
MANTHAN

A General Awareness Weekly

19st October to 25th October, 2020

PREFACE

Dear Students,

The 'Current Affairs' section is an integral part of any examination. This edition of Manthan has been developed by our team to help you cover all the important events of the Week. This comprehensive bulletin will help you prepare the section in a vivid manner. We hope that our sincere efforts will serve you in a better way to fulfill aspirations.

Happy Reading

Team CL



Career
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National



Asan first Uttarakhand wetland to make it to Ramsar sites list

- **Asan Conservation Reserve** has become the first wetland from Uttarakhand to be included in the prestigious Ramsar sites list. Besides Asan, Kabartal Wetland from Bihar was the second new site to get included in this list.
- On the fresh inclusion, the Ramsar website stated that “**India has named two new Wetlands of International Importance, bringing its total number of ‘Ramsar Sites’ to 39.**” With 2 more inclusions, the total number of Ramsar sites in India is 39, the highest in South Asia.
- **Till February 2020, only 37 sites from India were in the Ramsar site list, which has now been extended to 39.** Located 40 kms from Dehradun, Asan attracts a big population of migratory birds in winters. **The man-made wetland possibly attracts the biggest number of Brahminy Duck or Ruddy Shelduck in the entire India.**

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands is an intergovernmental treaty adopted in 1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar, on the southern shore of the Caspian Sea. It came into force for India on 1st February, 1982. Those wetlands which are of international importance are declared as Ramsar sites. The Montreux Record is a register of wetland sites on the List of Wetlands of International Importance where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur as a result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference. It is maintained as part of the Ramsar List. At present, two wetlands of India are in Montreux Record: Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan) and Loktak Lake (Manipur). Chilika Lake (Odisha) was placed in the record but later removed from it.

Indian and Sri Lankan navies is held their annual exercise SLINEX

- The 8th annual joint exercise between Indian and Sri Lankan navies ‘**SLINEX-20**’ is held off Trincomalee coast, Sri Lanka. The 3-day exercise is continued till 21st of October. **The Sri Lanka Navy is represented by SLN Ships Sayura and Gajabahu** led by Rear Admiral Bandara Jayathilaka, the Flag Officer Commanding Naval Fleet, Sri Lanka Navy.
- **Indigenously built ASW corvettes Kamorta and Kiltan** under the command of Rear Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet, have **represented the Indian Navy**. Defence Ministry said, **Indian Navy Advanced Light Helicopter and Chetak helicopter embarked onboard IN ships, and Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft were also participated.** SLINEX-20 aims to enhance inter-operability, improve mutual understanding and exchange best practices and procedures for multi-faceted maritime operations between both navies.

SLINEX (Sri Lanka India Naval Exercise) are a series of naval exercises between the Indian Navy and the Sri Lanka Navy. The first ever SLINEX exercise took place in 2005. Sri Lanka is an island country in South Asia, located in the Indian Ocean to the southwest of the Bay of Bengal. Sri Lanka is separated from the India by the Gulf of Mannar and the Palk Strait. Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte is the official, administrative capital of Sri Lanka. Colombo is the commercial capital and largest city of Sri Lanka.

Nitin Gadkari laid foundation stone for India's first-ever multi-modal logistic park in Assam

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways **Nitin Gadkari** virtually laid the foundation stone for the **first-ever multi-modal logistic park of the country in Assam.**
- The event was **presided over by the Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal**, and was **attended by and Union ministers Dr Jitendra Singh, Gen VK Singh** and Rameshwar Teli and several ministers of Assam.
- **The 694 crore rupees park at Bongaigaon district** will provide direct connectivity to air, road, rail and waterways to the people of Assam. It will also give employment to 20 lakh people.
- It will be **developed under the Bharatmala Pariyojana of the Centre.** The fund for the multimodal logistics park would be spent in 3 components - road and railway connectivity as well as building and infrastructure work. An MoU will also be signed to implement the project.

Nitin Jairam Gadkari was served as the **President of the BJP** from 2010-2013. He is the **current Minister for Road Transport & Highways of India** and **Shipping Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises** in the Government of India. **Gadkari represents Lok Sabha from Nagpur constituency, Maharashtra.**

Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launches AYUSHMAN SAHAKAR scheme

- Union Agriculture Minister **Narendra Singh Tomar** launched **AYUSHMAN SAHAKAR scheme.** The scheme is a unique way to **assist cooperatives play an important role in creation of healthcare infrastructure in the country.** **AYUSHMAN SAHAKAR** scheme has been **formulated by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).**
- NCDC would **extend term loans to prospective cooperatives to the tune of 10 thousand crore** in the coming years. The ongoing pandemic has brought into focus the requirement of creation of more facilities. NCDC's scheme will be a **step towards strengthening farmers welfare activities by the Central Government.**
- **The scheme aligns itself with the focus of the National Health Policy, 2017,** covering the health systems in all their dimensions- investments in health, organization of healthcare services, access to technologies, development of human resources, encouragement of medical pluralism, affordable health care to farmers etc.

National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) is a statutory Corporation set up under an **Act of Indian Parliament on 13 March 1963.** NCDC is an **autonomous development finance institution under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.** The objectives of NCDC are **planning and promoting programmes for production, processing, marketing, storage, export and import of agricultural produce, foodstuffs, industrial goods, livestock and certain other notified commodities and services on cooperative principles and for matters concerned therewith or incidental thereto.**

NITI Aayog to establish Frontier Technologies Cloud Innovation Centre with AWS

- In order to address societal challenges through digital innovation, **NITI Aayog announced the establishment of a Frontier Technologies Cloud Innovation Centre, CIC with Amazon Web Services (AWS).** It is the **first of its kind in India.**
- **This CIC is part of the AWS CIC Global Programme** which provides an opportunity for government agencies, non-profits and educational institutions, to come together on pressing challenges, apply design thinking, test new ideas, and access the technology expertise of AWS.

The **National Institution for Transforming India**, also called **NITI Aayog**, was formed via a resolution of the **Union Cabinet on January 1, 2015.** NITI Aayog is the **premier policy 'Think Tank' of the Government of India,** providing both directional and policy inputs. The **current chairman of NITI Aayog is Shri Narendra Modi,** **current vice chairman is Dr. Rajiv Kumar** and the **current chief executive officer is Shri Amitabh Kant.**

Rajnath Singh approves new DRDO Procurement Manual-2020

- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** has **approved a new DRDO Procurement Manual-2020.** This will encourage more participation of the Indian Industry including start-ups and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in Research and Development activity and also **to achieve the goal of self-reliance in Defence.**

- The new DRDO Procurement Manual will facilitate the indigenous Defence Industry by simplifying the processes and ensuring their participation in design and development activities. It would contribute towards realising the objective of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'. The DRDO PM was last modified in 2016.
- The PM-2020 also exempts bid security and performance security up to Rs. 10 lakh and does away with the requirement for negotiations for commercial off-the-shelf items or services wherever price discovery is happening through market forces. In addition, performance security for service contracts is linked to the payment cycle, instead of total contract value.

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) is charged with coordinating and supervising all agencies and functions of the government relating directly to national security and the Indian armed forces. The President of India is the ceremonial commander-in-chief of the armed forces of the country. The Indian Armed Forces (including Indian Army, Indian Air Force, and Indian Navy) and Indian Coast Guard under the Ministry of Defence are primarily responsible for ensuring the territorial integrity of the nation. A military department was created by the supreme government of the British East India Company at Kolkata in the year 1776. Rajnath Singh is currently serving as the Defence Minister of India. He has been representing the 17th Lok Sabha from Lucknow constituency. He also served as Union Home Minister of India from 2014 to 2019.

EC sets up panel to study candidates' expenditure limit

- The Election Commission had set up a committee "to examine the issues concerning expenditure limit for a candidate in view of the increase in number of electors and rise in the Cost Inflation Index and other factors."
- The expenditure limit for Lok Sabha and Assembly candidates is Rs 70 lakh and Rs 28 lakh respectively, but the Law Ministry has approved a 10% hike for the COVID-19 period.
- The committee, comprising former IRS officer and Director General (Investigation) Harish Kumar and Secretary General and DG (Expenditure) Umesh Sinha, would submit its report within 120 days of its constitution, an EC statement said. The expenditure limit for a candidate was last revised in 2014, and for Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, it was revised in 2018, the EC said.

Govt increases expenditure limit of candidates contesting Lok Sabha, Assembly elections by 10%

- The poll spending limit for candidates contesting Lok Sabha and Assembly elections has been enhanced by 10 percent. Centre has approved this based on the recommendation of the Election Commission that contestants be allowed to spend more on campaigning keeping in mind difficulties they may face due to COVID-19 curbs.
- The notification issued by the Law Ministry last night said the maximum expenditure a candidate can incur for campaigning in Lok Sabha polls is now Rs. 77 lakh. It was Rs. 70 lakh earlier. The last time the expenditure ceiling was enhanced was ahead of the Lok Sabha polls in 2014.
- The ceiling on poll expenditure varies across States, with candidates in Assembly elections in bigger States like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu now allowed to spend up to ₹30.8 lakhs as against ₹28 lakhs earlier.
- Goa, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and a few Union Territories, based on the size of their constituencies and population, have a lower ceiling on poll expenditure. Here while the enhanced ceiling for a Lok Sabha candidate is now Rs.59.4 lakhs those contesting an Assembly can spend up to Rs. 22 lakhs.

Election Commission of India operates under the authority of Constitution per Article 324. The body administers elections to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, state Legislative Assemblies in India, and the offices of the President and Vice President in the country. Chief Election Commissioner of India is usually a member of the Indian Civil Service and mostly from the Indian Administrative Service. It is very difficult to remove the authority of the Chief Election Commissioner once appointed by the president, as two-thirds of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha need to vote against him for disorderly conduct or improper actions. Sukumar Sen was the first Chief Election Commissioner of India, serving from 21 March 1950 to 19 December 1958.

UP announces to provide assistance to labourers for historical & religious tour

- Uttar Pradesh Government has announced to provide financial assistance to labourers for historical and religious tour in a unique step towards welfare of the labourers in state. Government will also provide money to buy books for the study of their daughters.

- Government will give **financial assistance of 12 thousand rupees to the labourers of state for the tour of historical and religious sites** under **Swami Vivekananda Historical Tourism Scheme**.
- It was also **decided to provide 7,500 rupees assistance for purchase of books under Mahadevi Verma Book Purchase Financial Assistance Scheme**. This will be given to the labourers working in factories whose daughters are pursuing higher education.
- Apart from it, government has also **decided to provide money to encourage those children of the labourers who are performing well in sports**. Government will give **10 thousand rupees**, if they got selected at district level, **25 rupees** for selection at state level, **50 thousand rupees** for National level and **one lakh rupees** will be provide for selection at international level in sports.

India hosted third India-US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue

- India has **hosted the Third India-US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue** on 27th of October in New Delhi. **United States Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Secretary of Defence Mark T. Esper** were visited India to participate in the dialogue. From the Indian side, **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar** led the delegation.
- The first 22 Ministerial Dialogue was held in New Delhi in September 2018 and followed by the second in Washington DC in 2019. The agenda for the third dialogue will cover all bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest.
- India and the US inked landmark defence pact, **Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-Spatial Cooperation (BECA)**, to expand geospatial information sharing between armed forces of the two countries.
- The signing of the long-negotiated **Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA)** during the third edition of the 2+2 dialogue between the two strategic partners also signals further boosting of bilateral defence and military ties and it comes in the backdrop of India's tense border standoff with China in eastern Ladakh.
- Other Agreements signed by India are the **Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA)**, the **Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA)** while the **General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA)** was signed a long time ago. An extension to the GSOMIA, the **Industrial Security Annex (ISA)**, was signed at the last 2+2 dialogue.

The 2+2 dialogue is the highest-level (Ministerial) institutional mechanism between India and the USA that brings together the perspectives of the two countries on foreign policy, defence and strategic issues. India also holds such dialogue with Japan as well. India also holds 2+2 dialogue with Australia at the foreign secretary and defence secretary level.

