

**June 2021**

# **BOLT**

***Monthly Current Affairs***



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## Banking & Finance

### 1. Liquidator appointed for Pune-based Shivajirao Bhosale Sahakari Bank

Following the cancellation of the Shivajirao Bhosale Cooperative bank's license by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the state cooperative department has appointed deputy registrar RS Dhondkar, as liquidator.

The appointment of a liquidator has brightened the chances of insurance payments and investors can get their money at the earliest. More than 98% of the customers to receive full deposit.

### 2. Canara Bank appoints S K Majumdar as chief financial officer

Canara Bank has appointed S K Majumdar as its chief financial officer (CFO) with immediate effect.

Majumdar, 52, is a chartered accountant and cost accountant by qualification. He has over 21 years' experience in banking in various capacities and departments.

He has been associated with the bank since January 2000

### 3. IPPB ties-up with Mahindra Rural Housing Finance for cash management solution

Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Limited (MRHFL), a subsidiary of Mahindra and Mahindra Financial Ltd, and India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) have tied up a strategic partnership for a cash management solution. As part of the tie-up, IPPB will be offering cash management and collection services to MRHFL through its access points and postal service providers.

### 4. NPCI onboards Turkish firm PayCore to develop softPoS solutions for RuPay



The National Payments Corporation of India, the umbrella organization for retail payments in India, has onboarded PayCore, a global payments solutions company based out of Turkey, to develop SoftPoS solutions for its card network RuPay. The idea behind SoftPoS is merchants can use their NFC-enabled smartphones as point of sale (PoS) machines to accept contactless payments.

### 5. The Reserve Bank Of India keeps key rates unchanged in its bi-monthly monetary policy

The Reserve Bank Of India kept interest rates unchanged in its monetary policy. The Repo Rate has been kept at 4% while the Reverse Repo Rate at the central bank's borrowing has been unchanged at 3.35%. For the 6th time in a row, RBI has kept benchmark rates unchanged. MSF and Bank rate have also been maintained at 4.25%.

### 6. RBI slaps Rs 6 cr fine on Bank of India, PNB for contravention of norms

The RBI imposed penalty aggregating to Rs 6 crore on Bank of India and Punjab National Bank for contravention of norms, including one related to "Frauds - Classification and Reporting".

A penalty of Rs 4 crore has been imposed on Bank of India and Rs 2 crore on Punjab National Bank.

## 7. World Bank approves \$500 mn program to help boost India's MSME sector



The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors has approved a USD 500 million program to support India's nationwide initiative to revitalise the MSME sector, which has been heavily impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.

The program targets improvements in the performance of 555,000 MSMEs.

World Bank's second intervention in this sector. .

## 8. K P Krishnan panel on variable capital company (VCC) submits report to International Financial Services Centres Authority

International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) constituted panel on variable capital company submitted its report with a recommendation to adopt a VCC-like legal structure for conducting fund management activity in IFSCs.

The panel headed by former Skill Development Secretary K P Krishnan examined the feasibility and suitability of the variable capital company. IFSCA chairman: Injeti Srinivas

## 9. Indian Bank employees to get access to Practo's corporate health plans

Indian Bank, and healthcare company Practo, have joined hands to provide existing and former employees of the bank and their family members with Practo's signature corporate health and wellness plans during the covid-19 pandemic.

Practo's health plans are specially crafted keeping in mind the demands of working professionals with more than 23 specialities

Indian Bank MD & CEO: Ms. Padmaja Chundururu

## 10. RBI Announces foreign portfolio investors (FPI) investment Limits In government securities, and State Development Loans (SDLs)

The Reserve Bank of India said the limits for foreign portfolio investors (FPI) investment during the current fiscal in government securities (G-secs) and State Development Loans (SDLs) will remain unchanged at 6 per cent and 2 per cent respectively, of outstanding stocks of securities for 2021-22. G-sec limit category - 'General' and 'Long-term' will be retained at 50:50 for 2021-22.

## 11. DBS tops Forbes' 'World's best banks' list in India; followed by CSB Bank, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank



DBS has been named by Forbes in their list of World's Best Banks 2021 in India category. The second bank on the list is Kerala-based CSB Bank, followed by ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, and Axis Bank. State Bank of India ranks seventh on the list.

India Post Payments Bank and Paytm Payments Banks are listed as well in the list. Andhra Pradesh State Co-operative Bank - the only cooperative bank on the list.

## 12. RBI allows banks to charge Rs 21 for post limit ATM transactions from January 1

The Reserve Bank permitted banks to increase charges for cash and non-cash ATM transactions beyond free monthly permissible limit from next year. Bank customers will have to pay Rs 21 per transaction, instead of Rs 20, with effect from January 1, 2022, if they exceed the monthly limit of free transactions.

Five free transactions every month from their own bank ATMs.

### 13. IDFC FIRST Bank launches Customer COVID relief Ghar Ghar Ration Program

IDFC FIRST Bank has announced the launch of 'GharGhar Ration' Program, an employee-funded program for its low-income customers whose livelihoods are affected by COVID-19. The bank has also announced a comprehensive program for the families of employees who unfortunately lost their lives due to COVID-19, and a number of other social response initiatives.

Parent organization: Infrastructure Development Finance Company  
 Formed: October 2015; Mumbai

### 14. RBI allows prepaid mobile recharges through Bharat Bill Payment System



According to RBI, The scope of the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) will be expanded by August 31 this year by adding 'mobile prepaid recharges as a biller category. BBPS is an interoperable platform for recurring bill payments operated by the National Payments Corporation of India. In May, 213.59 million bill payment transactions were carried out through the BBPS channel. BBPS was started in 2014 as a platform for repetitive bill payments.

### 15. BSE, ESC sign MoU to encourage SME and startup listing

BSE Ltd (earlier known as Bombay Stock Exchange) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC) to create awareness about benefits of listing among information and communications technology (ICT) SMEs and startups.

ESC works as a bridge between the government and industry on policy and promotional issues.

### 16. ICICI Bank launches 'ICICI STACK for Corporates

ICICI Bank announced the launch of 'ICICI STACK for Corporates', a comprehensive set of digital banking solutions for corporates and their entire ecosystem including promoters, group companies, employees, dealers, vendors and all other stakeholders.

With this launch, ICICI Bank aims to be the preferred banking partner for companies and their entire ecosystem.

### 17. IndusInd Bank launches digital lending platform IndusEasyCredit



"IndusEasyCredit" Launched By IndusInd Bank: Know How To Avail It

IndusInd Bank announced the launch of 'IndusEasyCredit', a comprehensive digital lending platform that enables customers to meet their financial requirements without the need to visit a branch.

With this, both existing as well as non-IndusInd Bank customers can instantly avail personal loans or credit cards on a single platform in a completely paperless.

### 18. Asian Development Bank to provide \$484 Million Loan For Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor

India signed a \$484 million loan agreement with Asian Development Bank to improve transport connectivity & facilitate industrial development in the Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC) in Tamil Nadu.

The CKIC is part of India's East Coast Economic Corridor (ECEC), which stretches from West Bengal to Tamil Nadu. ADB is the lead partner of India in developing ECEC. ECEC connects India to the production networks of South, Southeast, and East Asia.

### 19. MHA Operationalises National Helpline, Reporting Platform For Preventing Cyber Fraud

The Union Home Ministry has operationalized the national helpline 155260 and reporting platform for preventing financial loss due to cyber fraud.

The helpline provides a mechanism for persons cheated in cyber frauds to report such cases to prevent the loss of their hard-earned money.

It has been made operational by the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C).

Currently, the helpline has all the major public & private sector banks onboard.

### 20. RBI allows Centrum to take over PMC, re-launch it as a small finance bank in joint venture with BharatPe



Financial services player Centrum Group said it has received in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to

take over the troubled cooperative lender PMC Bank and re-launch it as a small finance bank.

Centrum hopes to complete the license terms and conditions within the next 120 days.

Centrum Group is primarily into broking, investment banking, wealth management, & travel.

### 21. ICICI Bank Announces Collaboration With SWIFT to Offer Instant Facility For Cross-Border Inward Remittances

India-based banking group ICICI Bank announced that it has teamed up with SWIFT to offer a facility that helps overseas partner banks to send instant remittances on behalf of their customers to the beneficiary in India.

ICICI claims this makes it the first bank in Asia-Pacific and second globally to offer the facility, called SWIFT gpi with a real-time domestic payments. ICICI Bank reported the service will offer instant credit works

### 22. SBI General Insurance enters into bancassurance tie-up with IDFC First Bank



SURAKSHA AUR BHAROSA DONO

SBI General Insurance signed a corporate agency agreement with IDFC FIRST Bank for the distribution of non-life insurance solutions.

Under this, SBI General Insurance will offer insurance products such as personal accident, home, motor, and travel along with the commercial line of insurance products such as property, marine, and engineering insurance to the bank's customers IDFC FIRST Bank CEO:

V. Vaidyanathan SBI General Insurance  
CEO: P C Kandpal

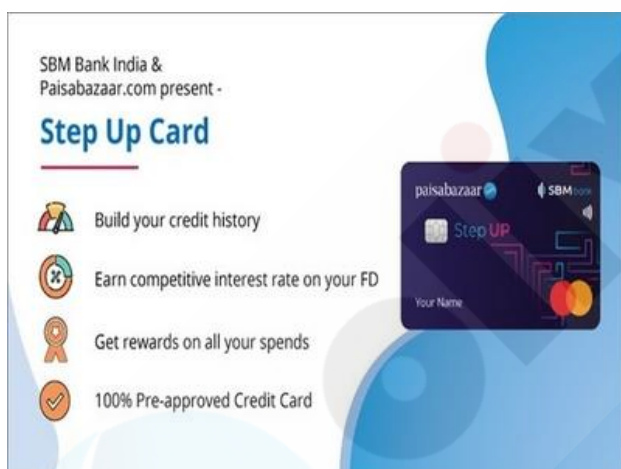
### 23. RBI Announces Separate liquidity window Of Rs 15000 Crore For Certain Contact Intensive Sectors

RBI decided to open a separate liquidity window of Rs 15,000 crore with tenors of up to three years at the repo rate till March 31, 2022, for contact-intensive sectors.

Under this, banks are expected to create a separate COVID loan book.

By way of an incentive, such banks will be eligible to park their surplus liquidity up to the size of the COVID loan book created. It includes sectors like hotels, tourism, spas, beauty clinic, event organizers, etc.,

### 24. Paisabazaar, SBM bank announce to launch Step Up credit card



Paisabazaar.com, India's largest lending marketplace & Credit Score platform and SBM Bank India, the youngest universal Bank announced the launch of Step Up Credit Card ' a credit-builder product designed for consumers with limited access to formal credit, due to ineligible credit score.

It is the first product to be launched under Paisabazaar's neo-lending strategy. CEO & Co-founder, Paisabazaar.com - Naveen Kukreja.

### 25. India second only to Turkey in share of Central bank surplus transfers

RBI was second only to Turkey in terms of reserves transferred to the government as a percentage of GDP for the FY 2020 - 21.

RBI recently transferred a ' 99,122-crore surplus to the government - 73% higher than the Rs 57,128 crore paid out in 2019-20.

RBI transferred 0.44% of GDP to the government in FY21.

RBI reported India as the 5th largest reserve holding country in the world.

### 26. Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMBL) launches 'Pay Your Contact' - an innovative feature on KMBL's mobile banking

Kotak Mahindra Bank has announced the launch of a new feature that enables its customers to send money or make payments to any of their contacts across all payment apps simply by the beneficiary's mobile number.

The 'Pay Your Contact' service is available on the lender's mobile banking app and uses the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) platform.

### 27. SBI launches Aarogyam healthcare business loan to bolster India's health infrastructure



To provide enhanced support to the healthcare sector amid the pandemic, State Bank of India has launched the Aarogyam healthcare business loan.

Under this new product, entire healthcare ecosystem such as hospitals, nursing homes, diagnostic centres, pathology labs, manufacturers, suppliers, importers, logistic firms

engaged in critical healthcare supply can avail of loan.

Dinesh Kumar Khara, SBI Chairman.

### **28. SBI Card partners Fabindia to launch co-branded credit card**



SBI Cards & Payment Services announced that it has tied up with Fabindia to launch an exclusive co-branded contactless credit card - Fabindia SBI Card.

The card is designed with curated benefits and privileges to offer a rewarding shopping experience to its premium customers. The card comes in two variants - Fabindia SBI Card SELECT and Fabindia SBI Card.

### **29. Market regulator SEBI reconstitutes Takeover Panel**

SEBI has reconstituted its Takeover Panel, which looks into the applications seeking exemption from the mandatory open offer that an acquirer needs to make to minority shareholders.

The regulator has appointed N Venkatram MD and CEO, Deloitte India as the new member of the Takeover Panel.

Panel is chaired by N K Sodhi and first panel was constituted in November 2007.

### **30. RBI prescribes qualifications for managing directors (MDs) and whole-time directors (WTDs) of urban cooperative banks(UCBs)**

Some rules:

MPs, MLAs and representatives of municipal corporations will not be eligible to hold such positions in the primary UCBs.

They should be a post graduate or have qualifications in finance discipline-could be either chartered/cost accountant, MBA (finance) or have a diploma in banking or cooperative business management.

Age should not be below 35 or more than 70

### **31. RBI issues norms for dividend distribution by NBFCs**

RBI has mandated that net NPA ratio of the NBFC concerned should be less than 6% in each of the last three years for declaring dividend.

Similarly, RBI has prescribed applicable regulatory capital requirement in different types of NBFCs. For example, a deposit taking NBFCs will need to have a minimum capital adequacy ratio of 15%. The guidelines also prescribe ceilings on dividend payout ratios for NBFCs

### **32. AIFs can invest in securities of investee companies, units of other AIFs: SEBI**

Markets regulator SEBI came out with a framework for alternative investment funds (AIFs) to invest simultaneously in units of other AIFs and directly in securities of investee companies.

This is subject to appropriate disclosures in the private placement memorandum (PPM) and with the consent of at least two-thirds of unit holders by value of their investment.

### **33. SBI YONO crossed 70.5 million downloads and a registered user base of 37.09 million**

Country's largest lender, State Bank of India's flagship digital offering YONO (You Only Need One) has crossed 70.5 million downloads, with a registered user base of 37.09 million and averages daily logins of around 10 million.

Currently, SBI is functioning to avail an entire digital trade finance solution to business clients on YONO platform. YONO was launched on 24 November 2017.



## Economy

### 1. GST Council Meeting: Centre Proposes Rs 1.58 Lakh Crore Borrowing To Fund Cess Gap

The central government has proposed to borrow Rs 1.58 lakh crore to fund the shortfall in cess collections needed to compensate states under the Goods and Services Tax agreement. The government has projected the compensation required for the current year at Rs 2.7 lakh crore, assuming nominal GDP growth of 7% for 2021-22.

### 2. Reserve Bank of India cuts growth estimate to 9.5%

The Reserve Bank of India slashed its growth estimate for 2021-22 to 9.5% from a projection of 10.5%, citing the impact of the second wave of the pandemic. The central bank, however, raised the inflation estimate a tad higher to 5.1% due to gathering price pressures.

### 3. Forex reserves crossed USD 600 billion mark for first time: RBI data



The country's foreign exchange reserves crossed the USD 600 billion mark for the first time after increasing by USD 6.842 billion in the week ended June 4.

Gold reserves declined by USD 502 million to USD 37.604 billion. The special drawing rights (SDRs) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) dipped USD 1 million to USD 1.513 billion. The reserves had swelled by USD 5.271 billion to USD 598.165 billion.

### 4. Fiscal deficit for 2020-21 at 9.3 per cent of GDP: CGA

Fiscal deficit for 2020-21 was at 9.3 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP), lower than 9.5 percent estimated by the Finance Ministry in the revised Budget estimates, according to the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) data.

The revenue deficit at the end of the fiscal was 7.42 percent. In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit works out to be Rs 18,21,461 crore.

Controller General of Accounts of India-Smt. Soma Roy Burman.

### 5. Direct tax collection for FY22 up over 100% to Rs 1.85 lakh cr



Gross collection of direct taxes (before adjusting for refunds) for FY22 stands at Rs 2,16,602 crore compared to Rs 1,37,825 crore in corresponding period of preceding year.

Net tax collection grew 100.4 per cent to Rs 1,85,871 crore in FY22 as on June 15 as compared to Rs 92,762 crore over the corresponding period of the preceding year.

### 6. Govt eases listing norms for companies having over '1 lakh cr m-cap

Companies that have a market capitalization of more than '1 lakh crore at the time of listing can now sell just 5% of their shares, with the latest amendment in rules, a move that will be

beneficial for the government during the proposed IPO of LIC.

Such entities have to increase their public shareholding to 10% in 2 years and raise the same to at least 25% within 5 years. Dept of Economic Affairs under finance ministry amended the Securities Contracts Rules.

### **7. Moody's cuts India growth forecast for 2021 to 9.6% from 13.9% earlier**

Moody's Investors Service slashed India's growth projection to 9.6% for 2021 calendar year, from its earlier estimate of 13.9%.

In its report titled 'Macroeconomics India: Economic shocks from second COVID wave will not be as severe as last year's', Moody's said high-frequency economic indicators show that the second wave hit India's economy in April & May. Indian economy contracted by 7.3% in fiscal 2020-21 as the country battled the first wave

### **8. S&P Global Ratings cuts India's FY 2021-22 growth forecast to 9.5 per cent**

S&P Global Ratings cut India's growth forecast for the current fiscal to 9.5 per cent, from 11 per cent earlier, and warned of risk to the outlook from further waves of COVID pandemic.

The agency lowered the growth outlook saying that a severe second COVID-19 outbreak in April and May led to lockdowns imposed by states and sharp contraction in economic activity.

### **9. Indian economy may grow 8.4-10.1% in current financial year: NCAER**

Economic think-tank NCAER expects the Indian economy to grow 8.4-10.1 per cent for the current financial year as against a contraction of 7.3 per cent in the last fiscal.

Releasing its quarterly review of the economy, the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has pitched

for strong fiscal support to push economic growth.

### **10. Centre pumps Digital India with additional ' 19,041 crore for BharatNet project**



The Centre's Digital India initiative through BharatNet PPP Model looks to connect each village in the country with broadband connectivity. The project is part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement on August 15, 2020, to provide broadband connectivity to all inhabited villages in 1000 days. The BharatNet project is implemented in the PPP model in 16 States.

### **11. Nirmala Sitharaman announces Rs 1.1 lakh crore loan guarantee scheme for Covid affected sectors**



FM announced a Rs 1.1-lakh crore loan guarantee scheme for Covid-affected sectors, including Rs 50,000 crore for the health sector.

She announced the enlargement of the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) given as part of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Package by Rs 1.5

lakh crore from the present corpus of Rs 3 lakh crore.

Rs 93,869 cr allocated this year for free foodgrain scheme.



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## National

### 1. Indian Railways' RDSO first to be declared SDO under "One Nation One Standard" mission



Research Design & Standards Organization (RDSO), under the Indian Railways, has become the first institution to be declared Standard Developing Organization (SDO) under one "One Nation One Standard" mission on Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).

The recognition is valid for three years and will require renewal after completion of the validity period.

### 2. Union cabinet approves model tenancy act to create inclusive rental housing market

Model Tenancy Act will facilitate the unlocking of vacant houses for rental housing purposes.

