

**August 2021**

# **BOLT**

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## Banking & Finance

### 1. SBI, Axis Bank, ICICI Bank, others buy stakes in fintech firm IBBIC

SBI, Axis Bank, Indian Bank, Yes Bank and IDBI Bank picked up 5.55% stake each, representing 50,000 shares in IBBIC, for cash at Rs 5 lakh each.

Apart from these lenders, ICICI Bank bought 49,000 shares (5.44 per cent) for Rs 4.9 lakh. Incorporated in May this year, IBBIC platform offers distributed ledger technology (DLT) solutions to the Indian financial services sector.

### 2. SBI tops list of PSBs writing off bad loans in FY21, Union Bank of India holds second spot

State Bank of India topped the list of public sector banks writing off loans in FY21 followed by Union Bank of India. While SBI removed Rs 34,402 crore from its balance sheet, the Union Bank of India wrote off Rs 16,983 crore during the last fiscal. Prudential or technical write-off does not result in waiver of liabilities of borrowers to repay.

### 3. DBS clinches global accolade for innovation in digital banking

DBS has been honoured as the global winner for Most Innovative in Digital Banking by Financial Times publication, The Banker, in its 2021 Innovation in Digital Banking Awards. The bank was also recognised as the Asia-Pacific winner, and won in the Cyber Security category for its Secure Access and Remote Working Solution. DBS is a leading financial services group in Asia. DBS is named Asia's Best Bank & Asia's Best Digital Bank in the Euromoney Regional Awards

### 4. Indian Bank signs MoU with IIT Bombay for extending exclusive credit facility to Start-ups and MSMEs

Indian Bank entered into a MoU with Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE) ' an initiative of Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay for extending exclusive credit facility to Start-ups and MSMEs. SINE, IIT Bombay is the forerunner in setting up joint R&D with industries and supporting start-up incubation. The Bank will extend loans of up to 50 crore to startups Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Indian Bank : Padmaja Chunduru

### 5. SBI launches SIM Binding feature on its online banking platform

To safeguard the interest of its customers, the State Bank of India has launched a new security feature - SIM Binding in YONO and YONO Lite. The new version of the platforms will protect customers from various digital frauds. With the SIM Binding feature, YONO and YONO Lite will work only on devices which have SIM or mobile numbers registered with the bank SBI Chairman : Dinesh Kumar Khara

### 6. Paytm Payments Bank crosses 1-cr FASTags mark

Paytm Payments Bank (PPB) has become the first bank in the country to achieve the milestone of issuing 1cr FASTags. According to NPCI, over 3.47 crore FASTags were issued by all banks together till the end of June 2021. PPB is also India's largest acquirer of toll plazas for the National Electronic Toll Collection program offering an interoperable nationwide toll payment soln PPB is working closely with NHAI for testing & implementing multi-lane free-flow movement

### 7. Suryoday Small Finance Bank launches 'Health and Wellness Savings account

Suryoday Small Finance Bank launched the 'Suryoday Health and Wellness Savings Account', a premium savings account product aimed at ensuring that the customers' wealth not only grows but they and their families are also taken care of on their health. This offers top-up health insurance of Rs 25 lakhs, annual healthcare package and on-call emergency ambulance medical care R Baskar Babu : MD & CEO, Suryoday Small Finance Bank

### 10. RBI imposes Rs 6 lakh penalty on Hewlett-Packard Financial Services

RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs 6 lakh on Hewlett-Packard Financial Services (India) Private Ltd, Bengaluru for non-compliance with certain directions issued by it.

RBI said the statutory inspection of the company revealed non-compliance with the statutory directions on submission of credit information to CRILC and submission of credit data to credit information companies

### **11. RBI Maintains Key Lending Rate At 4%, Retains GDP Growth Target At 9.5%**

Reserve Bank maintained the key interest rates unchanged for the seventh straight time and retained the GDP growth target at 9.5 per cent. The repo rate would be unchanged at 4 per cent and the reverse repo rate would remain at 3.35 per cent. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said the policy stance continues to be "accommodative"

### **12. SIDBI launches Swavalamban Challenge Fund to promote entrepreneurship**

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) in partnership with Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, UK (FCDO UK) has launched 'Swavalamban Challenge Fund' (SCF) to lend a helping hand to the entrepreneurs.

A challenge fund is a fund support mechanism to allocate funds for specific purposes using competition among organizations. Under this fund, applications are invited in two categories: Pilot and Scale-up category

### **13. Tata Motors and Sundaram Finance partner to offer 100% vehicle financing to customers**

Tata Motors and Sundaram Finance announce a partnership to offer 100% financing options to customers on Tata cars and UVs. The partnership also offers a special financing 'Kisan Car Scheme' for farmers, that allow extended and convenient repayment options.

### **14. RBL Bank selects AWS as preferred cloud provider**

RBL Bank has chosen Amazon Web Services (AWS), an Amazon.com company, as its preferred cloud provider to strengthen its AI powered banking solutions and drive digital transformation at the Bank, adding significant value to the Bank's innovative offerings, saving costs, and tightening risk controls. The Bank is building on its analytics practice & investing in AI capabilities

### **15. RBI hikes collateral free loans to SHGs under DAY-NRLM to Rs 20 lakh**

Reserve Bank of India notified the enhancement of collateral free loans to self-help groups (SHGs) from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 20 lakh under DAY-NRLM. The DAY-NRLM is the flagship programme of the GoI for promoting poverty reduction through building strong institutions for the poor, particularly women, and enabling these institutions to access a range of financial services. DAY-NRLM : Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission

### **16. RBI ropes in India's 'golden boy' Neeraj Chopra for banking fraud awareness campaign**

Reserve Bank of India has started a public awareness campaign to warn people against digital banking frauds. For the new campaign, RBI has roped in Olympic Gold medalist Neeraj Chopra. The central bank has asked people to be a little cautious as doing so can protect them from a lot of troubles. @RBI Kehta Hai. Along with @Neeraj\_chopra1. A little caution takes care of trouble

### **17. NSE to allow trading in US-listed stocks in NSE-IFSC platform**

NSE International Exchange (NSE IFSC), a subsidiary of the National Stock Exchange of India Ltd (NSE), has announced trading in select US stocks will be facilitated through its platform. The proposed framework will make US stocks affordable to Indian retail investors. The offering will be in the form of unsponsored depository receipts. NSE IFSC Limited launched trading on June 5th, 2017.

### **18. Deutsche Bank gets nod to set up IFSC banking unit at GIFT City**

Deutsche Bank will set up its IFSC banking unit at India's first global financial centre in Gujarat. The bank has received approval from the GIFT SEZ Authority to set up an IFSC banking unit at India's first International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) at GIFT City, Gujarat. The International Financial Services Centre in GIFT City was set up in 2015.

### **19. Indian Bank signs Memorandum of Understanding with Paralympic Committee**

Public sector Indian Bank has signed a MoU with Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) as one of the banking partners of the Paralympic Games scheduled to commence from August 24 in Tokyo, Japan. The bank, through its year-long association with PCI, will provide financial assistance to paralympic athletes. The President of Paralympic Committee of India is Deepa Malik.

### **20. Central Bank of India enters into strategic co-lending partnership with Dhanvarsha Finvest**

Central Bank of India has entered into a strategic co-lending partnership with Dhanvarsha Finvest Ltd (DFL) to offer loans against gold ornaments under priority sector to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) borrowers at competitive rates.

Under this partnership, DFL will originate and process loans against gold ornaments as per jointly formulated credit parameter

### **21. SIDBI unveils Digital Prayaas lending platform**

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has launched 'Digital Prayaas', an App based end to end digital lending platform, whereby loan sanction will be accorded to aspiring entrepreneurs from the bottom of the pyramid.

Further, to cater to the aspiring youth in urban areas, SIDBI tied up with a major aggregator, BigBasket, to on board its delivery partners in India

### **22. ADB to finance water supply project in Jharkhand with Rs 831 cr loan**

Multilateral funding agency Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved an over Rs 831 crore (USD 112 million) loan to finance water supply infrastructure in Jharkhand. The project will cover four towns in the state.

The project supports the Jharkhand Vision and Action Plan 2021 to improve the quality of life of its urban residents through better quality urban infrastructure. Cost of the project is USD 160 million, of which USD 48 million will be given by the state

### **23. National Fisheries Development Board signs pact with Punjab National Bank to pump liquidity into fisheries sector**

National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Government of India has entered into a MoU with Punjab National Bank to extend financial assistance to the fisheries sector.

The Government created the Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) in 2018-19 with a total fund of Rs 7522.48 crore. NFDB Chief Executive : Dr. Suvama Chandrappagari, PNB MD and CEO : CH S S Mallikarjuna Rao

### **24. RBI cancels license of Raigad based Karnala Nagari Sahakari Bank**

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the licence of Karnala Nagari Sahakari Bank of Maharashtra. Consequently, the bank ceases to carry on banking business, with effect from the close of business. The RBI said the bank does not have adequate capital and earning prospects and failed to comply with the requirements of various sections of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

### **25. RBI imposes '1 crore penalty on Coperatieve Rabobank U.A**

RBI imposed a monetary penalty of '1 crore on Coperatieve Rabobank UA. Its Mumbai Branch is a part of the Netherlands-based Rabobank Group. The penalty has been imposed for contravention of certain provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and directions related to 'transfer to reserve funds'. A penalty of Rs 5 lakh has been imposed on Village Financial Services, Kol.

### **26. IDFC FIRST Bank signs up with Indian Navy to offer Honour FIRST banking solutions**

IDFC FIRST Bank announced the signing of a MoU with the Indian Navy to offer Honour FIRST, a premium banking solution, to serving personnel and veterans of the Indian Navy. Account-

holders of Honour FIRST are supported by a dedicated team of defence veterans. The MoU for Honour FIRST was signed at the Naval Headquarters in New Delhi

### **27. RBI to levy penalty on ATMs that run out of cash**

RBI has asked banks and white label automated teller machine (ATM) operators to put in place a robust system that will allow them to monitor the availability of cash in ATMs.

The central bank has introduced a 'scheme of penalty for non-replenishment of ATMs', wherein banks and white label ATM operators will be penalised, in the event of cash-outs beyond the permissible time

### **28. RBI to introduce 'Regulatory GAAR' for round tripping**

Some of the largest Indian companies, startups and multinationals with an India presence have put their outbound investment, fundraising and restructuring plans on hold as the RBI looks to introduce fresh regulations around 'round tripping.' The central bank is looking to tweak the existing regulations and has come up with draft rules around round tripping.

### **29. BLS's subsidiary, Starfin empanelled as National Business Correspondent for Bank of Baroda**

The subsidiary of BLS International, Starfin India signed a contract with Bank of Baroda to support the financial inclusion mission of Govt of India.

Under the contract, the company is the official National Business Correspondent (NBC) to deliver last mile banking services in rural and urban areas across India.

Starfin is already empanelled as the NBC of SBI.

### **30. Citibank becomes first US bank to set up unit in IFSC at GIFT City**

Citibank, headquartered in the USA and has a strong international presence, received a license from the IFSC Authority to set up its banking unit at India's first International Financial Services Centre at GIFT City, Gujarat.

With this, Citibank will become the first US-based bank to set up a branch in GIFT-IFSC. Citibank will be serving both Indian & global customers.

### **31. RBI Introduces Financial Inclusion Index**

Reserve Bank of India has constructed a composite Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index) to capture the extent of financial inclusion across the country.

The FI-Index has been conceptualised as a comprehensive index incorporating details of banking, investments, insurance, postal as well as the pension sector in consultation with Government and respective sectoral regulators.

### **32. RBI to put in place a 'PRISM' to strengthen compliance by lenders**

The Reserve Bank of India is putting in place a Platform for Regulated Entities for Integrated Supervision and Monitoring (PRISM), a web-based end-to-end workflow automation system, to strengthen compliance by supervised entities (SEs).

This is aimed at helping supervised entities to strengthen their internal defences and resilience and bringing focus on root cause analysis

### **33. Ujjivan Small Finance Bank chief Nitin Chugh steps down due to personal reasons**

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank's managing director and chief effective officer Nitin Chugh has tendered his resignation.

The resignation will come into effect from September 30, 2021. Ujjivan Small Finance Bank had roped in Chugh from HDFC Bank in May 2019, he took over the baton from predecessor Samit Ghosh in December 2019. RBI had approved the appointment for three years

### **34. The Reserve Bank of India issues revised guidelines for hiring of locker facility provided by banks**

Taking into consideration the various developments in the area of banking & technology, nature of consumer grievances & feedback received from banks, RBI has issued revised guidelines for locker/safe custody facility. It is now mandatory for banks to maintain a branch-

wise list of vacant lockers as well as a wait-list for the allotment of lockers. The new guidelines will be effective from 1st January 2022.

### **35. USAID, DFC join hands with Kotak Mahindra Bank to support MSMEs**

US Agency for International Development & US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) would jointly sponsor a \$50 mn. loan portfolio guarantee to Kotak Mahindra Bank to support increased financial access to women borrowers, and MSMEs in India.

Under the program, Kotak Mahindra Bank will provide loans to NBFCs operating in the MSME and Microfinance (MFI) space.

### **36. Honda Cars partners with Canara Bank to offer finance options to customers**

Honda Cars India Ltd (HCIL) has joined hands with Canara Bank to offer retail finance schemes to customers.

The partnership facilitates HCIL customers to avail easy financing options and hassle free car loans from Canara Bank for purchase of models like Amaze, City, Jazz and WR-V.

### **37. 'BADLAAV Humse Hai': AU Bank unveils mega Brand Campaign and launches AU 0101, its Digital Bank & Credit Card**

AU Small Finance Bank, India's Largest SFB has unveiled a mega Brand Campaign, aptly titled 'BADLAAV Humse Hai'.

This is the first integrated marketing communication campaign from AU Bank since its inception ' a creative endeavor that will showcase the bank's passion for innovation.

Aamir Khan and Kiara Advani roped in as Brand Ambassador.

First SFB to launch its own Credit card. Sanjay Agarwal, MD & CEO : AU Small Finance Bank

### **38. RBI imposes Rs 27.5 lakh penalty on Dhanlaxmi Bank for rule violations**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a monetary penalty of Rs. 27.50 lakh on Kerala-based private sector lender Dhanlaxmi Bank for various rule violations.

The examination of the Risk Assessment Report and Inspection Report pertaining to the same revealed violation of certain provisions of the Depositor Education and Awareness Fund Scheme. Dhanlaxmi Bank Headquarters: Thrissur; Founded: 1927

### **39. RBI extends scope of tokenisation to laptops, wearable devices**

The Reserve Bank extended the scope of 'tokenisation' to several consumer devices, including laptops, desktops, wearables like wristwatches and bands, as well as Internet of Things devices.

Tokenization, which aims at improving the safety and security of the payment system, refers to the replacement of actual card details with a unique alternate code called the 'token'.

### **40. State Bank of India (SBI) has opened a floating ATM on Dal Lake in Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar**

SBI has opened a floating ATM on a Houseboat at Dal Lake in Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar for the convenience of locals and tourists. The floating ATM was inaugurated by SBI Chairman Dinesh Khare.

SBI also inaugurated a floating ATM in Kerala in 2004. SBI has over 60,000 ATMs in India, the largest network in the country.

### **41. RBI imposes Rs 15 lakh penalty on Baghat Urban Co-operative Bank, Solan**

The RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs 15 lakh on The Baghat Urban Co-operative Bank Limited, Solan, for violation of certain norms, including, those related to NPA classification.

RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs 1 lakh on Delhi Nagrik Sehkari Bank Limited, New Delhi, for non-compliance with certain directions issued by the central bank.

### **42. Indo-Nepal Remittance Facility: RBI enhances transaction ceiling 4-fold to '2 lakh**

RBI has made enhancements to the Indo-Nepal Remittance Facility Scheme, whereby the ceiling per transaction has been increased 4-fold to '2 L & the cap of 12 remittances in a year per remitter has been removed. Under the scheme, the beneficiary receives funds in Nepalese

Rupees through credit to her / his bank account maintained with Nepal SBI Bank Ltd /agency arrangement.

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## Economy

### **1. CII enters into agreement with SII to speed up vaccination program in partnership with industry including health care providers**

Confederation of Indian Industry, CII, has entered into an agreement with Serum Institute of India (SII) to speed up the vaccination program in partnership with industry including health care providers. CII and SII partnership will ensure to connect hospitals and corporates to fast track vaccination which is necessary for post pandemic growth of the country. Serum Institute of India CEO : Adar Poonawala

### **2. RBI imposes fine over Rs 50 lakh on Janalaxmi Co-operative Bank for non-compliance**

RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs 50.35 lakh on Janalaxmi Co-operative Bank, Nashik for non-compliance with certain regulatory requirements.

The penalty on Janalaxmi Co-operative Bank has been imposed for non-compliance with directions issued by RBI on Placement of Deposits with Other Banks by Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks and Membership of Credit Information Companies

### **3. IndusInd Bank gets empanelled as Agency Bank to RBI**

IndusInd Bank has been empanelled by the RBI to act as an 'Agency Bank' to facilitate transactions related to government businesses.

The announcement comes after a recent RBI guideline that authorises scheduled private sector banks as agency banks of the regulator for the conduct of government business. RBI also empanelled Karnataka Bank to act as an 'agency bank'.

### **4. Centre introduces bill to scrap retrospective tax law**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021 in the Lok Sabha that finally puts an end to the government's pursuit of taxing indirect transfers through retrospective amendments. The Bill proposes to relax this retrospective tax impact for income arising from indirect transfer of Indian assets undertaken before 28 May 2012.

### **5. Govt cuts Mudra loans target in FY22, rules out fresh PSB merger proposal**

The government has set the loans disbursement target under the PM Mudra Yojana (PMMY) at Rs 3 trillion for the current financial year as compared to Rs 3.21 trillion sanctioned in FY21.

Out of the Rs 3.21 trillion worth loans sanctioned under the PMMY in the last financial year, Rs 3.12 trillion were disbursed to entrepreneurs. Under PMMY, credit up to Rs 10 lakh is given by banks/nbfc for entrepreneurial activities

### **6. Bajaj family to buy out JV partners in Mukand**

One of India's oldest manufacturing joint ventures that had the blessings of Mahatma Gandhi is finally getting unstuck. The Bajaj family has decided to buy out its partners, the Shah brothers Suketu and Rajesh, from the 84-year old steel venture Mukand Ltd. The Shah family will be cashing out of the business, transferring their residual 16.5% stake to their partners

### **7. Gift City, India Insurtech ink pact to promote fintech in insurance sector**

GIFT City, the country's first international financial services centre (IFSC) has collaborated with the India InsurTech Association (IIA) to promote financial technology in the insurance sector. The two entities will collaborate on building thought leadership in the field of insurance and creating awareness about Gift City among Indian and foreign insurance companies GIFT City : Gujarat International Finance Tec-City

### **8. Tata Motors collaborates with Bank of Maharashtra for car loan scheme**

Tata Motors has joined hands with Bank of Maharashtra to offer car loan facilities for its New Forever range of passenger vehicles.

Under the collaboration, Bank of Maharashtra will provide loans to Tata Motors' customers at an interest rate starting from as low as 7.15 per cent linked with Repo Linked Lending Rate (RLLR), subject to certain conditions.

### 9. IIFL Home Finance Limited inks pact with Asian Development Bank

IIFL Home Finance (IIFL HFL), a leading housing finance company, has signed an agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for Technical Assistance to support & foster the green building ecosystem in the affordable housing sector in India.

This is ADB's first such private sector agreement in the country.

IIFL HFL will contribute up to \$150,000, for supporting TA agreement

### 10. PhonePe receives in-principle approval from RBI to operate as account aggregator

Walmart-owned PhonePe has received in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India to operate as an Account Aggregator (AA).

The license permits PhonePe to launch its AA platform that will enable instant exchange of financial data between the Financial Information Users and Financial Information Providers with due consent from customers, in a safe and secure manner. Rahul Chari CTO and Co-founder of PhonePe

### 11. BharatPe forays into consumer lending, investment space with '12% Club'

Fintech firm BharatPe forayed into the consumer space with the launch of 12% Club, which will work in the areas of consumer lending and investments.

With 12% Club consumers will have an option to invest and earn up to 12% annual interest or borrow at a competitive interest rate of 12%.

BharatPe has partnered with the RBI-approved NBFCs to offer these services to consumers.



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## National

### **1. HOTLINE established between Indian Army and People's Liberation Army in North Sikkim**

A hotline was established between Indian Army at Kongra La in North Sikkim and the People's Liberation Army at Khamba Dzong in Tibetan Autonomous Region to further the spirit of trust and cordial relations along the borders. The event coincided with the PLA Day on 1st Aug 2021. A message of friendship and harmony was exchanged through the Hotline. Chief of Army Staff : General Manoj Mukund Naravane

### **2. India takes over Presidency of UNSC for August**

India took over the Presidency of the United Nations Security Council for the month of August. The External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said, India's vision has been steered by Dialogue and Cooperation, mutual respect and commitment to International law. Maritime security, peacekeeping and counter-terrorism will be the focus areas for India during its presidency PM Modi will be the first Indian PM to preside over a meeting of the UNSC

### **3. PM Modi to launch e-RUPI, a cashless and contactless instrument for digital payment**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch e-RUPI, a cashless and contactless instrument for digital payment. e-Rupi is a person and purpose specific digital payment solution. It is a QR code or SMS string-based e-Voucher, which is delivered to the mobile of the beneficiaries. eRupi has been developed by National Payments Corporation of India on its UPI platform It is developed in collaboration with the Department of Financial Services, MoHFW and NHA

### **4. Atal Innovation Mission successfully completes two-month long, one of its kind 'ATL Tinkerpreneur Bootcamp' across country**

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog successfully completed two month long and a first of its kind, digital skills and an exclusive entrepreneurship ATL Tinkerpreneur summer boot camp held across the country. Designed for high school students across the nation, 'ATL Tinkerpreneur' saw a record-breaking 9000+ participants across 32 states and 298 districts Mission Director AIM, NITI Aayog : Dr Chintan Vaishnav

### **5. DEPwD organises Samajik Adhikarita Shivir for distribution of aids & assistive devices to Divyangjan under the ADIP Scheme**

A 'Samajik Adhikarita Shivir' for distribution of aids and assistive devices to 'Divyangjan' under the ADIP Scheme and to Senior Citizens under the 'Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana' of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India was organized by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in Aurangabad, Bihar. A total of 5102 aids & assistive devices valued at Rs.2.43 crore will be distributed free

### **6. Government's GST collections for July record Rs 1.16 lakh crore**

Gross GST collected in July stood at Rs 1,16,393 crore showing a revived uptrend in business activity and economy during June as states eased restrictions. The revenue for July is 33% higher than the same period last year when most of the economic activity came under the impact of Covid's first wave. Increased revenue collection has helped in containing the fiscal deficit.