Himachal Pradesh: Mandi district bags top position for implementation of PMGSY

- Himachal Pradesh's Mandi district has **bagged top position among 30 districts of the country** in successful implementation of **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)**. Himachal Pradesh has also secured second position at the national level for construction of roads under PMGSY.
- Union Ministry of Rural Development has **declared the list of top performing 30 districts in the country for implementing the PMGSY programme**. Mandi district has received top position for constructing roads under PMGSY of maximum length in 2020-21.
- The state has also **improved its performance under PMGSY programme by constructing 1104 Kilometres roads this year** from April till date. PMGSY is a programme funded by the Union government to connect habitations having population of more than 250 in the state.

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh declared Dharamshala as the second capital of the state after Shimla, making it the third Indian state to have more than one capital. The winter capital of Uttarakhand is Dehradun, the largest city of the state, which is a rail head. Gairsain, a town in Chamoli district is the summer capital of Uttarakhand. The High Court of the state is located in Nainital. While Maharashtra has Mumbai and Nagpur as its capitals, Srinagar and Jammu are the respective summer and winter capitals of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

J&K UT introduces certain substitutes in 226(2) Article of J&K Civil Service Regulations

- **The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has introduced certain substitutes in 226(2) Article of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Service Regulations, on the orders of Lieutenant Governor.**
- A notification issued by Finance Department states that the Government may, **at any time after a Government servant has attained the age of 48 years or completed 22 years of service**, as the case may be, retire him in public interest. Such a Government servant shall be **granted pensionary benefits admissible under these rules on the basis of qualifying service** put in by him on the date of such retirement.
- Setting the Time Schedule to be followed, it stated that the **exercise of review of performance of the Government Servants will be initiated for each Government Servant for the first time after her/his completion of 22 years of Government Service or attaining 48 years of age** and any time subsequently, as may be required.

Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 re-constituted the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, with effect from 31 October 2019. Girish Chandra Murmu is the first lieutenant governor of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Manoj Sinha is the second and current Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir. Ladakh is a region administered by India as a union territory; Radha Krishna Mathur is the first Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh.

‘Common Man’ statue to come up in Jaipur School

- **The signature creation of legendary cartoonist R.K. Laxman will be built to mark his birth centenary and commemorate his special connection with Pink City.**
- A statue of “Common Man”, the signature creation of legendary cartoonist R.K. Laxman, will shortly come up at a school in Jaipur to mark the centenary year of his birth and commemorate his special connection with the Pink City. The late humorist, who died in 2015, had visited the Rajasthan Capital several times.
- The iconic character’s statue will be **built at Merry Lands School in Jaipur’s Malviya Nagar area**. Laxman had attended many functions at the school and interacted with its students.

Rasipuram Krishnaswami Iyer Laxman was an Indian cartoonist, illustrator, and humorist. He is best known for his creation The Common Man and for his daily cartoon strip, You Said It in The Times of India, which started in 1951. Laxman was known as “Pied Piper of Delhi”. He was awarded Ramon Magsaysay Award for Journalism in 1984. He was awarded Padma Vibhushan in 2005.

Ministry of Earth Sciences dedicates Flash Flood Guidance services for South Asian countries

- Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, **Dr. M. Rajeevan dedicated Flash Flood Guidance services, first of its kind for South Asian countries namely India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka.**
- An automated mode of dissemination is to be **established with the stakeholders along with the use of social media**, so that the information reaches the concerned disaster authorities in a timely manner.
- **Dr. M. Mohapatra, Director General of IMD and Permanent Representative of India with WMO assured the member nations that the Guidance for flash floods** in the form of Threats 6 hours in advance and Risks 24 hours in advance will be provided by Regional Centre to National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, National and State Disaster Management Authorities and all other stake holders for taking necessary mitigation measures.

Indian Navy operationalises first batch of 3 women pilots on Dornier Aircraft at Kochi

- **Indian Navy has operationalized the first batch of three Women Pilots on Dornier Aircraft by the Southern Naval Command (SNC) at Kochi. India’s first batch of women pilots** are ready to soar high on Dornier Aircraft. The three women pilots were part of the six pilots of the 27th Dornier Operational Flying Training Course DOFT.
- **The three women pilots of the first batch are Lieutenant Divya Sharma, Lieutenant Shubhangi Swaroop, and Lieutenant Shivangi.** These officers had initially undergone basic flying training partly with Indian Air Force and partly with the Navy prior to the DOFT course.

PM inaugurates India's biggest cardiac hospital in Ahmedabad and world's longest temple ropeway at Junagadh in Girnar

- Prime Minister Modi e-dedicated India's biggest cardiac hospital at U.N. Mehta Institute of Cardiology and Research Center and launched a Mobile Application for tele-cardiology at Civil Hospital campus in Ahmedabad.
- The new facilities have been set up at the cost of Rupees 470 crore, which has increased the existing 450 beds to 1251 beds, 531 cardiac ICU beds, 15 cardiac modular operation theaters and 6 cardiac cath labs.
- He also launched the world's longest temple ropeway project at Girnar in Junagadh. The Rupees 130 crore project will attract more tourists and pilgrims to this historical place which will boost employment opportunities.
- Girnar ropeway project consists a total of 25 cabins and is of 2.3 kilo meters length and 900 meters height. It operates at a capacity of 800 passengers per hour and 8000 per day.

Gujarat is a state on the western coast of India with a longest coastline of India 1,600 km (990 mi). Its capital city is Gandhinagar, while its largest city is Ahmedabad. Gujarat International Finance Tec-City is a business district promoted by the Government of Gujarat through a joint venture company. GIFT City is India's first operational smart city in the Ahmedabad and international financial services centre. Acharya Devvrat is Governor of Gujarat and Vijay Rupani is the current Chief Minister of Gujarat. Gujarat has become the first state to implement newly-introduced 10 per cent reservations in government jobs and higher education for the economically weaker sections in the general category and followed by Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh.

India's first seaplane to take off in Gujarat on October 31

- India's maiden seaplane service is likely to take off from Sabarmati riverfront to the Statue of Unity on October 31. No-frills carrier SpiceJet is in the process of procuring a seaplane for the venture from the Maldives which is expected to arrive on October 26 for the first regular service on the about 205 km stretch.

J&K has become first UT in country to operationalise PFMS at district level

- Jammu and Kashmir has become the first union territory in the country to operationalise public financial management system (PFMS) at the district level.
- The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has become the first UT in the country to operationalise PFMS at the district level with the e-inauguration of eight district offices by Additional Controller General of Accounts Subodh Kumar Mathur, the spokesperson said.
- The launch of these offices in Jammu and Kashmir will result in improved programme administration and management, direct payment to beneficiaries and greater transparency and accountability in use of public funds, he said.
- The PFMS state directorate J-K was established in 2016 like in the rest of the states and the UTs for operationalising PFMS and now it has emerged as the first UT in the country in terms of expanding the PFMS to districts which is a significant achievement for all the stakeholders.

Punjab CM Lays Foundation Stone of First Sports University

- Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh digitally laid the foundation stone of Punjab's first dedicated sports university and a bus stand, along with various other development projects in Patiala.
- The Maharaja Bhupinder Singh Sports University will be developed at Rs 500 crore, of which Rs 60 crore will be invested in the initial phase for the development of academic and administrative blocks and hostels on the campus, according to a government statement.

The state capital of Punjab is Chandigarh, a Union Territory and also the capital of the neighboring state of Haryana. The five rivers from which the region took its name were Sutlej, Ravi, Beas, Chenab and Jhelum; Sutlej, Ravi and Beas are part of the Indian Punjab. Captain Amarinder Singh is currently the 26th Chief Minister of Punjab and Vijayendrapal Singh Badnore is the current Governor of Punjab.



India, Chile hold first joint commission meeting

- **India and Chile held their first joint commission meeting** and agreed to add new momentum to their relations in a wide range of fields including trade and commerce, agriculture, health and social security, defence and space.
- The meeting held virtually was co-chaired by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chilean counterpart Andres Allamand Zavala.
- Both sides noted that the Joint Commission was a significant development in India - Chile relations, **being the first institutionalized dialogue between the two countries at the level of Foreign Ministers**. India welcomed Chile's decision to designate India as a priority country in its foreign policy. Chile will also be opening its Consulate General in Mumbai.

Chile is a South American country; Santiago is the capital and largest city of Chile. Chile is the world's top copper producer. Sebastian Pinera has been President of Chile since 2018. Chile borders Peru to the north, Bolivia to the northeast, Argentina to the east, and the Drake Passage in the far south. The peso is the currency of Chile.

New Zealand PM Jacinda Ardern's Labour Party registers landslide victory in general elections

- **Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern won in New Zealand's general elections**. With 87 per cent of the vote counted, Ardern's Labour Party won a landslide victory with 49 per cent support, heading to its biggest share of the vote since the 1930s.
- The opposition National Party slumped to 27 per cent. With this, Ardern led centre-left Labour Party secures a second term after her success in tackling the Coronavirus situation in the country. **Jacinda Ardern's victory is regarded as voters' reward for her decisive response to COVID-19.**

New Zealand is an island country in the southwestern Pacific Ocean. Wellington is the capital city. Jacinda Ardern is the current New Zealand Prime Minister. The New Zealand dollar is the official currency and legal tender of New Zealand, the Cook Islands, Niue, the Ross Dependency, Tokelau, and a British territory, the Pitcairn Islands.

Australia to join Malabar Naval exercise with India, US and Japan

- **Australia will join Malabar naval exercise involving India, US and Japan**. The Annual Naval Exercise Malabar-2020 is expected to be held in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea later this year.
- This year, the exercise has been planned on a 'non-contact-at sea' format. The exercise will strengthen the coordination between the Navies of the participating countries.
- With the decision to include Australia in the drills by India in 2020, it will be the first time all members of the regional grouping known as the Quad will be engaging militarily.

Exercise Malabar is a quadrilateral naval exercise involving the United States, Japan, Australia, and India as permanent partners. Originally begun in 1992 as a bilateral exercise between India and the United States, Japan became a permanent partner in 2015.

Pakistan opposes Indian claim on Basmati rice in EU

- **Pakistan** has decided to file its opposition in the European Union in response to India's application for an exclusive Geographical Indications (GI) tag to Basmati rice in the 27-member bloc. **Pakistan is preparing to contest India's claim in the European Union that basmati rice sold in the bloc is genuine only if it originates from specific areas of India.**
- **India applied for a geographical indication, or GI, tag in the EU in 2018 for basmati rice -- a long-grain aromatic variety popular among South Asians -- exported to the trade bloc from India, including the states and union territories of Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, western Uttar Pradesh and the selected districts of Jammu and Kashmir.**

Basmati is a variety of long, slender-grained aromatic rice which is traditionally from the Indian subcontinent. As of 2018-19, India accounted for 65% of the international trade in basmati rice, while Pakistan accounted for the remaining 35%. According to the Indian Government agency APEDA, a rice variety is eligible to be called Basmati if it has a minimum average precooked milled rice length of 6.61 mm and average precooked milled rice breadth of up to 2 mm, among other parameters.

European Union (EU) is a political and economic union of 27 member states that are located primarily in Europe. The Maastricht Treaty established the European Union in 1993 and introduced European citizenship. A monetary union was established in 1999 and came into full force in 2002 and is composed of 19 EU member states which use the euro currency. Brussels is the de facto capital of the European Union. Ursula Von Der Leyen is serving as President of the European Commission since 2019. Charles Michel has been the President of the European Council since 2019. On 31 January 2020, the United Kingdom became the first member state to leave the EU.

