

## Current Affairs: 18.10.2021

### NITI Aayog-UNDP India Launches Handbook On Sustainable Urban Plastic Waste Management

**NITI Aayog and UNDP India** have collaborated to launch a handbook titled '**NITI Aayog-UNDP Handbook on Sustainable Urban Plastic Waste Management**', to promote sustainable management of plastic waste in the country. The Handbook is a repository of 18 case studies/best practices and examples from cities in India, including 4 from Southeast Asia, which face similar infrastructure and plastic waste challenges.

It is divided into four major components

1. Technical models for recycling
2. Material Recovery Facilities (MRF)
3. Governance for effective plastic waste management
4. IEC and Digitization

The book will enable the urban local bodies to learn from the successful business and service models covered under this handbook to plan for efficient plastic waste management in their cities.

### Adani Group takes over operations and management control of Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram airport



The **Adani Group** formally took over the operation, management and development control of the international airport in Thiruvananthapuram on October 14, 2021. **Thiruvananthapuram International Airport** is the first of four international airports in Kerala. The airport was established in 1932 and was till now owned and operated by Airports Authority of India (AAI).

### Punjab CM Charanjit Channi launches 'Mera Ghar Mere Naam' scheme to confer proprietary rights



In **Punjab**, the Chief Minister Charanjit Channi launched a new scheme titled '**Mera Ghar Mere Naam**' on October 17, 2021 which aims to confer **proprietary rights on the people** living in the houses within the '**Lal Lakir**' of villages **and the cities**. The land area which is a part of the village habitation and is used for non-agriculture purposes only is known as Lal Lakir. The state government will undertake drone survey of residential properties, both in rural and urban areas for digital mapping, following which all eligible residents would be given the property cards, after proper identification or verification, to confer proprietary rights upon them in a time-bound manner. The property card will serve

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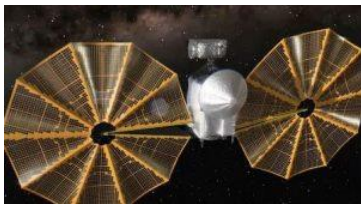
the purpose of registry against which they can avail loans from the banks or even sell their properties.

## Sri Lanka Seeks \$500 Million Line of Credit from India to purchase Fuel



The Government of **Sri Lanka** has sought a **USD 500 million credit line** from **India** to pay for its **crude oil purchases**, as the country is facing severe foreign exchange crisis in the island nation, after the pandemic hit the nation's earnings from tourism and remittances. The USD 500 million credit line is part of the India-Sri Lanka economic partnership arrangement. The facility would be used for purchasing petrol and diesel requirements.

## NASA launches Lucy Mission to study the Jupiter Trojan asteroids



The US space agency **NASA** has launched a first-of-its kind mission called '**Lucy Mission**' to study **Jupiter's Trojan asteroids**. The mission life of Lucy is **12-year**, during which the spacecraft will fly by a total of **eight ancient asteroids** to study about solar system's evolution. These will include one main-belt asteroid and seven Jupiter Trojan asteroids. The Lucy mission will mark NASA's first single spacecraft mission in history to explore so many different asteroids. The Lucy probe was launched on a United Launch Alliance (ULA) Atlas V rocket from Space Launch Complex 41 at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida on October 16, 2021. Jupiter's Trojan asteroids are two large clusters of space rocks that scientists believe are remnants of primordial material that formed the solar system's outer planets.

## Hubble finds evidence of persistent water vapour in Jupiter's moon 'Europa'



The Hubble Space Telescope Observatory of NASA have revealed the presence of persistent water vapour in '**Europa**', the **icy moon of Jupiter**. However, the presence of a water vapour atmosphere is found only in one hemisphere. The findings may further help to explore whether Europa's atmosphere could support life. The result is based upon Hubble observations spanning from 1999 to 2015

## Canadian Actor William Shatner becomes oldest person in history to fly to space



Legendary **Canadian actor William Shatner** has become the **oldest person to go to space**. The 90-year-old Shatner blasted into the space on Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin rocket on October 13, 2021. The Canadian was joined by three other fellow passengers, Chris Boshuizen, William Shatner, Audrey Powers and Glen de Vries on the 11-minute journey beyond



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Earth's atmosphere and back again. The four of them reached an altitude of 66.5 miles (107 kilometers) over the West Texas desert in the fully automated capsule 'New Shepard'.

## China launches historic Shenzhou-13 crewed mission with 3 astronauts for 6 months



The **Chinese** space agency has launched **Shenzhou-13 crewed mission**, the country's first long-duration stay aboard. The **three-person crew** are expected to spend **six-months** in space, to set up new record for the time spent in space by Chinese astronauts. The members of the crew includes Zhai Zhigang, Wang Yaping and Ye Guanfu, who will spend the time in space in testing the station's technology and conducting spacewalks. Wang Yaping is China's first female astronaut on board the space station. The Shenzhou-13 crewed spaceship launched by a Long March 2F rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in the Gobi Desert, located in Inner Mongolia.

## Jonas Gahr Store Assumes Charge as Prime Minister of Norway

**Jonas Gahr Store**, the Leader of the **Labour Party** in **Norway**, has assumed the charge of the **Prime Minister** of Norway with effect from October 14, 2021. In September 2021, Store's Labour Party won the parliamentary elections, following which incumbent Prime Minister Erna Solberg and her government stepped down.

## India beat Nepal 3-0 to win 2021 SAFF Championship



**India** beat **Nepal**, 3-0, to win **2021 SAFF Championship** final title, held on October 16, 2021, at the National Football Stadium in Male, Maldives. This is the **eighth SAFF Championship** title claimed by the Indian men's national football team. Previously the team had won the title in 1993, 1997, 1999, 2005, 2009, 2011, 2015. Sunil

Chhetri, Suresh Singh Wangjam and Sahal Abdul Samad were the goal scorers for the Indian team in final.

Top Scorer in the championship Sunil Chhetri (Captain) – 5 goals. Meanwhile, Sunil Chhetri scored his **80th international strike** at the championship to equal his score with iconic **Lionel Messi** and became the second-highest goal-scorer in international football among active players.