest Floating Solar Power Plant

India's largest (in terms of generation capacity) floating solar power plant is being developed by National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) at Ramagundam in Peddapalli district of Telangana. This project is aimed at achieving the target of 175 GW of renewable energy capacity by the year 2022.

This is in line with India's commitment to include 100 GW of solar power generation capacity.

The 'Sugamya Bharat' App

Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Thaawarchand Gehlot launched the 'Sugamya Bharat' app through video conferencing. The app is available in 10 regional languages - Hindi, English, Marathi, Tamil, Odia, Kannada, Telugu, Gujarati, Punjabi and Malayalam.

Objective:- The objective of Accessible India App is to make people more sensitive towards the differently abled and to increase the facilities for them.

The 'Ease of Living' Index

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs released the final ranking of 'Ease of Living' Index-2020' on 4 March, 2021. 111 cities participated in this evaluation process.

Million Plus Category:-

Top Performers:-

Rank	City
1	Bangalore
2	Pune
3	Ahmedabad
4	Chennai
5	Surat

(Rajasthan's Jodhpur ranked 21st, Jaipur 23rd and Kota's 44th position)

Worst performer :- Amritsar, Guwahati, Bareilly, Dhanbad and Srinagar.

Below Million Population Category:-

Top Performers:-

Rank	City
1	Shimla
2	Bhubaneswar
3	Silvassa
4	Kakinada
5	Salem

(Rajasthan's Ajmer ranked 12th and Udaipur 48th)

Worst Performer:- Aligarh, Rampur, Namchi, Satna and Muzaffarpur.

Also Know: The 'Ease of Living' Index is an assessment tool that assesses the quality of life and impacts of various urban development initiatives. It provides a comprehensive understanding of the cities included in this index based on their standard of living, economic potential, sustainability and resilience. It aims to encourage cities to systematically assess themselves according to global and national benchmarks and shift them to an outcome-based approach to urban planning and management.

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Million Plus Category:-

Rank	Municipality
1	Indore
2	Surat
3	Bhopal
4	Pimpri Chinchwad
5	Pune

(Rajasthan's Jaipur ranked 19th, Jodhpur 46th and Kota's 50th rank)

Below Million Population Category:-

Rank	Municipality
1	New Delhi Municipal Council
2	Tirupati
3	Gandhinagar
4	Karnal
5	Salem

(Rajasthan's Udaipur ranked 8th and Ajmer 41st)

The QS World University Rankings

The ranking titled 'World Based QS World University Rankings-2021' was released by QS World University on 4 March, 2021. A total of 51 subjects were included in this ranking. 12 Indian institutions ranked in the top 100 in the rankings.

Indian institutions ranked in the ranking:-

Indian Institute	Rank	Subject
IIT Madras	30	Petroleum Engineering
IIT Bombay	41	Petroleum Engineering
IIT Kharagpur	44	Petroleum Engineering
IIT Guwahati	51-100	Petroleum Engineering
Anna University	51-100	Petroleum Engineering
IIT Bombay	49	Engineering & Tech.
IIT Delhi	54	Engineering and Tech.
IIT Madras	94	Engineering and Tech.
IIT Bangalore	92	Natural Science
IIT Bombay	41	Mineral and Mining Engineering
IIT Kharagpur	44	Mineral and Mining Engineering
IIT Bangalore	76	Business and Management
IIT Ahmedabad	80	Business and Management
JNU	51-100	Anthropologie
Delhi University	50	Development Studies
O.P.Jindal University	76	Law

The Five States/Union Territories Elections

Assam:-

Total Seats: 126

Voting - 27 March, 1 April and 6 April, 2021

Counting of votes – 2 May, 2021

Result - BJP got 60, Congress 29, AIUDF 16, Asom Gana Parishad 9, UPP Liberal 6, Bodoland People's Front 4, CPI (M) got 1 seat and others got 1 seat. BJP's Hemant Biswa Sarma became the Chief Minister. Governor Jagdish Mukhi administered the oath of office and secrecy.

Kerala :-

Total Seats: 140

Voting – 6 April, 2021

Counting of votes – 2 May, 2021

Result - Left Democratic Front got 99 (CPI-M 62) and United Democratic Front got 41 seats. Communist Party of India-MK Pinarayi Vijayan became the Chief Minister. Governor Arif Mohammad administered the oath of office and secrecy to him.

Tamil Nadu:-

Total Seats:- 234

Voting – 6 April, 2021

Counting of votes – 2 May, 2021

Result - DMK 133, AIADMK 66, Congress 18, Pattali Makkal Kachi 5, BJP 4, VCK 4, CPI 2 and CPI(M) won 2 seats. Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin became the Chief Minister. Governor Banwarilal Purohit administered him the oath of office and secrecy.

West Bengal :-

Total seats: 294, voting took place - for 292 seats

Polling – 27 March, 1, 6 & 10 April, 2021

Counting of votes – 2 May, 2021

Result - Trinamool Congress won 213 seats, BJP 77, Rashtriya Secular Majlis Party won 1 seat and Independents won 1 seat. All India Trinamool Congress leader Mamata Banerjee became the Chief Minister for the third time. Governor Jagdeep

Dhankar administered the oath of office and secrecy to him.

Puducherry :-

Total Seats:- 30

Voting – 6 April, 2021

Counting of votes -2 May, 2021

Result- AINRC 10, BJP 6, DMK

6, Congress won 20 and Independents won 6 seats. N. Rangaswamy became the Chief Minister. He was administered the oath of office and secrecy by Lieutenant Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan.

Gram UJALA Program

The Gram UJALA Programme has been started by the Central Government on 19 March, 2021. Under this, instead of working old bulbs, LED bulbs will be distributed in rural areas for just Rs 10. The first phase of this program has been started from Ara district of Bihar with 15 million LED bulbs will be distributed in villages of 5 districts- Ara (Bihar), Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh), Nagpur (Maharashtra), and western Gujarat.

Stop TB Partnership Board

Union Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan has been appointed as the Chairman of the Stop TB Partnership Board. The 'Stop TB Partnership' is an exclusive international organization that campaigns for the fight against tuberculosis, in collaboration with various stakeholders around the world. Dr. Harsh Vardhan will assume office on July 2021 and his tenure will be for 3 years.

Also know:- 'Stop TB Partnership' aims to root out Tuberculosis which has become a public health problem. Currently 1500 partner organizations are associated with this organization, which include international, non-governmental, government groups. The secretariat of the organization is located in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Right Direction Campaign

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has launched the 'Right Direction' campaign to address issues related to women's livelihood and

entrepreneurship in rural India. The campaign highlights the issues and barriers that affect and hinder women's access to employment and livelihood opportunities in rural India. Under this, emphasis will be laid on setting up such enterprises, which can help women to become more self-reliant. There is a five-year collaboration between the UNDP and IKEA Foundation and in five states/UTs of the country namely Delhi, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Telangana, about ten lakh women will enable to gain access to employment and livelihood opportunities through skilling and counseling services.

Also know:- UNDP is a network of global development of the United Nations. Its headquarter is in New York. It is working in about 70 countries to eradicate poverty, reduce inequality.

Indian Coast Guard Ship 'Vajra'

Indian Coast Guard Ship 'Vajra' was formally commissioned in March 2021 at Chennai. This Coast Guard ship is the sixth in a series of seven Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPV) built by Larsen & Toubro Limited. This 98 meter Coast Guard ship has been equipped with state-of-the-art navigation and communication equipment, sensors and machinery etc. The ship is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities and is designed to carry a twin-engine helicopter and four high-speed boats. The ship can also be used for search and rescue, law enforcement and maritime patrol. The ship is also capable of carrying pollution response equipment in the event of an oil spill at sea. The 'Vajra' Coast Guard ship will be mainly deployed for surveillance of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in the Indian Coastal Region. The Exclusive Economic Zone extends up to 200 nautical miles from the baseline of a country. In this, coastal countries get the sovereign right to explore, exploit, conserve and manage all natural resources.

The Great Indian Bustard

The Great Indian Bustard is one of the heaviest flying birds in the world, found mainly in the Indian subcontinent. At present, their number is said to be around 150 in the world. The Great Indian Bustard is listed as 'critically endangered' in Schedule-1 of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and in the Red List of

the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Why in discussion: - The Supreme Court recently suggested to consider undergrounding low voltage transmission lines in Rajasthan and Gujarat and installing bird diverters in high voltage transmission lines for the protection of 'Great Indian Bustard'.

The Amrit Festival of Independence

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the nationwide campaign 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' from Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad on 12 March, 2021, to commemorate 75 years of India's independence.

Muktijoddha Scholarship

The Government of India has announced scholarships to 2000 descendants of fighters who took part in Bangladesh's liberation struggle under its new Muktijoddha Scholarship Scheme. According to the notification issued in this regard, 1000 students each in Higher Secondary and Under Graduate categories will be given scholarship amount directly in their bank account. The objective of the scheme is to benefit 10,000 students from Bangladesh over a period of next five years.

The AahaarKranti Movement

In order to spread awareness about nutrition, the Central Government has started 'Aahaar Kranti' in April, 2021. This mission has been designed to solve the serious problem of land and diseases in abundance in India and the world. It provides nutrition and access to nutritious food, fruits and vegetables locally available in India. The motto of the mission is- 'Uttam Aahaar-Uttam Vichar' or Good Diet-Good Cognition'.

The Agreement between ISRO and France

Space agencies of India and France have signed cooperation agreement for India's first manned space mission 'Gaganyaan'. According to the agreement, the French space agency 'National Center of Space Research' (CNES) will train the doctors and mission control team involved in the mission. Also, the agreement includes the exchange of information about food packaging and nutrition programmes and

the use of consumables and medical equipment by Indian astronauts. In this way, the French equipment developed by the CNES, which is being used in the International Space Station, will also be available to the Indian astronauts. The first space agreement between France and India was signed in the year 1964. The existing agreement between the two nations covers almost all areas of space activity.

Indian Space Research Institute:- Indian Space Research Institute (ISRO) was established in the year 1969. It is the space agency of the Government of India and its headquarter is located in Bangalore. It was established for space research by the efforts of the country's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and his close associate and scientist Vikram Sarabhai. It is managed by the 'Department of Space' of the Government of India, which reports directly to the Prime Minister of India. ISRO operates through its countrywide network of various centres.

SVAMITV Yojana

This is a centrally sponsored scheme, which was launched on 24 April, 2020, on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day. The objective of this scheme is to provide an integrated property verification solution for rural India. It provides property rights to residents living in rural areas. Under this scheme, about 6.62 lakh villages across the country will be covered during the year 2021-2025. Survey of India is the technology implementing agency for this scheme.

Why in the discussion:- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has released the framework in May 2021 to implement the SVAMITV scheme nationwide. The full form of SVAMITV – Survey of Villages and Mapping With Amprovised Technology in Village Areas.

The Cyclone Tauktae

Cyclone 'Tauktae', which occurred in May 2021, caused heavy destruction in the coastal areas of Kerala, Karnataka, Goa and Maharashtra. Due to this more than 100 people died. Due to this the situation of landfall has been seen in Gujarat. Tauktae is a tropical cyclone named by Myanmar.

The Cyclone Yaas

In May 2021, the second storm 'Yas' disrupted life in Odisha, West Bengal and Jharkhand. The storm was named Yas by Oman.

The Article 311

Article 311 of the Constitution of India includes provisions relating to the dismissal, removal or reduction of rank of Government servants working under the Union or State. However, this can be done only after proper investigation. Although Article 311 provides an explicit right of hearing to those employees against whom this article has been invoked.

Why in discussion:- For the first time in May, 2021, a government employee has been fired by the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir using Article 311. In this case, Section 2 (b) of Article 311 has been invoked by the Lieutenant Governor, which does away with the requirement of the condition of inquiry and hearing. If the President or the Governor is satisfied that in the interest of the security of the nation, it is not expedient to conduct such an inquiry, the Government servant is dismissed without trial.

The SDG India Index and Dashboard

NITI Aayog released the 'SDG India Index and Dashboard' on 3 June, 2021.

Top 10 Ranked States:-

Rank	State
1	Kerala
2	HP
3	Tamil Nadu
4	Andhra Pradesh
5	Goa
6	Karnataka
7	Uttarakhand
8	Sikkim
9	Maharashtra
10	Gujarat

10 states receiving the lowest rank:- Chhattisgarh, Nagaland, Odisha, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Jharkhand and Bihar.

Top Ranked UT:-

Rank	State
1	Chandigarh
2	Delhi
3	Puducherry
4	Lakshadweep

Union Territories receiving the following positions:-
Andaman and Nicobar, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh,
Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

The Indian Smart City Awards-2020

The 'Indian Smart City Awards' for the year 2020 were announced by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on 25 June, 2021. Uttar Pradesh has been ranked as the top performing state in these awards, while Madhya Pradesh came second and Tamil Nadu third. Surat and Indore have won the Best City Award for their overall performance.

Award winner

Social Aspects:-

- 1- Health Benchmark for Tirupati-Municipal Schools
- 2- Bhubaneswar - Socially Smart Bhubaneswar
- 3- Tumakuru - Digital Library Solutions

Governance :-

- 1- Vadodara - GIS
- 2- Thane - Digi Thane
- 3- Bhubaneswar - ME App

Culture:-

- 1- Indore - Conservation of Heritage
- 2- Chandigarh - Capital Complex, Heritage Project
- 3- Gwalior -Digital Museum

Urban environment:-

- 1- Bhopal - Clean Energy
- 2- Chennai - Rejuvenation of water sources
- 3-Tirupati - Renewable Energy Generation

Cleanliness:-

- 1- Tirupati - Bioremediation and Bio-mining
- 2- Indore - Urban Waste Management System
- 3- Surat- Conservation through cleaned waste water

Economy:-

- 1- **Indore** - Carbon Credit Financing Mechanism
- 2- **Tirupati** - Promoting local identity and economy through design studios
- 3- **Agra** - Center for Micro Skill Development

Environment Creation:-

- 1- **Indore** - Chappan Shop
- 2- **Surat** - Canal Corridor
- 3- **Erode** - Micro Fertilizer Center

Water:-

- 1- **Dehradun** - Smart Water Metering Water ATM
- 2- Varanasi- Restoring the ecology of Assi river
- 3- **Surat** - Integrated and sustainable water supply system

ICCC's Sustainable Business Model:-

- 1- Agartala ICCC

Urban Transport :-

- 1- Aurangabad - Majhi Smart Bus
- 2- Surat - Dynamic Scheduling Bus
- 3- Ahmedabad - Unmanned Parking System and Automatic Ticket Dispensing Machine at AMDA Park, Innovation Award

The Goa, India's first rabies free state

The Chief Minister of Goa has declared the state as the first rabies free state in the country. Goa has not reported a single case of rabies in the last three years. Rabies is caused by the ribonucleic acid virus, which is present in the saliva of a rabid animal such as a dog, cat, monkey, etc. India accounts for more than one-third of all rabies deaths in the world.

The PM Care for Children

The Central Government has announced the scheme 'PM-Cares for Children' for the children orphaned due to Covid-19. The children eligible for this scheme will be those who have given birth to their parents or legal guardian or adoptive parents due to COVID-19. A fund of Rs 10 lakh will be allocated to each such child from the PM Care Fund. This fund

will be used for monthly financial assistance/scholarship to meet the individual needs of the child during the period of higher education for the next five years after the age of 18 years and on attaining the age of 23 years, for personal and professional purposes. He will get the fund amount as a lump sum for utilization.

SCO: Cooperation in the field of mass media

The Union Government has approved the signing and ratification of an Agreement for 'Cooperation in the Field of Mass Media' among all the member countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). The agreement was signed in June 2019. This agreement will provide an opportunity to the member countries to share best practices and innovative innovations in the field of mass media.

Shanghai Cooperation Organization:- It is a permanent inter-governmental international organization. It is a Eurasian political, economic and security organization whose purpose is to maintain peace, security and stability in the region concerned. It was formed in the year 2001. The SCO Charter was signed in the year 2002 and came into force in the year 2003. Its secretariat is located in Beijing, the capital of China. The official languages of this organization are Russian and Chinese. At present, 8 countries of the world (Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan) are members of the SCO. Its secretariat is located in Beijing, the capital of China.

SAGE Initiative

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has launched the 'Senior Care Aging Growth Engine' (SAGE) initiative and portal in June, 2021 to provide support to senior citizens. Also, an amount of Rs 100 crore has been allocated to boost the silver economy.

Silver Economy: The silver economy is a system of production, distribution and consumption of goods and services, aimed at utilizing the purchasing power of the elderly and seniors and fulfill their consumption, life and health needs.

Deep Ocean Mission

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the proposal of 'Ministry of Earth Sciences'

on 'Deep Ocean Mission' in June, 2021. The blueprint for the 'Deep Ocean Mission' was inaugurated in the year 2018 to explore the depths of the ocean. Earlier, the 'Ministry of Earth Sciences' had also presented a draft of the Blue Economy Policy. The estimated cost of this mission with a duration of five years is Rs 4,077 crore and will be implemented in a phased manner. The Ministry of Earth Sciences will be the nodal ministry to implement this multi-institutional ambitious mission.

Blue Economy: Blue economy refers to the sustainable use of marine resources for economic growth, better livelihoods, job creation and better health of the ocean ecosystem. The technology and expertise needed for such missions are currently available with only five countries – the US, Russia, France, Japan and China. India will be the sixth country to have such technology.

Movable Fresh Water Aquarium

Indian Railways has set up the country's first Movable Freshwater Tunnel Aquarium at Bangalore Railway Station. This aquarium is a one of its kind aquatic park based on the concept of Amazon River of South America. It also aims to improve the revenue earning for the Indian Railways.

'Nipun Bharat' initiative

In July 2021, the Union Education Minister virtually inaugurated 'Nipun Bharat', a national initiative to develop understanding of numerical skills and reading proficiency. The primary objective of this initiative is to develop the proficiency of reading, writing and numerical skills in children. This initiative has been launched under the aegis of Centrally Sponsored Scheme- 'Samagra Shiksha'. The basic objective of the 'Nipun Bharat' initiative is to address the learning needs of children in the age group of 3 to 9 years. Through this initiative the teachers will focus on each child to develop basic language, literacy and numeracy skills and help them develop into better readers and writers. Thus the 'Nipun Bharat' initiative is envisaged to make the learning experience holistically integrated, inclusive, enjoyable and engaging at the grassroots level.

The 'Stand Up India'

The 'Stand Up India' scheme was launched in April 2016 to promote entrepreneurship at the grassroots level with a focus on economic empowerment and job creation.

Objectives of the scheme:- To promote entrepreneurship among women and people belonging to SC and ST communities, so as to help both trained and under training borrowers to start greenfield enterprises in trade, manufacturing and service sectors. Objective of the scheme Bank loan between Rs.10 lakh to Rs.1 crore is to be provided to at least one SC or ST borrower and at least one woman borrower per bank branch of scheduled commercial banks for setting up greenfield enterprises. This enterprise may be related to manufacturing, service or trading sector. More than 93,094 women entrepreneurs have benefited from this scheme.

Why in discussion: - The Finance Ministry has extended the Standup India scheme in July, 2021 till the year 2025.

Country's first 'Green Hydrogen' plant at The Mathura

In order to meet the growing demand for clean forms of oil and energy, Indian Oil Corporation will set up the country's first Green Hydrogen Plant at Mathura Refinery. IOC has drawn up a strategy that aims to expansion of petrochemicals, hydrogen and electric mobility over the next 10 years while focusing on its core refining and fuel marketing businesses.

Bhubaneswar the first city of 100% immunization

Odisha's capital Bhubaneswar has become the first city in India to have 100% vaccination against COVID-19. Apart from this, about one lakh migrant workers have also been given the first dose of COVID vaccine.

The Umling-La Pass: The World's Highest Motorable Road

The Border Roads Organization (BRO) has completed black topping and construction work on the world's highest motorable road in the Umling La Pass area of eastern Ladakh at an altitude of 19,300

feet. The strategic road built under 'Project Himank' passes through Umling La Top and connects Chisumle and Demchok villages. This will enhance the socio-economic status and boost tourism in Ladakh.

Project 'Himank':- Project 'Himank' is a project of BRO being implemented in the Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir. This project started in the year 1985. Under this project, the entity is responsible for the construction and maintenance of the world's highest motorable roads and related infrastructure.

Some major passes:-

- 1- **Banihal Pass:-** Connects the Kashmir Valley with the outer Himalayas and the plains in the south.
- 2- **Bara-Lacha-La Pass:-** Connects Lahaul of Himachal Pradesh with Leh district.
- 3- **Fotu-La Pass:-** Connects Leh with Kargil.
4. **Rohtang Pass:-** Connects Kullu Valley with Lahaul and Spiti Valley of Himachal Pradesh.
- 5- **Shipki La Pass:-** Connects Himachal Pradesh with the Autonomous Region of Tibet.
- 6- **Jelep La Pass:-** Connects Sikkim with the Autonomous Region of Tibet.
- 7- **Nathu La Pass:-** Connects Sikkim to the autonomous region of Tibet.
- 8- **Lipule Pass:-** Connects the Chaudan Valley of India with the Autonomous Region of Tibet. It is located at the tri-junction of Uttarakhand, China and Nepal.
- 9- **Khardung La:-** Connects Ladakh with Siachen Glacier. It is the highest motorable pass in the world.
- 10- **Bom-de-la Pass:-** It is in Arunachal Pradesh.

Partition Horror Memorial Day

The Government of India has announced to celebrate 14 August every year as 'Vibhajan Vibhishika Memorial Day'. The purpose of this event is to remember the pain and suffering faced by the common people during the partition.

Largest Floating Solar Project in The Simhadri

State-run power producer NTPC Limited has started commercial operations in India's largest 'Floating Solar PV Project' at its 'Simhadri Thermal Station' in Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh in August 2021. With the starting of the 15 MW floating solar project, total installed capacity has now 25 MW. With this, NTPC's total installed capacity now stands at 53,475 MW, while its commercial capacity has now reached 52,425 MW. This floating solar project has the potential to generate electricity through more than 1 lakh solar PV modules.

The 'Sujalam' campaign

The Ministry of Jal Shakti has started the 'Sujalam' campaign in August, 2021 under the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', through which waste water management related activities such as construction of ten lakh ponds and Efforts will be made to greywater management activities at the village level and to convert more and more villages into ODF plus villages through this scheme. This campaign will be operated for the next 100 days. Through this, not only desired infrastructure will constructed for greywater management but it will also help in sustainable management of water. Through this campaign activities of 'Swachha Bharat Mission-Rural' will get intensified and this will give a further boost to the awareness about ODF-Plus activities. The major activities to be organized in the villages under this campaign are community counseling and gram sabha, developing a 100-day action plan, constructing necessary pits, constructing toilets and providing toilet facilities to all the households in the village. etc." are included.

The 'Union' or 'Central' Government

The Government of Tamil Nadu has decided to stop the use of the word 'Central Government' in its official correspondence or communication and to use the word '**Union Government**' in its place.

in the Constitution:- Article 1(1) of the Constitution of India states, 'India, which is India, shall be a union of states'. The objectives were introduced that India would be a federation of territories wishing to join an 'independent sovereign republic'.

The Nipun Bharat Mission

The Ministry of Education has launched the 'National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numerical - Nipun'. It aims to meet the learning requirements of children in the age group of 3 to 9 years.

Part of NEP 2020:- This initiative is being launched as a part of NEP (National Education Policy) 2020. The policy aims to pave the way for transformational reforms in the school and higher education systems in the country. This policy replaced the 34 year old National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986.

Objective:- To create an enabling environment to ensure universal acquisition of basic literacy and numeracy so that every child in Grade 3 attains the desired learning ability in reading, writing and arithmetic by the year 2026-27.

The Cooperation Ministry

To realize the vision of 'Sahakar Se Samridhi' (Prosperity through Cooperation) and to give a new direction to the cooperative movement, the 'Ministry of Cooperation' has been created by the Central Government. This was announced by the Finance Minister in the budget for the year 2021. It will provide a separate administrative, legal and policy framework to strengthen the cooperative movement in the country.

The Assam-Mizoram border dispute

The states of Assam and Mizoram are currently battling with the border dispute. In the year 1972, Mizoram became a union territory and then in 1987 it got full statehood. Since then, the border dispute between Assam and Mizoram started again. During the colonial period, Mizoram was known as the Lushai Hills district of Assam.