UAE delegation reaches Israel for first time in history

- **In an historic first visit by a Gulf Arab nation, the United Arab Emirates delegation reached Israel. It was accompanied by top US officials to cement the normalisation of ties between the two nations.**
- **As part of the US-brokered deal, four agreements** were signed relating to investment, scientific cooperation, civil aviation and visa exemptions, during the visit. Washington has said the deals would foster regional peace and stability.
- **The Israel–United Arab Emirates normalization agreement, officially the Abraham Accords Peace Agreement: Treaty of Peace, Diplomatic Relations and Full Normalization Between the United Arab Emirates and the State of Israel, was initially agreed to in a joint statement by the United States, Israel and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on August 13, 2020, officially referred to as the Abraham Accords.**
- **The UAE thus became the third Arab country, after Egypt in 1979 and Jordan in 1994, to agree to formally normalize its relationship with Israel, as well as the first Persian Gulf country to do so. Concurrently, Israel agreed to suspend plans for annexing parts of the West Bank.**

Abu Dhab is the capital and the second most populous city of the United Arab Emirates (the most populous being Dubai), and also capital of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, the largest of the UAE's seven emirates. United Arab Emirates (UAE) is a federal sovereign absolute monarchy in Western Asia. Khalifa Al Nahyan is the current President of the United Arab Emirates. Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum is the Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Ruler of the Emirate of Dubai. United Arab Emirates dirham is the currency of the United Arab Emirates.

India, Vietnam Business Forum held virtually

- **The India Vietnam Business Forum was organised virtually. Export basket from India to Vietnam includes bovine meat, fishery products, corn, steel, pharmaceuticals, cotton, machinery while imports from Vietnam include mobile phones, electrical machinery and equipment, computers, electronic hardware, natural rubber, chemicals, and coffee.**

Vietnam is the easternmost country on the Indochina Peninsula in Southeast Asia. **Hanoi** is the capital of Vietnam. The **dong** has been the currency of Vietnam since May 3, 1978. **Nguyen Phu Trọng** is the current General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam and **President of Vietnam**, de jure head of state of Vietnam, in office since 23 October 2018.

India world No. 2 in migration to OECD nations, getting citizenships

- **India** has emerged as the second largest source country both in terms of the “total” inflow of new migrants to **OECD countries during 2018** and also as regards the number of Indians acquiring citizenship of these countries.
- While China continued to retain its top slot as the largest source country, **India replaced Romania to emerge as the second largest source**. During 2018, about 4.3 lakh Chinese migrated to OECD countries, accounting for nearly 6.5% of the total migration inflows.
- While releasing the “**International Migration Outlook 2020**” at a virtual press conference, Angel Gurría, secretary general at OECD, said **Covid-19 has redrawn the international migration map**.
- Following the onset of Covid-19, **almost all OECD countries restricted admission to foreigners**. Issuances of new visas in these countries **plummeted by 46% in first half of 2020 compared with the same period in 2019**. This is the **largest drop ever recorded**.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is an **intergovernmental economic organisation with 37 member countries**, founded in 1961 to stimulate economic progress and world trade. The OECD’s headquarters are at the Chateau de la Muette in Paris, France. **Jose Angel Gurrea** is a Mexican economist and diplomat. Since 1 June 2006, he has been the **Secretary-General of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**.

Saudi Arabia first in Arab world for issuing scientific papers on virus

- **Saudi Arabia** was ranked first in the Arab world for issuing scientific papers on the coronavirus. King Salman chaired a virtual session of the cabinet which reviewed various aspects related to the fight against the spread of the virus.
- **The Kingdom** ranked 25th globally and 2nd in the Middle East for clinical research and studies on the virus. The decrees appointed 20 people to the Council of Senior Scholars, the Kingdom’s highest religious body.

Saudi Arabia is a sovereign Arab state in Western Asia. **Saudi Arabia** is the largest country in the Middle East. **Riyadh** is the capital and most populous city of Saudi Arabia. **Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud** has been **King of Saudi Arabia, Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia**, and Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques since 23 January 2015. **Mohammad bin Salman** is the **Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia**, also serving as **First Deputy Prime Minister**, President of the Council for Economic and Development Affairs and Minister of Defense—the **world’s youngest office holder at the time**. **Saudi riyal** is the currency of Saudi Arabia.

Peru and Switzerland sign ‘world first’ carbon offset deal under Paris Agreement

- **Peru and Switzerland** sign ‘world first’ carbon offset deal under Paris Agreement. **Switzerland** has struck a carbon offsetting agreement with Peru, in what the two nations say is the **first deal of its kind under Article 6 of the Paris agreement**.
- The deal signed allows Peru to fund sustainable development projects, while **Switzerland gets to count the resulting emissions cuts against its national targets**. The agreement gives the Swiss government the option to transfer the rights to retire the offsets to local government or to private companies headquartered in Switzerland.
- **The money for these projects comes from Swiss motor fuel importers**. In practice, they can pass these costs on to their customers, who are charged a levy when filling up their cars. Transport accounts for around a third of the small, rich nation’s greenhouse gas emissions.
- **The transactions are to be managed by the Klik foundation**, which was set up by the Swiss CO2 act to find 35-54 million tonnes worth of carbon offsets up to 2030. The Swiss and Peruvian governments will determine which activities are eligible to generate carbon credits.

At Conference of the Parties (COP) 21 in Paris, on 12 December 2015, Parties to the UNFCCC reached a landmark agreement to combat climate change and to accelerate and intensify the actions and investments needed for a sustainable low carbon future. The Paris Agreement builds upon the Convention and – for the first time – brings all nations into a common cause to undertake ambitious efforts to combat climate change and adapt to its effects, with enhanced support to assist developing countries to do so. The Paris Agreement’s central aim is to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The Paris Agreement requires all Parties to put forward their best efforts through “nationally determined contributions” (NDCs) and to strengthen these efforts in the years ahead. The Paris Agreement opened for signature on 22 April 2016 – Earth Day – at UN Headquarters in New York. It entered into force on 4 November 2016, 30 days after the so-called “double threshold” (ratification by 55 countries that account for at least 55% of global emissions) had been met.

Saad Hariri renamed Lebanon Prime Minister

- Lebanon’s President Michel Aoun designated Sunni Muslim politician Saad al-Hariri as Prime Minister to form a new government to tackle the worst crisis since the country’s 1975-1990 civil war.
- Three-time Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri was renamed to the post to create a cabinet that can lift the country out of its worst economic crisis in decades. Mr. Hariri made his comeback almost a year after stepping down under pressure from a protest movement demanding an overhaul of Lebanon’s political system.
- Hariri won the backing of a majority of parliamentarians in consultations with Aoun. He faces major challenges to navigate Lebanon’s power-sharing politics and agree a cabinet, which must then address a mounting list of woes: a banking crisis, currency crash, rising poverty and crippling state debts.

Lebanon is a sovereign state in Western Asia. Beirut is the capital and largest city of Lebanon. Lebanese pound is the currency of Lebanon. Michel Naim Aoun is the current President of Lebanon.

EU environment ministers strike deal on climate law, leave out 2030 target

- European Union environment ministers struck a deal to make the bloc’s 2050 net zero emissions target legally binding, but left a decision on a 2030 emissions-cutting target for leaders to discuss in December.
- The landmark climate change law will form the basis for Europe’s plan to slash greenhouse gas emissions, which will reshape all sectors, from transport to heavy industry, and require hundreds of billions of euros in annual investments.
- It will fix in law the EU target to reach net zero emissions by 2050 and define the rules for reviewing progress towards climate targets. Ministers struck a deal on these parts of the law at a meeting in Luxembourg. None of the 27 member countries rejected the bill, although Bulgaria abstained.
- Ministers agreed to make the 2050 net zero emissions target an EU-wide goal, rather than a requirement for individual countries, potentially letting some have higher emissions if others make deeper cuts.

Israel and Sudan reach U.S.-brokered deal to normalize ties

- Israel and Sudan agreed to take steps to normalize relations in a deal brokered with the help of the United States, making Khartoum the third Arab government to set aside hostilities with Israel in the last two months.
- U.S. President Donald Trump, seeking re-election on November. 3, sealed the agreement in a phone call with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Sudanese Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok and Transitional Council Head Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, senior U.S. officials said. Mr. Donald Trump’s decision this week to remove Sudan from the U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism paved the way for the accord with Israel, marking a foreign policy achievement for the Republican president.

The Sudan or Sudan also known as North Sudan since South Sudan’s independence is a country in Northeast Africa. The capital is Khartoum. Sudanese pound is the basic unit of the Sudanese currency.

U.K., Japan ink post-Brexit trade deal

- **Britain and Japan formally signed a trade agreement marking Britain's first big post-Brexit deal on trade,** as it continues to struggle to agree on a deal with its closest trading partners in the European Union.
- **Britain formally left the EU in January 2020** and it has focussed on negotiating new trade pacts with countries around the world as its status-quo transition period ends on **December, 31, 2020**. "This is the first new free trade deal to be agreed since the U.K. once again became an independent trading nation".

Brexit is the withdrawal of the United Kingdom (UK) from the European Union (EU) and the European Atomic Energy Community (EAEC or Euratom) on 31 January 2020. The UK is to date the first and only country to formally leave the EU. Currently it continues to participate in the European Union Customs Union and European Single Market during a transition period that will end on 31 December 2020. Following a UK-wide referendum in June 2016, which Prime Minister, David Cameron, instigated after an election manifesto promise, in which 52% voted in favour of leaving the EU and 48% voted to remain a member, the UK Government, which, following David Cameron's resignation, was then led by Theresa May formally notified the EU of the country's intention to withdraw on 29 March 2017, beginning the Brexit process.

Pakistan inaugurates first transport project under CPEC

- **The first transport project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was inaugurated in Lahore.** Punjab province Chief Minister Usman Buzdar and Chinese officials inaugurated the project which has been completed in six years at the cost of over **USD 2.2 billion**.
- The overhead Lahore Orange Line Metro Train will operate between Lahore's Dera Gujran to Ali Town on 27 Km stretch. **The CPEC is a collection of infrastructure and other projects under construction throughout Pakistan since 2013. Originally valued at \$46 billion, the projects were worth \$62 billion as of 2017.**

Pakistan is a country in South Asia. It is the fifth-most populous country. Islamabad is the capital city of Pakistan. Pakistani rupee is the currency of Pakistan. Imran Ahmed Khan Niazi is the 22nd and current Prime Minister of Pakistan and the chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). Before entering politics, Khan was an international cricketer and captain of the Pakistan national cricket team, which he led to victory in the 1992 Cricket World Cup. Arif-ur-Rehman Alvi is 13th and current President of Pakistan

Indian-Origin Candidate to be Seychelles President, Ending Ruling Party's 43-Year Rule

- **Indian-origin opposition candidate Wavel Ramkalawan, whose great grandfather was an indentured labourer from Bihar, has won Seychelles' Presidential election with a solid majority.**
- His victory marks the first time that ruling United Seychelles party has been swept out of power since the archipelago became independent in 1977.
- **Electoral Commission chairman Danny Lucas declared that Ramkalawan, of the opposition Linyon Demokratik Seselwa (LDS), had won with 54.9% of the valid votes counted. He defeated Danny Faure by 7,384 votes, which was around 10% of the electorate. The third candidate, Alain St Ange of One Seychelles party got just 1.6% of the total valid votes.**
- **LDS also won a thumping majority in the parliament with 25 seats, while United Seychelles got 10. Not only has Ramkalawan won by a large margin, but his party also got big mandates in the parliamentary polls. This time, Seychelles also elected an Indian-origin candidate, Sathya Naidu, to parliament.**

Seychelles is an archipelago country in the Indian Ocean. The capital of the 115-island country, Victoria, lies 1,500 kilometres east of mainland East Africa. As one of the world's biodiversity hotspots, Seychelles is balancing the need to both develop economically and protect its natural endowment. The rupee is the currency of the Seychelles. Wavel Ramkalawan has been President of Seychelles since 16 October 2020.



