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Academy

CURRENT AFFAIRS



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## CURRENT AFFAIRS 7th October 2021

### National News

1. ICMR releases MUDRA Toolbox in five Indian languages to diagnose dementia



- Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has released the Multilingual Dementia Research and Assessment (MUDRA) Toolbox in five Indian languages - Hindi, Bengali, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam.
- ICMR Director General Dr Balram Bhargava said that the toolbox includes various cognitive tests to assess different domains of cognition such as attention and executive function, memory, language, and visuospatial functions.
- Formation 1911 (as IRFA-Indian Research Fund Association) 1949 Renamed as ICMR

## 2. Union Minister Piyush Goyal addresses inaugural session of ICRIER's 13th Annual International G-20 Conference



- **Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has said that the pandemic has remodelled several G20 priorities.**
- **Addressing the Inaugural Session of the ICRIER's 13th Annual International G-20 Conference yesterday, Mr Goyal Goyal called for pursuing a more inclusive and equitable agenda at the G20.**
- **The G20 is the international forum that brings together the world's major economies. Its members account for more than 80 per cent of world GDP, 75 per cent of global trade and 60 per cent of the population of the planet.**
- **Piyush Goyal- Minister of Textiles, Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Indian emissary to the G20 & G7, Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha from Maharashtra**

### 3. Centre launches ICMR's drone-based vaccine delivery model 'i-Drone'



- The Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Mansukh Mandaviya, launched 'i-Drone', a drone-based vaccine delivery model for Northeast states.
- The i-Drone has been developed by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). i-Drone stands for ICMR's Drone Response and Outreach in North East.
- Currently, the drone-based delivery project is being implemented in Manipur, Nagaland, and the union territory of Andaman and Nicobar Island.

#### 4. Alibaug white onion gets GI tag for health benefits



- The famed white onion of Alibag in Maharashtra's Raigad district was given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag bringing worldwide recognition to its unique sweet taste, no-tears factor, as well as its medicinal properties.
- On September 29 this year, the proposal was scrutinised in the Mumbai office of the Registrar of Patents and it was decided to confer GI tag on Alibag's white onion.
- Maharashtra CM- Uddhav Thackeray
- Maharashtra Capital- Mumbai
- Maharashtra Governor- Bhagat Singh Koshyari

## 5. Vice President inaugurates Mahabahu Brahmaputra River Heritage Centre



- On 3rd October 2021, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, inaugurated the Mahabahu Brahmaputra River Heritage Centre in the presence of Governor Jagdish Mukhi and Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma in Guwahati in the state of Maharashtra.
- The centre was originally served as the residence of the British deputy commissioner of Kamrup.
- Nearly 150 years after it was constructed, the iconic DC Bungalow of Guwahati, was opened to the public as a heritage centre.
- After the British annexed Assam in 1826 (after the Treaty of Yandaboo), the post of DC was created for Guwahati in 1839.
- Several sites were surveyed for DC residence before Barphukanar Tilla on the banks of the Brahmaputra, where cannons used in the Battle of Saraighat lay scattered, was chosen.

## 6. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched the 'Swechha' programme



- Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched the 'Swechha' programme to ensure affordable access to health and menstrual hygiene products among adolescent girls and women.
- Swecha means freedom and it is intended is to prioritise female personal hygiene and encourage a healthy dialogue of information, the state government said in an official statement.
- A total of 120 napkins per year has been allotted to every female student, even during summer vacations, the students will be supplied with their quota before they leave school.
- Governor- Biswa Bhusan Harichandan.



## 7. Maharashtra: Palghar's famed Wada Kolam rice gets GI tag



- Wada Kolam, also known as Zini or Jhini rice, is a traditional variety grown in the Wada tehsil of Palghar, with the grain being off white in colour.
- A variety of rice widely grown in Wada in the Palghar district has been given a 'Geographical Indication' tag, which will give it a unique identity as well as wider markets.
- Wada Kolam rice commands a price of Rs 60-70 per kg in domestic markets and has a sizeable demand overseas as well.

## 8. Health Minister released “The State of the World’s Children 2021”



- Union Health Minister, Mansukh Mandaviya, released a report titled “The State of the World’s Children 2021: On My Mind: promoting, protecting and caring for children’s mental health”
- This is very vital to address mental health as an important aspect for creating a healthy society. Mansukh noted that teachers are very important stakeholders for addressing mental health issues along with parents and family.
- UNICEF India Representative Dr Yasmin Ali Haque presented some key findings of the report.



