

Weekly Current Affairs

10-16 October, 2021

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NATIONAL NEWS

1. Chhattisgarh gets its fourth Tiger Reserve

- The combined areas of the Guru Ghasidas National Park and Tamor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary in Chhattisgarh has been declared as a Tiger Reserve by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) on October 05, 2021.
- This is the fourth Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh, after the Udanti-Sitanadi, Achanakmar, and Indravati Reserves.
- The proposal to declare the above as a Tiger Reserve was approved by NTCA's 11th Technical Committee under Section 38V(1) of The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- Tamor Pingla is located in Surajpur district, while Guru Ghasidas National Park is in Koriya district.

2. Bangladesh to set up its second nuclear power plant

- The government of Bangladesh is planning to set up its second nuclear power plant in the southern region of the country. Opening the installation work of the reactor pressure vessel at the Rooppur nuclear power plant, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said that another power plant will be set up after the completion of the existing one for which the government is looking for a suitable space.
- Rooppur is the first nuclear power plant of Bangladesh being built with financial and technological support from Russia. The 2400 megawatt Rooppur nuclear power plant is expected to become functional by 2024.
- Prime Minister Hasina said that safety standards as mandated by the IAEA are being followed strictly at the nuclear power plant. She said a four tier security measure has been put in place along with the latest and modern technology for the safety of the nuclear power plant at Rooppur. Environmental pollution has also been taken care of at the power plant, said Sheikh Hasina.

3. Bathukamma festival begins in Telangana

- The nine-day floral festival has begun in Telangana. The festival began with excitement as the women were dressed in traditional clothes and colourful processions were carried out in Telangana, the Bathukamma festival is celebrated during Durga Navratri.
- Bathukamma festival begins on the day of Mahalaya Amavasya and the festival continues till nine days, ending on the day of Durgashtami.

4. Tamil Nadu's 'Kanniyakumari Clove' gets GI Tag

- The unique clove spice grown in the hills of Kanyakumari district in Tamil Nadu has been awarded a geographical indication (GI) as ‘Kanyakumari clove’.
- In India, the total production of cloves is 1,100 metric tons and of this, 1,000 metric tons is produced in Tamil Nadu every year while 750 metric tons of cloves are produced in Kanyakumari district alone.
- Apart from this, the traditional dye-painted figurative and patterned cloth called Karuppur kalamkari paintings and the wood carvings of Kallakurichi from Tamil Nadu have also received GI tags.

5. Delhi govt launches ‘Desh ke Mentors’ programme to provide career guidance to school students

- The Delhi government has launched a mentorship programme called ‘Desh Ke Mentor’, for children studying in Classes IX to XII of state government schools.
- Under the ‘Desh Ke Mentor’ programme, students will be mentored by professionals and academicians from across the country for 10-15 minutes daily on issues ranging from career choices to teenage-related concerns.
- The mentorship programme will be of two to six months.
- The first two months of the programme will be compulsory module and the remaining four will be optional.
- Mentors will guide two-five students each to help the students in their overall personality development by sharing their knowledge, skills and expertise.

6. Haryana bans govt employees from participation in politics, elections

- Facing farmers’ protests over new farm laws for over a year now, the Haryana government has banned the participation of its employees in politics and elections. A notification has also been issued from the office of the chief secretary in this regard while implementing Haryana Civil Services (Government Employees Conduct) Rules, 2016.
- The administrative secretaries, heads of department, managing directors, chief administrators of boards, corporations, divisional commissioners, deputy commissioners of Haryana, registrar of universities of Haryana and registrar (general), Punjab and Haryana High Court have been directed to ensure compliance of Rules 9 and 10 of Haryana Civil Services (Government Employees’ Conduct) Rules, 2016 in letter and in spirit. Any violation of the same should invite immediate and strict disciplinary action.

7. Meghalaya govt launches Special Postal Covers

- Meghalaya CM Conrad Sangma has launched Special Postal Covers of Pa Togan N. Sangma and Citrus Indica (Memang Narang) at Williamnagar.