Labour bureau to release new working-class inflation index on October 21

- The labour bureau will unveil a new series for consumer price index for industrial workers (CPI-IW), a measure of inflation used to calculate dearness allowance (DA) for government employees, wages for industrial workers and dearness relief for pensioners, an official said, requesting anonymity.
- The new series will account for changing spending habits of the working class in the organised sector. In the new series, the base year for calculating the CPI-IW will be updated from 2001 to 2016. The new series has been necessitated by changing consumption habits, relative prices of various commodities and spending patterns of the country's workforce in regular jobs.
- In any inflation index, the base year is the first year of an inflation index, with an index value of 100. Inflation indices of all other years are compared to the base year to see how prices vary. The index will help economists, who calculate inflation, to reflect a more accurate picture of a working-class household's costs.
- The percentage change in this index is what an inflation measure represents. The new index will assign more weight to spending on services such as education, healthcare, housing, travel and transportation, as spending on these items have gone up, as compared to primary items such as food.

Labour Bureau is responsible for the collation, collection and publication of statistics and related information on wages, earnings, productivity, absenteeism, labour turn-over, industrial relations, working and living conditions and evaluation of working of various labour enactments etc. It is a storehouse of important economic indicators like Consumer Price Index Numbers for Industrial, Agricultural and Rural Labourers; wage rate indices and data on industrial relations, socio-economic conditions in the organized and unorganised sector of industry etc. Labour Bureau, an attached office under Ministry of Labour and Employment, was set up on 1st October 1946. Labour Bureau has two main wings stationed in Shimla and Chandigarh.

ICICI Bank customers can create FD, pay bills via WhatsApp

- ICICI Bank has made it even more convenient for its customers to avail its services. The bank announced for its customers the launch of services like creating fixed deposits (FDs), payment of utility bills and accessing details of trade finance on WhatsApp.
- While creating FDs and paying utility bills are available for customers, trade finance services are being tested with select corporates and will be available on the messaging platform in the next few days.
- With the launch of these services, the total number of ICICI banking services available to customers on WhatsApp has risen to 25. ICICI Bank had launched a host of services on WhatsApp six months ago, becoming the first bank to do so. Also available shortly will be service to recharge prepaid mobile phones

ICICI Bank Limited is an Indian multinational banking and financial services company headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra with its registered office in Vadodara, Gujarat. ICICI Bank was established by the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI), an Indian financial institution, as a wholly-owned subsidiary in 1994. ICICI Bank is one of the Big Four banks of India others banks are SBI, Bank of Baroda and HDFC. Sandeep Bakhshi is the current MD & CEO, ICICI Bank since October 2018.

MCX launches India's first-ever real-time base metal index

- **MCX launched India's first real-time base metal index in the country, MCX iCOMDEX Base Metal or METLDEX.** It tracks the real-time price movement of a basket of MCX base metal near month futures that includes Zinc, Copper, Nickel, Lead and Aluminium.
- The contract has a lot size equal to 50 times of underlying MCX iCOMDEX Base Metals Index. The tick size or the minimum price movement for the contract is Re.1. The contracts would finally be settled in cash at the end of the expiry of each contract.

Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd (MCX) is an independent commodity exchange based in India. It was established in 2003 and is based in Mumbai. MCX offers options trading in gold and futures trading in non-ferrous metals, bullion, energy, and a number of agricultural commodities (mentha oil, cardamom, crude palm oil, cotton and others).

IRDAI sets up panel to examine need for standard cyber liability insurance product

- **The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has set up a panel to explore possibility of a basic standard product structure to provide insurance cover for individuals and establishments to manage their cyber risks. The general liability policies do not cover cyber risks, and cyber insurance policies currently available are highly customised for clients in a new and quickly growing market.
- The panel, headed by P Umesh, Consultant-Liability Insurance, has been asked to study various statutory provisions on information and cybersecurity, and to evaluate critical issues involving legal aspects of transactions in cyber space.

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) is an autonomous, statutory body tasked with regulating and promoting the insurance and re-insurance industries in India. It was constituted by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999, an Act of Parliament passed by the Government of India. The agency's headquarters are in Hyderabad, Telangana, where it moved from Delhi in 2001. IRDAI is a 10-member body including the chairman, five full-time and four part-time members appointed by the government of India. Subhash Chandra Khuntia is the current Chairman of IRDAI.

SBI authorised to issue, encash Electoral Bonds

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** has been authorised to issue and encash Electoral Bonds through its 29 Authorized Branches with effect from 19th October to 28th of October this year.
- Electoral Bonds will be valid for fifteen calendar days from the date of issue and no payment will be made to any payee Political Party if the Electoral Bond is deposited after expiry of the validity period. The Electoral Bond deposited by an eligible Political Party in its account will be credited on the same day.
- Any party that is registered under section 29A of the Representation of the Peoples Act, 1951 (43 of 1951) and has secured at least one per cent of the votes polled in the most recent General elections or Assembly elections is eligible to receive electoral bonds. The party will be allotted a verified account by the EC and the electoral bond transactions can be made only through this account. The electoral bonds will not bear the name of the donor. Thus, the political party might not be aware of the donor's identity.

The electoral bonds were introduced with the Finance Bill (2017). On January 29, 2018 the Narendra Modi-led NDA government notified the Electoral Bond Scheme 2018. The bonds will be issued in multiples of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 100,000 and Rs 1 crore (the range of a bond is between Rs 1,000 to Rs 1 crore). The electoral bonds are available for purchase for 10 days in the beginning of every quarter. The first 10 days of January, April, July and October has been specified by the government for purchase of electoral bonds. An additional period of 30 days shall be specified by the government in the year of Lok Sabha elections.

The Bahamas issues world's first Central Bank Digital Currency

- **Central Bank of Bahamas launches Landmark 'Sand Dollar' Digital Currency.** The Central Bank of the Bahamas has officially launched its national digital currency. The first of its kind in the world to have been fully deployed, the sand dollar is a digital version of the Bahamian dollar.

Snapchat Announces First-of-Its Kind Content Tie-Up with NDTV

- NDTV has been chosen by Snap Inc for a unique collaboration, which will see NDTV providing breaking news and premium content to Snapchat's users in the country.
- According to third party estimates, Snapchat has approximately 30 million users in India, though the company does not share region-specific data. Snap has no other relationship of this nature with a premium new media company in India.

Snapchat is an American multimedia messaging app developed by Snap Inc., originally Snapchat Inc. One of the principal features of Snapchat is that pictures and messages are usually only available for a short time before they become inaccessible to their recipients. Snapchat was created by Evan Spiegel, Bobby Murphy, and Reggie Brown, former students at Stanford University.

MSME Minister Nitin Gadkari launches India's first-ever high quality Khadi Fabric Footwear

- Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises- MSME, Nitin Gadkari launched India's first-ever high quality Khadi Fabric Footwear, designed by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) through Video Conference.
- These footwear are made of Khadi fabric like Silk, Cotton and Wool. On the occasion, Mr Gadkari also launched the online sale of Khadi footwear through KVIC's e-portal www.khadiindia.gov.in.

NTPC ranks first among Indian PSUs in Forbes World's Best Employer 2020

- India's largest power producer NTPC Ltd came first among Indian PSUs under World's Best Employer this year in a list published by Forbes. The recognition is testimony to NTPC's commitment towards inculcating best in class practices that are thoughtfully designed and robustly executed.
- During the lockdown phase and the subsequent unlock period, NTPC Learning and Development strategy moulded itself significantly to further evolve as per the requirement of the current scenario. Its training methodology enriched the lives of thousands of its employees through intensive digitisation and online training enabling them to avail services even from remote locations.

NTPC Limited, formerly known as National Thermal Power Corporation Limited, is an Indian Public Sector Undertaking, engaged in the business of generation of electricity and allied activities. It is a company incorporated under the Companies Act 1956 and is promoted by the Government of India. The headquarters of the company is situated at New Delhi. It was founded by Government of India in 1975, which now holds 54.74% of its equity shares. In May 2010, NTPC was conferred Maharatna status by the Union Government of India.

Facebook's AI model can translate 100 languages without relying on English

- Facebook introduced the first open-source multi-lingual machine translation model M2M-100 that can translate between any pair of 100 languages without relying on English data.
- When translating, previous models made use of English translation data as it was widely available. Facebook's model translates directly from language one to another to preserve meaning better, the company said in a statement.
- The programme outperforms English-centric systems by 10 points on the BLEU metric, which is used for evaluating machine translations. M2M-100 is trained on a total of 2,200 language directions. It will improve the quality of translations for billions of people, especially those who speak low-resource languages.

Facebook is an American online social media and social networking service company based in Menlo Park, California. Its website was launched on February 4, 2004, by Mark Zuckerberg along with Eduardo Saverin, Andrew McCollum, Dustin Moskovitz, and Chris Hughes. WhatsApp was founded in 2009 by Brian Acton and Jan Koum, both former employees of Yahoo!. WhatsApp Inc., based in Mountain View, California, which was acquired by Facebook in February 2014 for approximately US\$19.3 billion.



Inventions/Discoveries

Scientists identify new potential groundwater ‘arsenic hotspots’ in India

- **Scientists, including those from the National Institute of Hydrology (NIH), have found an increased probability of high arsenic levels in well waters** in parts of India where previously arsenic hazard was generally not considered to be a major concern.
- **Arsenic in drinking water obtained from wells is the cause of severe health outcomes**, including premature deaths from cancers and cardiovascular disease in many parts of the world and particularly in the Indian subcontinent.
- Based on recent reported rates of household groundwater use for rural and urban areas, **they estimate that about 18–30 million people in India are currently at risk of high exposure to arsenic through their drinking water supply**. The researchers, including Biswajit Chakravorty, a senior scientist at NIH in Bihar, have constructed a prediction model focused solely on India.

Arsenic is a chemical element with the symbol As and atomic number 33. Arsenic occurs in many minerals, usually in combination with sulfur and metals, but also as a pure elemental crystal. **Arsenic is a metalloid.** The primary use of arsenic is in alloys of lead (for example, in car batteries and ammunition). **Arsenic contamination of groundwater is a problem that affects millions of people across the world. In Bihar, Groundwater in 13 districts have been found to be contaminated with arsenic with quantities exceeding 0.05 mg/L.** All these districts are situated close to large rivers like Ganga and Gandak.

Indigenously built ASW stealth corvette INS Kavaratti to be commissioned into Navy

- **The last of four indigenously built Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) stealth corvettes INS Kavaratti under Project 28 (Kamorta class) will be commissioned into the Indian Navy** by Chief of the Army Staff General Manoj Naravane, at Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam.
- Touted as a potent Stealth ASW Corvette, **Kavaratti is indigenously designed by the Indian Navy’s in-house organization, Directorate of Naval Design(DND) and built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata** and portrays the growing capability of the Indian Navy, GRSE and the nation in becoming self-reliant through indigenization, thus, accentuating our national objective of Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- **Kavaratti takes her name from erstwhile INS Kavaratti which was an Arnala class missile corvette.** The older Kavaratti distinguished herself by **operating in support of was Bangladesh’s liberation in 1971.**

P 28 is a project under which four Anti-Submarine Warships have to be built indigenously in India by Garden Reach Shipbuilders And Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata. Project 28 was approved in 2003, with construction of the lead ship, INS Kamorta commencing on 12 August 2005. Three of the four corvettes, **INS Kamorta , INS Kadmatt and INS Kiltan** were commissioned in 2014, 2016 and 2017 respectively. **Project 28’s objective was to enhance localization and development of warship construction industry in India.** The warships are named after the islands in the Lakshadweep archipelago.

During Covid, scientists turn to computers to understand C4 photosynthesis

- When Covid closed down labs in March, 2020, a group from the University of Essex turned to computational approaches to grasp what makes some crops higher tailored to remodel mild and carbon dioxide into yield by way of photosynthesis.
- There are two kinds of photosynthesis: C3 and C4. Most food crops depend on C3 photosynthesis where carbon is fixed into sugar inside cells called 'mesophyll' where oxygen is abundant.
- However, oxygen can hamper photosynthesis. C4 crops evolved specialised bundle sheath cells to concentrate carbon dioxide, which makes C4 photosynthesis as much as 60 per cent more efficient.
- In this study, scientists wanted to find out how C4 crops are able to express several important enzymes inside bundle sheath cells instead of the mesophyll.
- "The ultimate goal is to be able to understand these mechanisms so that we can improve C3 photosynthesis in food crops like cowpea and cassava that smallholder farmers in sub-Saharan Africa depend on for their families' food and income."