## Awards

### 9. The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2021



- The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2021 was awarded jointly to Benjamin List and David W.C. MacMillan “for the development of asymmetric organocatalysis.”
- Catalysts are thus fundamental tools for chemists, but researchers long believed that there were, in principle, just two types of catalysts available: metals and enzymes.
- Benjamin List and David MacMillan are awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2021 because in 2000 they, independent of each other, developed a third type of catalysis. It is called asymmetric organocatalysis and builds upon small organic molecules.

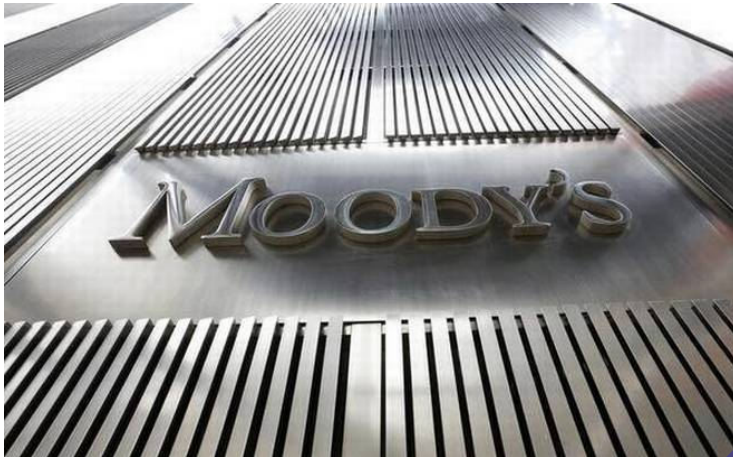
**10. Prof Eric Hanushek and Dr. Rukmini Banerji awarded the Yidan Prize 2021**



- **Professor Eric A. Hanushek and Dr Rukmini Banerji have been awarded the 2021 Yidan Prize for Education Development for improving learning outcomes in schools at scale.**
- **The Yidan Prize was founded by Charles Chen Yidan in 2016 to create a better world through education.**
- **Yidan Prize Laureate receives a gold medal and a sum of \$3.9 million.**

## Ranks and Index

### 11. Moody's upgrades India's rating outlook to 'stable' from 'negative'



- Rating agency Moody's Investors Service has upgraded India's sovereign rating outlook to 'stable' from 'negative', on October 05, 2021, following an improvement in the financial sector and faster-than-expected economic recovery across sectors.
- While it retained India's rating at Baa3, reflecting the lowest investment grade rating, Moody's said it expects real GDP to surpass pre-pandemic levels of 2019-20 this year itself
- As the ongoing economic recovery is picking up steam with activity upticks broadening across sectors. It expects 2021-22 to record 9.3% growth in GDP, followed by 7.9% next year.

## Banking News

### 12. Reserve Bank of India grants license to NARCL under Sarfaesi Act



- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday granted license to the National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL) under Section 3 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act (Sarfaesi) Act, 2002.
- NARCL has been set up by banks to aggregate and consolidate stressed assets for their subsequent resolution, with public sector banks maintaining 51% ownership.
- RBI 25th Governor: Shaktikant Das
- Headquarters: Mumbai; Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata.

### 13. BharatPe launches 'buy now, pay later' platform, postpe



- Fintech company BharatPe, on Wednesday, announced its entry into the 'Buy Now Pay Later' (BNPL) category with the launch of 'postpe'. The new platform provides credit to customers to buy now, but pay later from anywhere.
- Customers using the postpe platform can download the app from Play Store and avail interest-free credit limit of up to Rs 10 lakh. The company said that postpe is not only limited to big-ticket purchases but can also be used for micro-purchases, making it the first of its kind.
- Headoffice of BharatPe- New Delhi
- BharatPe Founded- 2018
- Chief Executive Officer of BharatPe- Ashneer Grover

## **Important Days**

### **14. World Cotton Day: 07 October**



- The globe marks World Cotton Day on October 7th every year since 2019. The purpose of the international day is to maximize the importance of cotton, which range from its attributes as a natural fibre to the benefits people gain from its production, transformation, commerce, and consumption.
- WCD Day was initiated by the Group of Cotton-4 countries namely Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali to reflect the importance of cotton as a global commodity.
- World Trade Organization Headquarters- Geneva, Switzerland.
- World Trade Organization Founded- 1 January 1995.
- World Trade Organization Director-General- Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala.

**By Sameer Singhal**



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