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**INTERNATIONAL**

**India is elected as Member of the UN Commission on the Status of Women**

India is elected as the Member of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. The 54-member the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) held the first plenary meeting of its 2021 session in the General Assembly Hall. The principal global body held elections for two seats in the Asia-Pacific States category. Three countries namely Afghanistan, India, and China competed. Afghanistan garnered 39 votes and India won 38 votes of the 54 ballots cast. China got 27 votes failed to get the required majority of 28 votes.

**Highlights:**

India and Afghanistan will join Austria, Argentina, Dominican Republic, Israel, Latvia, Nigeria, Turkey, and Zambia.

The above countries were elected to the Commission on the Status of Women for a four-year term starting from 2021-2025.

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is a functional commission of the UN's ECOSOC.

It focuses on gender equality and women empowerment.

The Commission on the Status of Women aims to promote women's rights and shape global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women worldwide.

**Yoshihide Suga elected as New Prime Minister of Japan**

Japanese ruling party leader Yoshihide Suga has been elected as the Mew Prime Minister of Japan after the resignation of Shinzo Abe, due to poor health. Yoshihide Suga won the leadership contest of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party by 377 votes out of 534 votes. He is to expected to launch his own Cabinet on 16 September.

**Yoshihide Suga:**

Yoshihide Suga is the son of a strawberry farmer. will be the new head of the governing Liberal Democratic Party. Suga served as the Chief Cabinet secretary and Abe's right-hand man. The 71-year-old would continue his predecessor's Abenomics strategy of hyper-easy monetary policy. Suga, previously, has served as
a powerful government adviser and spokesperson during Abe's nearly eight-year tenure.

**Abe Shinzo:**
The first tenure of Abe Shinzo as the Prime Minister began in September 2006. In 2007, he resigned due to health problems. In September 2012, he returned to the helm of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). In December 2012, he returned to the office of prime minister after the LDP regained power in a House of Representatives election. As of November 19, he has held the post in his current administration for 2,520 days. Prime Minister Abe Shinzo is the longest-serving prime minister in the history of Japan's constitutional government

**India becomes an observer of Djibouti Code of Conduct**

India has joined the **Djibouti Code of Conduct or Jeddah Amendment** as an Observer after the high-level meeting of the **Djibouti Code of Conduct/ Jeddah Amendment (DCOC/JA)**. The meeting was held virtually on 26 August 2020.

**Djibouti Code of Conduct/ Jeddah Amendment (DCOC/JA):**
Djibouti Code of Conduct/ Jeddah Amendment (DCOC/JA) is a grouping on maritime matters. The group comprises 18 member states that adjoin the Gulf of Aden, the Red Sea, the East coast of Africa, and Island countries in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

India now joins Norway, Japan, the UK, and the US as Observers to the DCOC/JA. As an Observer, India will work together with DCOC/JA member states to coordinate and contribute to enhanced maritime security in the IOR. It is expected that the DCOC will provide a strategic heft in the Indian Ocean region.

**Djibouti Code of Conduct:**
The DCOC was established in January 2009. The group is aimed at the repression of piracy and armed robbery against ships in the Western IOR, the Gulf of Aden, and the Red Sea. The Djibouti Code of Conduct aims to provide a framework for capacity building in the Gulf of Aden and the Western Indian Ocean to combat the threat of piracy.
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

SCTIMST develops Indigenous device to help prevent blood clot in deep vein

Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum (SCTIMST), an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India has developed a device for the prevention of Deep vein thrombosis (DVT).

**Highlights:**

- The newly developed device works by compressing the veins in the legs in sequence so that the flow of blood from the veins in the legs is facilitated.
- The compression pressure is set in such a way that the veins are compressed but not the arteries. It is equipped with closed-loop monitoring of compression pressure and also has controls through valves which are driven by an electronic circuit.
- A control circuit and dedicated software are provided in the device to ensure that safe compression levels are always maintained. The device is also equipped with a power supply back-up in case of power failure.
- The imported cost between the device lies is Rs.2 lakh to 5 lakh whereas the device developed by the SCTIMST team costs less than Rs.1 lakh.
- The license for the manufacture and sale of the device has been transferred to Enproducts located in Kochi, Kerala.

Cabinet approves establishment of new AIIMS at Darbhanga, Bihar

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the establishment of a new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Darbhanga, Bihar. The establishment of new AIIMS under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY). The total cost will be Rs.1264 crore and is likely to be completed within a period of 48 months from the date of the approval of the Government of India. The Cabinet also approved the creation of one post of Director in the basic pay of Rs.2,25,000 (fixed) plus NPA (however pay + Non Performing Assets (NPA) would not exceed Rs.2,37,500) for the above AIIMS.

**Highlights:**

- As per the approval, the new AIIMS will involve the creation of a Hospital, Teaching Block for Medical & Nursing courses, residential complex, and allied
facilities/services, broadly on the pattern of AIIMS, New Delhi, and other six new AIIMS taken up under Phase-I of PMSSY.

The main objective is to establish the new AIIMS as an Institution of National Importance for providing quality tertiary healthcare, medical education, nursing education, and research in the Region.

Under the approval, New AIIMS will add 100 UG (MBBS) seats and 60 B.Sc (Nursing) seats

New AIIMS will have 15-20 Super Specialty Departments

New AIIMS will add 750 hospital beds

As per data of current functional AIIMS, it is expected that each new AIIMS will cater to around 2000 OPD patients per day and around 1000 IPD patients per month.

PG and DM/ M.Ch Super-specialty courses will also be started in due course

**Astronomers finds possible hints of life in the clouds of Venus**

Astronomers have recently found a potential sign of life in the atmosphere of Venus. Two telescopes in Hawaii and Chile have spotted the chemical signature of phosphine in the thick Venutian clouds. This has given a hint that there may be bizarre microbes living in the sulfuric acid-laden clouds of Venus.