Respiration and photosynthesis are biological reactions in the environment that complement each other. Both are similar reactions that occur in a specific manner. In the process of respiration, oxygen and glucose yield water and carbon dioxide, while carbon dioxide and water yields glucose and oxygen during the process of photosynthesis. The main difference between photosynthesis and cellular respiration is that photosynthesis is an anabolic process, where the synthesis of organic compounds occurs, storing energy whereas cellular respiration is a catabolic process, where the stored organic compounds are utilized, producing energy.

Supersonic Cruise Missile, BrahMos successfully test fired from Indian Navy's indigenously-built stealth destroyer INS Chennai

- **BRAHMOS**, the supersonic cruise missile was successfully test fired from Indian Navy's indigenously-built stealth destroyer **INS Chennai**, hitting a target in the Arabian Sea. The missile hit the target successfully with pin-point accuracy after performing high-level and extremely complex manoeuvres.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and **Indian Navy for the successful launch**. Secretary, Department of Defence Research and Development and DRDO Chairman Dr G Satheesh Reddy, congratulated the scientists and all personnel of DRDO, BrahMos, Indian Navy and industry for the successful feat.
- In May last year, the **Indian Air Force** successfully test fired the aerial version of the BrahMos missile from a **Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft**. On September 30, India successfully test fired a new version of the surface-to-surface version of the BrahMos. The range of the new land attack version of the missile has been extended to **400 km** from the original 290 km.

BrahMos Aerospace Limited is a joint venture between the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) of India and the Federal State Unitary Enterprise NPO Mashinostroyeniya (NPOM) of Russia under BrahMos Aerospace. The BrahMos missile is named after two rivers, the Brahmaputra and the Moskva. India is a member of the MTCR, India and Russia are now planning to jointly develop a new generation of Brahmos missiles with 600 km-plus range.

Argentina to produce climate-resistant super wheat in world first

- Gene-edited wheat is to be grown in Argentina, as the country becomes the first in the world to give the green light on the use of the drought-resistant crop.
- The genetically modified variety flourishes under dry conditions, providing hope for Latin America's largest wheat producer, which has struggled with on-going water stress in recent years.
- The new generation of wheat is known as **BIOX.BA HB4** and was developed by Trigall Genetics, in partnership with Bioceres BIOX.A and France's Florimond Desprez. In field trials conducted over the past 10 years, the seed varieties showed an average increased crop yield of 20 per cent during growing seasons affected by droughts.

World Bank sanctions Rs 3 crore for Goa to develop India's first sand dune parks

- **India's first sand dune parks and interpretation centres** are set to be developed in Goa. World Bank has sanctioned around Rs.3 crore under the programme. The Goa state biodiversity board has proposed the project, which will be implemented with financial assistance from the World Bank.

The World Bank is a vital source of financial and technical assistance to developing countries around the world. The World Bank Group comprises five institutions managed by their member countries. It was established in 1944, the World Bank Group is headquartered in Washington, D.C. David Robert Malpass is an American economic analyst and former government official serving as President of the World Bank Group since 2019. Together, IBRD and IDA form the World Bank, which provides financing, policy advice, and technical assistance to governments of developing countries. IDA focuses on the world's poorest countries, while IBRD assists middle-income and creditworthy poorer countries.

Tectonic faultline in Ladakh moving northward, says Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology

- In Ladakh, the recent studies have found that the tectonic faultline is moving northward. Dehradun situated Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology noted that the fault line is tectonically active along the Indus Suture Zone (ISZ).
- Studies observed, the sedimentary rocks of Indus are over riding the Ladakh betholith granite. This confirms that the Indus suture zone around Leh is seismologically active. Ladakh region is classified as the High Damage Risk Zone of seismic zone IV.
- According to the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Zone V includes entire northeastern India, parts of Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Rann of Kutch in Gujarat, parts of North Bihar and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

The Bureau of Indian Standards has classified regions in India into four seismic zones on the basis of historical seismic activity. These are zones II, III, IV and V. Among these, Zone V is the most seismically active region and zone II is the least active. According to Modified Mercalli scale, the seismic zone intensity are classified as zone II (low intensity zone), zone III (moderate intensity zone), zone IV (severe intensity zone) and zone V (very severe intensity zone). Richter magnitude scale is a scale of numbers used to tell the power (or magnitude) of earthquakes.

New glands found in the human body

- Scientists have identified a previously unknown set of salivary glands in the upper part of the throat, discovering what could be the first set of major glands to be found in the human body in 300 years and paving the way for techniques that could improve the quality of life for people who receive radiation therapy for cancers of the head and neck.
- The new set of glands is about 1.5 inches on average and lie in the nasopharyngeal region, behind the nose and above the throat. The researchers, from the Netherlands Cancer Institute in Amsterdam, said in their report that sparing these glands in radiotherapy could help reduce the difficulty in salivation and swallowing that patient of head and neck cancer experience after radiation therapy.
- "The human body contains a pair of previously overlooked and clinically relevant macroscopic salivary gland locations, for which we propose the name tubarial glands.
- More research is likely needed to confirm that these are indeed a new major set of salivary glands, and if confirmed, it would be the first discovery of new salivary glands in about 300 years, according to a report in Science. The new glands have been labelled as tubarial salivary glands because these are situated over a piece of cartilage called the torus tubarius.

Glands are important organs located throughout the body. They produce and release substances that perform certain functions. Though you have many glands throughout your body, they fall into two types: endocrine and exocrine. The pituitary gland is a small pea-sized gland that plays a major role in regulating vital body functions and general wellbeing. It is referred to as the body's 'master gland' because it controls the activity of most other hormone-secreting glands.

DRDO successfully conducts final trial of Nag anti-tank guided missile in Pokhran range

- India successfully carried out the final trial of the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)-developed Nag anti-tank guided missile with a warhead. The test was carried out at the Pokhran field firing ranges in Rajasthan.
- The trial of Nag anti-tank guided missile comes after the DRDO tested the helicopter launched Stand-off Anti-Tank Missile (SANT) with a range beyond 10 km from Balasore testing range in Odisha. The Nag anti-tank missile is ready for induction in the Indian Army. It has completed 10 successful user trial as it finds the target and then hit it.
- The missile will be produced by Defence PSU Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), whereas Ordnance Factory, Medak will produce the NAMICA.” Among these trials were two other ATGMs—the Laser-Guided ATGM, which was successfully tested twice at a range in Maharashtra, and Stand-Off Anti-Tank Missile (SANT), which was tested off the east coast.

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is an agency of the Republic of India, charged with the military's research and development, headquartered in New Delhi, India. It was formed in 1958 by the merger of the Technical Development Establishment and the Directorate of Technical Development and Production with the Defence Science Organisation. Dr G. Satheesh Reddy is the current Chairman of DRDO.

Indus valley had dairy production way back in 3rd millennium BCE

- Dairy production in India began as far back as in the 3rd millennium BCE and may have been a factor behind sustaining the Indus Valley Civilisation, according to findings from a team of Canadian and Indian researchers.
- “This is the first time it's been proved scientifically that dairy production was in place in the Indus Valley civilization in 2500 BCE, and the earliest known evidence of dairy production,”.
- The results were based on molecular chemical analysis of residue in shards of pottery found at the archaeological site of Kotada Bhadli, a rural settlement located in Gujarat. Of the 59 samples studied, 22 showed the presence of dairy lipids. Through a process called stable isotope analysis, the researchers were also able to identify the type of ruminant used for dairy, and concluded that these were cattle, like cows and buffalo, rather than goats and sheep.

IIT- Kharagpur develops novel Industry 4.0 tech for advanced manufacturing sector

- IIT Kharagpur has developed a novel Industry 4.0 technology for remotely controlled factory operations and real-time quality correction during industrial production in India's advanced manufacturing sector. The present innovation upgraded the industrial process of friction stir welding to a multi-sensory system of Industry 4.0.
- The innovative technology developed by Surjya K Pal, professor in-charge at the Centre of Excellence in Advanced Manufacturing Technology, IIT – Kharagpur, in association with TCS, will acquire real-time information about the welding process through multiple sensors and, enable online control of weld quality by means of cloud-based communication with the friction stir welding machine.

The First Industrial Revolution used water and steam power to mechanize production. The Second used electric power to create mass production. The Third used electronics and information technology to automate production. Now a Fourth Industrial Revolution which builds upon the Third, the digital revolution has been occurring since the middle of the 20th century. It is characterized by a fusion of technologies that is blurring the lines between the physical, digital, and biological spheres. In the Fifth Industrial Revolution, humans and machines will dance together, metaphorically. At Davos 2019, an event sponsored by Forbes, MIT and Tata had the theme “Blockchain+AI+Human = Magic”.



Sports Personalities in News

KL Rahul becomes first Indian batsman to score more than 500 runs in 3 consecutive IPL seasons

- **Kings XI Punjab (KXIP) captain KL Rahul** achieved a new milestone as he became the first Indian batsman to have scored more than 500 runs in three consecutive IPL seasons. Rahul, who had started his IPL career with Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) in 2013.

Nozomi Okuhara clinches Women's Singles title at Denmark Open

- In Badminton, former World Champion **Nozomi Okuhara** clinched the Denmark Open title beating three-time world champion **Carolina Marin** by 21-19, 21-17, at Odense in women's singles. **PV Sindhu** of India opting to sit out the event, two of her biggest rivals made it through to the final.
- In the men's singles final, world number seven **Anders Antonsen** of Denmark defeated his compatriot **Rasmus Gemke** by 18-21, 21-19, 21-12. Antonsen recovered after losing the first game to defeat world number 11 Gemke. The win means Antonsen moves up to second in the world rankings with Gemke at number three.

MS Dhoni becomes first player to feature in 200 Indian Premier League games

- Chennai Super Kings (CSK) skipper **MS Dhoni** became the first cricketer to play 200 Indian Premier League (IPL) matches when his side took the field against Rajasthan Royals.

Saudi Arabia to make golf free for women in world-first initiative

- Saudi Arabia has announced a world-first initiative that will offer free golf to women across the Kingdom. To be launched at next month's debut **Aramco Saudi Ladies International** presented by Public Investment Fund, **Golf Saudi's innovative 'Ladies First Club'** will offer a complimentary membership inclusive of golf lessons, driving range access and full 18-hole rounds on three different courses.

Indian Premier League 2020: Dubai to host final on November 10

- Dubai will host the Qualifier 1 and IPL final while the other two play-off games will be held in Abu Dhabi. The IPL, being played entirely in the UAE due to the surging cases of COVID-19 in India.
- The BCCI also announced the schedule of the Women's T20 Challenge which will take place in Sharjah from November 4 to 9. The final will be played on November 9. The teams -- Supernovas, Velocity and Trailblazer -- will play each other once to decide the finalists.

Kiren Rijiju launched 200-km ITBP 'Fit India Walkathon' in Rajasthan

- Union minister **Kiren Rijiju** has flagged off a 200-km long 'Fit India Walkathon' being organised by border guarding force **ITBP in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer**. Personnel of various central armed police forces (CAPFs) and residents of the city will participate in the event between October 31 and November 2.

MISCELLANEOUS

One in six children living in extreme poverty, figure set to rise during pandemic: UN

- An estimated one in six children — or 356 million globally — were living in extreme poverty before the COVID-19 pandemic began, and this is set to worsen significantly, according to a new World Bank Group and UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) analysis.
- 'Global Estimate of Children in Monetary Poverty: An Update', notes that sub-Saharan Africa, with its limited social safety nets, accounts for two-thirds of children living in households that struggle to survive on an average of \$1.90 a day or less per person — the international measure for extreme poverty, while South Asia accounts for nearly a fifth of these children.
- The analysis shows that the number of children living in extreme poverty decreased moderately, by 29 million, between 2013 and 2017. However, UNICEF and the World Bank Group warn that any progress made in recent years, has been "slow-paced, unequally distributed, and at risk" due to the economic impact of the pandemic.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is a United Nations (UN) agency headquartered in New York City that provides humanitarian and developmental assistance to children and mothers in developing countries. It was created by the United Nations General Assembly on 11 December 1946, to provide emergency food and healthcare to children in countries that had been devastated by World War II.

