

PRACTICE **MOCK**



December 2021 - Week 1

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has recently constituted a three-member committee to review the criteria for reservation for the *Economically Weaker Sections* (EWS) category in terms of the provisions of the explanation to **Article 15** of the Constitution. The committee will be headed by former finance secretary **Ajay Bhushan Pandey**.
2. The Ministry of Tourism has recently organized the three-day long 9th '*International Tourism Mart for the North East Region*' in **Kohima, Nagaland**. The aim is to highlight the tourism potential of the region in the domestic and international markets.
 - Minister of State for Tourism and Defence Ajay Bhatt has participated in the inaugural session of the event.
3. Union Commerce and Industry Minister, Piyush Goyal has recently inaugurated the 40th India International Trade Fair (IITF) at PragatiMaidan in New Delhi under the theme "Aatmanirbhar Bharat".
 - **Bihar** has won the Gold medal for "excellence in display" in state government/union territory pavilion category.
 - Assam has won the Silver medal.
4. Union External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar** has recently participated in the 5th Indian Ocean Conference held in Abu Dhabi, UAE.
 - The conference has been chaired by Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa.
 - The theme of the Indian Ocean Conference 2021 is "Indian Ocean: Ecology, Economy, Epidemic".
 - It has been organised by the India foundation
5. The Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT) has recently been awarded a project on "Future Refrigeration India" named **INDEE+**, aimed at spearheading the fuel transition in the seafood sector. It is an umbrella project covering several dedicated schemes supporting the Indian refrigeration and air-conditioning sector in the transition towards cleaner and green technologies.
 - This project is coordinated by Norwegian University of Science and Technology, and the Indian partners are CIFT Kochi, IIT Chennai, BITS Pilani, and IISc Bengaluru.

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6. **NITI Aayog** has recently released a report on Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) titled "Designing the future of dispute Resolution: the ODR Policy Plan for India" to advance access to justice and ensure that cases do not end up before higher courts.
- The report has been developed by a committee constituted by NITI Aayog on ODR in 2020. It is chaired by Supreme Court Justice (Retd) **AK Sikri**.
 - As per the report, government litigation contributes to **46%** of all litigations in the country and burdens the courts while imposing a huge cost on the public exchequer.
 - The report has proposed measures at three levels namely, Structural, Behavioural, and Operational Challenges, to address the challenges in adopting ODR.
7. The Central Government has recently approved the continuation of the Scheme for Investment Promotion (SIP) for **5 years** from 2021-22 till 2025-26 with a financial outlay of **Rs 970 crore**. The newly extended SIP has added few components- investor targeting and facilitation; project management activities; and foreign travel.
8. The Union Government has recently approved the sale of Central Electronics Limited (CEL) to Nandal Finance and Leasing for **Rs 210 crore**. The Alternative Mechanism has approved the highest price bid of M/s Nandal Finance and Leasing Pvt Ltd for sale of **100%** equity shareholding of Gol in Central Electronics Ltd (CEL) - a CPSE under the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR).
9. The 10th Quarterly Bulletin of the Periodic Labour Force Survey has been released by the National Statistical Office (NSO).
- As per the survey, India's urban unemployment rate has increased to **9.3%** in January-March 2021 from 9.1% in the same period of 2020.
 - The unemployment rate among males of all ages is 8.6% and for women it is 11.8%.
10. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has recently extended the timeline for the implementation of Smart Cities Mission to **June 2023** due to the Covid-19 pandemic and other factors. Now, all the 100 smart cities that have been selected in 2016 or 2018 will have to complete their projects under the mission by June 2023.
- According to an earlier deadline, the cities were expected to complete their projects within 5 years of being selected under the Smart Cities Mission.
11. Minister of State for Communications Devusinh Chauhan has recently released a commemorative postage stamp to mark **75th anniversary** of the Mahindra group.