Background of the dispute:- The Assam-Mizoram dispute arose due to two notifications passed during the British period. Under the notification issued in the year 1875, the 'Lushai Hills' area was separated from the plains of Kachhar. Under the second notification issued in the year 1933, a boundary was demarcated between 'Lushai Hills' and Manipur. Mizoram believes that the demarcation should have been done on the basis of the notification of the year 1875. On

the other hand, the Assam government considers the demarcation of the year 1933 as the basis. This is the main cause of controversy.

Pegasus

Pegasus is a type of malicious software or malware that is classified as spyware. It is designed to gain access to devices without users' knowledge and collects personal information and uses software to relay it back. It was developed by the Israeli firm NSO Group in the year 2010.

Why in discussion: - In July 2021, controversy emerged in India that spyware software Pegasus has been widely used to covertly monitor and spy on public figures.

Kapu Community

The Kapus are predominantly an agricultural community of the Andhra-Telangana region. They are believed to have migrated from the Ganga plains possibly from Kampilya (near Ayodhya) thousands of years ago. They entered present day Telangana and cleared the forests on the banks of Godavari and settled there and started farming. The first widespread opposition to the inclusion of the Kapu community in the Backward Castes took place in the year 1993.

Why in discussion:- The Andhra Pradesh government has announced 10% reservation for Kapu community and other economically weaker sections (EWS) for appointments to internal posts and services in the state government. This reservation has been extended as per the Constitution (103rd Amendment) Act, 2019.

Constitution (103rd) Amendment Act: - By amending Article 15 and Article 16 of the Constitution of India, economic reservation (10% quota) was introduced for the economically weaker sections (EWS) in admission to educational institutions and jobs. Through this Article 15 (6) and Article 16 (6) were included in the Constitution.

The 'Smile' scheme

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has prepared a scheme named 'Smile – Support for Marginalized Individuals for for Livelihood and

Enterprise-SMILE in July, 2021. It also includes a sub-scheme for the Central Sector called 'Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of Baggers'. It is estimated that under this scheme around 60,000 poorest persons will be benefitted to lead a dignified life.

The Dholavira 40th Site of World heritage

UNESCO has declared the city of Dholavira in Gujarat as the 40th World Heritage Site of India in July 2021. It is the first site of the Indus Valley Civilization in India to be included in the prestigious list. Dholavira is one of the most unique and well preserved urban settlements in South Asia. It was discovered in the year 1968 by the archaeologist Jagatpati Joshi. Dholavira is situated on the Cancer Line.

India in Super-40 Club:- India has now entered the Super-40 Club for the World Heritage Site Shilling. Apart from India, Italy, Spain, Germany, China and France have 40 or more World Heritage Sites. There are a total of 40 World Heritage Sites in India, which include 32 cultural, 7 natural and one mixed site. Ramappa Temple (Telangana) was the 39th World Heritage Site of India.

The Operation Blue Freedom: Team CLAW

The Government of India has approved Team 'Claw' to lead a team of Persons with Disabilities to climb the Siachen Glacier in July, 2021 and set a new world record for the largest team of Persons with Disabilities. It is part of the 'Operation Blue Freedom Triple World Records' campaign. The Triple Elemental World Records is a series of world records set in the year 2021 for various achievements by groups of people with disabilities through collective effort on land, air and underwater.

Team CLAW:- Team Claw (Conquer Land Air Water) is a team of former Indian Special Forces commandos. Generally all of them are either Para Commandos of the Indian Army or Naval Marine Commandos, also known as Marquess.

Operation Blue Freedom:- Operation Blue Freedom is a social impact initiative aimed at rehabilitating persons with disabilities through adaptive adventure travel. It aims to break the common perception of

kindness, charity and disability associated with people with disabilities and revive their dignity, freedom and potential. In addition, his focus is to 'design and implement sustainable employment solutions on a large scale' for persons with disabilities, particularly in the area of 'Environmental Protection and Sustainability'. It was launched in the year 2019.

'PM Daksha' scheme

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment launched the 'PM-Daksh' (Prime Minister Skilled and Skilled Beneficiaries) portal and Mobile app 'PM-Daksh' launched in August 2021 to make skill development schemes accessible to the target groups- Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Cleaners.

Also know:- PM-Daksh scheme is being implemented from the year 2020-21. Under this, short term training programmes on skill development are provided to the eligible target groups.

The 'Ujjwala 2.0'

On 10 August, 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the second phase of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) or Ujjwala 2.0 scheme. It aims to provide maximum benefits to migrants who live in other states and find it difficult to submit their address proof. Now they only have to give 'self declaration' to avail the benefits. An additional 10 million LPG connections will be provided to the beneficiaries under Ujjwala 2.0. The government has also set a target to supply gas through pipe to 21 lakh households in 50 districts.

Four more wetlands of India added to Ramsar list

Four more wetlands of India have been recognized as Ramsar sites by the Ramsar Secretariat. These sites are:- Thol and Wadhvana in Gujarat and Sultanpur and Bhindawas in Haryana.

Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary:- Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary is the largest such wetland in Haryana which is man-made as well as freshwater wetland. More than 250 bird species use this sanctuary as their resting and breeding ground throughout the year. The site is home to over ten globally endangered species, including the

endangered Egyptian vulture, steppe eagle, fish eagle of Palash and black-bellied tern.

Sultanpur National Park:- Sultanpur National Park of Haryana is home to more than 220 species of birds. More than ten of these species are globally threatened.

Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary:- Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary in Gujarat is located on the Central Asian Flyway of birds and more than 320 bird species can be found here. This wetland is also home to more than 30 threatened waterfowl species.

Wadhvana Wetlands:- Wadhvana wetlands in Gujarat provide suitable habitat for migratory waterfowl in winter. There are more than 80 such species that migrate from place to place in the Central Asian flyway.

Now 46 Ramsar Sites:- The number of Ramsar sites in India has now increased to 46 and the surface area covered by these sites is now 1,083,322 hectares.

Also read: The purpose of the Ramsar List is to develop and protect an international network of wetlands that preserve and protect global biological diversity, as well as human life's own ecosystem components, processes and The benefits are also important to be saved through maintenance.

The National Gene Bank

Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated the world's second largest refurbished ultra-modern plant at the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), Pusa New Delhi on 16 August, 2021.

A gene bank is a type of biorepository that preserves genetic material. Gene is the basic physical and functional unit of heredity which is made up of deoxyribonucleic acid.

India ratified the 'Kigali Amendment'

The central government has approved the ratification of the 'Kigali Amendment' in the Montreal Protocol to reduce the climate-damaging by refrigerant Hydrofluorocarbons (HFC) in a phased manner. This decisions made by the world's largest producers and consumers of HFCs such as the United States and

China. 122 countries have ratified the Kigali Amendment by the end of July 2021.

Kigali Amendment to Montreal Protocol: The Montreal Protocol of 1989 aims to protect the Earth from ozone depleting substances such as Chlorofluorocarbons (HFC), which were previously used in the air conditioning and refrigerant industry. The Kigali Amendment enabled the Montreal Protocol to mandate HFCs. In October 2016, 197 countries led by the United States adopted an amendment to phase out HFC reductions under the Montreal Protocol in Kigali, Rwanda. The objective of this 'Kigali Amendment' is to reduce the production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons in a phased manner. Its goal is to reduce the consumption of HFC by more than 80 percent by the year 2047.

Also read:- Different countries have timetables for phasing out HFCs and replacing them with climate-friendly alternatives. India is to reduce its HFC usage by 80% by 2047, while China and the United States have to achieve the same target by 2045 and 2034 respectively.

The 'Fit India' mobile app

The Union Railway Minister launched the 'Fit India Mobile App' on the occasion of 'National Sports Day'. The Fit India App is available on both Android and iOS platforms for free in English and Hindi. The 'Fit India Mobile App' facilitates every Indian to check his/her fitness level through mobile. The app comes with unique features such as fitness scores, animated videos, activity trackers and more tailored to meet individual specific needs. Also the 'Activity Tracker' feature of the application helps in tracking daily activity. The real time step tracker helps individuals to track their daily activities and encourages them to set higher goals. This app helps individuals to monitor body's water level, calorie and sleep hours on a daily basis. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched the 'Fit India Movement' on the occasion of 'National Sports Day' on 29 August, 2019, with the aim of making fitness an integral part of every Indian's life.

Popular place

Ratle Hydroelectric Project

Ratle Hydroelectric Project is under construction on Chenab river in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir. It will have a capacity of 850 MW. The foundation of this project was laid in June 2013. Pakistan often alleges that the project violates the Indus Water Treaty, 1960.

Why in discussion:- The Union Cabinet has approved an investment of Rs 5281.94 crore for Ratle Hydroelectric Project on January 20, 2021.

The Deepor Bil

Deepor Bil is located to the south-west of Guwahati in the Kamrup district of Assam. It is a permanent freshwater lake located to the south of the main river, in the east channel of the Brahmaputra river. It was declared as Ramsar site in the year 2002.

Why in discussion:- The Assam government has banned community fishing in Deepor Bil and its adjoining areas from January 1 to January 31.

Narendra Modi Stadium

The world's largest cricket stadium 'Narendra Modi Stadium' was inaugurated in Ahmedabad on February 24, 2021. Australia's Melbourne Stadium was by far the largest. This stadium, spread over 63 acres, has been built at a cost of Rs 800 crore, which has an audience capacity of 1.32 lakhs. The first test match at this stadium was played between India and England on February 24, 2021.

Forest Medicine Center in Ranikhet

The country's first 'Forest Medical Center' was inaugurated on March 7, 2021 in Ranikhet, Uttarakhand. The aim of this center is to treat the stressed people as well as to inculcate the love of forests among the people.

Floating Solar Power Plant at The Ramagundam

India's largest (in terms of capacity generation) floating solar power plant is being developed by National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) at Ramagundam in Peddapalli district of Telangana. The project is in line with India's commitment to achieve the target of 175 GW of renewable energy capacity by the year 2022,

including 100 GW of solar power generation capacity.

The Mekedatu Dam Project

Mekedatu is a deep valley situated at the confluence of river Kaveri and its tributary Arkavati. Under this project, the Government of Karnataka proposes to construct a reservoir on the river Kaveri near Mekedatu. The project, costing around Rs 9,000 crore, aims to supply drinking water to the city of Bangalore and use the water for a hydroelectric station. This proposal has been postponed twice in the past by the Cauvery Water Management Authority.

Hence the opposition:- It is situated in the middle of Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary. The experts are of the view that due to this project 63 percent of the forest area of the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary will be submerged. Tamil Nadu has also raised objections to the project, as it will affect the flow of river Kaveri in Tamil Nadu.

Why in the discussion:- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has constituted a committee to submit a report on the alleged violation of norms in the construction of a reservoir on the river Kaveri in Mekedatu, Karnataka.

Malerkotla: 23rd District of Punjab

The Punjab government has announced the formation of Malerkotla as the 23rd district of the state. It is the only Muslim majority city in Punjab. Historically, Malerkotla was founded in the 15th century by the Sufi saint Sheikh Sadruddin Sadar-i-Jahan, also known as Haider Sheikh.

The Prehistoric Cave Paintings in Faridabad

Archaeologists have discovered cave paintings in the Mangar Bani hill forest near Faridabad (Haryana), which can be estimated to be one lakh years old. However, researchers have also received evidence of residence here till 8th-9th century AD.

Popular Person

Nanda Khare

Marathi writer Nanda Khare was in the news for rejecting the Sahitya Akademi Award. This award

was being given to her for the novel 'Udya' written in the year 2014.

Sahitya Akademi Award:- The Sahitya Akademi Award, established in the year 1954, is a literary honour. The award is presented annually by the Sahitya Akademi (National Academy of Letters). Awards are given every year by the Akademi for literary works in 24 languages recognized by it, as well as for mutual literary translations in these languages. The Sahitya Akademi Award is the second highest literary honor conferred by the Government of India after the Gyanpitha Award.

Mithali Raj

Mithali Raj has become the first Indian woman player to score 10,000 runs in all formats of international cricket. Mithali Raj achieved this opportunity in the ODI series against South Africa. She is now the second international cricketer to have scored 10,000 runs in all forms of cricket. Charlotte Edwards of England was the only female cricketer to have achieved this remarkable feat.

Priyanka Mohite

Mountaineer Priyanka Mohite, who belongs from Satara in western Maharashtra, has set a new record by climbing the world's tenth highest mountain peak 'Mount Annapurna'. She has become the first Indian woman mountaineer to achieve this feat.

Also read:- Mount Annapurna is a mountain massif of the Himalayas located in Nepal, consisting of peaks more than 8,000 meters high. Although 'Mount Annapurna' is the tenth highest mountain in the world, but it is considered one of the most dangerous mountains in the world.

Appointments

K. Sivan

Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the extension of the tenure of the current Chairman of Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) K.Sivan. He will continue as the Chairman of ISRO till January 2022. He took over as the chairman of ISRO in January 2018. ISRO was established in the year 1969. It is managed by the 'Department of Space' of

the Government of India, which reports directly to the Prime Minister of India.

Subodh Kumar Jaiswal

Former Director General of Police of Maharashtra Subodh Kumar Jaiswal has taken over as the new Chief of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) on 8 January, 2021. The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) is an armed force established in the year 1969 by an Act of Parliament. It comes under the Union Home Ministry. CISF provides security cover to industrial units, government infrastructure projects and facilities and establishments located across the country. The responsibility of CISF are provide security of industrial areas like nuclear power plants, granules, oil fields and refineries, metro rail, major ports etc.

The Sanjay Kapoor

Sanjay Kapoor has been elected as the President of the All India Chess Federation (AICF). The All India Chess Federation (AICF) is the central administrative body for the Chess game in India, established in the year 1951. It is affiliated to the International Chess Federation (FIDE). The FIDE is the governing body of the game of chess at the international level. It was established on July 20, 1924 in Paris. Every year 20 July is celebrated all over the world as International Chess Day.

Appointment of Chief Justices in the High Courts

Chief Justice	State	Sworn in (Governor)
Justice Hima Kohli	Telangana	Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan
Justice Arup Kumar Goswami	Andhra Pradesh	Vishva Bhushan Harichandan
Justice Mohammad Rafiq	Madhya Pradesh	Anandiben Patel
Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia	Guwahati	Justice N. Kotiswar Singh

Justice Jitendra Kr. Maheshwari	Sikkim	Ganga Prasad
Justice Pankaj Mitthal	Jammu-Kashmir & Ladakh	Manoj Sinha
Justice P. V. Sanjay kumar	Manipur	Nazma Heptullah

The Lieutenant General Shantanu Dayal

Lieutenant General Shantanu Dayal has been elected as the new Deputy Chief of Army Staff (DCOAS). He assumed office with effect from January 1, 2021. He succeeds Lieutenant General S.S.Hasbani who retired on December 31, 2020.

Umesh Sinha

Umesh Sinha was appointed as Deputy Election Commissioner in the Election Commission of India on December 30, 2020.

Also know:- The Election Commission is a constitutional body. Article 324 of the Constitution is related with the functions of the Election Commission. Presently Sunil Arora is the Chief Election Commissioner. The other two election commissioners are Rajiv Kumar and Sushil Chandra.

The Praveen Sinha

The central government has appointed IPS officer Praveen Kumar Sinha as interim director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). He replaces R.K.Shukla whose tenure was over on February 3, 2021.

Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI):- The CBI was established in the year 1963 on the basis of the recommendation of the Santhanam Committee (1962-1964) by the proposal of the Ministry of Home Affairs. Now CBI comes under the administrative control of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. It is not a statutory body. It derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946. The CBI is the main investigative agency of the Central Government. It also provides assistance to the Central Vigilance Commission and

the Lokpal. It is also India's nodal police agency that coordinates investigations on behalf of Interpol member countries.

Mallikarjun Kharge

Senior Congress leader Mallikarjun Adge has replaced Ghulam Nabi Azad as the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha. It is noteworthy that after the retirement of Ghulam Nabi Azad on February 15, 2021, the post of Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha became vacant. Mallikarjun Adge will be the second Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha from Karnataka, the first Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha from Karnataka was M.S. Gurupadaswamy.

Vijay Sampla

Former Union Minister Vijay Sampla has been appointed as the chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes on February 24, 2021. It is a constitutional body that works to protect the interests of the Scheduled Castes in India.

Tirath Singh Rawat

After the resignation of former Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Trivendra Singh Rawat, in March 2021, MP from Garhwal, Tirath Singh Rawat has been sworn in as the new Chief Minister of the state. Tirath Singh Rawat has taken oath as the 9th Chief Minister of the state.

G.P. Samant

The Central Government has appointed G.P.Samant as the Chief Statistician of India in March, 2021. He will also hold the charge of Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. G.P.Samant has been appointed initially for a period of two years. He will replace Chhatrapati Shivaji, the former chief statistician of the country, who was holding the additional charge of the post since September 2020.

Jaideep Bhatnagar

Jaideep Bhatnagar, a senior officer of the Indian Information Service, took over as the Principal Director General of the Press Information Bureau (PIB) in March 2021.

Also Know:- The Press Information Bureau established in the year 1919 is a nodal agency of the Government of India, which disseminates information in print and electronic media on government policies, programmes, initiatives and achievements. It acts as an interface between the government and the media. The headquarter of PIB is located in New Delhi. In addition to broadcast of information, the PIB provides recognition to various media representatives, including foreign media. This facilitates media representatives to get information from government sources.

M-A- Ganpati

Indian Police Service officer M.A. Ganapathy took over as the chief of National Security Guard (NSG) on March 18, 2021. It is noteworthy that the National Security Guard is a special response unit of India which is mainly used for counter-terrorism activities.

Kuldeep Singh

Indian Police Service officer Kuldeep Singh has been appointed as the new Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force on March 17, 2021. He has replaced A.P. Maheshwari in this post.

Justice Prafulla Chandra Pant

Justice Prafulla Chandra Pant, a member of the National Human Rights Commission, has been appointed as the Acting Chairman of the Commission on April 25, 2021. He has replaced Justice H.H.Dattu in the post.

Subodh Kumar Jaiswal

Indian Police Service officer Subodh Kumar Jaiswal has been appointed as the Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). He assumed office on May 26, 2021.

CBI:- The Central Bureau of Investigation is a major investigative agency of the Central Government. It was established in the year 1963 by a resolution of the Ministry of Home Affairs. Now the CBI comes under the administrative control of the Department of Personnel and Training, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. The establishment of the CBI was recommended by the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption (1962–

1964). It is not a statutory body. It derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.

Suresh N. Patel

Central Vigilance Commissioner Suresh N. Patel has been appointed Acting Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVG) in the commission. He will continue in this post till the appointment of a new CVC. He replace Sanjay Kothari, who retired from this post on June 23, 2021.

Justice N.V.Raman

Justice NV-Raman took over as the 48th Chief Justice of India (CJI) on April 24, 2021. He will remain in this post till August 26, 2022. He has replace Justice S.A. Bobde in this post.

Appointment of the Chief Justice:- The Chief Justice of India and the judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President under clause (2) of Article 124 of the Constitution of India. In the case of the post of Chief Justice, the name of his successor is recommended by the outgoing Chief Justice of the country. The recommendation of the Chief Justice is transferred to the Prime Minister by the Union Law Minister and the Prime Minister advises the President on that basis. In the second judge case, in 1993, the Supreme Court had ruled that the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court should be appointed as the Chief Justice. The Supreme Court Collegium, headed by the Chief Justice of India, consists of the four other senior-most judges of the Supreme Court. The collegium system is the system of appointment and transfer of judges that evolved through the decisions of the Supreme Court (Judges Cases) and not by an Act of Parliament or a provision of the Constitution.

Chief Justice of India :-

- 1- Harilal J. Kania- 26 January, 1950-6 November, 1951
- 2- Patanjali Shastri - November 7, 1951- January 03, 1954
- 3- Meherchand Mahajan – January 4, 1954 – December 22, 1954
- 4- B.K. Mukherjee - December 23, 1954 – January 31, 1956
- 5- S-R- Das- 01 February, 1956-30 September, 1959

- 6- Bhuvneshwar Prasad Sinha October 01, 1959 – January 31, 1964
- 7- P-B- Gajendra Gadkar- 01 February, 1964-15 March, 1966
- 8- A-K- Sarkar - 16 March, 1966 – 29 June, 1966
- 9- K- Subbarao- 30 June, 1966-11 April, 1967
- 10- K-N- Wanchoo- 12 April 1967-24 February 1968
- 11- M-Hidayatollah- 25 February, 1968-16 December, 1970
- 12- J-C- Shah - 17 December, 1970 – 21 January, 1971
- 13- S-S- Sikri - 22 January, 1971-25 April, 1973
- 14- A-N- Ray - 26 April, 1973-28 January, 1977
- 15- M-H- Baig - 29 January, 1977-21 February, 1978
- 16- Y-V- Chandrachud - 22 February, 1978-11 July, 1985
- 17- Prafullachand Natwarlal Bhagwati - 12 July, 1985-20 December, 1986
- 18- Raghunandan Swaroop Pathak - December 21, 1986-18 June, 1989
- 19- E-S- Venkataramaiah- 19 June, 1989-17 December, 1989
- 20- Savyasachi Mukherjee- 18 December, 1989-25 September, 1990
- 21- Ranganath Mishra- 26 September, 1990-24 November, 1991
- 22- K-N- Singh- 25 November, 1991-12 December, 1991
- 23- M-H- Kania- 13 December, 1991-17 November, 1992
- 24- L-M- Sharma- 18 November, 1992-11 February, 1993
- 25- M-N- Venkatachaliah- 12 February, 1993-24 October, 1994
- 26- A- M- Ahmadi- 25 October 1994-24 March 1997

27- J-S- Verma-	25 March, 1997-		02, October, 2018
	17 January, 1998	46- Ranjan Gogoi-	03 October, 2018-
28- M-M- Punchhi-	18 January, 1998-		17 November, 2019
	9 October, 1998	47- S-A- Bowde-	18 November, 2019-
29- Adarsh Sen Anand-	10 October 1998-		23 April, 2021
	31 October 2001	48- N-V-Raman -	24 April, 2021
30- S-P- Bharucha-	01 November, 2001-		(till the end of the term in
	5 May, 2002		22 August, 2022)
31- B-N- Kirpal-	6th May, 2002-	Sushil Chandra	
	7th November, 2002	Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra took over as	
32- Gopal Ballabh Patnaik -	08 November, 2002-	the Chief Election Commissioner on April 13, 2021.	
	18 December, 2002	He has replaced Sunil Arora. Sushil Chandra's term	
33- V-N- Khare -	19 December 2002-	will be till May 14, 2022.	
	01 May 2004		
34- S-Rajendra Babu-	02 May, 2004-		
	31 May, 2004		
35- Ramesh Chandra Lahoti-	01 June, 2004-		
	31 October, 2005		
36- Yogesh Kumar Sabharwal-	01 November, 2005-		
	13 January, 2007		
37- K-G- Balakrishnan-	14 January, 2007-		
	11 May, 2010		
38- S-H- Kapadia-	12 May, 2010-		
	28 September, 2012		
39- Altmas Kabir-	29 September 2012-		
	18 July 2013		
40- P- Sathasivam-	19th July, 2013-		
	26th April, 2014		
41- RM-Lodha-	27 April, 2014-		
	27 September, 2014		
42- H-L- Dattu -	28 September, 2014-		
	02 December, 2015		
43- T-S- Thakur-	03 December 2015-		
	03 January 2017		
44- Jagdish Singh Khehar-	04 January, 2017-		
	27 August, 2017		
45- Deepak Mishra- August	28, August 2017		

Name	Tenure
1. Sukumar Sen	21 March, 1950-
	19 December, 1958
2. KV-K- Sundaram	20 December 1958-
	30 September 1967
3. S-P-Sen Vama	1 October, 1967-
	30 September, 1972
4. Dr- Nagendra Singh	1 October, 1972-
	6 February, 1973
5. T- Swaminathan	7 February, 1973-
	17 June, 1977
6. S-L- Shakti	18 June, 1977-
	17 June, 1982
7. R-K- Trivedi	18 June, 1982-
	31 December, 1985
8. R-V-S-Perishastri	1 January, 1986-
	25 November, 1990
9. V-S- Ramadevi (Work-)	26 November, 1990-
	11 December, 1996
10. T-N-Seshan	12 December, 1990-
	11 December, 1996
11. M-S-Gill	12 December, 1996-
	13 June, 2001

12. J-M- Lyngdoh June	14 February, 2001- 7 February, 2004
13. T-S- Krishnamurthy	8 February, 2007- 15 May, 2005
14. BB- Tandon May	16 June, 2005- 29 June, 2006
15. N- Gopaldaswami	30 June, 2006- 20 April, 2009
16. Naveen Chawla	21 April, 2009- 29 July, 2010
17. S-Y- Qureshi	30 July, 2010- 10 June, 2012
18. V-S-SAMPAT	11 June, 2012- 15 January, 2015
19. Harishankar Brahma	16 January, 2015- 18 April, 2015
20. Naseem Ahmed Zaidi	19 April, 2015 - 5 July, 2017
21. Achal Kumar Joti	6th July, 2017- 22nd January, 2018
22. O-P- Rawat	23 January, 2018 - 1 December, 2018
23. Sunil Arora	2 December, 2018- 12 April, 2021
24- Sushil Chandra	from April 13, 2021

Election Commission of India:- The Election Commission of India is the autonomous constitutional authority for the conduct of Union and State election processes in India. It was established on January 25, 1950 according to the constitution. The Secretariat of the Commission is located in New Delhi. It conducts elections of the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and State Assemblies in India, the President and Vice President of the country.

