

October - 15

## NATIONAL

### Blue Flag certification for 8 beaches

- ❖ Eight Indian beaches have received the 'coveted' Blue Flag certification by the NGO the Foundation for Environmental Education.
- ❖ The Shivrajpur Beach in Dwarka, Gujarat; the Ghoghla Beach in Diu; the Kasarkod and Padubidri beaches in Karnataka; the Kappad Beach in Kerala; the Rushikonda Beach in Andhra Pradesh; the Golden Beach in Odisha and the Radhanagar Beach in Andaman and Nicobar Islands are now 'Blue Flag' certified.



## ENVIRONMENT

### Polarstern Mission return

- ❖ The Polarstern Ship of the German Alfred Wegner Institute has returned to the port of Bremerhaven in Germany after spending 389 days drifting through the Arctic trapped in ice.
- ❖ It has allowed scientists to gather vital information on the effects of global warming in the region.



- ❖ It is the world's biggest mission to the North Pole and brings home some devastating proof of a dying Arctic Ocean and warnings of ice-free summers in just a few decades.

#### **Polarstern Mission**

- ❖ The Polarstern Mission has spent over a year collecting data on sea ice, ocean, atmosphere, and ecosystems in order to help assess the impact of climate change on the region as well as in the world.
- ❖ On September 20, 2019, the ship departed from Tromso in Norway.
- ❖ The crew saw the long months of complete darkness and temperatures as low as -39.5 celsius.
- ❖ The mission collected the water samples from beneath the ice during the polar night to study the plant plankton and bacteria as well as to better understand how the marine ecosystem functions under extreme conditions.

## **STATES**

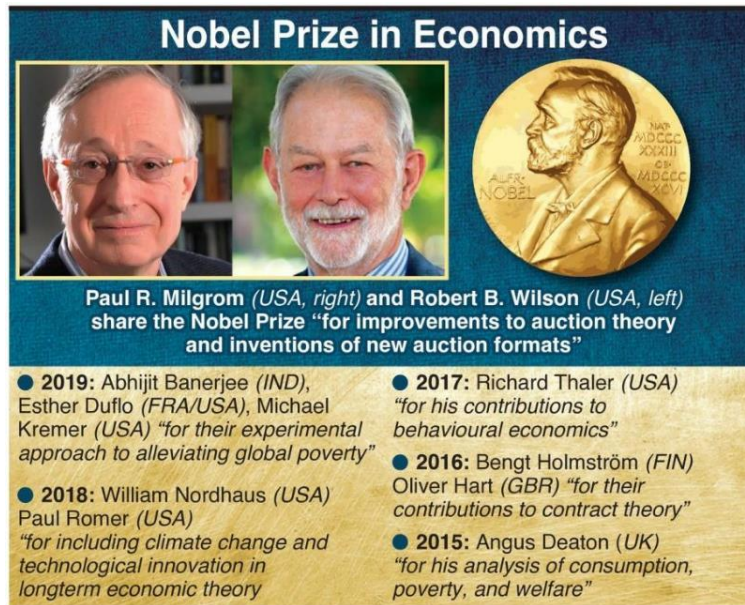
### **50th SIAA congress – 2021**

- ❖ Jammu and Kashmir have won the bid to host the 50th annual Skai International Asia Area (SIAA) Congress in 2021.
- ❖ Skai International is a professional organization of tourism leaders around the world, promoting global tourism and friendship.
- ❖ It is a Spain-based tourism body with 15,000 members and 150 chapters across the world.
- ❖ It is the only international group uniting all branches of the travel and tourism industry.

## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS**

### **Nobel prize in economics**

- ❖ Two American economists Paul R Milgrom and Robert B Wilson jointly won this year's Nobel Prize in Economics.
- ❖ They are awarded for improvements to auction theory and inventions of new auction formats.
- ❖ They have used their insights to design new auction formats for goods and services that are difficult to sell in a traditional way, such as radio frequencies.
- ❖ Their discoveries have benefitted sellers, buyers and taxpayers around the world.



### Earthshot Prize launch

- ❖ Britain's Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge, launched a new 50-million-pound Earthshot Prize.
- ❖ It is aimed at funding the most innovative solutions to some of the world's most pressing environmental challenges.
- ❖ The Earthshot Prize is centred around five "Earthshots", simple but ambitious goals for our planet.
- ❖ The five Earthshots unveiled this week include protect and restore nature; clean our air; revive our oceans; build a waste-free world; and fix our climate.
- ❖ Prizes could be awarded to anyone whose workable solutions make a substantial contribution to achieving the Earthshots.