It is expected to give a fillip to private participation in rental housing as a business model. As per Census 2011, more than 1 crore houses are lying vacant in urban areas across the country. The existing rent control laws have been restricting the growth of rental housing. Act seeks to balance the rights of both landlords and tenants to promote rental housing.

### 3. IIT Madras hosts Asia's first International Memory Studies Workshop



Indian Institute of Technology Madras' Centre for Memory Studies recently hosted virtually Asia's first International Memory Studies Workshop.

Indian Network for Memory Studies (INMS), the first national network in the field in Asia under the aegis of the International Memory Studies Association.

International Memory Studies Association, Amsterdam.

### 4. IEPFA's 6 modules of short films titled 'Hisab Ki Kitaab' launched

Union Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs Shri Anurag Singh Thakur launched the six modules of short films of Investor Education & Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) titled 'Hisaab Ki Kitaab'.

This short films developed by Common Services Centers(CSC) eGov as a part of their training tool.

### 5. Panel of state ministers to examine valuation of services by casinos, online gaming for GST

The government has set up a panel of state ministers for better valuation of services of casinos, online gaming portal and race courses for levying goods and services tax (GST).

The seven-member panel, convened by Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel, will also examine whether any change is required in the legal provision for better means of valuation of services

## 6. India brings forward target of 20 % ethanol-blending in petrol to 2023

The government has brought forward the target date for achieving 20 percent ethanol-blending with petrol by two years to 2023 to help reduce India's dependence on costly oil imports.

The government had set a target of reaching 10 per cent ethanol-blending in petrol by 2022.

Earlier this year, the target for 20 per cent blending was brought forward to 2025.

## 7. EESL partners with ISHRAE for energy-efficient cooling solutions

Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL) has signed a MoU with Indian Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers (ISHRAE) for a strategic partnership in implementing energy efficient and clean energy solutions in the heating, ventilating, air conditioning and refrigeration (HVAC&R) industry.

## 8. NTPC joins UN's CEO Water mandate to step up work on water conservation with reduce, reuse and recycle



NTPC Ltd has become a signatory to UN Global Compact's CEO Water Mandate. It is a UN Global Compact initiative to demonstrate commitment & efforts of companies to better their water and sanitation agenda as part of long term Sustainable Development Goals. It is designed to assist companies in the

development, implementation, and disclosure of comprehensive water strategies.

## 9. Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar launched awareness campaign on single use plastic 2021



Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Prakash Javadekar launched an awareness campaign on single use plastic 2021 on the occasion of World Ocean Day, June 8. In India two-third waste was getting collected and one-third was not getting collected, he said. India aims to phase Single Use Plastics by 2022 2021 Oceans Day theme: The Ocean: Life and Livelihoods

## 10. Central Govt to procure 75% of vaccines from manufacturers and provide it to States, UTs free of cost

The Central Government will procure 75% of the COVID vaccines produced by the vaccine manufacturers and distribute them to States and Union Territories. Domestic vaccine manufacturers can provide vaccines directly to private hospitals. This would be restricted to 25% of their monthly production.

The revised guidelines will come into effect from June 21, 2021.

The private hospitals can charge up to a maximum of Rs 150 per dose as service charges.

## 11. Indian mango promotion programme begins in Bahrain



A week-long Indian mango promotion programme began in Bahrain. Where 16 varieties of the fruit including three Geographical Indications (GI) certified Khirsapati&Lakshmanbhog (West Bengal), Zardalu (Bihar) are being displayed.

The mangoes were sourced from farmers in Bengal and Bihar by APEDA registered exporter. It recently organised mango festival in Berlin, Germany. Capital: Manama; Currency: Bahraini dinar

### 12. IIT Bombay Announces Launch Of Its New Centre For Digital Health



The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay has set up the 'Koita Centre for Digital Health' (KCDH) under the aegis of the Koita Foundation. KCDH will be focused on driving academic programmes, research and industry collaboration in Digital Health.

KCDH will offer minor, dual degree, Masters and PhD programs in Healthcare Informatics.

### 13. Shri Arjun Munda, Minister for Tribal Affairs launches the tribal livelihoods initiative "Sankalp Se Siddhi - Mission Van Dhan"

The event also witnessed the inauguration and launch of several other programs including "Sankalp Se Siddhi - Mission Van Dhan", 7 new Tribes India Outlets, Van Dhan website and software application, coffee table book among others.

Seven new Tribes India Outlets inaugurated virtually at Jagdalpur,

Ranchi, Jamshedpur and Sarnath. TRIFED Managing Director Pravir Krishna.

### 14. Govt launches 'Project O2 for India' to increase supply of medical oxygen

'Project O2 for India', an initiative of the Office of Principal Scientific Adviser, Government of India (GoI), aims to help stakeholders working to augment the country's ability to meet the rise in demand for medical oxygen.

Under the project, a 'National Consortium of Oxygen' is enabling supply of critical raw materials such as zeolites, setting up of small oxygen plants. *K VijayRaghan*, Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA) to the Government of India.

### 15. Union Cabinet approves 'Deep Ocean Mission' for use of sustainable renewable resources



Union Cabinet approved the proposal of the Ministry of Earth Sciences on 'Deep Ocean Mission', aiming to explore deep ocean for resources and develop deep-sea technologies for sustainable use of ocean resources.

The estimated cost of the 'Deep Ocean Mission' will be Rs 4,077 crore for a period of 5 years to be implemented in a phase-wise manner. For the first phase for the 3 yrs (2021-2024), the government would spend Rs 2,823.40 cr.

### 16. Union Cabinet approves nutrient-based subsidy for P&K fertilisers

Union Cabinet approved the proposal of the Department of Fertilizers for fixation of 'Nutrient Based Subsidy Rates' for

Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) Fertilizers for the year 2021-22.

The government will spend additional Rs 14,000 crore on increase subsidy support for DAP fertilizer. Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers: Shri D.V. Sadananda Gowda

### 17. Facebook launches 'Report it, Don't share it!' initiative to prevent online child abuse

Facebook has kicked off a new initiative to keep children safe on the internet. The 'Report it, don't share it' campaign is being helmed by the social media giant in collaboration with Aarambh India Initiative, Cyber Peace Foundation, and Arpan. The main idea behind the initiative, as the name suggests, is to encourage people to report abusive or harmful content, & not share

### 18. Centre sets target to reduce 50% road accident deaths by 2024: Minister for road transport and highways

Minister for road transport and highways and micro, small and medium enterprises, Nitin Gadkari said that the Centre's target is to reduce road accident deaths by 50 per cent by the year 2024.

The minister also emphasised the need for identification of 'black spot' in every state, district and city, Minister for road transport and highways:- Nitin Gadkari

### 19. PM Modi launches customised crash course for Covid-19 frontline workers



PM Narendra Modi launched the Customized Crash Course programme for Covid-19 frontline workers via video conferencing.

the launch will commence the programme in 111 training centres.

### 20. ECI Comes Out With Atlas On 2019 Polls, With A Host Of Data And Themes



The Election Commission of India e-launched the 'Atlas on General Elections 2019'. The Atlas encompasses all the data and statistical figures of this monumental event. It includes 42 thematic maps and 90 tables depicting various facets of the elections. The e-Atlas is available at <https://eci.gov.in/ebooks/eci-atlas/index.html>. Chief Election Commissioner -Sh. Sushil Chandra.

### 21. Yamuna International Airport Pvt. Ltd (YIAPL) secures '3,725 crore loan from SBI for development of airport in Jewar,UP

The funding is a crucial milestone as it validates financial viability of the project while also outlining the next steps for the establishment of the Noida International Airport.

YIAPL is a 100 per cent subsidiary of Zurich Airport International and has been incorporated to develop the airport in Jewar, which is around 70 km from the main Delhi region.

### 22. NITI Aayog Convenes The National Convention On Prevention Of Maternal, Adolescent And Childhood Obesity



NITI Aayog convened the National Convention on Prevention of Maternal, Adolescent and Childhood Obesity under the chairmanship of Dr. V.K. Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog and Co-chairmanship of Dr. R Hemalatha, Director, Nutrition Institute of India.

NITI Aayog described obesity as a 'silent epidemic'. Dr Rajiv Kumar:- Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog; Amitabh Kant:- CEO, NITI Aayog

### 23. Mumbai Samachar, India's oldest newspaper, turns 200



Bombay Samachar (as it was called then) started as a weekly in 1822 to primarily inform the readers about ship movements and commodities, and gradually evolved into a true city newspaper with a focus on trade. Fardunjee Marzban, a Parsi scholar, started the publication four years after the Bengali newspaper 'Samachar Darpan' was launched.



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## International

### 1. Bill Gates and EU pledge \$1 billion boost for green technology



The European Union and an energy investment programme founded by Bill Gates plan to raise up to \$1 billion to roll out the low-carbon technologies Europe is betting on to meet its climate change goals.

The aim is to together provide up to 820 million euros, or \$1 billion, from 2022 to 2026.

### 2. El Salvador Makes History As World's First Country To Make Bitcoin Legal Tender

El Salvador became the first country in the world to adopt bitcoin as legal tender after the country's Congress approved President Nayib Bukele's proposal to embrace the cryptocurrency, a move that delighted the currency's supporters. Bitcoin is set to become legal tender in 90 days, meaning every business must accept the token for goods & services, alongside the U.S. Dollar El Salvador Capital: San Salvador; Currency: United States Dollar

### 3. Former Mongolian Prime Minister Ukhnaa Khurelsukh wins presidency



Former Mongolian Prime Minister Ukhnaa Khurelsukh has become the country's

sixth democratically elected president, further consolidating the power of the ruling Mongolian People's Party (MPP). Khurelsukh, who was forced to resign as prime minister after protests earlier this year.

There are about two million eligible voters in the landlocked country between China and Russia. Mongolia Capital: Ulaanbaatar; Currency: Tugrik

### 4. Russia To Supply Advanced Satellite To Iran

Russia is preparing to provide Iran with an advanced satellite that would enable it to track potential military targets across the Middle East, the Washington Post reported .

The plan would deliver a Russian-made Kanopus-V satellite equipped with a high-resolution camera which could be launched from Russia Report was published days before US President Joe Biden and Russian President Vladimir

### 5. Germany, Australia sign hydrogen accord to boost lower-emissions technology

Germany and signed a bilateral alliance on hydrogen production and trade to try to facilitate a renewable energy-based hydrogen supply chain between the two countries.

Germany has put out feelers to Saudi Arabia, Canada, Chile, and Morocco for possible supplies. Australia, the biggest per-capita emitter among the world's richest nations.

### 6. CEO Satya Nadella appointed as Microsoft chairman



Microsoft Corp, named Chief Executive Officer Satya Nadella as its new chairman. Nadella took over as the software giant's CEO in 2014, succeeding Steve Ballmer. The company also appointed former chairman John Thompson as lead independent director. Nadella is credited with bringing new energy to the company, founded in 1975.

### 7. Japan to start issuing vaccine passports in July

Japan plans to issue so-called vaccine passports from around mid-to-late July as more activities around the world open up to people who have been vaccinated against the coronavirus. The government is asking other countries to exempt travelers carrying the documents that officially certify their vaccination status from quarantine or to shorten the quarantine period. EU & Association of Southeast Asian Nations are also introducing vaccination certificates

### 8. Ebrahim Raisi wins Iran presidential race

Ebrahim Raisi, the incumbent Chief Justice of Iran, has won the country's presidential election by a landslide, according to preliminary results released by the Interior Ministry.

Raisi, who has been the Chief Justice since 2019, has formerly held several other posts in the country judicial branch following the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Capital: Tehran; Currency: Iranian rial; Official language: Persian

### 9. In A First, Iran's Sole Nuclear Power Plant Undergoes Emergency Shutdown

This is the first time Iran has reported an emergency shutdown of the plant in the southern port city of Bushehr. It went online in 2011 with help from Russia. Iran is required to send spent fuel rods from the reactor back to Russia as a nuclear nonproliferation measure. Unexplained closure of the Bushehr reactor could cause power cuts.

Bushehr is fuelled by uranium produced in Russia.

### 10. Google-built Firmina subsea cable runs from the US to Argentina



Firmina, an open subsea cable being built by Google that will run from the East Coast of the United States to Las Toninas, Argentina, with additional landings in Praia Grande, Brazil, and Punta del Este, Uruguay. Firmina will be the longest cable in the world capable of running entirely from a single power source at one end of the cable if its other become unavailable.

### 11. Nikol Pashinyan elected as Armenia Prime Minister



Armenia's acting prime minister, Nikol Pashinyan, kept power in a parliamentary election that boosted his authority despite being widely blamed for a military defeat last year in the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave.

Nikol's Civil Contract party won 53.92% of the votes cast.

Kocharyan was Armenia's president from 1998 to 2008 Armenia: Capital: Yerevan

Currency: Armenian dram President: Armen Sargsyan

## 12. G7 nations reach historic tax deal, to back global corporation tax of at least 15%



A group of the world's richest nations reached a landmark deal on Saturday to close cross-border tax loopholes used by some of the world's biggest companies. The Group of Seven said it would back a minimum global corporation tax rate of at least 15%, and put in place measures to ensure taxes were paid in the countries where businesses operate. G7 was founded in 1975.

## 13. Microsoft hits \$2 trillion market cap for first time



Microsoft reached a new milestone as the company's market capitalization hit \$2 trillion for the first time.

Apple became the first publicly traded U.S. company to reach the \$2 trillion mark in August.

Amazon, valued at \$1.77 trillion, is also approaching the \$2 trillion club.

Microsoft: HQ: Washington, USA

Founders: Bill Gates, Paul Allen

## 14. World health, IP, trade bodies launch platform to tackle COVID-19 pandemic

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WIPO head Daren Tang and WTO director-general Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala met on June 15 when they agreed to work together more closely to support access to medical technologies to tackle the coronavirus crisis.

The platform will provide "a one-stop shop that will make available the full range of expertise on access in a coordinated way.

## 15. China's first solo-operated deepwater gas field starts production

China's first solo-operated deepwater gas field started production, the country's national offshore producer China National Offshore Oil Corporation Ltd said.

Shenhai-1, meaning deepsea, is expected to produce up to 3.39 billion cubic meters (bcm) of gas every year, or roughly 2% of China's total gas output. The deepsea gas project, built in the Lingshui 17-2 gas field in the South China Sea.

## Sports

### 1. Asian boxing: Pooja Rani wins 2nd straight gold, India end with 10 medals



Pooja Rani won the 75kg gold while six-time world champion MC Mary Kom, Lalbuatsaihi, and Anupama settled for silver medals as the Indian women's team finished with 10 medals at the Asian Boxing Championship.

The final Indian medal tally comprised one gold, three silver, and six bronze. It was Pooja's fourth medal in the continental tournament.

### 2. Asian Boxing Championship: India's Sanjeet Kumar wins gold medal in 91 kg category

India's pugilist Sanjeet Kumar won a gold medal in the 91 kg weight category at the ASBC Asian Boxing Championships.

Sanjeet pulled off a massive upset as he defeated five-time Asian Championships medallist and Rio Olympic silver medalist Vassiliy Levit of Kazakhstan in a 3-2 split decision in the final of Asian Championships in Dubai to clinch the gold.

### 3. Achinta Sheuli wins silver at World Junior Weightlifting Championships



Achinta Sheuli smashed three National records as he took the silver medal in the men's 73kg category at the World junior weightlifting championships.

Sheuli created new National records of 141kg in snatch (previous 140kg, N. Ajith, 2020, National championships, Kolkata).

The 19-year-old lifted an overall four kg more than his previous personal best of 309kg.

### 4. Djokovic Wins 83rd Career Title In Belgrade open

World No. 1 Novak Djokovic captured the 83rd title of his career with victory on home soil at the Belgrade Open.

The Serbian superstar lost his serve three times in the first set before changing his game to defeat Slovakian qualifier and first-time ATP Tour finalist Alex Molcan 6-4, 6-3 in 88 minutes at the Novak Tennis Center.

### 5. Germany's FIFA World Cup-winner Sami Khedira announces retirement



Khedira, 34, began his career at VfB Stuttgart and helped them win the

league title in the 2006-07 season before moving to Real Madrid, where he won the league and Champions League in a trophy-laden spell. Khedira played 77 games for Germany scoring seven goals and helped them win the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

#### **6. Ally Ewing holds off Sophia Popov to win Bank of Hope Match Play, her second career LPGA title**

Ally Ewing won the LPGA Match Play at Shadow Creek, beating Sophia Popov for her second tour victory. The 28-year-old former Mississippi State player won her first tour title in October in Florida at Reynolds Lake Oconee, still playing under her maiden name of McDonald.

#### **7. Oman to host inaugural FIH Hockey5s World Cup in 2024**

Oman has been named as the host of the inaugural International Hockey Federation (FIH) Hockey5s World Cup. The FIH said the men's and women's events will take place in Oman's capital city Muscat in January 2024.

Bids were received from Oman, India, Pakistan and Singapore to host the event. Capital: Muscat; Currency: Omani rial

#### **8. Brisbane wins IOC board's approval, set to land 2032 Olympics**



The Australian city of Brisbane moved closer to landing the 2032 Olympics after winning the approval of the International Olympic Committee's executive board and the choice will be put to a final vote next month.

Queensland state capital Brisbane had been the preferred host.

If Brisbane is elected, as expected, it would become the third Australian city after Melbourne.

#### **9. French Open 2021: Krejcikova adds women's doubles to singles title with Siniakova**



Czech Barbora Krejčíková completed a singles-doubles title sweep at the French Open 2021, when she lifted the women's doubles trophy with compatriot Katerina Siniakova, beating Iga Swiatek and Bethanie Mattek-Sands.

Krejčíková became the first player to win both the women's singles and doubles title in Paris since Frenchwoman Mary Pierce completed the feat in 2000. Desirae Krawczyk and Joe Salisbury clinched mixed doubles title.

#### **10. Novak Djokovic Wins 19th Grand Slam Title, Beats Tsitsipas to Clinch 2nd Roland Garros Title**



Novak Djokovic (Serbia) defeated Stefanos Tsitsipas (Greece) to lift the French Open title. The 2021 French Open triumph is Djokovic's second Roland Garros title, the first coming in 2016.

French pair Nicolas Mahut and Pierre-Hugues Herbert claimed the French Open doubles title for the second time. It was their fifth Grand Slam title as a team. He became the first men's player in 52 years to win all four Grand Slam titles twice.

### 11. Vinoo Mankad named in ICC's Hall of fame

Former India cricketer Vinoo Mankad on Sunday was among the 10 players included in the special edition list of the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Hall of Fame. Vinoo Mankad of India played 44 Tests, scored 2,109 runs at 31.47, took 162 wickets at 32.32.

### 12. Teenager Shafali Verma notches highest score by an Indian woman cricketer on Test debut, breaks two more records

Shafali Verma also became the first Indian women cricketer to hit a six on Test debut. It was only the second six-hit by an Indian woman in Test cricket. Shafali Verma etched her name in the record books by notching up the highest score by an Indian woman cricketer on Test debut.

### 13. Max Verstappen wins 2021 French Grand Prix



Red Bull took their third consecutive win of the season at a cracking French Grand Prix courtesy of Max Verstappen, who passed Lewis Hamilton with two laps to go to claim the thirteenth victory of his career, Hamilton finishing second as the second Red Bull of Sergio Perez completed the podium. This race is the seventh round of the 2021 FIA Formula

One World Championship. Red bull's Max Verstappen(Netherland) has 131 points .