- It was launched to mark the 75th Year of Independence which is being observed as Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- It is a befitting tribute of the heroic legendary freedom fighter from the Garo Hills
- Meghalaya will come up with a special financial support to create infrastructure to be dedicated in memory of Pa Togan Sangma at Chisolbibra

8. Assam launches app ‘Fishwaale’, India’s first e-fish market

- App named Fishwaale has been launched in Assam and it is India’s first e-fish market.
- The launch was done by Minister for Fisheries, Environment and Forest and Excise, Parimal Suklabaidya.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS & FOREIGN AFFAIRS

1. India and Denmark exchanges MoUs/Agreements during the visit of Danish PM Mette Frederiksen

- The Prime Minister of Denmark Mette Frederiksen is on three days visit to India from October 9 to 11, 2021, to further strengthen and enhance the close and friendly ties between the two countries.
- On October 09, 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a bilateral meeting with Danish PM, following which four MoUs were signed which aimed at boosting cooperation in green technologies and management of natural resources.

2. India announces \$200 million line of credit for Kyrgyzstan

- India announced a \$200-million line of credit for Kyrgyzstan and signed an agreement to carry out small but high impact projects for community development in the Central Asian state. The two initiatives were among several measures announced by external affairs minister S Jaishankar at the end of a two-day visit to Kyrgyzstan.
- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar held “constructive” talks with the top Kyrgyz leadership to boost bilateral ties, including defence cooperation and discussed global issues like Afghanistan. Jaishankar, who arrived as part of his four-day visit to Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Armenia with an aim to further expand bilateral ties with the three Central Asian countries, called on Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov and discussed with him expanding economic between the two countries.

3. Delhi to soon have driving licenses with QR codes

- Delhi Transport Dept will soon issue QR based Smart cards for driving licenses (DLs) and registration certificates (RCs) for digitization the DL system.
- New driving license will have an advanced microchip with features like QR code and Near Field Communication .
- It will have owner's name on the front while microchip and QR will be embedded at the back of the card.
- It will also enable unification in linking and validating information to smart cards with Sarathi and Vahan.

4.MoRTH launches “Rewarding Scheme for Grant of Award to the Good Samaritan”

- The Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has launched a “Rewarding Scheme for Grant of Award to the Good Samaritan”.
- The scheme aims to motivate the general public to help the victims of road accident in emergency situation, as well as inspire and motivate others to save innocent lives on road.
- Under this Good Samaritan scheme, a cash award of Rs. 5,000 per incident will be given to those who save the life of a road accident victim by administering immediate assistance and rushing him/her to hospital within the ‘golden hour’ of the mishap, i.e. within 60 minutes of the incident, to provide medical treatment.
- An individual Good Samaritan can be awarded maximum 5 times in a year.
- The Scheme would come into effect from October 15, 2021.

NEW APPOINTMENTS AND PERSON IN NEWS

1.Mukesh Ambani Enters World's Exclusive \$100-billion Club

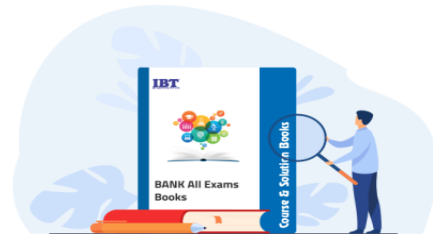
- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) Chairman Mukesh Ambani entered the exclusive \$100-billion club after the stock of his conglomerate surged on October 8 - taking his net worth \$100.6 billion, according to Bloomberg Billionaire Index.
- The 64-year-old Asia’s richest person is now in the company of 10 others including Jeff Bezos, Elon Musk, Warren Buffet and Larry Page among others. He is ranked 11th among others in the \$100-billion club.
- Ambani, on September 3, reiterated his commitment to invest Rs 75,000 crore over the next three years in green energy initiatives, including the Dhirubhai Ambani Green Energy Giga Complex in Jamnagar, as the global energy behemoth shifts its focus from hydrocarbons to renewable power.

2.Former SBI Chief Rajnish Kumar launches memoir ‘The Custodian of Trust’

- Former Chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI) Rajnish Kumar has come out with his memoir titled 'The Custodian of Trust – A Banker's Memoir'.
- The book has been published by Penguin Random House India.
- It gave a rare insight of how the financial system in our country works.
- The Custodian of Trust presents Kumar's journey from a modest house in the old city of Meerut to being a probationary officer in SBI in 1980 and growing to the post of Chairman in 2017.

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3. judges elevated as chief justices of high courts

- The Government notified the appointments of eight and transfer of five chief justices of high courts. Eight High Courts will get new Chief Justices, and five Chief Justices have been transferred. The clearance in the 13 High Courts was considered crucial as some of them have been making do with Acting Chief Justices.

