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Current Affairs: 10/11.09.2021

IIT Madras Retains Top Spot in Overall Category of NIRF India Ranking 2021



The Union Minister of Education, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan released the NIRF India Rankings 2021, on September 09, 2021 through video conferencing.

Overall Winner: The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** has retained the top spot in overall category.

The NIRF India Rankings 2021 is the sixth edition of the annual list which ranks higher educational institutions in the country based on objective criteria to promote competitive excellence.

List of Winners

1. Overall – Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)
2. University – Indian Institute of Science, (IISc) Bangaluru
3. Management – Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad
4. College – Miranda House, Delhi
5. Pharmacy – Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi
6. Medical – All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Delhi
7. Engineering -Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras
8. Architecture – Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee
9. Dental – Manipal College of Dental Sciences, Udupi
10. Law – National Law School of India University (NLSUI), Bengaluru
11. Research Institutions – Indian Institute of Science, (IISc) Bangalore

India's first Indigenously Designed High Ash Coal Gasification Based Methanol Production Plant inaugurated at BHEL R&D Centre, Hyderabad



The first-ever, indigenously designed **High Ash Coal Gasification Based Methanol Production Plant**, in India has been inaugurated at **BHEL R&D centre at Hyderabad**.

The project was funded by the Department of Science and Technology, which provided a **Rs 10 crore grant**, at the initiative of NITI Aayog, PMO-India and the Ministry of Coal.

The facility can create **0.25 ton per day (TPD)** Methanol from high ash Indian coal using a 1.2 TPD Fluidized bed gasifier. The purity of the crude methanol produced is between 98 and 99.5 percent. The demonstration plant was inaugurated on September 08, 2021 in the presence of Dr V K Saraswat, member of NITI Aayog, Sh. Nalin Shinghal, Chairman BHEL along with BHEL's Coal Gasification team.

Centre Forms Panel To Frame New Law For Drugs, Cosmetics, Medical Devices; Head – Dr VG Somani

The **Ministry of health and family welfare** has constituted an **eight-member** expert committee for framing new laws for drugs, cosmetics and medical devices and replace the existing **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940**. The committee will be chaired by **Drugs**

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Controller General of India (DCGI) Dr VG Somani. The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 regulated only the import, manufacture, distribution

and sale of drugs and cosmetics. The new Drugs, Cosmetics and Medical Devices Act will incorporate regulation of medical devices as well.

ADB approves \$112 million loan to improve water supply infrastructure in Jharkhand



Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India have signed a **USD 112 million loan to develop water supply infrastructure** and strengthen capacities of urban local bodies (ULBs) for improved service delivery in four towns **in the state of Jharkhand.** This is the first project of ADB in the state of Jharkhand.

ADB approves \$300 million loan to expand rural connectivity in Maharashtra



The government of India and the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** have signed a **USD 300 million** loan as additional financing to scale up the improvement of rural connectivity to help **boost the rural economy in the state of Maharashtra.** This is in addition to USD 200 million financing, approved by ADB in August 2019. The project is already improving and maintaining the condition and safety of 2,100 km of rural roads across Maharashtra.

World Suicide Prevention Day: 10 September



World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD): observed on 10 September every year since 2003. **Purpose:** Provide worldwide commitment and action to prevent suicides through various activities around the world. **2021 Theme:** “Creating hope through action”. The International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) collaborates with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH) to host World Suicide Prevention Day with various activities around the world since 2003.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi chairs 13th BRICS Summit



Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi chaired the **13th BRICS Summit** on September 09, 2021, through video conferencing. BRICS is an association of five major emerging economies comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. The theme of the India-led Summit was **“BRICS@15: Intra-BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus.”**

Consolidation and Consensus.”

Apart from this, as the President of BRICS in 2021, India has highlighted four priority areas for this year’s BRICS Summit, which were:

1. reform of the multilateral system,
 2. counter-terrorism cooperation,
 3. using digital and technological tools to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG),
 4. enhancing people-to-people exchanges
- The Summit concluded with the adoption of the **‘New Delhi Declaration’.**

India's first emergency landing strip on national highway inaugurated in Barmer, Rajasthan



The Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and the Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari inaugurated an **emergency landing strip** at Gandhav Bhakasar section on **National Highway-925 in Barmer, Rajasthan**, for Indian Air Force (IAF) planes, on September 09, 2021. With this inauguration, the NH-925 has become **India's first national highway to be used for emergency landing of IAF aircraft**. The landing strip at NH-925 has been developed by the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) over 3 km stretch at a total cost of Rs 43 crore. Centre has identified over 20 other locations across the country for similar emergency landing fields.

World's largest Plant to capture Carbon Dioxide from Air commissioned in Iceland



The **world's largest plant designed to capture carbon dioxide out of the air** began its operations in **Iceland** on September 08, 2021. The plant is named **Orca**, which means 'Energy' in Icelandic word. It will suck out up to 4,000 tons of CO₂ per year. The carbon dioxide captured directly from the air will be deposited underground at a depth of 1,000 metres, where it would be turned into rock. The facility has been developed by Icelandic carbon storage firm Carbfix, in partnership with Swiss start-up Climeworks AG, which specialises in capturing carbon dioxide directly from the air. The technology launched may become a major tool in the fight against climate change.

China successfully launches new Earth observation satellite "Gaofen-5 02"



China successfully launched a new **Earth observation satellite, Gaofen-5 02**, into space, aboard a Long March-4C rocket on September 07, 2021, from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre in north China's Shanxi Province. Gaofen-5 02 is a **hyperspectral** satellite which will be used for comprehensive environmental monitoring, to improve the country's hyperspectral observation capacity of the atmosphere, water and land. The Gaofen-5 02 satellite is the **24th** in the series of Gaofen Earth-observation satellite of China, to monitor environmental protection efforts and boost its natural resources surveillance.

President Ramnath Kovind appoints new Governors of Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Punjab & Nagaland

The President of India Shri Ramnath Kovind has appointed new governors of the Indian states of Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Uttarakhand, and Nagaland on September 09, 2021.

The appointment are as follows:

1. **Governor of Uttarakhand – Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh** (retired deputy chief of Army)
2. **Governor of Tamil Nadu – R. N. Ravi** (former Nagaland governor)
3. **Governor of Punjab – Banwarilal Purohit** (former Governor of Tamil Nadu)

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4. **Governor of Nagaland – Prof. Jagdish Mukhi** (incumbent Governor of Assam also.) He shall discharge the functions of the Governor of Nagaland in addition to his own duties, until regular arrangements are made.

Tata AIA Life Insurance appoints Neeraj Chopra as Brand Ambassador



Tata AIA Life Insurance has appointed Indian Athlete **Neeraj Chopra** as its Brand Ambassador. This is also the first brand partnership to be signed with Neeraj Chopra, post his historic win at the Tokyo Olympics.

Himalayan Day 2021: 09 September



The National Mission for Clean Ganga organized Himalayan Diwas on **September 09, 2021** in association with Naula Foundation. The **theme** of Himalayan Diwas/Himalayan Day 2021 is: **'Contribution of Himalayas and our responsibilities'**. Himalaya Diwas is celebrated every year on 9th September in the **state of Uttarakhand**.

World EV Day: 09 September

The **World EV (Electric Vehicle) Day** is observed every year on **September 9**, since 2020. Purpose: to celebrate e-mobility and educate people about the benefits of electric vehicles, by organizing special awareness campaigns. The Day was an initiative by sustainability media company Green.TV. China is the largest EV market in the world, while India's automotive industry is the fifth largest in the world.

