

# Weekly Current Affairs

12-18 September, 2021

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## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **1.PM Narendra Modi inaugurates Sardardham Bhavan in Ahmedabad**

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the Sardardham Bhavan in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, via video conferencing on September 11, 2021.
- He also performed the “Bhoomi Pujan” of the Sardardham Phase-II Kanya Chhatralaya (girls’ hostel) project.
- Both these establishments are dedicated to the “Iron Man of India,” Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- The project is developed by the Vishwa Patidar Samaj.
- Sardardham Bhavan: The state-of-the-art Sardardham Bhavan provides separate hostel facilities to girls and boys from rural areas who aspire for better career prospects.
- Phase I of the Sardardham Bhavan project is built over an area of 11,672 square feet at an estimated cost of Rs 200 crore, near the Vaishnodevi circle in the Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar border area.

### **2.Uttarakhand gets India’s largest open-air fernery**

- India’s largest open-air fernery has been inaugurated in Ranikhet, Uttarakhand
- It will serve the dual objective of conservation of fern species as well as creating awareness about their ecological role, promoting further research.
- It has around 120 different types of ferns, covering an area of over 4 acres of land at an altitude of 1,800m.
- Fernery has been developed under Govt’s Compensatory Afforestation Management Funds Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) scheme

### **3.Centre to set up seven new Ekalavya Vidyalayas in Assam**

- Centre has decided to set up seven new Ekalavya Vidyalayas in Assam.
- Tribal Affairs Ministry will also set up 400 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras to promote tribal art and craft as well as to provide livelihood opportunities to the tribal population.
- Apart from this, Tribal Food Parks will also be set up in Assam.
- Tribal Affairs Ministry has awarded Van Dhan National Award 2021-22 to TRISSAM of Assam in the category of Collaborative Initiative for co-branding in Van Dhan Yojana.

### **4.PM Modi lays foundation stone of Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh University**

- PM Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone of Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh State University at Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh.

- It is being established in the memory and honor of noted figure, Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh, who was a great freedom fighter, educationist and social reformer.
- It will be spread over an area of over 92 acres at Lodha village and Musepur Kareem Jarouli village of Kol tehsil in Aligarh.
- It will provide affiliation to 395 colleges of the Aligarh division.

### **5. Sansad TV to be launched on 15<sup>th</sup> September**

- VP M. Venkaiah Naidu, PM Modi and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will jointly launch Sansad TV at Main Committee Room, Parliament House Annexe On 15 September.
- Sansad TV is being formed after merging Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TV.
- Sansad TV programming will primarily be in 4 categories: functioning of Parliament and democratic institutions, governance- implementation of schemes/policies, history and culture of India and issues/interests/concerns of contemporary nature.

### **6. NITI Aayog, RMI, and RMI India launches 'Shoonya' Campaign**

- NITI Aayog, with RMI and RMI India has launched 'Shoonya Campaign' to promote zero-pollution delivery vehicles by working with consumers and industry.
- Aim: To accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles in urban deliveries segment and create consumer awareness about zero-pollution delivery.
- As part of campaign, corporate branding and certification programme is being launched to recognize and promote the industry's efforts towards transitioning to EVs for final-mile deliveries.

### **7. Minister Nitin Gadkari launches AI-powered road safety project 'iRASTE'**

- Union Minister, Nitin Gadkari has launched an Artificial Intelligence-powered project, titled as 'iRASTE' to help reduce road accidents, understand the factors responsible for these events and come up with solutions to mitigate them.
- iRASTE: Intelligent Solutions for Road Safety through Technology and Engineering.
- The project is launched jointly by Centre, Intel, INAI, IIIT-Hyderabad, CSIR-CRRI, Mahindra & Mahindra and Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC).

### **8. India to organize first-ever Global Buddhist Conference in November 2021**

- India is set to host first-ever Global Buddhist Conference in Nava Nalanda Mahavihara campus, in Nalanda, Bihar on November 19 and 20, 2021.

- It is being organized by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).
- It focuses on making India the centre of Buddhism, by promoting Buddhist activities.
- Theme: Buddhism in Literature.
- Conference will be conducted at Dharamsala, Gangtok, Sarnath, and Telangana in India and overseas in Cambodia, Japan, South Korea, and Thailand.

## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS & FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

### **1. India-Australia holds inaugural 2+2 ministerial dialogue in New Delhi**

- India and Australia are undertaking their first-ever 2+2 ministerial dialogue at the Hyderabad House in New Delhi on September 11, 2021.
- The high-level foreign and defence ministerial level dialogue will further ramp up the overall defence and strategic cooperation between the two countries, including in the Indo-Pacific cooperation amid China's increasing military assertiveness in the region.
- Indian delegation at inaugural 'two-plus-two' talks is being led by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with their Australian counterparts Marise Payne and Peter Dutton, respectively.
- India have 2-2 Ministerial level meetings framework with very few countries, including the USA and Japan.

## **NEW APPOINTMENTS AND PERSON IN NEWS**

### **1. G C Murmu elected Chairman of ASOSAI for 2024-2027**

- The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India G C Murmu has been elected as Chairman of the Assembly of the Asian Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI).
- Mr. Murmu was elected to the post on September 07, 2021, by the 56th governing board of ASOSAI during the 15th Assembly of ASOSAI.
- He has been appointed for a period of three years from 2024-27. India will host the 16th Assembly of ASOSAI in 2024.
- As the chairman, GC Murmu will be the chief executive of ASOSAI and represent ASOSAI in its dealings with national and international organisations.

### **2. Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani Resigns**

- Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has resigned from his post, ahead of the state assembly elections, to be held in 2022.

- The senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader submitted his resignation letter to Governor Acharya Devvrat, on September 11, 2021 at the Raj Bhawan.
- The 61-year-old Rupani was sworn in as Gujarat Chief Minister on August 07, 2016, and represents Rajkot West in the Gujarat Legislative Assembly

### **3. Sanjeev Barnwal appointed as CEO of Ujjivan Financial Services**

- Sanjeev Barnwal has been appointed as the chief executive officer (CEO) of Ujjivan Financial Services. Ujjivan Financial Services is the holding company of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank.
- He has replaced Carol Furtado, who has now taken charge as CEO of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank.
- Vijay Goel appointed as Vice Chairman of Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti.
- Former Union Minister Shri Vijay Goel has been appointed as the Vice-Chairman of Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti (GSDS). It is the site of the Martyrdom of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation.
- Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti (GSDS) was formed in September 1984 as an autonomous body. It is functioning under constructive advice and financial support from the Ministry of Culture. It is located in New Delhi.
- The Prime Minister of India is the Chairperson of Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti (GSDS). The objective of the Samiti are to propagate the life, mission and thought of Mahatma Gandhi through various socio-educational and cultural programmes.

### **4. Yahoo Appoints Jim Lanzone as its new CEO**

- The web service provider, Yahoo, has named Jim Lanzone as its new chief executive officer (CEO) on September 10, 2021.
- Jim Lanzone was currently serving as the CEO of the Dating app Tinder.
- Jim Lanzone will replace Guru Gowrappan, to the post of Yahoo CEO.
- As for the Tinder, Renate Nyborg has been appointed as the new CEO of the dating app to replace Lanzone.

### **5. Sardar Iqbal Singh Lalpura takes charge as Chairman of NCM**

- Sardar Iqbal Singh Lalpura (IPS officer of Punjab cadre) has taken charge as the Chairman of National Commission for Minorities (NCM).
- He replaced Ghayorul Hasan.
- Prior to this, he was serving as the national spokesperson of Bharatiya Janata Party from Punjab.
- NCM was set up under National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.
- NCM shall consist of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Five Members to be nominated by the Central Government.

## 6. Former Union Minister Vijay Goel takes charge as Vice Chairman of Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti

- Former Union Minister Vijay Goel has taken charge as the Vice Chairman of Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti in New Delhi.
- Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti (GSDS) was formed in September 1984 by the merger of Gandhi Darshan at Rajghat and Gandhi Smriti at 5 Tees January Marg as an autonomous body.
- It functions under constructive advice and financial support from the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

## 7. Arvind Kejriwal re-elected as National Convenor of Aam Aadmi Party

- Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has been re-elected as the National Convenor of Aam Aadmi Party.
- He has been elected as the Party National Executive unanimously.
- Along with him, Pankaj Gupta was again elected as the National Secretary and N D Gupta as National Treasurer.
- AAP has elected a new 34-member executive body including senior AAP leaders Manish Sisodia, Satyendar Jain, Imran Hussain, Rajendra Pal Gautam, Raghav Chadha, Atishi, Rakhi Birla among others.