Newly appointed Chief Justice:

Justice Rajesh Bindal, Acting Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court, was appointed as the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court.

Justice Ranjit V. More has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the Meghalaya High Court.

Justice Satish Chandra Sharma, Acting Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court, has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court.

Justice Prakash Srivastava, a Madhya Pradesh High Court judge, has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court.

Justice R.V. Malimath has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court.

Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court.

Justice Aravind Kumar has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court.

Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra would take over as the Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court.

4. Sajjan Jindal appointed chairman of World Steel Association

- World Steel Association (WSA) has elected Sajjan Jindal, Chairman and Managing Director of JSW Steel Ltd, as Chairman for the year 2021-22.
- Jindal is the first representative from India to serve as Chairman of the WSA. JSW Steel is the flagship business of the diversified \$13 billion JSW Group and engaged in the manufacturing of iron and steel products in India and across the globe.
- Worldsteel acts as the focal point for the steel industry, providing global leadership on all major strategic issues impacting the industry, particularly focusing on economic, environmental and social sustainability.

5. Arun Kumar Mishra appointed EESL's chief executive officer

- Arun Kumar Mishra has been appointed as the chief executive officer (CEO) of Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL).
- He is a veteran in the energy sector, with more than three decades of experience in NTPC and Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd.
- EESL is a joint venture between NTPC Ltd, Power Finance Corporation, REC and PowerGrid, was set up under the power ministry to facilitate the implementation of energy efficiency projects.

6. Satya Nadella-led Microsoft team wins 2021 C.K. Prahalad Award

- Indian American Microsoft CEO, Satya Nadella has won the prestigious C K Prahalad award for Global Business Sustainability Leadership for the year 2021, along with three other top leaders of Microsoft.
- Apart from Nadella, Microsoft's President and Vice-Chair Brad Smith, Chief financial officer Amy Hood and chief environment officer Lucas Joppa have shared the award for Global Business Sustainability Leadership.
- The four top Microsoft leaders have received the Award for their collaborative leadership to transform Microsoft into a carbon negative company by 2030 and remove all its historical emissions by 2050.
- C K Prahalad award for Leadership by an Individual Executive : This award has been given to Ecolab Chairman and former CEO, Douglas M. Baker, Jr. for his efforts to educate the business community about corporate responsibility and the business risks of global water scarcity and the need to account for the true value of water in financial decision making.
- **About C K Prahalad Award:** The award was created in 2010 by the Corporate Eco Forum (CEF) in honour of its founding Advisory Board member C.K. Prahalad. The award recognizes winners for exemplifying the fundamental connection between sustainability, innovation and long-term business success in a globalizing world.

7. Department of Biotechnology launches India's first 'One Health' consortium in post-COVID times

- The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) under the Ministry of Science and Technology has launched India's first mega consortium on 'One Health', in post-COVID times..
- The 'One Health' project was launched by Dr. Renu Swarup, Secretary, DBT through video conferencing.
- The Consortium comprise of 27 organisations, and will be led by DBT-National Institute of Animal Biotechnology, Hyderabad.
- The 'One Health' is "where man, animal, plants and environment are considered complimentary to each other for maintaining 'health of all'".

8. Varanasi To Become India's first City to Start Ropeway Service in Public Transportation

- Varanasi of Uttar Pradesh will become the first city in India to use ropeway services in public transportation. Overall, Varanasi will be the third city in the world after Bolivia and Mexico City to use ropeway in public transportation.
- The total cost of the ropeway project is Rs 424 crore. The total distance of 4.2 km will be covered in just 15 minutes.
- The cost of the project will be divided between the Centre and the state government at 80:20.

9. Telangana develops India's first smartphone-based eVoting solution

- Telangana has developed India's first smartphone-based eVoting solution considering the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The system will undergo a dry run in the form of a dummy election being conducted in Khammam district with the registration on the application open from October 8-18 and the dummy voting on October 20.
- The eVoting solution has been developed by Telangana State Election Commission (TSEC) with the implementation support of the Emerging Technologies Wing of the IT Department of the State and the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC).

BANKING

1. RBI announces the Theme for Fourth Cohort under Regulatory Sandbox as 'Prevention and Mitigation of Financial Frauds'

- The Reserve Bank of India has announced the theme for Fourth Cohort under Regulatory Sandbox. The theme is "Prevention and Mitigation of Financial Frauds".