**Highlights:**

The researchers first used the James Clerk Maxwell Telescope (JCMT) in Hawaii to detect the phosphine. Then, they used the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA) in Chile.

Both the facilities observed Venus at a wavelength of about 1 millimeter at a high altitude.

It has been speculated high clouds on Venus could offer a home for microbes. The detection of phosphine molecules, which consist of hydrogen and phosphorus, could point to this extra-terrestrial aerial life.

**Note:**

Phosphine can be found only in rocky planets like Earth and Venus. This gas can only be made by life like human or microbe. Phosphine can be manufactured as well.
ENVIRONMENT

GoI launched National Clean Air Programme

Government of India (GoI) launched the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) as a long-term, time-bound, national-level strategy. The programme aims to tackle the air pollution problem across the country in a comprehensive manner. The target is to achieve a **20%-30% reduction in Particulate Matter concentrations by 2024** keeping 2017 as the base year for the comparison of concentration.

**Highlights:**

- Based on the Air Quality data from 2014-2018, 122 non-attainment cities have been identified across the country under NCAP.
- The city-specific action plans include measures to strengthen the monitoring network, reducing vehicular/industrial emissions, increasing public awareness, etc.
- The programme will monitor the implementation of the city-specific action plans that are regularly monitored by Central and State level Committees namely the Steering Committee, Implementation Committee, and Monitoring Committee.
- The air quality of cities is monitored by State Pollution Control Boards (SPCB) which publishes their results from time to time.
- Also, for effective monitoring, few Smart Cities have established Integrated Command and Control Centres (ICCCs) which are connected to Air Quality Monitors (AQMs).
BILLS & ACTS

Banking Regulation Amendment Bill, 2020 Introduced in Parliament

The new Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2020, is tabled on the first day of the Parliament's Monsoon Session. The Bill was introduced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and was withdrawn in March 2020, before the Covid-19 pandemic. The amendment comes as the 277 urban cooperative banks have reported losses during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Provisions of the Bill:

The Bill will provide the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) powers to restructure cooperative banks.

The Bill will bring cooperative banks under the umbrella of RBI and would not affect state cooperative laws.

As per the bill, with prior recommendation of RBI, the co-operative banks will be able to raise the money by public issues and private placements of equity, the preference shares and through unsecured debentures.

The bill recommended to empower RBI for amalgamation of banks in order to remove the cap for the withdrawals by depositors and to smoothen the process of lending operation of the bank.

In general, the Bill proposes to strengthen the co-operative banks by enabling access to capital, increasing professionalism, improving governance and ensuring sound banking through RBI.

Parliament passed the Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda Bill

Rajya Sabha passed the Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda Bill, 2020 on 16th September 2020. The Bill was passed in Lok Sabha on 19 March 2020. The Bill will establish a state-of-the-art Ayurvedic institution called the Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda (ITRA) at Jamnagar, Gujarat. The Bill also confers the status of Institution of National Importance (INI) to the Institute.

institutes at Gujarat Ayurved University campus Jamnagar. This is a cluster of highly reputed institutions.

Highlights:
ITRA has been planned to be established by conglomerating the presently existing Ayurveda, namely,
(a) Institute for Post Graduate Teaching and Research in Ayurveda
(b) Shree GulabKunverba Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya
(c) Institute of Ayurvedic Pharmaceutical sciences
(d) Maharshi Patanjali Institute for Yoga Naturopathy Education & Research
The Institute is expected to develop patterns of teaching in undergraduate and postgraduate education in Ayurveda and Pharmacy.
ITRA will demonstrate high standards of education and emerge as a lighthouse institution to the entire AYUSH Sector.
The institute will provide the highest level of training of personnel in all important branches of Ayurveda including Pharmacy, and research in the field of Ayurveda.
ITRA will be the first institution with INI status in the AYUSH Sector
The INI Status will enable the institution to be independent and innovative in the matter of deciding course content and pedagogy.

**Lok Sabha passed two Farm reform Bills**

Lok Sabha passed the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020 and The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020. The Bills were aimed to transform agriculture in the country and raising farmers' income. The Bills were introduced in Lok Sabha by Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj Narendra Singh Tomar on 14th September 2020. The Bills will replace ordinances promulgated on 5th June 2020.

**Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020:**

The Bill seeks to provide for the creation of an ecosystem where the farmers and traders can sell and purchase of farmers' produce which facilitates remunerative prices through competitive alternative trading channels.

The Bill will promote efficient, transparent and barrier-free inter-State and intra-State trade and commerce of farmers' produce outside physical premises of markets or deemed markets notified under various State agricultural produce market legislations.

The Bill also provides a facilitative framework for electronic trading and for
matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The Bill open more opportunities for the farmer, reduce marketing costs for the farmers and help them in getting better prices.

The Bill will help farmers of regions with surplus produce to get better prices and consumers of regions with shortages, lower prices.

It also proposed an electronic trading in transaction platform for ensuring a seamless trade electronically.

**Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020**

The Bill aims to provide for a national framework on farming agreements that protects and empowers farmers to engage with agri-business firms, processors, wholesalers, exporters or large retailers for farm services.

The Bill will transfer the risk of market unpredictability from the farmer to the sponsor. This will enable the farmers to access modern technology and better inputs.

It seeks to reduce the cost of marketing and improve income of farmers.

**RS passed Epidemic Diseases Amendment Bill 2020 to protect healthcare workers**

Rajya Sabha, the Upper House, passed the Epidemic Diseases Amendment Bill, 2020 on 19 September 2020. The Bill aims to punish the individuals who attack health workers or doctors who are fighting the covid-19 outbreak or during any situation similar to the current pandemic.