### **7. Glenmark inks deal with SaNOtize for COVID treatment spray in India, other Asian markets**

Glenmark Pharmaceuticals and SaNOtize Research and Development Corp announced an exclusive long term strategic partnership to manufacture, market and distribute its breakthrough Nitric Oxide Nasal Spray (NONS) in Asian markets including India, Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Nepal, Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Timor Leste and Vietnam. Glenn Saldanha, Chairman and MD : Glenmark Pharmaceuticals

### **8. Dragon fruit exported for the first time to London and Bahrain**

In a major boost to exports of exotic fruit, consignments of fiber and mineral rich dragon fruit, which are sourced from farmers of Gujarat and West Bengal, have been exported for the first

time to London and Bahrain. The consignment of exotic fruit exported to London was sourced from farmers of Kutch, Gujarat, while the consignment exported to Bahrain was from West Bengal

### **9. Sports Minister Anurag Thakur launches theme song for Tokyo Paralympics**

Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Thakur launched the theme song 'Kar De Kamaal Tu' for the Indian Paralympic contingent in New Delhi. The song 'Kar De Kamaal Tu' is composed and sung by a Divyang cricket player Sanjeev Singh. The idea of the Paralympic Committee of India was to get the song composed from the Divyang community as a mark of inclusiveness.

### **10. India joined Community of Portuguese Language Countries as Associate Observer**

Minister of State for External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi said that India has joined the Community of Portuguese Language Countries as Associate Observer. This sets a new platform for strengthening India's historic bonds of friendship with Lusophone countries and pursuing cooperation in areas of mutual interest. This will enrich and strengthen India's ties with the Portugal.

### **11. NITI Aayog and RMI release report on power distribution sector**

NITI released a report which presents reform pathways to transform the country's power distribution sector. The report, titled 'Turning Around the Power Distribution Sector', is co-authored by NITI Aayog, RMI and RMI India. The report presents a review of reform efforts in the Indian and global power distribution sector. NITI Aayog CEO : Amitabh Kant, Chairperson : Narendra Modi

### **12. Cabinet approves MoU between IIST and TU Delft Netherlands for research activities**

The Union Cabinet has approved the MoU between Indian Institute of Space science and Technology and The Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands for carrying out the Academic programmes and Research activities. This will exchange students at undergraduate, postgraduate & doctoral level and will mutually discuss and decide the areas of studies to be pursued.

### **13. Cabinet approves continuation of 1,023 fast-track special courts for 2 years**

The Union Cabinet approved continuation of 1,023 fast track special courts, including 389 exclusive POSCO courts, as a centrally sponsored scheme for another two years.

The scheme would continue from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2023 with an outlay of Rs 1572.86 crore -- Rs 971.70 crore as central share and Rs 601.16 crore as state share.

The scheme was launched in Oct 2019.

### **14. Cabinet approves Samagra Shiksha Scheme 2.0**

The Cabinet approved the school education programme Samagra Shiksha Scheme 2.0. The scheme runs from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2026. It has been given a financial outlay of Rs 2.94 lakh crore for this period. The scheme covers 1.16 million schools, over 156 million students and 5.7 million teachers of government and aided schools from pre-primary to senior secondary level

### **15. First direct flight operations flagged-off on Imphal & Shillong route under UDAN scheme**

The first direct flight operations between Imphal and Shillong was flagged off under the Regional Connectivity Scheme 'Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik, RCS-UDAN. This route fulfills the Centre's objective to establish strong aerial connectivity in priority areas of North-East India. Imphal is the capital of Manipur and Shillong is the capital of Meghalaya.

### **16. India and World Bank sign \$250 million project to make existing dams safe and resilient**

To enhance water security and support sustainable development, the GoI signed a \$250 million loan agreement with the World Bank for the DRIP Phase II to make existing dams and

communities safe and resilient across India. This is for 120 dams across Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Tamil Nadu. The Second Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP-2)

### **17. CBIC launches Compliance Information Portal (CIP)**

The Central Board for Indirect Taxes & Customs launched the Indian Customs Compliance Information Portal at [www.cip.icegate.gov.in/CIP](http://www.cip.icegate.gov.in/CIP) for providing free access to information on all Customs procedures and regulatory compliance for nearly 12,000 Customs Tariff Items. The portal will provide complete knowledge of all import and export related requirements for all items. M. Ajit Kumar, Chairman of Central Board of Excise & Customs.

### **18. APEDA inks MoU with University of Agricultural Science, Bangalore for boosting agri-exports**

To boost agricultural and processed food products exports especially from Karnataka, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) signed a MoU with University of Agricultural Science (UAS) Bangalore. The key areas of cooperation include developing technologies jointly with APEDA for advance alertness, efficient & precision farming. Dr. M. Angamuthu: Chairman, APEDA.

### **19. 2nd IEEE International Conference on Range Technology**

The 2nd Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers(IEEE) International Conference on Range Technology (ICORT-2021) has been organised by Integrated Test Range (ITR) Chandipur, a laboratory of DRDO. The event will host speakers from across the globe, who will present their technological achievements in multiple subjects related to Test and Evaluation of defence system. Chairman DRDO : Dr G Satheesh Reddy

### **20. TRIFED to celebrate its 34th Foundation Day**

TRIFED was founded on August 6, 1987 and will celebrate its 34th Foundation Day in 2021. It was founded to drive tribal development through marketing support for tribal products, both handicrafts and Non Timber Forest Produce (NTFP). The event will feature Presentation on TRIFED's journey, Announcement of Van Dhan Awards & Interaction of Tribal Beneficiaries

### **21. TRIFED to set up Atma Nirbhar Corner in Indian missions and embassies around the world**

In collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs, TRIFED is to set up an Atmanirbhar Bharat corner in 100 Indian Missions/Embassies across the world. The corner will be an exclusive space to promote GI tagged tribal art and craft products. The countries which reverted are Jamaica, Ireland, Turkey, Kenya, Mongolia, Israel, Finland, France, and Canada.

### **22. Maruti Suzuki India partners with Savitribai Phule Pune University to train youth in auto retail**

The country's leading car maker Maruti Suzuki India has partnered with Savitribai Phule Pune University, Maharashtra, to train the youth in automobile retail. A customised three-year 'Bachelor of Vocational Studies in Retail Management' course will be offered to students by the university with support from the company, Maruti Suzuki India Ltd (MSIL).

### **23. Rail Madad: Indian Railways Launches One-Stop Solution for Passengers Grievance, Enquiry, Suggestion and Assistance**

Rail Madad offers passengers multiple choices for access such as web, App, SMS, social media and Helpline number (139) during the journey for expeditious resolution of their complaints. 139 can be used for all kinds enquiries, and making complaints and the helpline facility is available round-the-clock in 12 languages. Union Railway minister: Ashwini Vaishnav

### **24. Johnson & Johnson's single-dose COVID-19 vaccine gets approval for emergency use in India**

Johnson & Johnson's single-dose COVID-19 vaccine has been given Emergency Use approval in India. India expands its vaccine basket as Johnson and Johnson's single-dose COVID-19 vaccine is given approval for Emergency Use in India. Now India has 5 EUA vaccines as per Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya. other vaccines: Covishield, Covaxin, Sputnik V, Moderna

## **25. National Gallery of Australia returns 14 art works including Chola idols**

National Gallery of Australia announced it would return 14 works of art from its Asian art collection to India.

The works of art being repatriated include 13 objects connected to art dealer Subhash Kapoor through Art of the Past and one acquired from art dealer William Wolff. The works include six bronze or stone sculptures, a brass processional standard, among others

## **26. BIRTHDAY Humara, PARTY Aapki**

Oliveboard Birthday Bash - Exclusive Offers on Long Term Plans

- 1) Bank Elite Plan - 1000+ Mock Tests
- 2) SSC & Railway Elite - 500+ Tests
- 3) EDGE + Tests Subscription - Unlock All courses + tests
- 4) SSC ELITE - 200+ SSC Tests

## **27. PM Modi To Chair UNSC Maritime Security Meet, Becomes First Indian PM To Preside Over UNSC Debate**

PM Narendra Modi will become the first Indian Prime Minister to preside over a UN Security Council Open Debate. PM Modi will chair a high-level open debate on "Enhancing Maritime Security ' A Case for International Cooperation". The open debate will focus on ways to effectively counter maritime crime and insecurity, and strengthen coordination in the maritime domain

## **28. Ayush Minister assure all help in establishing the world's first Bio Bank of Ayurveda at AIIA**

Ayush Min Sarbananda Sonowal and MoS- Ayush, Dr. Munjapara Mahendrabhai inaugurated the Multi-Purpose Yoga Hall & Mini Auditorium in All India Institute of Ayurveda. Both the Ministers assured their support for further development of the Institute to make it world's best Ayurveda Institute and assured all help for establishing the first Bio-Bank of the world in Ayurveda

## **29. India's first bio-bank for heart failure research inaugurated at Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences & technology**

The first National Heart Failure Biobank (NHFB) in the country that would collect blood, biopsies, and clinical data as a guide to future therapies was inaugurated at the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST). The biobank will provide insights into heart diseases and heart failure among Indian children and adults.

## **30. SoJE Minister Dr Virendra Kumar launches PM-DAKSH Portal & PM-DAKSH Mobile App**

Social Justice and Empowerment Min Dr Virendra Kumar launched PM-DAKSH Portal & PM-DAKSH Mobile App developed by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in collaboration with NeGD, to make the skill development schemes accessible to the target groups. With this youth of the target groups will now be able to avail the benefits of skill development training programmes The Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi : PM-DAKSH Yojana

## **31. SEBI introduces accredited investors concept in Indian securities market**

Markets regulator Sebi has introduced the concept of accredited investors in the Indian securities market, a move expected to open up a new channel for raising funds. A person or entity will be identified as an accredited investor on the basis of net worth or income. The one with at least Rs 2 cr or net worth is at least Rs 7.50cr annual income can be an accredited investor SEBI Chairman : Ajay Tyagi SEBI HQ : Mumbai SEBI : Securities and Exchange Board of India

## **32. India to host the first Internet Governance Forum in the country**

National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI), Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) and the Chairman of the Coordination Committee, India Internet Governance Forum 2021 (IGF), announced the launch of India Internet Governance Forum (IIGF) -2021. IIGF-

2021 will be planned for 3 days and the theme of this year's meeting is Inclusive Internet for Digital India. The Multi Stakeholder concept is well adopted by IGF under the United Nations.

### **33. Tata Group in talks with Telesat for satellite broadband**

Tata group company Nelco is in talks with Canadian firm Telesat to ink a commercial pact for launching fast satellite broadband services in India under the latter's Lightspeed brand, a move which will pit the combine against Bharti Enterprises-backed OneWeb, Elon Musk's SpaceX and Amazon. OneWeb and Musk's Starlink are gearing up to start satellite broadband services in India

### **34. CCI approves acquisition of Bikaji Foods International Limited by Lighthouse India Fund III**

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approves acquisition by Lighthouse India Fund III, Limited (Fund III) and Lighthouse India III Employee Trust of Bikaji Foods International Limited under Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002. Lighthouse Funds is a US based company and acts as the sponsor and controls private equity funds that make investments in companies.

### **35. Earth Sciences Ministry to implement Deep Ocean Mission at total budget of Rs 4077 crore in five years**

The Earth Sciences Ministry will implement the Deep Ocean Mission at a total budget of 4077 crore rupees in the five years. Minister of State for Science and Technology Dr Jitendra Singh said that the preliminary estimates indicate that 380 million metric tonnes of polymetallic nodules comprising Copper, Nickel, Cobalt and Manganese are available in the Central Indian Ocean

### **36. Center Ropes at NCAER to Help Extend Vocational Education in CBSE Schools**

The Union Ministry of Education has appealed to the National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER) to help develop vocational education in schools. The economic think tank will help Central Council for Secondary Education (CBSE) schools identify constraints, prepare solutions and expose half of their students to vocational education.

### **37. MoS for External Affairs inaugurates 7th IBSA Academic Forum**

Minister of State for External Affairs Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh inaugurated the two day long 7th IBSA Academic Forum. The event is being hosted by the Research and Information System for Developing Countries, RIS, an autonomous think-tank of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. India is the incumbent Chair of IBSA. IBSA is a Forum with India, Brazil and South Africa.

### **38. KVIC Gets Patent For its Innovative Plastic-Mixed Handmade Paper**

The innovative plastic-mixed handmade paper developed by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) to curb plastic pollution is now a patented invention.

The handmade paper was developed under Project REPLAN (Reducing Plastic from Nature), launched in 2018 as KVIC's commitment towards Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

The patent is issued for 20 years under the Patents Act, 1970. The first-of-its-kind technology uses both high and low-density polythene

### **39. Rameswar Teli launches ONGC supported handicraft project 'Ujjwal Abahan'**

Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas Rameswar Teli launched 3rd ONGC handicraft project 'Ujjwal Abahan'. The ONGC supported Assam Handloom project will support and train over a hundred artisans of Bhatiapar of Sivasagar, Assam in Hathkargha handicraft. This project is in line with the government's observance of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav".

### **40. Number of billionaires in India dropped from 141 in FY20 to 136 in FY21**

The number of billionaires in India dropped to 136, as per a statement issued by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The number of billionaires was 141 in the previous fiscal - FY2019-20. The count is based on the gross total income declared in the income tax returns. In FY 2018-19, the number of individuals with a gross total annual income of more than Rs 100 cr is 77.

#### **41. India's nuclear power capacity is expected to reach 22,480 MW by 2031 from current 6,780 MW**

India's nuclear power capacity is expected to reach 22,480 MegaWatts by 2031 from the current 6,780 MegaWatts. The share of nuclear power in the total electricity generation in the country is about 3.1 per cent in 2020-21. Government has embarked on a large nuclear power capacity addition program to increase the share of nuclear power in electricity generation

#### **42. India's renewable energy generation capacity crosses 100 gigawatts**

India's renewable energy generation capacity excluding large scale hydro projects has crossed 100 GW. The country stands fourth in the world in terms of installed renewable energy capacity, fifth in solar and fourth in wind in terms of installed capacity. While 100GW has been installed, 50GW is under installation and 27GW is under tendering. India will install 450GW by 2030

#### **43. Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation, 2021 awards**

The Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation for the year 2021 has been awarded to 152 Police personnel. This medal was constituted in 2018, with the objective to promote high professional standards of investigation of crime and to recognize such Excellence in Investigation by investigating officers. This includes 28 women Police officials also.

#### **44. SAP India, Microsoft and AICTE to Skill 62,000 Women Students in Artificial Intelligence, Cloud Computing and Other Technologies**

SAP India and Microsoft announced the launch of a joint skilling program, TechSaksham, for empowering young women students from underserved communities to build careers in technology. Through this joint initiative, SAP India and Microsoft will skill 62,000 women students in artificial intelligence, cloud computing, web design, and digital marketing The program includes AICTE Training & Learning Academy-ATAL and State Collegiate Edu dept

#### **45. Kiren Rijiju to attend 8th Justice Ministers meet of Shanghai Cooperation Organization**

The Eighth Meeting of Ministers of Justice of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Member States will be attended by Shri Kiren Rijiju, Union Minister of Law & Justice.

The Ministers and senior officials of the Ministry of Justice of India, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan will be participating in the Meeting

#### **46. Health systems have highest national average of 66.97 for the elderly: index**

For the elderly in India, health systems have the highest national average of 66.97 at an all India level, followed by 62.34 in social wellbeing and financial well-being at a score of 44.7 in the "Quality of Life for Elderly Index" released by the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister(EAC-PM).

Quality of Life for Elderly Index is released by the Economic Advisory

#### **47. Three e-cars deployed at VOC Port, making it first major port to deploy electric vehicles**

The first batch of three e-cars were flagged off at the VO Chidambaranar Port Trust

These Tata Xpres-T electric vehicles have been supplied by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a Joint venture of Public Sector Undertaking , under Ministry of Power,on wet lease basis, for a period of 6 years.

This is a part of wet lease agreement under the Maritime India Vision 2030

#### **48. First Nasal COVID vaccine developed by Bharat Biotech gets regulatory approval for 2nd, 3rd phase trials**

The first nasal COVID-19 vaccine developed by Bharat Biotech has got regulatory approval for phase second and third trials.

This is the first of its kind COVID-19 jab to undergo human clinical trials in India.

The phase one Clinical trial has been completed in the age groups ranging 18 to 60 years.



Previously, the vaccine was found to be safe, immunogenic & well tolerated Secretary, Department of Biotechnology : Dr. Renu Swarup

#### **49. APEDA with HPMC exports 1st consignment consisting of 5 unique varieties of apples to Bahrain**

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, APEDA in collaboration with Himachal Pradesh Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation Limited HPMC exported first consignment consisting of five unique varieties of apples, Royal Delicious, Dark Baron Gala, Scarlet Spur, Red Velox and Golden Delicious to Bahrain

#### **50. MoHUA launches one brand -'SonChiraiya' - for Urban SHG products**

Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Durga Shanker Mishra, launched 'SonChiraiya' (A brand and logo)- for marketing of urban Self-Help Group (SHG) products. DAY-NULM, under the aegis of MoHUA, has focussed on equipping the urban poor women with adequate skills and opportunities, and to enable them to promote sustainable micro enterprises

#### **51. IndiGau, India's first Cattle Genomic Chip for the conservation of pure varieties of indigenous cattle breeds like Gir, etc**

MoS PMO, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh released 'IndiGau', India's first Cattle Genomic Chip for the conservation of pure varieties of indigenous cattle breeds like, Gir, Kankrej, Sahiwal, Ongole etc.

This indigenous chip was developed by the concerted efforts of scientists of National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NAIB), Hyderabad.

#### **52. ARCI signs know-how transfer Agreement with Allox Minerals for battery-grade Cathode Material technology for Li-ion batteries**

International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI), has developed indigenous technology for the production of Lithium Iron Phosphate (LFP) cathode material for Li-ion Batteries (LiBs) at its Centre for Nanomaterials. ARCI and Allox Minerals, signed an Agreement for Know-How Transfer on August, 2021

#### **53. Government declares 14th August as Partition Horrors Remembrance Day.**

In a fitting tribute to all those who lost their lives due to the partition and were displaced from their roots, the Government has decided to observe 14th August every year as the day to commemorate their sacrifice. Declaration of such a day would remind present and future generations of Indians of the pain and suffering faced by the people during the partition.

#### **54. RINL Visakhapatnam Steel Plant organized 'Fit India Freedom Run 2.0'.**

Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited organized 'Fit India Freedom Run 2.0' to celebrate 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. Shri D.K.Mohanty, D(C) & CMD (Addl. Charge) flagged off the Freedom Run and addressed the participants. He stressed the importance of regular physical fitness for every individual and the advantages of good health. Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited is a PSE under the Ministry of Steel.

#### **55. PM Modi sets 2047 target for becoming energy independent**

Prime Minister set a target of becoming energy independent by 2047 through a mix of electric mobility, gas-based economy, doping ethanol in petrol, and making the country a hub for hydrogen production. The country has achieved a target of 100 gigawatts of renewable energy capacity ahead of the target. India spends over Rs 12 lakh crore on energy imports every year.

#### **56. NTPC Limited has floated a global EoI to set up a Pilot Project on Hydrogen Blending with Natural Gas in CGD Network.**

NTPC Limited has floated a global Expression of Interest (EoI) to set up a Pilot Project on Hydrogen Blending with Natural Gas in City Gas Distribution (CGD) Network. The EoI follows the recent tenders floated by NTPC REL for green hydrogen fuelling station at Leh and NTPC

VidyutVyapar Nigam Limited (NVVN) for procurement of Fuel Cell Buses. National Thermal Power Corporation Renewable Energy is a wholly-owned subsidiary of NTPC.

### **57. CEC inaugurates 11th Annual Meeting of the Forum of the Election Management Bodies of South Asia (FEMBoSA) for 2021**

Chief Election Commissioner of India and current Chairman, FEMBoSA Sushil Chandra inaugurated the 11th Annual meeting of the (FEMBoSA) for the year 2021. The meeting was hosted by the Election Commission of Bhutan. Alongwith India, delegations from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka participated in the day-long meeting.

### **58. KVIC to supply 1.91 lakh Khadi durries for paramilitary forces**

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has received a supply order of 1.91 lakh Khadi cotton durries worth Rs 10 crore for paramilitary forces. The order has been received from Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) which is the nodal agency for procuring provisions on behalf of all paramilitary forces in the country. It follows an agreement between KVIC and ITBP. KVIC Chairman : Vinai Kumar Saxena

### **59. Union Agriculture Minister addresses the 6th Meeting of the Agriculture Ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organization**

Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister, Narendra Singh Tomar addressed the 6th meeting of Agriculture Ministers of the member countries of Shanghai Cooperation Organization. The Minister in the meeting organized in Dushanbe, Tajikistan stated that the agriculture sector in India is good. Exports have also registered significant growth, contributing to global food security

### **60. Low-cost Flexible Tactile Sensors having Robotics and Bio-medical Applications Developed**

Indian researcher has developed low-cost soft, flexible, and wearable sensors that can be used for diagnosis of pulse rate variability in humans. Being a high sensitivity flexible strain sensor, it can also be used for small and large scale motion monitoring, with potential applications in robotics, prosthetics, as well as invasive surgery and identification of tumor cells.

### **61. Union Education Minister addresses CII's special plenary session on 'Job Creation & Entrepreneurship ' Way Ahead for Livelihood'**

Union Education and Skill Development Minister Dharmendra Pradhan addressed the CII's virtual special plenary session on 'Job Creation & Entrepreneurship ' Way Ahead for Livelihood Generation'. The economy is growing at a rapid pace and the future of India is looking very promising. Building skill capacity is a key to enhance productivity and drive the economy ahead.

### **62. Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurates world's 2nd-largest refurbished National Gene Bank**

Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated the world's second-largest refurbished National Gene Bank at the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, Pusa, New Delhi

The Genbank was estd in 1996 to preserve the seeds of Plant Genetic Resources for future generations. It has the capacity to preserve about ten lakh germplasm in the form of seeds

### **63. Doordarshan launch Season-2 of 'Rag Rag Mein Ganga'**

Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur jointly launched the Second Season of the popular series 'Rag Rag Mein Ganga'. The first episode will be broadcast from 21st of August on Doordarshan. The purpose of the programme is to inculcate a sense of responsibility towards this holy river in the people

### **64. President confers Shaurya Chakra awards to gallant defence personnel**

President Ram Nath Kovind has conferred the Shaurya Chakra on the Air force officers, Wing Commander Varun Singh Flying who is a pilot in a Light Combat Aircraft Squadron for the act

of exceptional gallantry. Air Force Officer Group Captain Perminder Antil who is the Commanding Officer of a Su-30 MKI Squadron has also been conferred with Shaurya Chakra

### **65. Tribal women making Rakhis with seeds of indigenous trees under Vruksha Bandhan Project**

In a unique initiative Ministry of Tribal Affairs in partnership with The Art of Living Foundation, Aurangabad, Maharashtra Launched Vrushka Bandhan Project where 1100 tribal women are creating Rakhis for Raksha Bandhan with seeds of indigenous trees, which is a unique contribution to increasing forest cover & combating climate change.