- Kailash Chandra Mahindra & his brother JC Mahindra founded Mahindra & Mahindra in 1945 with Malik Ghulam Mohammed.
12. Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar has recently launched the first indigenous server named '**RUDRA**'. It has been developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM).
- This will be used for manufacturing classical standalone commercial servers and also as building blocks for building large supercomputing systems of tens of petaflops of computing performance.
13. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently laid the foundation stone of the **Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor** from Eastern Peripheral Expressway Junction to Dehradun.
- Total outlay: **Rs 8,300 crore**
 - It will reduce the travel time from Delhi to Dehradun from six hours to around 2.5 hours.
 - It will have seven major interchanges for connectivity to Haridwar, Muzaffarnagar, Shamli, Yamunagar, Baghpat, Meerut and Baraut.
 - It will have Asia's largest wildlife elevated corridor (12 kilometres) for unrestricted wildlife movement.
 - It also includes the 340 metres long tunnel near DatKaali temple, Dehradun to reduce the impact on wildlife.
14. Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Giriraj Singh, has recently launched the National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS) and **Banadhikar app** in Tripura. With this, **Tripura** has become the first state in the country to introduce Banadhikar App.
- Banadhikar App is a GPS-based mobile application for demarcation of forest 'patta' (land rights) for the landless indigenous people under the Forest Rights Act, 2006.
15. The Central Government has recently expanded the SCALE Committee (Steering Committee for Advancing Local Value-Add and Exports) by adding three new members.
- Manish Sharma - Panasonic India Chairman and CEO
 - Vikram S Kirloskar - Toyota Kirloskar Vice-Chairman
 - Jalaj Dani - Asian Paints co-promoter and Chairman Addverb Technologies

16. The Indian Navy has recently launched '**Sandhayak**', the first of the four Survey Vessels (Large) project, in **Kolkata** in the presence of Minister of State Ajay Bhatt, Ministry of Defence. The primary role of these survey ships would be to conduct full-scale coastal and deep-water hydrographic survey of ports and harbours, and determination of navigational channels and routes. This will replace the existing Sandhayak-class survey ships.
- These vessels have been designed and developed by Defence Public Sector Undertaking, Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Limited.
17. Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment Virendra Kumar has recently launched the '**SRESHTA**' scheme for the upliftment and development of **scheduled castes (SC)** students by providing quality residential education in reputed private schools.
- SRESHTA stands for 'Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas'.
 - He has also launched a National Fellowship Management and Grievance redressal Portal. This initiative aims at integrated development of Scheduled Castes majority villages.

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STATES AFFAIRS

18. **Nagaland Police** has officially launched the '*Call your Cop*' mobile App at the Police Headquarters in Kohima. This app will enable all citizens in the state, including those in distress, to get in touch with the police directly, as police will be available easily, with just one click away.
- Nagaland has recently observed its *59th Statehood Day on 1 December 2021*.
19. The 22nd edition of the Hornbill festival, also known as the "festival of festivals", has been held in Naga Heritage village Kisama, Kohima, **Nagaland**. The annual 10-day cultural and tourism festival begins in early December and coincides with the Statehood Day of Nagaland. This year diplomatic representatives of the US, Germany, and Israel are the guests.
20. The Government of Assam has recently decided to confer its highest civilian award, 'AsomBaibhav Award', to **Ratan Tata**, Chairman TATA Trusts for his exceptional

contribution towards furthering cancer care in Assam. It has been announced on the occasion of Assam Day.

21. Bollywood actor **Sanjay Dutt** has recently been roped in as the brand ambassador for the month-long celebrations of the 50th year of **Arunachal Pradesh**. Along with him, filmmaker Rahul Mittra has been roped in as the brand advisor.
- It is noteworthy that next year is the 50th anniversary of Arunachal Pradesh, which will be celebrated with a month-long celebration from 20 January 2022 to 20 February 2022 at Ziro in Lower Subansiri district.
22. **Jharkhand** Chief Minister, Hemant Soren has recently launched a web portal named '**HamarApan Budget**'. Through this portal, the general public of the state can share their suggestions for the 2022-23 budget.
23. The Project 'Reducing Elephant Human – Attacks using Bees' (RE-HAB) has recently been launched in **Assam**. Under this, around 15 to 20 bee boxes are placed in the premises of human habitation. They are placed as fences. They dissuade the elephants without harming them.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

24. **Eva Magdalena Andersson**, leader of the Social Democrats, has recently won her 2nd election and become the 1st female Prime Minister of **Sweden**. Earlier, she was first elected as the PM but later resigned after her coalition partner quit the government.
- *Sweden' Parliament is known as 'Riksdag'.*
25. **China** has recently launched a new communication satellite named 'Zhongxing-1D' by a Long March-3B carrier rocket from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in southwest China's Sichuan Province. This launch marked the 399th mission for the Long March series carrier rockets.
26. The 27th edition of the Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) maritime exercise has been conducted virtually between the US military personnel and **Bangladesh Navy (BN)** in the Bay of Bengal.
- Since 2011, the Bangladesh Navy has been participating in the CARAT exercise.