**Epidemic Diseases Amendment Bill, 2020:**

The Bill seeks to make sure that there is an attitude of zero tolerance towards violence against people working in the healthcare sector, especially amid the covid-19 pandemic.

As per the Bill, if any damage is caused to clinical establishments, quarantine & isolation facilities of patients, any other property associated with healthcare personnel or mobile medical units during a pandemic, penal provisions can be provoked.

It approves a penalty ranging from Rs.50,000 to Rs.2,00,000 on any individuals who is involved in the commission or abetment of such acts of violence.

The Bill provides a jail term of up to 5 years for those who attack doctors and
health care personnel.

**Background:**

Earlier, the GoI implemented the Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Ordinance 2020 to amend the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 with an aim to provide protection to health care service personnel, their living premises, and their workplaces against any violence during the course of a pandemic.
DEFENCE

DRDO set up 8 technology centres for research on Military Applications

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has set up eight advanced technology centres to carry out research on futuristic military applications. The centres will provide support to academia to undertake research on new technologies in niche areas for military use.

**Highlights:**
DRDO aims to create an enabling infrastructure for developing futuristic military weapons.
It formed a committee headed by Prof V Ramagopal Rao, Director of Delhi IIT, to suggest new measures to improve the efficiency of the DRDO laboratories in India. The main objective is to boost domestic defence production.
The move comes as the Government of India aims to focus on making India self-reliant in defence manufacturing.
Currently, DRDO has over 50 laboratories in India that are engaged in developing defence technologies covering disciplines like aeronautics, combat vehicles, engineering systems, armaments, missiles, advanced computing, and naval systems.
SUMMITS & CONFERENCE

Indian, US Defense Delegations conduct Virtual Discussion on Defense Cooperation

The 10th Defense Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) Group Meeting was held on 15 September 2020. The virtual meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Raj Kumar, Secretary, Defence Production, Ministry of Defence (MoD) from Indian Side, and Ms. Ellen M. Lord, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, U.S. Department of Defense from the US Side.

**Highlights:**
- DTTI Group Meetings are held twice a year, alternating between India and the US. The meeting was held via VTC on account of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The DTTI Group aims to bring sustained leadership focus to the bilateral defense trade relationship.
- The meeting also aimed to create opportunities for co-production and co-development of defense equipment.
- Under DTTI, four Joint Working Groups (JWG) focused on land, naval, air, and aircraft carrier technologies have been established. The main object of the JWG is to promote mutually agreed projects within their domains.
- The ongoing activities and collaborative opportunities including a number of near-term projects targeted for completion on priority was discussed.
- The co-chairs signed a Statement of Intent (SOI) to strengthen the dialogue on defense technology cooperation. It will be pursued by detailed planning and making measurable progress on several specific DTTI projects.
- The SOP will empower the framework for DTTI and allow both sides to reach and document a mutual understanding of how to define and achieve success.

AFMC Hosts IMPACT 2020 Virtually

The Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC) the first-ever completely online conference cum workshop IMPACT 2020 from 16-18 Sep 2020. The unique conference has been designed with the medical researcher in mind. The conference is organized by the Medical Journal Armed Forces India (MJAFI) as it celebrates its 76th publishing volume this year.

**Highlights:**
The three-day event will feature distinguished faculty from among reviewers, authors, and editors will conduct interactive sessions on contemporary issues in medical publishing.

The new guidelines for the promotion of teachers in the medical profession will be released during the conference. The new guidelines mandate the publication of research articles in peer-reviewed indexed journals.

IMPACT 2020 will hold multiple sessions including workshops on biostatistics, medical writing, peer review, ethics in research, and so on. MJAFI-MOOCs will play a major role as it will also contain up-to-date guidelines for all the issues related to medical writing.

Over 100 delegates from around the country are participating in the conference, apart from the faculty and students of AFMC.

### Initiative to reduce Land Degradation and Coral Reef program launched at G20 EMM

The Environment Ministerial Meeting (EMM) of the G20 countries was held through video conferencing under the Presidency of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 16 September. His Excellency Eng. Abdulrahman Al-Fadley, Chaired the Environment Ministers Meeting. Union Environment, Climate Change, and Forest Minister Prakash Javadekar represented India. He discussed the significant steps taken by the Government of India (GoI) to protect the environment and forest and wildlife and combating pollution and climate change.

**Highlights:**

The Global Initiative on Reducing Land Degradation and Coral Reef program was launched at the G20 Environment Ministers Meeting.

The Program aims to strengthen the implementation of existing frameworks to prevent, halt, and reverse land degradation within G20 member states and globally. The program aims to account for possible implications on the achievement of other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and adhere to the principle without doing any harm.

Global Coral Reef R&D Accelerator Platform is an innovative action-oriented initiative.

It aimed to create a global research and development (R&D) program to advance research, restoration, adaptation, innovation, and capacity building in all facets of
coral reef conservation, and strengthen ongoing efforts and further degradation.

Union Minister Prakash Javadekar highlighted the efforts made by the National Coastal Mission Programme of GoI. Under the initiative, many steps to protect and sustain coral reefs in the country have been taken. He also shared the efforts made by GoI to achieve land degradation neutrality and to attain global goals of climate change mitigation and adaptation.
**SCHEMES**

**Gujarat announced subsidy support for e-bike, e-rickshaw**

Gujarat State government has announced a **subsidy scheme to encourage use of electric vehicles.** The scheme will augment e-vehicle charging facilities, the State government has also announced financial assistance of Rs.50 lakh to set up charging infrastructure. The scheme aims challenges posed by climate change.