### **66. India in 32nd position in finding innovative solutions to fight Covid-19**

India fell six spots to the 32nd place in the global coronavirus innovation rankings for countries, as per a report prepared by StartupBlink in association with Health Innovation Exchange, UNAIDS. The report features the top-ranked 40 countries and 100 cities in the world based on innovative solutions developed to face the pandemic. There are 3 notable innovations in India. They are OneBreath for treatment, CareMother for diagnostics and Vaccines

### **67. Commerce & Industry Minister Piyush Goyal confers National Intellectual Property Awards**

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal conferred the National Intellectual Property Awards in Delhi.

This award recognises the innovative ideas of individuals and institutions, and serves as an inspiration for others. Powered by Intellectual Property, India can be the Innovation Powerhouse of the world.

India has jumped 33 ranks in Global Innovation Index to 48 in 2020

### **68. India invites UK to participate in the upcoming bids for Green Hydrogen and lithium-ion**

Union Minister of Power & Renewable Energy, RK Singh, in a meeting with the Rt Hon Alok Sharma, COP 26 President said India has already retired 16369 MW of inefficient thermal units till March, 2021.

Rt Hon Alok Sharma expressed the willingness of the UK side to collaborate with India on Green Hydrogen.

The UK side requested India's support for organizing a successful COP26

### **69. Atal Innovation Mission(AIM) in collaboration with Dassault Systemes launches Student Entrepreneurship Program 3.0**

AIM, NITI Aayog in collaboration with La Fondation Dassault Systemes in India launched the 3rd series of the SEP 3.0 for the young innovators of Atal Tinkering Labs.

The theme of SEP 3.0 is based on the 'Made in 3D - Seed the Future Entrepreneurs Program', conceptualized & rolled out in France by La Main la Pte Foundation and La Fondation Dassault Systemes Europe in 2017 Student Entrepreneurship Program 3.0 : SEP 3.0

### **70. India to support UN in roll out of UNITE AWARE ' a technology platform for peacekeeping missions**

External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar is currently chairing the UN Security Council Open Debate on 'Technology and Peacekeeping' at UN headquarters in New York. He announced India's support to the UN in roll out of UNITE AWARE ' a technology platform for peacekeeping missions. UN peacekeeping missions continue to operate in challenging settings involving terrorists

### **71. National Mission on Edible Oils- Oil Palm to be implemented with a financial outlay of over Rs 11,000 crore**

The Union Cabinet has given approval to launch a new Mission on Oil palm to be known as the National Mission on Edible Oils - Oil Palm (NMEO-OP).

It will be a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme with a special focus on the North east region and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Due to high dependence on imports for edible oils, it is important to increase the domestic production

### **72. Centre for Research & Innovation in Artificial Intelligence set up at IIT-Hyderabad**

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has inaugurated the Centre for Research and Innovation in Artificial Intelligence set up at the IIT-Hyderabad.

He inaugurated the first Academic Building of the Department of Materials Science & Metallurgical Engineering, High-Performance Computing Centre and High-Resolution Electron Microscopy Facility

### **73. Brazil, Russia, India & South Africa to study intersection of COVID-19 & Tuberculosis pandemics**

A consortium of doctors and researchers from India, Brazil, Russia, and South Africa have partnered to conduct a study on the epidemiological impact and intersection of the COVID-19 and Tuberculosis pandemics in these countries.

Under this joint research, the teams from these countries will explore the negative impact of the COVID-19 on the epidemiological character of TB.

### **74. GoI approves MoU between Permanent Mission of India to the WTO, Centre for Trade and Investment Law & Graduate Institute, Geneva**

Union Cabinet has approved the signing of a MoU between Permanent Mission of India to the WTO, Centre for Trade and Investment Law of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, and Centre for Trade and Economic Integration within The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva.

This will provide valuable academic and research opportunities to employees.

### **75. India and United States of America signs a MoU on cooperation in the field of Geology**

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for signing the Memorandum of Understanding between Geological Survey of India (GSI) and the Florida International University (FIU), United States of America on cooperation in the field of Geology.

The MoU will provide an institutional mechanism between the GSI and the FIU on cooperation in the field of Geology.

### **76. USOF signs agreement with BSNL for high speed internet access to North Eastern States**

For making available high quality and high speed internet access to the States of North Eastern Region of the country, Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has signed an Agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for hiring of 10 Gbps International Bandwidth for Internet Connectivity to Agartala from Bangladesh Submarine Cable Company Limited, Bangladesh.

### **77. Ministry of Tourism Signs MOUs with MakeMyTrip(India) and Ibibo Group to strengthen hospitality and tourism industry in India**

The Ministry of Tourism to strengthen the Hospitality & Tourism Industry, has signed the MoU with MakeMyTrip (India) and Ibibo Group.

The Ministry has already signed MoUs with Easemytrip, Clear trip and Yatra.com.

The primary objective of this MoU is to provide an extensive visibility to accommodation units, which have self-certified themselves on SAATHI on the OTA platform

### **78. India-ADB sign USD 500 million loan agreement to expand metro rail network in Bengaluru**

The Asian Development Bank will provide USD 500 million loans to expand the metro rail network in Bengaluru with the construction of two new metro lines totaling 56 kilometers.

An agreement in this regard was signed between the Government of India and the ADB.

The project will construct two new metro lines, mostly elevated, along Outer Ring Road and National Highway 44.

### **79. ReNew Power signs PPA with Seci for country's maiden round-the-clock renewable energy project**

ReNew Power has signed a power purchase agreement (PPA) for round-the-clock (RTC) electricity supply with the Solar Energy Corporation of India (Seci).

In order to supply power from the 400 megawatt (MW) RTC project at 80% utilisation rate, the company will require around 900 MW of wind capacity and 400 MW of solar capacity, supplemented by battery storage.

### **80. Delhi-Chandigarh Highway first EV-friendly highway in India**

With a network of solar-based electric vehicle charging stations, the Delhi-Chandigarh Highway has become the country's first EV-friendly highway. The network of stations was set up by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) under the FAME-1 (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid) & Electric Vehicles) scheme of the Ministry of Heavy Industries.

### **81. Union Health and Family Welfare launches Arogya Dhara 2.0 to increase reach of Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana**

Mansukh Mandaviya virtually launched Arogya Dhara 2.0, which commemorated the completion of two crore treatment under Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana. It was organized to raise awareness about the program among poor households.

AB PM-JAY empowered all eligible beneficiaries with cashless and paperless healthcare services benefits of upto 5 Lakhs per family per year.

### **82. FM Nirmala Sitharaman launches 'Ubharte Sitaare Fund' for export-oriented firms & startups**

Union Finance Minister launched an ambitious 'Ubharte Sitaare Fund' -USF for export-oriented firms and startups. The Fund aims at arranging funds for the promotion of micro, small and medium companies. The fund has been set up by Exim Bank and SIDBI.

### **83. NTPC commissions largest Floating Solar PV Project in Andhra Pradesh**

NTPC Limited has commissioned the largest floating solar PV project of 25 MegaWatt on the reservoir of its Simhadri thermal station in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. This is also the first solar project to be set up under the Flexibilisation Scheme, notified by the Government of India in 2018.

### **84. ZyCoV-D Needle-free Covid-19 Vaccine Gets EUA from DCGI for all above 12 Years of Age**

Zyklus Cadila has received the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) for ZyCoV-D, the world's first Plasmid DNA vaccine for the Covid-19. The ZyCoV-D is a three-dose vaccine. With this approval, India now has its first Covid-19 vaccine for adolescents in the 12-18 age group, besides the adult population.

### **85. Prime Minister lays foundation stone of multiple projects in Somnath, Gujarat**

Prime Minister virtually inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of various projects in Somnath, Gujarat. The projects inaugurated include the Somnath Promenade, the Somnath Exhibition Centre, and the reconstructed temple precinct of Old Somnath. The Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone of Shree Parvati Temple during the event.

### **86. National Monetisation Plan: India Unveils Road Map For Up To Rs 6 Lakh Crore Worth Of Asset Sales**

FM Nirmala Sitharaman to launch the National Monetisation pipeline(NMP), which will list out the govt's infrastructure assets to be sold over the next four-years.

The NMP comprises a four-year pipeline of the central govt's brownfield infrastructure assets. Besides providing visibility to investors, NMP will also serve as a medium-term roadmap for the asset monetisation.

### **87. I&B Minister Anurag Thakur to launch 'Iconic Week' as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav from 23rd to 29th August**

The Information and Broadcasting Ministry will celebrate Iconic Week from 23rd to 29th of August as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur will start off the grand celebration that will attract participation from across the country under the overall spirit of Jan Bhagidari and Jan Andolan.

### **88. CCI imposes Rs 200 crore penalty on Maruti for restricting discounts by dealers**

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) passed a final order against Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSIL) for indulging in anti-competitive conduct of Resale Price Maintenance (RPM) in the passenger vehicle segment by way of implementing Discount Control Policy vis--vis dealers, and accordingly, imposed a penalty of '200 crore upon MSIL, besides passing a cease-desist order

### **89. India's 'highest' herbal park opens in Uttarakhand at a height of 11000 ft**

India just got its first 'highest' herbal park at Mana in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district. The park, situated at a height of 11000 ft, was inaugurated at Mana Village, which is situated close to the Indo-China border.

According to Chief Conservator of Forests Sanjiv Chaturvedi, the park will help conserve various medicinally and culturally important alpine species.

### **90. Social Justice And Empowerment Minister Flags Off 'Operation Blue Freedom' To Create A World Record At Siachen Glacier**

On the occasion of 75th Independence Day, Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar unfurled the national flag at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi.

It is an expedition by the people with disabilities from across India to the world's highest battlefield ' Siachen Glacier.

### **91. News Broadcasters Association renamed News Broadcasters & Digital Association**

The News Broadcasters Association (NBA), a private association of different current affairs and news television broadcasters in India, has decided to change its name to News Broadcasters & Digital Association (NBDA).

The NBA Board has decided to change the name of the body to NBDA in order to reflect the addition of digital media news broadcasters as its members.

### **92. Government to sell up to 25% stake in NSC via IPO**

Given the growth budget that was unveiled by the government authorities for implementing growth measures in the economically battered country, the government has started acquiring funds for the same.

The government has started the disinvestment process of National Seeds Corporation. The talks are being conducted for selling up to 25% stake in the National Seeds Corporation.

### **93. AICTE and BPR&D to launch MANTHAN-2021**

V.S.K. Kaumudi, IPS, Director General, Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) and Anil D. Sahasrabudhe, Chairman, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) will be launching MANTHAN 2021.

Hackathon MANTHAN 2021 is a unique national initiative to identify innovative concepts and tech solutions for addressing the security challenges of the 21st century.

### **94. NCL becomes first PSU To vaccinate Entire workforce for Covid-19**

Northern Coalfields Ltd (NCL), a Coal India Ltd subsidiary has become the first PSU in the country, which has got all its employees and their family members vaccinated against Covid-19.

The company has a strength of around fifty thousand people comprising over thirteen thousand full time employees, sixteen thousand contract workers in its operation areas.

### **95. CCEA approves Rs 15,000-crore FDI proposal of Anchorage Infrastructure Investment Holding**

The government cleared a Rs 15,000-crore foreign direct investment (FDI) proposal of Anchorage Infrastructure Investment Holding Ltd, a subsidiary of Canada-based pension fund, for the investment in the infrastructure sector.

The Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs(CCEA), approved the FDI proposal for the purpose of investment in infrastructure and the construction sector

### **96. NITI Aayog, WRI launch forum for decarbonisation of transport sector**

GoI's think-tank NITI Aayog, in collaboration with World Resources Institute (WRI), launched the Forum for Decarbonising Transport in the country.

The forum launched by NITI Aayog and WRI aims to create a platform to initiate dialogues for the development of uniform policies and help achieve specific results in reducing carbon emissions by promoting electric vehicles.

### **97. Multi-Storeys constructed with thermocol could be the future earthquake-resistant buildings**

Thermocol could be the material of the future for construction of earthquake-resistant buildings, with thermal insulation and could also save energy required to develop construction materials.

Researchers at IIT Roorkee have found that thermocol or Expanded Polystyrene is used as a composite material in the core of reinforced concrete sandwich, and could resist earthquake.

### **98. Government to launch e-Shram portal ' National Database on Unorganized Workers**

Government will launch the e-Shram portal ' National Database on Unorganized Workers (NDUW). The portal will maintain a database of workers in the country's unorganised sector. Unveiling the logo for the E-Shram portal, Labour and Employment Minister Bhupender Yadav has said that the targeted identification of unorganized workers was a much needed step.

### **99. Cabinet approves MoU between ICAI and Institute of Professional Accountants of Russia**

The Union Cabinet has approved the signing MoU between the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and Institute of Professional Accountants of Russia.

The proposed MoU aims to strengthen cooperation in matters of accountancy profession through exchange of views, information in respect of Professional Accountancy Training, Professional Ethics, Technical Research.

### **100. India's first mRNA-based COVID-19 vaccine DCGI nod to move into Ph-2 & Ph-3 trial**

India's first mRNA-based COVID-19 vaccine has received a nod from the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) to move into Phase-2 and Phase-3 trials.

Gennova Biopharmaceuticals Ltd which is the Pune-based biotechnology company is working on the mRNA-based COVID-19 vaccine- HGCO19.

It submitted the interim clinical data to the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation.

### **101. Poonawalla Fincorp signs MoU with Institute of Company Secretaries of India**

Poonawalla Fincorp(Formerly Magma Fincorp), has signed an MoU with Institute of Company Secretaries of India(ICSI) to provide collateral-free term loans to ICSI members as well as its employees.

The scheme will benefit over 65,000 ICSI members in the country.

It is powered by a completely digital & 100% paperless process with E-Agreement and E-NACH for fully online offering

### **102. India elected to Council of Administration at 27th UPU Congress in Abidjan**

India has been elected to the Council of Administration(CA) at 27th Universal Postal Union (UPU) Congress in Abidjan.

India with 134 votes got the highest votes in CA elections from South Asia and Oceania region.

India was also elected with 106 votes out of 156 countries to the Postal Operations Council (POC) at the 27th UPU Congress in Abidjan.

### **103. NITI Aayog, Cisco roll out WEPNxt to nurture women entrepreneurship in India**

The government's policy think tank NITI Aayog and US-based multinational firm Cisco launched the next phase of the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP).

The next phase of the WEP, known as WEPNxt, will utilise Cisco's technology and experience of working with the Indian startup ecosystem to enable more businesses owned by women all over India. WEP is a unified portal, which focuses on providing women resources, support and learning

### **104. Maldives signs largest-ever infrastructure project with AFCONS**

The contract for the largest infrastructure project in Maldives was signed in Male.

The Greater Male Connectivity Project will consist of a 6.74 km-long bridge & causeway link between Male and islands of Villingli, Gulhifalhu and Thilafushi.

Indian construction giant AFCONS received the project.

The project got a grant of \$100 million & a Line of Credit of \$400 from India.

### **105. NMCG hosts Session on 'Zero Liquid Discharge Cities' on Day 4 of Stockholm World Water Week 2021**

National Mission for Clean Ganga hosted the 3rd Meet & Mingle session on 'Zero Liquid Discharge Cities' in the Stockholm World Water Week 2021.

Sumouleendra Ghosh, Global Water Lead of KPMG introduced NMCG as an integrated mission focusing on rejuvenation, protection, and restoration of the Ganga River Basin, one of the largest river basins across the globe.

### **106. Government introduces a new registration mark for new vehicles "Bharat series (BH-series)"**

In order to facilitate seamless transfer of vehicles, the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has introduced a new registration mark for new vehicles i.e. Bharat series (BH-series). A vehicle bearing this registration mark shall not require assignment of a new registration mark when the owner of the vehicle shifts from one State to one State to another.

### **107. NFAI's Online Film Poster Exhibition "Chitranjali @75" launched**

National Film Archive of India's special virtual exhibition of films Chitranjali @ 75: A Platinum Panorama, presents different moods of patriotism through 75 film posters and photographs from different language cinemas. The exhibition is divided into 3 segments: 'Freedom Struggle through the lens of Cinema', 'Cinema of Social Reform', and 'Saluting the Brave Soldiers'. I&B Minister also launched the E-Photo Exhibition 'Making of the Constitution'.

### **108. CSIR-NIScPR Signs MoU with JC Bose University to promote Science Communication and STI Policy Research**

CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication & Policy Research (NIScPR), New Delhi and J.C. Bose University of Science and Technology, YMCA, Faridabad signed a MoU for collaboration and networking to advance policy research and science communication by leveraging respective strengths.

CSIR-NIScPR is a constituent laboratory of the Council of Scientific.

### **109. Cabinet Committee approves sugarcane FRP at Rs 290 per quintal for 2021-22**

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the Fair and Remunerative Price of sugarcane for sugar season 2021-22 (October-September) at Rs 290 per quintal for a basic recovery rate of 10%.



This will provide a premium of Rs 2.90/qtl for each 0.1% increase in recovery over and above 10%, and reduction in FRP by Rs 2.90/qtl for every 0.1% decrease in recovery.

### 110. Aviation ministry passes Drone Rules, 2021 to ensure ease of using drones in India

The Civil Aviation ministry has passed the new Drone Rules 2021 which will replace the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Rules 2021.

The government had announced the new drone rules and invited comments from stakeholders and the industry.

The new rules were lauded by stakeholders for simplifying procedures and reducing the compliance burden to operate a drone in India.

### 111. MeitY Startup Hub, Paytm to launch programme to support deep-tech startups

Digital payments & financial services firm Paytm has signed an agreement with IT ministry's startup hub to scale deep-tech startups by providing access to platform, knowledge series, experts, resources, and larger community of stakeholders.

The collab also focuses on fostering partnerships with incubators, accelerators, investors, offering a startup toolkit to solve payments



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## International

### **1. Roche launches Evrysdi, the only approved drug to treat Spinal Muscular Atrophy**

Swiss drug major Roche launched Evrysdi (risdiplam), the first and only approved drug in India for Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), a progressive rare neuromuscular disease. Evrysdi, a breakthrough orally administered treatment for SMA patients, was first approved by the USFDA in 2020 and is made available in India within 11 months of US approval

### **2. Regular freight train service starts between India and Bangladesh on the revived Haldibari-Chilahati rail route**

In a significant boost to connectivity btw India and Bangladesh, a goods train loaded with stone chips arrived at Chilahati in Bangladesh from India through the Haldibari-Chilahati route. The train was dispatched from the Damdim station of the Northeast Frontier railway. This rail route has been revived 56 years after being discontinued during the India-Pakistan war of 1965 Haldibari-Chilahati rail line was inaugurated last year during a summit btw both the PMs.

### **3. World's largest star sapphire cluster found in a Sri Lankan backyard**

World's largest star sapphire cluster has been found in Ratnapura, Srilanka. The stone is pale blue in colour. It was found by labourers while digging a well in a gem trader's home. Ratnapura is known as the gem capital of the country. The sapphire cluster weighs around 510kgs or 2.5 million carats. It has an estimated value of up to \$100 million in the international market

### **4. Germany becomes 5th country to sign International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement**

Germany became the 5th country to sign the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement after amendments to it entered into force on 8th January this year, opening its Membership to all Member States of the United Nations. ISA is an alliance of over 124 nations that have been initiated by India. Its headquarters is located in Gurugram, New Delhi  
Ambassador of Germany to India : Walter J. Lindner

### **5. India-Bhutan hydropower project bags prestigious Brunel Medal**

The 720 MW Mangdechhu hydroelectric project, an India-Bhutan venture, has been awarded the prestigious Brunel Medal for excellence in civil engineering by the UK-based Institute of Civil Engineers. This was jointly inaugurated by the PM of the two countries in August 2019. The GoI has constructed four hydropower projects in Bhutan and Three more are under construction. Kholongchhu is the first joint venture model project between the two sides

### **6. Myanmar forms caretaker gov't with Min Aung Hlaing as prime minister**

Myanmar formed a Republic of the Union of Myanmar Caretaker Government, according to an order by the State Administration Council. Under the order, the new caretaker government will be led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Sen-Gen Min Aung Hlaing as prime minister and Vice Sen-Gen Soe Win as deputy prime minister

### **7. South Africa grants patent to an artificial intelligence system**

South Africa grants a patent relating to a 'food container based on fractal geometry' to an artificial intelligence (AI) system called DABUS. DABUS (which stands for 'device for the autonomous bootstrapping of unified sentience') is an AI system created by Stephen Thaler, a pioneer in the field of AI and programming. The system simulates human brainstorming

### **8. UNICEF India, Facebook collaborate to make a safer digital world for children**

Facebook is launching a one-year joint initiative with UNICEF India on ending violence against children with a special focus on online safety. The partnership seeks to create a safe environment for children online as well as offline, and aims to improve the 'resilience' and 'capacity' of children to access the digital world safely as well as increase skills of communities.

## 9. 28th ASEAN Regional Forum Ministerial Meeting

The Minister of State for External Affairs Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh led India's delegation to the 28th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Foreign Ministers Meeting. The Meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Brunei Darussalam. The ARF member countries exchanged views on international and regional issues, as well as future direction of the ARF. The ARF adopted a Joint Statement on Promoting the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda.

## 10. India, Sri Lanka, Maldives meet identifies terrorism, trafficking among 4 areas of concern

Terrorism and radicalisation, marine safety and security, trafficking and organised crime, and cyber security were identified as the 'four pillars' of cooperation in a trilateral security meeting held between Sri Lanka, India and Maldives.

The decision to establish Colombo Security Conclave was made in November 2020 at the NSA-level meeting of India, Lanka and Maldives.

## 11. Afghan President Ashraf Ghani resigns & leaves country

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani has left the country. It is now confirmed that Taliban insurgents entered Afghanistan's capital Kabul. Meanwhile, official sources confirmed that President Ashraf Ghani has left the city for Tajikistan capping the militants' lightning push for the power. Diplomats from the various countries have already evacuated their embassies.

## 12. Bangladesh to sign MoU with China for COVID vaccine co-production

Government of Bangladesh will sign an MoU for the co-production of the COVID 19 vaccine with China. Health Minister Zahid Maleque, Foreign Minister Dr A K Abdul Momen & the Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Li Jiming are scheduled to attend the MoU signing ceremony in Dhaka. The MoU will be signed between the Chinese company Sinopharm and the local company Incepta Pharma Ltd.

## 13. Resolution reintroduced in US Congress to award Congressional Gold Medal to Mahatma Gandhi

Mahatma Gandhi would be the first Indian to receive a Congressional Gold Medal, an honour bestowed upon great figures as George Washington, Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King Jr, Mother Teresa, and Rosa Parks.

The prestigious Congressional Gold Medal to Mahatma Gandhi is given posthumously in recognition of his promotion of peace and nonviolence. The medal is the highest civilian award in the United States.