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## 8. Justice M. Venugopal appointed as Acting Chairperson of NCLAT

- Justice M. Venugopal has been appointed as the new Acting Chairperson of National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) with effect from September 11, 2021.
- He is a former judge of the High Court of Madras and was appointed as Judicial Member of NCLAT on October 23, 2019.
- This is the third time in a row that an Acting Chairperson is at the helm of the NCLAT, after the retirement of S, J .Mukhopadhaya.
- NCLAT is a tribunal established under Section 410 of Companies Act, 2013.

## **BANKING**

### **1. Govt adds dairy products under TMA scheme for Specified Agriculture Products'**

- Department of Commerce (under Ministry of Commerce & Industry) had introduced 'Transport and Marketing Assistance (TMA) for Specified Agriculture Products Scheme' in 2019. The objective of TMA was to provide assistance for the international component of freight, to reduce the freight costs for the Indian exporters of agriculture products.
- Now the Department has notified 'Revised Transport and Marketing Assistance (TMA) for Specified Agriculture Products Scheme' for exports effected on or after 01.04.2021 up to 31.03.2022. There are two major changes in the revised scheme:
- Dairy products will now be eligible for assistance under the revised scheme.
- Rates of assistance have been increased, by 50% for exports by sea and by 100% for exports by air.

### **2. Govt reduces standard rate of duty on edible oil**

- Govt has reduced the standard rate of duty on Crude Palm Oil, Crude Soyabean oil and Crude Sunflower Oil to 2.5 % to ensure the availability of edible oil to consumers at fair prices.
- Standard rate of duty on Refined Palm Oil, Refined Soyabean oil and Refined Sunflower Oil to 32.5%.
- Along with this, Agri-cess for Crude Palm Oil has been increased from 17.5% to 20%.
- With this, worth Rs 1,100 crore and total direct value of benefits is expected to be passed on to the consumers.

### **3. Govt increased financial support to open Ayush colleges**

- Central govt has increased financial support from Rs 9 crore to Rs 70 crore to open more Ayush colleges across the country.
- There are only few Ayush colleges in the North-East and Indian traditional medicine systems can only be popularised by making available more qualified practitioners.
- Ministry of Ayush has also accorded in-principle approval for upgrading Government Ayurvedic College, Jalukbari, Assam as the Centre of Excellence with support of up to Rs 10 crore.

### **4. India and US launch Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue**

- India and USA have launched Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue (CAFMD) to strengthen India-US bilateral cooperation on climate and environment.
- CAFMD is one of the two tracks of the India-U.S. Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 partnership launched at Leaders' Summit on Climate in April 2021.
- It will demonstrate how the world can align swift climate action with inclusive and resilient economic development.

### **5. India, Singapore announces linking of UPI and PayNow fast payment systems**

- RBI and Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) have announced project to link their respective fast payment systems viz. Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and PayNow.
- It will enable users of each of the two fast payment systems to make fund transfer from India to Singapore and vice versa using UPI and PayNow.
- It will be made operational by July 2022.
- It will foster cross-border interoperability of payments using cards and QR codes, between India and Singapore.

### **6. DBS Bank partners with SWIFT to launch cross-border payment tracking**

- DBS Bank in partnership with SWIFT Global Payments Innovation (GPI) has launched real-time online tracking for cross-border payments for its corporate clients.
- It can be availed using bank's corporate online banking platform 'DBS IDEAL'.
- DBS is the first bank in India and Asia-Pacific to offer this service to corporate clients without any additional cost.
- It will allow corporate customers to see when a payment is on its way and when it is arriving at the beneficiary.

### **7. UNCTAD projects Indian economy to expand 7.2% in 2021**

- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has projected India's economic growth rate as 7.2% for calendar year 2021 in its Trade and Development report.
- India's economic growth rate for the calendar year 2022 is projected to be 6.7%, while India's economy shrank by 7% in Calendar Year 2020.
- UNCTAD expects the global economy to recover in 2021, growing at 5.3%.
- UNCTAD also expects South-Asia region to expand by 5.8% in 2021.



