

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS—OCTOBER 16, 2021

NATIONAL

- On October 15, Prime Minister Narendra Modi – dedicated seven new defence companies, carved out of Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), to the nation over video conference facility in New Delhi at an event organised by the Defence Ministry.



- ✓ The new companies are Munitions India Ltd (MIL), Armoured Vehicles Nigam Ltd (AVANI), Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Ltd (AWE India), Troop Comforts Ltd (TCL), Yantra India Ltd (YIL), Gliders India Ltd (GIL) and India Optel Ltd (IOL).
- ✓ These companies have commenced business from October 1, 2021.
- ✓ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and representatives from the Defence industry associations were present on the occasion

- ✓ On June 16, the Union Cabinet had approved a long-pending proposal to restructure the over 200-year-old OFB that operated 41 ammunition and military equipment production facilities into seven State-owned corporate entities
- ✓ The move was aimed at improving the accountability, efficiency and competitiveness of the OFB
- ✓ The objective of this restructuring is to transform Ordnance Factories into productive, and profitable assets, improve expertise in product range, increase competitiveness, improve quality, enhance cost-efficiency and ensure self-reliance in defence preparedness
- ✓ The MoD has set a target of achieving a turnover of ₹1.75-lakh crore in aerospace and defence goods and services by 2024, including exports of ₹35,000 crore

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **India and the United Kingdom - will jointly launch a Green Grids Initiative during world leaders' summit at the beginning of the 26th session of the UN climate change conference (COP26) in Glasgow, UK in the first week of November**
 - ✓ Named as 'Green Grids Initiative - One Sun One World One Grid' (GGI-OSOWOG), the initiative seeks to set up a trans-national grid to transport solar power to different countries
 - ✓ The initiative was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi three years ago
 - ✓ Now, it will be endorsed in the form of a political declaration by the fourth general assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) during October 18-21.
 - ✓ PM Modi would attend the world leaders' summit on November 1-2 at COP26 and launch it with UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson in presence of other heads of state/government.
 - ✓ US President Joe Biden, Australian PM Scott Morrison and other leaders will also attend the summit during the first half of the COP26
 - ✓ During the meeting, countries are expected to finalise rules of carbon market mechanism (Article 6) under the Paris Agreement.
 - ✓ The Article 6 rules are the last piece of the Agreement which is yet to be finalised.
- **The United States - has overtaken China as India's largest trading partner.**
 - ✓ During January-September period in 2021, two-way trade between India and the US jumped 50% to \$28 billion.
 - ✓ A comparatively slower 46% rise with China indicated bilateral trade increase of \$25.3 billion.
 - ✓ Countries such as Australia, the UAE and Belgium are seeing a much sharper trade increase with India
 - ✓ Among the major trading partners, the steepest increase was in the case of South Africa, which saw an increase of 91.4% to \$5.9 billion.
 - ✓ Similarly, in the case of Australia, trade jumped over 85% to \$6.4 billion.

- ✓ Trade with Belgium increased by nearly 80% to \$6 billion, while UAE saw a rise of 67%, with the value of trade pegged at \$20 billion.
- ✓ During January-September, trade with Indonesia increased by 48.4% to \$6.1 billion, while that with Thailand was 60% higher at \$3.8 billion.
- ✓ China has, however, narrowly managed to retain the top spot during the first four months of the current financial year
- ✓ During April-July, India's trade with China was estimated at \$36.6 billion, against \$36.5 with the US.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **German rail operator, Deutsche Bahn (DB), in partnership with German engineering group, Siemens Mobility - has developed the world's first fully automated driverless train in Hamburg, Germany on October 11, 2021**



- ✓ The project is part of a 60 million euro (\$70 million) modernisation of Hamburg's rapid urban rail system.
- ✓ Labelled as the more punctual and energy-efficient than traditional trains, the first-ever driverless train in Germany will join the northern city's S-Bahn rapid urban rail network and will be operational from December onwards
- ✓ Although the train is controlled through digital technology and fully automated, a driver will still be present to supervise journeys
- ✓ It would be the first time that a fully automated Hamburg train will run on sharing tracks with other regular trains.
- ✓ The project implemented Automatic Train Operation technology in the passenger regional train

SPORTS

- **Chennai Super Kings - beat Kolkata Knight Riders by 27 runs in the final to lift their fourth IPL title in Dubai, UAE on October 15, 2021**
- ✓ With the win, MS Dhoni became only the second skipper after Rohit Sharma to lead a side to more than three IPL titles

- ✓ Chennai, winners in 2010, 2011 and 2018, remain one of the most successful IPL franchises after five-time champions Mumbai Indians
- ✓ The win gave CSK skipper M S Dhoni his 6th league crown (including 2 Champions League victories) and Dwayne Bravo a record 16th T20 title as a player
- ✓ CSK finished at seventh position in the previous edition of the T20 tournament
- ✓ Harshal Patel (Royal Challengers Bangalore), who took 32 wickets in 15 games, the most this season, was named as the Most Valuable Player of the season, Gamechanger of the season and won the Purple Cap for the best bowler
- ✓ Patel equalled the record for most wickets in a single edition, matching Dwayne Bravo's 32 for CSK in 2013

PURPLE CAP –MAX WKTS	
	32 HARSHAL PATEL RCB
AVESH KHAN DC	24
J BUMRAH MI	21
M SHAMI PBKS	19
ORANGE CAP –MAX RUNS	
	635 RUTURAJ GAIKWAD RCB
DU PLESSIS CSK	633
DKL RAHUL PBKS	626
S DHAWAN DC	587



- ✓ Ruturaj Gaikwad of the Chennai Super Kings, who scored 635 runs, named as the Emerging player of the season and won Orange Cap for best batsmen in the tournament
- ✓ Shimron Hetmyer (Delhi Capitals), for his strike-rate of 168, was named as Super Striker of the season
- ✓ KL Rahul (Punjab Kings) with 30 sixes hit the maximum number of sixes in the tournament
- ✓ Rajasthan Royals won the Fairplay award in this 14th edition of the tournament
- **Indian football captain Sunil Chhetri - has surpassed the legendary Pele in the number of international goals in the ongoing 2021 SAFF Championship in Male, Maldives**
- ✓ Pele had 77 goals for Brazil, and Chhetri surpassed the Brazilian legend in the 62nd minute of the encounter against the Maldives on October 13
- ✓ Chhetri added another goal to his tally, bringing his total to 79 international goals in his 123rd match for India.