Constitutional Provisions:-

Part XV of the Indian Constitution (Articles 324-329):- It deals with elections, and it establishes a separate commission for matters related to them.

Article 324:- The Election Commission has vested responsibilities in relation to elections-superintendence, direction and control.

Article 325:- Provision not to include any particular person in the electoral roll on grounds of religion, caste or sex and not to disqualify him from voting.

Article 326:- Election for the Lok Sabha and the Legislative Assembly of each state shall be on the basis of adult suffrage.

Article 327:- Power of Parliament to make laws with respect to elections by the Legislature.

Article 328:- Power of the Legislature of a State to make laws for their election.

Article 329: prohibition on interference of courts in election matters.

Composition of ECI:- Originally there was a provision of only one Election Commissioner in the Election Commission, but through a notification of the President, it was made three-member on 16 October 1989. After this, it was made a one-man commission for some time and on October 1, 1993, it was restored to its three-member commission form.

Appointment and tenure of commissioners:- The Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners are appointed by the President. Their tenure is for 6 years or till the age of 65 years (whichever is earlier). They are equal to the judges of the Supreme Court of India and get equal pay and allowances.

Removal:- The Chief Election Commissioner can be removed from office by Parliament in the same manner as the procedure for the removal of a Judge of the Supreme Court.

Anoop Chandra Pandey

Anoop Chandra Pandey took over as the new Election Commissioner of the country in June, 2021. He has joined the three-member body along with Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra and Election Commissioner Rajeev Kumar.

Amitabh Kant

Senior bureaucrat Amitabh Kant's tenure as Chief Executive Officer of NITI Aayog has been extended by one year in July, 2021. His term will be till June 30, 2022. This is the third time that his term has been extended.

NITI Aayog:- NITI Aayog was established on January 1, 2015 by the Government of India as a 'Policy Think Tank'. NITI Aayog is playing an important role in policy formulation by creating the initial framework for various initiatives of the government including disinvestment and privatization of banks. NITI Aayog is headed by the Prime Minister.

K.K.Venugopal

The Central Government has extended the tenure of Attorney General of India K.K. Venugopal by one year. This is the second time that the Center has extended his tenure. In the year 2020, Venugopal's first term was extended. Venugopal was appointed as the 15th Attorney General of India in the year 2017. He succeeded Mukul Rohatgi, who was Attorney General from 2014-2017.

Also know:- The Attorney General of India (AG) is a part of the executive body of the Union. It is the highest law officer of the country. Article 76 of the Constitution provides for the office of the Attorney General of India. The Attorney General is appointed by the President on the advice of the government.

Piyush Goyal

In the Upper House of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu has appointed Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal as the Leader of the House on July 19, 2021. He succeeds Thawar Chand Gehlot, who has been recently appointed as the Governor of Karnataka.

The new governors in different states

state	Governor
Goa	P.S. Sreedharan Pillai
Tripura	Satyadev Narayan Arya
Jharkhand	Ramesh Bais
Karnataka	Thawar Chand Gehlot
Haryana	Bandaru Dattatreya
Mizoram	Dr- Haribabu Kambhupati
Madhya Pradesh	Mangubhai Chhaganbhai
Himachal Pradesh	Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

Deepak Das

Deepak Das took over as the country's new 'Controller General of Accounts' (CGA.) in August 2021. He is the 25th CGA of the country. It is noteworthy that the Controller General of Accounts, under the Department of Expenditure of the Union Finance Ministry, is the Principal Accounts Adviser to the Government of India, which is mainly responsible for the establishment and maintenance of a technically strong management accounting system.

Basavaraj Bommai

Basavaraj Bommai has been sworn in as the new Chief Minister of the state in July 2021, after the resignation of former Karnataka Chief Minister and senior state leader B.S. Yediyurappa. Basavaraj Bommai, a three-time MLA from 'Shiggaon' in Haveri district of North Karnataka, is the son of late former Chief Minister and former Union Minister 'S.R. Bommai'.

Rekha Sharma

The current chairperson of the National Commission for Women, Rekha Sharma, has been given a three-year extension in August 2021. She took over as the chairperson of the National Commission for Women on August 07, 2018.

National Commission for Women:- It was constituted in January 1992 as a statutory body under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990. The objective of the commission is to ensure constitutional and legal protection of women, to recommend legislative suggestions for them, to redress grievances and to advise the government on all policy matters affecting women. The commission consists of a chairman, five members and a member-secretary appointed by the central government.

Pushkar Singh Dhama

Pushkar Singh Dhama took oath as the 11th Chief Minister of Uttarakhand on July 4, 2021. Governor Baby Rani Maurya administered the oath to him. He replace Tirath Singh Rawat, who resigned due to a constitutional crisis. It is noteworthy that in the beginning of the year 2022, assembly elections are to be held in Uttarakhand.

Death

Ustad Ghulam Mustafa Khan

Indian classical musician and Padma Vibhushan awardee Ustad Ghulam Mustafa Khan (89) passed away on January 17, 2021 in Mumbai. In recognition of his contribution in the field of music, he was awarded the Padmashree in the year 1991, the Padma Bhushan in the year 2006 and the Padma Vibhushan in the year 2018. In 2003, he was awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, the highest Indian award given to artists.

Buta Singh

Former Union Minister Buta Singh (86) passed away on January 2, 2021. He was elected to the Lok Sabha eight times. He contested eight times from Jalore parliamentary constituency in Rajasthan, winning four of them.

Chemanchery Kunhiraman Nair

Kathakali artist Chemancheri Kunhiraman Nair (105) passed away on January 15, 2021 in Kozhikode, Kerala. Shri Nair was also awarded the Padmashree Award In the year 2017, for his significant contribution to the Kathakali. He was an expert in the Kalladikodan style of Kathakali.

Laxman Pai

Renowned Goa painter Laxman Pandharinath Pai (95) passed away on March 14, 2021. He was honored with Padma Bhushan, Padma Shree, Nehru Award and Lalit Kala Akademi Award etc. Laxman Pai also participated in the Goa Liberation Movement and was jailed for his role in the Indian freedom struggle.

Balbir Singh Junior

Former hockey player Balbir Singh Jr (88) passed away on April 13, 2021. Balbir Singh Jr. was also a part of the Indian team that won the silver medal at the Asian Games held in 1958.

Pandit Rajan Mishra

Indian classical music singer Pandit Rajan Mishra (70) has passed away on April 25, 2021. Hailing from the Banaras Gharana, Pandit Rajan Mishra, along with his brother Sajan Mishra, has been singing music to Indian and global audiences for decades. Pandit Rajan Mishra and brother Pandit Sajan Mishra

are considered to be one of the main exponents of the 'Khyal Singing' style of Indian classical music.

Pandit Reva Prasad Dwivedi

Sanskrit scholar and poet Pandit Reva Prasad Dwivedi passed away in May, 2021. His major works include two Sanskrit epics - Sitacharitam and Swatayasambhavam. He was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award in the year 1991 for 'Swatanyasambhavam'.

M.S. Narasimhan

Indian scientist and mathematician Mudumbai Seshachulu Narasimhan (88) has passed away in May 2021. Professor M.S. Narasimhan was known for his proof of Narasimhan-Seshadri Theorem. He won the S.S. Bhatnagar Prize in 1975, the Third World Academy Award for Mathematics in 1987, Padma Bhushan in 1990, Fellow of the Royal Society in 2006 and the King Faisal International Award for Science.

Sundarlal Bahuguna

Chipko movement leader Sunderlal Bahuguna (94) died on May 21, 2021. He was awarded the Padma Vibhushan in the year 2009 for environmental protection. The Chipko movement was started in the year 1973 in Chamoli district (now Uttarakhand) of Uttar Pradesh.

Laxminandan Bora

Assamese litterateur Laxminandan Bora (89) has passed away on June 3, 2021. He won the Sahitya Akademi Award in the year 1988 for the novel Paatal Bhairavi. In the year 2008, he published 'Kayakalp', for which he was awarded 'Saraswati Samman' by K.K.Birla Foundation. In the year 2015, he was also honored with Padma Shree.

Milkha Singh

Milkha Singh (91), popularly known as Flying Singh, passed away on June 18, 2021. Milkha Singh won both the 200m and 400m at the 1958 Asian Games. In the same year, he won a gold medal in the Commonwealth Games in the 400 meters race, which was India's first athletics gold medal in the history of the Games. Milkha Singh was a four-time Asian Games gold medalist, but his best performance was a fourth-place finish in the 400m final at Rome in 1960, where he was only 0.1 seconds behind to claim

the bronze. Milkha Singh's autobiography 'The Race of My Life' was published in the year 2013.

Dilip Kumar

Bollywood actor Dilip Kumar (98) passed away on July 7, 2021. Dilip Kumar has been listed in the Guinness World Records for the most number of awards won by an Indian actor. He is also credited with India's first 'method actor'. Dilip Kumar was awarded the Dadasaheb Phalke Award in the year 1994 and the Padma Vibhushan in the year 2015.

Virbhadra Singh

Former Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh (87) passed away on July 8, 2021. He was elected as the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh for six times. He also served as the Leader of the Opposition in the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly from March 1998 to March 2003.

Yashpal Sharma

Yashpal Sharma (66), who was a part of the 1983 World Cup winning cricket team, passed away on July 13, 2021. He played a key role in India's victory during the World Cup by scoring 240 runs at an average of 34.28.

Nelliyod Vasudevan Namboodiri

Kathakali artist Nelliyod Vasudevan Namboodiri (81) has passed away in August, 2021. It is worth mentioning that Kathakali is a famous dance style of Kerala. It is one of the eight classical dances of India. It mostly dramatizes stories taken from Indian epics.

Major 8 dance styles: - The main 8 styles of Indian classical dance are as follows - Kathakali (Kerala), Kathak (Uttar Pradesh, Jaipur, Rajasthan), Bharatnatyam (Tamil Nadu), Manipuri (Manipur), Odissi (Odisha), Kuchipudi (Andhra Pradesh), Sattriya (Assam) and Mohiniyattam (Kerala).

Nandu Natekar

Indian badminton player Nandu Natekar (88) passed away on July 28, 2021. He was the first Indian badminton player to win an international competition in the year 1956. Nandu Natekar was also the recipient of the first Arjuna Award in the year 1961.

Padma Sachdev

Padma Sachdev (81) known as the mother of contemporary Dogri literature, passed away in August 2021. His poetry collection- 'Meri Kavita

Mere Geet' was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award in the year 1971. She was the first modern female poet of Dogri language.

Prize

The 51st International Film Festival

The 51st International Film Festival of India was held in Panaji (Goa) from 16-24 January, 2021. During this 126 films from 60 countries were screened. It was announced to give 'Indian Personality Award' to Vishwajit Chatterjee, actor, producer, director and singer of Hindi and Bengali films.

Awarded to them:-

- Best Film (Gold Peacock Award) - Into the Darkless
- Best Director (Silver Peacock Award) - Taiwan's Chen Nien for The Silent Forest
- Best Actor (Silver Peacock Award) - Tshu Xuan Liu
- Best Actress - Jofia Staffie

Special Jury Award - Bulgarian director Kripal Kalita for his Assamese film Bridge.

The Prime Minister's National Children's Award

32 children have been honored with the 'Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar' for their exceptional ability and outstanding achievements. These awards are presented every year by the President of India in the first week of Republic Day (26 January). The Prime Minister's National Child Award is given under two categories - Bal Shakti Puraskar and Child Welfare Award.

Padma Awards

The Awards for the year 2021 were announced on the occasion of the 72nd Republic Day. A total of 119 Padma Awards will be presented this year, including 7 Padma Vibhushan, 10 Padma Bhushan and 102 Padma Shree.

Padma Vibhushan (total 7):-

- Shinzo Abe- Public Affairs- Japan
- Shri S P Balasubramaniam (Posthumous)- Art- Tamil Nadu
- Dr. Belle Monappa Hegde- Medicine- Karnataka
- Shri Narinder Singh Kapany (Posthumous)- Science and Engineering- United States of America

- Maulana Wahiduddin Khan- Spiritualism- Delhi
- Shri B. B. Lal- Archaeology- Delhi
- Shri Sudarshan Sahoo- Art- Odisha

Padma Bhushan (total 10):-

S.No.	Name	Field	State/Country
1.	Krishna Nair Shantakumari Chithra	Art	Kerala
2.	Tarun Gogoi (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Assam
3.	Chandrashekhar Kambara	Literature and Education	Karnataka
4.	Sumitra Mahajan	Public Affairs	Madhya Pradesh
5.	Nripendra Misra	Civil Service	Uttar Pradesh
6.	Ram Vilas Paswan (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Bihar
7.	Keshubhai Patel (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Gujarat
8.	Kalbe Sadiq (Posthumous)	Others-Spiritualism	Uttar Pradesh
9.	Rajnikant Devidas Shroff	Trade and Industry	Maharashtra
10.	Tarlochan Singh	Public Affairs	Haryana

Padma Shree (Total 102)

1. Shri Gulfam Ahmed (Art) Uttar Pradesh
2. Ms. P. Anitha (Sports) Tamil Nadu
3. Shri Rama Swamy Annavarapu (Art) Andhra Pradesh
4. Shri Subbu Arumugam (Art) Tamil Nadu
5. Shri Prakasarao Asavadi (Literature and Education) Andhra Pradesh

6. Ms. Bhuri Bai (Art) Madhya Pradesh
7. Shri Radhe Shyam Barle (Art) Chhattisgarh
8. Shri Dharma Narayan Barma (Literature and Education) West Bengal
9. Ms. Lakhimi Baruah (Social Work) Assam
10. Shri Biren Kumar Basak (Art) West Bengal
11. Ms. Rajni Bector (Trade and Industry) Punjab
12. Shri Peter Brook (Art) United Kingdom
13. Ms. Sangkhumi Bualchhuak (Social Work) Mizoram
14. Shri Gopiram Bargayn Burabhakat (Art) Assam
15. Bijoya Chakravarty (Public Affairs) Assam
16. Shri Sujit Chattopadhyay (Literature and Education) West Bengal
17. Shri Jagdish Chaudhary (Posthumous) (Social Work) Uttar Pradesh
18. Shri Tsultrim Chonjor (Social Work) Ladakh
19. Ms. Mouma Das (Sports) West Bengal
20. Shri Srikant Datar (Literature and Education) United States of America
21. Shri Narayan Debnath (Art) West Bengal
22. Chutni Devi (Social Work) Jharkhand
23. Ms. Dulari Devi (Art) Bihar
24. Ms. Radhe Devi (Art) Manipur
25. Ms. Shanti Devi (Social Work) Odisha
26. Shri Wayan Dibia (Art) Indonesia
27. Shri Dadudan Gadhavi (Literature & Education) Gujarat
28. Shri Parshuram Atmaram Gangavane (Art) Maharashtra
29. Shri Jai Bhagwan Goyal (Literature and Education) Haryana

30. Shri Jagadish Chandra Halder (Literature and Education) West Bengal
31. Shri Mangal Singh Hazowary (Literature and Education) Assam
32. Ms. Anshu Jamsenpa (Sports) Arunachal Pradesh
33. Ms. Purnamasi Jani (Art) Odisha
34. Matha B. Manjamma Jogati (Art) Karnataka
35. Shri Damodaran Kaithapram (Art) Kerala
36. Shri Namdeo C Kamble (Literature and Education) Maharashtra
37. Shri Maheshbhai & Shri Nareshbhai Kanodia (Duo) (Posthumous) Art, Gujarat
38. Shri Rajat Kumar Kar (Literature and Education) Odisha
39. Shri Rangasami Lakshminarayana Kashyap (Literature and Education) Karnataka
40. Ms. Prakash Kaur (Social Work) Punjab
41. Shri Nicholas Kazanas (Literature and Education) Greece
42. Shri K Kesavasamy (Art) Puducherry
43. Shri Ghulam Rasool Khan (Art) Jammu and Kashmir
44. Shri Lakha Khan (Art) Rajasthan
45. Ms. Sanjida Khatun (Art) Bangladesh
46. Shri Vinayak Vishnu Khedekar (Art) Goa
47. Ms. Niru Kumar (Social Work) Delhi
48. Ms. Lajwanti (Art) Punjab
49. Shri Rattan Lal Science and Engineering United States of America
50. Shri Ali Manikfan (Grassroots Innovation) Lakshadweep
51. Shri Ramachandra Manjhi (Art) Bihar
52. Shri Dulal Manki (Art) Assam
53. Shri Nanadro B Marak (Agriculture) Meghalaya
54. Shri Rewben Mashangva (Art) Manipur
55. Shri Chandrakant Mehta (Literature and Education) Gujarat
56. Dr. Rattan Lal Mittal (Medicine) Punjab
57. Shri Madhavan Nambiar (Sports) Kerala
58. Shri Shyam Sundar Paliwal (Social Work) Rajasthan
59. Dr. Chandrakant Sambhaji Pandav (Medicine) Delhi
60. Dr. J N Pande (Posthumous) (Medicine) Delhi
61. Shri Solomon Pappiah (Literature and Education) Journalism Tamil Nadu
62. Ms. Pappammal Others- (Agriculture) Tamil Nadu
63. Dr. Krishna Mohan Pathi (Medicine) Odisha
64. Ms. Jaswantiben Jamnadas Popat (Trade and Industry) Maharashtra
65. Shri Girish Prabhune (Social Work) Maharashtra
66. Shri Nanda Prusty Literature and Education Odisha
67. Shri K K Ramachandra Pulavar (Art) Kerala
68. Shri Balan Putheri (Literature and Education) Kerala
69. Ms. Birubala Rabha (Social Work) Assam
70. Shri Kanaka Raju (Art) Telangana
71. Ms. Bombay Jayashri Ramnath (Art) Tamil Nadu
72. Shri Satyaram Reang (Art) Tripura
73. Dr. Dhananjay Diwakar Sagdeo (Medicine) Kerala
74. Shri Ashok Kumar Sahu (Medicine) U.P.
75. Dr. Bhupendra Kumar Singh Sanjay (Medicine) Uttarakhand

76. Ms. Sindhutai Sapkal (Social Work) Maharashtra
77. Shri Chaman Lal Sapru (Posthumous) (Literature and Education) Jammu and Kashmir
78. Shri Roman Sarmah (Literature and Education-Journalism) Assam
79. Shri Imran Shah (Literature and Education) Assam
80. Shri Prem Chand Sharma (Others- Agriculture) Uttarakhand
81. Shri Arjun Singh Shekhawat (Literature and Education) Rajasthan
82. Shri Ram Yatna Shukla (Literature and Education) Uttar Pradesh
83. Shri Jitender Singh Shunty (Social Work) Delhi
84. Shri Kartar Paras Ram Singh (Art) Himachal Pradesh
85. Shri Kartar Singh (Art) Punjab
86. Dr. Dilip Kumar Singh (Medicine) Bihar
87. Shri Chandra Shekhar Singh (Agriculture) U.P.
88. Ms. Sudha Hari Narayan Singh (Sports) U.P.
89. Shri Virender Singh Sports Haryana
90. Ms. Mridula Sinha (Posthumous) (Literature and Education) Bihar
91. Shri K C Sivasankar (Posthumous) (Art) Tamil Nadu
92. Guru Maa Kamali Soren (Social Work) West Bengal
93. Shri Marachi Subburaman (Social Work) Tamil Nadu
94. Shri P Subramanian (Posthumous) (Trade and Industry) Tamil Nadu
95. Ms. Nidumolu Sumathi (Art) Andhra Pradesh
96. Shri Kapil Tiwari (Literature and Education) Madhya Pradesh

97. Father Vallés (Posthumous) (Literature and Education) Spain
98. Dr. Thiruvengadam Veeraraghavan (Posthumous) (Medicine) Tamil Nadu
99. Shri Sridhar Vembu (Trade and Industry) Tamil Nadu
100. Shri K Y Venkatesh (Sports) Karnataka
101. Ms. Usha Yadav (Literature and Education) Uttar Pradesh
102. Col Quazi Sajjad Ali Zahir (Public Affairs) Bangladesh

Also know:- Padma Awards are announced every year on the occasion of Republic Day (26 January) in India. Established in 1954, this award is one of India's highest civilian honours. The award seeks to honor achievements in all fields of activities or disciplines that involve a sense of public service.

Selection Process: - These awards are given on the basis of the recommendations made by the Padma Awards Committee, this committee is constituted every year by the Prime Minister of India. These awards are distributed by the President of India in the month of March/April every year.

The Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Award

The Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Disaster Management Award, 2021, given for outstanding work in the field of disaster management, was announced by the Ministry of Home Affairs on 23 January. In the institutional category, this award was given to 'Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society' and in the individual category to Dr. Rajendra Kumar Bhandari.

Scientist of the Year

India's senior scientist Dr. Hemant Kumar Pandey has been honored with DRDO's 'Scientist of the Year' award. He received this award for the treatment of leucoderma for the treatment of many herbs including the popular drug Leucocin. based medicines have been provided for development.

The Asia Environment Enforcement Award-2020

The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) under the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has been awarded the 'Asia Environment Enforcement Award-2020' in the category of 'Innovation' on February 17, 2021. WCCB has been awarded this award twice in the last three years for his commitment to preventing wildlife crimes in India.

Also Know: The Asia Environment Enforcement Award recognizes and affiliates the efforts by government institutions and enforcement agencies in Asian countries to control environmental crimes. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau is a statutory multi-disciplinary body set up by the Government of India under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to deal with organized wildlife crime in the country. The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau is enacted under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Hyderabad-2020 Tree City of the World

The city of Hyderabad has been recognized as the '2020 Tree City of the World' by the 'Arbor Day Foundation' and the 'Food and Agriculture Organization-FAO' of the United Nations. Hyderabad has received this recognition along with 51 other cities of the world in the second year programme of Arbor Day Foundation. Most of these cities are in the US, United Kingdom, Canada and Australia. Hyderabad is the only Indian state to get this recognition.

The Sahitya Akademi Award-2020

The Sahitya Akademi Awards for the year 2020 were announced on March 12, 2021. 20 works have been selected for these awards. This award for Hindi language was given to Anamika for her poetry collection 'Tokri Mein Digantha Therigatha: 2014'. The English award went to Arundhati Subramaniam for her collection of poems 'When God is a Traveller'.

The Sanskrit award has been given to Mahesh Chandra Sharma for his novel 'Vaishali'.

Nanda Khare: - Marathi writer Nanda Rare has refused to accept the Sahitya Akademi Award for his novel 'Udya' in the year 2014.

Sahitya Akademi Award:- The Sahitya Akademi Award, established in the year 1954, is a literary honour. The award is presented annually by the Sahitya Akademi (National Academy of Letters). Awards are given every year by the Akademi for literary works in 24 languages recognized by it, as well as for mutual literary translations in these languages. The Sahitya Akademi Award is the second highest literary honor conferred by the Government of India after the Gyanpith Award.

International Federation of Film Archives

Actor Amitabh Bachchan was honored with the International Federation of Film Archives Award 2021 on March 19, 2021. He is the first Indian to be honored with this award. This award has been given to Amitabh Bachchan for his contribution and dedication in preserving the film heritage.

Also know:- The International Federation of Film Archives (FIAPF) Award was started in the year 2001 and its primary objective is to recognize people who have contributed to the preservation of film and film culture. FIAPF is a worldwide organization, which includes film archives and museums around the world.