## **SCIENCE TECH & DEFENCE**

### **1.MSME Tool Room, Hyderabad bags Patent for Fireworks making Machine**

- MSME Tool Room Central Institute of Tool Design (CITD), Hyderabad has obtained patent for the invention entitled Automatic Machine for Production of Conical Shaped Fireworks (Anaar) for 20 years.
- CITD signed an MOU with Standard Fireworks Pvt Ltd (SFPL) for automation processes.
- As a first project, CITD has taken up for Module-1 for flower pot chemical filling-packing.
- It consists of 10 different stations like paper cutting, pasting, chemical filling, etc.

### **2.India's first long-range nuclear missile tracking ship INS Dhruv commissioned**

- India's first nuclear-missile tracking ship, named INS Dhruv, has been commissioned from Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, on September 10, 2021.
- The 10,00 tonnes satellite and ballistic missile tracking ship has been built by the Hindustan Shipyard Limited in collaboration with the DRDO and National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO).
- INS Dhruv is capable of tracking nuclear missiles at a long range, which makes it useful to provide early warning of attacks by ballistic missiles launched from Pakistan and China.
- India now joins an elite list of countries consisting of France, the US, the UK, Russia, and China, who possess and operate such ships.

### **3.India and Denmark jointly launch Centre of Excellence on Offshore Wind**

- The Union Minister for Power and New and Renewable Energy, Shri R.K Singh and his Danish counterpart, Mr Dan Jørgensen, Denmark Minister for Climate, Energy and Utilities, jointly launched 'Centre of Excellence on Offshore Wind', as part of the Green Strategic Partnership.
- The Danish minister accompanied by a delegation of officials is on a visit to India to hold a meeting for cooperation in the field of Renewable Energy with a focus on Offshore Wind Energy.
- During the meeting held on September 09, 2021, both sides to further cooperation in renewable energy, especially offshore wind and green hydrogen.

### **4.LCA-Mk2 to roll out next year, first flight in 2023**

- Roll-out of the aircraft (Mk2) is planned next year and the first flight in schedule in early 2023.
- Configuration for Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)-Mk2 has been frozen and steel cutting is expected to begin soon.
- It features enhanced range and endurance including an onboard oxygen generation system, which is being integrated for the first time.
- Mk2 is 1,350 mm longer featuring canards and can carry a payload of 6,500 kg compared to 3,500 kg the LCA can carry.

### **5.Haryana adjudged first in the installation of solar pumps under PM-KUSUM**

- Haryana has been ranked as the first state of India in installation of off-grid solar pumps under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthan Mahaabhiyaan (PMKUSUM), as per Ministry of New and Renewable Energy data.
- The state has installed 14,418 pumps against 15,000 sanctioned pumps for the year 2020-21 with a total cost of Rs 520 crore.
- **PM-KUSUM scheme:** It is a centrally-sponsored scheme, that was launched in 2019 with a target to install 20 lakh standalone solar pumps.

### **6.Chhattisgarh launches ‘Millet Mission’ to become Millet Hub of India**

- Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has announced to launch ‘Millet Mission’ to provide a proper price rate to farmers for minor cereal crops.
- Other important benefits under Millet Mission to include input assistance for millet, procurement arrangements, aid farmers in the processing of crops, etc.
- To implement the mission, the state government has signed an MoU with Indian Institute of Millet Research (IIMR), Hyderabad and collectors of 14 districts of the state.

### **7.Skyroot Aerospace becomes first Space startup to formally tie-up with ISRO**

- Hyderabad-based Space technology startup, Skyroot Aerospace has become the first private company to formally enter into an agreement with ISRO to get access to their facilities and expertise for the development and testing of subsystems and systems of space launch vehicles.
- Skyroot Aerospace is building Vikram series of rockets to carry small satellites into space.
- First launch vehicle in the series, Vikram-1 is scheduled to be launch in 2022.