- Before this, RBI has already launched three cohorts under Regulatory Sandbox.

2.PNB launches ‘6S Campaign’ under customer outreach programme

- Punjab National Bank (PNB) has launched ‘6S Campaign’ under a customer outreach programme to extend financial services at a concessional rate during the festival season. The ‘6S Campaign’ encapsulates different schemes such as – Swabhiman, Samruddhi, Sampark and Shikhar, Sankalp and Swagat.
- The objective is to drive a special awareness campaign for the development of financial services in the country and to accelerate credit growth, improve penetration of social security schemes and drive digital banking push.

3.NDP Releases 2021 Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) Report

- The 2021 Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) Report was released on 7 October 2021. The report is produced jointly by UNDP and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI).
- The report provides an estimates on multidimensional poverty across 109 developing countries (with data from surveys ranging 2009-2019/2020); These include 26 low-income countries, 80 middle-income countries and 3 high-income countries.
- The index measures each person’s deprivations across 10 indicators divided into three equally weighted dimensions.
- The finding is based across 109 countries and 5.9 billion people. of this, 1.3 billion people are multidimensionally poor (or 21.7%).
- In India, five out of six multidimensionally poor people were from lower tribes or castes.

4.Former SBI Chief Rajnish Kumar appointed as Chairman of BharatPe

- The fintech startup, BharatPe has appointed former State Bank of India (SBI) Chairman Rajnish Kumar as the Chairman of its board, on October 12, 2021.
- As the Chairman, Kumar will be responsible to:
 - Mentor the BharatPe team in formulating short-term and long-term strategy.
 - Work closely with the board and executives on regulatory matters.
 - Advise and counsel the management on corporate governance.

5.Former higher education secretary Amit Khare appointed as PM Modi’s advisor

- Former bureaucrat Amit Khare, who last month retired as higher education secretary, has been appointed as advisor to Prime Minister Narendra Modi

for two years on contract basis. Mr Khare, a 1985 batch (retired) IAS officer of Jharkhand cadre, had superannuated on September 30.

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Khare as advisor to the prime minister in Prime Minister's Office, in the rank and scale of secretary to government of India.

6.ADB raises 2019–2030 Climate Financing Goal to \$100 Billion

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has announced to increase its climate financing goals 2019-2030 for developing member countries (DMCs) by \$20 billion to \$100 billion
- Prior to this, ADB had announced \$80 billion goal for climate financing in 2018 for developing countries in Asia during 2019-2030
- Additional \$20 billion in financing support will be used for climate mitigation efforts including low-carbon energy sources, etc



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7.Dept of Post launches digital version of Postal Life Insurance policy bonds

- Department of Posts has launched digital version of the Postal Life Insurance policy bonds, termed as 'ePLI bond', on the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- ePLI bond is first the digital integration of Postal Department with Digilocker that will greatly facilitate citizens, providing ease of access and quick claim settlements.
- It is made available in collaboration with DIGILOCKER, National eGovernance Division (NeGD), Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY).

8.Govt accorded 'Maharatna' status to PFC

- Govt has accorded 'Maharatna' status to the state-owned Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC), thus giving PFC greater operational and financial autonomy by Dept of Public Enterprises
- It will enable PFC to offer competitive financing for power sector, which will go a long way in making available affordable & reliable 'Power For All 24x7'.

- PFC was incorporated in 1986 and is the largest Infrastructure Finance Company under the administrative control of Ministry of Power.

SCIENCE TECH & DEFENCE

1.6th India-UK joint military exercise ‘AJEYA WARRIOR’ begins in Uttarakhand

- The 6th edition of the annual Joint Military Exercise AJEYA WARRIOR, between India and United Kingdom kick-started on October 08, 2021 at Chaubatia, in the Indian state of Uttarakhand.
- The two-week military exercise will culminate on October 20, 2021.
- The exercise will further strengthen bilateral defence cooperation between the armies of the two countries and develop interoperability and sharing of expertise.

2.India officially joins High Ambition Coalition (HAC) for Nature and People

- India officially joined the High Ambition Coalition (HAC) for Nature and People on October 07, 2021.
- HAC is a group of more than 70 countries encouraging the adoption of the global goal to protect at least 30 percent of the world’s land and ocean by 2030 (30×30 target).
- India is the first country from BRICS bloc (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) to join the HAC.
- The High Ambition Coalition (HAC) for Nature and People is co-chaired by Costa Rica and France and by the United Kingdom as Ocean co-chair.