### 14. Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce runs world's fastest 100m since Florence Griffith Joyner

Two-time Olympic 100m champion Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce clocked the world's fastest women's 100m in nearly 33 years and re-established herself as the favorite for a third gold in Tokyo. Fraser-Pryce, the Jamaican who won the 2019 World title coming back from childbirth, clocked 10.63 seconds at a meet in Kingston. That's the fourth-best time in history. Only Florence Griffith Joyner went faster 10.49, 10.61 and 10.62, all in 1988.

### 15. Australian swimmer Kaylee McKeown breaks 100-meter backstroke world record

Australian swimmer Kaylee McKeown breaks the 100-meter backstroke world record at the South Australian Aquatic Centre with a time of 57.45 seconds from the previous mark of 57.57 seconds set by American Regan Smith in 2019. Emily Seebohm finished second in 58.59 to qualify for her fourth Olympics.

### 16. Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat wins gold at Poland Open



Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat won the 53kg gold at the Poland Open in Warsaw giving herself some crucial practice ahead of the Tokyo Olympics.

It is the third title of the season for the 26-year-old Vinesh, who claimed gold medals at the Matteo Pellicone event

(March) and Asian Championship (April) earlier.

### 17. Tokyo Olympics 2020: India's Olympic theme song 'Lakshya Tera Samne Hai' launched

Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju was the chief guest at the event. The event was organised by Indian Olympic Association (IOA).

Mohit Chauhan has composed and sung the song titled "Lakshya Tera Samne Hai".

The Games will open on 23 July and over 100 Indian athletes have qualified for the event so far.

### 18. Cristiano Ronaldo becomes joint top-scorer in men's international football



He achieved the feat in Portugal's Euro 2020 game against France at the Puskas Arena in Budapest.

Ronaldo scored two goals from the spot against France and as a result, he now has 109 goals from 176 matches for Portugal.

The striker is currently tied with Iran's legend Ali Daei, who also scored 109 goals from 149 matches.

### 19. Olympics 2024: Union Sports Minister Rijiju launches athlete injury management system



The Central Athlete Injury Management System (CAIMS) is a first-of-its-kind initiative by the sports ministry, for streamlining the sports medicine and rehabilitation support offered to the athletes.

It will start with support for athletes who are a part of the Target Olympic Podium Scheme development group expected to participate in 2024 and beyond.

### 20. ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 to be Held in UAE



ICC Men's T20 World Cup, originally slated to be held in India, will now be shifted to the UAE.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), which holds the hosting rights of this year's event, will inform the International Cricket Council (ICC) in this regard.

The T20 World Cup was postponed last year due to the pandemic. BCCI president Sourav Ganguly

### 21. Madhya Pradesh all-rounder Anshula Rao handed 4-year ban, becomes first woman cricketer to fail dope test

Madhya Pradesh all-rounder Anshula Rao became the first women cricketer to be

handed a four-year ban after failing the dope test.

She was handed the ban by the panel of the National Anti-Doping Agency.

Earlier she was also found guilty of consuming a banned anabolic steroid '19- Norandrosterone.



### **Kumar Saurab**

**Cleared SBI JA (Rank 1), SBI PO, RRB PO**

My basic strategy was to first have conceptual clarity and then move on to taking mock tests. Practice was the main mantra for my success! Oliveboard mock tests helped me in clearing the exams. The level of the mock tests was good which significantly helped in the actual papers. ”



## Agreements & MoUs

### 1. Union Cabinet approves MoU between India and Argentine Republic on cooperation in the field of Mineral Resources

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to be signed between the Ministry of Mines, Government of India and the Secretariat of Mining Policy of the Ministry of Productive Development of the Argentine Republic.

The MoU will provide an institutional mechanism for cooperation in the field of Mineral Resources.

### 2. Cabinet approves Memorandum of Cooperation between India and Japan in the field of sustainable urban development

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the signing of Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) on Sustainable Urban Development between the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, Government of India and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Government of Japan, in supersession of existing MoU of 2007 on Urban Development.

### 3. Cabinet approves signing of agreement on Cooperation in Mass Media among Shanghai Cooperation Organisation member-states

The Agreement shall promote equal and mutually beneficial cooperation among associations in the field of Mass Media. Each Side shall, on the basis of reciprocity, facilitate the activities thereby ensuring equity. The Agreement would provide an opportunity for the Member States to share best practices and new innovations in the field of Mass Media. SCO Secretary-General: Vladimir Norov; Headquarters: Beijing, China

### 4. CESL signs MoU with CLASP for deploying energy efficiency technologies at scale



Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) announced it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with CLASP, an international non-profit organisation, for deployment of high-quality energy efficiency technologies.

### 5. ADB and India sign loan agreement to support project preparation and design activities to upgrade major district roads in Sikkim

The Asian Development Bank and India signed a loan agreement to support project preparation and design activities to upgrade major district roads in Sikkim. It is a USD 2.5 million project readiness financing loan.

It will help improve connectivity to important towns, rural areas, pilgrimage, and tourist destinations in Sikkim. ADB established: 1966; HQs: Mandaluyong, Philippines; President: Masatsugu Asakawa.

### 6. FIDE, Mahindra have signed an MoU for the Global Chess league; Viswanathan Anand joins as mentor



International Chess Federation (FIDE) & Tech Mahindra have signed an MoU to create the Global Chess league. The competition will be established as a first-of-its-kind 'phygital' (physical and digital) league, engaging professional players and others. A new holding company will be created to operate the functioning of the League having Viswanathan Anand as mentor and partner FIDE HQs: Lausanne, Switzerland;

### **7. SEBI signs MoU with CSSF, Luxembourg to strengthen cross border co-operation**



The Securities and Exchange Board of India and the Luxembourg Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier (CSSF) have entered into a bilateral MoU for mutual co-operation and technical assistance.

The objective of this MoU is to strengthen cross border co-operation in the area of securities regulation.

The MoU was signed by Ajay Tyagi, Chairman, SEBI, and Claude Marx, Director General, CSSF

### **8. NMPB and CSIR-NBRI Sign MoU for Promotion of Cultivation and Production of Medicinal Plants**

The National Medicinal Plant Board (NMPS) and the National Botanical Research Institute (CSIR-NBRI) signed an MoU for extending joint collaborative efforts to boost the cultivation and production of medicinal plants and herbs in India.

The MoU will facilitate development of Quality Planting Material (QPM) of medicinal plants and herbs.

### **9. Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL) signs MoUs with Ladakh and Meghalaya; expands its decentralized solar portfolio**

CESL, a wholly owned subsidiary of EESL under Ministry of Power has signed two MoU with Meghalaya and UT of Ladakh amounting to around 65 MW of decentralised solar.

With Meghalaya, MoU will entail finding synergies in business development to implement various sustainable solutions.

With Ladakh, CESL will implement various clean energy and energy.

### **10. NHPC Limited signs E-Mobility Agreements with Convergence Energy Services Limited**

NHPC Ltd, India's premier hydropower company under Ministry of Power has signed E-Mobility Agreements with CESL a wholly owned subsidiary EESL for leasing of 25 nos of Electric Vehicles (EVs) and supply of 3 nos. of Electric Vehicle fast chargers to NHPC including its installation & commissioning. NHPC will have the biggest EVs fleet amongst Central Public Sector Enterprises in India.

### **11. EESL, TERRE partner to mainstream carbon neutrality in higher education institutions**

State-run EESL (Energy Efficiency Services Limit) and non-government organization TERRE (Technology, Education, Research and Rehabilitation for the Environment ) have partnered to mainstream carbon neutrality in higher educational institutes on World Environment Day.

These projects will transform the higher education campuses in India into hubs for energy-efficient ones.

### **12. BSE StAR MF signs MoU with GUMCCSL to deepen network for rural engagement**



BSE StAR MF, India's largest mutual funds distributor platform, has signed a MoU with Godavari Urban Multi State Credit Co-Op Society Ltd (GUMCCSL) at Nanded (in Maharashtra) to deepen its network of over 70,000 registered distributors. GUMCCSL was established in 2013, Autonomous association of people united voluntarily to meet their social, economic and personal aspirations

### **13. HDFC Bank inks MoU with KIADB, to offer banking solutions to investors**

Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with HDFC Bank to provide a wide range of financial products and services to its customers.

As part of the MoU, HDFC Bank will provide a wide range of financial products and services to its customers

through an extensive network of branches across the country.

### **14. ICAR, DIC sign MoU to provide 'Demand Based Tele Agriculture Advisories' to farmers**

In order to facilitate farmers by providing location-specific 'Demand-Based Tele Agriculture Advisories', the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Digital India Corporation (DIC) have signed an initial pact to provide location-specific farm tele-advisories. MoU aimed to integrate the existing Interactive Information Dissemination System with DIC and ICAR

ICAR which is under the agriculture ministry & DIC comes under the Ministry of Electronics

### **15. CSIR-IICT, Suven Pharma ink MoU for covid drugs Molnupiravir, 2-DG**

Suven Pharmaceuticals Ltd, CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT) Hyderabad and CSIR-National Institute of Interdisciplinary Science & Technology, Tiruvananthapuram have entered into an MoU for the process technology transfer and manufacturing of the anti-Covid drug, Molnupiravir. The antiviral drug initially developed to treat influenza is repurposed to suppress COVID

### **16. India, Kuwait Sign Pact For Cooperation On Recruitment Of Indian Workers**



India and Kuwait have signed an MoU that brings Indian domestic workers in the Gulf nation within the ambit of a legal framework that streamlines their recruitment and provides them with the protection of the law.

The MoU was signed by Indian Ambassador Sibi George and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kuwait Majdi Ahmad Al-Dhafiri. Capital: Kuwait City; Currency: Kuwaiti dinar

### 17. Federal Bank partners with Oracle and Infosys for Cloud-Based Customer Relationship Management System

Federal Bank has expanded its strategic collaboration with Oracle and Infosys, to offer an enhanced customer experience through Oracle CX (Customer Experience) platform. The partnership will be creating a comprehensive integrated Customer Relationship Management (CRM) solution across marketing, sales, customer service, and social listening, etc.

### 18. Edelweiss signs MoU with Central Bank of India to strengthen co-lending partnership



Edelweiss Retail Finance Limited (ERFL), a subsidiary of Edelweiss Group, announced that it has signed a new memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Central Bank of India (CBoI).

This strengthens its existing co-lending partnership with CBoI, which is one of the largest commercial banks for the priority sector lending to MSMEs.

### 19. IOA signs MPL as principal sponsor for Olympics



The Indian Olympic Association recently announced an '8 crore sponsorship deal with MPL Sports Foundation till the end of 2022 and covering major events in the period. The deal will see MPL coming on board as the principal sponsor for the Indian contingents at the Tokyo Olympics and the 2022 Asian Games & Commonwealth Games. Mobile Premier League: - India's biggest gaming app

### 20. Shipping And Aviation Ministries Sign MoU For Development Of Sea Plane Services In India

An MoU between the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways (MoPSW) and the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MCA) for the development of Sea Plane services in India was signed.

This MoU envisages the development of the Non-Scheduled/Scheduled operation of seaplane services within the territorial jurisdiction of India under the RCS-UDAN scheme of the government of India. MoPSW: Mansukh Mandaviya MCA: Hardeep Singh Puri

### 21. Gujarat to soon get National Maritime Heritage Complex to show maritime history, coastal traditions

In order to showcase the maritime heritage and history of India, a National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) will be developed in the Lothal region of Gujarat. Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways signed an MoU with the Ministry of Culture for the same.

It is to be an international tourist destination in India.

## 22. India and Bhutan ink MoU for developing cooperation between two countries in area of environment

India and Bhutan have inked an MoU for developing cooperation between two countries in the area of environment.

The MoU aims to open new vistas of bilateral cooperation in the area of climate change and waste management.

Bhutan: Capital: Thimphu PM: Lotay Tshering

## 23. RRU Signs MoU With The Black Cat Commandos, NSG to create indigenous anti-drone systems and other advancements

MoU is geared to fit the needs of the NSG in terms of their academic training accreditation, meeting the equipment's gap through incubating Indian start-ups and providing an impetus to the National Bomb Data Centre.

The three verticals of the MoU are aimed at strengthening the core competencies of the NSG which are counter-terrorism, counter-IED, and anti-hijacking Rashtriya Raksha University(RRU)- Lavad, Gandhinagar (Gujarat).

## 24. IIM Nagpur And CIRT Pune Sign Memorandum Of Understanding

A collaboration between IIMN ( Indian Institute of Management Nagpur) and CIRT presents opportunities to build competencies and generate industry-oriented knowledge in transport management.

Pune is renowned as the automobile and transport hub, as evidenced by the situation of a seminal institution such as the Central Institute of Road Transport (CIRT) in the city. CIRT was established in 1967.

## 25. Denmark Signs Framework Agreement on International Solar Alliance With India

Denmark signed the framework agreement of the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement (ISA FA) and Instrument of Ratification with

India. Meanwhile, Denmark becomes first country to ratify International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement (ISA FA) after amendments to it entered into force on January 8, 2021.

ISA is an alliance of over 120 countries initiated by India. Denmark Capital: Copenhagen; Currency: Danish krone

## 26. Toyota Kirloskar Motor signs MoU with ACMA to provide training on EVs, car painting



Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) has signed an agreement with the Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA).

Through this agreement, the Japanese carmaker via its Learning and Development India arm will impart training to ACMA members. The training will be on people management, lean management principles, electrified vehicle technologies, industrial safety.

## Schemes

### 1. Seed Minikit Programme launched by Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar

The Seed Minikit Programme was launched by Union Agriculture Minister Sh. Narendra Singh Tomar by distributing Seed Minikits (higher-yielding varieties of seeds) to farmers. Oilseeds production has increased from 27.51 MT in 2014-15 to 36.57 MT in 2020-21 (3rd advance estimates), while pulses production has increased from 17.15 MT in 2014-15 to 25.56 MT in 2020-21. Seed Minikits is a major instrumental for increasing the seed replacement rate.

### 2. Centre launches Digitized versions of Flagship Health Schemes on (NHA)'s IT platform



Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare launched the revamped Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) and the Umbrella schemes of Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN) and Health Minister's Discretionary Grant (HMDG) on National Health Authority (NHA)'s IT platform in the presence of Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare

### 3. Centre assures safe potable tap water by 2022 in every household of North Western States

It has been decided that in 5 North-Western States & UTs i.e., Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, implementation of

Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) will be expedited & every rural household will be provided with tap water connections by 2022, instead of by 2024.

JJM was announced on 15-08-2019 to provide safe piped drinking water to every rural household

### 4. Dharmendra Pradhan presides over a slew of initiatives around CBG to give filip to SATAT scheme

Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel Shri Dharmendra Pradhan presided over a virtual ceremony in which a number of initiatives were launched to provide a major fillip to the SATAT initiative.

This included signing of a Cooperation Agreement by Oil and Gas majors including IndianOil, HPCL, BPCL, GAIL and IGL, for the promotion and development of the SATAT. SATAT:- Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation scheme

### 5. Govt allocates Rs 40,700 crore for waste management in 2 lakh villages under Swachh Bharat Mission

Over Rs 40,700 crore have been allocated to help over two lakh villages achieve solid and liquid waste management (SLWM) under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen), the Jal Shakti Ministry.

While the Centre will spend around Rs 14,000 crore, states will spend over Rs 8,300 crore and the remaining funds will come from other sources

Union Minister for Jal Shakti : Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

### 6. NITI Aayog and Piramal Foundation jointly launches program for home-care support to Covid patients

NITI Aayog and Piramal Foundation have jointly launched Surakshit Hum Surakshit Tum Abhiyaan in 112 aspirational districts to assist district administrations in providing home-care

support to Covid-19 patients who are asymptomatic or have mild symptoms. The campaign is expected to play a key role in district preparedness for managing nearly 70% of Covid cases at home.

### 7. SBI Launches KAVACH Personal Loan for COVID Affected Families



State Bank of India (SBI) recently launched its new personal loan scheme 'KAVACH'. The new loan has been introduced by the bank to help its customers with the treatment of COVID-19. SBI KAVACH loan can be availed by salaried, non-salaried, as well as pensioner customers of State Bank of India. Loan amount ranges from a minimum of Rs 25,000 to a maximum of Rs 5,00,000.

### 8. Rajasthan launches free coaching scheme for underprivileged students

Rajasthan has launched Chief Minister Anuprati Coaching Scheme to help underprivileged students prepare for entrance examinations to civil services and professional courses, with an aim to give them equal opportunity, said a circular issued by the state finance department. Under the scheme, free coaching will be provided for preparation for UPSC civil services examination. Rajasthan CM:- Ashok Gehlot; Governor:- Kalraj Mishra

### 9. NSDC And WhatsApp Launch "Digital Skill Champions Program" To Fuel Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Opportunities For Youth



The National Skill Development Corporation and WhatsApp announced an alliance to launch the Digital Skill Champions Program that aims to train India's youth on digital skills, in order to make them employment ready. Through this program, school and university students would be coached to imbibe digital and online skills that would culminate with WhatsApp & NSDC award.

### 10. Govt extends second phase of FAME scheme for electric vehicles by 2 years



The government has extended the second phase of FAME India scheme by two years till March 31, 2024, for faster adoption of electric mobility and development of its manufacturing ecosystem in the country.

The second phase of the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles India scheme focuses on supporting the electrification of public and shared transportation.

## Appointments & Resignations

### 1. IBF forms Digital Media Content Regulatory Council, Justice Vikramjit Sen to be Chairman



The Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF) announced the appointment of former Supreme Court judge Justice Vikramjit Sen as the Chairman of its newly formed self-regulatory body Digital Media Content Regulatory Council (DMCRC).

DMCRC is formed as per the mandate of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021. The move was done to bring together the broadcasters and OTT (over-the-top) platforms.

### 2. The Confederation of Indian Industry elects Tata Steel CEO and MD T V Narendran as its new president

Industry chamber CII has elected T V Narendran, CEO and Managing Director, Tata Steel Ltd, as its new president for 2021-22.

He takes over from Uday Kotak, Managing Director, and Chief Executive Officer, Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.

He was the Chairman of CII Eastern Region during 2016-17.

### 3. Justice A.K. Mishra to head NHRC

Former Supreme Court judge, Justice Arun Mishra will be the head of the National Human Rights Commission. The name of Justice Mishra was recommended by a panel consisting of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home

Minister Amit Shah, Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Harivansh, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge.

### 4. IFSCA constitutes Nilesh Shah headed expert committee on Investment Funds



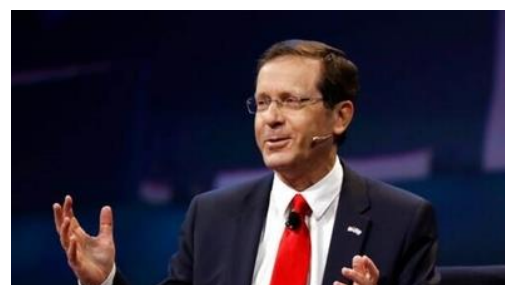
Gift city regulator IFSCA has constituted an expert committee on Investment Funds to recommend the roadmap for the funds industry in the International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs).

The committee 'headed by Nilesh Shah, Managing Director, Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Co Ltd' has been tasked to recommend to the IFSCA on long-term vision for operation of Investment.

### 5. Subrata Bhattacharjee appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Chile

Shri Subrata Bhattacharjee, presently Ambassador of India to the Republic of Serbia, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Chile.

### 6. Labor Veteran Isaac Herzog Elected Israel's 11th President





Isaac Herzog, a veteran politician, and a prominent Israeli family scion was elected as the president of Israel.