## 14. Malaysia's PM Muhyiddin Yassin resigns as political crisis escalates

Malaysia's Muhyiddin Yassin has stepped down as prime minister after months of political turmoil culminated in the loss of his majority. Mr. Muhyiddin's departure comes less than 18 months after taking office and will plunge the country into a fresh crisis amid a worsening pandemic. His deputy Ismail Sabri to succeed Mr. Muhyiddin and keep the government intact.

## 15. Ayushmann Khurrana Joins UNICEF's Initiative To Protect Children From Cyberbullying

Bollywood star Ayushmann Khurrana has been appointed as UNICEF India's Celebrity Advocate for their global campaign EVAC (Ending Violence Against Children).

Through the initiative, he aims at building awareness on a national level about online safety for Indian children.

He will help in ending violence against children & help them participate actively in digital society.

## 16. WHO panel to study Covid virus, high-threat pathogens

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has set up a high-level scientific group inviting experts from across the world to join it and study the origins of Sars-CoV2, besides other high-threat pathogens.

The WHO Scientific Advisory Group for the Origins of Novel Pathogens (SAGO) will meet to finalise the way forward.

The SAGO will advise the WHO on the development of the globe.

### 17. World Bank Launches Global Cybersecurity Fund

The international financial institution, which provides a wide variety of loans & grants to governments for capital projects, launched its Cybersecurity Multi-Donor Trust Fund under its broader Digital Development Partnership program, described as a platform for digital innovation & development funding.

WB has partnered with 4 nations to launch this fund- Estonia, Japan, Germany & Netherland

### 18. Dubai (UAE) sets up specialised court to combat money laundering

Dubai Courts announced the establishment of a specialised court, focused on combating money laundering, within the Court of First Instance and Court of Appeal.

This court ties into a string of initiatives aimed at reducing financial crimes and follows the recent establishment of the Executive Office of the Anti-Money Laundering & Countering the Financing of Terrorism.



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## Sports

### **1. Shuttler P V Sindhu bags bronze medal in Tokyo Olympics, becomes the first Indian woman to win two Olympic medals**

Indian shuttler P V Sindhu won the bronze medal in the women's single match in Tokyo Olympics today. PV Sindhu defeated He Bing Jiao of China by 21-13 and 21-15 in the bronze medal match and became the first Indian woman to win two Olympic medals. Sindhu won silver at Rio 2016. Wrestler Sushil Kumar is the first and only other Indian to win two Olympic medals. Chen Yu Fei won the gold, while Tai Tzu-Ying settled for the silver.

### **2. Italy's Marcell Jacobs wins men's 100m gold at Tokyo Olympics 2020**

Marcell Jacobs claimed a stunning upset victory in the Olympic 100 metres final, becoming the first Italian to take the most coveted title in athletics and doing it with a huge European record of 9.80 seconds. American Fred Kerley took silver in a personal best 9.84 with Canada's Andre de Grasse repeating his bronze of 2016 in 9.89, also a new best. Jamaica's Elaine Thompson won gold & Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce won bronze in women's 100m.

### **3. Alexander Zverev wins gold in men's singles tennis beating Karen Khachanov who takes silver**

Germany's Alexander Zverev beats Russian Karen Khachanov 6-3 6-1 to win the men's singles gold at the Tokyo Olympics. He became the first German man to win singles Olympic gold.

Belinda Bencic of Switzerland won the women's tennis gold in singles.

Israel's Artem Dolgopyat won his country's first gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics in the men's individual floor exercise event

### **4. USA beats Mexico 1-0 to win CONCACAF Gold Cup**

Miles Robinson scored on a goal in the 117th minute to win the CONCACAF Gold Cup. The U.S. won its 7th Gold Cup title, its first since 2017, matching Mexico for the most in the 15 tournaments. Canada won in 2000. The Gold Cup is the main association football competition of the men's national football teams governed by CONCACAF, determining the continental champion. The Gold Cup is held every two years.

### **5. Esteban Ocon wins Hungarian GP, Lewis Hamilton takes F1 lead**

Frenchman Esteban Ocon won a chaotic Hungarian Grand Prix while Lewis Hamilton finished third to take the Formula One championship lead from Max Verstappen. Sebastian Vettel lost his second-place finish in Hungarian Formula One Grand Prix after being disqualified by stewards for a fuel irregularity. Verstappen placed 10th after being taken out early in the race.

### **6. Sri Lanka all-rounder Isuru Udana retires from international cricket**

Sri Lanka left-arm seam bowling all-rounder Isuru Udana announced his retirement from international cricket with immediate effect, drawing curtains to a career spanning over a decade. Udana had a very modest international career with sporadic appearances over 12 years in which he played only 21 ODIs and 35 T20 Internationals with just 45 wickets to show for his efforts.

### **7. India win bronze medal in Tokyo, first Olympic medal in hockey since 1980**

India men's hockey team defeated Germany to win the bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics. This is India's first Olympic medal in hockey since they won the gold medal in the 1980 Olympics in Moscow. This is India's fourth-medal in Tokyo so far. The captain of the team is Manpreet Singh, while the coach is Graham Reid. After 41 years Indian Hockey team won a medal in the Olympics.

### **8. Tokyo Olympics: Boxer Lovlina Borgohain bags Bronze Medal in welterweight category**

In Tokyo Olympic Boxer Lovlina Borgohain has bagged a Bronze Medal in welterweight 69 kilogram category. This is the third medal for the country. Earlier, PV Sindhu won a Bronze Medal in Badminton while Mira Bai Chanu lifted a Silver Medal in weightlifting. She is only the

third Indian boxer to win an Olympic medal, after Vijendra Singh(2008) and Mary Kom(2012). She is the first female boxer from Assam to qualify for the Olympics

### **9. Labhanshu Sharma wins Bharat Kesari Wrestling Dangal for Uttarakhand**

Indian Wrestler Labhanshu Sharma won the Bharat Kesari Wrestling Dangal 2021 organised in Tamil Nadu. 20 years since the formation of Uttarakhand, Labhanshu is the first to win the title of Bharat Kesari for the state. With 15 gold medals at the state level and 10 medals at the national level and 2 gold medals and 1 silver medal in the International Wrestling competitions

### **10. India's ace grappler Ravi kumar Dahiya wins Silver Medal in Tokyo Olympics**

Indian wrestler Ravi Kumar Dahiya clinched an Olympic silver medal after losing his 57 kg final to Russian two-time defending world champion Zaur Uguev. The ROC wrestler registered a 7-4 win against Dahiya. There were expectations that the 23-year-old Dahiya would become India's youngest Olympic champion but the Russian defended well to win comfortably

### **11. PM renames Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award after Dhyan Chand**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the renaming of the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award, the country's highest sporting honour, after hockey wizard Major Dhyan Chand.

Prime Minister said the 'exceptional performance' of the men and women hockey teams in the Tokyo Olympics will rekindle interest in the game across India. Rani Rampal is the third hockey player to be given the Khel Ratna (2020)

### **12. The 'golden throw' of 87.58 m by Neeraj Chopra earns a historical gold for India**

Neeraj Chopra has won a historical gold medal in the men's javelin throw at Tokyo 2020 Olympic with a throw of 87.58 m. And With this, the 23-year-old has become the first Indian athlete to win a gold medal in track and field events. Chopra finished on the top spot in the qualification rounds with a stunning throw of 86.65 m. He has also won gold at the 2018 Asian Games and the 2018 Commonwealth Games

### **13. Bajrang Punia wins wrestling Bronze At Tokyo Olympics**

Wrestler Bajrang Punia beat Kazakhstan's Daulet Niyazbekov to win the bronze medal in the men's 65kg Freestyle category. It was India's sixth medal at the ongoing Tokyo Olympics, equaling the country's best-ever haul that was achieved at the 2012 London Games.

### **14. James Anderson surpasses Anil Kumble, becomes 3rd highest wicket-taker in Test cricket**

James Anderson overtook Anil Kumble's tally of 619 Test wickets to become the third-highest wicket-taker in the Test cricket. He achieved this huge feat after KL Rahul knocked one to wicket-keeper Jos Buttler. His current wickets tally stands at 621 from 163 Tests.

Anderson is currently the highest wicket-taker among the fast bowlers and is the only pacer in the 600 club He achieved milestone with the wicket of KL Rahul on the 3rd day of the Nottingham test

### **15. France 2024: Olympics closing ceremony features celebrations from next host city**

For the first time ever, the closing ceremony of the Olympic Games featured "live and spectacular" celebrations from the next host city of the mega sporting event. At the Closing Ceremony of the Tokyo Olympics, flag-bearers of all countries entered the stadium to mark the end of 17-days of the Games, which saw the participation of athletes from over 200 countries. India won 4 bronze, 2 silver & 1 gold in Olympics 2020 making it the most successful one

### **16. Indian compound archery girls & mixed team break two junior world records in World Archery Youth Championship**

Indian compound archery girls and the mixed team broke two junior world records during the qualification stages of the World Archery Youth Championship in Wroclaw, Poland.

The trio of Priya Gurjar, Parneet Kaur, Ridhu Varshini Senthilkumar combined to shoot 2,067 out of possible 2,160 in the Cadet Compound girls team category. The previous record was

held by the USA at 2,045 Compound Cadet mixed team, Priya Gurjar & Kushal Dalal set a world record score of 1401

### **17. 130th edition of Durand Cup 2021 scheduled to be held at Kolkata**

Durand Cup, the world's third oldest and Asia's oldest football tournament is poised to make a comeback after a year's hiatus due to the pandemic. The prestigious tournament was first held in 1888, at Dagshai (Himachal Pradesh) and is named after Mortimer Durand, who was then the Foreign Secretary in charge of India. This involves the support of AIFF & Govt of West Bengal. All India Football Federation : AIFF

### **18. Thomas Dennerby appointed India coach ahead of 2022 AFC Women's Asian Cup**

Thomas Dennerby has been appointed Indian women's national team coach ahead of the 2022 AFC Women's Asian Cup in India next year.

Dennerby replaces Maymol Rocky, who stepped down due to personal reasons.

Dennerby, who was earlier in charge of the Indian U-17 Women's World Cup squad, has over 30 years of coaching experience with several national squads

### **19. Shakib Al Hasan, Stafanie Taylor win Player of the Month awards for July**

Shakib Al Hasan and Stafanie Taylor have been voted the winners of the ICC Player of the Month for July 2021. Shakib, who was nominated alongside West Indies' Hayden Walsh Jr and Australia's Mitchell Marsh, had a stellar July.

Taylor was the standout performer for the West Indies. She was nominated for the award alongside teammate Hayley Matthews and Pakistan's Fatima Sana

### **20. India women hockey star Vandana Katariya appointed Uttarakhand's Women & Child Development ambassador**

Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami announced that Indian women's hockey team player Vandana Katariya will be brand ambassador of the state's Department of Women Empowerment and Child Development.

The announcement came at a program organized to felicitate the recipients of awardees of the Tilu Rauteli Award and the Anganwadi Workers Award

### **21. Komalika Bari becomes new under-21 recurve world champion at Youth World Championships**

In Archery, Komalika Bari became the new under-21 recurve world champion at the Youth World Championships in Wroclaw, Poland. India's Junior recurve archers also bagged gold in the men's and the mixed team event. In the U21 men's recurve team final the Indian team of Dhiraj Bommadevara, Aditya Choudhary, and Parth Sushant Salunkhe clinched the gold medal.

### **22. Messi signs for Paris St Germain after leaving Barcelona**

Lionel Messi joined star-packed Paris St Germain after leaving Barcelona, the club where he had begun, after 21 years. Messi, a six-time winner of the Ballon d'Or for Europe's best soccer player, signed a two-year contract with an option for a third year. Paris Saint-Germain Football Club, commonly referred to as Paris Saint-Germain or PSG.

### **23. Former India U-19 World Cup-winner Unmukt Chand retires from Indian cricket, open to playing foreign leagues**

Former India U-19 World Cup-winning captain Unmukt Chand announced his retirement from Indian cricket. The former U-19 captain took to Twitter to confirm that he is retiring from Indian cricket. Unmukt, who led the junior team to a World Cup victory in 2012, had become an India A regular soon after his heroics in the final. He also took over as India A captain till 2015.

### **24. Two-time Women's World Cup winner, USWNT Carli Lloyd, announces international retirement**

Two-time Women's World Cup winner Carli Lloyd announced her retirement from the U.S. women's national team, putting an end to a storied career as the second-most-capped player in world soccer history with 128 international goals and two Olympic gold medals.

She will retire from international play after the USWNT fall friendlies and from club play at end of the NWSL season.

### **25. Bayern Munich, Germany legend Gerd Muller passes away**

Legendary Germany and Bayern Munich footballer (striker) Gerd Muller has died at the age of 75. Muller won the 1972 European Championship, the 1974 World Cup, a Club World Cup, three European Cups, a European Cup-Winners' Cup, four Bundesliga titles and four German Cups. He also won the Ballon d'Or in 1970. His total of 365 Bundesliga goals remains a German record.

### **26. Odisha Govt extends its sponsorship of Indian National hockey teams by another 10 years**

The Odisha Government has extended its sponsorship of Indian National hockey teams by another 10 years.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced this at a special function held to facilitate the Olympians of the national men's and women's hockey teams in capital Bhubaneswar.

CM Patnaik awarded 10 lakh rupees to each player and five lakh rupees to each support staff

### **27. 2021 edition of World Athletics U20 Championships to be held in Nairobi**

The 2021 edition of the World Athletics U20 Championships scheduled to be held in Nairobi, Kenya.

The tournament will continue till 22 August at the Nyayo Sports Complex.

Javelin Thrower Kunwar Ajai Raj Singh Rana and Long Jumper Shaili Singh will lead the Indian challenge in the World Athletics U20 Championships as per the Athletics Federation of India.

### **28. World Athletics U20 Championships: India win bronze medal in 4x400 metre mixed relay team event**

The mixed relay team of India won a Bronze medal in 4\*400 meters at the U20 World Championships being held in Nairobi with a time of 3:20.60, a season best.

The 2021 edition of the World Athletics U20 Championships will continue till 22 August at the Nyayo Sports Complex as per the Athletics Federation of India.

### **29. India's Raunak Sadhwani wins Spilimbergo Open chess tourney**

Young Indian Grandmaster Raunak Sadhwani emerged winner in the 19th Spilimbergo Open chess tournament with seven points from nine rounds.

The 15-year old Sadhwani (Elo 2579) remained undefeated in the tourney, notching up five wins and four draws.

Indian Grandmaster R Vaishali finished 14th with six points and was the best among the women competitors.

### **30. Olympic Gold medallist Neeraj Chopra rises to number 2 in world rankings**

Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra has gained 14 places to become world number two in the latest world rankings after his sensational show in the Tokyo Olympics.

Neeraj became the first from the country to win a gold in track and field in the Olympics. He threw the javelin to a distance of 87.58m to pick the yellow metal at the Tokyo Games.

### **31. Vinesh Phogat suspended for indiscipline; Sonam Malik found guilty of misconduct**

The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) "temporarily suspended" star grappler Vinesh Phogat for indiscipline during her forgettable Tokyo Olympics campaign.

WFI also issued a notice to young Sonam Malik for misconduct.

Vinesh, had travelled to Tokyo from Hungary where she had trained with coach Woller Akos.

### **32. Sports Minister congratulates Shaili Singh on winning Silver medal at World Athletics U20 Championships**

Sports Minister Anurag Thakur has congratulated Shaili Singh on winning the Silver medal at World Athletics Under-20 Championships, Nairobi.



She has registered a jump of 6.59 metres in the long jump event final.

Shaili is trained under Robert Bobby, the husband of Indian veteran Anju Bobby George, at the Sports Authority of India National Centres of Excellence, Bangalore.

### **33. Amit Khatri bags silver medal in men's 10,000-meter race walk at World Athletic U20 championships**

India's Amit Khatri has won the silver medal in the men's 10,000 m race walk at the World Athletics U20 Championships in Nairobi.

He finished with a time of 42mins 17.94 secs.

Amit finished behind gold medal winner Heristone Wanyonyi of Kenya.

Earlier this year, he had set a new national U20 record in 10km race walking and won the title at the 18th National Federation Cup

### **34. Princepal Singh becomes first Indian to be part of NBA championship roster**

Young cager Princepal Singh etched his name in the record books when he became the first Indian to be part of an NBA title-winning team.

Princepal is part of the Sacramento Kings which clinched the 2021 NBA Summer League crown.

The 6-foot-9 forward made history by being the first Indian to be part of a championship roster at any level of the NBA.

### **35. Javelin thrower Tek Chand led Indian contingent at opening ceremony of 16th Paralympic games in Tokyo**

The Opening ceremony of the 16th Paralympic Games begins in Tokyo paying homage to the resilience of para athletes.

Javelin thrower Tek Chand led the Indian contingent at the opening ceremony. The Indian contingent has 54 athletes at the event.

### **36. Punjab government renames 10 schools in honour of local hockey heroes in Olympics bronze-winning team.**

The Punjab School Education Minister announced that the state government has renamed ten schools after the Olympic medal-winning hockey team. The Government Senior Secondary School (GSSS), Mithapur, Jalandhar has been named after hockey team captain Manpreet Singh. The school will now be called Olympian Manpreet Singh Government Senior Secondary School, Mithapur. The men's Indian hockey team won the Olympic medal after a 41-year wait.

### **37. Bhavina Patel settles for Silver medal, becomes first Indian table tennis player to enter finals at Tokyo Paralympics**

India's Bhavina Patel has settled for Silver medal in the table tennis event at Tokyo Paralympics. Bhavina lost to China's Ying Zhou in the final.

She had entered the final beating China's Zhang Miao in a closely-contested semi-final match.

Bhavina scripted history by becoming the first Indian table tennis player to enter the final in the Paralympics.

### **38. Tokyo Paralympics: Yogesh Kathuniya bags Silver in Men's Discus Throw**

Yogesh Kathuniya bags Silver in Men's Discus Throw, in his 1st Paralympics Yogesh Kathuniya, bagged Silver. He said Yogesh's throw was the best in the season with 44.38 meters.

### **39. Tokyo Paralympics: Nishad Kumar wins silver medal in Men's High Jump T47 event**

In Tokyo Paralympics, India's Nishad Kumar has won silver medal with a best effort of 2.06 meter in Men's High Jump T47 event. Nishad Kumar also created a new Asian Record with the effort. Ram Pal finished 5th with a personal best mark of 1.94m. Also, In Tokyo Paralympics, Vinod Kumar wins Bronze medal with a best effort of 19.91 meter in Men's Discus Throw F52 event. Vinod Kumar also broke the Asian Record with the effort.

#### 40. Stuart Binny announces retirement from first class and International cricket

Stuart Binny, India all-rounder who owns the record of the best bowling figures in ODI format, announced his retirement from cricket ' first-class and international. Stuart, 37, began his career with his state Karnataka and represented India in six Tests, 14 ODIs and three Twenty20 Internationals. His figures of 4.4-2-4-6 is the best ODI bowling record by an Indian.

#### 41. Max Verstappen wins Belgian Grand Prix 2021

Belgian Grand Prix 2021 will go down in history as Formula One's shortest ever race, (due to rainswept) and also as a leading contender for most farcical.

Officially, the action lasted all of three minutes and 27 seconds with Red Bull's Max Verstappen as the winner.

Second place - George Russel;

Third place - Lewis Hamilton

#### 42. Tokyo Paralympics 2020: Shooter Avani Lekhara became the first Indian woman to win a Paralympics gold medal.

Shooter Avani Lekhara created sporting history after becoming the first Indian woman to win a Paralympics gold medal.

The 19-year-old won with an impressive score of 149.6 in the final event of women's 10m air rifle standing at Tokyo.

With this, Lekhara has set a new Paralympic record and has also equalled the world record. She is only the fourth Indian athlete to win a Paralympics gold.



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## Agreements & MoUs

### 1. Hindustan Zinc Signs MoU With Normet Group Oy To Introduce EVs In Underground Mining

Hindustan Zinc Limited has signed a MOU with Normet Group Oy for sustainable operations for healthier mining & greener tomorrow by introducing a fleet of battery-powered service equipment in underground mining. In this, Hindustan Zinc aims to reduce carbon emissions, by enabling the mine operations to become environment friendly with the help of Normet SmartDrive Vehicles. The company will employ three machines- Spraymec, Agitator and Charmec in the first phase

### 2. Indian Bank & IIMB's incubation arm sign up on exclusive credit to startups

Indian Bank entered into an MoU with NSRCEL, the incubation arm of the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore (IIMB) for extending exclusive credit to startups. The initiative was part of the bank's 'Ind Spring Board' scheme tailored to finance startups. The bank would extend loans of up to '50 crores Indian Bank HQs: Chennai

### 3. Haryana govt signs MoU with Walmart Vriddhi, Haqdarshak to help MSMEs move International markets

The Haryana government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with 'Walmart Vriddhi' and 'Haqdarshak' to create a pathway for Indian MSMEs' products to move to the international markets. To promote MSMEs apart from large industries, many important concessions have been given to investors in 'Haryana Enterprises and Employment Policy-2020'. Haryana Governor: Bandaru Dattatreya Capital: Chandigarh

### 4. BRICS signs deal on cooperation in remote sensing satellite data sharing

Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS) signed an agreement for cooperation in remote sensing satellite data sharing. The pact enables building a virtual constellation of specified remote sensing satellites of BRICS space agencies and their respective ground stations will receive the data.

The agreement was signed under India's BRICS Chairship.

### 5. Union Cabinet Approves MoU of ICMR and Swiss FIND

The Union Cabinet has approved an MoU signed between the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND), Switzerland. The MoU is aimed at strengthening the relation within the framework of international scientific and technological collaboration and promote cooperation in fields of mutual interest.

### 6. Paytm, HDFC Bank tie up to develop payment products for new online ventures

IPO-bound digital payments firm Paytm and India's largest private sector bank, HDFC Bank, announced a strategic partnership to build comprehensive solutions across payment gateway, point of sale machines and credit products including Paytm Postpaid which is Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL) solution, Eazy EMI and Flexi Pay. Paytm and HDFC Bank are coming together for two broad PoS offerings.

### 7. Jana Small Finance Bank partners with HCBL and Mysore Merchants Co-operative Bank

Jana Small Finance Bank, a Bengaluru-based small finance bank, has inked an MoU with HCBL Co-operative Bank, Lucknow & Mysore Merchants Co-operative Bank in a bid to provide digital infrastructure and payments services to the respective banks under the bank sponsorship programme of the Reserve Bank of India. Jana SBF will provide digital transactions to the cooperative bank customers.

## Schemes

### 1. PM Modi to launch second phase of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

PM Narendra Modi will launch the second phase of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (Ujjwala 2.0) by handing over the LPG connections at Mahoba in Uttar Pradesh. Under Ujjwala 2.0, one crore LPG connections will be provided to those low-income families who could not be covered under the first phase of the scheme. Ujjwala 1.0 covered more than 1.47 cr connections. Ujjwala Yojana was launched by PM Modi on May 1st, 2016.