3.Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia inaugurates greenfield Sindhudurg airport in Maharashtra under UDAN scheme

- The Union Minister of Civil Aviation, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, virtually inaugurated the greenfield Sindhudurg airport in Maharashtra recently, under the RCS-UDAN (Regional Connectivity Scheme – Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik) scheme of the Government of India.
- The minister also flagged off the first flight from the airport, taking off from Sindhudurg to Mumbai.
- Sindhudurg Airport (also known as Chipi Airport) is in Sindhudurg District of Maharashtra.
- With this, 381 routes and 61 airports including 5 heliports and 2 Water Aerodromes have become operationalized under the UDAN scheme.

4.Adani Group takes over operational control of Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport Guwahati

- The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has handed over the operational control of the Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport in Guwahati to Adani Group on October 08, 2021.
- This means that the operations, management and development responsibilities of the airport will now be in the hands of the Adani Group.
- It must be noted that in 2018, the Central Government had listed group of six airports for privatisation of its operations, management and development (OMD) for a period of 50 years. These airports included Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Mangalore, Jaipur, Thiruvananthapuram and Guwahati.
- The Adani Group had emerged as the successful bidder for all these six airports.

5.DRDO conducts All India Official Language, Scientific and Technical Seminar

- DRDO has organized All India Official Language, Scientific and Technical Seminar for promoting use of Hindi in official activities including scientific and technical works.
- Seminar was hosted by ITR with the theme ‘Test and Evaluation of Defence Products: The Necessity and Achievements’ in 2021.
- He stressed on preserving the cultural heritage through promoting use of regional languages.
- Officers and staff of DRDO laboratories across the country participated in the seminar.

6.Second Phase of Exercise Malabar 2021 organised in Bay of Bengal from Oct 12 to 15 2021

- The second phase of Exercise Malabar 2021, between the Quad countries, will be conducted in the Bay of Bengal from October 12 to 15, 2021.
- The Phase 1 of Exercise Malabar 2021 was conducted off the coast of Guam, in the Philippine Sea, in the Western Pacific from August 26 to 29, 2021.
- Exercise Malabar 2021 is the 25th edition of MALABAR.
- The Indian Navy will participate with INS Ranvijay, INS Satpura, P8I Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft and a Submarine.
- Japan Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF), Royal Australian Navy (RAN) and the United States Navy (USN) are the other participants in the exercise.
- The Exercise Malabar was first held in 1992 as a bilateral drill between the Indian Navy and the US Navy in the Indian Ocean. Later in 2015, Japan became a permanent member of the exercise.

7.Reliance Industry’s renewable energy arm RNESL acquires 100% stake in REC Solar Holdings for \$771 mn

- Reliance New Energy Solar Ltd (RNESL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL), has acquired 100 percent shareholding of REC Solar Holdings AS (REC Group), a Chinese state-owned solar power company.
- RNESL has acquired the REC Group from China National Bluestar (Group) Co Ltd., for an Enterprise Value of \$771 million.
- This acquisition will enable Reliance to move closer to achieve the goal of generating 100GW of solar energy by 2030, and in turn support the country's global goal to produce 450GW of renewable energy by 2030.
- REC Group has three manufacturing facilities, two in Norway for making solar grade polysilicon and one in Singapore making PV cells and modules. With this acquisition, RNESL will become the owner of REL's three manufacturing facilities.

8.Indian Railways launches two long haul freight trains 'Trishul', 'Garuda' for South Central Railway