Herzog will be Israel's 11th president, succeeding Reuven Rivlin.

Isaac Herzog is a former head of Israel's Labor Party and opposition leader who unsuccessfully ran against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the 2013 parliamentary elections. Israel Capital:- Jerusalem; Currency:- shekel

### **7. Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari appointed as IAF Vice Chief**

The Indian Air Force will see a number of changes at the top as Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari has been appointed as the next Vice Chief of Air Staff in the Air headquarters.

Air Marshal Ballabha Radha Krishna would be succeeding Chaudhari at the Western Command in Delhi while Air Marshal RJ Duckworth would be taking charge of the Central Air Command in Prayagraj.

IAF HQ:- New Delhi; Founded: 8 October

### **8. RBI approves re-appointment of Vishwavir Ahuja as MD, RBL Bank**

The Reserve Bank of India has approved the appointment of Vishwavir Ahuja as the Managing Director and CEO of RBL Bank for a one-year period with effect from June 30, 2021.

Ahuja has been the Managing Director & CEO of RBL Bank since June 30, 2010. Before RBL Bank, Ahuja was the Managing Director & CEO of Bank of America, India.

### **9. Ranjitsinh Disale Appointed as the World Bank Education Advisor starting from June 2021 to June 2024.**



Ranjitsinh Disale is the first Indian to have been awarded the Global Teacher Award in 2020, will now be working on the Coach Project, launched by The World Bank in March 2021. The project's aim is to 'help countries accelerate learning by improving teacher professional development.

### **10. Justice Bala Krishna Narayana appointed head of UP Human Rights Commission**

Justice Bala Krishna Narayana, former Judge of the Allahabad High Court, has been appointed as the new Chairperson of the Uttar Pradesh Human Rights Commission. He will remain in the post for three years, or till he reaches the age of 70.

### **11. JB Mohapatra given additional charge as CBDT chairman**

J B Mohapatra, a 1985-batch IRS officer, was given the additional charge as CBDT chairman after the extended tenure of incumbent P C Mody ended. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) frames policy for the Income Tax Department. Before this appointment, he was serving as the principal chief commissioner of Income Tax for the Andhra Pradesh and Telangana region.

### **12. Former power secretary Sanjiv Nandan Sahai elected as Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) chairman**



Senior administrator and former power secretary Sanjeev Nandan Sahai is set to take over as next chairman of the

Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB).

A search committee headed by V K Saraswat, Member (S&T), NITI Aayog, cleared the name of Sahai. Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board is a statutory body in India. HQ:- New Delhi

### **13. Hitendra Dave appointed as HSBC India CEO**



The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd. (HSBC) announced the appointment of Hitendra Dave as Chief Executive Officer of HSBC India subject to receipt of regulatory approval.

He has been appointed as interim Chief Executive Officer effective June 7, 2021.

### **14. Amul's RS Sodhi elected to board of International Dairy Federation**



The International Dairy Federation (IDF) unanimously elected R S Sodhi, managing director, Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd or GCMMF that sells Amul branded products in India, to its board during the general assembly held on 1 June.

IDF is an international non-governmental, non-profit association and represents the global dairy sector. IDF ensures the right policies, standards, practices of dairy products globally.

### **15. Shri S. Inbasekar appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Independent State of Papua New Guinea**

Shri S. Inbasekar (IFS:2004), presently Director in the Ministry, has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Independent State of Papua New Guinea. He is expected to take up the assignment shortly. Capital: Port Moresby; Currency: Papua New Guinean kina

### **16. Maldives' foreign minister Abdulla Shahid elected president of UN General Assembly**

Foreign minister of the Maldives Abdulla Shahid was elected as the President of the 76th United Nations General Assembly with an overwhelming three-fourth majority, with 143 in favour, 48 against and no abstentions and no invalid votes. This is a post held on an annual basis, rotated amongst various regional groupings. The 76th session (2021-22) is the turn of the Asia-Pacific. First time that the Maldives is occupying the office of the UNGA President.

### **17. Dr Vinay K Nandicoori appointed as director of CCMB, Hyderabad**

Dr Vinay K Nandicoori has been appointed as the new director of the CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad. He is a well-known molecular biologist, & has been a scientist at the DBT-National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi. Dr Nandicoori's research interest extensively spans molecular signalling networks in Mycobacterium tuberculosis (causes TB)

### 18. Former UP-Cadre Bureaucrat Anup Chandra Pandey Appointed As Election Commissioner

Former Uttar Pradesh-cadre Indian Administrative Services (IAS) officer Anup Chandra Pandey has been appointed as an election commissioner. While Sushil Chandra is the Chief Election Commissioner, Rajiv Kumar is the other election commissioner. The Election Commission of India is a constitutional body.

### 19. Government gives nine-month extension to LIC chairman



The government has given a nine-month extension to LIC chairman M R Kumar till March next year in view of the insurer's proposed initial public offer towards the end of the current fiscal.

The initial public offer (IPO) of LIC would be floated in 2021-22 as part of the ambitious Rs 1.75 lakh crore disinvestment target.

The government owns 100 per cent stake in LIC.

India's biggest company by market capitalisation ( Rs 8-10 lakh cr)

### 20. RBI Deputy Governor Mahesh Jain gets two-year extension



The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the re-appointment of Mahesh Kumar Jain, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), for two years with effect from June 22.

As a result, the central bank now has four serving RBI Deputy Governors. The other three serving deputy governors are Michael Patra, M Rajeshwar Rao and Rabi Sankar.

### 21. RBI approves re-appointment of Girish Chandra Chaturvedi as part-time Chairman of ICICI Bank

Private lender, ICICI Bank, has received RBI's approval for the re-appointment of Girish Chandra Chaturvedi as the part-time Chairman of the Bank.

Chaturvedi will be the part-time chairman of ICICI Bank for a 3-years tenure starting July 01, 2021, on extant terms and conditions.

### 22. India's Nagraj Adiga elected in International Association of Ultrarunners Council as Asian representative

India's Nagraj Adiga has been elected as the Asia-Oceania Representative at the recently concluded 2021 International Association of Ultrarunners (IAU) Congress at which the IAU council elections were held.

Adiga works closely with the Athletics Federation of India and with various Government bodies to promote health, fitness, and encourage budding sportspersons.

### 23. RBI nod for Chandra Shekhar Ghosh's re-appointment as Bandhan Bank MD & CEO for 3 yrs.



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cleared the re-appointment of Chandra Shekhar Ghosh as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Kolkata-based Bandhan Bank, but only for a period of three years, as against a five-year tenure approved by the bank's board. It is not clear why the central bank decided on a three year-tenure.

**24. Rebeca Grynspan appointed as UNCTAD's secretary-general**



The Costa Rican economist and former vice president of the Central American nation becomes the first woman to be appointed secretary-general of the UN's trade and development body.

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development was established in 1964 as a permanent intergovernmental body. Parent organization: UN General Assembly; UN Secretariat HQ: Geneva, Switzerland;

**25. Naftali Bennett sworn in as Israel's new prime minister**



Naftali Bennett was sworn in as Israel's new Prime Minister, ousting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu from power after an uninterrupted 12 years at

the helm of affairs. Bennett presented his new government's ministers in the Knesset (Israeli parliament) in a speech. The new government has 27 ministers, nine of them women.

**26. Former SC judge Arjan Kumar Sikri appointed chairperson of Grievance Redressal body for OTT platforms : IAMAI**

Justice Arjan Kumar Sikri will chair the Grievance Redressal Board of the recently formed Digital Publisher Content Grievances Council (DPCGC).

It will function as an independent body and act as the second-tier within the three-tier grievance redressal mechanism as envisioned by the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021. Amit Agarwal, chairman of the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI).

**27. Bharti Airtel's Ajai Puri re-elected as COAI chairman for 2021-22**



Ajai Puri, Chief Operating Officer of Bharti Airtel, has been re-elected as Chairman of the industry association for 2021-22. Announcing the leadership for 2021-22, Cellular Operators' Association of India (COAI) said that Pramod Kumar Mittal, President of Reliance Jio Infocomm, will continue as Vice Chairman of the association. COAI director general, SP Kochhar.

**28. Patrick Amoth appointed WHO Executive Board Chair**

Patrick Amoth has been appointed Chairperson of the World Health

Organization (WHO) Executive Board for a period of one year. During the 149th session of the WHO Executive Board, Health Minister, Dr Harsh Vardhan made the announcement. Dr. Vardhan will continue to be a member of the Executive Board till 2023.

### **29. IDFC First Bank Ltd board approves reappointment of Mr. V Vaidyanathan as MD and CEO**

IDFC First Bank has informed that the Board of Directors of the Bank have considered and approved the proposal for re-appointment of V. Vaidyanathan as the MD & CEO of the Bank, for a further period of 3 years, with effect from 19th December 2021 up to 18th December, 2024. (Mr. V Vaidyanathan as MD and CEO in December 2018 after the merger of Capital First and IDFC Bank.)

### **30. Govt appoints private person Aashish Chandorkar as director at India's WTO mission**

Ahead of the WTO's ministerial conference later this year, the government has appointed a private person Aashish Chandorkar as Counsellor in India's Permanent Mission in the World Trade Organisation for three years.

For the first time, a private person has been appointed at the Mission.

Chandorkar is director of Smahi Foundation of Policy and Research. WTO HQ: Geneva, Switzerland, Membership: 164 member states, Formed: 1 January 1995

### **31. ReNew Power CMD Sumant Sinha recognised as SDG Pioneers by UNGC**

United Nations Global Compact has recognised Sumant Sinha, Chairman & MD of ReNew Power, as one of the ten SDG Pioneers 2021, for his work to advance access to clean and affordable energy. SDG Pioneers are business leaders selected by the UN Global Compact for doing an exceptional job to

advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### **32. Antonio Guterres re-elected as UN Secretary General for 2nd five-year term**

UN General Assembly appointed Antonio Guterres as the UN Secretary-General for a second term beginning January 1, 2022, days after the powerful Security Council had unanimously recommended his name to the 193-member body for re-election.

President of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly: Volkan Bozkir UNGA President: Abdulla Shahid HQ: New York, USA

### **33. Arunachal's Tadang Minu becomes first Indian woman to be appointed as AIBA's coaches' committee member**

Dr. Tadang Minu based in Arunachal Pradesh has been appointed to the Coaches Committee of the International Boxing Association (AIBA), the parent body for boxing in the world.

She is the first woman in the country and the second Indian to be appointed as a member of AIBA.

She is also the president of the Arunachal Amateur Boxing Association (AABA). Teli Kahi from Arunachal has been appointed as the secretary of the BFI's Youth Commission

### **34. Senior psychiatrist Pratima Murthy appointed as director of NIMHANS for five years**

Dr Pratima Murthy, head of Department of Psychiatry, National Institute of Mental Health & Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru has been appointed as Director of the Institute for a period of five years. She will retire in March 2026.

Dr Murthy was awarded the WHO Regional Director's Special Recognition Award on 'World No Tobacco Day 2021'.

### 35. British lawyer Karim Khan sworn in as ICC's chief prosecutor

British lawyer Karim Khan was sworn in as the new chief prosecutor for the International Criminal Court, pledging to reach out to nations that are not members of the court and to try to hold trials in countries where crimes are committed. He has defended clients at international courts including former Liberian President Charles Taylor & Kenya's Deputy President William Ruto 2 working languages for ICC: English & French. Headquarters: The Hague, the Netherlands.

### 36. Senior bureaucrats Renuka Kumar and Sanjay Kumar Singh have been appointed as secretaries for Minority Affairs & DARPG

Senior bureaucrats Renuka Kumar and Sanjay Kumar Singh have been appointed as secretaries for Minority Affairs and Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances respectively as part of a minor top-level bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the Centre. Cabinet has approved the appointment Manoj Kumar Parida as National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention Chairman

### 37. Olympic Medallist Karnam Malleswari Appointed First Vice Chancellor Of Delhi Sports University



The Delhi government appointed former Olympic medalist weightlifter Karnam Malleswari as the first Vice-Chancellor of Delhi Sports University.

Malleswari is the first Indian woman weightlifter to bring home an Olympic medal. She created history at the

Sydney Olympics in 2000 by lifting 110 kilograms and 130 kilograms in the 'snatch' and 'clean and jerk' categories.

### 38. Virendra Nanavati elected as FINA Bureau member for the term of 2021-25.

India's Virendra Nanavati was elected as a member of International Swimming Federation (FINA) Bureau at the world body's General Congress held in Doha in Qatar.

Nanavati, who is currently a vice-president of Indian Olympic Association and executive director of Swimming Federation of India (SFI), is the first Indian to be elected as a Bureau member of the FINA. FINA: HQ: Lausanne, Switzerland; President: Hussain Al-Musallam.

### 39. Vigilance Commissioner Suresh N Patel to act as CVC



Vigilance Commissioner Suresh N Patel will act as the central vigilance commissioner (CVC) in the Central Vigilance Commission, according to a Personnel Ministry notification.

The appointment was necessitated after Sanjay Kothari completed his term.

The commission is headed by the CVC and can have a maximum of two vigilance commissioners.

### 40. Montek Ahluwalia named member of World Bank-IMF High-Level Advisory Group



Montek Singh Ahluwalia, former Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission and distinguished fellow at the Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP), was named as a member of a High-Level Advisory Group (HLAG) formed by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in the face of the dual crisis posed by the Covid-19 pandemic and climate change. Aim of the HLAG on sustainable & inclusive recovery and growth.

**41. Centre extends tenure of Attorney General KK Venugopal for one more year; to continue till June 30, 2022**



The Central government has extended the tenure of Attorney General for India KK Venugopal by one more year till June 30, 2022.

Venugopal was appointed as the Attorney General on July 1, 2017 for a three year term. Last year too, his tenure was extended by one year.

**42. Ex-Allahabad HC judge appointed as the chairman of Indian Federation of United Nations Associations (IFUNA)**

Justice (Retd.) Shambhu Nath Srivastava, a former judge of Allahabad High Court and former chief Lokayukta of Chhattisgarh, has been appointed the chairman of IFUNA .

Indian Federation of United Nations Associations, a non-profit organisation to promote objectives of the United Nations and its specialised agencies.

IFUNA enjoys special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of UN

**43. Dr Usha Natesan appointed as the Director of National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training & Research (NITTTR)**

Usha Natesan, professor, Centre for Water Resources and deputy director on the Centre for Research in Anna University, has been appointed because the director of the National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training and Research (NITTTR).

She will maintain the submit for a interval of 5 years with impact from the date of assuming cost or until she turns 65 years of age

**44. NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant's tenure extended by a year till June 2022**



The Central government has decided to extend the tenure of NITI Aayog's chief executive officer Amitabh Kant by a year till June 30, 2022. This is the 3rd time that Kant's tenure has been extended. The 1980 batch IAS officer was appointed as the CEO of the government think-tank on February 17, 2016, for a

fixed two-year term. He was later given an extension till 30 June 2019.

#### 45. US appoints Indian-American diplomat Atul Keshap as interim envoy to India

The US has appointed Indian-American career diplomat Atul Keshap, an old India-hand at the state department, as the country's Charge'd Affairs in Delhi. He most recently served as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs and as the US Ambassador to Sri Lanka and Maldives.

#### 46. Justice Ravi Vijaykumar Malimath appointed as the acting chief justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court

An official statement citing a notification issued by the Department of Justice said that Justice Malimath, the senior-most judge of Himachal Pradesh High Court, will perform the duties of the office of the chief justice of that high court with effect from July 1.

Chief justices and judges of the 25 high courts retire at the age of 62 years. Justice Narayana Swamy demits office on June 30.

#### 47. WhatsApp appoints Manesh Mahatme as Head of Payments in India



Facebook-owned messaging platform WhatsApp has appointed Amazon Pay executive Manesh Mahatme as Head of Payments in India. Prior to this, Mahatme spent seven years in Amazon Pay, where he was Director and Board member of Amazon Pay India and led product, engineering, and growth teams.



First, I cleared all my basic concepts through the video courses provided by Oliveboard. After going through them, I started attempting 1 mock test per day from Oliveboard mock test series which helped me in becoming comfortable with the sectional timers as per the real exam. With time, I started getting 95+ percentile in pre mock tests.





## Awards

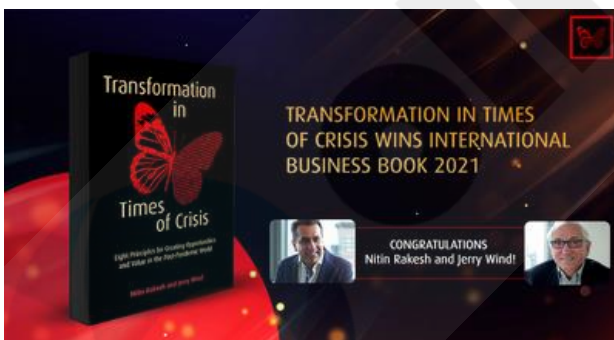
### 1. Mindshare wins agency of the year at FOMG



Mindshare India won the coveted Grand Prix: Agency of the year and many more metals at the Festival of Media Global (FOMG) awards 2021. In addition to the coveted Agency of the year award, Mindshare India also won two golds and three silvers.

Wheel Career from Home bagged gold for the best campaign for a local brand. Boost stamina meter won gold for best use of data

### 2. Notion Press authors Nitin Rakesh and Jerry Wind win International Business Book of the Year Award 2021



The authors made history this week by winning the prestigious International Business Book of the Year Award for 2021 for their recently launched book Transformation in Times of Crisis, published by Notion Press.

Author Nitin Rakesh, is a distinguished leader in the Technology and Financial services industries and is the CEO and Executive Director of IT major Mphasis. Jerry Wind, is an internationally renowned academician.

### 3. David Diop wins International Booker 2021 for 'frightening' At Night All Blood Is Black

David Diop has become the first French novelist to win the International Booker prize for translated fiction with At Night All Blood Is Black, his first novel translated into English.

Diop, the author of two novels, and his translator Anna Moschovakis, split the 50,000 annual prize, which goes to the best author and translator of a work translated into English.

### 4. Arunachal Pradesh's Water Burial bags best film National Award on environment conservation at 67th National Films Awards 2021



Inspired by the popular Assamese novel Saba Kota Manuh, which is written by Yeshe Dorjee Thongchi, Water Burial is in Monpa dialect and has an intriguing storyline around a dark ritual of a local tribe in Arunachal Pradesh.

The film, which is directed by independent filmmaker Shantanu Sen. Water Burial is produced by AM Television.

### 5. Zimbabwean novelist Tsitsi Dangarembga wins PEN Pinter prize 2021

Tsitsi Dangarembga, the Booker-shortlisted Zimbabwean writer who was arrested last year in Harare while protesting against corruption, has been awarded the PEN Pinter prize, praised for her 'ability to capture and communicate vital truths even amidst times of upheaval'. The prize is given by free

speech campaigners English PEN in memory of the Nobel laureate Harold Pinter.

### 6. Amul's Sodhi conferred with Asia Pacific Productivity Champion award 2021

The Managing Director of Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (Amul), R.S. Sodhi, was conferred with the regional award as Asia Pacific Productivity Champion from Asian Productivity Organization, Tokyo, Japan in recognition of enhanced productivity & efficient milk supply chain. In the past 20 years, this is for the 1st time an Indian has received a prestigious award

### 7. Karadi Path receives International Excellence Award from London Book Fair for its Educational Learning Resources

The Karadi Path Education Company has been announced as the winner by the London Book Fair International Excellence Awards for the category ' Educational Learning Resources.