**Scheme Highlights:**
- The scheme aims to provide subsidy support to students studying above Class 9 to purchase two-wheelers.
- Also, individuals and institutional beneficiaries will get subsidy support for three-wheelers.
- The scheme will offer subsidy of Rs.12,000 for a battery-operated electric two-wheeler, and Rs.48,000 for an e-rickshaw (three-wheeler).
- The subsidy will be provided for the first 10,000 two-wheelers and 5,000 three-wheelers.
- To support the initiatives for climate change, the Gujarat State government has signed memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with 10 organisations for various objectives.
APPOINTMENTS / RESIGN

Harivansh Narayan Singh elected as Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha

Shri Harivansh Narayan Singh has been elected as the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha for the second time. Harivansh's name was proposed by the BJP president JP Nadda. The opposition had fielded Manoj Jha, an RJD member.

Shri Harivansh Narayan Singh:
Shri Harivansh hails from a poor family based in a Bihar. The 64-year-old JD-U leader is a post-graduate in Economics from Banaras Hindu University. He holds a Diploma in Journalism. He worked for social causes for nearly four decades, he entered Parliament in 2014. He was elected as the deputy chairperson from August 2018 to April 2020 when his Rajya Sabha term ended. Harivansh has been re-elected for a six-year term of the Upper House. The way Harivansh conducted the proceedings of the House strengthens democracy.

Colonel Dr Girija Mungali appointed in Asian Football Confederation task-force

Retd. Colonel Dr. Girija Shanker Mungali has been appointed a member of the Asian Football Confederation's task force. The task force consists of 7 members. The force aims to regulate football clubs in Asia and Australia.

Colonel Dr Girija Mungali:
Mungali is also currently serving as the Chairman of the Club Licensing Committee of the All India Football Federation (AIFF). He is the only Indian to be appointed on this committee. With this appointment, he plans to use the platform to create and promote opportunities for upcoming and young footballers especially from the rural areas of India. His appointment was made on September 15 by Dato' Windsor John, the General Secretary of the Asian Football Confederation. Mungali will be on the panel till 2023.

UN named Indian teenager Udit Singhal to 2020 Class of Young Leaders for SDGs

The United Nations has named Udit Singhal, an 18-year-old youngster from India has been named to the 2020 Class of 17 Young Leaders for the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals).
Development Goals). It is the highest-profile recognition opportunity for youngsters in the UN.

**Udit Singhal:**
Udit Singhal is the founder of Glass2Sand, a zero-waste ecosystem that addresses the growing menace of glass waste in Delhi. Under the initiative, empty glass bottles are prevented from being dumped into landfills and are crushed into commercially valuable sand. His initiative has stopped over 8,000 bottles from being dumped in landfills and produced 4,815 kg of high-grade silica sand so far.

**Young Leaders for the SDGs initiative:**
The Office of the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth organizes the Young Leaders for the SDGs initiative on a biennial basis. This initiative is the UN's highest-profile recognition opportunity for young people who are leading efforts to combat the world issues and whose leadership is catalyzing the achievement of the SDGs.
Hindi Diwas is observed on 14 September

**Hindi Diwas** is observed on **14 September**. The day is observed every year to celebrate the adoption of the Hindi language as one of the official languages of India. Hindi Diwas is celebrated to emphasize the importance of the Hindi language which is losing its importance in the country.

**History:**
In 1918, Mahatma Gandhi urged to make Hindi the national language of India. On 14 September 1949, Hindi written in Devanagari script became the official language of India under Article 343. Hindi language written in Devnagri script is one of the two languages of India, English is the second one.

**Hindi:**
Hindi language is spoken by 250 million people as the original language. Hindi is known to be the third most spoken language in the world. As per the 2011 Census, in India, the Hindi language is spoken by about 43.6% of the whole population of India. There are 22 Scheduled languages of India, of which, two namely Hindi and English, are officially used at the Union government of India level.

International Democracy Day is observed on 15 September

International Democracy Day is observed on 15 September every year worldwide. The day aims to raise awareness among people about democracy. Despite the major social, legal and political challenges that happened globally due to Covid-19, the world states have upheld the rule of law, respect and protect international standards and basic principles of legality, and the right to access justice, remedies, and due process.

**Democracy:**
Democracy is a process that will happen only with the full participation of and support by the international community, national governing bodies, civil society, and individuals. Democracy is a two-way street that is built on a constant dialogue between civil society and the political class.

**SDG:**
In Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG-16) democracy has been addressed in
the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. According to SDG, democracy is the indivisible link between peaceful societies and effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions.

**Engineers Day is observed on 15 September**

*Engineer's Day* is observed on 15 September every year in India. The day is aimed to commemorate the birthday of **Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya (Sir MV)**. The day aims to celebrate the achievements of the Engineers in each and every field of science and technology.

**Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya:**
Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya is known as India's most prolific civil engineer, economist, dam builder, and statesman. Sir MV's work boosted the irrigation facilities in the country and saved a huge number of people from floods. Sir MV is famously known as Father of Modern Mysore for his significant contributions in industrial, economic, and social projects. In the year 1955, he was awarded Bharat Ratna for his outstanding contribution to the building of India. He was awarded the British knighthood by King George V, which gives the honour Sir before his name.

**International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer is observed on 16 September**

*International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer* is observed on 16 September every year. The day is observed to spread awareness among people about the depletion of the Ozone Layer and search for possible solutions to preserve it.

**Theme:**
The theme of 2020 International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer is "Ozone for life: 35 years of ozone layer protection". This year marks the 35 years of the Vienna Convention and 35 years of global ozone layer protection. The Ozone layer shields Earth from most of the sun's harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation.