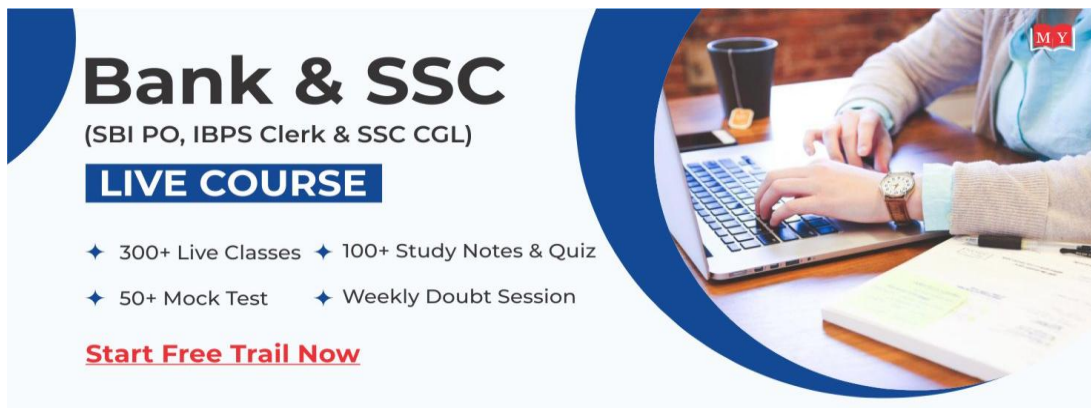
- For the first time, the Indian Railways has launched two long haul freight trains named "Trishul" and "Garuda" for the South Central Railway (SCR).
- What is a Long haul train? These trains are twice or multiple times longer than the normal composition of freight trains and provide a very effective solution to the problem of capacity constraints in critical sections.
- Trishul is the first long haul train of South Central Railway (SCR) and consists of 177 wagons, or equal to three freight trains. It was launched from Kondapalli station of Vijayawada division to Khurda division of East Coast Railway.
- The train 'Garuda' was launched from Raichur of Guntakal division to Manuguru of Secunderabad division.
- Both the long haul trains had empty open wagons to be used to load coal meant for predominantly thermal power stations.

9.Ireland's Amy Hunter becomes world's youngest ODI centurion

- Ireland's Amy Hunter has celebrated her 16th birthday by becoming the world's youngest ODI centurion after smashing an undefeated 121 to secure victory against Zimbabwe in Harare.
- The Belfast batter - who was playing in only her fourth ODI - broke the record previously held by India's Mithali Raj, scorer of a century against Ireland in 1999 when she was 16 years 205 days.
- Hunter's knock, which came from 127 balls and included eight fours, was also the highest score achieved by an Ireland Women batter and set up an 85-run victory - and a 3-1 series success - for her side.

10.PM Narendra Modi launches Indian Space Association (ISpA)

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Indian Space Association (ISpA) on October 11, 2021 via videoconferencing.
- The ISpA is a private industry body which will act as a premier industry body for space and satellite companies in the country.
- ISpA will be represented by homegrown and global corporations with advanced capabilities in space and satellite technologies.
- ISpA will work towards boosting space technology in India, with focus on capacity building and space economic hubs and incubators in India.
- First Chairman – Jayant Patil, L&T-NxT Senior Executive Vice President for Defence.
- Vice-President – Rahul Vatts, Bharti Airtel’s chief regulatory officer.
- Director-General – Lt Gen. A.K. Bhatt (Retd.)
- Its founding members include Bharti Airtel, Larsen & Toubro, Nelco (Tata Group), OneWeb, Mapmyindia, Walchandnagar Industries and Ananth Technology Limited.
- Other core members include Godrej, Hughes India, Azista-BST Aerospace Private Limited, BEL, Centum Electronics and Maxar India.



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11. Astronautical Society of India Confers 2021 Aryabhata Award to Dr G Satheesh Reddy

- Dr G Satheesh Reddy, Secretary DDR&D and Chairman DRDO, has been conferred the prestigious Aryabhata Award for 2021 on October 09, 2021, by Astronautical Society of India (ASI).
- Dr G Satheesh Reddy has been honoured for his outstanding life-time contribution to the promotion of astronautics in India.
- The Aryabhata Award is presented annually to individuals with notable lifetime contributions in the field of astronautics and aerospace technology in India by the Astronautical Society of India (ASI).
- The award consists of a citation and Rs. 1,00,000 in cash.

12. Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses 28th NHRC Foundation Day programme

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the 28th NHRC Foundation Day programme, through video conferencing on October 12, 2021, in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah and NHRC chairperson.
- The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India is a Statutory public body constituted on 12 October 1993 under the Protection of Human Rights Act 1993, for the promotion and protection of human rights and dignity of the marginalised.
- Chairperson of NHRC is Justice Arun Kumar Mishra.