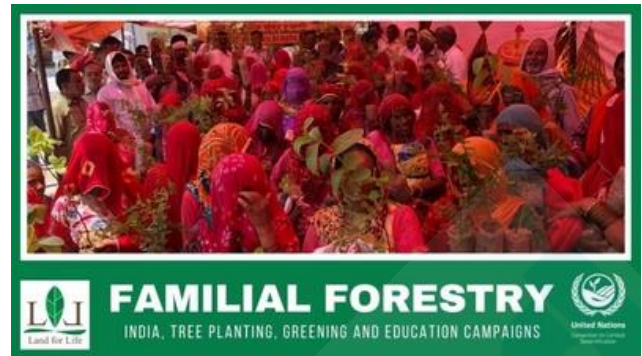
It is the only firm from India to win the award this year presented by the London Book Fair in partnership with the UK's Publishers Association.

### 8. Larsen & Toubro Infotech Awarded Snowflake Global Innovation Partner of the Year

Larsen & Toubro Infotech, a global technology consulting and digital solutions company has been recognized as the Global Innovation Partner of the Year by Snowflake, the Data Cloud Company.

The award represents a key milestone for the strategic partnership between LTI & Snowflake, it will strengthen collaboration between the companies to empower enterprises.

### 9. Rajasthan based 'Familial Forestry' wins UNCCD's 2021 Land for Life Award



Shyam Sundar Jyani, a Rajasthan-based climate activist, has won the prestigious United Nations' Land for Life Award for his environment conservation concept, Familial Forestry.

The Land for Life Award is considered the world's highest reward regarding land conservation and restoration. This year's theme was "Healthy Land, Healthy Lives". UNCCD was established in 1994. HQ: Bonn, Germany

### 10. National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) wins recognition of India's best employers, among top 50 Great Place to Work



For the first time, NTPC won recognition as India's Best Employers among Nation-Builders 2021. It has been recognized as the 'Great Place to Work' for the 15th straight year by the Great Places to Work Institute.

It has been ranked at 38th. It was ranked 47 last year.

It also won its first-ever recognition of India's Best Employers among Nation-Builders 2021. NTPC, a Maharatna Community and Public Sector Unit works under the Ministry of Power.

### **11. Photographer Thomas Vijayan receives the 'Nature TTL Photographer of the Year 2021'**



The Nature TTL Photographer of the Year 2021 competition announced its winners that span across 9 themes.

Photographer Thomas Vijayan was crowned the winner of the 'Animal Behavior' category as well as the overall winner of the competition. He received the 'Nature TTL Photographer of the Year 2021' title for his portrait of an orangutan climbing a tree upside down. Nature TTL: An online photography tutorial Founder: Will Nicholls

### **12. Cochin Airport Wins International Roll of Excellence Honour**

The Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL) won the Airport Council International's (ACI) Director General's Roll of Excellence honour for Airport Service Quality.

The ACI, a global body of airport operators established the Roll of Excellence recognition to those airports which, in the opinion of the passengers, have consistently delivered excellent services in the survey.

### **13. India Smart Cities Awards 2020: UP best smart state, Surat, Indore best cities**

Uttar Pradesh is the top performer among all Indian states in rankings given by the Centre's Smart Cities Mission project, followed by Madhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu as per results of the India Smart Cities Awards Contest (ISAC) 2020.

Among cities, Indore and Surat were adjudged joint winners, and Chandigarh was ranked first among Union territories.

### **14. French non-fiction author Emmanuel Carrere wins top Spanish award**



French author Emmanuel Carrere, popular for his non-fiction books in a high literary vein, has been granted this year's Spanish Princess of Asturias Literature Award.

The 50000-euro award is one of the 8 prestigious prizes by the foundation named after the heir to the Spanish throne, Princess Leonor.

The 8 prizes cover different disciplines- arts, social sciences, sports etc

## Ranks & Reports

### 1. Kerala retains the top position in Niti Aayog's sustainable development goals index 2020-21

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Kerala has retained the top position in the third edition of the sustainable development goals (SDG) index released by the Niti Aayog with a score of 75.

Both Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu took the second spot with a score of 74.

On the other hand, Bihar, Jharkhand and Assam were the worst-performing states this year. Niti Aayog Vice Chairman: Rajiv Kumar.

### 2. Punjab topped the national performance grading index of school education for 2019-20 released by the Centre



Punjab, which has improved its showing from the 13th position it attained in 2018-19, topped the charts this time among all the states and union territories with a score of 929 out of 1,000, followed by Chandigarh (912) and Tamil Nadu (906).

The performance grading index ranks the states on a set of 70 parameters relating to learning outcomes and quality, access, etc. Chief minister: Capt

Amarinder Singh; Governor: V. P. Singh Badnore

### 3. India slips two spots to rank 117 on 17 Sustainable Development Goals

India's rank has slipped by two places from last year to 117 on the 17 SDGs adopted as a part of the 2030 agenda by 193 United Nations member states in 2015.

India ranks below four South Asian countries -- Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

The overall SDG score of India is 61.9 out of 100.

Jharkhand and Bihar are the least prepared to meet the SDGs by 2030. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, was adopted by all UN Member States in 2015

### 4. Himachal jumps to third spot in Anemia Mukt Bharat Index

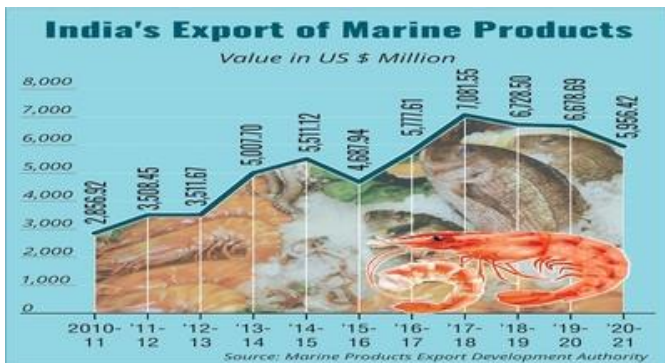


Himachal Pradesh has climbed to the third spot in the Anemia Mukt Bharat Index 2020-21 national ranking with a score of 57.1.

Madhya Pradesh is in the first position with a score of 64.1 followed by Odisha with a score of 59.3.

The prevalence of soil-transmitted helminths had decreased from 29% to 0.3% in a short span of three years. National Health Mission director: Dr. Nipun Jindal

## 5. India exports 11,49,341 tonnes of seafood during FY21



India's seafood exports have slumped by nearly 11% in volume and value in FY21 as coronavirus pandemic disrupted production and supply in key markets.

The volume shrunk by 10.88% at 11,49,341 tonnes from a year ago.

In dollar terms the export plummeted by 10.81% to \$5.96 billion, a three-year low.

The data released by the Marine Products Export Development Authority

## 6. World Bank projects India's economy to grow at 8.3% in 2021 and 7.5% in 2022

The World Bank projected India's economy to grow at 8.3 percent in 2021 and 7.5 percent in 2022, even as its recovery is being hampered by an unprecedented second wave of the COVID-19, the largest outbreak in the world since the beginning of the deadly pandemic.

According to World Bank report, the global economy is set to expand by 5.6 percent in 2021. Global Economic Prospects published by World Bank.

## 7. Eight Indian universities led by IIT Bombay in top 400 in QS World University Rankings 2022

In QS World University rankings 2022, eight Indian universities were in top 400. IIT-Bombay ranked 177th has fallen five spots from the previous edition. IT-Delhi (185th) and IISc (186th)

IIT-Madras (255th), IIT-Kanpur (277th), IIT-Guwahati made its debut among the top 400 this time, with a global rank of

395, bettering 75 positions from previous edition.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) secured the top spot

## 8. Average Indian household to spend 35.3 percent of budget on food in 2025: Fitch

According to Fitch Solutions, the average Indian household will spend 35.3 percent of the total household budget on food in 2025, increasing by 2.1 percentage points from 33.2 percent in 2005. Growing wages and disposable income has led to this change in proportion over the past 20 years, enabling the average Indian household to afford more than just basic food staples.

## 9. Auckland tops Global Liveability Index 2021; Dhaka, Karachi in bottom 10.

Auckland has been ranked the best on Global Liveability Index 2021 due to the ability of New Zealand city to contain Covid-19 faster, leading to the early lifting of restrictions than other cities around the world. New Zealand and Australian cities dominated the Global Liveability Index 2021 published by the Economist Intelligence Unit.

Mumbai slips 2 spots to 119. Japanese cities of Osaka and Tokyo grabbed 2nd and 4th place.

## 10. India can save '3.11 trillion worth of fuel used in logistics till 2050 : report



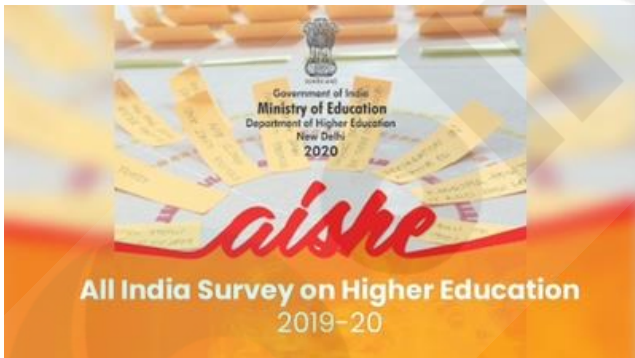
A report titled "Fast Tracking Freight in India: A Roadmap for Clean and Cost-Effective Goods Transport" from Niti

Aayog and Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) has found that India can save '3.11 trillion worth of fuel till 2050 if it deploys clean and cost-effective mode of goods transportation. It added that the country can bring down its cost of logistics by 4% of its GDP.

### 11. India slips 12 spots to 55th position in global home price index: Knight Frank

India has moved down 12 spots in the global home price index to 55th rank in Q1 2021 against 43rd rank in Q1 2020, with a decline of 1.6 percent year-on-year (YoY) in home prices, Knight Frank, in its latest research report - Global House Price Index - Q1 2021. Turkey continues to lead the annual rankings with prices up by 32 percent YoY, followed by New Zealand. Knight Frank, international property consultancy:Headquarters: London, United Kingdom.

### 12. Education Ministry releases AISHE report 2019-20, number of PhDs increased by 60% in last five years



The Ministry of Education released the All Indian Survey of Higher Education (AISHE) report 2019-20. The report revealed that the number of Institutes of National Importance (INIs) have increased from 75 in 2015 to 135 in 2020. B.Tech enrolment fell by 11 per cent in the same period, from 42,54,919 to 37,70,949. The total number of teachers stands at 15,03,156.

### 13. Only one-eighth of India's solar pumps target achieved so far: IEEFA

India's target to deploy about two million off-grid solar-powered irrigation pumps is making sluggish progress, with only one-eighth of the target achieved so far, according to a recent report by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA). By comparison, the number of fossil-fuel-powered water pumps in India totals more than 8.8 million.

### 14. Bahrain tops Global financial attractiveness rankings for 3rd consecutive year

Bahrain has topped the globally-recognized AIRINC Global 150 Cities Index financial attractiveness ranking for the third straight year. The rankings evaluate the salary levels, cost of living, and taxes in a particular market in order to create an overall score for financial attractiveness.

Bahrain is known for its great regional connectivity, regulatory innovation. AIRINC, Headquartered in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

### 15. AIRINC's Global 150 Cities Index: topped by Zurich and Geneva



AIRINC's Global 150 Cities Index is a ranking of 150 of the top global locations "according to the financial and lifestyle benefits they offer".

Data compiled in the areas of local salary levels, tax rates, living costs, and living conditions.

Manama, Bahrain; George Town, Cayman Islands and Zurich again rounding out the top slots. Zurich and Geneva is located in Switzerland

### 16. 15th edition of the Global Peace Index (GPI) released

Iceland remains the most peaceful country in the world, a position it has held since 2008. It is joined at the top of the index by New Zealand, Denmark, Portugal, and Slovenia. Afghanistan is the least peaceful country in the world for the fourth consecutive year, followed by Yemen, Syria, South Sudan, and Iraq. India has been ranked 135th in the GPI index (5th in South Asia) Produced by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP),

### 17. India maintains 43rd rank on IMD's World Competitiveness Index; Switzerland tops chart

India maintained 43rd rank on an annual World Competitiveness Index compiled by the Institute for Management Development (IMD) that examined the impact of COVID-19 on economies around the world this year. The 64-nation list was led by Switzerland, while Sweden has moved to the 2nd position followed by Denmark, Netherlands, Singapore. Among the BRICS nations, India is ranked second after China

### 18. India ranks 51st in terms of Money deposited in Swiss Banks; UK Tops



According to 'Annual Bank Statistics of 2020' Funds parked by Indian individuals and firms in Swiss banks jumped to 2.55 billion Swiss francs (over ' 20,700 crore) in 2020 on a sharp surge in holdings via securities and similar instruments.

India was placed at 51st place, ahead of countries like New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, etc., Chairman of the

Governing Board of Swiss National Bank - Thomas J Jordan.

### 19. India receives \$64 billion FDI in 2020, 5th largest recipient of inflows in world: UN

India received USD 64 billion in foreign direct investments (FDI) in 2020, the fifth largest recipient of inflows in the world, according to a UN report. The report said in India, FDI increased 27 % to USD 64 billion in 2020 from USD 51 billion in 2019, pushed up by acquisitions in the information & communication technology (ICT) industry, making the country the 5th largest. The pandemic boosted demand for digital infrastructure and services globally.

### 20. India's bank credit-to-GDP ratio grows 56% in 2020: Report of Bank for International Settlements (BIS)

Notwithstanding incremental credit growth plunging to a 59-year low at 5.56% in FY21, the bank credit-to-GDP ratio rose to a five-year high of a little over 56% in 2020, but way behind its peers and just half of the G20 average, according to the latest data from the BIS.

Total outstanding bank credit stood at \$1.52 trillion in the country in 2020. bank credit growth is a key indicator of economic growth & credit-GDP ratio of 100% ideal

### 21. 275 million people used drugs worldwide in 2020: World Drug Report released by the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime

Around 275 million people used drugs worldwide last year, while over 36 million people suffered from drug use disorders.

Report also said many countries saw a rise in the use of cannabis during the coronavirus pandemic. In surveys of health professionals across 77 countries, 42% said cannabis use had increased.

A rise in non-medical use of pharmaceutical drugs was observed. UNODC: HQ:Vienna; Head:Ghada Waly

## 22. Ashgabat world's most expensive city for foreign workers, Mumbai drops 18 places: Mercer Cost of Living Survey

List of top 10 expensive cities mostly features global financial hubs like Hong Kong, which was the priciest last year, Tokyo, Shanghai, Zurich and Singapore. Mumbai remains India's most expensive city at 78th rank but has dropped 18 places in this year's ranking. Other Indian cities on the list are New Delhi (117), Chennai (158), Bengaluru (170), and Kolkata (181).

The survey used New York City, ranked 14 on the list, as the base city.

## 23. Indian Hotels' iconic Taj named strongest hotel brand in the world



Taj has been rated the Strongest Hotel Brand in the World by Brand Finance, the world's leading brand valuation consultancy in its annual 'Hotels 50 2021' report.

Taj received an overall Brand Strength Index of 89.3 out of 100, with a corresponding AAA rating for customer familiarity, employee satisfaction and corporate reputation as well as its world-class customer service

Taj is an iconic brand of Indian Hotels Company, South Asia's largest hospitality company

## 24. India EV sales to grow at 26 per cent by FY23: Fitch

The recently announced electric vehicle (EV) incentives by India along with high fuel prices will be supporting factors for stronger adoption of EVs over 2020-2023, leading to an average annual growth rate of 26%.

The report however said the economic impact of Covid-19 pandemic and limited domestically produced EVs will prove a challenging barrier to overcome.

It said EV sales in Asia will expand by 78.1% in 2021.

## 25. Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar launches LiDAR survey reports to augment water in forest areas

LiDAR-based reports mapping out the water requirement within forest areas in 10 states were released. These reports will be used to augment groundwater in forest areas so that animals don't venture out in search of water.

The LiDAR (light detection and ranging) technology was used to create 3-D images of the project areas to recommend soil and water conservation structures. WAPCOS, a PSU under the Jal Shakti Ministry, is implementing the project in 26 states

## 26. India ranked 31 out of 46 countries on level of trust in news: Reuters Institute Digital News Report, 2021



Only 38% of the respondents from India said they trust news overall.

Finland had the highest levels of overall trust in news (65%) while the U.S. had the lowest levels of trust (29%).

This is the first time India features in the main report. It shows India is one of the



strongest mobile-focused markets, with 73% of the respondents using smartphones to access news. Asian College of Journalism (ACJ) in Chennai collaborated with the Reuters

### 27. Bengaluru among top five office centres in Asia Pacific for tech firms to set up operations: Colliers Report

The top five technology centres in APAC are Beijing, Shanghai, Bengaluru, Shenzhen and Singapore. Other cities developing strengths in specific areas of technology are Seoul and Hong Kong in fintech, while in Hyderabad and Sydney are emerging centres.

Among upcoming Indian submarkets were Noida Expressway and Golf Course Extension Road (Gurguram) in Delhi NCR etc.

### 28. NITI Aayog Releases Report On "Not-For-Profit" Hospital Model In India



NITI Aayog released a comprehensive study on the not-for-profit hospital model in the country, which is a step towards closing the information gap on such institutions and facilitating robust policymaking in this area. The report was released by NITI Aayog Member Dr VK Paul, in the presence of CEO Mr Amitabh Kant, Additional Secretary Dr Rakesh Sarwal.

### 29. Union Minister Pralhad Joshi releases 'Provisional Coal Statistics 2020-21'

Coal Controller's Organization, a subordinate office under the Ministry of Coal, released one of its two flagship publications, the 'Provisional Coal Statistics 2020-21'. The 'Provisional Coal Statistics 2020-21' contains provisional information regarding the performance of the Coal and Lignite sector in the last fiscal year 2020-21. Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Pralhad Joshi.

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## Important Days

### 1. Global Day of Parents observed on June 1

Global Parents Day or Parents Day provides an opportunity to appreciate and encourage all parents in all parts of the world for their selfless commitment to children and their lifelong sacrifices towards nurturing this relationship.

The United Nations proclaimed June 1 of every year as 'Global Day of Parents' in 2012, to honor the parents across the world. 2021 theme:- 'Appreciate all parents throughout the world'

### 2. World Milk Day: June 1



June 1 is observed as the World Milk Day by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations to celebrate the dairy sector and highlight the importance of milk products as a global food.

2021 theme:- Sustainability in the dairy sector with messages around the environment, nutrition, and socio-economics'.

### 3. World Health Assembly adopts decision to recognize 30 January as World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day



Seventy-fourth World Health Assembly endorsed a decision recognizing 30 January as World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day ('World NTD Day'). World NTD Day commemorates the simultaneous launch of the first NTD road map and the London Declaration on NTDs on 30 January 2012.

### 4. World Bicycle Day: June 3

United Nations General Assembly declared June 3 every year as World Bicycle Day in April 2018.

'Uniqueness, versatility, and longevity of the bicycle as a simple, sustainable, economical, and reliable mode of transportation' is the theme of World Bicycle Day-2021.

The day is observed to draw people's attention towards the importance and benefits of riding a bicycle.

### 5. International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression: 4 June

The International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression is an annual United Nations observance day on June 4th each year.

It is a day to raise awareness about children who have faced harassment of any sort in their lives, and eradicate such a practice from society.