### 2. PM announced the Gatishakti scheme for holistic infra growth.

Prime Minister announced a Rs 100 lakh crore Pradhan Mantri Gatishakti initiative which will create employment opportunities for the country's youth and help in holistic infrastructure growth. Gatishakti will help local manufacturers turn globally competitive and also develop possibilities of new future economic zones.

### 3. The Union Minister of Women and Child Development launched 2nd phase of SAMVAD

The 2nd phase of SAMVAD (Support, Advocacy & Mental health interventions for children in Vulnerable circumstances And Distress) was launched in Bengaluru. SAMVAD is slated to begin work with Panchayati Raj systems to integrate child protection and mental health in aspirational districts across the country to facilitate awareness generation and improve service delivery.

### 4. Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated "Karmayogi" Digital Learning Facility at ISTM, Delhi

Mission Karmayogi aims to create a dedicated workforce not only for the Civil Services but more than that it would serve the cause of Indian society. The National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB) ' Mission Karmayogi was approved by the Government in 2020 with the objective of enhancing governance through Civil Services Capacity Building. Institute of Secretariat Training & Management (ISTM) is located in Delhi.

### 5. Jal Shakti Ministry begins SUJALAM, a 100 days campaign as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.

Jal Shakti Ministry began SUJALAM, a 100 days campaign as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations to create more and more ODF Plus villages by undertaking wastewater management at the village level. The focus of this campaign is to ensure that all new emerging Households in the village have access to toilets. The Campaign will help in management of the wastewater. During this campaign 10 lakh, Soak-pits will be created.



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## Appointments & Resignations

### 1. Lt Gen Tarun Kumar Chawla takes over as Director General of Artillery

Lt Gen Tarun Kumar Chawla, AVSM will assume the appointment of the Director General of Artillery on 01 August 2021. He takes over the appointment from Lt Gen K Ravi Prasad, PVSM, VSM who superannuated on 31 July 2021 after completing thirty nine years of distinguished service in the Army.

### 2. Bharat BillPay appoints PayU's Noopur Chaturvedi as new CEO

Bharat Bill Payment System, NPCI's flagship bill payments platform that was hived off into a separate subsidiary in April, has appointed former PayU and Airtel Payments Bank executive Noopur Chaturvedi as its new chief executive officer. According to latest RBI data, the number of BBPS transactions rose 16% month-on-month to 45.47 million in June, amounting to Rs 7,934.71 cr.

### 3. Director General of Indian Coast Guard K Natarajan elected next executive director of ReCAAP

Director General of Indian Coast Guard K Natarajan was elected as the next executive director of the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP). The ReCAAP Agreement was launched in November 2006 with 14 Asian Contracting Parties, including North, Southeast, and South Asian countries. Its contracting members include Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Norway, Netherlands, Denmark, US

### 4. Kamlesh Kumar Pant appointed new NPPA chairman

IAS Kamlesh Kumar Pant, has been appointed as the new chairman of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) by the Appointments Committee of the Union Cabinet.

The pharmaceutical pricing agency was currently headed by IAS officer Shubhra Singh, who was appointed to the post in 2018. Singh has been repatriated to her cadre state Rajasthan National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority, HQs: New Delhi.

### 5. Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla gets one-year extension

Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla was given a one-year extension beyond his present tenure that was to end next week. Bhalla, a 1984 batch IAS officer of Assam-Meghalaya cadre, was appointed as the Home Secretary in August 2019. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved extension in service to Bhalla as Home Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs

### 6. Royal Enfield CEO Vinod Dasari steps down.

Chief Executive Officer of Royal Enfield and Executive Director of the Board of Eicher Motors, Vinod Dasari stepped down. B Govindarajan will take on the responsibility of leading Royal Enfield. He will be inducted as a full-time director on the Board of Eicher Motors and will take on the position of Executive Director - Royal Enfield from August 18.

### 7. Shanti Lal Jain appointed as new MD and CEO of Indian Bank

The Appointments Committee of Cabinet has approved the proposal to appoint Shanti Lal Jain as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Chennai-headquartered Indian Bank.

Jain, 56, is currently the Executive Director of state-run Bank of Baroda.

The Department of Financial Services had proposed his appointment as the MD and CEO of Indian Bank.

### 8. Labour Secretary Apurva Chandra appointed I&B Secretary

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet appointed Labour Secretary Apurva Chandra as the Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Apurv Chandra, 1988 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, assumed charge as the Labour Secretary in October 2020.

He was serving as Special Director General, Defence Acquisition, Ministry of Defence.

### **9. CVC re-appoints T M Bhasin as chairman of Advisory Board for Banking Frauds**

The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) re-appointed T M Bhasin as chairman of the Advisory Board for Banking and Financial Frauds (ABBFF), a panel constituted to examine bank frauds of over Rs 50 crore and recommend action.

The re-appointment of Bhasin is with effect from August 21, for a further period of two years, as per the circular issued by CVC.

### **10. U. Raja Babu appointed as Director of Hyderabad-based Research Centre Imarat**

U. Raja Babu has been appointed as Director of the Hyderabad-based Research Centre Imarat (RCI). RCI is the premier avionics laboratory of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Missile Complex of DRDO in Hyderabad. He provided necessary thrust to the design, development & successful demonstration of Ballistic Missile Defence system capabilities. 'Mission Shakti' has been successfully demonstrated under his leadership.

### **11. NK Singh replaces Manmohan Singh as Institute of Economic Growth president**

NK Singh, who has chaired the Fifteenth Finance Commission, has replaced former prime minister Dr. Manmohan Singh as the president of the Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) Society. Former CII DG Tarun Das is the Chairman and Prof Ajit Mishra is the IEG Director.

### **12. IOCL Executive Director Arvind Kumar appointed as MD of Chennai Petroleum Corporation**

Executive Director of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL), Arvind Kumar, has been appointed as Managing Director of Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL).

Kumar has been appointed for a period of five years with effect from the date of his assumption of charge of the post or till the date of his superannuation, or until further orders, whichever is the earliest.

### **13. Zambia's opposition leader Hichilema wins presidential election**

Zambia's newly elected leader Hakainde Hichilema has been sworn in after an election victory hailed as a rare triumph over authoritarianism and a milestone in African democracy.

On his sixth bid for the presidency, Hichilema defeated the incumbent Edgar Lungu.

The victory is the 17th opposition win in sub-Saharan Africa since 2015. Capital of Zambia:- Lusaka; Currency of Zambia:- kwacha

### **14. RBI approves re-appointment of Sandeep Bakhshi as ICICI Bank's MD & CEO**

The Reserve Bank of India has approved the re-appointment of Sandeep Bakhshi as the managing director and chief executive officer of ICICI Bank.

The re-appointment will come into effect on October 15, 2021, and the tenure will continue till October 3, 2023.

The decision to re-appoint Bakhshi as the MD and CEO had received the nod of shareholders nearly two years ago.

### **15. Home Ministry Appoints IPS Pankaj Kumar Singh As BSF DG , Sanjay Arora As ITBP DG & Balaji Srivastava as new BPR&D DG**

Union Home Ministry appointed Pankaj Kumar Singh as the new Director General of Border Security Force. He is presently serving as the Special DG, BSF.

The committee also appointed Sanjay Arora to the position of DG ITBP, Director General, Indo-Tibetan Border Police.

### **16. RBI clears appointment of Hitendra Dave as HSBC India CEO for three years**

The Reserve Bank of India has approved the appointment of Hitendra Dave as Chief Executive Officer, HSBC India for a period of three years with effect from August 24, 2021.

Dave is a General Manager within the HSBC Group and a member of the Asia Pacific Executive Committee of HSBC, underlining the importance of the India business to HSBC.

### **17. RBI appoints Ajay Kumar as new Executive Director**

The Reserve Bank of India has appointed Ajay Kumar as Executive Director (ED) with effect from August 2021.

Prior to being promoted as ED, Kumar was heading the New Delhi Regional Office of the Bank as Regional Director.

He has served in foreign exchange, banking supervision, financial inclusion, currency management and other areas in the Reserve Bank.

### **18. RBI approves appointment of Sanjeeb Chaudhuri as part-time chairman of IDFC First Bank**

The Reserve Bank of India has approved the appointment of Sanjeeb Chaudhuri as the part-time chairman of the IDFC FIRST Bank Limited.

Chaudhuri was listed among the Top 25 Media Visionaries in Asia Pacific in 2016 and is a featured speaker at premier global marketing and media events in Europe and Asia.

### **19. Justice AM Khanwilkar Appointed As Chairman Of Supreme Court Legal Services Committee**

The Central Authority nominated Justice AM Khanwilkar, with immediate effect in the wake of the retirement of Justice RF Nariman who held the post of chairman since September, last year.

As per Section 3A of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, it is the Central Authority which has to constitute a Committee to be called the Supremes Court Legal Services Committee.

### **20. PNB MD and CEO Ch. S. S Mallikarjuna Rao's term extended till January 2022**

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved an extension of Punjab National Bank's Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Ch. S. S Mallikarjuna Rao's term appointment till the date of his superannuation i.e. January 31, 2022.

The government on October 1, 2019, appointed Ch. S. S Mallikarjuna Rao as the MD and CEO of Punjab National Bank.

### **21. Adidas has roped in Tokyo Olympic Silver-medalist Mirabai Chanu for its "Stay in Play" campaign**

Adidas has roped in Tokyo Olympic Silver-medalist Mirabai Chanu for its "Stay in Play" campaign for its latest product innovation designed to keep more menstruating women in sports. The new TechFit Period Proof tights, featuring an absorbent layer to help protect against leaks when worn with a tampon or pad.

### **22. Sreekanth T, IAS appointed as the Deputy Election Commissioner, ECI**

Sreekanth T has been appointed as the Deputy Election Commissioner in the Election Commission of India for an overall tenure of 5 years. The appointment of Sreekanth T has been approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by PM Modi.

### **23. Harish Parvathaneni appointed as India's next Ambassador to Germany**

Harish Parvathaneni (IFS: 1990) appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Federal Republic of Germany.

He is presently Additional Secretary in the Ministry. He is expected to take up the assignment shortly.

### **24. TN Governor Banwarilal Purohit gets additional charge of Punjab, Chandigarh**

Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit has been given the additional charge of Punjab and the Union Territory of Chandigarh.

Earlier, V P Singh Badnore was the Governor of Punjab and the Administrator of Chandigarh.

The President has also appointed Purohit as the Administrator of Chandigarh, in addition to his duties as the Governor of Punjab.

### **25. HSBC Asia appoints former SBI chairman Rajnish Kumar as director**

Banking giant HSBC has appointed former SBI chairman Rajnish Kumar as a non-executive director for its Hong Kong-headquartered Asia unit. Kumar, who retired from the country's largest lender after four decades of service.

He was previously appointed as senior advisor by Baring Private Equity Asia and an advisor to Kotak Investment Advisors. HSBC Founded: 2008; Parent organization: The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation

### 26. Amit Banerjee takes over as CMD of Bharat Earth Movers Limited, (BEML)

Amit Banerjee took over as Chairman and Managing Director of BEML Ltd, a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Defence. Banerjee is a graduate in Mechanical Engineering from IIT (BHU), Varanasi.

He has worked for indigenous development of Metro Cars for Delhi, Jaipur, Kolkata, Bangalore & Mumbai. Catenary Maintenance Vehicle and PMS Bridge for Indian Army, etc

BEML:- Indian Public Sector Undertaking, with headquarters in Bengaluru, Karnataka.



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## Awards

### 1. Serum Institute chairman Cyrus Poonawalla named as recipient of Lokmanya Tilak National Award

Dr.Cyrus Poonawalla, chairman of Pune based vaccine maker Serum Institute of India (SII),will be honoured with the prestigious Lokmanya Tilak National Award for 2021.

The award ceremony will take place on August 13 and comprises cash prize of Rs.1 lakh and a memento.The award is annually given on August 1, the death anniversary of Lokmanya Tilak. The award was started in 1983.Some recipients: Indira Gandhi,S M Joshi,Manmohan Singh etc

### 2. KIMSHEALTH gets green platinum certification

KIMSHEALTH,a multi-speciality quaternary care hospital has won the platinum certification from the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC).As per the IGBC,the building KIMSHEALTH EAST is the first project in Kerala to receive this honour and the only hospital to achieve the rating in the South. IGBC award is a recognition of the commitment of the hospital to eco-sustainability

### 3. Govt announces Prime Minister's Shram Awards for year 2018

Government announced the Prime Minister's Shram Awards for the year 2018.These awards are to be given to 69 workers employed in the Departmental Undertakings and Public Sector Undertakings of the Central and State Governments and Private Sector Units employing 500 or more workers. This year Prime Minister's Shram Awards are given in three different categories.

### 4. Odisha-born neurosurgeon Basant Misra receives prestigious AANS Award

Odisha-born neurosurgeon Dr Basant Kumar Misra has been conferred the prestigious American Association of Neurological Surgeons' 'International Lifetime Achievement Award in Neurosurgery'.

Misra is the first Indian physician to receive the AANS honor which was conferred on him at a virtual ceremony during the AANS Annual Scientific Meeting 2021 held in Orlando, Florida. He was the world's first surgeon to perform Computer-Guided Aneurysm surgery.



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## Ranks & Reports

### 1. Reliance slips 59 places on Fortune Global 500 list, SBI jumps 16 spots

Mukesh Ambani's oil-to-telecom conglomerate Reliance Industries Ltd slipped 59 places to rank 155th on the 2021 Fortune Global 500 list. Walmart continues to top the Fortune list with a revenue of \$524 billion, followed by China's State Grid at \$384 billion. With \$280 billion revenue, Amazon came in at the 3rd spot. China National Petroleum was ranked 4th & Sinopec Group 5th SBI moved up 16 places to rank 205 but Indian Oil Corporation dropped 61 places to 212th

### 2. India ranks second in crypto adoption globally

India has been ranked second in terms of crypto adoption, amid a bull run in cryptocurrency assets globally, a new report by blockchain data platform Chainalysis showed.

According to the report, which ranked 154 countries, India was second only to Vietnam.

The cryptocurrency moved in transactions under P2P trade volume, weighted by purchasing power parity (PPP) per capita

### 3. Niti Aayog releases NER District SDG Index report; East Sikkim tops chart

East Sikkim has topped in terms of meeting sustainable development goals in the Niti Aayog's North Eastern Region (NER) District SDG Index Report 2021-22 and Nagaland's Kiphire featured at the bottom.

It was the release of the first edition of the NER District SDG Index Report and Dashboard 2021-22 by NITI Aayog and the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region.



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## Important Days

### 1. Muslim Women Rights Day | August 1

Muslim Women's Rights Day is observed across the nation on August 1 to celebrate the enactment of the law against triple talaq.

The central government enacted the law on August 1, 2019, that has made the practice of instant triple talaq a criminal offence.

Minister for Minority Affairs: Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi

### 2. World Breastfeeding Week | August 1-7

The world celebrates World Breastfeeding Week from August 1 to August 7 every year, to spread awareness about its importance and need.

The history of breastfeeding week is dated back to 1990 when WHO and UNICEF created a memorandum to promote and support breastfeeding. In 1991, the World Association of Breastfeeding Action was formed to execute UNICEF and WHO's goals.

This year theme is 'Protect Breastfeeding: A Shared Responsibility'

### 3. India marks the 7th National Handloom Day to showcase the legacy of Indian handloom industry

August 7 is observed as National Handloom Day to commemorate the Swadeshi Movement and to celebrate our country's rich fabrics and colorful weaves. India will mark the seventh National Handloom Day to showcase the legacy of the Indian handloom industry and to honour the weavers across the country. It was first observed in 2015 by Govt of India

### 4. World Lion Day observed on 10th August every year

World Lion Day is observed on August 10 of every year to raise awareness about lions and to mobilise support for their protection and conservation. As per World Wide Fund for animals (WWF), a lion is often referred to as the 'king of the jungle'. It mostly lives in grasslands and plains. In 2020, the population of Asiatic lions increased by 29% in Gujarat's Gir forests. The theme of World Lion Day 2021 : Slow elimination of the African lion

### 5. World Biofuel Day is observed on 10th August every year

World Biofuel Day is observed every year on 10th August to create awareness about the importance of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels and to highlight the various efforts made by the Government in the biofuel sector. This Day is being observed by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas since 2015. This day also honors Sir Rudolf Diesel.

Theme for the year 2021 : Promotion of biofuels for a better environment

### 6. AFI to celebrate August 7, Neeraj's Olympic gold winning day, as National Javelin Day

The Athletics Federation of India has announced that August 7 each year would be celebrated as National Javelin Throw Day with competitions in all States and Union Territories to commemorate Neeraj Chopra winning the country's first athletics gold medal in the Olympic Games in Tokyo. He is the second Indian to win an individual Olympic gold in Tokyo, after Abhinav Bindra. The winning throw was of 87.58m

### 7. International Youth Day observed on 12th August every year

International Youth Day is observed on 12th August every year.

The theme of the International Youth Day 2021 is - Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human & Planetary Health.

In 1999, the United Nations General Assembly endorsed the recommendation made by the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth that 12 August be declared International Youth Day

### **8. World Elephant Day | Aug 12**

World Elephant Day is celebrated every year on August 12. Initiated by the Elephant Reintroduction Foundation and filmmakers Patricia Sims and Michael Clark in 2011, the first international Elephant Day was celebrated on August 12, 2012.

Aim of the day :- make people aware of better treatment of captive elephants and against their illegal poaching and trade for ivory.

### **9. World Organ Donation Day | Aug 13**

World Organ Donation Day is observed on August 13 every year to spread awareness about the importance of organ donation and address and debunk myths related to donating organs.

Doctor Joseph Murray won the Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine in 1990 for successfully carrying out a kidney transplant between twin brothers Ronald and Richard Herrick. The first-ever successful living donor organ transplant was done in 1954 in the USA.

### **10. World Photography Day observed on 19th August every year**

On the occasion of World Photography Day on 19 August, 2021, a biopic of acclaimed photographer-photo journalist, Raghu Rai will be streamed by Films Division on its website and YouTube channels.

The film titled 'Raghu Rai : Hearing Through the Eyes' portrays a journey through the inner and outer world of the legendary photographer.

### **11. World Humanitarian Day | Aug 19**

World Humanitarian Day, celebrated on August 19 every year, was designated by the United Nations to celebrate those people who have dedicated their lives to humanitarian causes.

It is also a day of remembrance for all those lives that have been sacrificed for the benefit of humanity.

This year theme is 'The Human Race'.

### **12. International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism: August 21**

The UN General Assembly in 2017 established 21 August as the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism in order to honor and support the victims and survivors of terrorism and to promote and protect the full enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

### **13. International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief: 22nd August**

The UN General Assembly designated 22 August as the International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief recognizing the importance of providing victims of acts of violence based on religion or belief and members of their families with appropriate support and assistance in accordance with applicable law.

### **14. World Sanskrit Day observed on 22nd August this year**

World Sanskrit Day, also known as Vishva-sanskrita-dinam.

It is celebrated on Sawan Purnima and this year, it was celebrated on August 22, with the aim of promoting its revival and maintaining the dignity of the language.

The Sanskrit organisation Samskrita Bharati is involved in promoting the day.

Sanskrit has its foundation rooted back in the Vedas.

### **15. NTPC announces recruitment of an all-Female Engineers batch on Women's Equality Day**

On Women's Equality Day, which is observed on 26th August, NTPC Ltd has recruited its first all-Female Engineering Executive Trainees batch to reaffirm its stand on diversity and inclusion.

The engineering graduates were selected based on the performance in GATE 2021 in the Electrical, Mechanical, Electronics and Instrumentation disciplines.

## 16. Sports Minister Anurag Thakur Launches Fit India Mobile App on National Sports Day | 29 Aug

The National Sports Day is celebrated on 29th August every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of legendary hockey player Major Dhyan Chand.

On 6th of August, the Government had announced that India's highest sporting honour Khel Ratna Award has been named as Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award in the honour of the hockey wizard.

## 17. National Small Industry Day: 30 August

The National Small Industry Day is celebrated on 30 August. This day is specially dedicated to motivate and promote small industrial businesses. It also helps to promote the small-scale business industry growth.

## 18. International Day for People of African Descent | 31 August

The International Day for People of African Descent will be celebrated for the first time on 31 August 2021.

Through this Observance the UN aims to promote the extraordinary contributions of the African diaspora around the world & to eliminate all forms of discrimination against people of African descent.

Costa Rica is the global hosts for this international events.

International Decade for People of African Descent:- 2015-2024.



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## Summit & Conferences

### **1. Meenakshi Lekhi, Minister of State for Culture addresses at G20 Culture Ministers' Meeting**

Meenakshi Lekhi participated in the G20 Culture Ministers' Meeting on 30 July, 2021 hosted by Italy during their ongoing Presidency of G20 in 2021.

She addressed participants of the meeting and presented India's perspective on the topic 'Culture and Creative Sectors as drivers for growth'.

### **2. India chaired the BRICS working group on agriculture.**

Ministers of agriculture of BRICS nations deliberated virtually on the theme 'BRICS Partnership for Strengthening Agro Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition Security' ahead of a summit, to be chaired by India, next month.

BRICS Agriculture Research platform has been developed by India to promote cooperation in areas of agricultural research, extension and technology transfer. India will be hosting the 13th BRICS summit in 2021.

### **3. Ajit Doval hosts inaugural meeting of IBSA National Security Advisers**

National Security Adviser Ajit Doval hosted the inaugural meeting of the IBSA National Security Advisers.

Discussions were held on maritime security, fight against terrorism and transnational organized crime, and cyber security.

Participants agreed that terrorism, in particular, cross-border terrorism undertaken through state sponsorship must be fought through united effort

### **4. BRICS Environment Ministers adopt the New Delhi Statement on Environment.**

At the 7th meeting of the BRICS Environment Ministerial 2021, the Environment Ministers adopted the New Delhi Statement on Environment, which is aimed at furthering the spirit of Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation, and Consensus in Environment among the BRICS Nations. The 13th BRICS Summit is going to be held under India's Chairmanship in 2021.

### **5. The Union Minister of Women & Child Development addressed the First ever G20 Ministerial Conference on Women's Empowerment**

The Union Minister of Women & Child Development addressed the First ever G20 Ministerial Conference on Women's Empowerment which was held at Santa Margherita Ligure, Italy in a hybrid format. Minister reaffirmed India's commitment towards addressing gender and women-centric issues through mutual cooperation. The G20 presidency will be held by Italy in 2021, Indonesia in 2022, and India in 2023.

### **6. Sitharaman chairs 2nd meeting of BRICS FMs, Central Bank Governors**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chaired the second meeting of BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) with Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das under Indian BRICS Chairship.

This meeting is scheduled ahead of the BRICS Leaders' Summit 2021 to discuss and finalise key outcomes of the BRICS finance agenda this year. Finance Min, Central Bank Governors of Brazil, Russia, China & South Africa were present.