### **8.North Korea tested a new long-range cruise missile capable of hitting Japan**

- North Korea has tested a new long-range cruise missile, which is capable of hitting Japan
- During the test, the missile travelled up to 1,500 km, suggesting that North Korea is still capable of developing weapons despite food shortages and economic crisis.
- It is first long-range cruise missile of Korea that could possibly carry a nuclear warhead

### 9. TCS announces largest women recruitment drive 'Rebegin project'

- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has announced one of its largest recruitment drives for hiring women, titled as 'Rebegin project'.
- The project is aimed at experienced and aspiring women who wish to jump-start their professional journey and make 'The Big Move'.
- It will benefit women professionals who have taken a career sabbatical due to family or other pressing commitments to help them re-assimilate into the corporate culture.

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### 10. India to hold biennial defence dialogue with African nations

- The Government of India has proposed to institutionalise the India-Africa Defence Dialogue, as a regular event, to be held on the sidelines of the biennial DefExpo military exhibition.
- The first India-Africa Defence Ministers Conclave (IADMC) was held at DefExpo in February 2020 in Lucknow.
- Following this, the second India – Africa Defence Dialogue will be held on the sidelines of the DefExpo, scheduled to be held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat in March 2022.
- The Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses in New Delhi, shall be the knowledge partner of India Africa Defence Dialogue to assist in providing necessary support for enhanced defence cooperation between the two countries.
- Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh will host the Defence Ministers of African Nations at the upcoming India – Africa Defence Dialogue.

### **11. PM Modi to attend Quad Summit at White House on 24th September**

- PM Narendra Modi will attend first-ever in-person QUAD (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) Leaders' Summit at White House in Washington D.C. on September 24, 2021.
- Quad nation: India, Japan, US and Australia.
- Aim: To deepen ties and increase cooperation in areas such as combatting COVID-19, addressing the climate crisis, partnering on emerging technologies and cyberspace.
- PM Modi will also address UN General Assembly (UNGA) in New York on September 25, 2021.

### **12. India takes part in SCO joint military exercise in Russia**

- Indian military contingent comprising of an all arms combined force of 200 personnel is participating in an Exercise titled as 'Peaceful Mission 2021'.
- It is a Joint Counter Terrorism Exercise between Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states.
- It is being hosted by Russia in Orenburg Region of South-West Russia from September 13 to 25, 2021.
- 2021 is the 6th edition of biennial multilateral Exercise.

### **13. South Korea successfully test submarine-launched ballistic missile**

- South Korea has successfully tested indigenously developed submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM).
- South Korea is the first country without nuclear weapons to develop SLCM missile system.
- With this, South Korea joins only a handful of countries to have successfully developed SLBM.
- Other countries that have tested or developed SLBMs: United States, Russia, China, Britain, France, North Korea, and India, which have typically designed them to carry nuclear weapons.

### **14. Tata Steel commissions India's first plant to capture CO2**

- Tata Steel has commissioned India's first carbon capture plant that extracts CO2 directly from the blast furnace gas, at its Jamshedpur Centre.
- With this, Tata Steel has become the country's first steel company to adopt such a carbon capture technology.
- It can capture 5 tonnes of CO2 per day (5-tonne per day (TPD)).
- The company will reuse the captured CO2 on-site to promote a circular carbon economy.
- CEO & MD of Tata Steel: T. V. Narendran.

## **BOOKS AND AWARDS**

### **1. LG Manoj Sinha distributed 'Kashmir Young Leadership Award'**

- Lt Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha has felicitated Young achievers with 'Kashmir Young Leadership Award' during Kashmir Leadership Summit in Srinagar
- The award is given for the outstanding work in different fields and lauded their contribution for bringing positive changes in society.
- A total of 46 Young achievers from various fields including health, education, sports, social work, journalism, Art, Music, conservation, etc have been awarded on the occasion.

### **2. Subramanian Swamy comes out with a book on Human Rights and Terrorism**

- BJP MP Subramanian Swamy has launched his new book titled as 'Human Rights and Terrorism in India'.
- The book has shed light on how the combating of terrorism can be harmonized with human and fundamental rights within reasonable restrictions that are permitted by the Constitution and upheld by the Supreme Court
- It is the thesis of this study that to deter terror, India as a nation must foster a concept of identity.

### **3. National Mineral Development wins Rajbhasha Keerthi Puraskar**

- National Mineral Development under Ministry of Steel has won highest and most prestigious award, Rajbhasha Keerthi Puraskar during Rajbhasha Diwas Samaroh in New Delhi.
- Award was received by Shiva Shanmuganathan, Executive Director (Corporate Affairs) on behalf of NMDC.
- NMDC has been winning this award for the last 3 years in a row, which goes on to show its dedication towards the implementation of Hindi as the Official Language.