**Ozone:**
Ozone is a form of oxygen (O2) with the chemical formula O3. Oxygen is vital to life on earth. Ozone constitutes a very small part of the atmosphere. Most ozone resides high up in the atmosphere, between 10 and 40km above Earth's surface.
called the stratosphere. This layer contains about 90% of all the ozone in the atmosphere. This Ozone layer absorbs some of the Sun's biologically harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation. The ozone layer is beneficial as it removes pollutants from the atmosphere. In the late 1970s, Scientists discovered a hole in the Ozone layer. It was caused by ozone-depleting gases (ODSs) like Aerosols, Sterilants and Carbon Tetrachloride, Foams, Halons, HCFCs (hydrochlorofluorocarbons), Methyl bromide, Solvents, Coatings & Adhesives, among others.

**History:**
On 19 December 1994, the UNGA (United Nations General Assembly) proclaimed 16 September as the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer. The day commemorates the date when the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was signed in 1987. Montreal Protocol aims to protect the O3 layer by taking various possible measures to control total global production and consumption of substances that deplete it with an aim to eliminate on the basis of developments in scientific knowledge and technological information.

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**World Patient Safety Day is observed on 17 September**

*World Patient Safety Day* is observed on 17 September every year. Over 134 million adverse events contribute to 2.6 million deaths every year due to unsafe care across the world. The day urges global solidarity and concerted action by all countries and international partners to improve patient safety. The day aims to raise awareness and promote positive change around patient safety priority areas. The day formulates policies and creates a safe work culture. It aims to provide care where the safety of patients is a priority.

**History:**
On 25 May 2019, the 72nd World Health Assembly passed resolution WHA 72.6 "Global action on patient safety". The resolution recognizes patient safety as a global health priority. WHO designated the World Patient Safety Day to be observed annually on 17 September. The first World Patient Safety Day was observed in 2019 with a theme that aimed to establish the legacy of the day and highlight the importance of prioritizing and addressing patient safety globally by all stakeholders.

*World Health Organization (WHO):*
**Founded:** 7 April 1948
International Equal Pay Day is observed on 18 September

International Equal Pay Day is observed on 18 September every year. The day aims to highlight the importance of achieving equal pay for work of equal value. International Equal Pay Day is observed for the first time in 2020 under an initiative by the United Nations. The day focuses to show the importance of ending sexual discrimination in relation to gender pay gap which refers to the difference in earnings between men and women in paid employment. On this occasion amid the global COVID-19 pandemic, the Equal Pay International Coalition (EPIC) hosted a virtual global Call to Action. It aimed to encourage all the labour market actors to take the necessary steps to ensure that equal pay is at the heart of recovery efforts worldwide.

Background:
International Equal Pay Day was initiated by the United Nations. The day was established with an aim to ensure that no one is left behind. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) addresses the need to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. Also, it promotes decent work and economic growth by seeking full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men. On of the crucial implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is Mainstreaming of a gender perspective.
AGREEMENTS MOU

Niti Aayog partners with ISPP for capacity building

Niti Aayog has partnered with the Indian School of Public Policy (ISPP) for mentoring, training, and capacity building of government officials and public policy scholars. A statement of intent (SOI) was signed between the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) of the NITI Aayog and the ISPP regarding this.

Highlights:

The partnership aims to build collaboration for faster intermediation of knowledge and use within the public system.

Under the partnership, communications, and outreach, evidence building exercises, organizing joint conferences, and podcast series will be conducted. The ISPP scholars will interact and interview the DMEO and Niti Aayog's experts on current policy issues, evaluations, and perspectives during all the activities and conferences.

Also, Live projects for ISPP scholars, internships, exchange of experts between DMEO and ISPP will be explored.
India ranks 116 in Human capital Index of World Bank

India has ranked 116th position in the latest edition of the World Bank's annual Human Capital Index 2020. Last year, India ranked 115 out of 157 countries. The index benchmarks key components of human capital across countries.

**Highlights:**

The Human Capital Index 2020 update included health and education data for 174 countries up to March 2020. It covered around 98% of the world's population.

The analysis showed that pre-pandemic, most countries made steady progress in building the human capital of children. It also stated that the biggest strides made in low-income countries.

India's score increased to 0.49 from 0.44 in 2018, as per the Human Capital Index report released by the World Bank.

The index also stated that there has been a major decline in remittances and total income is going down by 11 or 12%. 

QUIZ CORNER

1) Where is Darbhanga located?

A. Odisha
B. Rajasthan
C. Bihar
D. Madhya Pradesh

Answer C

Explanation Darbhanga is a Municipal Corporation in the Indian state of Bihar. It is the 6th largest city of Bihar, only after Patna, Gaya, Bhagalpur, Muzaffarpur, and Purnea. It is the headquarters of the Darbhanga district and the Darbhanga division and was the seat of the Raj Darbhanga and capital of the Mithila region.

2) When is Hindi Diwas observed?

A. 8 September
B. 10 September
C. 12 September
D. 14 September

Answer D

Explanation Hindi Diwas is observed on 14 September. The day is observed every year to celebrate the adoption of the Hindi language as one of the official languages of India. Hindi Diwas is celebrated to emphasize the importance of the Hindi language which is losing its importance in the country.

3) When is the International Democracy Day observed?

A. 20 July
B. 8 August
C. 15 September
D. 24 October

Answer C
International Democracy Day is observed on 15 September every year worldwide. The day aims to raise awareness among people about democracy. Despite the major social, legal and political challenges that happened globally due to Covid-19, the world states have upheld the rule of law, respect and protect international standards and basic principles of legality, and the right to access justice, remedies, and due process.