## Science & Technology

### 1. Eutelsat Quantum Launched a Revolutionary Reprogrammable Satellite 'Chameleon'

A sophisticated telecommunications satellite that can be completely repurposed while in space has launched. Developed under an ESA Partnership Project with satellite operator Eutelsat and prime manufacturer Airbus, Eutelsat Quantum has pioneered a new generation of satellites with the European space industry. The satellite was launched from Europe's Spaceport in French Guiana.

### 2. Russia's Nauka multi-purpose lab module docks to space station

Russia's Multipurpose Laboratory Module (MLM), named "Nauka" ("Science" in Russian), docked to the space station, eight days after its more-than-decade-long delayed launch. The 20-tonne MLM is connected with the orbiting complex, using an open port that was recently vacated by the Pirs docking compartment on the Earth-facing side of the Zvezda service module.

### 3. IIT Madras launches India's first consortium for Virtual Reality

Indian Institute of Technology Madras has launched the country's first consortium for Virtual Reality called 'Consortium for VR/AR/MR Engineering Mission in India' (CAVE). This consortium, including a group of academic institutions, industries, start-ups and government bodies, is coordinated by IIT Madras.

consortium will promote best practices, dialogue with all stakeholders

### 4. India to get advanced 'eye in the sky' ahead of I-Day with Gisat-1 launch on August 12

Just three days ahead of the Independence Day, India will finally launch its most advanced geo-imaging satellite (Gisat-1), which will allow better monitoring of the subcontinent, including its borders with Pakistan and China, by imaging the country 4-5 times a day. The satellite will be launched on August 12 at 5.43 am from Sriharikota.

### 5. ISRO chief K Sivan inaugurates Health Quest study

Dr K Sivan, Secretary, Chairman, ISRO formally inaugurated the Health QUEST study (Health Quality Upgradation Enabled by Space Technology of ISRO) which will be undertaken by 20 private hospitals across India. The objective of the study is to strive towards reducing human errors and achieve zero defect and quality service in the emergency and intensive care units of hospital.

### 6. Chandrayaan-2 orbiter detects water molecules on lunar surface

India's ambitious Chandrayaan-2 moon mission may have made a hard landing on the lunar surface in 2019, but the orbiter accompanying it has been providing useful information to scientists back on Earth. And earlier this week, a research paper revealed that the Chandrayaan-2 orbiter confirmed the presence of water molecules and hydroxyl on the surface of the moon.

### 7. ISRO Launches GSLV-F10/EOS-03 Mission But Faces Setback Due to Performance Anomaly in Cryogenic Stage

ISRO's second mission of the year to place an earth observation satellite by a GSLV rocket faced a setback as the mission could not be accomplished fully due to a performance anomaly in the cryogenic stage of the rocket. About seven minutes into its launch at 5.43 a.m. the Indian rocket GSLV-F10 encountered problems in its cryogenic engine—the third and last engine Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle : GSLV Indian Space Research Organisation : ISRO

### 8. Bharat Biotech's nasal Covid-19 vaccine advances into the next stage of trials.

Indian vaccine maker Bharat Biotech's nasal COVID-19 vaccine candidate has received regulatory approval for mid-to late-stage trials. Early-stage trials of the vaccine candidate, BBV154, have been completed in subjects aged 18 to 60 years, and the doses were found to

be well tolerated. BBV154 Covid Vaccine is the first intranasal vaccine being developed in the country. COVAXIN, Bharat Biotech's Covid-19 vaccine is administered through an injection.

### 9. DBT's Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development Sets up a Science Museum

On the occasion of Jan-Bhagidari, the Autonomous Institute of Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development (IBSD) established 'Science Museum' in Chandel, an Aspirational District of Manipur. The main objective of the museum is to develop a scientific attitude and to inculcate general awareness.

### 10. IIT Delhi researchers develop modified cotton fabric which absorbs air pollutants

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi have developed a modified cotton fabric capable of adsorbing harmful air pollutants.

ZIF-8@CM Cotton and ZIF-67@CM Cotton, as they are called, are Zeolite Imidazolate Framework (ZIF)-modified functionalized fabrics which adsorb high levels of organic air pollutants like benzene, aniline, and styrene from the ambient air

### 11. IIT Madras Developing Platform To Tackle E-Waste By Linking Stakeholders In Formal, Informal Sector

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras is developing an innovative model to tackle electronic wastes (e-waste) by linking stakeholders in the formal and informal economy.

Called "e-Source", the exchange platform that will serve as an online marketplace for Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) & facilitate a formal supply chain between various stakeholder. The initiative is being spearheaded by Indo-German Centre for Sustainability (IGCS).




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## Defence

### **1. Swarnim Vijay Varsh Victory Flame reached at Khardungla pass, the world's highest motorable road**

Swarnim Vijay Varsh Victory Flame at Khardungla pass, the world's highest motorable road, was welcomed with a solemn ceremony of reception by army personnel, veterans, local residents and tourists. The Army paid tributes to the bravehearts of 1971 War as part of the ongoing Swarnim Vijay Varsh celebrations to commemorate 50 years of India's victory in the 1971 Indo-Pak war. Victory Flame to travel 3,000 kms on mainland & 700 nm onboard INS Sumedha

### **2. IAF inducts second squadron of Rafale aircraft at West Bengal's Hasimara**

The Indian Air Force formally inducted the second squadron of Rafale jets at West Bengal's Hasimara air base in Eastern Air Command. Hasimara is the 2nd IAF base to be equipped with Rafale aircraft. The first squadron of the Rafale jets is stationed at Ambala Air Force station. India has so far received 26 Rafale aircraft out of the 36 it has ordered from Dassault Aviation. Rafale jets are India's 1st major acquisition of fighter planes in 23yrs after Sukhoi Jet

### **3. Eastern Fleet Ships on Overseas Operational Deployment**

Under India's Act East policy and to enhance military cooperation with friendly countries, a Task Force of Indian Navy Eastern Fleet is to proceed on an Overseas Deployment to South East Asia, South China Sea and Western Pacific. The Indian Naval task group includes Guided Missile(GM) Destroyer Ranvijay, GM Frigate Shivalik, Anti-Submarine Corvette Kadmatt & GM Corvette Kora. During this, the ships will participate in bilateral exercises like Samudra Laxmana, SIMBEX

### **4. INS Khanjar becomes the first Indian Navy ship to call at heritage coastal port of Gopalpur**

Indian Naval Ship Khanjar becomes the first Indian Navy ship to call at the heritage coastal port of Gopalpur in Odisha. The two-day visit was organised as part of Aazadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav as well as Swarnim Vijay Varsh celebrations to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Independence and 50th anniversary of the 1971 War.

### **5. Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar launches website on 75th Independence Day Celebrations**

Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar launched a website on the 75th Independence Day Celebrations 2021 ([indianidc2021.mod.gov.in](http://indianidc2021.mod.gov.in)) in New Delhi. It is a platform to connect Indians from around the world over to celebrate the National Festival. For the first time ever, the platform will live stream the Independence Day from the Red Fort in Virtual Reality 360 degree format.

### **6. First Made-In-India Aircraft Carrier 'Vikrant' Sets Sail For Maiden Trials**

Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) 'Vikrant' designed by Indian Navy's Directorate of Naval Design is being built at Cochin Shipyard Limited. IAC is a leading example of the nation's quest for 'AtmaNirbhar Bharat' with more than 76% indigenous content. This is the maiden attempt of the Indian Navy and Cochin Shipyard to indigenously design and build an Aircraft Carrier. Vikrant is 262m long, a maximum of 62m wide and 59m high.

### **7. BRO constructs highest motorable road in the world in Eastern Ladakh**

Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has constructed and black-topped the highest motorable road in the world at 19,300 ft at Umlingla Pass in Eastern Ladakh, creating a record in high-altitude road construction. It has constructed a 52-km long tarmac road through Umlingla Pass, bettering the previous record of a road in Bolivia connecting to its volcano Uturuncu at 18,953 ft. The Khardung La Pass in Leh is at an altitude of 17,582 ft.

### **8. ITBP inducts its first women officers in combat**

For the first time, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) inducted women officers in combat. Two women, Prakriti and Diksha, joined the ITBP as combatised officers after completing their training at the academy in Mussoorie. The passing-out parade was held at the academy and

reviewed by Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhama. Total 53 officers passed out from the ITBP Academy

### **9. Indian Army contingent to participate in International Army Games ' 2021 in Russia**

A 101 member contingent of the Indian Army will proceed to Russia to participate in International Army Games ' 2021 from 22 Aug to 4th Sept 2021. Participation in these annual games is a reflection of the level of professionalism of the Indian Army amongst the world Armies. India stood first amongst the eight countries that participated in Army Scouts Master Competition 2019

### **10. India's first indigenous aircraft carrier Vikrant returns after successful maiden voyage**

India's first indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC) Vikrant returned to the shore after successfully accomplishing its maiden sea voyage. The trials were reviewed by Vice Admiral AK Chawla, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Southern Naval Command. The carrier would undergo a series of 'Sea Trials' to test all its equipment and systems prior to its delivery in 2022.

### **11. Maiden al-Mohed Al-Hindi exercise set to begin between Indian Navy and Saudi Arabia Navy**

The Indian Navy's visit to Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was set rolling with the Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet (FOCWF), Rear Adm Ajay Kochhar visiting the Fleet Cdr of Royal Saudi Navy's Eastern Fleet, Rear Adm Majid Al Qahtani on 10 Aug 21. This was held at King Abdul Aziz Naval Base, which is the Headquarters for Saudi Eastern Fleet.

### **12. Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment to Flag-Off 'Operation Blue Freedom ' Land World Record at Siachen Glacier'**

People with disabilities from across the country will undertake an expedition till Siachen Glacier to create a new World Record for the largest team of people with disabilities to reach the world's highest battlefield. Recently, The GoI has permitted a team of people with disabilities to scale Siachen Glacier. The team of people with disabilities trained by 'Team CLAW'.

### **13. INS Kochi to participate in 4-day Maritime Partnership Exercise in Bahrain**

As part of Persian Gulf deployment, INS Kochi is at Manama in Bahrain.

The ship will participate in the four-day Maritime Partnership Exercise.

Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet Rear Admiral Ajay Kochhar called on Chief of the Naval Staff of the Royal Bahrain Naval Force Rear Admiral Mohammed Yousif al-Asam. He called on Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa

### **14. Army organises 400 Km 'JAZBAA-E- TIRANGA' Relay Marathon in J&K**

In Jammu and Kashmir, the Army organised a 400 Km 'JAZBAA-E- TIRANGA' Relay Marathon. The event was flagged off by Major General Rajeev Puri, General Officer Commanding, Ace of Spades Division, who led the relay, closely followed by other military personnel. More than 300 troops took part, carrying the Indian Tricolour all along the Line of Control (LoC).

### **15. 'Joint Guidance For The Australia ' India Navy To Navy Relationship' Signed Between Indian Navy & Australian Navy**

A 'Joint Guidance for the Australia ' India Navy to Navy Relationship' document was signed between the Indian Navy and Royal Australian Navy.

The signing ceremony was held between Adm Karambir Singh, Chief of the Naval Staff, Indian Navy and Vice Admiral Michael J Noonan, Chief of Navy, Australian Navy.

The document is aligned to the 2020 Comprehensive Strategic Partnership This aims to ensure shared approaches to regional and global security challenges.

### **16. India, Vietnam undertake bilateral maritime exercise in South China Sea**

In continuation with ongoing deployment of Indian Navy ships in the South China Sea, INS Ranvijay and INS Kora undertook bilateral maritime exercise with Vietnam People's Navy frigate VPNS Ly Thai To (HQ-012).

The bilateral interaction aims to consolidate the strong bond shared by the two navies and would be another step towards strengthening India-Vietnam defence relations

### **17. DRDO develops Advanced Chaff Technology to safeguard fighter aircraft of IAF against hostile radar threats**

Pune and Jodhpur-based facilities of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) have jointly developed an advanced chaff technology to safeguard fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) from enemy radar threats.

Chaff is a critical defence technology used to protect fighter aircraft from hostile radar threats.

### **18. Indian Navy Ships Shivalik and Kadmatt Arrive at Guam to participate in Multilateral Maritime Ex Malabar**

Indian Naval Ships Shivalik and Kadmatt arrived at Guam, an Island Territory of the USA as part of their ongoing deployment to nations in SouthEast Asia and the Pacific Ocean.

The two ships are scheduled to participate in the annual Exercise MALABAR-21, between navies of Australia, India, Japan and the USA.

The MALABAR series of maritime exercises commenced in 1992.

### **19. EXERCISE KONKAN 2021 : INS Tabar participates in Exercise Konkan 2021 with Britain's Royal Navy**

Exercise Konkan 2021 was held between INS Tabar and HMS Westminster in the English Channel.

The exercise included the participation of integral helicopters of the two ships and the Falcon Electronic Warfare aircraft.

A wide range of exercises including co-ordinated anti-submarine procedures, firing drills, combined maritime picture compilation, & replenishment at sea.

### **20. India and Qatar conducted joint naval exercise in Persian Gulf**

The second edition of the joint naval exercise, Zair-Al-Bahr, between the Indian Navy and Qatar Emiri Naval Force (QENF) were recently conducted in the Persian Gulf.

In the sea phase of the exercise, the Indian Navy's Stealth Frigate INS Trikand, QENF's missile boats of Barzan and Damsah class, fast-attack crafts of MRTP 34 class and Rafale fighter aircraft participated. Qatar - Capital: Doha; Currency : Riyal

### **21. Indian Army gets first batch of multi-mode hand grenades made by private sector firm**

The first batch of Indian-made multi-mode hand grenades (MMHG), manufactured by a private firm, was delivered to the Indian Army in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at a ceremony in Nagpur.

The grenades will replace grenade no 36 of the World War I vintage design, which has continued in service till date. MMHGs are not just more lethal, but are safer to use. These grenades are mfd by Economic Explosive Ltd following the transfer of tech from DRDO

### **22. HAL signs \$716 mn deal with GE Aviation for 99 engines for LCA Tejas**

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited(HAL) signed a \$716 mn deal with GE Aviation of the U.S. for 99 F404 aircraft engines and support services that will power the indigenous Tejas Light Combat Aircraft(LCA) Mk-1A.

In Feb, the Defence Ministry signed a '48,000 crore deal with HAL to supply 83 LCA-Mk1A to the IAF. This is the largest deal and the purchase order placed by HAL for LCA

### **23. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveils Army Sports Institute Stadium named after Neeraj Chopra**

Defence Minister unveils Army Sports Institute Stadium at Pune named after Neeraj Chopra. The Indian Army's 'Mission Olympics' program was launched with the intent to deliver medal-winning performances in the Olympics and other international events. Mission Olympics of Indian Army through Army Sports Institute has been spearheading this initiative of the Army. The focus of the Indian Army is to identify and train sportspersons in 11 disciplines.

## 24. National Security Guard launched the 3rd edition of week-long annual exercise- 'Gandiv'

The National Security Guard (NSG), the federal contingency 'Zero Error' Force mandated to neutralise terrorism and hijacking threats in all its manifestations at the pan India level, has launched a weeklong exercise 'Gandiv' to validate planning parameters.

The exercise will cover potential targets in multiple cities of Uttar Pradesh, NCR, Gujarat & Madhya Pradesh, etc. NSG Founded: 22 September 1986; Headquarters: New Delhi

## 25. Mahindra Defence Systems bags '1,349.95 cr contract to manufacture IADS

Mahindra Defence Systems Limited (MDS) had bagged a contract worth '1,349.95 crore for manufacturing of Integrated Anti-Submarine Warfare Defence Suite (IADS) for modern warships of Indian Navy.

IADS is a high-end underwater equipment that uses latest technology. It is designed to detect and protect warships from underwater threats. First major contract with the private sector meant for underwater detection & protection.



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## Books & Authors

### 1. The new book "Balakot Air Strike: How India Avenged Pulwama" offers insights into 2019 Balakot air strikes

A new book revisits the chain of real-life events surrounding February 2019 Pulwama suicide bombing attack, and India's strong hit-back in the form of Balakot airstrikes twelve days later. "Balakot Air Strike: How India Avenged Pulwama", published by Garuda Prakashan, is written by Navy veteran Manan Bhatt. The book is a detailed account of the two epochal events.

### 2. Book 'The Dream of Revolution: A Biography of Jayaprakash Narayan' to explore his life and works

The book, 'The Dream of Revolution: A Biography of Jayaprakash Narayan', shares anecdotes and never-before-told stories from the life of the man who was known for his 'emotional hunger for transformative politics, shunning power and incubating revolutionary ideas'. The book is written by historian Bimal Prasad and author Sujata Prasad and published by Penguin Publication.

### 3. 'Mission Domination: An Unfinished Quest'- by Boria Majumdar & Kushan Sarkar

A new book titled 'Mission Domination: An Unfinished Quest' authored by Boria Majumdar & Kushan Sarkar.

It was revealed that Rohit Sharma wasn't happy after World Cup 2019 despite his individual brilliance and the book was released recently.

The book recalled the moments after the World cup 2019 loss as well. It has been published by Simon and Schuster Publisher India Private Limited.

### 4. Address Book- A Publishing Memoir in the time of COVID' by Ritu Menon

Author and publisher Ritu Menon's memoir talks about her time in lockdown. Housebound, she goes through her address book looking for a name and number from a long time ago. As she goes through the pages, she sees the people she's encountered in 35 years as a feminist publisher. It also dwells on the books she made, authors published, issues raised, and more. She was the co-founder of Kali for Women, India's first feminist press in 1983.



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## Miscellaneous

### **1. 14th century Tamil inscription of the Kakatiyas found at Prakasam district, Andhra Pradesh.**

A Tamil inscription that was laid in the reign of Kakatiya Emperor Pratapa Rudradeva was found at Motupalli village, Chirala in Prakasam district. The Tamil language inscription carved in the Tamil Grantha script is dated to 1308 AD. The inscription is registering the gift of land as Tirudaivayattam for providing offerings to the god.

### **2. Mindtickle latest unicorn after funding led by SoftBank; valued at \$1.2 bn**

Sales readiness platform Mindtickle became the latest unicorn when it raised an additional \$100 million in the Series E funding round. SoftBank led the round that saw participation from existing investors Norwest Venture Partners, Canaan, NewView Capital, and Qualcomm Ventures. Company helps companies be ready to grow revenue by increasing knowledge & adapt.

### **3. Italian luxury brand Bvlgari has appointed actor Priyanka Chopra Jonas as global brand ambassador.**

Italian luxury brand Bvlgari on Monday said it has appointed actor Priyanka Chopra Jonas as global brand ambassador.

In her new role, the company said Chopra Jonas will support the Roman high jewellery house in amplifying the brand around the world, with a particular focus on themes of women empowerment, diversity and inclusion. Bvlgari is known for its gemstone jewellery,

### **4. Marwadi University signs iconic cricketer Ravindra Jadeja as brand ambassador to strengthen youth connect**

Gujarat-based Marwadi University, an educational leader in India's Saurashtra region, has announced ace Indian cricketer and a son of Gujarat's soil, Ravindra Jadeja, as its brand ambassador. The association strengthens the University's vision and commitment to connect with youth and strive to set world-class education benchmarks via global engagements and collaborations

### **5. MS Dhoni becomes the first brand ambassador and equity partner of HomeLane**

HomeLane, a home interiors firm, has announced a strategic collaboration with Mahindra Singh Dhoni, the former captain of the Indian cricket team. The partnership will last for the next three years. Dhoni will not only become an equity partner but also a brand ambassador for the company.

### **6. Assam rifles organises cycle rally to celebrate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Fit India Movement**

Chandel Battalion of Assam Rifles organised a cycle rally to promote Fit India Movement and to celebrate Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav in collaboration with Imphal and Chandel Cycling Clubs. The cycle rally was flagged off from Chandel and covered the distance of 130 Km along the Chandel- Kakching'Thoubal'Kangla Fort route, culminating at Modi village in Chandel district.

## Obituary

### 1. Nari Shakti Puraskar Awardee, Centenarian Sprinter Man Kaur Passes Away

Sprinter Man Kaur, who made several records for the over a hundred years old category, passed away. The 105-year-old athlete had taken up sprinting at the age of 93 and was able to win over 17 gold medals in her career. In 2020, the government of India had awarded her Nari Shakti Puraskar for her achievements in athletics by the President of India. She was known as the 'miracle mom from Chandigarh'.

### 2. Noted Dogri writer Padma Sachdev passes away

Padma Sachdev was an Indian poet and novelist. Addressed as the first modern woman poet of the Dogri language, the late poet also wrote in Hindi. She published several poetry collections, including 'Meri Kavita Mere Geet', which won the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1971.

### 3. Noted Kerala sculptor, cartoonist P.S. Banarji passes away at 41

Cartoonist, sculptor and folk singer P.S. Banarji passed away at Thiruvananthapuram. He was 41. A recipient of the Lalithakala Akademi Fellowship, Banarji was noted for his Ayyankali and Buddha sculptures at Venganur and Koduman. Known for his rendition of a string of folk songs, including the popular 'Tharaka Pennale', he was working as a graphic designer in an IT firm.

### 4. Veteran actor Anupam Shyam passes away

Anupam Shyam, the 63-year-old actor, best known for his work on the TV show "Mann Kee Awaaz: Pratigya" and appearances in films like "Slumdog Millionaire" and "Bandit Queen" passed away. In his nearly three-decade long career, Shyam featured in films like "Satya", "Dil Se", "Lagaan", "Hazaaron Khwaishein Aisi" and received critical acclaim for his roles.

### 5. Commodore KP Gopal Rao, war hero in 1971, dies at 94

Commodore Kasaragod Pattanashetti Gopal Rao, a 1971 war hero and recipient of the Mahavir Chakra, breathed his last. The naval veteran was a recipient of the Vishisht Seva Medal. He played a key role in the war with Pakistan to liberate East Pakistan that is now Bangladesh. He was a part of Operation Cactus Lily.

### 6. Ayurveda proponent Balaji Tambe passes away in Pune

Dr Balaji Tambe, an Ayurveda practitioner and proponent of Yoga, passed away in Pune following a brief illness. He was 81. The founder of 'Atmasantulana Village', a holistic healing centre near Lonavala, Tambe had written various books on spirituality, Yoga and Ayurveda. One of his books is 'Secret of Ayurveda'.

### 7. Malayalam actress Saranya Sasi passes away at 35

Popular Malayalam actress Saranya Sasi died at a private hospital.

The 35-year-old actress was diagnosed with brain tumour years ago and underwent surgical procedure several times as part of the treatment.

She had acted in Malayalam movies like 'Chacko Randaman' and 'Chotta Mumbai' and was a popular TV actress in the state.

### 8. Renowned athletics coach Om Nambiar passes away

PT Usha's coach, OM Nambiar, passed away at the age of 89. Nambiar worked with the Indian Air Force from 1955 to 1970 during which time he represented Services.

Om Nambiar was honoured with the very first Dronacharya Award in 1985 along with two other coaches.