27. The UNESCO has recently presented UNESCO Asia-Pacific Award for Cultural Heritage Conservation to the **Nizamuddin Basti** Project. The project has been awarded for its conservation efforts under the Special Recognition for Sustainable Award and Award of Excellence categories.
28. Cambridge Dictionary has recently chosen '**Perseverance**' as the Word of the Year 2021. The word is inspired by NASA's mission to Mars, as data showed that users across the globe searched for the word online more than 243,000 times throughout the year.
- Perseverance is defined by Cambridge Dictionary as "continued effort to do or achieve something, even when this is difficult or takes a long time".
 - Dictionary.com has named '**Allyship**' as the Word of the Year for 2021.
29. The 11th edition of joint military exercise Ekuverin has recently been conducted between **India and Maldives** from 6th- 19th December 2021 at Kadhdhoo Island, Maldives. The aim of the exercise is to enhance synergy and inter-operability between Armed Forces of both the nations.
- In 2019, the exercise was held in Pune, Maharashtra.
30. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently inaugurated a leadership Forum on Financial Technology (FinTech) named '**InFinity Forum**'.
- It has been hosted by International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) under the aegis of Government of India in collaboration with GIFT City and Bloomberg.
 - Indonesia, South Africa and the U.K. are partner countries in the first edition of the Forum.
 - **Theme:** 'Beyond'
31. The 21st India-Russia Annual Summit has been held between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Prime Minister Narendra Modito enhance the special and privileged strategic partnership between the two countries. During the summit, India and Russia have signed **28 agreements**.

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REPORTS & INDICES

32. The **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)** has recently released the Global Trade Report (November 2021). As per the report, global trade is expected to grow by 23% to \$28 trillion in 2021.
- India's trade growth has accelerated in Q3 CY2021 both in goods and services.
 - India's goods exports has shown a rise of 27% and 5%, and services has increased by 7% and 17% in Q3 of the current fiscal compared to the 2019 average and Q2 2021, respectively.
33. Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) has recently released the Worldwide Cost of Living Index 2021. As per the index, **Tel Aviv** has been listed as the costliest city in the world while **Damascus** has been found to be the cheapest city to live in the world.
- The Worldwide Cost of Living index examines the cost of living in 173 cities and is measured against "impactful global events".
 - **Ahmedabad** in Gujarat is the cheapest city to live in from India. This is the only city that has found a place in the index.

Worldwide Cost of Living Index 2021			
Rank	Expensive City	Rank	Cheapest City
1	Tel Aviv (Israel)	1	Damascus (Syria)
2	Paris (France) , and Singapore	2	Tripoli (Libya)
4	Zurich (Switzerland)	3	Tashkent (Uzbekistan)

34. The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has recently released its annual report titled "State Finances: A Study of Budgets of 2021-22". As per the report,
- The combined debt to GDP ratio of states is expected to remain at **31%** by the end of March 2022, which is higher than the target of 20% to be achieved by FY23.
 - For 2021-22, States have budgeted their consolidated gross fiscal deficit (GFD) to gross domestic product (GDP) ratio at 3.7%, a marked improvement from the level of 4.7% in the revised estimates for 2020-21.
 - This report is an annual publication that provides information, analysis and an assessment of the finances of State governments for 2021-22 against the backdrop of actual and revised (or provisional accounts) outcomes for 2019-20 and 2020-21, respectively.
 - The theme of this year's Report is "**Coping with the Pandemic: A Third-Tier Dimension**".