### Fleet award 2020

- ❖ It was organised to mark the successful culmination of the Operational Cycle of the Eastern Fleet of the Indian Navy at Visakhapatnam.
- ❖ Sixteen trophies were awarded in recognition of excellence in various operational verticals.
- ❖ The most coveted trophies of Best Ship were awarded to INS Sahyadri amongst Capital ships and INS Kora amongst Corvettes and similar classes of ships.
- ❖ Indian Naval Ships Airavat and Kiltan jointly bagged the 'Best Spirited Ship' displaying indomitable spirit and grit whilst undertaking a plethora of challenging missions.



### **New 100 Rs coin of Vijaya Raje Scindia**

- ❖ Prime Minister released Rs 100 commemorative coin in the honour of Vijaya Raje Scindia on October 12, 2020, on the occasion of her 100th birth anniversary.
- ❖ Vijaya Raje Scindia, also popularly known as the Rajmata of Gwalior, was one of the founding members of the Bharatiya Janata Party.
- ❖ She was the wife of the last ruling Maharaja of Gwalior, Jivajirao Scindia and was ranked among the highest royal figures of the land.
- ❖ She was elected repeatedly to both houses of the Indian parliament.



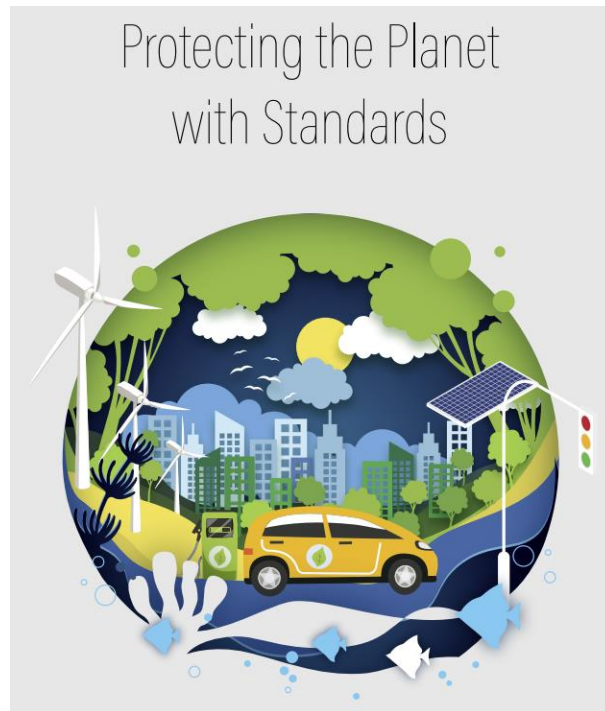
## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **World Standards Day – October 14, 2020**

- ❖ It aims to pay tribute to the collaborative efforts of the thousands of experts across the world who develop the voluntary technical agreements that are published as International Standards.



- ❖ The day raises awareness about the importance of standardization to the global economy among the consumers, regulators, and industry.
- ❖ It was first observed in 1970.
- ❖ The theme of World Standards Day 2020 is "Protecting the planet with standards."



## MISCELLANEOUS

### **CRI Index of Oxfam**

- ❖ India has been ranked 129 among 158 countries in the 2020 Commitment to Reducing Inequality (CRI) Index.
- ❖ The third edition of the index focuses on Fighting Inequality in the time of COVID-19.
- ❖ The 2020 CRI index has been topped by Norway.
- ❖ South Sudan is the lowest ranking country in the index at 158th position.
- ❖ The index is released by the international charitable organisation 'Oxfam International' in partnership with Development Finance International and with inputs from independent experts.
- ❖ The index is based upon three basic pillars: Public Services Pillar, Progressive Tax Pillar and Workers Rights Pillar.



- ❖ India is ranked fifth last among bottom 10 spenders on public services including education, health and social protection.

**Table 1: CRI Index ranking of 158 countries – the top 10**

COUNTRY	PUBLIC SERVICES RANKING	TAX RANKING	LABOUR RANKING	CRI RANKING
Norway	14	21	1	1
Denmark	8	28	2	2
Germany	5	17	11	3
Belgium	7	37	8	4
Finland	2	61	4	5
Canada	26	8	20	6
France	3	47	16	7
New Zealand	21	11	34	8
Austria	10	50	18	9
Sweden	11	78	7	10

**Table 2: Top three low-income (LIC) and lower-middle-income (LMIC) countries**

COUNTRY	INCOME	PUBLIC SERVICES RANKING	TAX RANKING	LABOUR RANKING	CRI RANKING
Ukraine	LMIC	24	58	39	28
Kyrgyz Republic	LMIC	46	14	61	37
Togo	LIC	133	2	112	82