### 9. Former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Kalyan Singh passes away

Former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Kalyan Singh passed away. He was also the former governor of Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh.

He was two time MP from Bulandshahar and Etah.

### 10. 1960 Rome Olympic and former national football coach SS Hakim passes away

Syed Shahid Hakim, former India footballer and member of the last national team that played in the 1960 Rome Olympics, passed away.

Hakim 'saab', as he was popularly known, was 82 years old.

In his more than five-decade association with Indian football, Hakim, a Dronacharya Awardee, has also been an assistant coach to late PK Banerjee during the 1982 Asian Games in Delhi.

### 11. British comedian Sean Lock dies of cancer at 58

Comedian Sean Lock died of cancer at the age of 58. Sean was one of Britain's finest comedians, his boundless creativity, lightning wit and the absurdist brilliance of his work, marked him out as a unique voice in British comedy.

In the year 2000, Sean Lock had won the gong at the British Comedy Awards for the best live stand-up performance.

### 12. Former India footballer and Olympian O Chandrasekhar passes away

Former India footballer O Chandrasekharan, popularly known as Olympian Chandrasekharan in his home state Kerala, died.

He had been suffering from dementia for a decade or so.

Chandrasekharan, who played as a defender, was a member of the Indian team in the 1960 Rome Olympics the last time the country participated in football at the Games.

### 13. Media stalwart Pradeep Guha passes away at 68

Mumbai Pradeep Guha, managing director of 9X Media and former president of Bennett Coleman and Company Ltd passed away in Mumbai.

Guha was recently detected with fourth stage liver cancer and was being treated at the city's Kokilaben Ambani Hospital.

BCCL, also known as the Times Group

### 14. Eminent Bengali writer Buddhadeb Guha is no more

Eminent Bengali writer Buddhadeb Guha, author of many notable works such as 'Madhukari' (Honey Gatherer), is no more. He was 85. 85-year-old Mr. Guha, whose works of fiction reflected his closeness to nature and forests of eastern India, was suffering from post-Covid complications. He won awards like Ananda Purashkar in 1976, Shiroman Purashkar and Sharat Puraskar.



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## Person in news

### 1. Deepak Das takes charge as new Controller General of Accounts

Deepak Das took charge as the new Controller General of Accounts. He is the 25th officer to hold the position of Controller General of Accounts. Deepak Das, a 1986-batch Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) officer, is appointed by the Government of India as the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, with effect from Aug 1, 2021. CGA is the Principal Advisor on Accounting matters to the Union Government.

### 2. Mini Ipe appointed as LIC MD ahead of proposed IPO

Mini Ipe took charge as managing director of Life Insurance Corporation of India. Ipe is a post-graduate in commerce and joined LIC in 1986 as a direct recruit officer. LIC is India's 2nd-largest financial services institution with a Rs 31 lakh crore balance sheet, next to the country's largest bank, State Bank of India (SBI), with assets of Rs 39.51 lakh crore. Mini Ipe was the first woman zonal manager (in-charge) of LIC and headed SCZO, Hyderabad.

### 3. Vice Admiral SN Ghormade assumes charge as Indian Navy vice chief

Vice Admiral SN Ghormade assumed charge as the Vice Chief of Naval Staff at a formal ceremony held at South Block in New Delhi. He took over from Vice Admiral G Ashok Kumar who retires today after a service of 39 yrs. He is an alumnus of the NDA, Khadakwasla, Naval Staff College at the United States Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island, and the Naval War College, Mumbai. He was awarded the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal on 26 January, 2017 and Nausena Medal in 2007.

### 4. Jagdish Bhagwati, C Rangarajan conferred with inaugural Prof CR Rao Centenary Gold Medal

Renowned economist Jagdish Bhagwati and C Rangarajan have been conferred with the inaugural Prof CR Rao Centenary Gold Medal (CGM). Bhagwati is professor of economics, law and international relations at Columbia University while C Rangarajan is the former chairman of the Economic Advisory Council of the Prime Minister and former governor of the Reserve Bank of India.

### 5. Nikol Pashinyan officially appointed Armenia's prime minister

Armenia's acting Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has been officially appointed to the post by the country's president after Pashinyan's Civil Contract party won an early parliamentary election. Pashinyan had stepped down as prime minister, as required by law to hold the election, but has remained in charge as the country's acting leader. Armenia's President: Armen Sarkissian.

### 6. Air Marshal Suraj Kumar Jha assumes charge as Air Officer In Charge Personnel

Air Marshal Suraj Kumar Jha is appointed as the Air Officer in Charge Personnel at Air HQ. The Air Marshal was commissioned in the Fighter stream of IAF on 08 June 1984. In a career spanning 37 years, the Air Officer has flown over 2900 hours. In recognition of his service, the Air Marshal was awarded Mention - in-Despatches in 1999 for Kargil Ops & Ati Vishisht Seva Medal.

### 7. Akhilesh Mishra appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Ireland

India has appointed senior diplomat Akhilesh Mishra as the country's High Commissioner to Ireland. He is a 1989 Indian Foreign Service-batch officer and on special duty in the foreign ministry at present. Akhilesh Mishra's predecessor is Sandeep Kumar, who joined the IFS in 1985 and became Ambassador of India to Ireland from November 2018.

### 8. Mohammad Mokhber named as first Vice President of Iran

Iran's new President Ebrahim Raisi named the chairman of a powerful state-owned foundation sanctioned by the United States as his first vice-president. Mohammad Mokhber, has for years headed the foundation known as Setad, or the Execution of Imam Khomeini's order. Mokhber was appointed to the position by the supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in 2007.

### **9. Rekha Sharma gets 3-year extension as NCW chief**

Rekha Sharma was given a three-year extension as the chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW). Sharma, 57, assumed the charge of NCW chairperson on August 7, 2018. She has been associated with the Commission as a member since August, 2015 and held the additional charge as the chairperson from September 29, 2017 before becoming its regular chief

### **10. Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba gets one-year extension**

Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba has been given a one-year extension by the government. Gauba, former Union Home Secretary, was in 2019 appointed to the country's top bureaucratic post for two years. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved extension in service to Gauba as Cabinet Secretary for a further period of one-year beyond 30th August 2021

### **11. Cashify appoints Rajkummar Rao as first brand ambassador**

Cashify, a re-commerce marketplace that sells and buys used smartphones and other electronic gadgets, announced that it has appointed Rajkummar Rao as its first brand ambassador. The actor has signed a multi-year contract with the company and he will promote the products across digital media platforms through campaigns and promotional activities

### **12. Vice President Shri Venkaiah Naidu releases Postage Stamp on Mananiya Chaman Lal**

Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President of India released Commemorative Postage Stamp on 'Mananiya Chaman Lal' at a public function at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Conference, New Delhi. The Postage Stamp highlights the life & work of Mananiya Chaman Lal, renowned social worker and Sangh Pracharak. He was a Gold Medallist with many lucrative job offers but he chose to work for society

### **13. Baroda Asset Management India appoints Suresh Soni as Chief Executive Officer**

Baroda Asset Management India has appointed Suresh Soni as chief executive officer with effect from August 2021. Soni is a seasoned asset management professional with over 25 years of experience spanning across investment and business management. He has worked with start-ups as well as global giants and across retail as well as institutional clients

### **14. Gaana appoints Sandeep Lodha as CEO**

Music streaming app Gaana has announced the appointment of Sandeep Lodha as CEO. Lodha moves from Oyo's Weddingz.in where he was CEO. He replaces Prashan Agarwal who moved on from the company earlier this year. The company has also appointed former Times Internet executives Vivek Pandey as COO, and Ram Awasthi as CTO

### **15. Priyanka Chopra Jonas named Jio MAMI Mumbai Film Festival chairperson**

Actor-producer Priyanka Chopra Jonas on Tuesday was announced as the chairperson of Jio MAMI Film Festival, almost four months after Deepika Padukone stepped down from the position.

The Mumbai Academy of Moving Image (MAMI) unveiled its plans for the coming year, edition and the change in leadership.

### **16. Amway India ropes in Olympian Mirabai Chanu as brand ambassador**

Direct selling major Amway India has signed Olympic silver medalist Saikhom Mirabai Chanu as brand ambassador for Amway and its Nutrilite range of products.

Chanu will appear in Amway's campaigns focused on its foundation range such as Nutrilite Daily, Omega and All Plant Protein amongst others, across platforms.

Over 60 per cent of Amway's direct sellers are women and youth

### **17. Samsung India ropes in Alia Bhatt as brand ambassador for its foldable smartphone portfolio**

Samsung India has roped in actor Alia Bhatt as the brand ambassador for its premium Galaxy Z Series foldable smartphones.

Alia's immense popularity among young Gen Z and millennial consumers will help us deepen our bonds with them.

Moreover, Alia's quality and depth of work resonates with Samsung's key values of openness and innovation.

### **18. D-Mart owner RK Damani breaks into list of world's top 100 richest people**

The billionaire investor Radhakishan Damani has broken into the top 100 of the world's richest people, according to the data maintained by the Bloomberg Billionaires' index.

Damani, who owns retail chain-operator Avenue Supermarts, is currently worth \$19.2 billion and is positioned at 98 in the list of the world's wealthiest individuals.

### **19. Ismail Sabri Yaakob is Malaysia's new Prime Minister**

Malaysia's King Al-Sultan Abdullah named former Deputy Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob as the country's new Prime Minister. No elections were held to appoint Malaysia's new prime minister as the king had ruled it out over coronavirus pandemic concerns. Notably, In Malaysia, the king has the constitutional power to appoint a new prime minister.

### **20. Nakul Chopra appointed as Chief Executive Officer of BARC India**

Broadcast Audience Research Council India (BARC), the Industry's Television Audience measurement body, has announced Nakul Chopra as its new Chief Executive Officer.

Nakul Chopra joined the BARC India Board in 2016 and was subsequently appointed the Chairman of the company (2018-19).

### **21. Tokyo Paralympics 2020: Sumit Antil wins gold for India in javelin F64 event**

Sumit Antil clinched the gold medal with a record-setting win in the men's javelin throw F64 event.

# Yogesh Kathuniya secured a silver medal in the discus throw event.

# Javelin thrower Devendra Jhajharia clinched his third Paralympics medal -- this time a silver in the F46 event.

# High jumper Nishad Kumar set an Asian record on his way to silver in the T47 class. Antil's world-record throw of 68.55 m bettered his own record efforts in previous throws.

## **Insurance**

### **1. PhonePe receives insurance broking licence, can now offer products from all insurance companies**

Digital payments and financial services fintech PhonePe said it has been issued an Insurance Broking license from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).

It had entered the insurance sector with an insurance corporate agent license, to partner with only three insurance companies per category i.e. health, life & general

## Environment

### 1. Four sites of India added to the Ramsar list as wetlands of international importance.

Thol and Wadhvana from Gujarat and Sultanpur and Bhindawas from Haryana are added to the Ramsar list as wetlands of international importance. While Haryana gets its first Ramsar sites, Gujarat gets three more after Nalsarovar which was declared in 2012. The total number of Ramsar sites in India is 46. The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands is named after the city of Ramsar in Iran.

### 2. Single-use plastic items are to be prohibited from July 2022.

The government has notified Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021, prohibiting identified single-use plastic items by 2022. With effect from 30th September 2021, the thickness of plastic carry bags has been increased to 75 microns from 50 microns and to 120 microns with effect from the 31st December 2022. The provisions will not apply to commodities made of compostable plastic.

### 3. Rare orchid species found in India for the first time

A rare orchid species, *Cephalanthera erecta* var. *oblanceolata*, has been found for the first time in India in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district at an altitude of 1870 metres.

Uttarakhand has around 250 recorded orchid species.

*Cephalanthera* represents a small group of terrestrial orchids with about 19 taxa, mainly distributed in Europe, North America and temperate parts of Asia



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## **Apps & Portals**

### **1. Union Minister Virendra Kumar launches PM-Daksh portal, PM Daksh mobile app to promote skill development**

Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar launched 'PM-DAKSH' Portal and Mobile App, developed by the Ministry, in collaboration with NeGD, to make the skill development schemes accessible to the target groups. Through these portal and app the youth of the target groups will now be able to avail the benefits of skill development training programmes For FY'21, target is set to provide skill development training to approx. 50,000 persons

### **2. Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment launched an online portal TAPAS**

Union Minister for Social Justice launched an online portal TAPAS (Training for Augmenting Productivity and Services). TAPAS is the initiative of the National Institute of Social Defence to provide access to lectures by subject experts, study material and more, but in a manner that it supplements the physical classroom without compromising on the quality of teaching. NISD is a Central Advisory Body for the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

### **3. Govt Launches National Portal for Persons Living with Rare Diseases**

The Department of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) has launched a digital portal for crowdfunding and voluntary donations for the treatment of patients of Rare Diseases in accordance with the mandate of the National Policy for Rare Diseases 2021.

### **4. NDDDB-developed e-Gopala app launched to help dairy farmers**

National Dairy Development Board (NDDDB) has launched the web version of the e-GOPALA application and IMAP web portal which provides real-time information to dairy farmers for better productivity of dairy animals. It was launched by Parshottam Rupala, Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying

## **Agri-Business**

### **1. NCDEX Launches GUAREX ' India's First Agri Sectoral Index**

India's first sectoral index in the Agri commodities basket i.e. GUAREX was launched by the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX).

GUAREX is a price based sectoral index which tracks the movement in the futures contracts of guar gum refined splits and guar seed on a real-time basis. This index product will offer a lot of opportunities to value chain.

## State/UTs

### Arunachal Pradesh

#### 1. First commercial flight takes off from Tezu airport.

In a major boost to air connectivity in eastern Arunachal Pradesh, Chief Minister flagged off the first scheduled flight of Flybig Airlines from Tezu airport in Lohit district to Guwahati. Operationalization of the Tezu airport will boost connectivity of Eastern Arunachal that will facilitate easy and fast accessibility to economical activities, business and health services. Arunachal Pradesh shares international borders with Bhutan, Tibet-China, and Myanmar.

### Assam

#### 1. Assam govt inks MOU with Microfinance Institutions for implementation of Assam Micro Finance Incentive & Relief Scheme 2021

With a view to provide succour to poor women borrowers who are not able to return the loan amount of Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs), the Assam government signed an MOU with Microfinance Institutions for implementation of Assam Micro Finance Incentive and Relief Scheme 2021 in Guwahati.

Altogether 38 MFIs and banks signed the MoU with the state government.

### Chhattisgarh

#### 1. In a first, Chhattisgarh recognises forest resource rights in an urban area

Chhattisgarh became the first state to recognise Community Forest Resource Rights in an urban area, with the state government recognising rights of residents of Dhamtari district over 4,127 hectares of forests.

Community resource rights over 5,544 hectares of forest within the core area of the tiger reserve area were also recognised, under Forest Rights Act, 2006.

### Goa

#### 1. Former Goa civil services officer S V Naik appointed as liquidator for Madgaum Urban Bank

Registrar of cooperative societies Arvind Khutkar issued an order appointing S V Naik, retired Goa services officer, as liquidator for the Madgaum Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd, Margao. He has been directed to complete the liquidation proceedings under the Goa Cooperative Societies Act. He will oversee the process of paying money of the depositors & liquidation of bank's asset

### Gujarat

#### 1. Gujarat CM launches eNagar mobile application and portal

Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has launched eNagar mobile application and portal. The eNagar covers 10 modules with 52 services including property tax, professional tax, water & drainage, Complaints and grievance redressal, building permission, fire and emergency services. Gujarat Urban Development Mission has been appointed as a nodal agency for eNagar project

#### 2. NMHC to be developed as an international tourist destination, dedicated to the legacy of maritime heritage of India

National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) is conceptualized as an international tourist destination, dedicated to the legacy of maritime heritage of India, at Lothal, Gujarat with various tourist facilities such as National Maritime Heritage Museum, Heritage Theme Park, Maritime Research Institute, landscaping and recreational venues, to attract tourists.

#### 3. PM Modi launches National Automobile Scrapage Policy in Gujarat

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has formally launched the National Automobile Scrapage Policy and Investors Summit for setting up Vehicle Scrapping Infrastructure at Gandhinagar in Gujarat. The new National Automobile Scrapage Policy will give a new dimension to our mobility with a new identity to our automobile industry. This will give a boost to the economy.

## Haryana

### 1. Haryana CM ML Khattar launches 'Har Hith store' scheme

In a step aimed at encouraging youth towards self-employment, Haryana chief minister (CM) Manohar Lal Khattar launched the 'Har Hith store' scheme, as part of which a chain of grocery shops will be opened in rural and urban areas to sell the best quality daily-needs products at reasonable prices. monthly income of at least '15,000 to be given under Mukhyamantri Parivar Uthan Yojana

## Himachal Pradesh

### 1. Himachal Pradesh State Handicrafts & Handloom Corporation signs MoU with Flipkart for online sale

Himachal Pradesh State Handicrafts and Handloom Corporation has signed a Memorandum of understanding (MoU) with online retailer Flipkart for online sale and promotion of the products made by local artisans and craftsmen to customers across the globe. MoU would provide an e-Commerce platform for over 20,000 artisans associated with handloom and handicrafts in the State. Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister: Jai Ram Thakur

## Karnataka

### 1. Karnataka becomes first state to issue order to implement New Education Policy 2020 from current academic session

Karnataka Government has issued an order to implement the National Education Policy from the current academic year 2021-22. Karnataka has become the first state in the country to issue an order to implement the new Education policy. NEP aims at increasing the Gross Enrollment ratio in higher education from 26.8% in 2018 to 50 percent by 2035 in the area of education

### 2. KVG Bank launches FRUITS portal

The Dharwad-headquartered Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB), in association with the Karnataka government, has launched 'Farmer Registration and Unified Beneficiary Information System' (FRUITS) portal. The FRUITS portal is the first of its kind in the country where in the land and other details of all the farmers in the State are being captured. P Gopi Krishna : Chairman of KVGB

### 3. BeST cluster and Bangalore Chamber of Industry and Commerce sign MoU to strengthen technology development ecosystem in Karnataka

The Bangalore Chamber of Industry and Commerce (BCIC) and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) ' on behalf of the Bengaluru S&T (BeST) cluster entered into an MoU to foster collaboration and support the activities of BeST.

BeST is an initiative of the PM's Science, Technology & Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC) launched with support from the Office of the Adviser.

### 4. Karnataka forms panel to pick 75 players for Paris Olympics 2024

Former India hockey player VR Raghunath, swimming coach Nihar Ameen and ace shuttler Anup Sridhar have been drafted into a high-level committee of the Karnataka government to identify 75 promising athletes from Karnataka for the Paris Olympics 2024.

Each of the 75 sportspersons selected will receive Rs 5 lakh from the government for training, supplements, sports kit & so on

### 5. Sri Basava International Award for seer of Bhalki Hiremath

Karnataka government has selected Sri Basavalinga Pattaddevaru, senior seer of Bhalki Hiremath, for the prestigious Sri Basava International Award.

Minister for Kannada and Culture V. Sunil Kumar will present the award at Ravindra Kalakshetra in Bengaluru.

The septuagenarian seer has spent over five decades in the Lingayat religious institution in Bidar district.

## **6. Karnataka becomes 1st state in country to officially implement National Education Policy 2020**

Karnataka has become the first state in the country to officially implement the National Education Policy (NEP)-2020.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched the NEP in the state.

Karnataka has set an example for other states with the implementation of the National Education Policy.

The Admission module under the new policy was also launched on the occasion.

## **7. Government of Karnataka to Set up Spices Park in Chikkamagaluru**

The state government has decided to set up the spices park in the Chikkamagaluru district. Murugesh R Nirani said that the Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board will develop the facility on 10 acre plot at the earliest. The decision of government followed a meeting between the Nirani & Union Minister of State for the Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Shobha Karandlaje Karnataka Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot Chief minister: Basavaraj Bommai

## **8. Bengaluru based SELCO Solar Light Private Ltd comes forward to launch solar beds for people with spinal cord injury**

The Bengaluru based SELCO Solar Light Private Limited has come forward to launch solar beds for people with spinal cord injury. It has donated two such beds to the association of People with Disability under the guidance of Belthangady based Seva Bharati. SELCO solar company has joined hands with Seva Bharati to come to the rescue of people suffering from spinal cord injury

### **Kerala**

#### **Shri Nitin Gadkari instructs to open one side of Kuthiran Tunnel in Kerala**

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari instructed to open one side of the Kuthiran Tunnel in Kerala. This is the first road tunnel in the state and will drastically improve connectivity to Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. The road will improve connectivity to important ports and towns in the North ' South Corridor without endangering wildlife. The 1.6 km long tunnel is designed through Peechi- Vazhani wildlife sanctuary.

### **Madhya Pradesh**

#### **1. Cleanest city of country Indore declared as first Water Plus city of country**

Cleanest city of the country Indore has now been declared as the first Water Plus city of the country. The results were released by the Central Government. Indore is the number one city in the country for four times in the cleanliness category. The Water Plus certificate is awarded to cities that have met all the standards of ODF Double Plus. Treated wastewater is reused.

### **Maharashtra**

#### **1. India's lightest and Pune's first metro train set unveiled in Italy**

India's lightest and Pune's first Metro train was rolled out in Italy. It will be delivered in India by December 2021.

Titagarh Wagons Ltd, a company based out of Titagarh in West Bengal displayed its first train manufactured for Pune Metro.

The company's subsidiary in Europe, Titagarh Firema, was given a contract for the design, manufacture & supply of 34 trains to MahaMetro

#### **2. Maharashtra's Environment Minister inaugurates charging facility for electric vehicles**

Maharashtra's Environment Minister Aditya Thackeray inaugurated the charging facility for electric vehicles at the parking lot of Mumbai's Kohinoor building.

The State Government had announced its new Electric Vehicle Policy with an ambitious target of having 10% share of electric vehicles in the market by 2025. It aims to achieve 25% share in public transport.



### **3. Retired Justice V M Kanade appointed Lokayukta in Mumbai**

Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari approved the appointment of retired Bombay high court judge Justice V M Kanade as the new Lokayukta of Maharashtra, on the advice of the chief minister Uddhav Thackeray. Maharashtra was without a full-time Lokayukta for almost a year. The previous Lokayukta, (retd) Justice M L Tahaliyani had completed his tenure in August 2020.

#### **Manipur**

##### **1. Ganga Prasad sworn in as Governor of Manipur**

The Governor designate of Manipur Ganga Prasad was sworn in as the Governor of Manipur at a ceremony held at the Durbar Hall of Raj Bhavan, Imphal. The Chief Justice of the High Court of Manipur PV Sanjay Kumar administered the oath of office and secrecy to Shri Ganga Prasad. He will take charge of the Manipur Governor, during the absence on leave of Dr. Najma Heptulla. Shri Ganga Prasad is also the Governor of Sikkim.

##### **2. 1 MT of Manipur's Black Rice 'Chak-Hao' exported to Europe**

In Manipur, a consignment of one Metric Tonne of organic Chak-Hao was exported to Europe. Locally known as Chak-Hao, the Black Rice found in Manipur had got the GI tag and it had good demands from different parts of the country and abroad. For the first time, one Metric Ton of this highly nutritious rice variety was being exported officially to different European countries.