BUSINESS& ECONOMY

35. Online bus ticketing platform **redBus** has recently collaborated with Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) to launch 'redRail', a rail ticketing service that can be accessed through the redBus mobile app.
36. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has recently approved a **\$125 million** loan to improve access to quality water supply and sanitation services in **Uttarakhand**. The project will construct 136 km of water pipe system to replace defective water networks in South Dehradun. It will also establish sewage treatment plants in Dehradun.
37. The Singapore-based DBS Bank's economic research team has recently revised India's FY23 growth forecast upwards to **7%** year-on-year (y-o-y) (CY2022 6.5%) from 6% earlier.
38. Rating agency India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) has recently projected India's GDP in Q2 of FY22 at **8.3%** and in FY22 at **9.4%**.
39. The National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, has recently released the estimates of GDP for the second quarter (July-September) of FY22.
- As per the data, India's GDP has grown by **8.4%** in the second quarter of FY 2022 as compared to **7.4%** in FY 2021.
 - The gross domestic product (GDP) at constant prices in Q2 FY22 is estimated at Rs 35.73 lakh crore, as against Rs 32.97 lakh crore in Q2 FY21.
 - GDP at Constant (2011-12) Prices in April-September 2021-22 (H1 FY22) is estimated at Rs 68.11 lakh crore as against Rs 59.92 lakh crore in H1 FY21, showing a growth of 13.7% in H1 FY22 as against a contraction of 15.9% in H1 FY21.
40. **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)** has recently approved a USD 135 million loan to West Bengal to improve the operational efficiency and reliability of electricity supply in select pockets in the state.
- The IBRD and the International Development Association (IDA) are collectively referred to as the World Bank.
41. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has recently (December 2021) projected India's GDP to be **9.4%** for FY22 from **9.7%** projected in September 2021. It has projected the Indian economy to grow at 8.1% in FY23, and moderate to 5.5% in FY24.

42. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has recently sanctioned a **\$500-million loan** to India to help improve the quality of school education and to mitigate the impact of the Covid-19 on students' learning.
- The loan supports the Integrated Scheme for School Education (SamagraShiksha) and the new Exemplar School Initiative of the Ministry of Education (MOE).
 - Around 1,800 government schools will be transformed into exemplar schools in the states of Assam, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, and Uttarakhand.
 - ADB has also received a grant of nearly **Rs 15 crore** from Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR) to enhance urban primary healthcare usage across India.
43. The **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)** has recently signed an agreement with Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) to scale up its clean energy projects and to strengthen footprint in renewables, especially in solar.
- ONGC has set a target of producing a minimum of 10 GW of renewable power by 2040 and focus on the core exploration and production (E&P) business.
44. **RailTel Corporation of India** has recently partnered with CSC e-Governance Services to increase broadband penetration in rural and semi-urban areas for minimising the digital divide.
- The CSC e-Governance Services India Limited is a special purpose vehicle under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

BANKING & FINANCE

45. The Reserve Bank of India has recently superseded the board of industrialist Anil Ambani-promoted **Reliance Capital**, a non-banking financial company (NBFC), by exercising its power conferred under **Section 45-IE (1)** of the RBI Act 1934, owing to payment defaults and governance issues. **Nageswara Rao Y**, a former executive director of Bank of Maharashtra, has been named the company's administrator.
46. RBI has also formed a **3-member committee** to assist the administrator under Section 45-IE (5) (a) of the RBI Act 1934. The members include:
- Sanjeev Nautiyal - ex-deputy managing director (DMD), State Bank of India
 - Srinivasan Varadarajan - ex-DMD, Axis Bank
 - Praveen P Kadle - ex-MD and chief executive officer, Tata Capital
47. The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has signed an agreement with Usha International Limited (UIL) to empower women entrepreneurs by providing financial assistance named "**NAVCHETNA**" by SBI. The financial assistance will be provided under the joint responsibility group model.