## **SPORTS**

### **1. Daniil Medvedev wins 2021 US Open Tennis Title**

- Russia professional Tennis player Daniil Medvedev (25 years) has won 2021 US Open men's singles Tennis Title, after beating Novak Djokovic (Serbia) by 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.
- This is the maiden Grand Slam title won by Medvedev.
- Women's single winner: Emma Raducanu (Great Britain) defeated Leylah Fernandez (Canada).
- Men's double winner: Rajeed Ram and Joe Salisbury.
- Women's double winner: Samantha Stosur and Zhang Shuai.
- Mixed Doubles: Desirae Krawczyk and Joe Salisbury.

## **2. Joe Root, Eimear Richardson named ICC Players of the Month for August 2021**

- England Test skipper Joe Root has been named as the ICC Men's Player of the Month for August 2021.
- He scored 507 runs in three Tests against India in August.
- He also scored 3 important centuries, including an unbeaten 180\* at Lord's, and MRF Tyres ICC Test Rankings for batters.
- Ireland's Eimear Richardson has bagged the ICC Women's Player of the Month for August 2021.

## **3. Brendan Taylor of Zimbabwe Announces Retirement from International Cricket**

- Former Zimbabwe skipper and wicket-keeper batsman Brendan Taylor (34 years) has announced his retirement from international cricket.
- He made this announcement while playing third final ODI match against Ireland.
- He made his ODI debut for Zimbabwe against Sri Lanka in 2004.
- He has scored 6677 runs from 204 ODI matches and is just 112 short of former Zimbabwe batsman Andy Flower's national record of 6786.

## **4. Lasith Malinga announces retirement from all forms of cricket**

- Sri Lankan fast bowler Lasith Malinga (38 years) has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.
- Prior to this announcement, he took retirement from Test cricket in 2011 and then from the ODIs in 2019.
- He played 30 Tests, 226 ODIs and 84 T20Is for Sri Lanka in which he took a total of 546 wickets (101 in Tests, 338 in ODIs and 107 in T20Is) across all formats.
- Malinga holds the record for most hat-tricks in international cricket.

## **OBITUARIES**

### **1. Veteran Congress leader Oscar Fernandes passes away**

- Veteran Rajya Sabha MP and former Union minister Oscar Fernandes (80 years) passed away due to age-related ailments at Yenepoya hospital in Mangalore.
- He was the senior Congress leader and served as the Union Cabinet Minister for Transport, Road and Highways and Labour and Employment, in Manmohan Singh's UPA govt.
- He was a five-time Lok Sabha MP from Udupi in Karnataka.
- He also served two terms as a member of the Council of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **1. United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation 2021: 12 September**

- The United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation is observed every year on September 12 since 2011, to celebrate the economic, social and political developments made in recent years by regions and countries in the south.
- Theme for 2021 is "South-South cooperation: solidarity in support of a more inclusive, resilient and sustainable future."

### **2. National Hindi Day 2021: 14 September**

- Hindi Divas or Hindi Day is observed every year on 14 September to celebrate the popularity of Hindi as an official language of India.
- 14 September is celebrated as Hindi Diwas as it was on this day in 1949 when the Constituent Assembly of India had adopted Hindi written in Devanagari script as the official language of India.
- Hindi was adopted under Article 343 of the Indian Constitution.
- Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar and Rajbhasha Gaurav Puraskar awards are being given on this day.