## 6. World Environment Day: 5 June



World Environment Day is celebrated on June 5, annually to encourage awareness & environmental protection. This World Environment Day will kick off the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030), a global mission to revive billions of hectares, from forests to farmlands, from the top of mountains to the depth of the sea. WED 2021 theme - "Reimagine. Recreate. Restore."

## 7. International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing: 5 June

In 2017 the UN General Assembly proclaimed 5 June as the "International Day for the Fight Against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing." UN also declared 2022 as the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture, which will help focus attention on the small-scale fishermen and women.

## 8. World Food Safety Day : June 7

World Food Safety Day (WSFD) is observed annually on 7 June to help prevent, detect and manage foodborne risks.

The UN General Assembly proclaimed in 2018 that June 7 would be regarded as World Food Safety Day every year.

In 2020, World Health Assembly passed a resolution to further strengthen global efforts of food safety to reduce the burden of foodborne diseases. 2021 Theme:- 'Safe food today for a healthy tomorrow'

## 9. World Oceans Day is observed annually on June 8



World Oceans Day is observed annually on June 8 to make people aware of the negative impact of human activities such as garbage disposal, sewage, oil leaks from ships, and drilling station accidents. The United Nations (UN) declared World Oceans Day as an official occasion in 2008.

The theme for World Oceans Day 2021 is 'The Ocean: Life and Livelihoods'.

## 10. World Day Against Child Labour : 12 June

The International Labour Organization (ILO) launched the World Day Against Child Labour in 2002 to focus attention on the global extent of child labour and the action and efforts needed to eliminate it.

This year's World Day Against Child Labour focuses on action taken for the 2021 International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour. The theme of this year's World Day Against Child Labour is 'Act now: End child labour!'

## 11. International Albinism Awareness Day: on June 13



International Albinism Awareness day is celebrated every year on June 13. The day is celebrated to raise awareness about the albinism disease.

The United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution on December 18, 2014, designating June 13 as International Albinism Awareness Day. 2021 theme:- #StrengthBeyondAllOdds

### 12. World Blood Donor Day takes place on 14 June each year.



World Blood Donor Day is to raise global awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products for transfusion and of the critical contribution voluntary, unpaid blood donors make to national health systems.

The day also provides an opportunity to call to action to governments and national health authorities to provide adequate resources. 2021 slogan: 'Give blood and keep the world beating'.

### 13. International Day of Family Remittances : on June 16



International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR) is observed on June 16.

This day has been created to recognise the contribution of as many as 200 million migrant workers who send money to their family members, the number of which is as high as 800 million.

The theme of IDFR this year is 'Recovery and resilience through digital and financial inclusion.'

### 14. World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought: June 17



Desertification and Drought Day is marked on June 17 across the globe. As the name suggests, the day is meant for restoration of degraded land and to create and raise awareness regarding prevention of desertification of the soil. 2021, theme of the day has been finalised as 'Restoration. Land. Recovery. We build back better with healthy land'.

### 15. Sustainable Gastronomy Day 2021 : on June 18

Sustainable Gastronomy Day emphasizes the need to focus the world's attention on the role that sustainable gastronomy can play. It also reaffirms that all cultures and civilizations are contributors and crucial enablers of sustainable development. UN General Assembly adopted on 21 December 2016 its resolution A/RES/71/246 and designated 18 June as Sustainable Gastronomy Day. Theme 2021: Promoting Gastronomy: The art & science of food.

### 16. International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict - 19 June

International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict is observed on 19th June every year. The day as the name suggests is to create and raise awareness around sexual violence in conflict and also to come up with

strategies through which this can be ended.

### 17. National Reading Day India - June 19

National Reading Day is celebrated on June 19 every year that falls on the death anniversary of PN Panicker, the man behind the 'Library Movement in Kerala'.

The Government of Kerala and Panicker Foundation observe week-long activities at various schools and colleges.

In 2017, PM Narendra Modi had launched National Reading Day, taking the event from state to national level

2021 is the 26th edition of the day. The motto of National Reading Day is 'Read and Grow'

### 18. World Sickle Cell Day - June 19



World Sickle Cell Day also known as World Sickle Cell Awareness Day, is observed on June 19 every year. The day aims to raise awareness about sickle cell disorders.

UNGA adopted the resolution in 2008 and recognized sickle cell anemia as a public health problem.

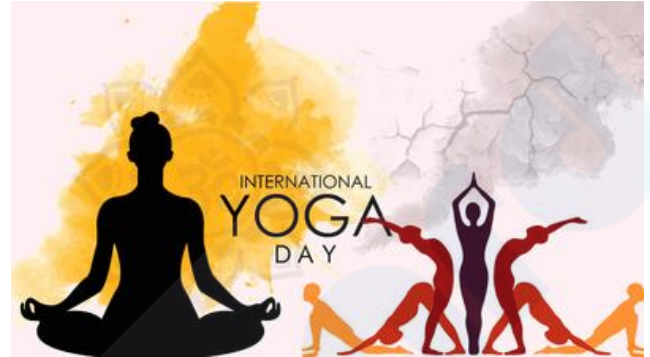
### 19. World Refugee Day - June 20

World Refugee Day is observed every year on June 20 to respect and honor the courage and resilience of refugees across the world. The United Nations observes this day to honor the refugees who have been forced outside of their homes.

According to the latest UNHCR report on forced displacement, Turkey currently

hosts 3.6 million refugees, the largest by a single country. The theme for World Refugee Day 2021 is 'Together we heal, learn and shine'.

### 20. International Yoga Day - June 21



International Yoga Day is an annual event that has its roots in an Indian context, but is commemorated every year on 21 June.

The idea of International Yoga Day was conceived by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who proposed the concept on September 27, 2014, during his speech at the UN General Assembly. This year, the theme for the event is "Yoga for well-being"

### 21. International Olympic Day - June 23

International Olympic Day is celebrated on June 23 to encourage more people to participate in the Olympic games and raise awareness about the number of sports held during this event.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) was found in 1894 by Baron Pierre de Coubertin and the first modern Olympic Games were held in Athens in 1896.

IOC HQ: Luassane, Switzerland  
The theme for 2021: Stay healthy, stay active with the #Olympic Day workout.

### 22. United Nations Public Service Day - June 23

United Nations Public Service Day recognizes the value and virtue of public service to the community. It is observed on June 23 every year.

The theme this year is 'Innovating the Future Public Service: New Government

Models for a New Era to Reach the SDGs [Sustainable Development Goals]'.  
**23. International Widows Day - June 23**

June 23 has been observed as International Widows Day since 2011 to draw attention to the voices of widows, highlight the problems they face and galvanize the support that they need.

The first International Widows Day took place in 2005. It was formally adopted as International Widows Day by the UN in 2010, the 6th edition.

The day was established by The Loomba Foundation.

**24. International Day of the Seafarer: on June 25**

The International Maritime Organization, a specialised agency of the United Nations responsible for regulating shipping, designated June 25 as International Day of the Seafarer in the year 2010.

Since 2011, the IMO celebrates the day. This day to spread awareness about the work and lives of seafarers. The theme of 2021 is 'Seafarers: at the core of shipping's future.'

**25. International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking | 26 June**



International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is observed every year on June 26 with an aim to spread awareness about the global drug problem and eliminate drug misuse. Activists, therapists and organisations working in the field of preventing drug abuse come together on this day to help victims of this social evil.

'Share Drug Facts to Save Lives' is the theme this year

**26. International Day in Support of Victims of Torture | 26 June**



The International Day in Support of Victims of Torture is observed on 26 June every year by the UN. The day is marked to urge all stakeholders to unite for those who have faced or are facing abuse and torture.

The date 26 June was selected because on this day in 1987, convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment was made effective.

**27. Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day | June 27**

Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) Day is celebrated every year on June 27 to recognise the contribution of these industries in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

According to UN, as many as 90% of businesses are generated from MSMEs and these businesses provide 60 to 70 per cent of employment. MSME contribution to GDP is 50% worldwide.

**28. International Day of the Tropics | June 29**

The event is an UN initiative that aims to promote tropical regions on Earth, raise awareness about the conservation

strategies, and celebrate the remarkable diversity that abounds the planet.

In 2014 on June 29, Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi had introduced the 'State of the Tropics Report' that suggested a very distinct point of view on the tropical regions. Theme 2021:- 'State of the Tropics Report 2021' is The Digital Divide in the Tropics.

### 29. National Statistics Day| June 29



### National Statistics Day

The birth anniversary of PC Mahalanobis is observed as National Statistics Day. Often referred to as the 'father of Indian statistics', PC Mahalanobis, was born on June 29, 1893 in Calcutta (now Kolkata), West Bengal.

2021 Theme:- End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture (Sustainable Development Goal or SDG 2 of the UN)



### Kumar Saurab

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## Summit & Conferences

### 1. 47th G7 summit held in UK's Cornwall



PM Narendra Modi called for following a "one earth, one health" approach to effectively deal with the coronavirus pandemic globally, and sought the support of the G7 grouping to lift patent protections for COVID-19 vaccines.

Group of Seven (G7) comprises the UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United States. On an opening day, the G7 outreach session was titled 'Building Back Stronger -Health'.

### 2. Dr. Harsh Vardhan addresses the Global Yoga Conference 2021

Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare addressed the inaugural ceremony of Global Yoga Conference 2021 in the presence of Shri Shripad Yesso Nayak, Minister of State for Defence. The event was organized by 'MokshayatanYogSansthan' along with the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India & the Indian Council for Cultural Relations. 7th International Day of Yoga to fall on 21st June 2021.

### 3. Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shri Narendra Singh Tomar addresses the 42nd session of FAO Conference



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

To commemorate the long-standing relationship between India and the FAO, the Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi released a special seventy five rupees commemorative coin which aptly combines the themes of agricultural production and nutrition in its motto - " " meaning "a country will shine if the nutrition is correct".

### 4. IIT Bombay Hosts Conference Of BRICS Network Universities

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay is hosting a three-day virtual conference of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) network universities.

The conference on the theme of electric mobility is a part of the engagements that India is hosting under the education stream during its chairship of the 13th BRICS Summit this year.

### 5. PM Narendra Modi delivered the keynote address at 5th edition of VivaTech

Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered the keynote address at the 5th edition of VivaTech.

The Prime Minister invited as a Guest of Honour.

Participants:- French President Emmanuel Macron, Spanish PM Pedro Sanchez and Ministers/MPs from various European countries, Apple CEO Tim Cook etc.

### 6. India to host 9th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable next year

International Energy Forum (IEF) recently informed that, India has agreed to host the 9th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable (AMER9) in 2022.

India agreed to host the 9th roundtable after a virtual meeting between IEF Secretary-General Joseph McMonigle and Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

This meeting focused on global energy security.



### 7. India joins East Asia Summit(EAS) Senior Officials' Meeting

Secretary at Indian Ministry of External Affairs Riva Ganguly Das attended EAS Senior Officials' Meeting (EAS SOM) on 24 June. The virtual Meeting was chaired by Permanent Secretary of Brunei Darussalam H.E., Emaleen Abdul Rahman Teo & saw participation of Senior Officials from 18 EAS countries.

EAS is a unique Leaders-led forum of 18 countries of the Asia-Pacific region.

### 8. Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar addressed the CII Northern Region Food Processing Summit 2021

Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Food Processing Industries, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Shri Narendra Singh Tomar addressed the 3rd edition of the Northern Zone Food Processing Summit organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)

### 9. Indian Ambassador to UN co-hosted special event on country's efforts to achieve 2030 agenda

Ambassador of India to United Nations T S Tirumurti has expressed happiness over co-hosting a special event at the United Nations HLDE 2021 on India's efforts to achieve the 2030 agenda. "Accelerating Citizen-Centric Energy Transition" -Special event at United Nation HLDE 2021 on India's efforts to achieve 2030 Agenda. India selected Global Champion for Energy Transition Track.

### 10. Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman holds 6th review meeting on CAPEX & infrastructure roadmap

During the meeting, Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) plans of Ministries and their CPSEs, status of implementation of budget announcements & measures to expedite infrastructure investment were discussed.

Smt. Sitharaman said that the Budget for Financial Year 2021-22 provided a capital outlay of Rs. 5.54 lakh crore, a sharp increase of 34.5% over the Budget Estimate of 2020-21.



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## Science & Technology

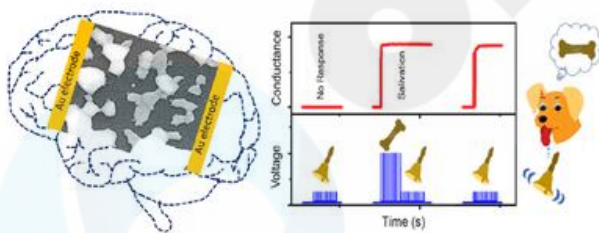
### 1. IIT Ropar Develops 'AmbiTAG'- India's First Indigenous Temperature Data Logger For The Cold Chain Management



Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar (IIT Ropar) in Punjab has developed a first-of-its-kind IoT device 'AmbiTag' that records real-time ambient temperature during the transportation of perishable products, vaccines and even body organs and blood.

This information is particularly critical for vaccines including Covid-19 vaccine, organs and blood transportation.

### 2. JNCASR develops artificial synaptic network that mimics human brain



Scientists have fabricated a device that can mimic human brain cognitive actions and is more efficient than conventional techniques in emulating artificial intelligence. A prototyping kit has been developed to emulate Pavlov's dog behaviour which demonstrates the potential of this device towards neuromorphic artificial intelligence.

Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research(JNCASR), location: Bengaluru.

### 3. Sun Pharma acquires trademarks, patent license for dapagliflozin from AstraZeneca

Drug major Sun Pharma has acquired the rights to trademarks of diabetes drug Dapagliflozin under brands Oxra, Oxramet, and Oxraduo in India from AstraZeneca Pharma. Sun Pharma has also taken a patent license to manufacture and commercialize Dapagliflozin and Dapagliflozin with Metformin combination in India from AstraZeneca AB.

### 4. IFFCO launches world's first nano liquid urea fertiliser

Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) launched the Nano Urea Liquid, a nutrient to provide nitrogen to plants as an alternative to conventional urea.

IFFCO Nano Urea Liquid is developed to replace conventional urea and it can curtail the requirement of the same by at least 50%. It contains 40,000 ppm of nitrogen in a 500 ml bottle. IFFCO:- Headquarters: New Delhi; Founded: 3 November 1967

### 5. IIT Hyderabad develops nano-fibre technology based oral tablets of Amphotericin B

Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad has developed nano-fibre based oral tablets of Amphotericin B, called as AmB, to treat fungal infections post COVID treatment. Currently, the AmB is available in injectable form. Researchers have decided to keep the technology free of intellectual property rights and ready for technology transfer for mass production of the drug.

### 6. ICAR-IISR gets patent for black pepper micronutrient mixture

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-Indian Institute of

Spices Research (IISR) has received a patent for black pepper micronutrient foliar formulation. ICAR-IISR has developed crop specific designer micronutrient foliar formulations for major spices (black pepper, ginger, turmeric, and cardamom) to overcome micronutrient deficiencies. It was in 2013 that the institute submitted an application for a patent.

### **7. Bharti Global-backed OneWeb launches 36 LEO satellites**

Bharti Global-backed OneWeb, which is a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite communications operator, has launched its next batch of 36 satellites. The satellites were launched by Arianespace from the Vostochny cosmodrome in Russia.

With the latest launch, OneWeb's total in-orbit constellation stands at 218 satellites. These would be a part of OneWeb's 648 LEO satellite fleet. OneWeb plans to make global services available in 2022.

### **8. Uttarakhand: IIT Roorkee prof bags NSG award for 'blast-resistant' helmet**

Shailesh Govind Ganpule, an assistant professor at the mechanical and industrial engineering department (MIED), was conferred the award with the 'NSG Counter-IED and Counter-Terrorism Innovator Award 2021' for developing a 'blast-resistant' helmet.

This was the second edition of the annual award by NSG

Ceremony held at the National Security Guard (NSG) campus in Maneswar, near Gurgaon

### **9. IIT Kharagpur researchers say their technique can detect cyclones much in advance**

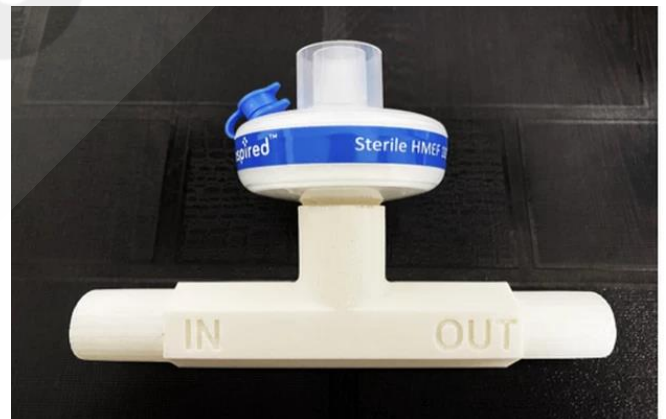
Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur and Yantai Institute of Coastal Zone Research in China have developed a technique that can detect the forming of cyclone in the North Indian Ocean region much in

advance. Before they are picked up by the weather satellites orbiting the Earth. It detects a possible cyclone from the time the eddy is formed. Eddies are disturbances that find in the atmospheric column where the cyclone initiates.

### **10. NASA Says Newly Discovered Planet With 'unknown' Atmosphere, Strikingly Similar To Earth**

The discovery of a 'cool' exoplanet located 90 light-years from Earth has excited scientists in their hunt for extraterrestrial life. According to a study published in Science Daily, researchers from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and the University of New Mexico discovered exoplanet 'TOI-1231 b' orbiting an M dwarf star - otherwise known as a red dwarf. TOI-1231 b' one of the coolest, small exoplanets accessible for atmospheric studies.

### **11. IIT Ropar designs electricity-free CPAP device 'Jivan Vayu', capable of delivering high flow oxygen**



The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar has developed a device that can be used as a substitute for Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) machine. Dubbed as "Jivan Vayu", the machine can deliver high flow oxygen up to 60 Litres Per Minute (LPM).

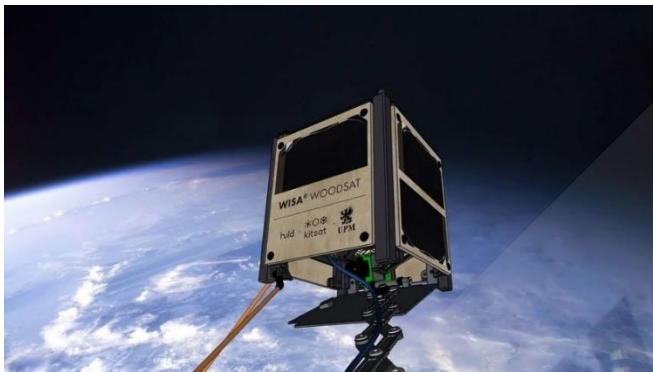
The new device is the "first to be designed in India that functions even without electricity".

### **12. CSIR-NCL develops new Technique Called SWASTIIK To Disinfect Water Using Natural Oil**

To improve the quality of water among Indian states and union territories, CSIR-NCL with the help of the Water Technology Initiative of the department of science and technology (DST) and the Government of India came up with novel technology called 'SWASTIIK' to disinfect water. It has been developed under the guidance of scientist Dr. Vinay M. Bhandari.

CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory, Pune is a research and development organization.