- Under this agreement, bank branches in Uttarakhand, Delhi, Western UP and NCR Haryana will fund women entrepreneurs to Usha Silai School to purchase sewing machines to enhance and upgrade their technical sewing skills or to buy threads of clothes, etc.
48. ESAF Small Finance Bank has recently received the Honourable mention in the **Best Bank for Women Entrepreneurs** category in the 4th Global SME Finance Awards 2021. The award has been organized by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the United States-based SME Finance Forum.
49. AgriwiseFinserv Limited, an agri-focussed NBFC, has recently entered into a co-lending agreement with **Central Bank of India** for agri-loan disbursal to underserved and unserved rural customers of India.
50. Public sector lender **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** will become the promoter of Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) by investing over 9.5% stake in the company.
51. The IPO-bound **India1 Payments**, promoted by the Banktech Group of Australia and formerly known as BTI Payments, has recently crossed a milestone of installing 10,000-white-label ATMs. With this, India1 ATM has become the second-largest white label ATM brand in the semi-urban and rural areas.
52. **IDFC First Bank** has recently launched India's first standalone metal debit card or black card 'FIRST Private Infinite' in partnership with Visa. It is a lifetime free card designed specifically for customers who are part of the Bank's FIRST Private program, a premium savings and wealth offering.
53. **Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company** has recently launched India's first Nifty Alpha 50 Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) named 'Kotak Nifty Alpha 50 ETF'. This will track the performance of 50 stocks listed with NSE with high Alpha's in the last one year. The new fund is open for subscription from 1st December 2021 to 15th December 2021.
54. **DBS Bank India** has recently introduced a paperless proposition for the financing of domestic invoices by buyers and sellers. The bank has also executed its first paperless domestic trade financing transaction with Lincon Polymers Pvt. Ltd to reduce processing turn-around time and for efficient business.

55. **Kotak Mahindra Bank** has recently tied up with Europe-based payment and transactional service firm, Worldline, to enable equated monthly instalments (EMIs) payments via Kotak debit cards in India.
- The minimum purchase to be done to avail EMIs on the Kotak debit cards facility is Rs 5,000.
 - Customers have the flexibility to repay the loan over tenures between three months and 12 months.
56. **Paytm** has recently signed an MoU with the Directorate of General Training (DGT), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship to train 6000 individuals over a period of three years in the Fintech industry.
- The selected individuals will undertake a six-month program.
 - It is a part of DGT's Flexi-MoU scheme wherein industry partners provide an opportunity to the youth to acquire skills related to industries with high job potential through a 'Learn and Earn' approach.

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57. **State Bank of India** has recently partnered with Adani Capital Private Ltd (Adani Capital), the NBFC arm of Adani Group, for co-lending to farmers for purchase of tractor and farm implements.
- SBI has recently (Nov 2021) listed its \$ 650-million green bonds simultaneously on the India International Exchange (India INX) and the Luxembourg Stock Exchange.
58. Private sector lender **Federal Bank** has launched a feature-rich savings bank product for women named 'MahilaMitraPlus' scheme. The scheme will provide exclusive preferential interest rates on housing loans, processing fee waiver for home loans, complimentary and customised insurance cover.
59. **Paytm Money**, the wholly owned subsidiary of Paytm, has recently launched Portfolio Management Services (PMS) Marketplace for HNI (High Networth Individuals) investors in association with PMS Bazaar.
60. **KreditBee**, a fintech lending platform, has recently collaborated with Mswipe to offer 'cardless EMI' at leading retail stores. Under the cardless EMI segment, KreditBee will provide the 'Pay Later' option for purchases up to Rs 1 lakh, which can be converted into EMI ranging from three to 12 months.

61. As per the recently released RBI data, **Gujarat** has become the largest manufacturing hub of the country. It has pushed Maharashtra to the second position. Gujarat's Gross Value Added (GVA) has grown at an average rate of 15.9% to Rs 5.11 lakh crore from FY12 to FY20.
- Maharashtra is followed by Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Uttar Pradesh.
 - In terms of service sector, Maharashtra has topped with the GVA growing by 12.6% annually to Rs 15.1 lakh crore in 2020.
62. Punjab National Bank (PNB) has recently launched the 'PNB Pride-CRMD module tool', an Android-based application for **differently-abled employees** to monitor and effectively follow up with the special mention account (SMA) borrowers.
63. **Paytm** has recently collaborated with Amazon Web Services (AWS) to offer PaytmStartup Toolkit with exclusive payment services to early-stage Indian startups. Paytmstartup toolkit is a single-stop platform that offers solutions in the domain of payments, payouts, banking and distribution.
64. **Aditya Birla Health Insurance Co. Ltd. (ABHICL)**, the health insurance subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital Limited (ABCL), has launched a new plan called '**Activ Health Essential**', an affordable health solution plan for the special health needs of senior citizens.
65. **Jammu & Kashmir Bank** has recently launched its revised and refurbished Mobile Banking App - 'J&K Bank mPay Delight' for public. The app was initially launched in July 2021.