##### **3. Tamil Nadu's La Ganesan appointed as Manipur Governor**

Ganesan, a former BJP state president, was appointed as the new governor of Manipur, after the post had fallen vacant due to the retirement of Najma Heptullah earlier this month.

A communique from the Rashtrapati Bhavan in Delhi said Ganesan will be the new "Governor of Manipur with effect from the date he assumes charge of his office".

Tamil Nadu: Chief Minister M K Stalin

#### **Meghalaya**

##### **1. ATM installed in Meghalaya hospital where inventor was born in 1925**

A hospital in Meghalaya, where ATM inventor John Adrian Shepherd-Barron was born in 1925, has got an automated teller machine after 53 years of the first installation of such a cash dispenser globally. The ATM was installed at Dr H Gordon Roberts Hospital, which will turn 100 next year. The first ATM was installed at a bank in London in 1967. Reg Varney, star of a popular TV show, became the first person to withdraw cash.

#### **Nagaland**

##### **1. Nagaland Wins 7 National Awards Under Van Dhan Yojana Scheme**

Nagaland has been conferred with seven national awards on the first Van Dhan Annual Awards 2020-21, during the celebration of 34th foundation day of Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED). The state has received seven national awards, such as, with 1st positions in 'Best Survey State', 'Best Training', and 'Most number of VDVKC's estd'. VDVKC : Van Dhan Vikas Kendra Clusters

#### **Odisha**

##### **1. Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik announces smart health cards for 3.5 crore people**

The Odisha government announced the expansion of its flagship health assurance scheme - Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) that it had implemented instead of the Centre's Ayushman Bharat 'Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY).

Around 3.5 crore people in 96 lakh families, are now getting benefits under national and state food security schemes.

##### **2. Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik dedicate permanent campus of the Skill Development Institute Bhubaneswar**

The permanent campus of Skill Development Institute (SDI) at Bhubaneswar was dedicated to the nation by Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. The permanent campus of SDI, located

at Jatni Tahsil of Khurda district, has been built over an area of 16 acres allotted by the Government of Odisha. ICT-IOC was founded to enrich the nation's technical education Odisha CM:- Naveen Patnaik Governor:- Ganeshi Lal

### **3. Bhubaneswar becomes first city in country to achieve 100% vaccination against covid-19**

Odisha capital Bhubaneswar has become the first city in India to achieve hundred percent vaccination of its people against covid-19. Additionally, about one lakh migrant workers have also been administered the first dose of covid vaccine in the capital city. Those vaccinated include about 9 lakh people of 18 years of age and above Puri is the first city to supply 24/7 drinking water

#### **Punjab**

### **1. 'Mera Kaam Mera Maan': Punjab To Launch Scheme To Help Unemployed Youth Enhance Skills**

The Punjab Cabinet gave nod to a new scheme which will help the unemployed youth in the state to hone their skills and increase their chances of getting a job.

These youngsters will be given short-term skill training free of cost under the "Mera Kaam Mera Maan" scheme of the state government.

A target of 30,000 beneficiaries has been proposed, at a cost of ' 90 crore. The scheme also provides an employment assistance allowance of ' 2,500 for 12 months

#### **Tamil Nadu**

### **1. Tamil Nadu CM launches Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam scheme**

Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam, the DMK government's programme to deliver essential healthcare at the doorstep of the people was launched by Chief Minister M.K.Stalin in Samanapalli village in Krishnagiri. The scheme will screen those above 45 years of age and others with infirmities through routine door-to-door check-ups and detect non-communicable diseases

### **2. Tamil Nadu Govt in consultation with Germany to sign MoU to procure 2,500 buses for public transport**

The Tamil Nadu Government is in consultation with Germany to sign a Memorandum of Understanding to procure 2,500 buses for public transport. At least nine lakh women in the state have been benefited in the free travel scheme. The Minister said that an additional allocation of 150 crore rupees was allocated for the Transport Department

### **3. TN govt forms 7-member panel for study of hydrocarbon projects**

The Tamil Nadu government has constituted a seven-member committee to study the exploration of hydrocarbon projects which will be headed by Sultan Ahmed Ismail, part-time member, State Development Policy Council.

The committee constituted will have freedom to conduct the study in areas other than the protected agricultural zone as the terms of reference have been revised.

#### **Telangana**

### **1. Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) holds special drive to tackle mosquito breeding**

The innovative 'Every Sunday 10 minutes at 10 am' programme was held in parts of the city by GHMC.

Under the programme, stagnant water inside the houses and surroundings were emptied as they could turn into mosquito breeding spots.

The GHMC staffers explained to people the need to empty stagnant water in order to curb malaria & dengue.

## Tripura

### 1. FM Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurates 'My Pad, My Right' project in Tripura

In Tripura, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated a project called 'My Pad, My Right' initiated by NABARD and NABFOUNDATION at Killa village in Gomati district on the second and concluding day of her visit to the state.

The project aims to bring livelihood and menstrual hygiene closer to rural women by way of grant, wage support and capital equipment.

## Uttar Pradesh

### 1. Uttar Pradesh : Dr. Akhilesh Mishra named new chairman of Child Protection Committee

The lead journalist Dr. Akhilesh Kumar Mishra has been appointed Chairman of the Juvenile Justice Committee and the Child Protection Committee (CWC) on behalf of the Uttar Pradesh Government's Ministry of Women's and Child Development. He succeeded Kamlesh Singh. The committee consists of a chairman and four members.

### 2. Faridabad Smart City 'ropes in' comic book icon Chacha Chaudhary to aid mission

Faridabad Smart City Limited has roped in an unlikely collaborator to help promote its initiatives on social media 'comic hero Chacha Chaudhary.

The social media campaign's objective will be to promote the steps taken by the agency.

It will involve releasing 'excerpts of 'Talking Comics', with each social media post depicting Chacha Chaudhary and his sidekick, Sabu.

### 3. UP government renames 'conspiracy' to Kakori Train Action, pays tribute to martyrs

The Uttar Pradesh government has renamed a landmark freedom movement event as Kakori Train Action while paying tributes to the revolutionaries who were hanged for robbing a train at Kakori to buy weapons in 1925.

The new name was used in official communications to refer to the event, usually described as the 'Kakori train robbery' or the 'Kakori train conspiracy'.

### 4. Ganga Expressway: UP govt gets approval letter for ' 5100 crore loan from PNB

The Uttar Pradesh government received the sanction letter of '5100 crore loan for the 594-kilometre-long Ganga Expressway project from the Punjab National Bank (PNB) in the presence of Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman and chief minister Yogi Adityanath at an event in Lucknow.

This expressway will be the longest in north India and the second longest in the country. The project's estimated cost is '36,230 crore. SS Mallikarjuna Rao : MD and CEO of PNB

### 5. Union Home Minister Amit Shah lays foundation stone of Uttar Pradesh State Institute of Forensic Sciences

The Union Home Minister launched several development projects in the State. He laid the foundation stone for the Vindhyachal Corridor Project and inaugurated a ropeway in Mirzapur. He also laid the foundation stone of Uttar Pradesh Institute of Forensic Sciences, (UPIFS) in Piparsand area at Sarojini Nagar in Lucknow. CM of Uttar Pradesh : Yogi Adityanath

## Uttarakhand

### 1. Uttarakhand Becomes First State To Launch Earthquake Alert App

Uttarakhand becomes the first state to launch an earthquake alert app named 'Uttarakhand Bhookamp Alert'. Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhamsi launched the app, available for download on both Android and iOS platforms. The app was developed by the Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority and the Indian Institute of Technology-Roorkee This app will send early warning messages to people before the earthquake

## West Bengal

### 1. West Bengal transport agency rolls out CNG buses in Kolkata

West Bengal Transport Corporation (WBTC) introduced CNG-fuelled buses in Kolkata. Transport Minister Firhad Hakim inaugurated the first such vehicle. BGCL, a joint venture of GAIL (India) Ltd and Greater Calcutta Gas Supply Corporation Ltd, signed an agreement with the WBTC for the supply of CNG to its depots.

### 2. Kolkata : Dhriti Banerjee appointed first woman director of Zoological Survey of India

For the first time a woman, Dhriti Banerjee has been appointed as the director of the Zoological Survey of India. She has been an eminent scientist conducting research in zoogeography, taxonomy, morphology among others. Started in July 1916, the ZSI is headquartered in Kolkata with 16 regional centres under the ministry of environment and forests and climate change

### 3. West Bengal receives four SKOCH awards for its schemes under Ease of Doing Business initiative

The WB Govt has received four SKOCH awards for its schemes under the Ease of Doing Business initiative.

The State scheme Silpasathi-the online single window portal won the platinum award while the Auto Renewal of Certificate of Enlistment through online system for urban areas has received the gold award. Online issuance of trade licences and the E-Nathikaran won two silver

## Delhi

### 1. Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal launches initiative to make Delhi a 'global city'

Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal launched an initiative that aims to support partnerships of the government with corporates and citizen groups to work towards policies and strategies for the city's development. The initiative has been named 'Delhi@2047', which is in line with the Aam Aadmi Party's vision document incorporated in the state budget 2021-22

### 2. DIAL signs MoU with Medanta to set up COVID-19 care centre for Delhi airport employees

The Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) has signed a memorandum of understanding with Medanta hospital to set up a COVID-19 care centre at the Delhi airport for its employees and their family members.

The Covid Care Centre, which is being established at the airport in anticipation of "the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic", is expected to be operational by Sept.

### 3. Arvind Kejriwal inaugurates India's first smog tower in Delhi

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal inaugurated India's first smog tower in Delhi's Connaught Place that will purify 1,000 cubic metres of air per second within a radius of around 1 km.

The tower has been set up as a pilot project and initial trends will be available within a month. If the pilot project is successful, more smog towers will be installed in the national capital.

## Jammu and Kashmir

### 1. J&K: LG Manoj Sinha inaugurates 'Bungus Awaam Mela' at Bungus Valley

In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha inaugurated the 'Bungus Awaam Mela' at Bungus Valley in north Kashmir's Kupwara district amidst grand arrangements for village games, exhilarating local performances, and other activities to celebrate the 75th year of Independence Day at Bungus valley

### 2. J&K: 8.5 Km Qazigund-Banihal tunnel open to traffic for trial

In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the 8.5 kms long tunnel between Qazigund and Banihal has been opened for traffic on a trial basis. The tunnel will reduce travel time between Jammu and Srinagar by about one & half hours and 16 kilometres. Built at 5,800 feet above sea level, the Tunnel replaces Jawahar Tunnel and will provide all weather connectivity

## Lakshadweep

### 1. Lakshadweep to get Maldives-style water villas

In a first, India's popular island destination Lakshadweep will soon have three premium Maldives-style water villas. The three premium projects will come up at Kadmat, Minicoy, and Suheli islands. Around INR 800 crore will be used in this ambitious project, and the administration has already floated global tenders recently

## Puducherry

### 1. Puducherry celebrates its De Jure Transfer day

Puducherry on 16th August celebrated its De Jure Transfer day. Speaker of the Puducherry Assembly, R. Selvam, paid floral tributes at the memorial in Kizhur, a remote hamlet in Puducherry, where the transfer of power took place on the same day in 1962. De Jure Transfer Day is the day it really got independence. The then Pondicherry was under French control well after 1947.

## Ladakh

### 1. Ladakh launches 'Pani Maah' to raise awareness about clean water; awards for 'Har Ghar Jal' villages too

'Pani Maah' or water month has been launched in Ladakh to inform villagers about the importance of clean water. The Ladakh govt has announced a reward of Rs 2.5 million for the first block in each district that achieves the status of 'Har Ghar Jal'. The campaign will adopt a three-pronged approach, focussing on water quality testing, planning and strategizing water supply.



The advertisement features a light grey background on the left with a student sitting at a desk, surrounded by study materials and a clock. The text 'UPPSC RO/ARO Selection Batch' is prominently displayed in green and black. A circular logo of Oliveboard is in the top right corner of this section. The right side of the ad is a solid green block containing the Oliveboard logo, a list of features, a 50% off discount code 'SUCCESS', and a red 'View Details' button.

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## Committees

### 1. Govt. forms panel to suggest ways to boost production, exports of handlooms

The government has set up an eight-member committee to suggest a roadmap for doubling production and quadrupling exports of handlooms in three years.

The panel would also put forth ways for collaboration of handloom weaver agencies with the designers, buying houses and institutions, organizations, and exporters; and suggest measures for quadrupling exports. The committee, chaired by Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI) Chairman Sunil Sethi.

### 2. RBI Expert Committee suggests setting up of Umbrella Organisation and 4-tier structure to regulate UCBs

The RBI committee under the chairmanship of N S Vishwanathan, former RBI Deputy Governor, said that urban cooperative banks (UCBs) can be split into four categories -- Tier-1 with deposits up to Rs 100 crore; Tier-2 with deposits between Rs 100-Rs 1,000 crore, Tier-3 with deposits between Rs 1,000 crore to Rs 10,000 and Tier-4 with deposits of over Rs 10,000 crore. The number of borrowers of UCBs is estimated at 67 lakh.



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## QUICK LEARNERS

### BANKING

<b>POLICY/EXCHANGE RATE &amp; RESERVE RATIO</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
<b>Repo Rate</b>	4.00%
<b>Reverse Repo Rate</b>	3.35%
<b>Marginal Standing Facility Rate (MSF)</b>	4.25%
<b>Bank Rate</b>	4.25%
<b>Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)</b>	4.0%
<b>Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)</b>	18.0%

### APPOINTMENTS

<b>APPOINTMENT</b>	<b>POST</b>
<b>Lt Gen Tarun Kumar Chawla</b>	Director General of Artillery
<b>Noopur Chaturvedi</b>	CEO Bharat Bill Payment System
<b>K Natarajan</b>	Executive Director of the ReCAAP
<b>Kamlesh Kumar Pant</b>	Chairman of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority
<b>Shanti Lal Jain</b>	MD and CEO of Indian Bank
<b>Apurva Chandra</b>	Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
<b>T M Bhasin</b>	Chairman of the Advisory Board for Banking and Financial Frauds
<b>U. Raja Babu</b>	Director of Research Centre Imarat
<b>NK Singh</b>	President of the Institute of Economic Growth Society
<b>Arvind Kumar</b>	MD of Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited
<b>Sandeep Bakhshi</b>	MD and CEO of ICICI Bank.
<b>Pankaj Kumar Singh</b>	Director General of Border Security Force
<b>Hitendra Dave</b>	CEO of HSBC India
<b>Ajay Kumar</b>	Executive Director of RBI
<b>Sanjeeb Chaudhuri</b>	Part-time chairman of the IDFC FIRST Bank Limited
<b>Justice AM Khanwilkar</b>	Chairman of Supreme Court Legal Services Committee
<b>Sreekanth T</b>	Deputy Election Commissioner
<b>Rajnish Kumar</b>	Non-executive director of HSBC Asia
<b>Amit Banerjee</b>	Chairman and MD of BEML Ltd

## AWARDS

WINNER	AWARD
<b>Dr. Cyrus Poonawalla</b>	2021 Lokmanya Tilak National Award
<b>Dr Basant Kumar Misra</b>	International Lifetime Achievement Award in Neurosurgery
<b>Sri Basavalinga Pattaddevaru</b>	Sri Basava International Award

## IMPORTANT DAYS

DATE	DAY	THEME
<b>1<sup>st</sup> August</b>	Muslim Women Rights Day	
<b>7<sup>th</sup> August</b>	National Handloom Day	
<b>7<sup>th</sup> August</b>	National Javelin Day	
<b>10<sup>th</sup> August</b>	World Lion Day	Slow elimination of the African lion
<b>10<sup>th</sup> August</b>	World Biofuel Day	Promotion of biofuels for a better environment
<b>12<sup>th</sup> August</b>	International Youth Day	Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human & Planetary Health
<b>12<sup>th</sup> August</b>	World Elephant Day	
<b>13<sup>th</sup> August</b>	World Organ Donation Day	
<b>19<sup>th</sup> August</b>	World Photography Day	
<b>19<sup>th</sup> August</b>	World Humanitarian Day	The Human Race
<b>21<sup>st</sup> August</b>	International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism	
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> August</b>	International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief	
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> August</b>	World Sanskrit Day	
<b>26<sup>th</sup> August</b>	Women's Equality Day	
<b>29<sup>th</sup> August</b>	National Sports Day	
<b>30<sup>th</sup> August</b>	National Small Industry Day	



<b>31<sup>st</sup> August</b>	International Day for People of African Descent	
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## OBITUARY

OBITUARY	RELATED FIELD
<b>Man Kaur</b>	Sprinter
<b>Padma Sachdev</b>	Indian poet and novelist
<b>P.S. Banarji</b>	Cartoonist, sculptor and folk singer
<b>Anupam Shyam</b>	Actor
<b>Kasaragod Pattanashetti Gopal Rao</b>	naval veteran
<b>Dr Balaji Tambe</b>	Ayurveda practitioner and proponent of Yoga
<b>Saranya Sasi</b>	Malayalam Actor
<b>OM Nambiar</b>	Athletics Coach
<b>Kalyan Singh</b>	Politician
<b>Syed Shahid Hakim</b>	Indian footballer
<b>Sean Lock</b>	British Comedian
<b>O Chandrasekharan</b>	Indian footballer
<b>Pradeep Guha</b>	MD of 9X Media
<b>Buddhadeb Guha</b>	Bengali writer

## IMPORTANT STATIC & CURRENT INFO

### INDIAN STATES, CAPITALS, CHIEF MINISTERS & GOVERNORS

STATE	CAPITAL	CHIEF MINISTER	GOVERNOR
Andhra Pradesh	Amaravati	Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy	Biswa Bhusan Harichandan
Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	Pema Khandu	Brigadier B.D. Mishra (retd)
Assam	Dispur	Himanta Biswa Sarma	Prof. Jagdish Mukhi
Bihar	Patna	Nitish Kumar	Phagu Chauhan
Chhattisgarh	Raipur	Bhupesh Baghel	Anusuiya Uikey
Goa	Panaji	Pramod Sawant	P.S. Sreedharan Pillai
Gujarat	Gandhi Nagar	Vijaybhai R. Rupani	Acharya Dev Vrat
Haryana	Chandigarh	Manohar Lal Khattar	Bandaru Dattatraya
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	Jai Ram Thakur	Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
Jharkhand	Ranchi	Hemant Soren	Ramesh Bais
Karnataka	Bengaluru	Basavaraj Bommai	Thaawarchand Gehlot

Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	Pinarayi Vijayan	Arif Mohammed Khan
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	Shivraj Singh Chauhan	Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel
Maharashtra	Mumbai	Uddhav Thackrey	Bhagat Singh Koshyari
Manipur	Imphal	N Biren Singh	La. Ganesan
Meghalaya	Shillong	Conrad Kongkal Sangma	Satya Pal Malik
Mizoram	Aizawl	Pu Zoramthanga	Dr Kambhampati Haribabu
Nagaland	Kohima	Neiphiu Rio	R.N. Ravi
Odisha	Bhubaneshwar	Naveen Patnaik	Ganeshi Lal
Punjab	Chandigarh	Amarinder Singh	Banwarilal Purohit
Rajasthan	Jaipur	Ashok Gehlot	Kalraj Mishra
Sikkim	Gangtok	PS Golay	Ganga Prasad
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	M. K. Stalin	Banwarilal Purohit
Telangana	Hyderabad	K. Chandrasekhar Rao	Tamilisai Soundararajan
Tripura	Agartala	Biplab Kumar Deb	Satyadeo Narain Arya
Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	Yogi Aditya Nath	Anandiben Patel
Uttarakhand	Dehradun	Pushkar Singh Dhami	Baby Rani Maurya
West Bengal	Kolkata	Mamata Banerjee	Jagdeep Dhankhar

### UNION TERRITORIES, LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS & ADMINISTRATORS

UNION TERRITORY	LT. GOVERNOR & ADMINISTRATOR
Andaman and Nicobar Island (UT)	Admiral D K Joshi (Lieutenant Governor)
Chandigarh (UT)	Banwarilal Purohit (Administrator)
Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (UT)	Praful Patel (Administrator)
Delhi (NCT)	Anil Baijal (Lieutenant Governor)
Jammu and Kashmir (UT)	Manoj Sinha (Lieutenant Governor)
Lakshadweep (UT)	Praful Patel (Administrator)
Puducherry (UT)	Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan (Addl. Charge) (Lieutenant Governor)
Ladakh (UT)	Radha Krishna Mathur (Lieutenant Governor)

**UNION MINISTERS & PORTFOLIO**

<b>UNION MINISTER</b>	<b>PORTFOLIO</b>
<b>Narendra Modi</b>	Ministry of personnel, public grievances and pensions Department of Atomic Energy Department of Space
<b>Rajnath Singh</b>	Ministry of Defence
<b>Amit Shah</b>	Ministry of Home Affairs Ministry of Cooperation
<b>Nitin Gadkari</b>	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
<b>Nirmala Sitharaman</b>	Ministry of Finance Ministry of Corporate Affairs
<b>Piyush Goyal</b>	Ministry of Commerce and Industry Ministry of Textiles Ministry of Consumer affairs, food and public distribution
<b>Narendra Singh Tomar</b>	Ministry of agriculture and Farmers welfare
<b>Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar</b>	Ministry of External Affairs
<b>Arjun Munda</b>	Ministry of Tribal Affairs
<b>Smriti Zubin Irani</b>	Ministry of Women and child Development
<b>Dharmendra Pradhan</b>	Ministry of Education Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
<b>Pralhad Joshi</b>	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs Ministry of coal Ministry of Mines
<b>Narayan Tatu Rane</b>	Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
<b>Sarbananda Sonowal</b>	Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)
<b>Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi</b>	Ministry of Minority Affairs
<b>Dr. Virendra Kumar</b>	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
<b>Giriraj Singh</b>	Ministry of Rural Development Ministry of Panchayati Raj
<b>Jyotiraditya M. Scindia</b>	Ministry of Civil Aviation
<b>Ramchandra Prasad Singh</b>	Ministry of Steel
<b>Ashwini Vaishnaw</b>	Ministry of Railways Ministry of Communications Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
<b>Pashu Pati Kumar Paras</b>	Ministry of Food Processing Industries
<b>Gajendra Singh Shekhawat</b>	Ministry of Jal Shakti

<b>Kiren Rijju</b>	Ministry of Law and Justice
<b>Raj Kumar Singh</b>	Ministry of Power Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
<b>Hardeep Singh Puri</b>	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
<b>Mansukh L. Mandaviya</b>	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
<b>Bhupender Yadav</b>	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ministry of Labour and Employment
<b>Mahendra Nath Pandey</b>	Ministry of Heavy Industries
<b>Parshottam Rupala</b>	Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
<b>G. Kishan Reddy</b>	Ministry of Culture Ministry of Tourism Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region
<b>Anurag Singh Thakur</b>	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports



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