

PLUTUS
Academy

CURRENT AFFAIRS



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CURRENT AFFAIRS 19th October 2021

National News

1. India to host 'Gen Next' leaders from 75 democratic countries



- Chairman of Indian Council for Cultural Relations ICCR Dr Vinay Sahasrabuddhe has said that as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, India will host young leaders from 75 democracies under the initiative Gen-Next Democratic Network.
- Dr Sahasrabuddhe said, young leaders below the age of 35 from the ruling party, opposition party and other key parties are being invited and the first batch will include leaders from Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Japan, Indonesia, Chile and Zambia.
- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will inaugurate the event on 25th November.

2. India and Israel agree to recognise corona vaccine certification of each other



- India and Israel have agreed to recognise Covid-19 vaccination certificates of each other. This was announced by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar following talks with his Israeli counterpart Yair Lapid.
- Dr Jaishankar, who is on a three-day visit to Israel, held meetings with government officials, business leaders, and the Indian Jewish community there.
- After the talks with Israeli Foreign Minister, Dr Jaishankar said, he had a very productive discussion on a wide range of regional and global issues.
- Dr Jaishankar said, he discussed resumption of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations between the two countries next month.

3. NITI Aayog launches Geospatial Energy Map of India



- NITI Aayog today launched the Geospatial Energy Map of India.
- The map attempts to identify and locate all primary and secondary sources of energy and their transportation networks to provide a comprehensive view of energy production and distribution in a country.
- NITI Aayog in collaboration with the Indian Space Research Organisation has developed the comprehensive Geographic Information System Energy Map with the support of Energy Ministries of India.
- During the launch, Dr Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, stated GIS mapping of energy assets will be useful for ensuring real-time and integrated planning of energy sector of India.

4. Sri Lanka seeks 500 million dollar as loan from India



- Amid a severe fuel crisis, Sri Lanka has asked for a 500 million dollar in form of credit line from India to pay for its crude oil purchases
- The country's GDP contracted by a record 3.6 per cent in 2020 and its foreign exchange reserves plunged by over a half in one year through July to just USD 2.8 billion.
- This has led to a 9 per cent depreciation of the Sri Lankan rupee against the dollar over the past one year, making imports more expensive.
- Sri Lanka Capitals: Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte
- Currency: Sri Lankan rupee.
- Sri Lanka Prime Minister: Mahinda Rajapaksa
- Sri Lanka President: Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

5. Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Prerna Sthal



- Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Prerna Sthal was inaugurated on October 15, 2021 at Naval Science & Technological Laboratory (NSTL), Visakhapatnam.
- Prerna Sthal was inaugurated to commemorate 90th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr APJ Abdul Kalam as well as to commemorate 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- On the occasion, a statue of Dr Kalam was also unveiled by director general (Naval Systems & Materials) of DRDO, Dr Samir V Kamat
- NSTL is the premier naval research laboratory working under the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO). It is located in Visakhapatnam.

6. AIIMS launches 'dental hygiene app' for children



- The Department of Pediatric and Preventive Dentistry at AIIMS has launched a dental health education app for children to help them develop good oral health practices.
- The “Healthy Smile” app is a bilingual app—developed through the AIIMS intermural research grant—has features such as a musical 2-minute brushing timer with “motivational songs”, brushing demonstration videos, preventive dental care tips, oral care tips for pregnancies, and FAQs.

PLUTUS ACADEMY

Banking News

7. RBI imposes Rs 1 crore penalty on State Bank of India



- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on October 18, 2021, imposed a monetary penalty of Rs one crore on State Bank of India (SBI) for non-compliance with certain directions.
- The violation is related to rules pertaining to frauds classification and reporting by commercial banks and select financial institutions, the RBI said.
- SBI Chairperson- Dinesh Kumar Khara.
- SBI Headquarters- Mumbai.
- SBI Founded- 1 July 1955.

8. SEBI constitutes 4-member high powered advisory committee on settlement orders



- Capital markets regulator Sebi has constituted a four-member high powered advisory committee on settlement orders and compounding of offences.
- The committee will be chaired by Vijay C Daga, retired judge of High Court of Bombay, according to an update with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi).
- **The other members of the panel include:**
- Former law secretary in Ministry of Law & Justice: PK Malhotra
- Ex-Chairman of Deloitte Haskins & Sells LLP: PR Ramesh
- Advocate, Partner, Raval & Raval Associates: DN Raval

Sports News

9. Divya Deshmukh becomes India's 21st Woman Grand Master



- Fifteen-year-old Divya Deshmukh became India's 21st Woman Grand Master (WGM) after achieving her 2nd International Master (IM) at First Saturday Grand Master (GM) in Budapest, Hungary
- She scored five points in the nine rounds and ended up with a performance rating of 2452 to secure her final WGM norm.
- Divya also secured her second IM-norm and is now a norm away from becoming an International Master. Apart from three wins, she played out four draws while losing two games in the tournament.

10. ICC and UNICEF partner to help break stigma around mental health



- The ICC and UNICEF are aiming to raise awareness of mental health and wellbeing amongst children and adolescents and encourage greater conversation and understanding of it throughout the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021
- The partnership will highlight the need for more conversations around mental health and wellbeing.
- Mental health is defined as a state of wellbeing in which every individual realizes his or her own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to contribute to their community.
- ICC Deputy Chairman: Imran Khwaja
- ICC Chairman: Greg Barclay
- ICC Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- ICC Founded: 15 June 1909
- UNICEF Headquarters: New York, United States of America
- UNICEF Executive Director: Henrietta H. Fore
- UNICEF Founded: 11 December 1946

Defence News

11. China-Russia 'Joint Sea 2021 naval exercise'



- China and Russia are holding Joint naval drills called “Joint Sea 2021 naval exercise” in the Sea of Japan.
- The joint naval drill was kicked off from October 14, 2021.
- It highlights the latest sign of growing political and military alignment between Russia and China.
- The drill started in Russia’s Peter the Great Gulf in Sea of Japan. It will run through October 17, 2021.
- China and Russia are jointly holding the drill as they are united in opposing the dominance of United States in global affairs. Both the countries have been harsh critics of foreign policy of Washington in Afghanistan.

By Sameer Singhal