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AWARDS & RECOGNITION

66. Argentina's **Lionel Messi** has recently won the men's Ballon d'Or 2021. He has won this prestigious award for a record of 7 times in 2021. Barcelona's **Alexia Putellas** has won the women's Ballon d'Or 2021.
- The year 2021 marks the 65th edition of the Ballon d'Or ceremony held in Paris, France.

67. **V Praveen Rao**, Vice-Chancellor of Prof. Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University (PJTSAU), has won the 7th Dr MS Swaminathan Award for the period 2017-2019 for his contributions in the fields of agricultural research, teaching, extension and administration.
68. The New India Foundation has recently announced the winner of the fourth edition of the Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize 2021. **Dinyar Patel** has won the Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize 2021 for a biography titled 'Naoroji: Pioneer of Indian Nationalism' (Harvard University Press).
- The book features the life events and legacy of Dada Bhai Naoroji, the nineteenth-century activist who founded the Indian National Congress, and was the first British MP of Indian origin.
69. India's former long jumper **Anju Bobby George** has been bestowed with the Woman of the Year Award 2021 by World Athletics for her efforts in advancing sports in the country and also acting as a constant voice for gender equality during her time as the Senior Vice President of the Indian Athletics Federation.
- With this, she has become the first Indian to be honoured with this award.
70. Eminent Indian-American **mathematician Nikhil Srivastava**, has been jointly selected for the inaugural \$5,000 Ciprian Foias Prize for the "highly original work" in Operator Theory by the American Mathematical Society (AMS).
- Along with him, the two other awardees are **Adam Marcus and Daniel Spielman**.
 - The award will be presented to Professor Srivastava and his colleagues on 5th January at the 2022 Joint Mathematics Meeting in Seattle, USA described as "the largest mathematics gathering in the world."

BOOKS & AUTHORS

71. A book titled 'The Ambuja Story: How a Group of Ordinary Men Created an Extraordinary Company' is the autobiography of **Narotam Sekhsaria**, one of India's most successful industrialists of the modern era.
- The book features the story of his rise from a small-time cotton trader to setting up one of the largest cement companies in the country, Ambuja cements. The book has been published by Harper Collins India.

72. A new book titled "1971: Charge of the Gorkhas and Other Stories" has been authored by **Rachna Bisht Rawat**. The book will be released on 10th December 2021.
- It has been published by Penguin Random House India.
73. A new book titled 'The Midway Battle: Modi's Rollercoaster Second Term' has been authored by **Gautam Chintamani**. The book has been launched by Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu.
- It has been published by Bloomsbury India.

PERSON IN NEWS

74. GUVI, an IIT Madras incubated start-up, has recently signed Indian women's cricketer **Smriti Mandhana** as its brand ambassador. She will be the face of GUVI and will feature across the online campaigns to strengthen the importance & scope of technological education & IT skills.
- GUVI is India's first vernacular Ed-tech Startup to impart tech & programming skills to aspiring individuals in their preferred native languages.
75. BJP spokesperson **Sambit Patra** has recently been appointed as the chairman of India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet for the next 3 years. Earlier, he had served as an independent Director of ONGC.
- IAS officer Ganji Kamala V. Rao has been appointed as the MD of ITDC.

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76. UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay has recently appointed **Japanese film director** Naomi Kawase as UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Cultural and Creative Industries. She has been recognized for her commitment to culture and creativity at the service of the development of more just societies, especially for girls and women, and of her support for the Organization's objectives.
77. **Gita Gopinath**, the first woman to serve as the IMF's chief economist, has been appointed as the First Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). She will succeed Geoffrey Okamoto.