The CERWeek Global Energy and Environmental Leadership Award

The Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi was awarded the 'Global Energy and Environment Leadership Award' by Cambridge Energy Research Associates on March 5, 2021. The award was given to the Prime Minister of India for his commitment to expanding sustainable development to meet the future energy needs of the country and the world.

The Vyas Samman

Hindi writer Professor Sharad Pagare has been selected for the Vyas Samman for the year 2020 for his novel 'Pataliputra Ki Samragyi'. This novel was published in the year 2010. Her other major novels include Gulara Begum, Gandharvasen, Begum Zainabadi, Ujale Ki Talaash and Zindagi Ek Salib-Si. It is to be known that in the year 2019, Nasira Sharma, the outstanding Hindi litterateur, was selected for the 'Vyas Samman' for her novel 'Kaagaz Ki Naav'.

Also know:- This award is given by K. K. Birla Foundation to the best literary work of Hindi published in a period of 10 years. The award was instituted in the year 1991 and carries Rs 4 lakh, a citation and an emblem.

The 67th National Film Awards

On March 22, 2021 The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on announced the National Film Awards (67th) for the films released in the year 2019.

Award winner

Swarna Kamal Award in Feature Film Category

Best Feature Film -

Marakkar: Arabikadalinte Simham (Malayalam)
(Director - Priyadarshan)

Indira Gandhi Award for Debut Film of a Director -
Helen (Malayalam) (Director - Mathukutty Xavier)

Best Overall Entertaining Film - Maharshi (Telugu)
(Director P.V. Rao)

Best Children's Film - Kasturi (Hindi),

(Director - Vinod Uttareshwar Kamble)

Best Direction - Bahattar Hooren (Hindi), (Director -
Sanjay Puran Singh Chauhan)

Rajat Kamal Award in Feature Film Category

Nargis Dutt Award for Best Film on National
Integration –

Taj Mahal (Marathi) (Director - Niyaz Mujawar)

Best Film on Social Issues - Anadi Gopal (Marathi)

Best Film on Environment Protection - Water
Burial

Best Actor - Manoj Bajpayee (Film - Bhonsle) and
Dhanush (Film - Asuran)

Best Actress - Kangana Ranaut (for Manikarnika:
The Queen of Jhansi and Panga)

Swarna Kamal Award for Non Feature Film Category

Best Non Feature Film - An Engineered Dream
(Hindi) (Director - Hemant Gaba)

Best Direction - Sudhanshu Sariya (Knock Knock
Knock)

**Rajat Kamal Award for Non Feature Film
Category**

Award for First Non-Feature Film of a Director –
Khisa (Marathi) (Director – Raj Pritam More)

Best Art/Cultural Film - Shrikshetra Ru Sahizaada
(Odia)

Best Environmental Film - The Stork Saviors
(Hindi)

Best Educational Film - Apple and Orange
(English)

Special Jury Award - Small Scale Society (English)
(Director - Vipin Vijay)

The Gandhi Peace Prize

The Gandhi Peace Prizes for the years 2019 and 2020 were announced by the Government of India on 22 March 2021. The award for the year 2019 has been given to the late Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said of Oman and Sheikh Mujibur Rahman for the year 2020.

Also know:- The Gandhi Peace Prize was instituted by the Government of India in the year 1995 on the occasion of the 125th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. This award is given for contribution to social, economic and political change through non-violence and other Gandhian methods.

The Bihari Award

The Bihari Award for the year 2020 was announced by the K.K.Birla Foundation on March 4, 2021. This year's award will be given to Mohankrishna Bohra for his book 'Taslima: Conflict and Literature'. The award carries Rs 2.5 lakh, emblem and a citation.

Saraswati Samman-2020

Marathi litterateur Dr. Sharan Kumar Limbale has been awarded the country's highest literary award 'Saraswati Samman' for his Marathi novel 'Sanatan' published in the year 2018. Dr- Limbale has also been awarded the National Award for his biography 'Akarmashi'.

Also know:- Established by the K.K. Birla Foundation in the year 1991, this award is awarded to an outstanding literary work published in any Indian language in the last 10 years. Under this, the winner is given a cash amount of Rs 10 lakh and a citation. Two other awards instituted by the foundation include Vyas Samman for Hindi writers and Bihari Samman for writers from Rajasthan.

Dadasaheb Phalke Award

Actor Rajinikanth has been honored with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for the year 2019. The Dadasaheb Phalke Award is the most prestigious award in Indian cinema. This award is given for outstanding contribution to the development of Indian cinema. This award was instituted by the Government of India in the year 1969 in the memory of Dadasaheb Phalke, who is called the 'Father of Indian Cinema'. This award is given by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Devika Rani was honored with this award for the first time in the year 1969. The Dadasaheb Phalke Award consists of a Swarna Kamal (Golden Lotus), a shawl and a cash amount of Rs 10 lakh. Amitabh Bachchan was honored with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award in the year 2018 for his contribution to Indian cinema.

The Filmfare Award-2021

The 66th Filmfare Awards for Outstanding Roles in Indian Films released in the year 2020 were distributed in Mumbai on March 27, 2021.

Award Winner :-

Best Film - Thappad

Best Director - Om Raut (Tanhaji)

Best Actor - Irrfan Khan (English Medium)

Best Actress - Taapsee Pannu (Thappar)

Best Story - Anubhav Sinha and Mrunmayee Lagoo Vakool (Thappar)

Best Music Director - Pritam (Ludo)

Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award - Irfan Khan

The Lokmanya Tilak National Award

Cyrus Poonawalla, the founder-president of the Pune-based 'Serum Institute of India', has been selected for the 'Lokmanya Tilak National Award' for the year 2021. Cyrus Poonawalla will be honored for his work during the corona pandemic and the important role of Serum Institute of India, where the Covishield vaccine is being manufactured on a large scale.

The Major Dhyanchand Khel Ratna Award

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has renamed the country's highest sport award 'Rajiv Gandhi Khail Ratna Award' as 'Major Dhyanchand Khail Ratna Award' in August 2021. With the changed name, a cash prize of Rs 25 lakh will now be given along with the Major Dhyanchand Khail Ratna Award.

Also Know:- This is the highest Sports Award given by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports for the excellent and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson every four years. The award comprises a medal, a certificate and a cash prize of Rs 7.5 lakh. The Khail Ratna Award was instituted in the year 1991-1992 and the first recipient was chess player Viswanathan Anand.

Major Dhyanchand:- Major Dhyanchand, a field hockey player known as 'The Wizard', played international hockey from the year 1926 to 1949 and scored more than 400 goals in his career. Dhyanchand was part of the Olympic team that won gold medals in the years 1928, 1932 and 1936.

3

Rajasthan Events

The Manufactured Sand Policy-2020

The Government of Rajasthan has released the 'Manufactured Sand (M-Sand) Policy-2020' on January 25, 2021. Under this, units producing manufactured sand for construction work have been given industry status.

These benefits will be:-

- This will also reduce the dependence on (river sand).
- This new policy will ensure availability of Manufactured Sand (M-Sand) as a long-term alternative to natural 'River sand'.
- This policy will enable investors to set up M-sand units using the incentives and facilities provided by the state government.
- This will not only help in environmental protection, but it will also create confidence among the general public about the efficacy of M. Sand.
- **Manufactured sand:-** It is produced by breaking hard granite stones and rocks extracted from the grains. Presently there are about 20 M. Sand units operating in Rajasthan, which produce 20,000 Tonnes of M-Sand per day.

Players' Prize Money Increased

The state government has increased the prize money of the players who brought glory to Rajasthan by winning medals in Olympic, Asian and Commonwealth Games.

Olympic games :

	Gold Medal	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal
Previous prize money	75 Lakh	50 lakh	30 Lakh
After increasing	3 Crore	2 Crore	1 Crore

Asian and Commonwealth Games:-

	Gold Medal	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal
Previous prize money	30 Lakh	20 lakh	10 Lakh
After increasing	1 Crore	60 Lakh	30 Lakh

The Operation Sard Hawa

The Border Security Force, was conducted 'Operation Sard Hawa' between January 21-27, 2021 on the border of western Rajasthan. Its purpose was to check the incidents of infiltration due to dense fog in the desert area and increase the security of the border areas of Jaisalmer.

Ummeed

The state level helpline 'UMMEED' was launched by the Rajasthan State Commission for Protection of Child Rights on 22 January, 2021. Its purpose is to remove mental stress among children, to register complaints of child crimes and to give information about the laws made for the protection of child rights.

4 Districts of Rajasthan in The IRAD Scheme

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India launched the 'Integrated Road Accident Database (IRAD)' scheme on 15th February, 2021 for accurate monitoring and analysis of road accidents statistics. In the first phase of the scheme, 6 states of the country including Rajasthan have been included. Four districts of Rajasthan – Jaipur, Jodhpur, Ajmer and Alwar have been included in this phase. After this, from March 15, 2021, this scheme will start in all the districts of the state.

By-elections on the three assembly seats

Polling was held on April 17, 2021 for three assembly seats of Rajasthan, Sahara (Bhilwara), Sujangarh (Churu) and Rajsamand. In the election results released on May 2, Congress won Sahara and Sujangarh seat and BJP won Rajsamand seat.

These candidates won:

Assembly seat	winner
Sahara	Gayatri Trivedi
Sujangarh	Manoj Meghwal
Rajsamand	Deepti Kiran Maheshwari

Chief Minister Chiranjeevi Yojana

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot announced the 'Mukhyamantri Chiranjeevi Yojana' on March 18, 2021. This scheme started from May 1, 2021.

Key points of the scheme:-

This scheme will provide annual medical insurance up to Rs 5 lakh to each family in the state. The benefit of this scheme can be availed in government and affiliated private hospitals.

Under the scheme, free insurance cover will be provided to the families below poverty line and families covered under the National Food Security Act.

People under Ayushman Bharat Mahatma Gandhi Rajasthan Health Insurance Scheme, contract workers and small and marginal farmers can also take advantage of this scheme for free.

Such Families that are not included in the above categories will also be eligible for the scheme, although they have to pay 50 percent amount of premium, which will be Rs 850 per annum.

The Selection of Clean Iconic Destinations

Three tourist places of the state, Kumbhalgarh Fort, Jaisalmer Fort and Ramdevra will be developed as 'Clean Iconic Places' by the initiative of the Central Government. The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation under the Ministry of Jal Shakti has announced 12 places to be developed as clean tourist destinations under the 'Clean Iconic Places' initiative of the Swachh Bharat Mission-Rural.

These 12 sites included:-

- 1- Ajanta Caves - Aurangabad, Maharashtra
- 2- Sanchi Stupa - Madhya Pradesh
- 3- Kumbhalgarh Fort - Rajsamand, Rajasthan
- 4- Jaisalmer Fort - Rajasthan
- 5- Ramdevra - Jaisalmer, Rajasthan
- 6- Golkunda Fort - Hyderabad, Telangana
- 7- Sun Temple - Konark, Odisha
- 8- Rock Garden - Chandigarh
- 9- Dal Lake - Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir
- 10- Banke Bihari Temple - Vrindavan, Uttar Pradesh
- 11- Agra Fort - Agra, Uttar Pradesh
- 12- Kalighat Temple - Kolkata, West Bengal

Rajasthan Second in the 'PM Awas Yojana-Rural'

According to the progress achieved by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India in the year 2020-21 under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin, Rajasthan ranks second in the country. In Rajasthan, out of 13334 lakh houses approved so far under this scheme, 10.69 lakh (80.11 percent) houses have been completed. It is noteworthy that with the goal of providing housing to all by the year 2022, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-rural is being run in 669 districts of the country.

Mukhyamantri Anupriti Coaching Scheme

On May 5, 2021, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot approved the implementation of 'Mukhyamantri Anupriti Coaching Scheme' for the preparation of various professional courses and competitive examinations to the economically weak talented students of every category. Eligibility for this scheme annual income of family should be less than Rs.8 lakh. The benefit of this scheme will be payable to any student only for a period of one year.

Constitution of the State Finance Commission

Sixth State Finance Commission has been constituted in Rajasthan. Governor Kalraj Mishra approved the appointment of the chairman and members on April 12, 2021. The total tenure of the three-member commission will be 18 months. It will oversee the financial position of Panchayats at all levels. The commission will submit its report on the share of state taxes by panchayati raj institutions and urban bodies for 5 years from April 1, 2021.

Chairman - Pradyuman Singh (According to the order of the State Cabinet Secretariat dated April 19, 2021, the chairman has the status of a cabinet minister.)

Members - Ashok Lahoti, Laxman Singh Rawat

Also know: - Article 243 (I) and 243 (Y) of the Constitution provide for the constitution of the State Finance Commission. It is constituted for five years. The first Finance Commission of the state constituted in 1995 was headed by Krishan Kumar Goel.

Mega Food Park to be built in The Bikaner

Mega Food Park will be set up in Palana village of Bikaner. The Central Government will give a grant of Rs 50 crore in this mega food park to be built at a

cost of about 250 crores. Other expenses will have to be borne by the related company.

'Ghar-Ghar Aushadhi' scheme

The state cabinet approved the implementation of the 'Ghar-Ghar Aushadhi' scheme at the state level on April 18, 2021. Under this scheme, plants of Tulsi, Giloy, Ashwagandha etc. will be distributed free of cost to the interested families by developing nurseries of medicinal plants.

Mukhyamantri Kisan Mitra Urja Yojana

The Rajasthan government has approved the draft of 'Mukhyamantri Kisan Mitra Urja Yojana' in June 2021. Under this, agricultural electricity consumers will be provided Rs 1,000 per month. Due to the scheme, the state government will have a financial burden of Rs 1,450 crore per annum. Eligible consumers will have to link their Aadhaar number and bank account with the scheme. After paying the due amount, the subsidy amount will be payable to the consumers on the upcoming electricity bill. This scheme was announced by the Chief Minister of the state in the budget for the year 2021-22.

Fourth Tiger Reserve of Rajasthan

The Technical Committee of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has approved the creation of Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary in Rajasthan as a tiger reserve. With this, Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary will become the fourth Tiger Reserve/Tiger Sanctuary of Rajasthan. This will be the 52nd Tiger Reserve of India.

Also Know:- Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary is situated on Bundi-Nainwa road at a distance of 45 km. from Bundi city near Ramgarh village in Bundi district. It was notified as a wildlife sanctuary in the year 1982 and is spread over an area of 252.79 square Kilometres.

Area of the tiger reserve:- A total area of 1,017 Sq. km- has been identified as reserve area which includes two forest blocks of Bhilwara- the regional forest block of Bundi and Indergarh, which comes under the buffer zone of Ranthambore Tiger Reserve.

Other three tiger reserves of Rajasthan:- Ranthambore Tiger Reserve in Sawai Madhopur, Sariska Tiger Reserve in Alwar and Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve in Kota.

PM-Kusum: Plant at Kotputli

Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Utthan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) scheme, the first agro-based solar power plant has been set up in Kotputli tehsil of Jaipur in April 2021. This plant will generate 17 lakh units of electricity every year. The PM-KUSUM scheme was launched by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) to install off-grid solar pumps in rural areas and reduce dependence on the grid in grid-connected areas. In February 2019, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the launch of this scheme with an aim to provide financial assistance and ensure water conservation. Under the budget 2020-21, the government will expand the scheme and provide assistance to 20 lakh farmers for setting up a single solar pump. Apart from this, it will help another 15 lakh farmers in solarization of their grid connected pump sets. PM Kusum Yojana will provide an opportunity to the farmers to earn additional income by providing them an option to sell electricity to the grid through solar power projects set up on their barren lands.

Components of PM Kusum Yojana:- PM Kusum Yojana has three components and under these components a target has been set to achieve additional solar capacity of 30.8 GW by the year 2022.

Component A: Connecting renewable energy plants to 10,000 MW decentralized grids installed on land.

Component B: Installation of 20 lakh solar powered agricultural pumps.

Component C: Solarization of 15 lakh solar powered agricultural pumps connected to the grid.

Ayurveda and Naturopathy Colleges in the 6 Districts

Colleges of Ayurveda and Naturopathy will be established in 6 districts of the state. Approval was issued in June, 2021 regarding the starting of these colleges in Jaipur, Kota, Sikar, Bikaner, Bharatpur and Udaipur.

New Games in the Rajasthan Rural Olympics

Two new sports, Shooting Ball (Boys Category) and Kho-Kho (Boys Category) have also been included in

the Rajasthan Rural Olympic Games. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot gave approval in this regard on June 24, 2021.

Arundhati Choudhary

Arundhati Choudhary of Kota won the gold medal on April 22, 2021 in the 'Youth World Boxing Championship' held in Poland. She defeated Polish boxer Barbara Markinkowska in the 69kg weight category.

Transgender Protection Cell

To protect the rights of the transgender community, the state government has decided to constitute a 'Transgender Protection Cell' in the state. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot gave approval in this regard in June 2021.

Increase in the minimum wage

The state government has increased the minimum wages for all categories of the state. This increase will be deemed to be effective from July 1, 2020.

Category wise increasing -

Category	Minimum Wage (before) (Rs.)	Minimum Wage (now) (Rs.)
Unskilled labor	225	252 - per day or 6552 - per month
Semi-skilled labor	237	264 - per day or Rs 6864 - per month
Skilled labor	249	276- per day or 7176 - per month
High-skilled workers	299	326 per day or 8476 - per month

Project Bold

The Industries and Village Industries Commission started a project named 'Bamboo Oasis on Lands in Drought' (BOLD) in Lower Mandwa village in Udaipur, Rajasthan. Under this project 5,000 saplings of special bamboo species specially brought from Assam have been planted on 25 bighas (about 16 acres) of dry land of Lower Mandwa Gram Panchayat. In this way KVIC has created a world record for planting maximum number of bamboo saplings in a single day at one place.

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC):- The Khadi and Village Industries

Commission is a statutory body under the 'Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act-1956'. Its main objective is to make plans, disseminate them and provide facilities and assistance for the establishment and development of rural and village industries in collaboration with other agencies, wherever necessary. It works under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of India.

Tiger Corridor in Rajasthan

The Rajasthan government will develop a tiger corridor connecting the newly proposed 'Ramgarh Tiger Reserve', Ranthambore Tiger Reserve and Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve. Wildlife or animal corridors are established to ensure safe passage for animals between two different habitats.

Amagarh Fort

The present form of Amagarh Fort in Jaipur was built in the 18th century by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II, the founder of Jaipur. Some structures are believed to have existed at this place even before the construction of the fort by Jai Singh II, which is said to have been built by a Meena Sardar of the Nadala gotra (now known as Bargoti Meena). Before the Rajput rule of the Kachwaha dynasty, Jaipur and its surrounding areas were ruled and politically controlled by the Meena community. Significantly, the Sardars of the Meena community ruled over a large part of Rajasthan till about 1100 AD.

Why in discussion: - Amagarh Fort located in Jaipur was in discussion due to dispute between tribal Meena community and local Hindu groups.

Salgaon Dam Project

The state government gave administrative approval to the Salgaon dam project built in the year 1977 for a permanent solution to the drinking water problem of Mount Abu in July, 2021. The estimated cost of this scheme is Rs 250 crore.

M.L. Kumawat Committee

A committee constituted under the chairmanship of M.L. Kumawat, former chairman of Rajasthan Public Service Commission, was constituted to strengthen and improve the recruitment process in the state. This committee submitted its report to Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on July 26, 2021.

Cyber Police Station also in Jodhpur and Bharatpur

In order to control cyber crime in the state, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has approved the opening of cyber police stations in Jodhpur and Bharatpur. Till now cyber police station was operating only in Jaipur in the state.

Appointment / election

Gopalkrishna Vyas

Governor Kalraj Mishra has appointed former Rajasthan High Court judge Gopalkrishna Vyas as the chairman of the State Human Rights Commission on January 22, 2021. He assumed office on 25 January. Earlier, former judge Mahesh Chandra Sharma was the acting chairman of the commission. In addition, Mahesh Goyal has been appointed as a member of the commission.

Also know:- Rajasthan State Human Rights Commission was constituted in the year 1999, which became functional from March 2000. Human Rights Protection (Amendment) Act, 2006, the State Human Rights Commission has a chairman and two members. The head office of the commission is at Jaipur.

Justice Banwari Lal Sharma

The state government has appointed Justice Banwari Lal Sharma as the chairman of the 'Rajasthan State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission'. He has taken charge on this post on January 18, 2021, he has been appointed for a period of four years or till the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

P.K. Lohra is the new Lokayukta

Governor Kalraj Mishra administered the oath of office to former Justice Pratap Kumar Lohra as the new Lokayukta of the state on March 9, 2021. Lohra is the 13th Lokayukta of Rajasthan. He has replaced Justice S.S.Kesari in this post.

Death

Gajendra Singh Shaktawat

Congress MLA from Vallabhnagar in Udaipur Gajendra Singh Shaktawat (48) passed away on January 20, 2021. He became MLA for the second time from this seat.

Now 196 MLAs in the Vidhan Sabha: - After the death of MLA Gajendra Singh, now there are 196 MLAs left in the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly. Four MLAs have died in the state in the last four months. In October, 2020, Kailash Meghwal of Congress, Master Bhanwarlal of Sujangarh and Kiran Maheshwari of Rajsamand died in November, 2020.

Anshuman Singh

Justice Anshuman Singh (85), who was the Governor of Rajasthan and Gujarat, passed away on March 8, 2021. He was the Governor of Rajasthan from 1999-2003.

Jagannath Paharia

Senior Congress leader and former Chief Minister of Rajasthan Jagannath Pahadia passed away on May 19, 2021. He was the Chief Minister of the state from June 6, 1980 to July 13, 1981. Paharia was also the Governor of Haryana and Bihar.

Justice Mahesh Chandra Sharma

Justice Mahesh Chandra Sharma (65), who was the chairman of the Rajasthan State Human Rights Commission, passed away on April 29, 2021. He was a judge in the Rajasthan High Court from 2007 to 2017. He was appointed as the chairman of the State Human Rights Commission in the year 2018.

Janardan Singh Gehlot

Former minister and senior Congress leader Janardan Singh Gehlot passed away on April 28, 2021.

Parasaram Meghwal

Parasaram Meghwal, MP from Jalore-Sirohi, passed away on July 21, 2021. He was elected to the 11th Lok Sabha in the year 1996 on a Congress ticket.

Prize

The Scotch Silver and Scotch Order of Merit Award

Rajasthan has been honored with 'Skoch Silver' and 'Skoch Order of Merit' award for its excellent work in early childhood education and efforts for online education at Anganwadi centers in the state during Covid-19. Sumit Kochhar, Chairman, Skoch Group presented the award to Dr. Pratibha Singh, Director, Integrated Child Development Services, in a virtual program on January 16, 2021.

Miss Rajasthan

Khushi Ajwani won the title of 'Miss Rajasthan-2020' in the competition held on January 10, 2021 at Birla Auditorium, Jaipur. Garima Wadhwa was selected as first runner up and Sushmita Thukran second runner up.

'RPA Jaipur' best police academy in the country

The Union Home Ministry has declared Rajasthan Police Academy, Jaipur as the best academy in the country in the training of gazetted officers for the year 2019-20. Similarly the Police Training Centre, Kishangarh is considered the best in the country for constable training.

Award to The Rajasthan Scout-Guide

Rajasthan Scouts and Guides has secured the first position across the country for remarkable services during the Corona pandemic. These awards were announced by Bharat Scouts & Guides, New Delhi in February, 2021.

Udyog Ratna, Handicraft Ratna and Banukar Ratna Award

On March 30, 2021, the Industries Department of Rajasthan has announced to give Rajasthan Udyog Ratna to 4 entrepreneurs who have excelled in the state, Handicraft Ratna to a handicraftsman and Bunkar Ratna to a Bunkar.

Award recipients:-

Udyog Ratna Award- Handicraft Villa, Jaipur (Micro Enterprise Category) for Outstanding Growth in Turnover and S.S.Blow Chem Pvt. Ltd., Hanumangarh (Small Enterprise Category) and Somi Conveyor Beltings Ltd.- Jodhpur for Best Business Practices Small Enterprise Category) and Khandelwal Mills, Alwar (Small Enterprise Category/Best Women Entrepreneur).