CRPF, IIT-Delhi and DRDO sign MoU

- The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has signed an agreement with the Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to create a pool of officials who will work to find technology solutions for its operational challenges.
- The about 3.25 lakh-strong force has about 500 officers and sub-officers who hold professional degrees in engineering and technology. The Memorandum of Understanding will enable these officers to undertake short-term specialised courses at these institutions and also pursue research work.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh inaugurates Katra festival in Jammu

- Union Minister Jitendra Singh inaugurated the nine-day Navratra festival at Katra in Jammu. The festival was organised by the Directorate of Tourism, Jammu, in collaboration with the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Katra and the Hotel, Restaurant & Travel Associations of Katra.
- The Navratra Festival was started in 1996 to promote pilgrimage tourism and has now become an annual event, which is held during the auspicious nine days of the Sharad Navratras.

SC Railway starts 3rd Kisan rail from Zone to reach Adarsh Nagar Station in New Delhi

- With the successful run of the previous two Kisan Rails, the South Central Railway has started the third Kisan rail from the Zone to reach Adarsh Nagar Station in New Delhi.
- This is the third Rail continuously starting from the district of Anantapur. A total of 242.6 tonnes of commodities have been transported by this train.

Kerala first water taxi service launches in backwaters of Alappuzha

- Kerala's first water taxi service launched in the backwaters of Alappuzha. The water taxi is set to ferry passengers.
- The water taxi, a catamaran diesel-powered craft with a seating capacity for 10 passengers, is 1st in a series of 4 boats. The State Water Transport Department is planning to introduce more boats.

PM Narendra Modi delivered virtual keynote address at inaugural function of GCAM 2020

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered a virtual keynote address at the inaugural function of Grand Challenges Annual Meeting GCAM 2020. GCAM has fostered international innovation collaborations to address challenges in health and development for the last 15 years.

- **The GCAM 2020** convened virtually from 19th to 21st of this month, **bringing together policymakers and scientific leaders**, calling for deepened scientific collaborations in solving global health problems, with great emphasis on COVID-19 with an **“India for the World” framing**.
- World leaders, eminent scientists and researchers from all over the globe have **joined this meeting to discuss key priorities for accelerating progress in the post-pandemic world** and elaborate on addressing the challenges to manage COVID-19.

PM Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated three key projects in Gujarat

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually **inaugurated three key projects in Gujarat**. He also launched the **Kisan Suryodaya Yojana** for the farmers of Gujarat.
- He also **inaugurated the Paediatric Heart Hospital** attached with UN Mehta Institute of Cardiology and Research Centre and a **Mobile Application for tele-cardiology** at the Ahmedabad Civil Hospital in Ahmedabad.

Northern Railways to launch ‘Bags on Wheels’ to ferry passenger luggage

- **Passengers travelling from Delhi, Ghaziabad and Gurugram** will be the **first to avail the soon-to-begin ‘Bags on Wheels’ service of the Railways** through which their luggage will be transported to their homes from the railway station upon their arrival in trains and vice versa.
- **The Northern Railways’ Delhi Division** announced the **‘App-Based Bags on Wheels’**, a first of its kind service available for railway passengers in India. While the contract has been awarded, the services are expected to begin soon.
- Initially, the firm to which the contract is awarded will **provide its services for the passengers boarding trains from New Delhi, Delhi Jn., Hazrat Nizamuddin, Delhi Cantt., Delhi Sarai Rohilla, Ghaziabad and Gurgaon railway stations**.

In a world first, iodine sanitisers to hit Indian market

- **The world’s first iodine-based sanitisers**, which are said to be **more effective and long-lasting than alcohol-based hand cleansers**, will be **launched in India** over the next two weeks.
- Moreover, India would be the **manufacturing hub for supplying the iodine sanitiser**, which will be named as **I2Cure**, to other parts of the world, said Anil Kejriwal, Global President of the Singapore-based biotechnology firm I2Pure, which holds the patents for this molecular iodine-based product. **I2 in the name stands for molecular iodine, the active ingredient in the product**.

Culture & Tourism Minister virtually launches Life in Miniature project

- **Culture and Tourism Minister Prahlad Singh Patel** virtually launched **Life in Miniature project**. The project is **collaboration between the National Museum, New Delhi, Ministry of Culture, and Google Arts and Culture**.
- **Several hundred miniature paintings from the National Museum** can be **viewed online on Google Arts and Culture** by people around the world. The project uses technologies like machine learning, augmented reality and digitization with high-definition robotic cameras, to showcase these special works of art in a magical new way.

Maharashtra becomes first state in country to cap prices of masks

- **Maharashtra has become the first state in the country to cap the prices of masks**. N95 masks will now be **available at Rs 19 to Rs 49**, while two-layer and three-layer masks will be available for Rs 3 to 4.
- This maximum selling price limit will be **applicable to all mask manufacturing companies / distributors / retailers in the state**. All mask manufacturers / distributors / retailers in the state will be required to display the quality of the mask and its fixed maximum selling price.

PERSONS IN NEWS

India-born US Judge Amit Mehta assigned Justice Department's lawsuit against Google

- **India-born US District Judge Amit Mehta** will preside over the Justice Department's crucial lawsuit against internet search giant Google.
- **Mr. Mehta** was appointed to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia by former US president Barack Obama.
- **Born in Patan, Gujarat**, Mr. Mehta received his BA in Political Science and Economics from Georgetown University in 1993 and his JD from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1997.
- After law school, Mr. Mehta worked in a law firm in San Francisco before clerking for Susan Graber of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.
- Following his clerkship, Mr. Mehta worked at a Washington, DC-based law firm. In 2002, Mr. Mehta joined the District of Columbia Public Defender Service as a staff attorney.

War memorial of 1962 braveheart, Sub Joginder Singh inaugurated at Bum La

- Under the patronage of Arunachal Government and with efforts of Pema Khandu, Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, a War Memorial has been constructed at Bum La, where Sub Joginder Singh, 1st Battalion the Sikh Regt made the supreme sacrifice.
- Sub Joginder Singh, 1st Battalion the Sikh Regt received the highest gallantry award, Param Vir Chakra in the Eastern Theatre during the 1962 Sino- India War.
- Indian Army organised the Inauguration Ceremony of Joginder War Memorial at Bum La on 23 October 2020 coinciding with the day on which the Battle of Tongpen La (Bum La) took place in 1962.

Aman Singh becomes first turbaned Sikh to be elected to British Columbia assembly

- Despite having elected Harjit Sajjan to the House of Commons leading to him becoming Canada's defence minister, the province of British Columbia had never elected a turbaned Sikh to its own legislative assembly.
- That changed, with human rights lawyer Aman Singh making history as he was projected to win the riding (as constituencies are called in Canada) of Richmond-Queensborough.

AWARDS

EU awards human rights prize to Belarus opposition

- The European Union has awarded its top human rights prize to the Belarus opposition movement and its leader, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, for their challenge to President Alexander Lukashenko's long, hard-line reign.
- "It is an honour to announce that the women and men of the democratic opposition in Belarus are the 2020 Sakharov Prize laureates," European Parliament president David Sassoli said.
- Mr. Lukashenko won his sixth term in office in a presidential election widely seen as rigged. Since the Aug. 9 polls that handed Mr. Lukashenko a victory with 80% of the vote, mass protests have rocked the ex-Soviet nation sandwiched between Poland and Russia.
- Ms. Tsikhanouskaya, Mr. Lukashenko's main challenger, got 10% of the vote. She and her supporters refused to recognise the results, saying the outcome of the vote was manipulated.
- Ms. Tsikhanouskaya shares the prize with several leading members of the opposition's Coordination Council, which was created after the election in a bid to facilitate talks on a transition of power.
- The EU award, named after Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov, was created in 1988 to honor individuals or groups who defend human rights and fundamental freedoms. Last year's winner was economist Ilham Tohti for his work defending China's Uighur minority.

Dr Jajini Varghese, Indian-origin oncoplastic surgeon honored Outstanding Young Person 2020

- Dr Jajini Varghese, a UK-based Indian-origin plastic surgeon, has been named an 'Outstanding Young Person of the World 2020' by a non-profit NGO for her "incredible" scientific contributions to diagnosing and treating breast cancer.
- The 39-year-old Consultant in Oncoplastic Breast Surgery at Royal Free Hospital and University College London is one of 10 nominations from the UK for the international award, which honours outstanding young people under the age of 40 every year from across 110 countries for extraordinary accomplishments in various fields.
- Varghese has been recognised in the "Medical Innovation" category for making it her personal mission to attempt to restore the lives of millions of women affected by breast cancer and will be presented with the award at a ceremony at the 2020 Junior Chamber International (JCI) World Congress in Yokohama, Japan.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Statistics Day- 20 October

- **The third World Statistics Day celebrated around the globe on 20 October 2020 with the theme “Connecting the world with data we can trust.”** This theme reflects the importance of trust, authoritative data, innovation and the public good in national statistical systems.
- **The celebration of World Statistics Day 2020 is a global collaborative endeavour,** organized under the guidance of the United Nations Statistical Commission.

Police Commemoration Day

- **The day is observed on 21st October every year to honor the loyalty and supreme sacrifice of police personnel for the nation.** It was on this day in 1959 when CRPF led a saga of valour and sacrifice in the inaccessible, inhospitable terrain of Hot Springs in Ladakh.
- A patrol party of twenty personnel of CRPF and Intelligence Bureau had gone to search for a missing reconnaissance party when it was ambushed by the Chinese Army. **In spite of the sudden attack and disadvantageous tactical position, they fought valiantly against the Chinese army personnel** who were in large numbers and heavily armed. **In this battle, ten CRPF men were martyred in defense of the country.**

World Development Information Day- 24 October

- The General Assembly in 1972 established **World Development Information Day to draw the attention of the world to development problems** and the need to strengthen international cooperation to solve them.
- **The Assembly decided that the date for the Day should coincide with United Nations Day, 24 October,** which was also the date of the adoption, in 1970, of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade.