4) When was Hindi written in Devanagari script became the official language of India under Article 343?

A.1949  
B.1950  
C.1951  
D.1952

Answer A

Explanation In 1918, Mahatma Gandhi urged to make Hindi the national language of India. On 14 September 1949, Hindi written in Devanagari script became the official language of India under Article 343. Hindi language written in Devnagri script is one of the two languages of India, English is the second one.

5) _________ developed a device for the prevention of Deep vein thrombosis (DVT).

A.CSIR  
B.SCTIMST  
C.IIT-Madras  
D.IIT-Kanpur

Answer B

Explanation Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum (SCTIMST), an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India has developed a device for the prevention of Deep vein thrombosis (DVT).

6) When is the Engineers Day is observed in India?

A.20 February  
B.26 May  
C.2 July
D. 15 September

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Engineers Day is observed on 15 September every year in India. The day is aimed to commemorate the birthday of Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya (Sir MV). The day aims to celebrate the achievements of the Engineers in each and every field of science and technology.

7) Cabinet approves establishment of new AIIMS at _________.

A. Bihar  
B. Odisha  
C. Uttar Pradesh  
D. Maharashtra

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the establishment of a new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Darbhanga, Bihar. The establishment of new AIIMS under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY). The total cost will be Rs.1264 crore and is likely to be completed within a period of 48 months from the date of the approval of the Government of India. The Cabinet also approved the creation of one post of Director in the basic pay of Rs.2,25,000 (fixed) plus NPA (however pay + Non Performing Assets (NPA) would not exceed Rs.2,37,500) for the above AIIMS.

8) When was Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) launched?

A. 2000  
B. 2006  
C. 2012  
D. 2015

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) aims at correcting the imbalances in the availability of affordable healthcare facilities in the different parts of the country in general, and augmenting facilities for quality medical education in the under-served States in particular. The scheme was approved in March 2006.
9) Engineers Day commemorate the birthday of __________.

A. Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya  
B. Krishna Raja Wadiyar IV  
C. C.V. Raman  
D. E. Sreedharan

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Engineers Day is observed on 15 September every year in India. The day is aimed to commemorate the birthday of Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya (Sir MV). The day aims to celebrate the achievements of the Engineers in each and every field of science and technology.

10) Who is elected as the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha?

A. B.K. Hariprasad  
B. P.J. Kurien  
C. Thawar Chand Gehlot  
D. Harivansh Narayan Singh

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Shri Harivansh Narayan Singh has been elected as the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha for the second time. Harivansh's name was proposed by the BJP president JP Nadda. The opposition had fielded Manoj Jha, an RJD member.

11) When is the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer observed?

A. 2 January  
B. 20 March  
C. 28 May  
D. 16 September

**Answer D**

**Explanation** International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer is observed on 16 September every year. The day is observed to spread awareness among people about the depletion of the Ozone Layer and search for possible solutions to preserve it.
12) Who is elected as the New Prime Minister of Japan?

A. Shigeru Ishiba
B. Tar As
C. Yoshihide Suga
D. Fumio Kishida

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Japanese ruling party leader Yoshihide Suga has been elected as the New Prime Minister of Japan after the resignation of Shinzo Abe, due to poor health. Yoshihide Suga won the leadership contest of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party by 377 votes out of 534 votes. He is expected to launch his own Cabinet on 16 September.

13) What is the Chemical formula of Ozone?

A. O2
B. O3
C. O4
D. O5

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Ozone is a form of oxygen (O2) with the chemical formula O3. Oxygen is vital to life on earth. Ozone constitutes a very small part of the atmosphere. Most ozone resides high up in the atmosphere, between 10 and 40km above Earth's surface called the stratosphere.

14) Who served as the longest-serving prime minister in the history of Japan's constitutional government?

A. Abe Shinzo
B. Shigeru Ishiba
C. Yuriko Koike
D. Sat Eisaku

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Prime Minister Abe Shinzo is the longest-serving prime minister in the history of Japan's constitutional government.
15) Ozone layer or ozone shield is a region of Earth's ________ that absorbs most of the Sun's ultraviolet rays.

A. stratosphere  
B. ionosphere  
C. mesosphere  
D. exosphere

Answer A

Explanation The ozone layer or ozone shield is a region of Earth's stratosphere that absorbs most of the Sun's ultraviolet radiation. It contains a high concentration of ozone in relation to other parts of the atmosphere, although still small in relation to other gases in the stratosphere.

16) The ________ Defense Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) Group Meeting was held on 15 September 2020.

A. 5th  
B. 10th  
C. 15th  
D. 20th

Answer B

Explanation The 10th Defense Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) Group Meeting was held on 15 September 2020. The virtual meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Raj Kumar, Secretary, Defence Production, Ministry of Defence (MoD) from Indian Side, and Ms. Ellen M. Lord, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, U.S. Department of Defense from the US Side.

17) When did the UNGA proclaim the observation of the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer?

A. 1994  
B. 1999  
C. 2004  
D. 2008

Answer A
Explanation On 19 December 1994, the UNGA (United Nations General Assembly) proclaimed 16 September as the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer. The day commemorates the date when the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was signed in 1987.

18) The new Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2020 will empower _______ to restructure cooperative banks.

A. NBFC  
B. MFI  
C. SBI  
D. RBI

Answer D

Explanation The new Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2020, is tabled on the first day of the Parliament’s Monsoon Session. The Bill will provide the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) powers to restructure cooperative banks.

19) When was the Montreal Protocol signed?

A. 1980  
B. 1984  
C. 1987  
D. 1992

Answer C

Explanation The Montreal Protocol on Substances That Deplete the Ozone Layer is a landmark international agreement designed to protect the stratospheric ozone layer. The treaty was originally signed in 1987 and substantially amended in 1990 and 1992.