13.UNESCO releases 2021 State of the Education Report for India: No Teacher, No Class

- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) launched the 2021 State of the Education Report (SOER) for India: “No Teacher, No Class”, on the occasion of World Teacher’s Day, on October 05, 2021.
- This is the third edition of the annual flagship State of Education Report of UNESCO New Delhi. The substance of the Report has been developed by an expert team of researchers in the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, under the guidance of the UNESCO New Delhi.
- The 2021 edition focused on the theme of teachers, teaching and teacher education.
- The report also looked at teachers’ experience of ICT and the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on the teaching profession.
- The 2021 UNESCO State of the Education report for India will serve as a reference for enhancing the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) and towards the realization of the SDG.4 target 4c on teachers.
- The report presented a set of ten action-oriented recommendations to address the challenges facing the teaching profession in India to help achieve the NEP 2020 vision and objective to ensure quality education for all in the country.

14.India ranks 3rd in 2021 Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index

- India has retained 3rd rank in 58th Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index (RECAI) released by Ernst & Young
- 2021 RECAI ranked top 40 global markets of the world on attractiveness of their renewable energy investment and deployment opportunities
- Top performer: US, followed by China
- New PPA Index has been introduced in this edition of RECAI focuses on the attractiveness of renewable power procurement and ranks the growth potential of corporate PPA market

15.NHAI sings MoU with TIDCO for development of MMLP in Chennai

- National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) signs MoU with Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO) for development of a Multimodal Logistics Park (MMLP) at VOC Port in Chennai.
- It will be developed through Public Private Partnership, providing land and connectivity and the actual MMLP infrastructure to be developed by a private developer.
- All the three stake holders viz, Chennai Port Authority, TIDCO and NHAI will be equity partners in the proposed SVP.

BOOKS AND AWARDS

1. Telugu filmmaker B Gopal selected for Satyajit Ray Award

- Well-known Telugu filmmaker Bejawada Gopal, has been named as the winner of the fourth Satyajit Ray Award for his overall contribution to the Indian cinema.
- The award is presented by the Satyajit Ray Film Society, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- Satyajit Ray Award comprises Rs 10,000 cash prize, a memento and plaque.

SPORTS

1. Valtteri Bottas Wins Turkish Grand Prix 2021

- Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes-Finland) has won the F1 Turkish Grand Prix 2021, held on October 10, 2021. This is his first title of this season.
- Max Verstappen (Red Bull – Netherlands) came second while Sergio Perez (Mexico- Red Bull) finished third.
- Meanwhile Lewis Hamilton finished fifth.

2. Indian National Hockey players clinches each category of FIH Hockey Stars Awards 2020-21

- In a historic moment, the Indian hockey players claimed all the accolades of the 2020-21 edition of the FIH Stars Awards announced on October 6, 2021.

List of winners of FIH Stars Awards 2020-21

FIH Women's Player of the Year: Gurjit Kaur

FIH Men's Player of the Year: Harmanpreet Singh

FIH Men's Coach of the Year: Graham Reid (Australia – Team IND)

FIH Women's Coach of the Year: Sjoerd Marijne (Netherlands – Team IND)

FIH Women's Goalkeeper of the Year: Savita Punia

FIH Men's Goalkeeper of the Year: PR Sreejesh

FIH Men's Rising Star of the Year: Vivek Prasad
FIH Women's Rising Star of the Year: Sharmila Devi

3.FIFA unveils 'Ibha' - official mascot of U-17 2022 Women's World Cup

- World football body, FIFA has unveiled the official mascot of the U-17 Women's World Cup India 2022 "Ibha" an Asiatic lioness representing women power. The tournament will be held in India from October 11-30 next year. The announcement coincided with the International Day of the Girl Child.
- According to a release issued by the global body, Ibha aims to inspire women and girls across India and around the world to realise their potential. Ibha is a strong, playful and charming Asiatic lioness that aims to inspire and encourage women and girls by using teamwork, resilience, kindness and empowering others.

4.Indian Shooters win 43 medals including 17 Gold at ISSF Junior World Championship

- The 2021 International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Championship Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun was held at Lima in Peru from September 27 to October 10, 2021.
- The Indian shooters claimed a historic win with 43 medals to stand atop in the medal table. These included 17 Gold, 16 Silver and 10 Bronze medal.
- The USA finished second on the medal table with 21 medals including six gold, eight silver and six bronze.
- Meanwhile, Manu Bhaker created a milestone record of becoming the first Indian shooter to win highest number of medals in a single edition of the ISSF Junior World Championships, with as many as five medals. These included 4 gold medals and a bronze.