Rajasthan Bunkar Ratna - Ganga Singh Gautam (Dausa)

Rajasthan Handicraft Ratna - Babulal Marotia (Jaipur)

'Land for Life' Award

The concept of family forestry developed by Prof. Shyamsundar Jyani of Rajasthan has been selected for the 'Land for Life' award by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the largest organization related to land conservation of the United Nations. This award is the world's largest award related to land conservation, given every two years. The award will be presented to Jyani at a ceremony to be held in China in August 2021.

Budget Speech : 2021-22

24 February, 2021 (Magh Shukla 12, Vikram Sanwat 2077)

- ❑ For the first time in the state, the budget of 2021-22 was presented as 'Paperless Budget' by the state government.
 - ❑ In Rajasthan, for the purpose of providing the right to health to all people by implementing the Rajastham model of public health (RMDH) in the medical field, the Right to health bill will also be brought. Through this model effective steps will be taken to achieve the highest health parameters along with Preventive care, Primary care and curative care.
 - ❑ For the first time in any state of India, **Universal Health Coverage** will be implemented with an amount of ` 3500 crores. Under this, medical insurance facility of ` 5 lakh will be available to each family.
 - ❑ Public Health College will be established at all the Divisional Headquarters in a phased manner.
 - ❑ The number of tests has been increased in the Chief Minister Nishulk Janch Yojana by adopting a 'Hub and Spoke Model'.
 - ❑ About 11000 Primary Health Centers / Sub-Health Centers and 1000 Ayurveda Hospitals will be developed as **Health and Wellness Centers** in a phased manner under the National Health Mission.
 - ❑ For the test, treatment and research of various diseases, the Institute of tropical medicine and virology and the Institute of cardiology will be set up in Jaipur.
 - ❑ In order to promote traditional medical practices, the state has implemented the 'Rajasthan AYUSH Policy-2121' for the first time.
 - ❑ Ayurveda yoga and Medi-Tourism Centers of natural medical will be set up in a phased manner on PPP mode in major tourist and religious places of the state.
 - ❑ With the objective of providing pure and quality food items to the people of the state, a campaign namely 'Shudh Ke liye Yudh' is being carried out. For its continuous and effective implementation, It has been announced to make Directorate of food safety.
- ### Road Safety
- ❑ Under the Jeevan Rakshak Yojana (JRY), ` 5000 and citations will be given to the '**good person**' for saving life by transporting the seriously injured person to the hospital. Free treatment will be ensured in private and state hospitals of the state.
 - ❑ In order to prevent accidents due to over speed and over loading on all state highways of the state, integrated traffic management system (ITMS) will be developed on PPP-Mode.
 - ❑ A provision will be made to make medical examination and two-day refresher training compulsory before renewal of license of heavy drivers.
- ### Education
- ❑ For the expansion of digital education and online classes, smart TV- and settop boxes will be made available in all state secondary and higher secondary schools and residential schools.
 - ❑ In order to promote the English medium, 1200 Mahatma Gandhi State Schools will be started in the next two years.

- ❑ On the occasion of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Peace and Non-Violence Cell released on the occasion of the 150th birth anniversary has been announced to establish 'Directorate of Peace and Non-Violence'. Sarvodaya thought test will be organized to spread the thoughts and values of Gandhiji among the students.
- ❑ Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Governance and Social Sciences (MGIGSS) will be established to assimilate the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi among the youth. Apart from this, Mahatma Gandhi Sansthan and Gandhi Darshan Museum are being constructed in Central Park, Jaipur.
- ❑ For the development of technical education in the state, **Fintech digital university** in Jodhpur and **Rajasthan institute of advanced learning** in Jaipur will be established as a Deemed university.
- ❑ In order to develop entrepreneurial skills among the students, incubation cell will be set up at divisional level by launching school startup program in the state.
- ❑ Rajiv Gandhi Center of Advance Technology (R-CAT) will be established to promote research work in latest IT technology like Artificial intelligence, machine learning, robotis and virtual reality.
- ❑ The Vidya Sambal Yojana will be implemented to invite eminent subject experts, experienced scholars as a guest faculty in the state government educational institutions.
- ❑ In about 1500 state schools of the state, the Science and Space Club will be opened for the encouragement of scientific activities in students from class-6 to 12.

Youth and Employment: -

- ❑ In order to make the recruitment process simple, time bound and integrated in the state, provision will be made to implement the same eligibility test in place of various competitive examinations

with similar eligibility. In order to avoid repetition of confirmation and police verification of the candidates, the **One time verification system** will be made up.

- ❑ **Major Dhyanchand Stadium Scheme** will be launched to expand basic facilities along with sports competitions for the physical and mental development of the youth of the state. In this scheme, the 'Sports Stadium' will be constructed in a phased manner in each block of the state with the help of funds received from Public collaboration / People's Representative Fund.
- ❑ To provide the physiotherapy with modern technology facility to the talented sportspersons of the state, High performing training and Rehabilitation center will be established in SMS Stadium, Jaipur.
- ❑ The Youth Hostel, Jaipur will be developed as a 'Youth Excellence Center' with the opening of the Archery Academy at Dungarpur and the Handball Academy at Jaisalmer.

Farmer and animal keeper welfare:

- ❑ For the better future of farmers and to protect their interests, it is proposed to start the 'Agriculture Budget' from the next year.
- ❑ A provision has been made to implement grant-based '**Mukhyamantri Krishak Sathi Yojana**' for the next three years through the Farmers Welfare Fund.
- ❑ Under this scheme, farmers will be distributed free Bio-Fertilizers and bio agents, compost units, micro nutrients kits, improved varieties of seeds, etc. Along with this, construction of Diggi and form ponds and distribution of sprinklers and mini sprinklers are also included.
- ❑ In order to provide the farmers with a fair price for their produce, Cleaning, Grinding and processing units of products will be set up.
- ❑ In the next three years, about 4.30 lakh hectares of additional land will be brought under the

‘**Micro Irrigation**’ system. Techniques such as fertigation and automation will be included in this.

- ❑ In order to promote the business and export of agricultural commodities and processing products, provision has been made to set up ‘**Mini Food Park**’ in each district and ‘**Mega Food Park**’ in Mathania (Jodhpur) in a phased manner over the next three years.
- ❑ To provide all kinds of useful information to farmers, one thousand **Kisan Seva Kendras** will be constructed in Bharat Nirman Rajiv Gandhi Seva Kendras in the next three years. Along with this, it has been announced to create ‘Agricultural Power Distribution Company’ for availability of adequate power for agriculture sector, transparency in power purchase and best financial management.
- ❑ The ‘College of Dairy Science and Technology’ will be established in Bikaner and Jobner (Jaipur) and the College of Dairy and Food Technology in Bassi (Jaipur).
- ❑ A provision has been made to start the 102-Mobile Veterinary Service on the lines of 108 ambulances to provide emergency veterinary services to the cowsheds and livestock owners of the state.
- ❑ To strengthen and modernize veterinary services, ‘Rajasthan Veterinary Relief Society’ will be set up in every veterinary hospital.
- ❑ A state-level cattle rearing ceremony will be organized every year with the aim of encouraging progressive cattle rearing.

Industry

- ❑ A new policy is proposed for the upliftment of MSME Industries. Under this, provision will be made for quality control certification, establishment of testing laboratory, skill upgradation, export promotion, e-marketing etc.

- ❑ In order to create new opportunities for industrial development, investment and employment in the state, a provision has been made to set up industrial area in 64 subdivisions and build up a new ‘Greater Bhiwadi Industrial Township’ in the year 2021-22.
- ❑ An announcement was made to make **Marwar industrial cluster** in the Jodhpur-Kankani-Rohat-Pali-Marwar region.
- ❑ In order to attract new investors, the **Rajasthan Investor Summit** will be organized in Jaipur in collaboration with the Rajasthan Foundation. A provision has been made to establish Fintech park with the aim of developing Jaipur as Fintech city in the country.
- ❑ ‘**Jaipur Haat**’ will be developed on the lines of Dilli Haat to provide nationally marketing facilities for goods manufactured by artisans and weavers.
- ❑ In order to develop entrepreneurship and innovation among the youth of rural areas of the state, it is proposed to implement the Rural i-start Program in the independence year.
- ❑ In order to ensure all round development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the state, the Rajasthan scheduled caste and scheduled tribe development act will be enacted.
- ❑ It has been announced to implement ‘**Mukhyamantri Anuprati Coaching Scheme**’ for the students of SC, ST, OBC, MBC and EWS, for taking admission in various professional courses and preparing for competitive examinations for government jobs.
- ❑ It is proposed to implement the **Ambedkar DBT voucher scheme** for housing facility for college students of SC, ST, OBC, MBC and EWS class.
- ❑ **Indira Gandhi Urban Credit Card Scheme** has been launched to cater to the needs of the youth of street vendors and service sector in urban

areas. In this, interest-free loan of up to ` 50 thousand will be provided to 5 lakh youth.

- ❑ For the upliftment of the deprived, nomadic and semi-nomadic communities and the Gadiya, Lohar, Banjara, Sansi, Bawri, Bhat, Natt and Madari, Sapera, Bahurupiya etc caste, **Denotified Tribes Policy (DNT)** will be brought. In this, a provision has been made a fund of ` 50 crore rupees and establishing of **DNT Research and Preservation Center**.
- ❑ Under the Nehru Child Protection Fund, Integrated Child Rehabilitation Centers have been proposed to be set up at the Divisional Headquarters to curb drug abuse among the youth of the state.
- ❑ In an innovative initiative for the care, protection and rehabilitation of orphaned and neglected children in the state, coordinating with NGOs and Civil society a provision has been made to implementation of the **Gora Dhyay Group Foster Care** at all district headquarters.
- ❑ Provision has been made to set up **Indira Mahila Shakti Kendras** at all the district headquarters for solving the problems of women and the council.
- ❑ It is proposed to set up **'Maa-Bari Kendra'** to promote education in the tribal areas.
- ❑ **150 Van Dhan Kendras** will be set up to create better opportunities for value addition and marketing of the small forest produce stored by the families of Sahariya and Mara region of Tribal Sub Plan Area.
- ❑ A provision of ` 2 crore has been made to complete the grand Liludi Badli Shaheed Smarak (Sirohi) in memory of the martyred tribals.

Miscellaneous-

- ❑ It has been proposed to make Constitutional club, Jaipur for the development of the spirit of Legislative fraternity among the members of the Legislative Assembly.

- ❑ 'Vinoba Bhave Nagar' is being developed in Chowkha Jodhpur to provide social and economic support to the Pakistani migrants. (Accommodation at a cheaper rate)
- ❑ **Modern auditorium and cultural center** will be constructed in the city of Jodhpur for organizing large programs of national and international level.

Potable water resources

- ❑ Under the **'Jal Jeevan Mission'**, a provision has been made to start the work of 12 new large drinking water schemes of `4700 crore in the year 2021-22.
- ❑ To provide pure drinking water in rural areas, about 20 lakh people will be provided with a drinking water connection sequentially under Jal Jeevan Mission.
- ❑ Efforts are being made by the state government to get the status of the national project by passing a cabinet resolution to the **East Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP)** and the Parvan Major Irrigation Project.
- ❑ Additional incentives are being provided to the farmers to promote drip and sprinkler irrigation system under the **Rajasthan Water Sector Livelihood Improvement Project (RWSLIP)**.
- ❑ For the desert region, renovation work of Indira Gandhi feeder and main canal distributors and miners will be done under the **Rajasthan Water Sector Reconstruction Project (RWSRPD)**.
- ❑ Under the **Repair-Renovation-Restoration (RRR)** scheme, various reservoirs located in 14 districts of the state will be revived.
- ❑ Under **Dam Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP)**, renovation and modernization work of 18 dams will also be done in the coming year.

Energy

- ❑ Energy policy for the next 30 years: 2021-50 will be released for the overall development of the energy sector in the state.

- ❑ It is proposed to develop a **green corridor** of 6.3 GW capacity to develop solar and wind energy transmission systems.

Forest and Environment

- ❑ A task force will be set up to provide community forest rights leases in tribal areas.
- ❑ In view of the importance of the Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur, it will be developed as the Wetland bird's habitat conservation center.
- ❑ It has been announced to establish Wildlife Management Training Center at **Talchhapar Sanctuary**, Churu and Padmashree Kailash Sankhla Smriti Van in Jodhpur.
- ❑ **'Ghar Ghar Aushadhi Yojana'** will be launched to promote variety and quality of medicinal plants in the state.

Tourism, Art and Culture

- ❑ A provision of ` 500 crore has been made in the **'Tourism Development Fund'** to give speed to tourism activities.
- ❑ The Shekhawati tourism circuit, the Godwad tourism circuit and the religious tourism circuit will be constructed.
- ❑ In order to promote domestic and foreign tourism in Jaisalmer, it has been proposed to create **'Dhola-Maru Tourism Complex'**. The **Rajasthan folk art training institute** will be set up in this complex.
- ❑ In order to promote the Day tourism, Rural tourism, Tribal tourism and Adventure tourism, **Viability gap funding scheme** will be launched.
- ❑ The **'Film Tourism Promotion Policy'** will be implemented with the aim of promoting Rajasthan as a **Film destination**.
- ❑ In order to expedite the investigation of crimes with women, the **'Special investigation unit for crime against women'** has been constituted in every police district.

- ❑ For the speedy investigation and supervision of heinous crimes, **Heinous crime monitoring unit** has been set up at the Divisional Headquarters. and for the identification and record of the habitual criminals, Inter operable criminal justice system (ICJS) will be effectively implemented.
- ❑ In the order of zero tolerance policy against corruption, Digital voice logger will be established in ACB.

Good governance

- ❑ To ensure smooth and easy access to the beneficiaries of the Public Welfare Schemes of the Government, it has been proposed to set up a Social & performance audit authority.
- ❑ For authentication of eligibility of beneficiaries in government schemes, a target has been set to complete data based online authentication in place of physical verification and documentation by October 2, 2021.
- ❑ In the coming year, from 1 May , 2021, **'Prashasan Shaharon Ke Sang'** and from 2 October 2021, **'Prashasan Shaharon ke sang'** campaigns will be carried out.

Tax proposal

- ❑ The Social Security Investment Promotion Scheme (SSIP-2021) will be implemented to encourage non-profit social organizations working in the field of humanitarian and all-pervasive potential in the state.
- ❑ For the increase of revenue in various departments of the state a provision has been made to set up **Center of excellence for revenue research and analysis** for the purpose of Analysis fraud detection and and policy making,
- ❑ On reporting of tax evasion, the 'Informant Incentive Scheme' operated in the SDRI will be expanded to other departments and the cash incentive amount will be increased to a maximum of ` 1 lakh.

- ❑ To make the registration process simple and transparent, **Anywhere online registration system** will be implemented in a phased manner.
- ❑ To give a boost to the manufacturing sector, it has been announced to reduce the DLC rate of residential and commercial land by 10 percent.
- ❑ Under the Mukhyamantri Jan Awaas Yojana, stamp duty will be reduced to 0.50 per cent for EWS and 1 per cent for LIG.
- ❑ For settlement of old disputes of outstanding stamp duty on loan documents, a new **Amnesty scheme** will be launched by April 1, 2021.
- ❑ To overcome the inconvenience of small traders, it is announced to increase the limit of e-way bills to ` 1 lakh.

Industry Department

- ❑ Several provisions have been made to make **Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme-2019** more effective and comprehensive-
 - i. In RIPS-2019, a provision has been made to give additional benefits under the 'Dr BR-Ambedkar SC/ST Entrepreneur Incentive Special Package'.
 - ❑ 50% reduction in minimum investment limit.
 - ❑ The maximum grant will be increased to 200 percent of the EFCL.
 - ❑ Provision of special incubation centers for the entrepreneurs of SC/ST1.
 - ii. Adding Health care sector and Active Pharmaceutical ingredients (API) to Thrust sector of RIPS-2019.
 - iii. Declaration to adding 'Gems & Jewellery Bourse to service sector of RIPS-2019.

- iv. To reduce the minimum land limit under RIPS-2019 for Resorts and Amusement Park, 2 acres and 2.5 acres for the park have been reduced.
- v. In order to boost the solar and wind energy sector, it has been announced to increase the employment grant to 90 percent to Equipment manufacturing units.
- vi. In order to encourage e-vehicles in the state, it has been announced to give benefit to **e-charging and swapping stations** by thrust sector of RIPS-2019 and reduce the investment limit for production of e vehicle to ` 25 crore.
- vii. It has been announced to extend the tenure of the Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme (RIPS-2014) by two years till March 31, 2023.
- viii. In order to encourage the operation of e-vehicle, they were exempted from motor vehicle tax. (Till March 31, 2022).
- ix. In order to increase private sector participation in the discovery of Minor minerals, a provision has been made to provide Non exclusive prospecting licenses (NEPL) to the entrepreneurs.
 - ❑ Expanding the 'Navjeevan Yojana' (Commencement 2009), it has announced the formation of 'Navajeevan fund' with ` 100 crores for de-addiction, rehabilitation and education of the concerned families.
 - ❑ In the memory of Sri Gurusharan Chhabra associated with liquor ban movement in the state, 'Lt. Sri Gurusharan Chhabra Public Awareness Campaign' will be organized for alcoholism in terms of moral, religious and health.

4

Rajasthan Sujas Saar

(January-July)

The development of the state will happen from The Refinery

UPA Chairperson Sonia Gandhi laid the foundation of the refinery on 23 September 2013. For this, more than 10 thousand bighas of land was allotted in Pachpadra of Barmer. The total cost of this project is 43 thousand 129 crores.

The state is mainly divided into four petroleum basins. 1- Barmer-Sanchor Basin (mineralized oil and natural gas), 2- Jaisalmer Basin (Gas), 3- Bikaner-Nagaur Basin (includes Sri Ganganagar, Hanumangarh and Churu along with these two districts), 4- Vindhyan Basin (Kota, Bundi), Baran, Jhalawar, Bhilwara and Chittorgarh included)

The Ayushman Bharat Mahatma Gandhi Rajasthan Health Insurance Scheme

From January 30, 2021, the new phase of Ayushman Bharat Mahatma Gandhi Rajasthan Health Insurance Scheme has started in the state. 1 crore 10 lakh families of the state will get the benefit of this scheme. Covid-19 and hemodialysis have also been included in the list of packages of this scheme. Enlarging the coverage of beneficiaries in Ayushman Bharat Mahatma Gandhi Rajasthan Health Insurance Scheme, on the basis of 'Social and Economic Census, 2011, the benefit of the scheme to 1 crore 10 lakh families including eligible beneficiary families and families covered under the National Food Security Act is payable. Under this scheme, the insurance cover available to the beneficiaries has been increased from Rs 3 lakh 30 thousand to Rs 5 lakh.

M-Sand Policy-2020

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot released 'M-Sand Policy-2020' on January 25, 2020. M-Sand policy has been formulated in the budget for the year 2019-20 with the objective of promoting manufactured sand as a long-term alternative of river sand. This will also reduce the dependence on 'River sand. This new policy will ensure availability of Manufactured Sand

(M-Sand) as a long-term alternative to natural 'River sand'. This policy will enable investors to set up M-sand units using the incentives and facilities provided by the state government. This will not only help in environmental protection, but will also create confidence among the general public about the efficacy of M-Sand.

MoU for practical study of The Potash

A tripartite agreement was signed on January 21, 2021 between Government of Rajasthan, Rajasthan State Mines and Minerals Limited and Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited, Government of India for feasibility study of potash in Nagaur-Ganganagar basin of the state. With the potash reserves spread in Ganganagar, Hanumangarh and Bikaner region, we will be able to become self-reliant in the field of this mineral. Potash is used in other industries including fertilizer, chemical and petrochemical and glass. Preliminary study has estimated the availability of potash mineral about 2500 million tonnes in this basin.

The Drinking Water Management

Indragarh-Chakan Drinking Water Project - Bundi

Borawas-Padampura Drinking Water Scheme - Kota

Atru-Shergarh Drinking Water Scheme - Baran

Panchla-Ghevra Chirai Regional Drinking Water Project- Jodhpur

Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot urged to declare the East Rajasthan Canal Project as a project of national importance in the meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog. With this project, 13 districts (Jhalawar, Baran, Kota, Bundi, Sawai Madhopur, Ajmer, Tonk, Jaipur, Karauli, Alwar, Bharatpur, Dausa and Dholpur) will get drinking water and irrigation facility. The estimated expenditure on this project is 40 thousand crores.

The focus on solar power and wind power

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot inaugurated 220 KV grid sub station at Chhatargarh, Bikaner. In this, the installed capacity of Rajasthan has now increased to 5002 MW, while our installed capacity in wind power is 4337 MW. The total power generation capacity of the state is 23000. MW has been reached.

Ambedkar Social Service Award

Ambedkar Social Service Award for the year 2021 was given to A.R. Khan and the award for the year 2020 was given to Kodarlal Bunkar. A check of one lakh rupees and a emblem was given as an award. At the same time, Ambedkar Social Justice Award of Rs 50 thousand was given to Mahavir Jindal, while Ambedkar Women Welfare Award of Rs 50 thousand was given to Dr. Maneka Bhupesh of Armaan Foundation.

State Women Policy-2021

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot released the 'State Women Policy-2021' on April 11, 2021. The state's first women policy was implemented in the year 2000.

Objective:-

- Ensuring the autonomy, dignity and human rights of women and girl child.
- Promoting the health, education and safety of women and girls.
- Access to social security opportunities and facilities for political, social and economic empowerment.

Six major areas: - Under the Rajasthan State Women's Policy-2021, 6 main areas have been identified for the overall development of women and girls, which are as follows-

- 1- Birth, survival, health and nutrition
- 2- Education and training for girls and women
- 3- Economic empowerment
- 4- Political and social empowerment
- 5- Security protection and rescue
- 6- Environment, Climate Change and Disasters

PM Kusum: The first plant in Bhaloji

Considering the heat of the sun, the power generation capacity from solar energy in the state has been estimated by experts at 142 GW. Bhaloji village of Kotputli tehsil of Jaipur has been given the status of the first solar power plant installed village under PM Kusum Yojana in the country. This plant, built on three and a half acres of land by Devkaran Yadav of Bhaloji village, will generate about 17 lakh units of electricity annually. Under the PM Kusumscheme, the state government aims to set up solar power plants of 2600 MW capacity in the state. The state government had released the 'Rajasthan State Solar Energy Policy-2019' in December, 2019.

The Chief Minister Chiranjeevi Health Insurance Scheme

Under this cashless scheme launched on May 1, 2021, every family in the state will be benefitted with health insurance of Rs 5 lakh per year.

Keeping in view the low income group and social and economic condition, the full premium of eligible families and small and marginal farmers and contract workers of National Food Security Act, Socio Economic Census 2011 will be given by the state government. Other families can join the plan at a premium of Rs 850 per annum.

It is an insurance plan for the whole family, in which there is no restriction on the age and number of family members.

The Operation 'Flush Out'

In order to completely ban the entry of mobile phones, narcotics and other undesirable contraband items in jails through smuggling and conduct of criminal activities in jails by the prisoners, 'Operation' in all the jails of the Prisons Department from November 21, 2020 by the Director General of Prisons. A special campaign was launched in the name of 'Flush Out'.

The Tiger Conservation in India

The Tiger Project was started on 1st April, 1973.

There are currently 51 tiger reserves in India.

The pugmark technique developed by Saroj Raj Choudhary in 1966 is used for monitoring and

counting tigers in India. Tiger census was conducted for the first time in the country in 1972.

The Chambal Basin, rich in extensive biodiversity

Chambal Gharial Sanctuary:-Administrative approval for the National Chambal Sanctuary was issued on 30 September 1978 by the Government of India under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 for the conservation of the vanishing Gharials. It comes in the border area of three states, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. A notification in this regard was issued by Rajasthan on December 7, 1979. The Gharial Conservation Project in Chambal River was started in 1979 and was established in 1980. The better site for gharial breeding is at Gudla near Kota.

Bhainsrodgarh Wildlife Sanctuary:-Bhainsrodgarh Wildlife Sanctuary is situated on the banks of Chambal in Chittorgarh district. It was declared a sanctuary in the year 1983. It is spread over an area of 229.14 sq.

Mukundra Hills National Tiger Park:- On January 9, 2012, Mukundra Hills was given the status of National Park. Mukundra Hills National Park was formed by mixing an area of about 199.51 sq km of Jawahar Sagar Sanctuary, Chambal Gharial Sanctuary, Darra Sanctuary. Gagrani parrot (Hiraman) is found here. It was declared a Tiger Reserve on 10 April 2013.