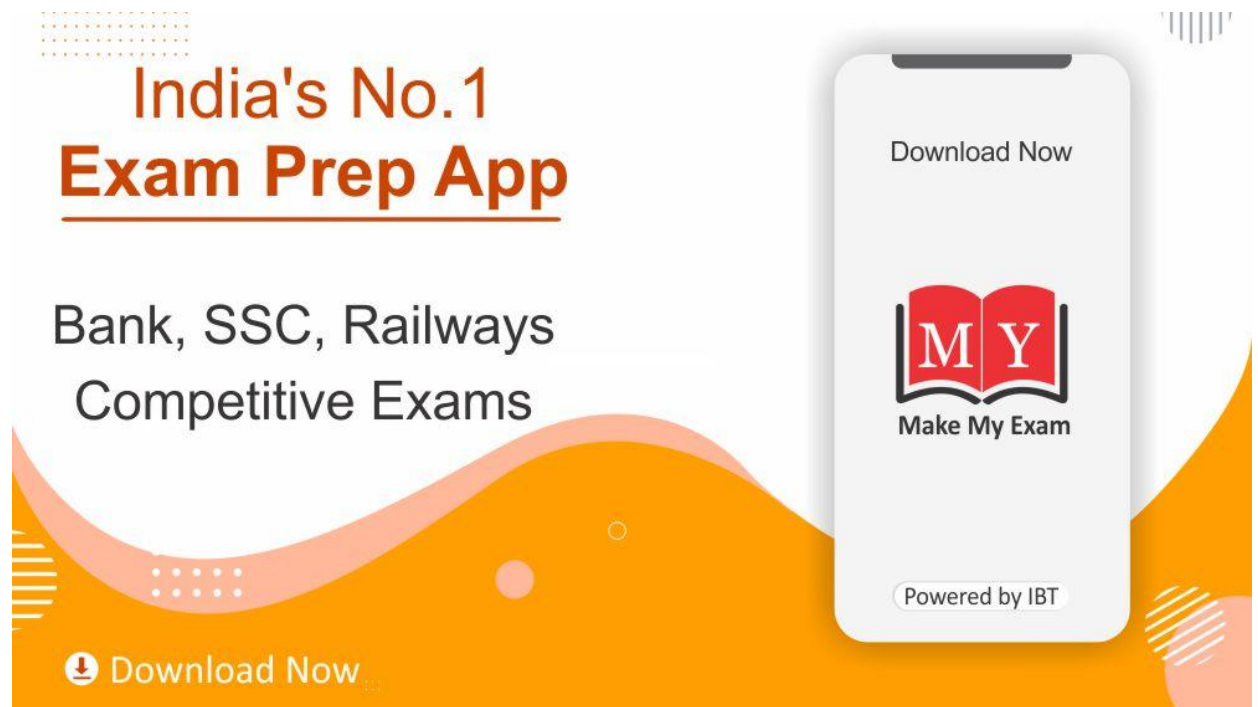
### **3. National Engineer's Day 2021: 15 September**

- In India, Engineer's Day is celebrated on September 15 every year, since 1968, to recognise the contribution of engineers in the development of the nation.
- The day marks the birth anniversary of the engineering pioneer of India, Sir Mokshagundam Vishweshwaraya, (popularly known as Sir MV).
- Sir MV was regarded as the "Father of Modern Mysore".

- He was awarded 'Bharat Ratna' for his exceptional contribution to the building of India in 1955.

#### 4. International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer: 16 September

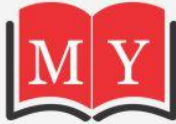
- International Day for the Preservation for Ozone layer (World Ozone Day) is observed every year on September 16 to spread awareness about the depletion of the Ozone Layer and search for solutions to preserve it.
- Theme for 2021 World Ozone Day: Montreal Protocol – keeping us, our food and vaccines cool.
- UN General Assembly proclaimed this day in 1994 commemorating the date of the signing, in 1987, of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.



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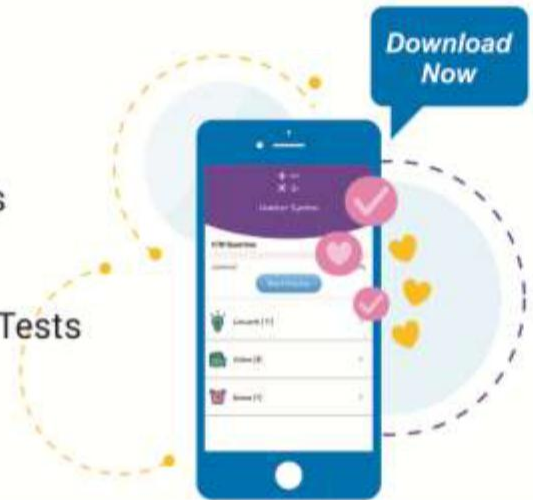
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