78. **Pradip Shah**, founder of IndAsia Fund Advisors, has recently been appointed as the chairman of National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL). In May 2021, Padmakumar Nair, chief general manager of SBI, was appointed as the MD of NARCL.
79. Kinara Capital, an innovative fast-growing fintech serving India's MSMEs, has recently appointed Indian cricketer **RavindraJadeja**, as its official brand ambassador on the occasion of the company's 10th anniversary.
80. Senior bureaucrat **AlkaUpadhyaya** has been appointed as the chairman of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). She is a 1990-batch IAS officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre, and is currently serving as Additional Secretary, Department of Rural Development.
81. The President of Gambia, **Adama Barrow** has recently won the 2nd term as President during Gambia's presidential election by achieving over 53% votes from 50 of 53 constituencies.
82. Unix has recently appointed Indian International cricketer **JaspritBumrah** as their Brand Ambassador. The aim is to increase visibility of their products.
83. The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has recently appointed Sanjiv Mehta, Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL), as the new President. He will succeed **Uday Shankar**.

OBITUARIES

84. Award-winning **Telugu lyricist** and Padma Shri awardee SirivennelaSeetharamaSastry has passed away recently in Hyderabad, Telangana. He was born on 20th May 1955 near Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- He made his debut as a lyricist with 'Janani Janmabhoomi' in 1984.
 - He was awarded the **Padma Shri** in **2019** for his contribution and excellence in the field of arts.
85. Renowned scholar of **Bangladesh** Professor, Rafiqul Islam has passed away recently in Dhaka, Bangladesh. He was born on 1st January 1934 in Chandrapur, West Bengal.
- He was honoured with SwadhintaPadak and the Ekusheypadak, which is the highest civilian award of Bangladesh.

86. Former chief minister of undivided **Andhra Pradesh** and veteran Congress leader Konijeti Rosaiah has passed away recently in Hyderabad, Telangana. He was born on 4th July 1933 near Vemuru village, Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh.
- He had also served as the Governor of Tamil Nadu and the Acting Governor of Karnataka.
87. Veteran **journalist** Vinod Dua has passed away recently in New Delhi. He was born on 11th March 1954 in New Delhi.
88. **Sarada Menon**, India's first woman psychiatrist, has passed away recently in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. She was born in Mangalore, Karnataka.

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SPORTS

89. The Badminton World Federation (BWF) has recently named **Viktor Axelsen** of **Denmark** as the Male Player of the Year 2021. China's Taipei's **Tai Tzu Ying** has been named the Female Player of the Year 2021.
90. **An Se-young** (South Korea) has recently won the women's single title at the Badminton World Federation (BWF) World Tour Finals held in Bali, Indonesia by defeating PV Sindhu (India).
- Viktor Axelsen (Denmark) has won the men's single title by defeating Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn.
91. **Russian Tennis Federation** (RTF) has recently won the Davis Cup 2021 by defeating Croatia in the finals held in Madrid, Spain. The Davis Cup finals has been held between Daniil Medvedev and Andrey Rublev of Russia. Daniil Medvedev has won the match bringing victory to the Russian Tennis Federation. Andrey Rublev has been named the Most Valuable Player.
- The tournament has been conducted by the International Tennis Federation.
92. **New Zealand's** Ajaz Patel has recently become the third bowler to take 10 wickets in an Innings during the second day of the second Test against India at Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai.

- England bowler **Jim Laker** had taken 10 wickets in an innings against Australia in 1956, and India's **Anil Kumble** had achieved the incredible feat against Pakistan in 1999.

93. **Argentina** junior men's hockey team has recently won the 12th edition of the Men's FIH Hockey Junior World Cup 2021 by defeating Germany in the finals. It has been held at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha from 24th November to 5th December 2021.

- With this win, Argentina has become the third team after Germany (six titles) and India (2001 & 2016) to win multiple titles in the tournament.
- India has finished fourth in the tournament by losing 1-3 to France.

94. Britain's Mercedes driver **Lewis Hamilton** has recently defeated Red Bulls driver Max Verstappen of the Netherlands to win the inaugural edition of the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix (GP). It has been held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

IMPORTANT DAYS

95. Border Security Force (BSF) has recently observed its **57th Raising Day** on 1st December 2021. It was formed on 1st December 1965 as a unified central agency after the Indo-Pak and India-China wars for ensuring the security of the borders of India and for matters connected therewith. It has been termed as the First Line of Defence of Indian Territories.