United Nations Day 24 October

- **UN Day marks the anniversary of the entry into force in 1945 of the UN Charter.** With the ratification of this founding document by the majority of its signatories, including the five permanent members of the Security Council, the United Nations officially came into being.
- There is no other global organization with the legitimacy, convening power and normative impact of the United Nations. The urgency for all countries to come together, to fulfil the promise of the nations united, has rarely been greater. **24 October has been celebrated as United Nations Day since 1948.**
- **The theme for UN Day 2020 is ‘The Future We Want, the UN We Need: Reaffirming our Collective Commitment to Multilateralism’.**

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News on AIR
Hindustan Times

QUESTIONS

1. The 8th annual joint exercise between Indian and Sri Lankan navies 'SLINEX-20' is held in _____.
(a) Marmugao Coast (b) Paradip Coast
(c) Andaman Coast (d) Trincomalee coast
2. Recently, _____ held their first joint commission meeting and agreed to add new momentum to their relations in a wide range of fields including trade and commerce, agriculture, health and social security, defence and space.
(a) India and Chile (b) India and Argentina
(c) India and Brazil (d) India and Mexico
3. Recently, Kerala's first water taxi service launched in the backwaters of _____.
(a) Kochi (b) Kottayam (c) Alappuzha (d) Wayanad
4. Who won in New Zealand's general elections recently?
(a) Helen Clark (b) John Key (c) Thomas Bach (d) Jacinda Ardern
5. Which of the following banks has recently announced for its customers the launch of services like creating fixed deposits (FDs), payment of utility bills and accessing details of trade finance on WhatsApp?
(a) HDFC Bank (b) Axis Bank (c) ICICI Bank (d) RBL Bank
6. Recently, Brahmos, the supersonic cruise missile was successfully test fired from Indian Navy's indigenously-built stealth destroyer _____ hitting a target in the Arabian Sea.
(a) INS Chennai (b) INS Kolkata (c) INS Virat (d) INS Chakra
7. Name the Indian player who achieved a new milestone as he became the first Indian batsman to have scored more than 500 runs in three consecutive IPL seasons.
(a) Virat Kohli (b) KL Rahul (c) Rohit Sharma (d) Mayank Aggarwal
8. Who clinched the Denmark Open title beating three-time world champion Carolina Marin in women's singles final?
(a) P V Sindhu (b) Saina Nehwal (c) Nozomi Okuhara (d) Tae In Min
9. Most food crops depend on C3 photosynthesis where carbon is fixed into sugar inside cells called _____ where oxygen is abundant.
(a) 'mesophyll' (b) 'neophyll' (c) 'tredophyll' (d) 'ensophyll'
10. The third World Statistics Day will be celebrated around the globe on _____ with the theme "Connecting the world with data we can trust".
(a) 20 October 2020 (b) 21 October 2020 (c) 24 October 2020 (d) 27 October 2020
11. Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari will virtually lay the foundation stone for the first-ever multi-modal logistic park of the country in _____.
(a) Nagaland (b) Meghalaya (c) Arunachal Pradesh (d) Assam
12. Recently, which of the following announced the establishment of a Frontier Technologies Cloud Innovation Centre, CIC with Amazon Web Services, AWS?
(a) Ministry of Finance (b) NITI Aayog
(c) Ministry of Corporate Affairs (d) Ministry of Home Affairs
13. In any inflation index, the base year is the first year of an inflation index, with an index value of _____.
(a) 50 (b) 70 (c) 80 (d) 100

14. Recently, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched _____ scheme.
 (a) AYUSHMAN JAHAN (b) AYUSHMAN SAHAYATA
 (c) AYUSHMAN SAHAKAR (d) AYUSHMAN INDIA
15. Recently, which of the following countries will join 'Malabar naval exercise' involving India, US and Japan?
 (a) USA (b) France (c) Australia (d) United Kingdom
16. MCX launched India's first real-time base metal index in the country, MCX iCOMDEX Base Metal or _____.
 (a) METLDEX (b) BULLIONDEX (c) IRONDEX (d) GOLDEX
17. Recently, World Bank sanctions Rs 3 crore for _____ to develop India's first sand dune parks.
 (a) Haryana (b) Goa (c) Rajasthan (d) Sikkim
18. Recently, Gene-edited wheat is to be grown in _____ as the country becomes the first in the world to give the green light on the use of the drought-resistant crop.
 (a) Brazil (b) Argentina (c) Mexico (d) Chile
19. Recently, United Nations Day is celebrated every year on _____.
 (a) 9th October (b) 14th October (c) 19th October (d) 24th October
20. The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has signed an agreement with the _____ and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to create a pool of officials who will work to find technology solutions for its operational challenges.
 (a) Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi
 (b) Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay
 (c) Indian Institute of Technology-Madras
 (d) Indian Institute of Technology-Kharagpur
21. Union Minister Jitendra Singh inaugurated the nine-day Navratra festival at _____.
 (a) Leh in Ladakh (b) Pahalgam in Kashmir (c) Katra in Jammu (d) Anantnag in Kashmir
22. Which of the following Indian states has become the first state in the country to cap the prices of masks?
 (a) Haryana (b) Gujarat (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Maharashtra
23. Recently, In an historic first visit by a Gulf Arab nation, a _____ delegation reached Israel.
 (a) United Arab Emirates (b) Saudi Arabia
 (c) Kuwait (d) Qatar
24. Recently, the poll spending limit for candidates contesting Lok Sabha and Assembly elections has been enhanced by _____ percent.
 (a) 5 (b) 10 (c) 15 (d) 25
25. Which of the following countries was ranked first in the Arab world for issuing scientific papers on the coronavirus?
 (a) Oman (b) Jordan (c) Saudi Arabia (d) UAE
26. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has set up a panel to explore possibility of a basic standard product structure to provide insurance cover for individuals and establishments to manage their cyber risks. Who is head of this panel?
 (a) M Mahendranath (b) S Devesh (c) P Umesh (d) Ashwin Kumar Singh
27. Which of the following banks has been authorised to issue and encash Electoral Bonds?
 (a) Bank of Baroda (b) Punjab National Bank
 (c) Bank of Baroda (d) Canara Bank

28. Recently, Dehradun situated Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology noted that the tectonic faultline is moving _____.
(a) Northward (b) Southward (c) Eastward (d) Westward
29. Recently, who became the first cricketer to play 200 Indian Premier League (IPL) matches?
(a) Virat Kohli (b) Mahendra Singh Dhoni
(c) K L Rahul (d) Rohit Sharma
30. The Police Commemoration Day is observed on _____ every year to honor the loyalty and supreme sacrifice of police personnel for the nation.
(a) 14th October (b) 16th October (c) 19th October (d) 21st October
31. Which of the following two countries signed 'world first' carbon offset deal under Paris Agreement recently?
(a) Peru and Switzerland (b) Chile and Portugal
(c) Latvia and Lithuania (d) Bhutan and Nepal
32. Recently, which of the following state governments has announced to provide financial assistance to labourers for historical and religious tour in a unique step towards welfare of the labourers in state?
(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Haryana (d) Rajasthan
33. India has hosted the Third India-US 22 Ministerial Dialogue in _____.
(a) New Delhi (b) Lucknow (c) Hyderabad (d) Jaipur
34. Which of the following countries has issued world's first Central Bank Digital Currency recently?
(a) Suriname (b) The Gambia (c) The Bahamas (d) Egypt
35. Which has hosted companies introduced the first open-source multi-lingual machine translation model M2M-100 that can translate between any pair of 100 languages without relying on English data?
(a) Google (b) Facebook (c) Oracle (d) Adobe
36. Recently, Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises- MSME, Nitin Gadkari launched India's first-ever high quality _____ designed by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) through Video Conference.
(a) Khadi Fabric Shawl (b) Khadi Fabric Footwear
(c) Khadi Fabric Toothbrush (d) Khadi Fabric Doormat
37. According to a new World Bank Group and UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) analysis, an estimated _____ in six children or 356 million globally were living in extreme poverty before the COVID-19 pandemic began, and this is set to worsen significantly.
(a) One (b) Two (c) Three (d) Four
38. Researchers from the Netherlands Cancer Institute in Amsterdam have identified a previously unknown set of _____ in the upper part of the throat, discovering what could be the first set of major glands to be found in the human body in 300 years.
(a) Pituitary glands (b) Adrenal glands (c) Salivary glands (d) Thyroid glands
39. Which of the following has announced a world-first initiative that will offer free golf to women across the Kingdom?
(a) Saudi Arabia (b) Qatar (c) Oman (d) Jordan
40. Recently, which of the following has been chosen by Snap Inc for a unique collaboration, which will be providing breaking news and premium content to Snapchat's users in the country?
(a) NDTV (b) Zee News (c) Star News (d) Republic News

41. Which of the following districts has bagged top position among 30 districts of the country in successful implementation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)?
 (a) Mandi (b) Jammu (c) Kullu (d) Dehradun
42. Recently, Government of Jammu and Kashmir has introduced certain substitutes in _____ Article of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Service Regulations, on the orders of Lieutenant Governor.
 (a) 222(1) (b) 223(2) (c) 226(2) (d) 228(4)
43. The Kisan Suryodaya Yojana for the farmers is launch in:
 (a) Maharashtra (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Odisha (d) Gujarat
44. Recently, _____ virtually launched Life in Miniature project. The project is collaboration between the National Museum, New Delhi, Ministry of Culture, and Google Arts and Culture.
 (a) Culture and Tourism Minister Prahlaad Singh Patel
 (b) Home Minister Amit Shah
 (c) Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman
 (d) Railway Minister Piyush Goyal
45. The signature creation of legendary cartoonist R.K. Laxman will be built to mark his birth centenary and commemorate his special connection with _____.
 (a) Jaipur (b) Hyderabad (c) Pune (d) Kochi
46. Recently, Labour Minister Santosh Gangwar released the new series of Consumer Price Index for industrial workers (CPI-IW) with _____ Base Year in New Delhi.
 (a) 2011 (b) 2013 (c) 2016 (d) 2018
47. Name the India-born US District Judge who will preside over the Justice Department's crucial lawsuit against internet search giant Google?
 (a) Deepak Luthra (b) Amit Mehta (c) Lalit Shah (d) Bhaskar Narain
48. Recently, The European Union has awarded its top human rights prize to the _____.
 (a) Belarus opposition movement and its leader, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya
 (b) Democratic Opposition in Venezuela
 (c) Ilham Tohti
 (d) Lamiya Aji Bashar
49. Which of the following came first among Indian PSUs under World's Best Employer this year in a list published by Forbes?
 (a) BHEL (b) ONGC (c) NTPC Ltd (d) GAIL
50. Pakistan is preparing to contest India's claim in the European Union that _____ sold in the bloc is genuine only if it originates from specific areas of India.
 (a) Saffron (b) Basmati Rice (c) Kashmiri Lavender (d) Pashmina Shawls
51. Which of the following railway zones will be the first to avail the soon-to-begin 'Bags on Wheels' service of the Railways through which their luggage will be transported to their homes from the railway station upon their arrival in trains and vice versa?
 (a) Western Railways (b) North Central Railways
 (c) Southern Railway (d) Northern Railways
52. Recently, European Union environment ministers struck a deal to make the bloc's _____ net zero emissions target legally binding.
 (a) 2025 (b) 2030 (c) 2040 (d) 2050

53. Who has been recently renamed as the Prime Minister of Lebanon?
 (a) Hasan Diab (b) Tammam Salam (c) Saad Hariri (d) Najib Mikati
54. Recently, Indian Navy has operationalized the first batch of three Women Pilots on _____ by the Southern Naval Command (SNC) at Kochi.
 (a) Tejas Aircraft (b) Dornier Aircraft (c) Avalanche Aircraft (d) Devas Aircraft
55. Recently, Prime Minister Modi e-dedicated country's biggest cardiac hospital at U.N. Mehta Institute of Cardiology and Research Center in _____.
 (a) Pune (b) Ahmedabad (c) Bhopal (d) Ranchi
56. Recently, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Dr. M. Rajeevan dedicated Flash Flood Guidance services, first of its kind for South Asian countries namely India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, _____ and _____.
 (a) Nepal and Sri Lanka (b) Mauritius and Seychelles
 (c) Maldives and Seychelles (d) Myanmar and Laos
57. Recently, Britain and _____ formally signed a trade agreement marking Britain's first big post-Brexit deal on trade, as it continues to struggle to agree on a deal with its closest trading partners in the European Union.
 (a) France (b) Japan (c) Germany (d) Portugal
58. Recently which of the following countries agreed to take steps to normalize relations with Israel in a deal brokered with the help of the United States, making Khartoum the third Arab government to set aside hostilities with Israel?
 (a) Sudan (b) Egypt (c) Jordan (d) Lebanon
59. Which of the following IIT's has developed a novel Industry 4.0 technology for remotely controlled factory operations and real-time quality correction during industrial production in India's advanced manufacturing sector?
 (a) IIT Kanpur (b) IIT Kharagpur (c) IIT Madras (d) IIT Kanpur
60. Which of the following has become the first wetland from Uttarakhand to be included in the prestigious Ramsar sites list?
 (a) Asan Conservation Reserve (b) Kedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary
 (c) Rajaji National Park (d) Jhilmil Jheel Wetland
61. Which of the following has become the first union territory in the country to operationalise public financial management system (PFMS) at the district level?
 (a) Jammu & Kashmir (b) Andaman & Nicobar Islands
 (c) Lakshadweep (d) Puducherry
62. Under the patronage of Arunachal Government, a War Memorial has been constructed at _____ where Sub Joginder Singh, 1st Battalion the Sikh Regt made the supreme sacrifice.
 (a) Sela Pass (b) Baralacha La Pass (c) Bum La Pass (d) Jelep La Pass
63. Recently, Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh digitally laid the foundation stone of Punjab's first dedicated sports university in _____.
 (a) Amritsar (b) Patiala (c) Ludhiana (d) Firozpur
64. In October 2020, India's maiden seaplane service is likely to take off from _____.
 (a) Tapi Riverfront (b) Sabarmati Riverfront
 (c) Mahi Riverfront (d) Narmada Riverfront
65. Name the first turbaned Sikh who has been elected to British Columbia assembly in Canada.
 (a) Deep Singh Dhillon (b) Aman Singh
 (c) Maninder Sirsa (d) Bhupinder Singh Lodha