Jawahar Sagar Sanctuary:- Jawahar Sagar Sanctuary was declared in Kota in 1975. Dhokra and bamboo forests are in abundance here. This sanctuary is spread over an area of 315 sq.km.

Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary:- Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary in Bundi is spread over an area of 252.79 sq.km.

Ranthambore National Park:- Ranthambore National Park located at Sawai Madhopur was declared as a national park on November 1, 1980. Ranthambore is also one of the 9 tiger reserve areas selected for the tiger project. It covers an area of 274.5 sq km, of which 13.-6 sq km is a tiger reserve. The Jogi Mahal located in the garden is a viewable sight.

Kailadevi Sanctuary:- The Kailadevi Sanctuary at Karauli in Chambal Basin is also a part of the Tiger Project. The state government declared it a sanctuary in 1984. It was included in the Tiger Project in the year 1991.

The state symbol of Rajasthan associated with the environment

Rohida:- Rohida is the state flower of Rajasthan. Its scientific name is Ticomella undulate. Rohida was declared the state flower on October 21, 1983. Rohida is found in Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Pali, Ajmer, Nagaur, Bikaner, Churu, Jhunjhunu, Sikar etc. areas of the state.

Chinkara and Camel:- Camel is domesticated and Chinkara has the status of state animal in the wild category. The scientific name of Chinkara is Gazella benetii. It was declared the state animal in 1981. It is found in abundance in the Nahargarh Sanctuary of Jaipur and the desert part of the state. At the same time, on June 30, 2014, camel was given the status of state animal in the pet category.

Godavan:- Godavan is the state bird of Rajasthan. It is also known as Great Indian Bustard. It was given the status of state bird in the year 1981. Godavan is found mainly in the desert area of Jaisalmer to Sorsan (Baran) and in the Sokhli region of Ajmer.

Khejdi:- Khejdi (Shami) has been given the status of state tree. Its scientific name is Prosopis cinerea. Khejri was declared the state tree on 31 October 1983. In 1730 AD, 363 people had sacrificed their lives under the leadership of Amrita Devi to save Khejri trees in Khejadli village of Jodhpur. On this occasion, every year on Bhadrapada Shukla Dashami, the world's only tree fair organize here. Amrita Devi Wildlife Award for Environment was started from 1994.

The Heroic Warrior Maharana Pratap

Maharana Pratap was born on May 9, 1540 in Kumbhalgarh, but his birth anniversary is celebrated on the Shukla Paksha Tertiya of Jyeshtha month according to the Hindi date. He was the son of Udai Singh and Maharani Jaiwanta Bai. His childhood name was Kika. Maharana Pratap died on 29 January 1597 at Chavand.

The Rajasthan: Museum of Minerals

About ten thousand tonnes of uranium reserves have been confirmed in Khandela of Sikar district. Uranium Corporation of India has started work for its exploitation. Recently Geological Survey of India has discovered SSS grade, chemical grade and cement grade limestone deposits with a capacity of more than 690 million tonnes in three blocks of Jaisalmer.

In order to give speed to mineral exploration, a notification for the formation of the State Mineral Exploration Trust was issued on September 15, 2020.

Udaipur and Rajsamand have 87 percent silver reserves of the country.

Rajasthan: Many Panchayat Awarded

Under Deendayal Upadhyaya Panchayat Empowerment Award, Rs 50 lakh to Kota Zilla Parishad, Rs 25 lakh to Panchayat Samiti Kotra (Udaipur) and Panchayat Samiti Chirawa (Jhunjhunu) Rs 25 lakh and Gram Panchayat Tyodaya (Jhunjhunu), Gram Panchayat 4 NN Chanana (Sriganganagar), Gram Panchayat Thur (Udaipur), Gram Panchayat Nidharia Kalan (Dholpur) and Gram Panchayat Bar (Pali) were honored with prizes of Rs.10 lakh each. Along with this, under Nanaji Deshmukh National Gaurav Sabha Award, Rs. 10 lakh to Bhojasar Gram Panchayat of Jhunjhunu district, Rs. 5 lakh to Arwar, Gram Panchayat of Mundwa-Nagaur Panchayat Samiti under Gram Panchayat Development Plan Award and child-friendly Gram Panchayat Award scheme. Under this, Gram Panchayat Minda of Panchayat Samiti Nawan was honored with an award of Rs.5 lakh.

The Keoladeo National Park

It got the status of National Park in the year 1981. It is spread over 29 sq km. It is famous for the migration of many other birds including the Siberian crane. In the budget of 2021-22, the state government announced to provide water to this park, which is facing water shortage, through a dedicated pipeline from the Chambal river.

The Kisan Mitra Scheme

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot launched the 'Mukhyamantri Kisan Mitra Urja Yojana' on July 17,

2021. Its purpose is to provide economic support to the farmers. An additional expenditure of Rs 1450 crore will be incurred annually on this scheme. In this, agricultural consumers will get one thousand rupees per month and maximum 12 thousand rupees annually on electricity rates. At present, due to subsidy on agricultural electricity rates, an economic burden of 16 thousand crore rupees is coming on the state government every year.

The Rajiv Gandhi Krishak Saathi Sahayata Yojana

Rajiv Gandhi Krishak Saathi Sahayata Yojana was launched in the year 2019. Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided to farmer laborers in case of accident while doing farming or marketing work. 2 lakh rupees are given on the death of the farmer and 5 thousand to 50 thousand rupees in case of mutilation.

The Beneshwar Dham

Famous as 'Vagad Prayag' situated on the border line of Dungarpur and Banswara and Beneshwar Dham situated at the mouth of Som-Mahi-Jakham, the famous 'Tribal Mahakumbh' of Vagad, Beneshwar fair is held every year in the month of Magh. Devotees from all over the country and abroad participate in this 15-day fair organized at the holy taposthali of Lok Sant Mavji.

The Mehrangarh Fort

Mehrangarh Fort of Jodhpur is one of the oldest forts in India. The 15th ruler of Jodhpur, Rao Maharaj Jaswant Singh (1638-1678) completed the construction of this fort. The fort has 8 gates, of which Lohapol and Jaspol are prominent. Within the fort, the palaces like Sheeshmahal, Silekhana, Daulatkhana etc. are also wonderful in architecture.

The First Legislative Assembly of Rajasthan

The first Legislative Assembly of Rajasthan came into existence on March 29, 1952 with the oath taking by the elected public representatives. The notification for the constitution of the first Legislative Assembly was published on 23 February 1952. The number of members in the first assembly (1952-57) was 160 and after the merger of the erstwhile Ajmer state with Rajasthan (November 1956), its strength

increased to 190. In the first assembly, during the tenure of five years, three Chief Ministers were made - Tikaram Paliwal, Jaynarayan Vyas and Mohanlal Sukhadia.

The first Speaker of the Assembly was Narottam Lal Joshi, Deputy Speaker Lal Singh Shekhawat, Government Chief Whip Mathuradas Mathur and Leader of Opposition Jaswant Singh.

No woman candidate reached the first assembly by winning, but Yashoda Devi from Banswara (in November, 1953) and Kamla Beniwal (in June, 1954) from Amer 'A' reached the assembly by winning the by-elections.

The number of members in the Second Legislative Assembly (1957-62) and in the Third Assembly (1962-67) of the state was 176. The number of members in the Fourth Assembly (1967-72) and the Fifth Assembly (1972-77) was 184. In the Sixth Legislative Assembly (1977-80), the number of members increased to 200.

The first Legislative Assembly began on 29 March 1952 at Mansingh Town Hall, Jaipur, which was shifted to a new building located at Lalkothi in the year 2001.

The Other Key Facts

No Bag Day:- Every Saturday has been declared as 'No Bag Day' for school children in the state.

MGNREGA:- In the year 2020-21, under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA scheme, a total of 37 crore 19 lakh man-days were created and employment was provided to 70 lakh 93 thousand families.

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Rural):- Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Rural) in the year 2020-21, 13 lakh 33 thousand 394 houses have been approved in the state and more than 10 lakh 10 thousand houses have been constructed.

Anandam:- The Higher and Technical Education Department has organized a new compulsory subject named 'Anandam' inspired by the principle of Mahatma Gandhi has been included in the curriculum of higher and technical education for all the students. This topic is not based on the bookish knowledge of mechanical and mechanical education but is related

to actually doing the work. At Anandam, students will undertake group project work of community service and find real solutions to various community problems. Rajasthan is the first state in the country to take this unique initiative.

Corona Vaccination Campaign:- Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot launched the Covid-19 vaccination campaign in the state on January 16, 2021.

Under the Jaljevan Mission in the state, tap connections have been made available in about 20 lakh houses out of 1 crore 1 lakh 32 thousand houses in 43,362 villages of the state.

80 thousand Swasthya Mitra are being made in 40 thousand villages under the 'Nirogi Rajasthan Abhiyan' which started from December 18, 2019.

Rajasthan Silicosis Policy, 2019 - October 3, 2019

Rajasthan Agricultural Processing, Agribusiness and Agriculture Export Promotion Policy, 2019 - December, 2019

Rajasthan Jan Aadhaar Scheme, 2019 - December 18, 2019

Launch of Indira Rasoi - August 20, 2020

Gobaria Babri - Kota

The Problem of The Rupee: 15 Origin and Its solution - Composition of Dr-Bhimrao Ambedkar

Naka Dam of Bagheri - Rajsamand

Bala Fort - Alwar

Bhadla Solar Park: The foundation stone of Bhadla Solar Park was laid on 21st August, 2013. The development of this solar park to its full capacity of 2245 MW was completed in February 2020.

Madhu Bhatt Tailang - Dhrupad Singer

Pandit Harihar Sharan Bhatt - Sitar player

Rekha Thakur - Kathak

Jyoti Bharti Goswami - Kathak

Hussain Brothers - Ghazal Singers

Vakil Mohammad - Ghazal singer

Sabri Brothers - Qawwal

Gulzar Hussain - Violinist

Saurabh Bhatt - Violinist

Roop Singh Shekhawat - Bhawai Dance

Madhu Sharma - Folk Dancer

Surpura Dam - Jodhpur

Ganglav Talab - Jodhpur

Rajasthan Solar Energy Policy - 2019

Rajasthan Wind Energy Policy - 2019

Rajasthan Agro Processing, Agribusiness and
Agriculture Export Promotion Policy - 2019

The state has a target of producing 30 thousand MW
of solar power by the year 2025.

A target has been set to construct 7111 farm ponds in
the state for the year 2021-22.

The Agricultural Marketing Board was established in
the state in the year 1974.

The Rajasthan State Co-operative Bank was
established on October 14, 1953.

The Rajasthan State Co-operative Land Development
Bank was established on 26 March 1957.

The Agricultural Marketing Board was established in
the state in the year 1974.

In the year 2020-21, crop loans worth Rs 15235.33
crore were distributed to more than 26 lakh farmers
in the state.

Vardhman Mahaveer Open University Kota was
established on 23rd July, 1987.

Samyak

An Institute For Civil Services

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Defense/Science Technology

The 'Akash' air defense missile system

Akash is a surface-to-air missile system, which can detect enemy aircraft at long range and strike within a radius of about 25 km. It was inducted into the Indian Air Force in the year 2014 and into the Indian Army in the year 2015. The Indian Army has four units of the 'Akash' air defense system and the Indian Air Force has seven units of this system. In order to speed up the export process of such weapon systems, the Defense Ministry announced the formation of a high-level committee consisting of Defense Minister, External Affairs Minister and National Security Advisor.

Why in discussion:- The Union Cabinet has approved the export of indigenous 'Akash' air defense missile on December 30, 2020. This approval given by the Union Cabinet is in line with the government's commitment to achieve the target of \$5 billion in defense exports.

The Sagar Anveeshika

Coastal Research Vessel 'Sagar Anveeshika' was dedicated to the nation on January 09, 2021 at Chennai Port. With this, India became one of the three countries that have the technology to locate resources in the depths of the ocean. The ship is equipped with advanced scientific and navigation equipment to collect data on the marine environment. This will enable data collection up to 3 km- under the sea. The scientists present in it will be able to stay in the sea for 15 hours.

The Desert Night-21

A bilateral warfare exercise named 'Desert Night-21' was conducted by Indian Air Force and 'French Air and Space Force' from 20-24 January 2021 at Jodhpur airport. Rafale aircraft were inducted by both sides in this exercise.

The Sea Vigil-21

Coastal Defense Exercise 'Sea Vigil-21' was conducted from January 12-13, 2021. Organized every two years, 13 coastal states and union territories, fishermen and people from communities

living in coastal areas participated in this exercise. The exercise was coordinated by the Navy.

PASSEX

In order to promote naval cooperation between India and Vietnam, Sea Route Exercise 'PASSEX' was conducted from 26-27 December, 2020 in the South China Sea. PASSEX is regularly conducted by the Indian Navy with friendly navies.

Kavach

Under the Andaman and Nicobar Command as the country's only joint forces command, a mega joint military exercise 'exercise Kavach' will be conducted by combining the resources of the three-tier army. The Andaman and Nicobar Command (AMC) with its headquarters at Port Blair is the first Integrated Theater Command.

ASMI Indigenous Machine Pistol

The Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and the Indian Army have jointly developed India's first indigenous machine pistol - 'ASMI'. This pistol can be used in place of the 9 mm pistol currently being used by the defense forces. Its firing range is about 100 meters. This machine pistol is primarily a self-loading version of the pistol which is fully automatic. The pistol has been named 'Asmi' which means pride, self-respect and hard work. It can be used more in face-to-face combat, anti-extremism and counter-terrorism operations by commandos, soldiers, tank and aircraft personnel etc.

The Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy

It is a genetic disorder in which changes in a protein called dystrophin (helps maintain muscle cells) lead to progressive muscle deformity and weakness.

Why in discussion: - Recently, the Delhi High Court has ordered the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to explore the possibility of crowdfunding to help two children suffering from Dugaschen Muscular Dystrophy. Crowd funding refers to the method of raising capital through the collective effort of a large number of individual investors/donors.

Arjun Main Battle Tank 'MK-1A'

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has handed over the indigenously developed 'Arjuna Main Battle Tank' 'MK-1A' to the Indian Army in February 2021. The 'Arjun Main Battle Tank' consists of an indigenously developed 120 mm rifle and armor Piercing Fin-Stabilized Discarding Sabot (FSAPDS) munitions. FSAPDS is capable of destroying all known tanks at direct shooting range. The Arjun tank uses a 7.62 mm machine gun for anti-personnel targets (soft targets i.e. relatively less safe targets) and 12.7 mm machine guns for anti-aircraft and ground targets.

The Navy gets the third Scorpene submarine

Mazagon Dock Limited handed over the indigenously built Scorpene class submarine to the Indian Navy on 15 February 2021 after two years of sea trials. This Scorpene class submarine built under Project P-75 will be commissioned as 'INS Karanj'. Earlier, INS Kalvari was commissioned in December 2017 and INS Khanderi in September 2019. It is noteworthy that under Project-75, 6 submarines are being built for the Indian Navy.

The Helina and Dhruvastra

India successfully test-fired indigenously developed anti-tank guided missile systems 'HELINA' and 'Dhruvastra' in February 2021 at the Pokaran range. Helina (Army Version) and Dhruvastra (Indian Air Force Version) are the 3rd Generation is a helicopter-launched version of the Indian Anti-Tank Guided Missile (Nag Missile System). The missile system can be launched at any time of day and night and is capable of hitting battle tanks with conventional armor and explosive reactive armor. These missile systems have been indigenously designed and developed by the Defense Research and Development Organization.

The decommissioned ship 'T-81'

The Indian Navy's 'T-81', a Super Dvora Mk-2 class fast attack craft, was decommissioned at the Naval Dockyard, Mumbai on January 28, 2021 after successfully serving the nation for more than 20 years. The 60 ton displacement capacity and 25 meter long vessel was built at Goa Shipyard Limited in collaboration with M/s Ramta of Israel. It was inducted into the Navy on 05 June 1999. It was

capable of carrying out day/night surveillance, search and rescue, beach access, evacuating marine commandos and early detection of intruding ships with speeds of up to 45 knots.

SANDESH

National Informatics Center (NIC) has launched an instant messaging platform named 'Sandesh' on the lines of 'WhatsApp'. It is a 'Government Instant Messaging System' which can be used by any Government servant or public user through a valid mobile number/e-mail ID in official or emergency situations.

Tropex-21

The largest biennial 'Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise (TROPEX)' of the Indian Navy was conducted in the Indian Ocean region in January-February 2021. Its theme was 'War Ready, Reliable and Cohesive Force'. It was attended by the Indian Navy, Coast Guard, Marine Police from 13 Coastal States and Union Territories along with other stakeholders from the maritime sector. Its objectives were the promotion of peace and stability, coastal defense setup and combat readiness.

The Aero India-2021

The 13th edition of the Aero India Show was organized by the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) in February 2021 at the Yelahanka Air Force Station (Karnataka), Bangalore. Aero India is a biennial international military and civilian air show. It is a major event that attracts international and Indian military and civil aircraft manufacturers, their respective industries, government dignitaries and business visitors. The central region of Aero India 2021 was the Indian Ocean region.

The Thunderstorm Research Testbed

The country's first thunderstorm research testbed will be set up at Balasore, Odisha by the India Meteorological Department (IMD). The primary objective of setting up this Thunderstorm Research Testbed is to reduce human casualties and property damage due to lightning strike. This research center will be set up in collaboration with the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).

theAsterx

France conducted the first space military exercise to test the defense capability of its satellites. The codename of this military exercise is 'AsterX' in memory of the first French satellite Asterix of the year 1965. The military exercise is part of France's strategy to become the world's third largest space power after the US and China. Its purpose is to monitor potential dangerous objects/targets in space as well as any other foreign power with sufficient space capability to its satellite.

The ISRO's Sonic Rocket RH-560

Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has launched a sounding rocket RH-560 from Sriharikota Space Center to study practical variations in neutral air and plasma dynamics. ISRO has developed a range of rockets in the Rohini series, namely RH-200, RH-300 and RH-560. These names represent the diameter of the rocket in mm-. Sonic rockets are one- or two-stage solid propellant rockets used for exploration of the upper atmospheric regions and for space research. ISRO started launching indigenously made sound rockets from the year 1965.

The Dustlik-2

In March 2021, the second phase of military exercise Dustlik between India and Uzbekistan was conducted in Chaubatia, Uttar Pradesh. The objective of this exercise is to conduct counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism activities in mountainous, rural and urban scenarios under the mandate of the United Nations. The first edition of this exercise was conducted in Tashkent, Uzbekistan in November 2019.

The Exercise 'Desert Flag'

Exercise 'Desert Flag' is an annual multinational warfare exercise organized by the Air Force of the United Arab Emirates, scheduled to be conducted from March 3-27, 2021. Its goal is to provide training to the participating forces to avoid operational risks in a controlled environment. The Indian Air Force is participating in the 'Desert Flag-VI' for the first time. Apart from this, the other participating countries are the United Arab Emirates, United States of America, France, Saudi Arabia, South Korea and Bahrain.

The joint mission of ISRO and NASA

Indian space agency ISRO and American space agency NASA have developed 'Nisar' radar for joint Earth observation satellite mission. Nisar will be the first satellite mission to use two different radar frequencies to measure changes in Earth's surface to less than one centimeter. This mission will be launched in Sriharikota area of Andhra Pradesh in the year 2022.

Benefits: - This mission will provide a means of resolving complex processes of natural disasters like ice sheet collapse, ecosystem disturbances as well as earthquakes, volcanic landslides and tsunamis.

19 satellites including the 'Sindhunetra' launched

The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) on February 28, 2021 launched 19 satellites, including DRDO's 'Sindhunetra' and Brazil's 'Amazonia', from the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

The Sindhunetra satellite will be able to identify military warships and merchant ships in the Indian Ocean region. From the Ladakh region adjoining China to the border areas of Pakistan, a close watch will be kept. Along with this, the South China Sea, Gulf of Aden and African coasts can also be monitored.

Sugamya Bharat App

Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Thaawarchand Gehlot launched the Sugamya Bharat App' through video conferencing. The objective of Sugamya Bharat App is to make people more sensitive towards the differently-abled and to increase the facilities for them. The 'Sugamya Bharat' app is available in 10 regional languages - Hindi, English, Marathi, Tamil, Odia, Kannada, Telugu, Gujarati, Punjabi and Malayalam.

Vajra Prahar

In April, 2021 joint exercise Vajra Prahar-2021 was conducted in Himachal Pradesh by the special forces of India and America. It is organized by both the countries alternately in India and America. It aims to improve inter-operability between the special forces of the two countries along with sharing best practices and experiences in areas such as joint mission planning and operational strategy.

India's other war exercises with the United States:- Yudh Abhyas (Army), Cope India (Air Force), Red Flag (America's multilateral air exercise), Malabar War Exercise (trilateral naval exercise of India, America and Japan).

The Shantir Ogroshena-2021

The multinational military exercise 'Shantir Ogroshena-2021' was organized on April 4-12, 2021 to commemorate the birth century of the Father of the Nation of Bangladesh, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. India, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Bangladesh participated in this exercise. Military observers from the US, UK, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Singapore were also present during the exercise.

The Joint Logistics Node

Chief of Defense Staff General Bipin Rawat inaugurated the 'Joint Logistics Node' for the three Services in Mumbai in April, 2021. This is being considered as an important step towards bringing greater integration in the working of the three services. The Joint Logistic Nodes will provide integrated logistic cover to the three Services for support in small arms, ammunition, rations, fuel, general stores, civil transport, spares and engineering works. This will be beneficial in ensuring optimum utilization of manpower and resources apart from financial savings.

The Hans New Generation

The National Aerospace Laboratory, Bangalore, of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), has developed a two-seater trainer aircraft 'Hans-New Generation'. This indigenously developed aircraft is equipped with modern facilities. Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Udan Akademi has tied up with National Aerospace Laboratory to buy five such aircraft. This laboratory has received orders for 30 such training aircraft from various flying training institutes in the country.

The Dhruv MK-3: Advanced Light Helicopter

Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 323, the first unit of the indigenously built ALH (Advanced Light Helicopter) Dhruv MK-III aircraft, has been commissioned into the Indian Navy. The indigenously designed and developed Advanced Light Helicopter 'Dhruv' (ALH-DHRUVE) is a

multi-role helicopter manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited with 'Shakti Engine'.

Features:- This aircraft is a step ahead of MK-1 which will be capable of carrying out close and rescue operations even during low visibility at night. It is fitted with a 0.7 mm gun, which will give it enormous capability from a limo (LIMO-Low Intensity Marine Operations) standpoint. This automatic flight control system is superior to the previous systems.

Khanjar

Special forces of India and Kyrgyzstan conducted the 8th edition of the military exercise Khanjar focused on anti-terrorist activities in Bishkek in April 2021. The exercise is mainly focused on high altitude and mountainous areas and terrorism and extremism.

Varun-2021

The 19th edition of the bilateral exercise 'Varuna-2021' between the Indian and French navies was held in the Arabian Sea from April 25-27, 2021. Indian and French navies have been conducting bilateral maritime exercises since 1993. These exercises are called Varuna since the year 2001. These exercises carry forward the shared values between the participating navies and ensure an open and free maritime environment. This time the United Arab Emirates also participated in the exercise.

Other Indo-French exercises: Desert Night-21 and Garuda (air force exercise), Shakti (army exercise).

Major bilateral maritime exercises of India:-

Exercise	Second country
Slynex	Sri Lanka
Bongosagar and IN-BN Corpat	Bangladesh
Jimex	Japan
Naseem-al-Bahr	Oman
Indra	Russia
Zair-al-Bahr	Qatar
Samudra Shakti	Indonesia
Indo-Thai Corpat	Thailand
IMCOR	Malaysia
Simbex	Singapore
AUSINDEX	Australia

The Laparos Maritime Exercise

The multilateral maritime exercise Laparos was conducted in the Eastern Indian Ocean from 5 to 7 April 2021. The navies of France, India, Australia, Japan and the US participated in the exercise. This joint exercise was started by France in the year 2019, in which Australia, Japan and the US participated.

Indo-French joint exercises:- Desert Night-21 and Garuda (air force exercise), Varuna (naval exercise) and Shakti (army exercise).

AI-Based Portal: SUPACE

The Chief Justice of India has launched Artificial Intelligence (AI) based portal SUPACE in April, 2021, which aims at assisting judges for legal research. The full form of SUPAC is - 'Supreme Court Portal for Assistance in Courts Efficiency'. This tool collects relevant facts and laws and makes them available to judges. This tool is not designed for decision making, rather it will only process the facts and provide the facts to aid the judges. Initially it will be used by the judges of Bombay and Delhi High Courts on an experimental basis.