20) Which country was elected as the Member of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women?

A. China  
B. India  
C. Afghanistan  
D. B & C
India is elected as the Member of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. The 54-member UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) held the first plenary meeting of its 2021 session in the General Assembly Hall. The principal global body held elections for two seats in the Asia-Pacific States category. Three countries namely Afghanistan, India, and China competed. Afghanistan garnered 39 votes and India won 38 votes of the 54 ballots cast. China got 27 votes but failed to get the required majority of 28 votes.

21) Where is the headquarters of WHO located?

A. Geneva  
B. Stockholm  
C. London  
D. Vienna

Answer A

The World Health Organization (WHO/OMS) headquarters is situated on the outskirts of Geneva, Switzerland.

22) When is the World Patient Safety Day observed?

A. 12 September  
B. 17 September  
C. 23 September  
D. 28 September

Answer B

World Patient Safety Day is observed on 17 September every year. Over 134 million adverse events contribute to 2.6 million deaths every year due to unsafe care across the world.

23) India became Djibouti Code of Conduct/ Jeddah Amendment (DCOC/JA)'s __________.

A. Member  
B. Observer  
C. Chair
India has joined the Djibouti Code of Conduct or Jeddah Amendment as an Observer after the high-level meeting of the Djibouti Code of Conduct/ Jeddah Amendment (DCOC/JA). The meeting was held virtually on 26 August 2020.

**24) When was the World Health Organization established?**

A. 1940  
B. 1948  
C. 1953  
D. 1960

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The WHO was established by the constitution on 7 April 1948, which is commemorated as World Health Day. The first meeting of the World Health Assembly (WHA), the agency's governing body, took place on 24 July 1948.

**25) When was the Djibouti Code of Conduct established?**

A. 2003  
B. 2006  
C. 2009  
D. 2012

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The DCOC was established in January 2009. The group is aimed at the repression of piracy and armed robbery against ships in the Western IOR, the Gulf of Aden, and the Red Sea. The Djibouti Code of Conduct aims to provide a framework for capacity building in the Gulf of Aden and the Western Indian Ocean to combat the threat of piracy.

**26) Who organized the Virtual IMPACT 2020?**

A. IMA  
B. AFMC  
C. AYUSH
27) Which country holds the Presidency of G20?

A. Sri Lanka  
B. India  
C. Saudi Arabia  
D. Afghanistan  

Answer C

Explanation Saudi Arabia holds the G20 Presidency in 2020.

28) Parliament passed the Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda Bill _______.

A. 2017  
B. 2018  
C. 2019  
D. 2020  

Answer D

Explanation Rajya Sabha passed the Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda Bill 2020 on 16th September 2020. The Bill was passed in Lok Sabha on 19 March 2020. The Bill will establish a state-of-the-art Ayurvedic institution called the Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda (ITRA) at Jamnagar, Gujarat.

29) National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) aims to achieve 20%-30% reduction in Particulate Matter concentrations by _______.

A. 2022  
B. 2024
**Government of India (GoI) launched the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) as a long-term, time-bound, national-level strategy. The programme aims to tackle the air pollution problem across the country in a comprehensive manner. The target is to achieve a 20%-30% reduction in Particulate Matter concentrations by 2024 keeping 2017 as the base year for the comparison of concentration.**

30) **Where will the Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda (ITRA) be established as per the Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda Bill?**

A. Bihar  
B. Himachal Pradesh  
C. Odisha  
D. Gujarat

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Rajya Sabha passed the Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda Bill 2020 on 16th September 2020. The Bill was passed in Lok Sabha on 19 March 2020. The Bill will establish a state-of-the-art Ayurvedic institution called the Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda (ITRA) at Jamnagar, Gujarat.

31) **India ranked _______ in Human capital Index of World Bank.**

A. 108  
B. 116  
C. 120  
D. 125

**Answer B**

**Explanation** India has ranked 116th position in the latest edition of the World Bank's annual Human Capital Index. Last year, India ranked 115 out of 157 countries. The index benchmarks key components of human capital across countries.

32) **Astronomers found possible hints of life in the clouds of Venus due to the**
presence of _________.

A. Carbon  
B. Methane  
C. Phosphine  
D. Silane  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Astronomers have recently found a potential sign of life in the atmosphere of Venus. Two telescopes in Hawaii and Chile have spotted the chemical signature of phosphine in the thick Venutian clouds. This has given a hint that there may be bizarre microbes living in the sulfuric acid-laden clouds of Venus.

33) Who released Human Capital Index 2020?

A. WHO  
B. World Bank  
C. ABD  
D. UNICEF  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The latest edition of the World Bank's annual Human Capital Index 2020 was released. The Human Capital Index 2020 update included health and education data for 174 countries up to March 2020. It covered around 98% of the world's population.

34) How much will the Gujarat State's subsidy scheme provide for an e-rickshaw?

A. Rs. 12,000  
B. Rs. 24,000  
C. Rs. 36,000  
D. Rs. 48,000  

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Gujarat State government has announced a subsidy scheme to encourage use of electric vehicles. The scheme will augment e-vehicle charging facilities, the State government has also announced financial assistance of Rs. 50 lakh to set up charging infrastructure. The scheme
aims challenges posed by climate change. The scheme will offer subsidy of Rs.12,000 for a battery-operated electric two-wheeler, and Rs.48,000 for an e-rickshaw (three-wheeler).

35) When is the International Equal Pay Day observed?