- ✓ With a 3-1 victory against Maldives, India has secured a place in the 2021 SAFF Championship Final, which will be played on October 16 against Nepal.
 - ✓ Lionel Messi (80) and Cristiano Ronaldo (115) are the two active international goal scorers who are ahead of Chhetri, who is now placed on joint third with Ali Mabkhout from UAE
 - ✓ The Indian skipper has also become the world's joint sixth-highest goal-scorer
 - ✓ Chhetri made his international debut in 2005 against Pakistan in Quetta
- **Tamil Nadu's Ulhas KS - is all set to play in the professional basketball league in Division 1 Moldovan National League, Europe**



- ✓ Ulhas will represent the Gloria Basketball team in the Moldovan national league.
- ✓ Hailing from Kancheepuram in Tamil Nadu, Ulhas KS, lives in New Delhi for the past few years
- ✓ The Moldovan Basketball league is a highly-acclaimed professional league in the European circuit and has a huge rating among the major basketball leagues in the world.
- ✓ The season, which commences from mid-October will end in January
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu native has played for University of Westminster in London for three years, from 2016-2019.
- ✓ He had captained the University of Westminster team to victory in the inter-university league in London while he was in his second year in college.

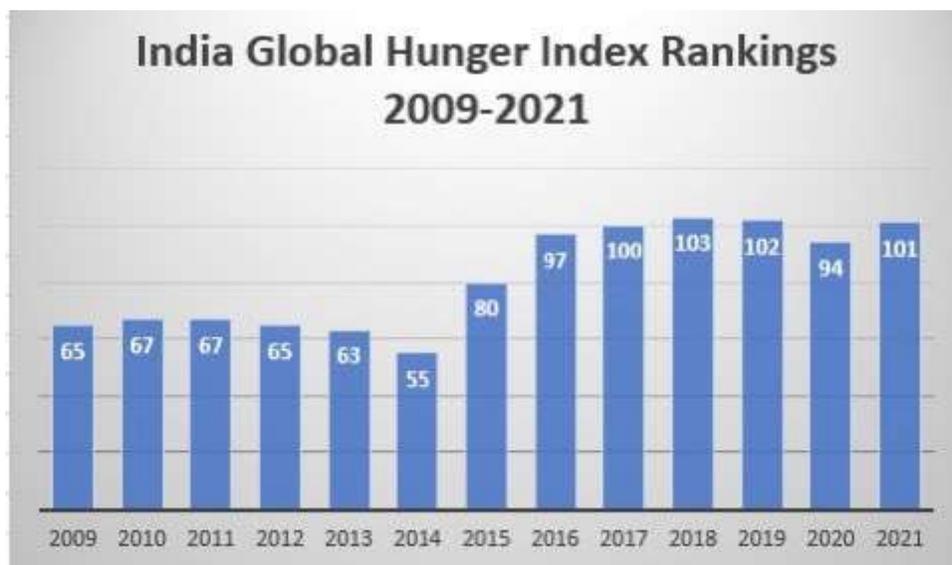
- ✓ After completing his graduation from the University of Westminster, Ulhas played a 3X3 semi-professional league in India, the Streetball league.
- ✓ He played for Team Old School Ballers and won the 2019 championship.

RANKINGS

- **India - has slipped to 101st position in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2021 out of 116 countries**



- ✓ Eighteen countries, including China, Brazil and Kuwait, shared the top rank with GHI score of less than five
- ✓ The Global Hunger Index, prepared jointly by Irish aid agency Concern Worldwide and German organisation Welt Hunger Hilfe, tracks hunger and malnutrition among the countries in the world



- ✓ In 2020, India was ranked 94th out of 107 countries.
- ✓ India's GHI score has also reduced from 38.8 in 2000 to the range of 28.8 - 27.5 between 2012 and 2021.
- ✓ The GHI score is calculated on four indicators –
 - ✓ undernourishment;
 - ✓ child wasting (child under 5 having low weight for their height, reflecting acute undernutrition);
 - ✓ child stunting (children under the age of five who have low height for their age, reflecting chronic undernutrition) and
 - ✓ child mortality (the mortality rate of children under the age of five).
- ✓ The share of wasting among children in India rose from 17.1% in the period 1998-2002 to 17.3% in the period 2016-2020, as per the report.
- ✓ Neighbouring countries like Nepal (76), Bangladesh (76), Myanmar (71) and Pakistan (92) are also ranked in the 'alarming' hunger category, but have fared better at feeding its citizens than India, according to the report.
- ✓ Based on the current GHI projections, the world as a whole, with 47 countries in particular, will fail to achieve a low level of hunger by 2030.
- ✓ The Indian government rejected the report and termed the methodology used for rankings "unscientific".
- ✓ As per the government, the index was prepared based on the assessment on the results of a 'four question' opinion poll which was conducted telephonically by Gallup