

**RACE™****16.09.2021**

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INTERNATIONAL

1) "AUKUS"

United States, United Kingdom and Australia have announced the new partnership "AUKUS" a new trilateral security partnership for the Indo-Pacific region. The trilateral grouping was formally announced by British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, his Australian counterpart Scott Morrison and US President Joe Biden with a vision for a safer and more secure Indo-Pacific.

2) Global Buddhist Conference

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, will become an annual feature.

NATIONAL

1) Sansad TV

PM Narendra Modi launched Sansad TV, which has been created by merging Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TV, jointly with Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. Sansad TV programming will touch upon the functioning of the Parliament and democratic institutions, governance and implementation of schemes, history and culture of India.

2) Kushinagar Airport

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs has declared Kushinagar Airport as a Customs notified airport. This would also facilitate international passenger movements including that of Buddhist pilgrims. Recently, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation extended the validity of the airport's licence to operate international flights till February 21, 2023.

3) Indian Army Chief's Conclave

The 8th edition of the Indian Army Chief's Conclave, a gathering of serving and former Chiefs of Army Staff of the Indian Army, organised at New Delhi. The highlight of the three-day event will be the invite extended to former Chiefs of the Nepali Army, who were also Chiefs of the Indian Army.

4) Niti Aayog launches 'Shoonya' programme

Niti Aayog in collaboration with US-based Rocky Mountain Institute and RMI India, has launched a campaign named Shoonya, to promote zero-pollution delivery vehicles by working with consumers and industry. The campaign will promote the adoption of electric vehicles.

5) 'iRASTE'

Union Minister for Road Transport, Nitin Gadkari launched 'iRASTE', an Artificial Intelligence-powered project. The project aims to help reduce road accidents, understand the





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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.

BUSINESS AND ECONOMY

1) Ford Motor Company to exit India

Ford Motor Co. will stop making cars in India and record roughly \$2 billion in restructuring charges. Ford will wind down an assembly plant in Gujarat by the fourth quarter, as well as vehicle and engine manufacturing plants in Chennai by the second quarter of next year.

2) Infosys Equinox Infosys Equinox

Infosys, launched Infosys Equinox to help enterprises securely deliver hyper-segmented, personalized omnichannel commerce experiences for B2B and B2C buyers. The platform's future-ready architecture offers unprecedented flexibility for enterprises to pick and choose out-of-the-box microservices and pre-built experiences to build curated digital journeys.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1) Inspiration4

The crew of the Inspiration4, the first-ever orbital flight crewed entirely by tourists, is now officially in orbit, according to a Livestream from SpaceX. The SpaceX rocket blasted off from NASA's Kennedy Space Center. The passengers will now spend three days aboard their 13-foot-wide Crew Dragon capsule in orbit at a 350-mile altitude.

2) Mu Variant of Covid-19

The World Health Organisation has added a new variant of Covid-19 in the list of Variants of Interest and named it Mu (B.1.621). It has also added C.1.2 as a new VOI. C.1.2 is a sub-lineage of the C.1 variant described in South Africa but did not spread globally.

GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

1) India's first carbon capture plant that extracts CO2

Tata Steel has commissioned India's first carbon capture plant that extracts CO2 directly from the blast furnace gas, at its Jamshedpur Works. With this achievement, Tata Steel has become the country's first steel company to adopt such a carbon capture technology.

2) Black Tigers

Scientists have unraveled the mystery behind Odisha's 'Black Tigers' in Similipal Tiger Reserve. Due to Geographic Isolation, genetically related individuals have been mating with each other for many generations in Similipal, leading to inbreeding. The STR is the only tiger habitat in the world with melanistic tigers.

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IMPORTANT DAYS

1) World Ozone Day

The International Day for the preservation for the 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. The theme for 2021 World Ozone Day: 'Montreal Protocol – keeping us, our food and vaccines cool.'