A. 10 September  
B. 15 September  
C. 18 September  
D. 24 September  

Answer C

Explanation International Equal Pay Day is observed on 18 September every year. The day aims to highlight the importance of achieving equal pay for work of equal value. International Equal Pay Day is observed for the first time in 2020 under an initiative by the United Nations. The day focuses to show the importance of ending sexual discrimination in relation to gender pay gap which refers to the difference in earnings between men and women in paid employment.

36) How much will the Gujarat State's subsidy scheme provide for a battery-operated electric two-wheeler?

A. Rs.12,000  
B. Rs.24,000  
C. Rs.36,000  
D. Rs.48,000  

Answer B

Explanation Gujarat State government has announced a subsidy scheme to encourage use of electric vehicles. The scheme will augment e-vehicle charging facilities, the State government has also announced financial assistance of Rs.50 lakh to set up charging infrastructure. The scheme aims challenges posed by climate change. The scheme will offer subsidy of Rs.12,000 for a battery-operated electric two-wheeler, and Rs.48,000 for an e-rickshaw (three-wheeler).

37) ________ seeks to provide for the creation of an ecosystem where the farmers and traders can sell and purchase of farmers' produce which facilitates remunerative prices through competitive alternative trading channels.

A. Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2014
B. Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2016
C. Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2018
D. Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020

Answer D

Explanation Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020 seeks to provide for the creation of an ecosystem where the farmers and traders can sell and purchase of farmers' produce which facilitates remunerative prices through competitive alternative trading channels.

38) Which State government announced subsidy support for e-bike, e-rickshaw in September 2020?

A. Andhra Pradesh
B. Kerala
C. Gujarat
D. Bihar

Answer C

Explanation Gujarat State government has announced a subsidy scheme to encourage use of electric vehicles. The scheme will augment e-vehicle charging facilities, the State government has also announced financial assistance of Rs.50 lakh to set up charging infrastructure. The scheme aims challenges posed by climate change.

39) When was the All India Football Federation (AIFF) established?

A. 1937
B. 1942
C. 1948
D. 1956

Answer A

Explanation The All India Football Federation, simply known as the AIFF, is the governing body of association football in India. Formed in 1937, the federation was one of the founding members of the Asian Football Confederation, the overseer of football in Asia.

40) DRDO set up __________ technology centres for research on Military
Applications.

A.5  
B.8  
C.10  
D.12

Answer B

Explanation Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has set up eight advanced technology centres to carry out research on futuristic military applications. The centres will provide support to academia to undertake research on new technologies in niche areas for military use.

41) Who founded the Glass2Sand?

A. Konsam Sarika  
B. Satabdi Misra  
C. Debabrata Mandal  
D. Udit Singhal

Answer D

Explanation Udit Singhal founded the Glass2Sand, a zero-waste ecosystem that addresses the growing menace of glass waste in Delhi. Under the initiative, empty glass bottles are prevented from being dumped into landfills and are crushed into commercially valuable sand. His initiative has stopped over 8,000 bottles from being dumped in landfills and produced 4,815 kg of high-grade silica sand so far.

42) Who is appointed in the Asian Football Confederation task-force?

A. Girisha Nagarajegowda  
B. Pradip Kumar Banerjee  
C. Michael Ferreira  
D. Girija Shanker Mungali

Answer D

Explanation Retd. Colonel Dr. Girija Shanker Mungali has been appointed a member of the Asian Football Confederation's task force. The task force consists of 7 members. The force aims
to regulate football clubs in Asia and Australia.

**43) Rajya Sabha passed the ________ to protect healthcare workers.**

A. Epidemic Diseases Amendment Bill, 2019  
B. Epidemic Diseases Amendment Bill, 2020  
C. Epidemic Diseases & Control Amendment Bill, 2019  
D. Epidemic Diseases & Control Amendment Bill, 2020  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Rajya Sabha, the Upper House, passed the Epidemic Diseases Amendment Bill, 2020 on 19 September 2020. The Bill aims to punish the individuals who attack health workers or doctors who are fighting the covid-19 outbreak or during any situation similar to the current pandemic.

**44) The Asian Football Confederation task-force has ________ members.**

A. 5  
B. 7  
C. 9  
D. 12  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Retd. Colonel Dr. Girija Shanker Mungali has been appointed a member of the Asian Football Confederation's task force. The task force consists of 7 members. The force aims to regulate football clubs in Asia and Australia.

**45) GoI implemented the Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Ordinance 2020 to amend the Epidemic Diseases Act, _________.**

A. 1863  
B. 1897  
C. 1906  
D. 1911  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The GoI implemented the Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Ordinance 2020 to
amend the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 with an aim to provide protection to health care service personnel, their living premises, and their workplaces against any violence during the course of a pandemic.

46) When was the Asian Football Confederation established?

A. 1954  
B. 1963  
C. 1970  
D. 1976

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) is one of the six continental confederations within FIFA and is the governing body of association football in Asia and Australia. It was established on 8 May 1954.

47) Who is appointed as the 2020 Class of 17 Young Leaders for the SDGs?

A. Jis Sebastian  
B. Krithi Karanth  
C. Purnima Devi Barman  
D. Udit Singhal

**Answer D**

**Explanation** The United Nations has named Udit Singhal, an 18-year-old youngster from India, has been named to the 2020 Class of 17 Young Leaders for the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals). It is the highest-profile recognition opportunity for youngsters in the UN.

48) Niti Aayog has partnered with __________ for mentoring, training, and capacity building of government officials and public policy scholars.

A. Indian School of Public Policy  
B. Indian Institute of Public Administration  
C. Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad  
D. Indian Institute of Management Indore

**Answer A**
**Explanation** Niti Aayog has partnered with the Indian School of Public Policy (ISPP) for mentoring, training, and capacity building of government officials and public policy scholars. A statement of intent (SOI) was signed between the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) of the NITI Aayog and the ISPP regarding this.
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