96. World AIDS Day is observed annually on **1st December** to spread awareness about the disease and remember all those who lost their lives to it.

- The theme of World AIDS Day 2021 is: '**End inequalities. End AIDS**'.
- It was first observed in 1988.

97. World Computer Literacy Day is observed annually on **2nd December** to create awareness and drive digital literacy in underserved communities worldwide. The day was founded by the Indian computer company NIIT to mark its 20th anniversary in 2001.

- The day was first observed in 2001.

98. **Arunachal Pradesh** has recently observed Indigenous Faith Day (IFD) on 1st December to promote and preserve the indigenous faith and traditional practices of tribal communities of the state.

- The day was first observed in 2013 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Golgi BoteTalomRukbo, who is known as the father of indigenous faith.

99. International Volunteer Day, also known as International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development, is observed annually on **5th December** to recognize and promote the tireless work of volunteers across the globe.

- **Theme 2021:** Volunteer now for our common future

100. National Armed Forces Flag Day is observed annually on **7th December** to distribute flags amongst the people and collect the funds from them for the betterment of the armed forces.

- A committee was constituted on 28th August 1949 under the then Defence Minister of India, which decided to observe 7th December as a Flag Day every year. India's Ministry of Defence consolidated all related welfare funds into one Armed Forces Flag Day Fund in 1993.

101. International Day for the Abolition of Slavery is observed annually on **2nd December** to highlight the importance of eradicating contemporary forms of slavery including trafficking in persons, sexual exploitation, child labour, forced marriage, and the forced recruitment of children for use in armed conflict.

- The day was first observed in 1986.
- The day marks the date of the adoption, by the General Assembly, of the United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others (resolution 317(IV) of 2 December 1949).

102. National Pollution Control Day is observed annually on **2nd December** to commemorate the lives of the people who died in the Bhopal gas tragedy. The main aim of this day is to educate the people and to make them aware of pollution control acts and industrial disasters. The year 2021 marks the **37th** anniversary of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy.

103. International Day of Persons with Disabilities, also known as World Handicapped day, is observed annually on **3rd December** to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and development, and to increase awareness of the situation of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life.

- **Theme 2021:** "Leadership and participation of persons with disabilities toward an inclusive, accessible and sustainable post-COVID-19 world."
- The day was proclaimed in 1992 by the United Nations General Assembly.

104. India and **Bangladesh** have decided to celebrate 6th Decemberas “Maitri Diwas” (Friendship Day). On this day in 1971, India had formally recognised Bangladesh. India was one of the first countries to establish bilateral diplomatic ties with Bangladesh.
105. National Navy Day is observed annually on **4th December** to mark Indian Navy's victory in Operation Trident. During the 1971 war, naval forces caused heavy damage to Pakistan's vessels. It was during this operation that an anti-ship missile was used for the first time. The Indian Navy has also observed Indian Navy Week from 1st to 7th December 2021.
- Theme 2021- '**Swarnim Vijay Varsh**'
 - The Maratha Emperor, Chhatrapati Shivaji Bhosle of the 17th century is considered as “Father of the Indian Navy”.
106. International Day of Banks is observed annually on **4th December** to highlight the importance of multilateral and international development banks in financing sustainable developments.
107. World Soil Day is observed annually on **5th December** to spread awareness of the importance of soil quality for human well-being, food security and ecosystems.
- **Theme 2021:** “Halt soil salinization, enhance soil production”
 - The date of 5 December was chosen because it corresponds with the official birthday of the late **H.M. King Bhumibol Adulyadej**, King of Thailand, who was one of the main proponents of this initiative.
108. Mahaparinirvan Divas is observed annually across India on **6th December**. This day is commemorated to mark the death anniversary of **Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar**, who fought for the economic and social empowerment of Dalits in the country.
- The year 2021 marks 66th death anniversary of him.
109. International Civil Aviation Day is observed annually on **7th December** to highlight the importance of aviation to the social and economic development of the world. From now until 2023, the council has decided upon the theme: “Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development”.
- The International Civil Aviation Day was established in 1994 to mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) based in Montreal, Canada. The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the day in 1996.

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