

Current Affairs: 16.09.2021

Tata Steel commissions India's first plant to capture CO2 from blast furnace gas



Tata Steel has commissioned **India's first carbon capture plant that extracts CO2 directly from the blast furnace gas**, at its **Jamshedpur Works** on September 14, 2021.

With this achievement, **Tata Steel** has become country's first steel company to adopt such a carbon capture technology. The plant can capture **5 tonnes of CO2 per day** (5-tonne per day (TPD)). The company will reuse the captured CO2 on site to promote circular carbon economy.

Niti Aayog launches 'Shoonya' programme to promote zero-pollution delivery vehicles



Government think tank **Niti Aayog** in collaboration with US-based Rocky Mountain Institute (**RMI**) and RMI India, has launched a campaign named **Shoonya** on September 15, 2021, to promote **zero-pollution delivery vehicles** by working with consumers and industry. The campaign will promote the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) in the urban deliveries segment and create consumer awareness about health,

environmental and economic benefits of electric vehicles.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari launches AI-powered road safety project 'iRASTE' to reduce road accidents



Union Minister for Road Transport, Nitin Gadkari launched **'iRASTE', an Artificial Intelligence-powered project**, which aims to help reduce road accidents, understand the factors responsible for these events and come up with solutions to mitigate them. iRASTE stands for **Intelligent Solutions for Road Safety through Technology and Engineering**.

The project has been launched on a **pilot basis in Nagpur, Maharashtra** with the aim of reducing accidents by 50 percent in the city. The project is launched jointly by the Centre, Intel, INAI, IIIT-Hyderabad, CSIR-CRRI (Central Road Research Institute), Mahindra & Mahindra and Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC).

IIT Bombay rolls out language translator 'Project Udaan'

The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay** has launched **'Project Udaan', a language translator**, to break the language barrier in education, which hampers the flow of messages. The Project Udaan, a donation-based project, is an end-to-end ecosystem, which can translate scientific and technical content from English to Hindi and all other Indian languages.

- Project Udaan uses an AI-based translation software ecosystem, to translate engineering textbooks and learning materials, and all main streams of higher learning,

Cross & Climb, Rohtak



in the desired language, in one-sixth of the time taken by a team of domain and linguistic experts working manually on it.

India to organise first-ever Global Buddhist Conference in November 2021



India is set to host the first-ever **Global Buddhist Conference** on November 19 and 20, 2021, in Nava Nalanda Mahavihara campus, in **Nalanda, Bihar**. The academic conference, being organised by **Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)**, will become an annual feature. Global Buddhist Conference focuses on making India the center of Buddhism, by promoting Buddhist activities, like academic, cultural, seminars, people traveling for festival like Buddha

Purnima, Vesak. As a part of the event, an **award for the promotion of Buddhist studies** which will be given on November 21 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi, carrying a cash reward of \$20,000 (around Rs 14.7 lakh), a plaque, and a gold-plated medallion.

UNCTAD projects Indian economy to expand 7.2% in 2021

The **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)** has pegged India's economic growth rate as follows, in its Trade and Development report released on September 15, 2021:

1. **Calendar Year (CY) 2021 – 7.2%**
2. **Calendar Year 2022 – 6.7%**

India's economy shrank by 7 percent in Calendar Year 2020.

South Korea successfully test submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM)



South Korea successfully tested an indigenously developed **submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM)** on September, 15, 2021. South Korea is the first country without nuclear weapons to develop such a missile system. With this achievement, South Korea joins only a handful of countries to have

successfully developed an SLBM. Other countries that have tested or developed SLBMs, are United States, Russia, China, Britain, France, North Korea, and India, which have typically designed them to carry nuclear weapons.

Indian Military Contingent Participates in SCO Exercise 'Peaceful Mission' 2021 at Russia

The Indian military contingent comprising of an all arms combined force of 200 personnel is participating in the **Exercise PEACEFUL MISSION -2021**, a Joint Counter Terrorism Exercise between **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** member states. The Exercise PEACEFUL MISSION- 2021 is being hosted by **Russia** in the Orenburg Region of South West Russia from **September 13 to 25, 2021**. In 2021, the **6th edition** of the biennial multilateral Exercise PEACEFUL MISSION is being undertaken.

President Ramnath Kovind Presents National Florence Nightingale Awards 2020 to 51 Awardees



The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, conferred the **National Florence Nightingale Awards 2020** at a virtual ceremony on September 15, 2021. The award was presented to **51 health care workers and nurses** for their selfless dedication and compassion, especially during COVID-19 pandemic. The National Florence Nightingale Award was instituted by the Government of India in 1973 and are named after Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. The year 2020 was declared by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as the Year of the Nurse and Mid-wife. 2020 also marked the 200th birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale.

India's NIOS wins UNESCO Literacy Prize 2021 for Innovation in Education

The **National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)**, a board of education under the Union Government of India, has won the prestigious **UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize 2021** on the occasion of International Literacy Day 2021. NIOS has been awarded for enabling education of persons with disabilities through technology-enabled inclusive learning materials, with a specific focus on Indian Sign language-based content. The **UNESCO International Literacy Prizes** is awarded every year since 1967, for excellence and innovation in the field of literacy.

Lasith Malinga announces retirement from all forms of cricket



Sri Lankan fast bowler **Lasith Malinga** has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket on September 14, 2021. The 38-year-old had already retired from Test cricket in 2011 and then from the ODIs in 2019. He played 30 Tests, 226 ODIs and 84 T20Is for Sri Lanka in which he took a total of 546 wickets (101 in Tests, 338 in ODIs and 107 in T20Is) across all formats. Malinga holds the record for most hat-tricks in

international cricket.

International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer: 16 September



The **International Day for the preservation for Ozone layer (World Ozone Day)** is observed annually on **September 16** to spread awareness of the depletion of the Ozone Layer and search for solutions to preserve it. Theme for 2021 World Ozone Day: **'Montreal Protocol – keeping us, our food and vaccines cool.'** The day was designated by the United Nations General Assembly on December 19, 2000, to commemorate the signing of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in 1987.