The Python-5 Missile

Israel's Python-5 Air-to-Air Missile (AAM) firing system has been inducted into the fleet of India's indigenous Light Combat Aircraft Tejas (Light Combat Aircraft Tejas) after the DRDO test fired. These tests were also aimed at assessing the enhanced capability of the 'Derby Beyond Visual Range' air-to-air missile already integrated in Tejas.

Also know:- Python-5 missile has been developed by Israeli defense company Rafael Advanced Defense Systems. It is the latest version of the Python family. This 5th generation air-to-air missile allows the pilot to surround the enemy aircraft from all sides. This missile is capable of hitting enemy aircraft from a very short range to almost beyond visual range. It is a dual-use missile capable of air-to-air as well as surface-to-air strikes. The missile is powered by a solid propellant rocket engine, which gives it a speed of up to Mach 4 and a range of more than 20 km. It is also equipped with lock-on-before and lock-on-after launch capabilities.

MACS 1407: Soybean Variety

MACS 1407 is a soybean variety developed by the scientists of MACS-Agarkar Research Institute, Pune and Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New

Delhi. It provides high yield and resistance to pests. This variety requires an average of 43 days for 50% 'flowering' and takes 104 days to mature from the date of sowing. It is suitable for rainfed conditions of Northeast India. It can be used in Assam, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and North Eastern states.

The Uranium-2014

Chinese scientists have discovered a new type of Uranium it is believed to be the lightest uranium ever found. This discovery could help scientists learn more about alpha particles, which decay and break away from some radioactive elements. This uranium named 'Uranium-214', discovered by scientists, has 30 more neutrons than protons. Thus it contains one less neutron than the lightest uranium variant/isotope ever known. Thus since neutrons have mass, so uranium-214 is much lighter than all other uranium variants like uranium-235 etc.

White fungus

'White fungus' or 'candidiasis' is a fungal infection caused by a fungus called 'Candida'. 'Candida' is usually present on the skin and internal parts of the body such as mouth, throat, intestines and vagina. Candida can cause a serious infection if it gets out of control or spreads to more internal parts of the body. This infection can affect people with low immunity. Covid-19 patients have more chances to 'white fungus', as it affects the lungs and similar symptoms are also seen during corona virus.

The Yellow fungus

Yellow fungus, also called 'mucker septic', usually develops initially from the presence of a fungus in the environment. Its presence can cause unnecessary tiredness, rashes, skin irritation etc. Humidity levels below 30-40% can promote the growth of fungus. It does not usually start in the lungs, but it attacks the internal organs of the body and affects the entire functioning of the body.

The mucormosis

This is a rare fungal infection. It is caused by a fungus called mucormycosis, which is abundant in the environment. It mainly affects people who have health problems or take drugs that reduce the body's ability to fight germs and disease. Mucormycosis,

also known as 'black fungus', has been reported in many patients infected with COVID-19.

Symptoms:- Symptoms include pain and redness around the eyes and/or nose, fever, headache, cough, shortness of breath, vomiting, and altered mental status. Severe symptoms include toothache, loss of teeth, blurred vision with pain, or double vision.

The 'to-deoxy-D-glucose' drug

The 'Drug Controller General of India' has approved an anti-Covid drug developed by the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) in May, 2021 as an emergency adjuvant therapy for critical patients infected with the corona virus. According to information obtained from clinical trials of the drug 'to-deoxy-D-glucose' (2-DG), this drug helps in faster recovery of hospitalized patients and reduces dependence on oxygen. This anti-covid drug has been developed by the 'Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences', which is a premier laboratory of DRDO.

The Operation Samudra Setu-2

The Indian Navy launched 'Operation Samudra Setu-II' on 30 April 2021 for the shipment of containers filled with oxygen to India. It is noteworthy that Operation Samudra Setu was launched in May 2020 as part of the national effort to bring back Indian nationals stranded abroad during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Vande Bharat Mission

'Vande Bharat Mission' was launched in May, 2020 to bring back Indian nationals stranded abroad due to lockdown-like situation in the COVID-19 pandemic. Under this mission, NRIs from more than 93 countries got the facility of repatriation.

The INS Rajput

Indian Navy's first destroyer 'INS Rajput' has been decommissioned on May 21, 2021. It is one of the Kashin-class destroyers built by the erstwhile Soviet Union, was commissioned on May 4, 1980 and served the Indian Navy for over 41 years.

The Tianwen-1: China's Mars Mission

The Chinese spacecraft Tianwen-1 (Tianwen-1) successfully landed on the surface of Mars in May 2021 with the first Mars rover Jurong. It became the third country to land on Mars after the US and the

Soviet Union. Earlier China's 'Yinghuo-1' Mars mission, which was supported by a Russian spacecraft. In 2012, the spacecraft failed to exit Earth's orbit and after it disintegrated over the Pacific Ocean.

will work:- Its main purpose is to scientifically investigate the soil, geological structure, environment, atmosphere and water of Mars. It will be the first mission to install a geostationary radar on the Martian surface, which will be able to study the local geology as well as the distribution of rock, ice and dust particles.

The OPV Sajag

Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPBV) Sajag has been inducted into the Indian Coast Guard in June, 2021. It is the third of the five indigenously designed and manufactured by Goa Shipyard Limited. It has been made under the Make in India policy. The other four OPVs are Indian Coast Guard Ship Saksham, ICGS Sachet, ICGS Sujit and ICGS Sarthak.

Features:- It is equipped with advanced technology equipment, weapons and sensors which is capable carrying a twin engine helicopter and four high speed boats. OPVs are long-range surface ships capable of coastal and offshore patrol, policing, control and surveillance of maritime areas, anti-smuggling and anti-piracy missions with limited wartime roles. This will help in managing greater responsibilities in the years to come and enable multiple concurrent operations capability to ensure safe, secure and clean seas as well as to respond quickly to maritime emergencies in the neighbourhood.

The 'In-euavfour' joint exercise

The Indian Navy participated in a joint exercise with the Navy of the European Union held in the Sea of Aden from 18-19 June, 2021. Warships from French, Spanish and Italian navies also participated in the exercise. The navies involved in the exercise to enhance and improve their combat prowess and their capability as a unified force to promote peace, security and stability in the maritime sector.

Major Indian Maritime Exercise:-

Name of practice	Country name
SLINEX	Sri Lanka
Bongosagar and IN-BN CORPAT	Bangladesh
Jimex	Japan
Naseem-al-Bahr	Oman

Indra	Russia
Zair-al-Bahr	Qatar
Samudra Shakti	Indonesia
Indo-Thai Corporation	Thailand
IMCOR	Malaysia
Simbex	Singapore
Osindex	Australia
Malabar exercise	Japan and USA

Agni-P (Prime)

The Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) successfully test- a new generation nuclear capable ballistic missile Agni-P (Prime) in June 2021 from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the Balasore coast of Odisha. The Agni-P is a new generation upgraded version of the Agni class under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme-IGMDP. It is a canister-based system missile with a range of 1,000 to 2,000 km. The canister-based system of missiles reduces the time required to launch the missile, besides improving its storage and moving ability .

Agni Missiles Category:-

- Agni I : Firepower of 700-800 km.
- Agni II : Firepower of more than 2000 km.
- Agni III : Over 2,500 km- firepower.
- Agni IV : firepower of over 3,500 km.
- Agni-V : The longest inter-continental ballistic missile (ICBM) of the Agni series with a range of more than 5,000 km.

The Aramex-21

In order to promote adventure activities, the Indian Army's skiing expedition 'ARMEX-21' was organized from March 10 to July 6, 2021 in the mountain ranges of the Himalayan region. The expedition started from the Karakoram Pass in Ladakh and ended at Malari in Uttarakhand.

The TTX-2021

The Table Top Anti Narcotics and Maritime Search and Rescue (Exercise Shield) exercise between Indian Navy, National Defense Force of Maldives and Sri Lankan Navy was conducted virtually from

14-15 July, 2021. Its purpose remained focused on maritime crimes.

The Indra Navy

The 12th 'Indra Navy' exercise between the navies of India and Russia was conducted in the Baltic Sea from 28-29 July, 2021. The objective of the exercise was to enhance interoperability and strengthen joint operations against maritime threats.

The INS Vikrant

The Indian Navy conducted sea trials of indigenous aircraft carrier INS 'Vikrant' in August 2021. INS 'Vikrant' is the first aircraft carrier designed and built in India. This includes an air component of 30 aircraft, which will include MiG-29K fighter jets, Kamov-31 airborne early warning helicopters and the soon to be inducted MR-60R multi-role helicopters, apart from indigenously advanced light helicopters. It has a maximum speed of about 30 knots (about 55 km/h).

The 'Al-Mohad Al Hindi' exercise

India and Saudi Arabia conducted their first naval joint exercise named 'Al-Mohad Al-Hindi' in August 2021. The decision on this bilateral exercise was taken at the Riyadh summit held in the year 2019. The exercise aims to conduct tactical maneuvers, strike and rescue operations and an electronic warfare exercise to enhance interoperability.

The Konkan Exercise-2021

The 'Konkan Exercise-2021' was conducted across the English Channel between Pachai Tabar and HMS Westminster. The English Channel lies between the southern coast of the Isle of Great Britain and the northern coast of France. In the north it is separated from the North Sea by the Strait of Dover. Bilateral Exercise 'Konkan' is a naval exercise conducted between India and the United Kingdom. It was started in the year 2004. Since then the exercise is conducted alternately by the navies of both the countries.

INS Tabar:- It is the third Talwar class warship in the Indian Navy, which was commissioned during the year 2004 at Kaliningrad, Russia. This warship is capable of conducting and defending air or surface or subsurface missions. The Talwar class warships of

the Indian Navy are built in Russia under Indo-Russian joint production.

Other exercises between India and the U-K:- Exercise Indradhanush (Air Force Exercise) and Ajeya Warrior (Joint Army Exercise).

The Operation Devi Shakti

India launched the 'Operation Devi Shakti' campaign in August 2021 to evacuate Indian citizens and Afghan partners from Kabul after the Taliban took over Afghanistan. Afghan campaign launched by Taliban It took place on 16 August, a day after the capture of the capital, when 40 Indians were airlifted from Kabul by India. In view of the deteriorating security situation in Kabul, India has so far evacuated more than 800 people from Afghanistan under this operation.

The Bhalia

'Bhaliya' is a Geographical Indication (GI) certified wheat variety. Its first batch has been exported from Gujarat to Kenya and Sri Lanka in July 2021. It received GI certification in July 2011. It is high in protein content and is sweet in taste. This crop is mainly grown in the Bhal region of Gujarat which includes Ahmedabad, Anand, Kheda, Bhavnagar, Surendranagar, Bharuch districts. This variety is grown under rainfed conditions without irrigation.

The Akash Missile and MPATGM

Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) successfully tested the new generation 'Akash Missile' and 'Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile' (MPATGM) on July 21, 2021.

New generation 'Akash missile':- It is a surface-to-air missile. It is the latest version of Akash missile which can strike targets located at a distance of about 60 kms and can fly at a speed of Mach 2.5.

Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile:- It is an indigenously manufactured Anti-Tank Guided Missile. An anti-tank guided missile is a medium or long-range missile whose primary purpose is to destroy tanks and other armored vehicles. It is a low weight fire-and-forget missile. It has been launched with a maximum range of 2.5 km- with a weight of less than 15 kg-.

The 'CUTLASS Express' exercise

Indian Naval Ship 'Talvar' participated in a multinational training exercise 'CUTLASS EXPRESS' 2021 held off the east coast of Africa in July, 2021. It is an annual maritime exercise with the objective of promoting national and regional maritime security in East Africa and the western Indian Ocean. In the 2021 edition of the exercise, 12 East African countries, the US, UK, India and various international organizations such as the International Maritime Organization (IMO), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Interpol, European Union Naval Forces (EUNAVFOR) and Critical Maritime Routes Indian Ocean (CRIMARIO) are included. The exercise is designed to assess and improve joint maritime law enforcement capability, promote national and regional security and enhance inter-operability among regional navies.

INS Talwar:- INS Talwar is the flagship ship/ship of the Talwar-class warships or Krivak class stealth ships of the Indian Navy. Krivak class stealth ships are being built by Goa Shipyard Limited under 'Make in India' with technology transfer from Russia. Engines for the ships are being supplied by Ukraine. In October 2016, India and Russia signed an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) for four Krivak or Talwar stealth frigates. The first two warships will be built at Yantar Shipyard in Kaliningrad, Russia, while the other two will be built at Goa Shipyard Limited.

6

Economic Events

The Kochi-Mangaluru Natural Gas Pipeline Project

Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the Kochi-Mangaluru natural gas pipeline to the nation through video conferencing on January 5, 2021. This 450 km long gas pipeline has been constructed by the 'Gas Authority of India Limited' (GAIL). Natural gas will be transported through this natural gas pipeline from the Liquefied Natural Gas Regasification Terminal at Kochi to Mangaluru. The pipeline will pass through Ernakulam, Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Kannur and Kasaragod districts.

The RBI Digital Payments Index

A Composite Digital Payments Index (DPI) has been released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to study the state of digital/cashless payments in the country. It is constructed in March 2018 as the base period, i.e., the DPI score for March 2018 has been set at 100. It will be published on RBI's website on a half-yearly basis with an interval of 4 months from March 2021. The index stood at 153.47 for March 2019 and 207.84 for March 2020.

Five Broad Parameters:- The measurement of CPI by RBI covers 5 broad parameters which enable an in-depth study of the digital payments made in the country over different time periods.

- 1- Payment Enablers (weight 25%),
- 2- Payment Infrastructure - Demand Side Factor (10%),
- 3- Payment Infrastructure - Supply Side Factor (15%),
- 4- Payment Performance (45%),
- 5- Consumer Focused (5%).

The Payment Infrastructure Development Fund

The Reserve Bank of India has announced the operationalization of the Payment Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) scheme in January, 2021. It aims to develop payment acceptance infrastructure in Tier-3 to Tier-6 cities (centres) with a special focus on the North-Eastern states of the country. The fund will be operated for three years with effect from January 1, 2021. An advisory council has been

constituted under the chairmanship of Deputy Governor B.P- Kanungo to manage the fund.

IMF: World Economic Outlook

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its latest 'World Economic Outlook' report has estimated that India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) may grow by around 11.5 percent in the financial year 2021-22. At the same time, for the current financial year 2020-21, the IMF has projected a contraction of 10.3 percent in the Indian economy. According to the report, the Indian economy will probably grow by 6.8 percent in the financial year 2022-23.

Government's estimate for 2020-21: - According to the first advance estimate of the central government, a contraction of 7.7 percent can be recorded in the Indian economy in the financial year 2020-21, while according to the data of the Reserve Bank of India, this financial year The Indian economy may contract by 7.5 per cent in the year.

Global economy: - According to the estimates of the International Monetary Fund, the global economy is projected to grow at the rate of 5.5 percent in the year 2021 and 4.2 percent in the year 2022.

International Monetary Fund:- The IMF was established after World War II along with the World Bank to assist in the reconstruction of war-affected countries. The establishment of these two organizations was agreed in a conference held in Bretton Woods, USA. That's why they are also known as 'Bretton Woods Twins'. IMF established in the year 1945, it is governed by 189 countries of the world. India joined the IMF on 27 December 1945. Its primary objective is to ensure the stability of the international monetary system.

The RBI's Monetary Policy-2021

The Reserve Bank of India has estimated the real GDP growth rate to be 10.5% in the year 2021-22 due to the impact of the Covid epidemic. According to the central bank, real GDP growth in the year 2021-22 is projected to be 10.5 per cent (26.2 to 8.3 percent in the first half and 6.0 per cent in the third quarter). The GDP declined by 23.9% in the June

quarter of 2020-21 and 7.5% in the September quarter due to the lockdown and closure of industries.

Investment Trends Monitor Report by the UNCTAD

According to the 'Investment Trends Monitor Report' released by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), global foreign direct investment in 2020 fell by 42% to about 859 billion US \$ in the year 2020 from 1.5 trillion US \$ in 2019. India has registered a growth of 13 percent in FDI which is the highest among the major countries of the world, China increased by 4 percent in FDI inflows in the year 2020.

UNCTAD:- UNCTAD is a permanent inter-governmental body. It was established in the year 1964. Its headquarter is located in Geneva (Switzerland). It promotes development friendly integration of developing countries into the world economy.

America's second largest oil supplier to India

The United States has overtaken Saudi Arabia to become the second largest oil supplier to India in March 2021. India's imports from the US increased by 48 percent in February to 5,4,5300 barrels per day, which is 14 percent of India's total imports. In contrast, total oil imports from Saudi Arabia in the month of February decreased by 42 percent compared to the previous month, at a decade low of about 4,45,200. The barrel was reached daily. It is noteworthy that India is the world's third largest oil importer and consumer.

Ethanol Production Promotion Policy-2021

After the approval of the Bihar Cabinet on the Ethanol Production Promotion Policy, 2021, Bihar has become the first state in the country to do so. Under this new policy of the Government of Bihar, the National Policy on Biofuels (2018) and the production of ethanol from all types of feedstock approved by the National Biofuel Coordination Committee have been approved.

The FDI limit in the insurance sector increased

The Union Cabinet approved an amendment on 10 March, 2021 in the Insurance Act, 1938 to increase the limit of foreign investment (FDI) in the insurance sector from 49 percent to 74 percent. It is noteworthy

that this limit was increased from 26 percent to 49 percent in the year 2015.

The 'e-Santa' platform

The Union Minister of Commerce and Industry inaugurated an electronic platform named (e-Santa) through virtual medium on 13th April, 2021, which will provide a platform to connect water farmers and merchants. The term 'e-Santa has been used for the web portal, which means- 'Electronic Solution for Augmenting NaCSA Farmers Trade in Aquaculture' (e-Santa). The platform will act as a digital bridge to eliminate market segmentation and provide an alternative marketing tool to farmers and sellers by eliminating middlemen.

New Consulate General of India in The Addu

The Union Cabinet has approved the opening of a new Consulate General of India in the city of Addu, Maldives in the year 2021. India and Maldives share ethnic, linguistic, cultural, religious and commercial ties. The opening of the Consulate General of India in Maldives will help in increasing India's diplomatic presence in Maldives. The Maldives has the second largest Indian expatriate community, with an estimated number of around 22,000.

The Small Industries Development Bank of India

S. Raman has been appointed as the new Chairman and Managing Director of 'Small Industries Development Bank of India' (SIDBI) in April, 2021. He has been appointed for three years.

Also Know: Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) is a statutory body, which was established on 2nd April, 1990. SIDBI acts as the principal financial institution for the promotion, financing and development of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector as well as for coordinating the work of institutions engaged in similar activities. Its headquarter is in Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh).

The Mandatory Hallmarking of Gold

The rules related to mandatory hallmarking of gold jewelry and artefacts came into effect from 1 June, 2021. Earlier hallmarking of gold was completely voluntary. In November 2019, the central government announced that hallmarking of gold jewelry and artefacts would be made mandatory

across the country from 15 January, 2021. However, in view of the corona virus epidemic, the implementation of these rules was extended for four months.

Also know:- Hallmarking of gold refers to the proof of its purity. After the implementation of the new rules, gold sellers will be allowed to sell only 14, 18 and 22 carat gold jewellery. According to an estimate, there are about 25,000 tonnes of gold present in homes and temples in India, which is worth about Rs 110 lakh crore. Despite this, India is one of the largest importers of gold and in the financial year 2020, India imported gold worth more than 1.3 billion USD in total.

The World Economic Outlook: IMA

The World Economic Outlook, 2021 report was released in April 2021 by the International Monetary Fund. According to this, India's growth rate is estimated to be 12.5% in financial year 2021, before it was estimated at 11.5% in January 2021. The Indian economy is expected to grow at the rate of 6.9 percent in the year 2022.

World Economy:- IMF predicted a strong economic recovery in the year 2021 and 2022 with the world's growth rate being 6% and 4.4% respectively. The global economy has contracted 3.3% in the year 2020.

International Monetary Fund:- This fund was established after World War II along with the World Bank to assist in the reconstruction of war-affected countries. The establishment of these two organizations was agreed in a conference held in Bretton Woods, USA. That's why they are also known as 'Bretton Woods Twins'. Founded in the year 1945, it is governed by 189 countries of the world and it is responsible to these countries for its decisions. India joined the IMF on 27 December, 1945. Its primary objective is to ensure the stability of the international monetary system. International monetary system refers to the system of exchange

rates and international payments that enable countries (and their citizens) to transact with each other.

The Network for Greening the Financial System

Reserve Bank of India has joined the 'Network for Greening the Financial System'. The Reserve Bank has joined hands to share and contribute to best practices related to environmental and climate risk management in the financial sector to raise finance to support the transition towards a stable and sustainable economy.

Also read: The Network for Greening the Financial System is a voluntary group of central banks. In these networks a total of 62 central banks are involved. Its purpose is for members to formulate policies that ensure environmental and climate risk resilience in the financial sector.

The Jose J. Kattoor

Jose J. Kattoor has been appointed as the Executive Director of the Reserve Bank of India. Prior to his elevation as Executive Director, Jose J. Kattoor was serving as the Regional Director, Karnataka, as Head of the Bengaluru Regional Office of the Reserve Bank. As Executive Director, he will head the Department of Human Resource Management, Department of Corporate Strategy and Budget and Department of Official Language.

The Asian Development Outlook-2021

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has released the annual economic report Asian Development Outlook (ADO)-2021 for developing member countries. According to the report, the economic recovery in India will continue due to increase in public investment, vaccination and domestic demand and India's GDP is projected to grow at a strong 11 per cent in FY 2021-22. India's economic growth rate is estimated to decline to around 7 percent in the financial year 2022-23. At the same time, in the financial year 2021-22, the economic growth rate of developing Asia will be around 7.3 percent, as against 0.2 percent contraction in the previous year.

Asian Development Bank:- ADB is a regional development bank. It was established on December 19, 1966. It consists of a total of 68 members. India is a founding member of it. Of the total members, 49 member countries are from the Asia-Pacific region, while 19 members are from other regions. Its aim is to promote social and economic development in Asia. As of 31 December, 2019, Japan and the United States (each with 15.6% of total shares), the People's Republic of China (6.4%), India (6.3%) and Australia, (5.8%) are the five largest shareholders of the ADB. Its headquarters located in Manila, Philippines.

Satya Nadella

US based tech company Microsoft has named Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Satya Nadella as the new chairman in June 2021, replacing John Thompson. Thompson, who replaced the company's co-founder Bill Gates in 2014, will now serve as the company's principal independent director. Hyderabad-born Satya Nadella joined Microsoft in the year 1992 as an engineer.

The India is the 5th largest FDI recipient of the world

The 'World Investment Report' released by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on June 21, 2021. According to this report, India received US\$ 64 billion FDI in the year 2020.

Top 5 FDI Recipient Countries:-

Rank	Country
1	America
2	China
3	Hong Kong
4	Singapore
5	India

The Global Economic Prospectus

The World Bank has released the Global Economic Prospects Report for June 2021, under which India's growth rate for the year 2021-22 has been estimated at 8.3 percent. It is expected to grow at the rate of 7.5% for the year 2022-23 and 6.5% for the year 2023-24.

For the world:- The world economy is expected to grow at a rate of 5.6%, which is the fastest growth rate since any recession in the past 80 years.

SPARSH

The Ministry of Defense has implemented an integrated system called SPARSH (System of Pension Administration Raksha-SPARSH). It is an integrated system for automation of sanction and disbursement of Defense Pension. This web based system processes pension claims and credits their pension directly into the bank accounts of Defense pensioners without relying on any external intermediary.

'Ubharte Sitare' Fund

In August 2021, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has launched an alternative investment fund of Rs 250 crore 'Rising Stars' fund for small and medium-sized export oriented companies. This alternative investment fund will be jointly sponsored by EXIM Bank of India and SIDBI, which will invest in the fund through equity and equity-like products in export-oriented units in both manufacturing and services sectors. The fund will also include a 'Greenshoe' option of Rs 250 crore. A 'Greenshoe' or 'over-allotment option' is a provision included in an underwriting agreement, which gives the underwriter the right to sell more shares. Through the 'Ubharte Sitare Programme' (USP), Indian companies will be identified that have the potential to become champions in the domestic sector while meeting global demands and standards. It will also identify companies that are currently performing poorly, but have significant potential in terms of technology, processes or products, and exports. The primary objective of this fund is to encourage the growth of

MSMEs, as they are important to the economy in terms of job creation, innovation and risk-taking.