OBITUARIES

1.'Father of Pakistan's nuclear bomb' A. Q. Khan passes away at 85

- Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan, the man regarded as the "Father of Pakistan's nuclear bomb", has passed away, He was 85.
- The atomic scientist, Dr Khan was hailed as a national hero for transforming Pakistan into the world's first Islamic nuclear power and for his contributions in enhancing the country's defence capabilities.

2.Chairman of IFFCO Balvinder Singh Nakai passed away at 87

- The Chairman of Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO), Sardar Balvinder Singh Nakai , has passed away.

- He was 87 years old.
- BS Nakai was appointed as the new Chairman of IFFCO in May 2019.
- IFFCO is a multi-state cooperative society engaged in the business of manufacturing and marketing of fertilisers. Its headquarter is in New Delhi.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. National Postal Day 2021: 10 October

- In India, the National Postal Day is celebrated annually on 10 October, as an extension of World Post Day, which is celebrated on 9 October.
- National Post Day aims to commemorate the role played by the Indian postal department for the past 150 years, which was founded in 1854 by Lord Dalhousie.

2. International Day of the Girl Child : 11 October

- The International Day of the Girl Child (also known as Day of Girls and the International Day of Girls) is observed annually on October 11 since 2012.
- This international observance day was declared by the United Nations to raise awareness of issues facing girls internationally surrounding education, nutrition, child marriage, legal and medical rights.
- The theme for 2021 International Day of the Girl Child is “Digital generation. Our generation”.

3. World Arthritis Day 2021: 12 October

- The World Arthritis Day is observed every year on October 12 to raise awareness about arthritis, an inflammatory condition which causes pain and stiffness in joints which can worsen with age.
- This day was started by Arthritis and Rheumatism International (ARI) in 1996 in order to spread awareness about arthritis and encourage policymakers to help reduce burden of arthritis.
- The World Arthritis Day theme 2021 is Don't Delay, Connect Today: Time2Work.
- Arthritis means inflammation of the joints which leads to pain and stiffness in the joints.

4. International Day for Disaster Reduction 2021: 13 October

- The United Nations International Day for Disaster Reduction is held annually on 13 October since 1989.
- The day is celebrated to promote a global culture of risk-awareness and disaster reduction and also celebrates how people and communities around

the world are reducing their exposure to disasters and raising awareness about the importance of reining in the risks that they face.

- Theme of 2021 International Day for Disaster Reduction is “International cooperation for developing countries to reduce their disaster risk and disaster losses”.

5. International E-Waste Day: 14 October

- International E-Waste Day (IEWD) is observed every year on 14 October every year to promote the correct disposal of e-waste throughout the world, increasing re-use, recovery and recycling rates.
- Theme for 2021 IEWD: Consumer is the key to Circular Economy!
- 2021 is the 4th edition of the International E-Waste Day.
- IEWD was developed in 2018 by WEEE Forum, an international association of e-waste collection schemes, with the support of its members.

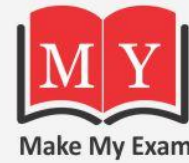
6. World Students’ Day 2021: 15 October

- World Students’ Day is observed every year on October 15 to mark the birth anniversary of former President A. P. J. Abdul Kalam.
- In 2010 the United Nations declared 15 October “World Students’ Day”, due to Kalam’s love for students and who himself was a dedicated teacher and identified himself foremost in that role before anything else.
- 2021 marks 90th birth anniversary of the former president and ‘Missile Man’ Dr APJ Abdul Kalam.

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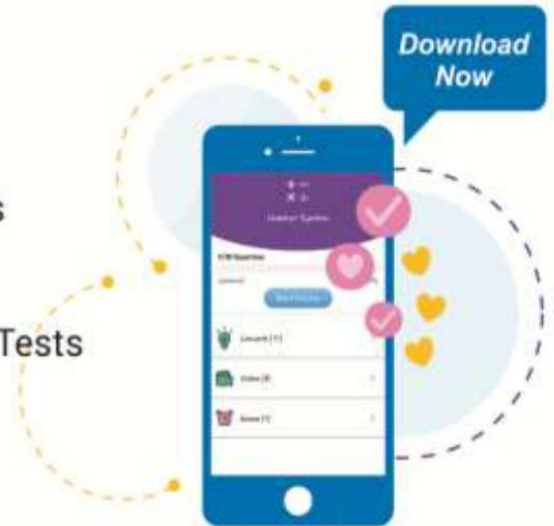
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