66. Recently, Indian-origin opposition candidate Wavel Ramkalawan, whose great grandfather was an indentured labourer from Bihar, has won _____ presidential election with a solid majority.
(a) Mauritius (b) Suriname (c) Seychelles (d) Trinidad and Tobago
67. The world's first iodine-based sanitisers, which are said to be more effective and long-lasting than alcohol-based hand cleansers, will be launched in _____.
(a) USA (b) Italy (c) India (d) Canada
68. According to findings from a team of Canadian and Indian researchers, dairy production in India began as far back as in the _____ and may have been a factor behind sustaining the Indus Valley Civilisation.
(a) 1st millennium BCE (b) 2nd millennium BCE
(c) 3rd millennium BCE (d) 5th millennium BCE
69. Union minister Kiren Rijiju flagged off a 200-km long 'Fit India Walkathon' being organised by border guarding force ITBP in _____.
(a) Haryana's Ambala (b) Rajasthan's Jaisalmer
(c) Punjab's Amritsar (d) Gujarat's Surat
70. Recently, World Development Information Day was celebrated on:
(a) 12 October (b) 15 October (c) 19 October (d) 24 October



ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATION

1. d The 8th annual joint exercise between Indian and Sri Lankan navies 'SLINEX-20' is held in Trincomalee coast.
2. a India and Chile held their first joint commission meeting and agreed to add new momentum to their relations in a wide range of fields including trade and commerce, agriculture, health and social security, defence and space.
3. c Kerala's first water taxi service launched in the backwaters of Alappuzha.
4. d Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern won in New Zealand's general elections. With 87 per cent of the vote counted, Ardern's Labour Party won a landslide victory with 49 per cent support, heading to its biggest share of the vote since the 1930s.
5. c ICICI Bank has made it even more convenient for its customers to avail its services. The bank announced for its customers the launch of services like creating fixed deposits (FDs), payment of utility bills and accessing details of trade finance on WhatsApp.
6. a BRAHMOS, the supersonic cruise missile was successfully test fired from Indian Navy's indigenously-built stealth destroyer INS Chennai, hitting a target in the Arabian Sea.
7. b Kings XI Punjab (KXIP) captain KL Rahul achieved a new milestone as he became the first Indian batsman to have scored more than 500 runs in three consecutive IPL seasons.
8. c In Badminton, former World Champion Nozomi Okuhara clinched the Denmark Open title beating three-time world champion Carolina Marin in women's singles.
9. a Most food crops depend on C3 photosynthesis where carbon is fixed into sugar inside cells called 'mesophyll' where oxygen is abundant.
10. a The third World Statistics Day will be celebrated around the globe on 20 October 2020 with the theme "Connecting the world with data we can trust."
11. d Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari will virtually lay the foundation stone for the first-ever multi-modal logistic park of the country in Assam.
12. b NITI Aayog announced the establishment of a Frontier Technologies Cloud Innovation Centre, CIC with Amazon Web Services, AWS.
13. d In any inflation index, the base year is the first year of an inflation index, with an index value of 100.
14. c Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched AYUSHMAN SAHAKAR scheme.
15. c Australia will join Malabar naval exercise involving India, US and Japan. The Annual Naval Exercise Malabar-2020 is expected to be held in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea later this year.
16. a MCX launched the country's first real-time base metal index in the country, MCX iCOMDEX Base Metal or METLDEX.
17. b World Bank sanctions Rs 3 crore for Goa to develop India's first sand dune parks.
18. b Gene-edited wheat is to be grown in Argentina, as the country becomes the first in the world to give the green light on the use of the drought-resistant crop.

- 19. d** 24 October has been celebrated as United Nations Day since 1948.
- 20. a** The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has signed an agreement with the Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to create a pool of officials who will work to find technology solutions for its operational challenges.
- 21. c** Union Minister Jitendra Singh inaugurated the nine-day Navratra festival at Katra in Jammu. The festival was organised by the Directorate of Tourism, Jammu, in collaboration with the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Katra and the Hotel, Restaurant & Travel Associations of Katra.
- 22. d** Maharashtra has become the first state in the country to cap the prices of masks. N95 masks will now be available at Rs 19 to Rs 49, while two-layer and three-layer masks will be available for Rs 3 to 4.
- 23. a** In an historic first visit by a Gulf Arab nation, a United Arab Emirates delegation reached Israel.
- 24. b** The poll spending limit for candidates contesting Lok Sabha and Assembly elections has been enhanced by 10 percent.
- 25. c** Saudi Arabia was ranked first in the Arab world for issuing scientific papers on the coronavirus.
- 26. c** The panel, headed by P Umesh, Consultant-Liability Insurance, has been asked to study various statutory provisions on information and cybersecurity, and to evaluate critical issues involving legal aspects of transactions in cyber space.
- 27. c** State Bank of India (SBI) has been authorised to issue and encash Electoral Bonds through its 29 Authorized Branches with effect from 19th October to 28th of October this year.
- 28. a** In Ladakh, the recent studies have found that the tectonic faultline is moving northward. Dehradun situated Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology noted that the fault line is tectonically active along the Indus Suture Zone (ISZ).
- 29. b** Chennai Super Kings (CSK) skipper MS Dhoni became the first cricketer to play 200 Indian Premier League (IPL) matches when his side took the field against Rajasthan Royals.
- 30. d** The Police Commemoration Day is observed on 21st October every year to honor the loyalty and supreme sacrifice of police personnel for the nation.
- 31. a** Peru and Switzerland sign 'world first' carbon offset deal under Paris Agreement.
- 32. b** Uttar Pradesh Government has announced to provide financial assistance to labourers for historical and religious tour in a unique step towards welfare of the labourers in state. Government will also provide money to buy books for the study of their daughters.
- 33. a** India has hosted the Third India-US 22 Ministerial Dialogue on 27th of October in New Delhi.
- 34. c** Central Bank of Bahamas Launches Landmark 'Sand Dollar' Digital Currency.
- 35. b** Facebook introduced the first open-source multi-lingual machine translation model M2M-100 that can translate between any pair of 100 languages without relying on English data.
- 36. b** Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises- MSME, Nitin Gadkari launched India's first-ever high quality Khadi Fabric Footwear, designed by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) through Video Conference.
- 37. a** An estimated one in six children — or 356 million globally — were living in extreme poverty before the COVID-19 pandemic began, and this is set to worsen significantly

- 38. c** Researchers have identified a previously unknown set of salivary glands in the upper part of the throat, discovering what could be the first set of major glands to be found in the human body in 300 years
- 39. a** Saudi Arabia has announced a world-first initiative that will offer free golf to women across the Kingdom.
- 40. a** NDTV has been chosen by Snap Inc for a unique collaboration, which will see NDTV providing breaking news and premium content to Snapchat's users in the country.
- 41. a** Himachal Pradesh's Mandi district has bagged top position among 30 districts of the country in successful implementation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).
- 42. c** The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has introduced certain substitutes in 226(2) Article of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Service Regulations, on the orders of Lieutenant Governor.
- 43. d** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has virtually inaugurated three key projects in Gujarat. He also launched the Kisan Suryodaya Yojana for the farmers of Gujarat.
- 44. a** Culture and Tourism Minister Prahlad Singh Patel virtually launched Life in Miniature project. The project is collaboration between the National Museum, New Delhi, Ministry of Culture, and Google Arts and Culture.
- 45. a** The signature creation of legendary cartoonist R.K. Laxman will be built to mark his birth centenary and commemorate his special connection with Pink City
- 46. c** Labour Minister Santosh Gangwar released the new series of Consumer Price Index for industrial workers (CPI-IW) with 2016 Base Year in New Delhi.
- 47. b** India-born US District Judge Amit Mehta will preside over the Justice Department's crucial lawsuit against internet search giant Google.
- 48. a** The European Union has awarded its top human rights prize to the Belarus opposition movement and its leader, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, for their challenge to President Alexander Lukashenko's long, hard-line reign.
- 49. c** Country's largest power producer NTPC Ltd came first among Indian PSUs under World's Best Employer this year in a list published by Forbes.
- 50. b** Pakistan is preparing to contest India's claim in the European Union that basmati rice sold in the bloc is genuine only if it originates from specific areas of India.
- 51. d** The Northern Railways' Delhi Division announced the 'App-Based Bags on Wheels', a first of its kind service available for railway passengers in India.
- 52. d** European Union environment ministers struck a deal to make the bloc's 2050 net zero emissions target legally binding
- 53. c** Three-time Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri was renamed to the post to create a cabinet that can lift the country out of its worst economic crisis in decades.
- 54. b** Indian Navy has operationalized the first batch of three Women Pilots on Dornier Aircraft by the Southern Naval Command (SNC) at Kochi.
- 55. b** Prime Minister Modi e-dedicated country's biggest cardiac hospital at U.N. Mehta Institute of Cardiology and Research Center and launched a Mobile Application for tele-cardiology at Civil Hospital campus in Ahmedabad.

- 56. a** Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Dr. M. Rajeevan dedicated Flash Flood Guidance services, first of its kind for South Asian countries namely India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka.
- 57. b** Britain and Japan formally signed a trade agreement marking Britain's first big post-Brexit deal on trade, as it continues to struggle to agree on a deal with its closest trading partners in the European Union.
- 58. a** Israel and Sudan agreed to take steps to normalize relations in a deal brokered with the help of the United States, making Khartoum the third Arab government to set aside hostilities with Israel in the last two months.
- 59. b** IIT Kharagpur has developed a novel Industry 4.0 technology for remotely controlled factory operations and real-time quality correction during industrial production in India's advanced manufacturing sector.
- 60. a** Asan Conservation Reserve has become the first wetland from Uttarakhand to be included in the prestigious Ramsar sites list.
- 61. a** Jammu and Kashmir has become the first union territory in the country to operationalise public financial management system (PFMS) at the district level.
- 62. c** Under the patronage of Arunachal Government and with efforts of Pema Khandu, Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, a War Memorial has been constructed at Bum La, where Sub Joginder Singh, 1st Battalion the Sikh Regt made the supreme sacrifice.
- 63. b** Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh digitally laid the foundation stone of Punjab's first dedicated sports university and a bus stand, along with various other development projects in Patiala.
- 64. b** India's maiden seaplane service is likely to take off from Sabarmati riverfront to the Statue of Unity on October 31.
- 65. b** Human rights lawyer Aman Singh making history as he was projected to win the riding (as constituencies are called in Canada) of Richmond-Queensborough. Aman Singh becomes first turbaned Sikh to be elected to British Columbia assembly.
- 66. c** Indian-origin opposition candidate Wavel Ramkalawan, whose great grandfather was an indentured labourer from Bihar, has won Seychelles' presidential election with a solid majority.
- 67. c** The world's first iodine-based sanitisers, which are said to be more effective and long-lasting than alcohol-based hand cleansers, will be launched in India over the next two weeks.
- 68. c** Dairy production in India began as far back as in the 3rd millennium BCE and may have been a factor behind sustaining the Indus Valley Civilisation.
- 69. b** Union minister Kiren Rijju flagged off a 200-km long 'Fit India Walkathon' being organised by border guarding force ITBP in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer.
- 70. d** In 1972, the United Nations General Assembly decided to institute a World Development Information Day coinciding with United Nations Day on October 24.