### 13. World's first wooden satellite should be in space by the end of 2021



European Space Agency (ESA) to launch the world's first wooden satellite from New Zealand. It will be launched from a Rocket Lab Electron rocket by the end of 2021. It is the brainchild of Jari Makinen.

The satellite, WISA Woodsat, is a nanosatellite. and is 10cm on each side, length, height, and width. European Space Agency is headquartered in Paris, France. ESA CEO: Johann-Dietrich Wrner.

### 14. Bharti Airtel and Tata Group team up for 'Made in India' 5G network solutions

Airtel & Tata Group announced a strategic partnership for implementing 'Made in India' 5G network solutions.

The 5G technology is based on O-RAN (Open Radio Access Network) based NSA/SA (Non-standalone/Standalone) Core technology.

Airtel will pilot and deploy the technology as a part of its 5G roll-out plans in India.

The pilot services will begin in January 2022. Tata Group has developed the O-RAN technology indigenously.

### 15. Jio and Google Cloud to Collaborate on 5G Technology to Enable a Billion Indians Access Superior Connectivity



Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited, a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited, and Google Cloud are embarking on a comprehensive, long-term strategic relationship with a goal of powering 5G in enterprise and consumer segments nationwide.

In addition, Reliance will also take advantage of Google Cloud's scalable infrastructure thereby enabling its retail business.

### 16. Covid test for Rs 50 launched by IIT Delhi

Minister of State for Education Sanjay Dhotre launched an 'affordable' and 'accurate' Rapid Antigen Test kit for Covid developed by IIT Delhi.

The kit costs just Rs 50, and is 100% indigenously developed and manufactured. The Antigen testing kit has been developed by IIT-D's Centre for Biomedical Engineering (CBME) led by Professor Harpal Singh.

### 17. IIT-Hyderabad researchers develop oral solution for Black Fungus

Oral tablets of Amphotericin B (AmB), developed by IIT-Hyderabad researchers in 2019 as a potential cure for Leishmaniasis or Kala Azar, could be now an affordable and effective solution for

Black Fungus or mucormycosis which was declared as an epidemic recently. The premier institute has offered to transfer technology to interested drug manufacturers for mass production. The 60 mg AmB tablet will be affordable at '200.

### 18. Assam gets the world's first Genetically Modified(GM) rubber sapling

The world's first GM rubber plant was planted on the outskirts of Guwahati, Assam.

It is developed specifically for the northeast and is expected to flourish in the region's climatic conditions.

The plant has additional copies of gene MnSOD (manganese-containing superoxide dismutase) in it and is expected to revolutionize natural rubber production in India.

It was developed by Kerala-based Rubber Research Institute of India under Rubber Board.

### 19. IIT Madras Develops Drone Algorithms To Help Study How Fire Behaves In Space Stations, Satellites

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras have developed algorithms for drones to help study how fire behaves in space stations, shuttles and satellites.

According to the team, a multicopter microgravity platform can also simulate reduced-gravity environments similar to Moon and Mars, thereby recreating those conditions on Earth for experiments.

### 20. ARCI develops cost-effective catalysts for metal-air battery



ARCI has developed cost-effective catalysts for metal-air battery which can decrease cost and increase the efficiency of metal-air batteries.

A new non-precious metal-based bi-functional electrocatalyst (capable of catalysing two different types of reactions) can decrease cost and increase the efficiency of metal-air batteries. ARCI:- International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials

### 21. SERB-DST partners with Intel India to launch first-of-its-kind initiative to advance deep tech-based research in India



The Department of Science and Technology (DST) said the initiative, called "Fund for Industrial Research Engagement" (FIRE), will help increase research opportunities in the space of Artificial Intelligence (AI)/Machine Learning (ML), platform systems, circuits and architecture, Internet of Things (IoT), materials and devices, security, and so on from edge to cloud.

Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), established in 2009.

### 22. Glacial Lake Atlas of Ganga River Basin Released, available on the Bhuvan portal of NRSC, ISRO (<https://bhuvan.nrsc.gov.in/nhp/>)

Glacial Lake Atlas will utilize In Carrying Out Climate Change Impact Analysis And Disaster Mitigation Planning. The current glacial Lake Atlas is based on the Ganga River Basin inventory lakes to the foothills of the Himalayas covering an area of 2.47.109 sq. km.

The Ganga River Basin research section encompasses part of India and the cross-border area. NHP-Bhuvan webpage was also launched by the Chairman, ISRO, Dr. K Sivan.



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## Defence

### 1. DRDO develops near isothermal forging technology for manufacturing aeroengines' parts

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed the near isothermal forging technology used in manufacturing parts for aero-engines. This technology is used to produce all the five stages of high press compressor (HPC) discs out of titanium alloy using an isothermal forge press weighing 2,000 tonnes.

With this development, India has joined the league of limited global engine developers.

### 2. Vice Admiral Sandeep Naithani assumes charge as Chief of Materiel of Navy



Vice Admiral Sandeep Naithani, AVSM, VSM, has assumed charge as the Chief of Materiel, of the Indian Navy. Vice Admiral Sandeep Naithani replaced Vice Admiral SR Sarma.

Vice Admiral Sreekumar Nair, AVSM, NM, took over as the Director-General Naval Projects (DGNP), Visakhapatnam.

### 3. Vice-Admiral Ravneet Singh assumes charge as Deputy Chief of Naval Staff

Vice-Admiral Ravneet Singh, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM), and Nausena Medal (NM) holder assumed charge as the Deputy Chief of Naval Staff. He relieves Vice Admiral MS Pawar, a Param Vishisht Seva Medal (PVSM), AVSM, Vishisht

Seva Medal (VSM) holder, who superannuated on May 31.

### 4. NSA Ajit Doval Commissions Indian Coast Guard's Offshore Vessel 'Sajag'

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) 'Sajag' was commissioned by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval. The state-of-the-art has been designed and built indigenously by Goa Shipyard Limited. The vessel is fitted with a 40/60 Bofors gun and two 12.7 mm SRCG guns with FCS. The blueprint for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) was conceived by KF Rustamji committee.

### 5. Lieutenant General Pradeep Chandran Nair Takes Charge As Director-General Of Assam Rifles



Lieutenant General Pradeep Chandran Nair, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM), Yudh Seva Medal (YSM) took over as the 21st Director General of the Assam Rifles (popularly known as Sentinels of the North-East). The Director-General of the Assam Rifles (DGAR) is known as the head of the Assam Rifles. The DGAR reports directly to the Minister of Home Affairs.

### 6. Defence Ministry signs contract with Mahindra Telephonics for 11 airport surveillance radars at a cost of Rs323.5cr

Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) recently announced that the Defence Ministry has signed a contract with Mahindra Telephonics Integrated Systems for procurement of 11 Airport Surveillance

Radars with Monopulse Secondary Surveillance Radar for Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard.

The procurement costs Rs323.47cr and will be made under the 'Buy & Make' category.

### **7. Exercise Steadfast Defender 2021 will test NATO's readiness and military mobility**



The exercise will enhance Alliance security by maintaining NATO's broad range of interoperability and military capabilities to deter potential adversaries and assure Allies of NATO's ability to defend them.

Steadfast Defender 2021 will be the first large-scale test of NATO's adapted Command Structure, with the involvement of two new NATO commands. New commands-Joint Support & Enabling Command, Germany and Joint Force Command Norfolk, US

### **8. Nuclear weapons spending swelled \$1.4 billion amid pandemic: International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) Report**

According to ICAN, even as the pandemic raged and economies around the world were devastated, nuclear-armed countries last year increased spending on atomic weapon arsenals by 1.4 billion dollars.

The United States spent more than half of the total amount, at \$37.4 billion.

China was believed to have spent some \$10 billion, and Russia \$8.0 billion. Britain, France, India, Israel, Pakistan and North Korea, spent more than \$137,000

### **9. Indian Navy Set to Receive Three MH-60 'Romeo' Multi-role Helicopters from US in July**

The Indian Navy will receive three of the 24 MH-60 'Romeo' multi-role helicopters from the US in July, according to reports. India had signed a Rs 15,157 crore (\$2.13 billion) contract with the US for the Lockheed Martin choppers in February 2020 in a significant ramp-up of military capabilities for the Navy in detecting and destroying enemy submarines in the Indian Ocean.

### **10. 31th edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol underway**

The 31st edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT) between the Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy is being conducted in Andaman Sea. India Naval Ship (INS) Saryu, an indigenously built Naval Offshore Patrol Vessel & His Majesty's Thailand Ship (HTMS) Krabi, along with Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both the navies are participating in the CORPAT

### **11. Russia is building its first full stealth naval ship**

Russia is building its first naval ship that will be fully equipped with stealth technology to make it hard to detect.

The hull of the Mercury naval corvette dubbed project 20386 has already been built and the vessel is expected to be delivered to the navy next year.

The warship will be armed with cruise missiles, anti-aircraft missiles and artillery. Naval ship is capable of searching for and destroying submarines.

### **12. Indian Navy's oldest hydrographic survey ship INS Sandhayak decommissioned after 40 years of service**

Indian Navy's oldest hydrographic survey ship INS Sandhayak was decommissioned at Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam after serving the nation for 40 glorious years.



The ship has been an active participant in many significant operations such as Operation Pawan (assisting the Indian Peace Keeping Force in Sri Lanka in 1987) & Operation Rainbow (post-tsunami of 2004 assistance)

### 13. Indian Coast Guard inducts 3 indigenously-built advanced light helicopters ALH MK III



As part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Atmanirbhar Bharat vision, three indigenously-built Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) MK III were inducted into Indian Coast Guard (ICG). The helicopters, which are part of ALH Mk III programme, will be positioned at four Coast Guard squadrons at Bhubaneswar, Porbandar, Kochi and Chennai. The helicopters, indigenously designed and manufactured by HAL, Bengaluru.

### 14. Army conducts successful trial of military train on Railways' dedicated freight corridor



The Army conducted a successful trial by moving a military train loaded with vehicles and equipment from New Rewari

to New Phulera validating the efficacy of the Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC).

These trials were part of the 'Whole of the Nation Approach' for optimising national resources and achieve seamless synergy among various ministries and departments. New Rewari in Haryana to New Phulera in Rajasthan.

### 15. IN Ships Sahyadri, Kiltan, Khukri adjudged as Best Ships of Eastern Naval Command

Fleet Awards Function 2021 was held to celebrate the operational achievements of the Eastern Fleet.

INS Sahyadri was adjudged as the Best Ship of the Eastern Fleet amongst Capital ships, INS Kamorta as the Most Spirited Ship for displaying an indomitable spirit & Best Corvette trophy as jointly won by IN Ships Kiltan and Khukri amongst Corvettes and similar classes of ships

### 16. Indian Navy and European Naval Force hold first joint exercise

In a first, the Indian Navy is participating in a joint exercise with the European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR). Stealth frigate INS Trikand, will participate in the two-day exercise in Gulf of Aden as it is already deployed in the region on anti-piracy operations.

The other countries participating in the exercise are: Italy, Spain and France.

### 17. DRDO successfully test fires enhanced Pinaka Rocket at Integrated Test Range in Chandipur, Odisha



122 mm Caliber rockets were launched from a Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher

(MBRL) and now the enhanced range version of the indigenously developed Pinaka Rocket System can destroy targets at distances up to 45 kilometres.

The rocket system has been developed jointly by Pune based Armament Research and Development Establishment and High Energy Materials Research Laboratory.

### **18. Nuclear capable subsonic cruise missile 'Nirbhay' successfully test-fired from ITR, Chandipur**

The nuclear-capable, missile reaches speeds of 0.6-0.7 Mach & can strike land targets at a distance of up to 1,000 km.

The missile can loiter and cruise at 0.7 Mach, at altitudes as low as 100 m.

The guidance, control and navigation system of the missile is configured around the indigenously designed Ring Laser Gyroscope & MEMS-based Inertial Navigation System along with GPS. This was 5th trial of the missile since 2013, and 3 of the previous 4 trials failed.

### **19. Rajnath Singh Reviews Project Seabird Work and construction progress of India's first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier(IAC) in Kochi.**

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited Karwar Naval Base and reviewed the progress of ongoing infrastructure development under Project Seabird.

He also reviewed construction progress of IAC that has been built by Cochin Shipyard Ltd.

The IAC would be commissioned as INS Vikrant in the first half of 2022.

### **20. Rajnath Singh approves Rs498.8cr budgetary support for Defence innovation through iDEX-DIO**

The budgetary support of Rs498.8cr to Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) - Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO) for the next five years is aimed at providing financial support to nearly 300 start-ups/MSMEs/individual innovators and 20 partner incubators under the DIO framework.



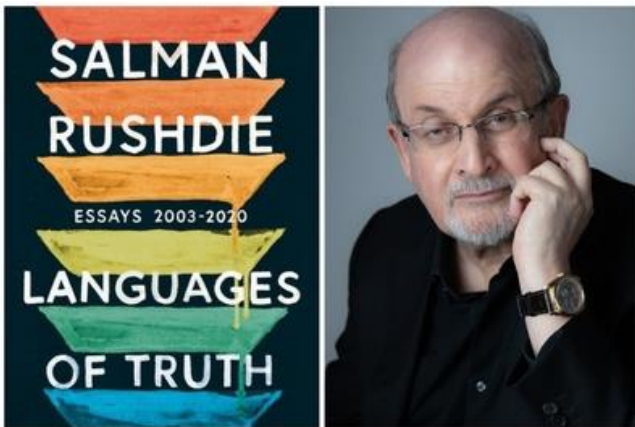
### **Kumar Saurab**

**Cleared SBI JA (Rank 1), SBI PO, RRB PO**

My basic strategy was to first have conceptual clarity and then move on to taking mock tests. Practice was the main mantra for my success! Oliveboard mock tests helped me in clearing the exams. The level of the mock tests was good which significantly helped in the actual papers. ”

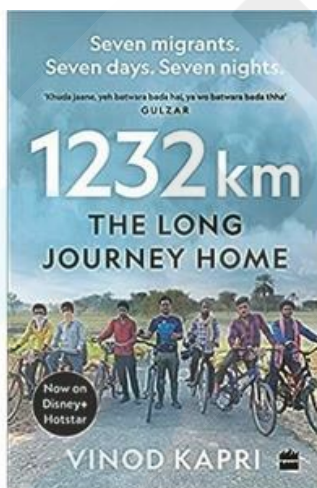
## Books & Authors

### 1. Languages of Truth: Essays 2003-2020 by Salman Rushdie



Gathering pieces written between 2003 and 2020, Languages of Truth chronicles Rushdie's intellectual engagement with a period of momentous cultural shifts. Immersing the reader in a wide variety of subjects, he delves into the nature of storytelling as a human need, and what emerges is, in myriad ways, a love letter to literature itself.

### 2. '1232 km: The Long Journey Home' chronicles a 1,232-km journey home by migrants during 2020 lockdown



A new book '1232 km: The Long Journey Home' by filmmaker Vinod Kapri chronicles the journey of seven migrant workers from Bihar, who journeyed back home on their bicycles and reached their destination after seven days.

The book is published by Harper Collins.

### 3. Cricketer Suresh Raina releases his autobiography 'Believe'



Former India batsman Suresh Raina released his autobiography 'Believe - What Life and Cricket Taught Me'. Co-authored by Bharat Sundaresan, Suresh Raina narrated the journey he has had for India and the golden word (Believe) from Sachin Tendulkar that he etched on his arm as a tattoo.

### 4. Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik releases Bishnupada Sethi's 'Beyond Here and Other Poems'

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik released a book of poems 'Beyond Here and Other Poems' written by senior bureaucrat Bishnupada Sethi.

It is a collection of 61 poems which are a reflection of a spectrum of experiences of life, perception of death and a philosophical contemplation.

### 5. Amitav Ghosh's authored a book titled, 'The Nutmeg's Curse: Parables for a Planet in Crisis'

Jnanpith Awardee and renowned author Amitav Ghosh's authored a book titled, 'The Nutmeg's Curse: Parables for a Planet in Crisis'. It is published by John Murray.

The book talks about the history of the influence of colonialism on the world today, through the story of the nutmeg. His notable works include Ibis Trilogy and 'The Great Derangement', etc.,

### 6. Dr Harsh Vardhan unveils 'My Joys and Sorrows' as a Mother of a Special Child' book written by Krishna Saksena

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan has unveiled Krishna Saksena's book 'My Joys and Sorrows ' as a Mother of a Special Child'.

It is the epitome of the bravery and endurance of a mother, in the best tradition of Indian motherhood.

Saksena was the first woman to get a PhD degree from Lucknow University in 1955.

### 7. Dr. Vipin Gupta's New Books on Consciousness and Para Consciousness under Project VIPIN launched



Indian American author Dr. Vipin Gupta has written 2 books under Project VIPIN (Vastly Integrated Processes Inside Nature). His 5th and 6th books are titled, 'What is Consciousness and 'What is Para Consciousness, respectively.

His other books include: 'What is Present Reality', 'What is Divine Energy', 'Is Present Reality' and 'Is Divine Energy'.

### 8. Ruskin Bond's book titled 'It's a wonderful Life' launched

Indian British author Ruskin Bond authored a new book titled 'It's a Wonderful Life' is published by Aleph Book Company.

The book is written in a perceptive, uplifting, deeply moving, and in non-fictional way.

Bond's First Novel - 'The Room on the Roof'. Bond is a recipient of Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan.



First, I cleared all my basic concepts through the video courses provided by Oliveboard. After going through them, I started attempting 1 mock test per day from Oliveboard mock test series which helped me in becoming comfortable with the sectional timers as per the real exam. With time, I started getting 95+ percentile in pre mock tests.



## Miscellaneous

### 1. ICCR appointed as Personnel Certification Body of Yoga Certification Board

Indian Council for Cultural Relations has been appointed as the Personnel Certification Body of Yoga Certification Board.

Indian Embassies abroad will now be nodal points for certification of Yoga professionals.

ICCR would now certify and accredit Yoga Professionals, Yoga Institutes, and Centers in foreign countries. Director-General of ICCR: Dinesh K. Patnaik



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## Obituary

### 1. T.M. Kaliannan, last surviving member of Constituent Assembly, no more



T.M. Kaliannan Gounder, the last surviving former member of the Indian Constituent Assembly, died at the age of 101. Mr. Gounder served as a Member of the Legislative Council in Tamil Nadu and also as an MLA thrice, between 1952 and 1967. He was reportedly the youngest member in the Constituent Assembly then and also a member of India's first provisional parliament.

### 2. Mauritius former prime minister Sir Anerood Jugnauth dies aged 91



The former Prime Minister and President of the Republic of Mauritius, Sir Anerood Jugnauth has died at the age of 91. He is the country's longest-serving prime minister with more than 18 years of tenure. He was considered the father of the Mauritian economic miracle of the 1980s.

His son, Pravind Jugnauth, who is the current Prime Minister of Mauritius.

Mauritius Capital: Port Louis; Currency: Mauritian rupee

### 3. Former Himachal Horticulture Minister Narinder Bragta passes away

Former Horticulture Minister, Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha Chief Whip and member of Assembly from Jubbal and Kotkhai Mr. Narinder Bragta passed away. Currently, he was serving as Chief Whip of the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly.

### 4. International boxer Dingku Singh Ngangom passes away

International boxer and Arjuna awardee Dingku Singh Ngangom, hailing from Manipur, died after a protracted fight against cancer.

The Asian Games gold medallist was awarded the Padma Shri in 2013 by the Union government.