BHIM-UPI launched in The Bhutan

India's Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman along with her Bhutanese Finance Minister Lynpo Nange Tshering launched BHIM-UPI (Bharat Interface for Money-Unified Payments Interface) in Bhutan on 13 July, 2021. -UPI). Bhutan will be the only country to issue and accept RuPay cards as well as accept BHIM-UPI.

The National Monetization Pipeline

The Government of India has launched the 'National Monetization Pipeline' (NMP). The core assets of the central government in the four-year period from FY 2022 to FY 2025 have a total monetization potential

of Rs 6 lakh crore, according to the NMP estimates. The scheme is in line with the Prime Minister's Strategic Disinvestment Policy, under which the government will maintain a presence in only a few specific sectors and the rest will be open to the private sector. Its objective is to involve the private sector in brownfield projects and transfer revenue rights to them, although there will be no transfer of ownership of the projects, as well as the capital generated through it will be used to build infrastructure across the country. The primary function of NMP is to provide a clear framework for monetization and to generate a list of assets available for monetization to potential investors.

Samyak

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7

Sports Events

Cricket

The Border-Gavaskar Trophy

India won Four match-Test series (Border-Gavaskar Trophy) held in Australia from December 17, 2020 to January 19, 2021 by 2-1. Australia's Pat Cummins was declared player of the series.

The Vijay Hazare Trophy

Mumbai won the Vijay Hazare Trophy organized by the BCCI from February 20 to March 14, 2021. Mumbai won the title by defeating Uttar Pradesh by 6 wickets in the final match. A total of 38 teams were involved in the competition. Prithvi Shaw was the captain of the Mumbai team and Madhav Kaushik was the captain of the Uttar Pradesh team. Aditya Tare of Mumbai was selected as 'Player of the Match'.

India-England Test Series

The Anthony de Mello Trophy, a four-match Test series between India and England, was held from February 5 to March 8, 2021. Hosts India won the series by defeating England 3-1. The captain of the Indian team was Virat Kohli and the captain of England was Joy Root. For the fourth test Rishabh Pant named 'Player of the match' for and R- Ashwin was selected 'Player of the Series'.

The India-England T20 Series

The five-match T20 series between India and England was held on March 12-20, 2021. India won the series by defeating England 3-2.

Virat Kohli's record: - In the second T20 match played in Ahmedabad, India's Virat Kohli completed his 3000 runs in T20 International matches. He is the first batsman in the world to do so.

Mithali Raj

Mithali Raj has become the first Indian woman player to score 10,000 runs in all formats of international cricket. Mithali Raj achieved this feat in the ODI series against South Africa. She is now the second international cricketer to have scored 10,000 runs in all forms of cricket. Charlotte Edwards of

England was the only woman cricketer to have achieved this feat.

The India women's team tour of England

The India women's cricket team toured England from June 16 to July 14, 2021. During this, a series of 1 Test, 3 ODIs and 3 T20 matches were played between the two countries.

Test match:- The Test match played between India and England on 16-19 June, 2021 was drawn. India's Shefali Verma was selected as 'Player of the Match' in the match.

One-Day Series:- England won the series of three one-day matches played between the two countries from June 27 to July 3, 2021 by 2-1. England's Sophie Ecclestone was adjudged 'Player of the Series'.

T20 series:- England won the series of three T20 matches played between the two countries from July 9 to July 14, 2021 by 2-1. England's Natalie Sciver was named 'Player of the Series'.

Tennis

The Australia Open

Australia Open, the first Grand Slam tennis tournament of the year 2021, was held in Melbourne from 8-21 February, 2021.

Here are the winners:-

Men's singles –

- **Winner-** Novak Djokovic (Serbia)
- **Runner-up** Daniil Medvedev (Russia)

Women's singles

- **Winner** - Naomi Osaka (Japan)
- **Runner-up** - Jennifer Brady (USA)

Men's Doubles –

- **Winner** - Ivan Dodig (Croatia) and Filip Polacek (Slovak)
- **Runner-up** - Rajeev Ram (USA) and Joe Salisbury (UK)

Women's Doubles –

- **Winners** - Elise Mertens (Belgium) and Arena Sabalinka (Belarus)

- **Runners-up** Barbora Krajczykova (Czech Republic) and Arena Sabalinka (Czech Republic)

Mixed doubles–

- **Winner** Barbora Krajczykova (Czech Republic) and Rajeev Ram (USA)
- **Runner-up** - Samantha Stosur (Australia) and Matthew Idwen (Australia)

The Italian Open-2021

The Italian Open tennis tournament was held from 9-16 May 2021 in Rome, Italy. Rafael Nadal won the men's singles title and Inga Swiatec won the women's singles title.

Here are the winners:-

Men's Singles:

- **Winner** - Rafael Nadal (Spain)
- **Runner-up** - Novak Djokovic (Serbia)

Women's Singles:

- **Winner** - Inga Sviatic (Poland)
- **Runner-up** - Carolina Pliskova (Czech Republic)

Men's Doubles:

- **Winners** - Nikola Matic and Matt Pavic (both Croatia)
- **Runner-up**-Rajivram (USA) and Joe Salisbury (UK)

Women's doubles

- **Winners:** Sharon Fitchman (Canada) and Giuliana Olmos (Mexico)
- **Runner-up** - Kristina Mladenovic (France) and Marketa Bondrosova (Czech Republic)

The French Open-2021

The French Open tennis tournament was held in Paris from 30 May to 13 June 2021. This was the 125th edition of this competition.

Here are the winners:-

Men's Singles:

- **Winner** - Novak Djokovic (Serbia)
- **Runner-up** - Stefanos Tsitsipas (Greece)

Women's singles: -

- **Winner** - Barbora Krejckikova (Czech Republic)
- **Runner-up** - Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova (Russia)

Men's doubles:

- **Winner** - Pierre-Hugues Herbert and Nicolas Mahut (both France)
- **Runner-up** - Alexander Bublik and Andrey Golubev (both Kazakhstan)

Women's doubles: -

Winner - Barbora Krejckikova and Katarina Siniakova (both Czech Republic)

Runner-up- Bethanie Mattek-Sands (USA) and Inga Swiatec (Poland)

Mixed Doubles: -

Winner - Desire Krojic (USA) and Joey Salisbury (UK)

Runner-up - Elena Vesnina and Aslan Karatsev (both Russia)

The Wimbledon Tennis-2021

Wimbledon Tennis Tournament was held in London from 28 June to 11 July 2021. This was the 134th edition of this competition.

Here are the winners:-

Men's Singles: -

Winner- Novak Djokovic (Serbia)

Runner-up - Matteo Berrettini (Italy)

Women's Singles: -

Winner- Ashleigh Bertie (Austre) took

Runner-up - Carolina Pliskova (Czech Republic)

Men's doubles: -

Winner- Nikola Mektic and Mate Pavic (both Croatia)

Runner-up - Marcel Granollers (Spain) and Horacio Zeballos (Argentina)

Women's doubles

Winners - Hsien Su-wei (Chinese Taipei) and Elima Mertens (Belgium)

Runner-up - Veronika Kudermatova and Elena Vesnina (both Russia)

Mixed Doubles

Winners – Neil Skupsky (UK) and Desira Kravsky (USA)

Runners-up - Joe Salisbury and Harriet Darte (both UK)

Formula one race

The Austrian Grand Prix

'Max Verstappen' of Netherlands has won the title of 'Austrian Grand Prix' on July 4, 2021, playing for the Red Bull team. In the competition, Mercedes' Valtteri Bottas finished second, while McLaren Mercedes team's El-Norris finished third.

The British Grand Prix

British Formula One racer 'Lewis Hamilton' has won the 'British Grand Prix' title for a record 8th time on July 18, 2021. In the competition, Charles Leclerc of Monaco came second, while Valtteri Bottas of Mercedes team came third.

Football

The Euro Cup-2020

The Euro Cup was held in 11 countries from 11 June to 11 July, 2021. Teams from 24 countries took part in the competition. Italy won the European Championship for the second time by defeating England in the final match played in London on 11 July, 2021.

The European Championships (Euro Cup) is a quadrilateral football (soccer) tournament held between the member countries of the 'European Football Federation Group'. It is known as the second most important football tournament in the world after the 'FIFA World Cup'. It was organized for the first time in the year 1960.

Wrestling

The Matteo Pelicone Ranking Wrestling Series

The Matteo Pelicone Ranking Wrestling Series was held in Rome, Italy from 4 – 7 March, 2021. Players from 26 countries took part in the competition. India won 8 medals (2 gold, 1 silver and 5 bronze).

Medal winners from India:-

Gold - Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat

Rajat - Sarita Mor

Bronze - Vishal Kaliramana, Arjun Halakurki, Neeraj, Kuldeep Malik and Naveen.

The Ukraine Wrestling Competition

Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat won the gold medal in the women's 53kg weight category at the 24th Outstanding Ukraine Wrestler and Coach Memorial held in Kiev, Ukraine. In the final, Phogat defeated

world number 7 wrestler Vanessa Kaladzinskaya of Belarus.

The Asian Wrestling Championship-2021

Asian Wrestling Championship was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan from 13-18 April, 2021. India got 14 medals (5 gold, 3 silver and 6 bronze) in the competition. Iran topped with 17 medals.

Medal winners from India:-

Gold Medal:- Ravi Kumar Dahiya, Vinesh Phogat, Anshu Malik, Sarita Mor and Divya Kakran.

Silver Medal:- Bajrang Poonia, Deepak Poonia and Sakshi Malik.

Bronze Medal:- Karan Mor, Narsingh Yadav, Sanjeet, Satyawart Kadian, Seema Bisla and Pooja Sihag.

The Vinesh Phogat gets gold at the Poland Open

Vinesh Phogat of India won the gold medal by defeating Kristina Bereja of Ukraine in the 53kg category at the Poland Open held in June 2021.

The Cadet World Championship-2021

The 'Cadet World Championship-2021' wrestling competition was held from 19-25 July, 2021 in Budapest, Hungary. India won a total of 13 medals including 5 gold in the competition.

Medal winners from India:-

Gold- Aman, Jaglan Sagar, Tanu, Komal, Priya.

Silver - Jaskaran Singh

Bronze - Chirag, Jaideep, Sahil, Sumit, Ankit Gulia, last, Varsha.

Snooker

The World Snooker Championship

The World Snooker Championship was held in England from 17 April to 3 May, 2021. In the competition, Mark Selvi of England won the title by defeating Shaun Murphy of his country.

Shooting

The Asian Online Shooting Championship

The first Asian Online Shooting Championship was organized by Kuwait Shooting Federation from 28-29 January, 2021. 274 shooters from 22 Asian countries participated in the competition. The Indian contingent consisted of 24 players, who won a total of 11 medals (4 gold, 2 silver and 5 bronze).

Medal winning Indian shooters:-

Gold Medal:- Saurabh Chaudhary, Divyansh Singh Panwar, Kian Chenai and Rajeshwari Kumari

Silver Medal:- Arjan Babuta and Shreyasi Singh

Bronze Medal:- Manu Bhaker, Sarabjot Singh, Deepak Kumar, Prithvi Singh Tondiman and Manish Keer.

The ISSF World Cup-2021

The ISSF World Cup was held in New Delhi from 18-29 March, 2021. India won 32 medals (15 gold, 10 silver, 7 bronze) in the competition.

India's gold medalists:-

Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar, Saurabh Chaudhary, Shahjar Rizvi, Abhishek Verma, Swapnil Kusale, Chain Singh, Neeraj Kumar, Gurjot Khangura, Angad Veer Singh, Miraj Ahmed Khan, Keenan Chenai, Prithviraj Tondiman, Lakshya, Chinki Yadav (Chinki Yadav), Yashaswini Singh Deswal (two medals), Manu Bhaker (two medals), Srinivedha Parmanandam, Rahi Sarnobat, Rajeshwari Kumar, Shreyasi Singh, Manisha Keer, Saurabh Chaudhary / Manubhakar, Divyansh Singh Panwar / Elavenil Valarivan, Tejaswini / Vijayveer Sidhu, Sanjeev Rajput / Tejaswini Sawant, Angadvir Singh Bajwa/Ganimat Sekhon.

Badminton

The BWF World Tour Finals-2020

The BWF World Tour Finals-2020 was held in Thailand from 27-31 January, 2021.

Men's singles –

Winner- Anders Antonsen (Denmark)

Runner-up - Viktor Axelsen (Denmark)

Women's singles

Winner - Tai Tzu Ying (Chinese Taipei)

Runner-up - Carolina Maria (Spain)

Men's Doubles

Winner- Lee Yang (Taiwan) and Wang Chi Lin (Taiwan)

Runner-up - Mohammad Ahsan (Indonesia) and Hendra Setiawan (Indonesia)

Women's Doubles –

Winner - Lee So Hee (South Korea) and Sin Seung Chan (South Korea)

Runner-up - Kim So Yeong (South Korea) and Kong Hee Yong (South Korea)

Mixed doubles-

Winner- Decapole Revelation (Thailand) and Sapsiri Tairatanachai (Thailand)

Runners-up- Seo Seung Jae (South Korea) and Chae Yoo Jung (South Korea)

The All England Badminton Tournament-2021

The All England Badminton Tournament was held in Birmingham, England from 17-21 March, 2021. Malaysia's Lee Ji Jia won the men's singles title and Japan's Nozomi Okuhara won the women's singles title.

Here are the winners:-

Men's singles - Lee Ji Jia (Malaysia)

Women's singles - Nozomi Okuhara (Japan)

Men's doubles - Hiroyuki Endo and Yuta Watanaway (both Japan)

Women's doubles - Mayu Matsumoto and Wakana Nagahara (both Japan)

Mixed doubles – Yuta Watanaway and Arisa Higashino (both Japan)

The Swiss Open Super Badminton Tournament-2021

The Swiss Open Super Badminton tournament was held on 2-7 March 2021 in Basel, Switzerland. The men's singles title was won by Viktor Axelsen in the competition, while the women's singles title was won by Carolina Marin.

Here are the winners:-

Men's Singles - Victor Axelsen

Women's singles Carolina Marin (India's Pee Wee Sindhu was runner-up)

Men's doubles Kim Astrup and Andras Skarup Rasmussen (both Denmark)

Women's doubles Pearly Tan Kung Le and Thinah Muralitharan (both Malaysia)

Mixed doubles Thom Gisquel and Delphine Dulroy (both France)

The Uganda International Badminton Tournament

The Uganda International Badminton Tournament was held from 25-28 February, 2021 in Kampala, Uganda. In the competition, India's Varun Kapoor won the men's singles title and India's Malvika Bansod won the women's singles title.

The World Badminton Championship 2026 will be held in India

The 'World Badminton Championships' will be hosted by India in the year 2026. The World Badminton Federation made an announcement in this regard in July 2021. Earlier in the year 2009, this prestigious championship was organized in Hyderabad.

World Badminton Federation:- The World Badminton Federation (BWF) is an international governing body of badminton sport, recognized as the global governing body for badminton by the International Olympic Committee and the International Paralympic Committee. It was founded in London on July 5, 1934, with nine founding member associations. Presently there are 196 member unions in this federation. Its headquarter is located in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Boxing

The Boxam Elite International Tournament

The 35th Boxem Elite International Tournament was held from 1-7 March 2021 in Castellón de la Plena, Spain. 127 boxers from 17 countries participated in the tournament. Indian boxers won 10 medals (1 gold, 8 silver and 1 bronze).

Medal winners from India:-

Gold - Manish Kaushik

Silver - Jasmine, Simarjit Kaur, Pooja Rani, Mohammad Husamuddin, Vikas Krishnan, Ashish Kumar, Sumeet Sangwan and Satish Kumar.

Bronze – M.C. Mary Kom

The Asian Boxing Championship

The Asian Boxing Championship was held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates from 21-31 May, 2021. India secured the fourth position by winning 15 medals (2 gold, 5 silver and 8 bronze) in the competition. Kazakhstan topped with 15 medals including 8 gold.

Medal winners from India:-

Gold Medal Sanjeet Kumar, Pooja Rani

Silver Medal Amit Panghal, Shiv Thapa, M-C Mary Kom, Lal Baut Sehi, Anupama Kundu

Bronze medals: Varinder Singh, Vikas Krishnan Yadav, Monika, Sakshi Choudhary, Jasmine, Simranjit Kaur, Lovlina Borgohain, Sweety Bura.

The World Youth Boxing Championship-2021

World Boxing Championship was held on 10-24 April 2021 in Kielce, Poland. Seven Indian women boxers (Geetika, Naorem Babyrojisana Chanu, Poonam, Vinka, Arundhati Choudhary, T.Sanamacha Chanu and Alfia Pathan) and one male boxer (Sachin) won gold medals in the competition.

Athletics

The Record of Hugues Fabrice Jango

Burkina Faso athlete Hugues Fabrice Jango sets a new record in the indoor triple jump in Aubrey, France on 16 January, 2021. He made this record by jumping 18.07 meters. He broke the record of 17.92 meters set by his coach Teddy Tamago of France in the year 2011.

Gudaf Segay

Ethiopian athlete Gudaf Segay set a new record in the 1500m race at the World Athletics Indoor Tour Gold Meet held in northern France on 9 February, 2021. She completed this race in 3 minutes 53.09 seconds. Earlier this record was held by Ganzebe Dibaba of Ethiopia (3 minutes 53.11 seconds).

The National Federation Cup

National Federation Cup Senior Athletics Championship was organized on 15-19 March, 2021 in Patiala, Punjab. The highlight of the competition was M. Dhanalakshmi. M. Dhanalakshmi of Tamil Nadu won the gold medal by defeating national record holder Dutee Chand in 100 meters race. M. Dhanalakshmi completed this race in 11.39 seconds, while Dutee Chand's record was 11.58 seconds.

The Asian Weightlifting Competition

Asian Games to be held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan in April 2021 In the Asian weightlifting competition, India's Mirabai Chanu set a world record in the women's 49 kg category by lifting 119 kg in clean and jerk. Chanu qualified for the Tokyo Olympics by winning the bronze medal in the competition.

Archery

The Para Archery

The 7th Faza Para Archery World Ranking Tournament was held in Dubai from 22-26 February, 2021. India finished third in the tournament by winning 5 medals (2 gold and 3 silver). Turkey topped with 8 medals (3 gold, 2 silver and 3 bronze).

Medal winners from India:-

Gold Medal - Rakesh Kumar and Recurve Mixed Team Open.

Silver Medal - Shyam Sundar Swamy, Jyoti Baliyan and Compound Mixed Team Open.

The Archery World Cup

Archery World Cup Stage-2:- Archery World Cup Stage-2 was organized on 19-25 April, 2021 in Guatemala. India won three gold and one bronze medal in the competition.

India's Gold Medalists- Atanu Das, Deepika Kumari, Women's Recurve Team.

India's Bronze Medal – Mixed Recurve Team (Antanu Das and Ankita)

Archery World Cup Stage-3:- Archery World Cup Stage-3 was held in Paris from 21-27 June, 2021. India won four gold medals in the competition.

India's Gold Medalist- Deepika Kumari, Mixed Recurve Event, Women's Recurve Team and Abhishek Verma.

Chess

The Leon Mendoka 67th Grand Master of India

Goa's Leon Mendonca (14) has become India's 67th Grand Master after achieving the third and final norm in Italy. Prior to Liane, G. Akash of Chennai became the 66th Grand Master of the country.

The Rilton Winners Cup 2020-21

Indian Grand Master Krishnan Sashikiran has won the online chess title 'Rilton Winners Cup 2020-21'. The competition was conducted online from 27 December, 2020 to 2 January, 2021. He defeated Grand Master Alexander Semyonov of Russia by 2-0.

The Arjun Kalyan 68th Grandmaster

Arjun Kalyan of Chennai won the title of 68th Grandmaster of India in April 2021. He achieved this

feat by defeating Kosik Dragon of Montenegro in a competition held in Arandjelovac, Serbia.

The Abhimanyu Mishra

Indian-origin Abhimanyu Mishra (12) has become the youngest Grandmaster in Chess. Abhimanyu Mishra of 'New Jersey' of America broke the record of 12 years, 7 months set by Grandmaster Sergei Karjakin in the year 2002. Abhimanyu Mishra has set this record at the age of 12 years, 4 months. Abhimanyu has achieved this highest title by defeating Leon Luc Mendonka.

Other

The Khelo India Winter National Games

The Khelo India Winter National Games were held from 26 February to 2 March 2021 at Gulmarg, Baramulla, Jammu and Kashmir. Jammu and Kashmir team topped the medal with 11 Gold, 18 Silver and 5 Bronze. At the same time, Rajasthan had to be satisfied with only 2 bronze medals.

Top player

Bhavani Devi

Tamil Nadu's Bhavani Devi has become the first Indian athlete to qualify for the 2021 Tokyo Olympics. He has qualified in the Sabre event of fencing. There were two places for the Asia-Oceania region as of April 5, 2021, based on world rankings. Bhavani is ranked 45th and on the basis of ranking, she has qualified for the Olympics.

Singhraj

India's para athlete Singhraj has won the gold medal in the 2021 Para Shooting World Cup. Singhraj won the title in the 10m Air Pistol in the tournament held from 15-24 March, 2021 at Al In, United Arab Emirates.

Kieron Pollard

West Indies' Kieron Pollard has become the third batsman in the world to hit six sixes in an over in international cricket. He achieved this feat in the T20 match played against Sri Lanka on March 3, 2021. Before him Herschel Gibbs (South Africa) and Yuvraj Singh (India) have achieved this feat. At the same time, Pollard is the second batsman in the world to hit six sixes in an over in a T20 match. Before him, Yuvraj Singh (India) has done this feat.

The P.V. Sindhu and Michael Lee

India's Pee Wee Sindhu and Canada's Michael Lee have been appointed as brand ambassadors for the International Olympic Committee's 'Believe in Sports' campaign.

Arjun Singh Bhullar

Indian-Canadian fighter Arjun Singh Bhullar defeated Brandon Vera on 15 May, 2021 to win the Heavyweight World Champion title at ONE Championship in Singapore.

Rani Sarnobat

Indian shooter Rani Sarnobat won the gold medal at the ISSF World Cup Shooting Championship held in Osijek, Croatia on 28 June, 2021. She won the gold medal in the final of the 25 meter pistol event. India's Manu Bhaker finished 7th in the same event.

Laurel Hubbard

New Zealand weightlifter Laurel Hubbard has become the first transgender athlete to be selected for the Olympics. Hubbard had previously competed in the men's category in 2013. She will now compete in the 87 kg category in the women's category in Tokyo.

Neeraj Chopra

India's javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra won gold medals in the competition held in Lisbon on 10 June, 2021 and in Karlstad on 22 June, 2021. At the same time, on 26 June, 2021, won the bronze medal at the Cuortain Games.

The Chris Gayle

West Indies cricketer Chris Gayle has become the first batsman in the world to score 14,000 runs in T20 cricket. He achieved this feat in the match played against Australia on 13 July, 2021. Kieron Pallard is the second highest run-scorer in T20 cricket, he is behind by 3202 runs to Chris Gayle on July 13, 2021.

The Tokyo Olympics-2020

The 2020 Summer Olympics were held in Tokyo, Japan from 23 July to 8 August, 2021. Its logo was the blue 'Miraitowa'. These games were to be held from 24 July, 2020, but were postponed due to Covid-19.

Medal winners from India:-

In Tokyo Olympics, India finished 48th rank with 7 medals. 1 gold, 2 silver and 4 bronze medals came in India's account.

Gold Medal:- Neeraj Chopra (Javelin throw)

Silver Medal:- Mirabai Chanu (Weightlifter), Ravi Dahiya (Wrestling)

Bronze Medal:- PV Sindhu (Badminton), Lovlina Borgohain (Boxer), Bajrang Punia (Wrestling), Men's Hockey Team.

New sports included in the Olympics this year: - surfing, skateboarding, sports climbing and karate.

Top ten in medal table:-

Rank	Country	Medal
1	US	113
2	china	88
3	Japan	58
4	UK	65
5	Russia	71
6	Australia	46
7	Netherlands	36
8	France	33
9	Germany	37
10	Italy	40