

# UNESCO launches 2021 State of the Education Report for India



- On the Occasion of the World Teachers' Day (5th October), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) launched its 2021 State of the Education Report (SOER) for India: "No Teacher, No Class".
- This publication is the annual flagship report of UNESCO New Delhi and it is based on extensive research.
- This third edition of the State of Education Report focused on the theme of teachers, teaching and teacher education.
- Access to the internet in schools is 19 per cent all over India.
- The Higher proportion of women teachers: Chandigarh,
  Delhi, Kerala, Punjab, Tamil Nadu

- The lower proportion of women teachers: Tripura, Assam, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Bihar.
- Increase the number of teachers and improve working conditions in North-Eastern states, rural areas and 'aspirational districts.
- Increase the number of physical education, music, art, vocational education, early childhood and special education teachers.
- Provide teachers with meaningful Information and Communication Technology (ICT) training.
- Develop teaching governance through consultative processes, based on mutual accountability.



#### **AIR INDIA**



- After 68 years, Air India is all set to return to the Tata fold.
- Tata Sons subsidiary Talace Pvt. Ltd. emerged as the winning bidder for the debt-laden national carrier after quoting an enterprise value of ₹18,000 crore.
- The government will take a hit of ₹28,844 crore.
- The Tatas will own a 100% stake in Air India, as also 100% in its international low-cost arm Air India Express and 50% in the ground handling joint venture, Air India SATS.
- Apart from 141 aircraft and access to a network of 173 destinations, including 55 international ones, Tatas will also have the ownership of iconic brands such as Air India, Indian Airlines and the Maharajah.

- he Group of Ministers led by Home Minister Amit Shah approved the winning bidder in its meeting on October 4.
- The government aims to complete the transaction by December 2021, when it will transfer its shares and hand over the airline to the new buyer.
- Talace quoted an enterprise value of ₹18,000 crore. Of this, ₹15,300 crore is the debt component of Air India to be taken on by the winner, and the remaining ₹2,700 crore will be cash paid to the government
- It will provide a very strong market opportunity to the Tata Group's presence in the aviation industry.
- Tata Sons owns 84% share in Air Asia, which has a market share of 5.2%, and 51% stake in Vistara, which has a market share of 8.3%.
- Together with Air India's market share of 13.2%, Tatas could be in control of 26.7% market share, and be the second biggest player after IndiGo.



### Corbett National Park to Ramganga National Park.



- Jim Corbett's name has lent itself to India's oldest and most celebrated national parks and to the cottage industry that has grown around it.
- Corbett's name lives on in and around the forests of Uttarakhand where the celebrated hunter-naturalist once lived and whose efforts led to the establishment of the national park.
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- But the Park was not always called Corbett. Set up in 1936 as India's — and Asia's — first national park, it was called Hailey National Park after Sir Macolm Hailey, the governor of the United Province.
- It was renamed Ramganga National Park, named after the river that flows through it, shortly after Independence and was rechristened yet again as Corbett National Park in 1956.
- It was at the insistence of Corbett's friend, the great freedom fighter from Kumaon and the first chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, Govind Ballabh Pant, that the park was renamed after him, to honour his conservation efforts.
- Located in the Himalayan foothills near the tourist hill station of Nainital, Corbett National Park is spread over 520 sq km and is part of the Corbett Tiger Reserve which is over 1,288 sq km.
- The national park along with the neighbouring 301-sq km-Sonanadi Wildlife Sanctuary together make the critical tiger habitat of the Corbett Tiger Reserve.



# Which are world's top 5 safest cities as per Safe Cities Index 2021?



- The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) recently released its annual list of the world's safest cities, with pandemic preparedness and COVID-19 mortality included among the 76 safety indicators this year.
- As per the 2021 Safe Cities Index, Denmark's Copenhagen was the world's safest city. Toronto (Canada), Singapore, Sydney (Australia) and Tokyo (Japan) were also among the top five safest cities.

# NASA shares pic of 'dancing galaxies' 100 million light-yrs away from Earth



- American space agency NASA has shared a picture captured by the Hubble telescope which shows "the delicate dance between two interacting galaxies".
- NASA said the galaxies are located over 100 million lightyears away from Earth, adding, "Astronomers think that collisions between spiral galaxies like this can lead to the formation of another type of galaxy, known as elliptical galaxies."

# Chernobyl disaster's radioactive effect seen in mushrooms in Germany



- German food and safety regulator has said around 95% of wild mushroom samples collected in Germany in the last six years still showed radioactive contamination from the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster.
- Elevated concentrations of caesium-137 and caesium-134 isotopes bearing the characteristic signature of the Chernobyl blast were found.
- However, none of the samples tested exceeded the legal limit.