### 5. C M Udasi, senior leader of BJP in Karnataka passed away in Bengaluru

C M Udasi, the senior leader of Bharatiya Janata Party in Karnataka passed away recently. Udasi was a sitting Member of Legislative Assembly from Hangal in Haveri District. He had served as public works minister in the B S Yediyurappa-led government in 2008.

### 6. National award-winning film director Buddhadeb Dasgupta dies at 77

The national award-winning director was having kidney ailments for a long time and undergoing dialysis twice a week regularly.

His diverse works struck a chord with all sections of society. He was also an eminent thinker and poet.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee condoled his death.

### 7. Renowned Neurologist and Padma Shri Awardee Dr Ashok Panagariya Passes Away of Post-Covid-19 Complications

Eminent neurologist and Padma Shri awardee Dr Ashok Panagariya passed away due to post-Covid complications.

Dr Panagariya was 71.

He held many top positions, including Vice-Chancellor of Jaipur's Rajasthan University of Health Sciences, and a member of the Government of Rajasthan's Planning Board.

### **8. Padma Shri awardee, organic farming pioneer, Radha Mohan passes away**

Radha Mohan, a former Odisha information commissioner and retired professor of economics who had turned a barren patch of land into the lush forest and popularised organic farming, passed away in Bhubaneswar.

He was 78.

### **9. WW-2 veteran and MVC recipient in 1965 war Brig Raghbir Singh passes away at 99**

Brigadier Raghbir Singh who was decorated with the Maha Vir Chakra (MVC) for gallantry in the 1965 Indo-Pak war, passed away at the age of 99. The Rajputana Rifles battalion that he had commanded played a key role in the battle of Asal Uttar in the western sector during the war.

### **10. Pritzker Prize Laureate Gottfried Bohm Passes Away**



Gottfried Bohm, the first German architect to be awarded the Pritzker Prize, has passed away at 101. Most of his most notable projects were built in Germany-such as Neviges Pilgrimage

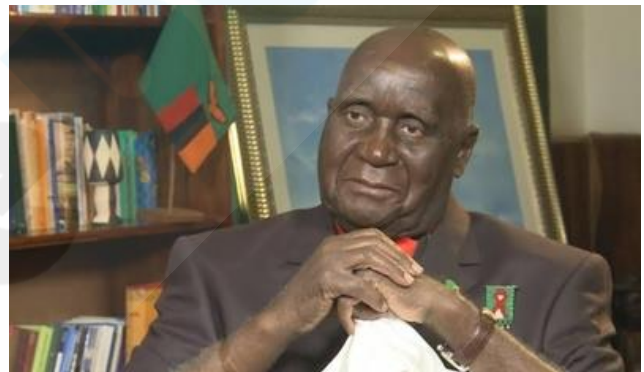
Church (1968), Bensberger City Hall (1969), and the Museum of the Diocese (1975).

### **11. Mufti Faiz-ul-Waheed, who first translated Quran into Gojri language, passes away**

Renowned Jammu-based Islamic scholar Mufti Faiz-ul-Waheed, who first translated Quran into Gojri language, has passed away in a Jammu.

The scholar had also authored several booklets including 'Siraj-um-Muneera', 'Ahkam-e-Mayyat' and 'Namaz Kae Masayil Quran-o-Hadees Ki Roshni Mei'. Gojri language is spoken in Jammu and Kashmir.

### **12. Zambia's first president, Kenneth Kaunda passed away**



Kenneth Kaunda, Zambia's first president and one of the last of the generation of African leaders who fought colonialism passed away.

In the 1950s, Kaunda was a key figure in what was then Northern Rhodesia's independence movement from Britain.

He became president following independence in 1964.

Kenneth Kaunda ruled Zambia for 27 years  
Zambia: Capital: Lusaka  
Currency: Zambian kwacha  
President: Edgar Lungu

### **13. Indian sprint legend Milkha Singh passes away**

Indian sprint legend Milkha Singh passed away. Popularly known as "the Flying Sikh", Singh won four Asian gold medals and finished fourth in the 400m final at the 1960 Rome Olympics.

He won five golds in international athletic championships and was awarded

the Helms World Trophy in 1959 for winning 77 of his 80 international races. He also won India's first Commonwealth gold in 1958.

#### **14. John McAfee, founder of the antivirus software passed away**

John David McAfee, the founder of the antivirus software maker bearing his name, died in a prison in Spain after a Spanish court said that he could be extradited to the United States on tax-evasion charges.

McAfee Corp. is an American global computer security software company. McAfee CEO: Peter A. Leav.

#### **15. Indian Olympian Surat Singh Mathur passes away**

Surat Singh Mathur was the first athlete from independent India to complete a marathon at the Olympic Games

Running with the legendary Czech long distance runner Emil Zatopek at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics, Mathur completed the marathon race in the 52nd place at a timing of 2:58.92s.

He was a bronze medalist at first ever Asian Games in 1951 and a two-time national champion

#### **16. National Award-winning cinematographer and director Sivan passes away at 89**

Mollywood's veteran cinematographer and director Sivan passed away recently.

The ace cinematographer rose to fame in the Malayalam film industry with the photographs, he took for a film titled Chemeen.

Sivan has won a National Award three times in his career.

Cinematographer Santosh Sivan, Sangeeth Sivan and Sanjeev Sivan are his sons. His popular films include Abhayam, Yagam, Keshu, Kochu Kochu Mohangal, Oru Yathra, etc.



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## Person in news

### 1. Facebook names Spoorthi Priya as grievance officer for India

Social media platform Facebook named Spoorthi Priya as its grievance officer for India. This move comes close on the heels of the new Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, coming into force last month.

WhatsApp, Facebook, and Google had shared information on their compliance officer

### 2. Debbie Hewitt appointed Football Association's first chairwoman



England's Football Association named corporate executive and former RAC chief Debbie Hewitt as its first woman chair, ending months of speculation over Greg Clarke's successor following his exit over inappropriate remarks.

The FA, which was formed in 1863 and has been working to become more inclusive, launched its 'Pursuit of Progress' initiative in 2018. FA is the governing body of football located in England.

### 3. Ferrari appoints Benedetto Vigna as new company CEO



Ferrari has named Benedetto Vigna as its new company CEO, taking over from interim chief John Elkann.

Vigna currently serves as the president of STMicroelectronics' Analog, MEMS and Sensor Group, and is a member of the company's executive committee. Ferrari S.p.A. is an Italian luxury sports car manufacturer based in Maranello, Italy.

### 4. Swedish Minister Appointed Sunita Narain To An International Advisory Group For Action On Environment, Climate And Biodiversity

Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation Per Olsson Fridh appointed Sunita Narain ' Environmentalist, Writer and Director General of The Centre for Science & Environment & Editor of Down to Earth Magazine ' to an international advisory group for action on environment, climate and biodiversity launched in connection with World Environment Day. Sweden Capital: Stockholm; Currency: Swedish krona

### 5. Biotechnology company MyLab appoints Akshay Kumar as brand ambassador

Bollywood superstar Akshay Kumar has been appointed as the new brand ambassador of biotechnology company Mylab Discovery Solutions. This announcement comes days after the Pune-based firm launched the country's first COVID-19 self-test kit -- CoviSelf. The partnership with Akshay is aimed at creating awareness for Mylab's products and kits such as CoviSelf.

### 6. IIT Kanpur professor Mukesh Sharma appointed honorary member of WHO's Technical Advisory Group

Mukesh Sharma, a faculty at IIT Kanpur, has been appointed as an honorary member of World Health Organisation's (WHO) Global Air Pollution and Health - Technical Advisory Group (GAPH-TAG).

Members of the Technical Advisory Group are selected across the globe and appointed by the Director-General, WHO. Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General.

### 7. PUMA signs Yuvraj Singh as brand ambassador of PUMA Motorsport in India

Global sports brand PUMA has extended its decade-long partnership with former Indian Cricketer Yuvraj Singh by signing him as the face of PUMA Motorsport in India.

With this, he also joins the brand's global league of legends like Thierry Henry, Boris Becker and Usain Bolt.

### 8. Srabani Nanda, with a personal best 11.36 s is fastest Indian woman this year



Srabani Nanda, currently the most active Indian athlete in the world, has emerged as the fastest Indian woman this year. The 30-year-old from Odisha clocked a personal best 11.36s at the NACAC New Life Invitational Meet in Florida, the US. With her 11.36s, Nanda replaces S. Dhanalakshmi, who clocked 11.38s in the Federation Cup in Patiala in March 2021. The qualification standard for Tokyo in the 100m is 11.15s.

### 9. Tillotama Shome lifts Best Actor trophy at UK Asian Film Festival for Raahgir: The Wayfarers

Actor Tillotama Shome has won the Best Actor award at the latest edition of the UK Asian Film Festival.

Raahgir: The Wayfarers was earlier screened at several film festivals -- including Busan International Film Festival, MAMI - Mumbai Film Festival,

Shanghai International Film Festival and Cinemasia Film Festival.

### 10. Jasprit Bumrah roped in as brand ambassador OnePlus wearables

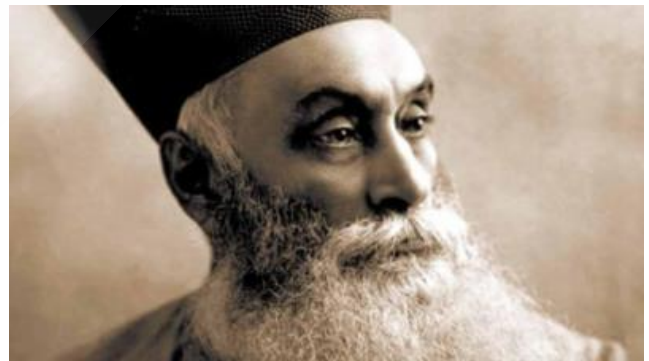


OnePlus, the global technology brand welcomed cricketer Jasprit Bumrah as Brand Ambassador for its Wearables category.

The OnePlus Wearable category includes the OnePlus Watch, the first global smart wearable from OnePlus.

One Plus: HQ: Shenzhen, China CEO: Pete Lau

### 11. Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata ranked the world's top philanthropist in past 100 years, Azim Premji ranked 12



Indian industry's doyen Jamsetji Tata has emerged as the biggest philanthropist globally in the last 100 years by donating \$102 billion, as per a list of top-50 givers prepared by Hurun Report and EdelGive Foundation.

The other Indian on the list is Azim Premji of Wipro, who has virtually given his entire fortune of \$22 billion.

### 12. Mawya Sudan becomes IAF's 1st woman fighter pilot from J&K



24-year-old Mawya Sudan has become the first woman from Jammu and Kashmir to become a fighter pilot. She is the country's 12th woman fighter pilot.

Mawya's family originally belongs to Lamberi village on the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district.

### 13. Swimmer Srihari Natraj qualifies for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics

Srihari Natraj qualified for the Olympics in the 100m backstroke after clocking an impressive 53.77 seconds in a time trial event.

This is the first time in the history of the Olympics that two Indian swimmers have earned direct qualification to the Games.

Sajan Prakash became the first Indian swimmer to earn a direct qualification to this Olympics.

### 14. Formula One: Red Bull's Max Verstappen Wins Styrian Grand Prix



Red Bull's Max Verstappen beat Lewis Hamilton to take a dominant victory in the Styrian Grand Prix and extend his championship lead to 18 points.

It was his second and Red Bull's fourth consecutive win, as he moves into a position of control in the title race.

### 15. Archery World Cup Stage 3: Deepika Kumari completes hat-trick of gold medals in Paris

Deepika Kumari beat Elena Osipova of Russia 6-0 in the final to clinch her third gold medal at the tournament.

Deepika has also won the top prize in the mixed team and women's individual recurve events.

Deepika's 2nd gold medal came with husband Atanu Das in the mixed team recurve event. Before that Deepika, Ankita Bhakat & Komalika Bari won gold in the women's recurve event

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## Insurance

### 1. ICICI Lombard companions with Microsoft to automate audits of service calls

The country's largest private sector general insurer ICICI Lombard has tied up with Microsoft to strengthen and automate the quality control processes. The insurer will make use of Microsoft's Azure Speech Services and Natural Language Processing (NLP) to screen its daily service calls made by customer service reps. ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company, CEO: Bhargav Dasgupta.

### 2. LIC CSL launches prepaid gift card in collaboration with IDBI Bank on RuPay platform



LIC Cards Services (LIC CSL) has launched a contactless prepaid gift card, 'Shagun', in collaboration with IDBI Bank on RuPay platform. Its aim is to expand the gift card market with an intent to promote cashless ways of gifting, thereby presenting a wide range of end-use choices.

NPCI partnered with LIC CSL & IDBI Bank for the launch of Shagun Gift Card on RuPay network.

Rakesh Sharma, MD & CEO, IDBI Bank; Dilip Asbe, MD & CEO, NPCI.



### Kumar Saurab

Cleared SBI JA (Rank 1), SBI PO, RRB PO

My basic strategy was to first have conceptual clarity and then move on to taking mock tests. Practice was the main mantra for my success! Oliveboard mock tests helped me in clearing the exams. The level of the mock tests was good which significantly helped in the actual papers. ”

## India & World

### 1. Kappa' and 'Delta': WHO gives names to Covid-19 variants found in India.

The B.1.617.1 variant has been designated as 'Kappa' while the B1.617.2 variant has been dubbed 'Delta.'

Covid variant first found recently will be referred to as Delta.while earlier (last October) found variant in the country will be known as Kappa.

WHO labelled using Greek alphabets, for various variants of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19).

### 2. Thales appoints Ashish Saraf as Vice-President and Country Director for India

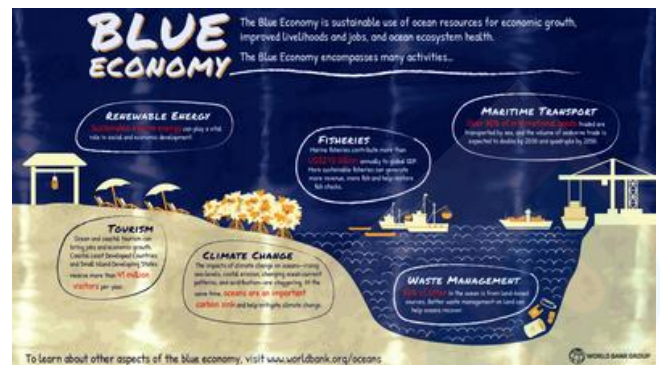


French defence and aerospace group Thales announced the appointment of Ashish Saraf as Vice-President and Country Director for India with effect from June 1, 2021.

In this role, Saraf will lead the company's India business and will be responsible for the strategic growth of Thales in the country across all of its markets.

Thales group builds electrical systems & provides services for the aerospace, defence, etc

### 3. India-Norway Blue Economy model focuses on post-Covid economy recovery



The fourth India-Norway task force was chaired by Norwegian Ambassador to India, Hans Jacob Frydenlund and Ratan Watal, Member Secretary, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC to PM). The COVID-19 crisis has caused disruptions to ocean industries and coastal tourism globally.

### 4. India joins UN Economic and Social Council for 2022-24 term

India was elected to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), one of the 6 main organs of the United Nations, for the 2022-24 term.

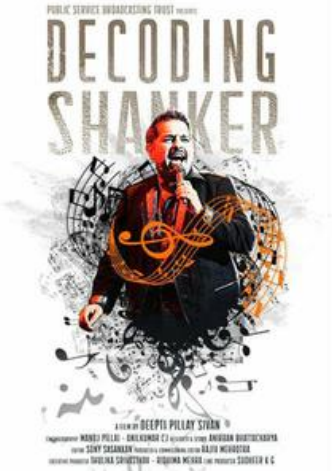
In the Economic and Social Council by-election, Greece, New Zealand and Denmark were elected for a term of office from January to December 2022 and Israel was elected for a term of office beginning January 1, 2022 and until December 31, 2023.

### 5. India and Fiji sign MoU for cooperation in agriculture and allied sectors field

India and Fiji signed an MoU that provides for cooperation in the fields of Dairy Industry, Rice Industry, Root crop diversification, Water Resources Management, Coconut Industry, Food Processing Industry, Agriculture Mechanization, and Horticulture Industry.

A Joint Working Group to be established to set down procedures and plan and recommend programs of cooperation. The MoU will remain valid for a period of five years from the date of its signing.

## 6. 'Decoding Shankar', wins at Toronto International Women's Film Festival



Deepti Sivan's fascination for Shankar Mahadevan's journey from a software engineer to one of Bollywood's biggest musicians led to the inception of Decoding Shankar. The 45-minute documentary bagged the Best Biographical Film award at the Toronto International Women's Film Festival.

## 7. Moderna vaccine is first mRNA jab to get emergency-use nod in India



India approved a fourth Covid-19 vaccine, and its first mRNA vaccine, Moderna's mRNA-1273, thereby clearing the path for importing foreign regulator-approved Covid vaccines to India without bridging clinical studies. Moderna vaccine which has 94.1 percent efficacy will be available here through its Indian partner Cipla. Storage for the medium term for Moderna vaccine is in the range of -25 to -15 C.

## 8. Twitter appoints American Jeremy Kessel as new grievance officer for India

Twitter has appointed its global legal policy director Jeremy Kessel as the new grievance officer for users in India. Under the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021, social media intermediaries have to appoint an official to address complaints from Indian subscribers.



First, I cleared all my basic concepts through the video courses provided by Oliveboard. After going through them, I started attempting 1 mock test per day from Oliveboard mock test series which helped me in becoming comfortable with the sectional timers as per the real exam. With time, I started getting 95+ percentile in pre mock tests.



## Environment

### 1. Transport Min proposes exemption of battery-operated vehicles from RC issue

"The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has issued a draft notification to amend the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, proposing to exempt BOV from payment of fees for the purpose of issue or renewal of RC and assignment of new registration mark. This has been notified to encourage e-mobility,

### 2. HeidelbergCement plans world's first CO2 neutral cement plant in Sweden

HeidelbergCement, the world's second-largest cement maker, plans to turn its Swedish factory in Slite into the world's first CO2-neutral cement plant by 2030 via carbon capture technology.

Following the planned retrofit, which will cost at least 100 million euros (\$122 million), the plant will be able to capture up to 1.8 million tonnes of carbon dioxide per year.

### 3. France pledges 1 million euros for solar alliance



France will make a direct contribution of 1 million euros to the International Solar Alliance.

The amount is expected to benefit the ISA's flagship programme, STAR-C (Solar Technology Application Resource Centre) 'which provides capacity building and training activities on all aspects of solar energy development. France President: Emmanuel Macron; Capital: Paris; Currency: Euro

### 4. NITI Aayog picks Moga for the pilot project of 1 billion saplings

NitiAayog has selected Moga in Punjab along with Ranchi in Jharkhand as two districts of the country where the pilot project of planting close to one billion saplings would be started.

Going by the outcome in these two districts, saplings will be planted in 110 other aspirational districts of the country. Niti Aayog' aspirational district programme mission director: Rakesh Ranjan

### 5. India set to organise two day summit on Green Hydrogen Initiatives involving BRICS nations

India is scheduled to host a two-day virtual summit on green hydrogen, with countries like Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa set to take part in it. The countries will discuss their initiatives around the emission-free fuel.

Hydrogen, when produced by electrolysis using renewable energy is known as Green Hydrogen which has no carbon footprint. The event will be anchored by India's state-run power major NTPC.

### 6. In 46 years, Odisha emerges as only state as home to all three species of crocodiles

Odisha has emerged the only state to have all the three species of the reptile freshwater Gharials at Satakosiya in Mahanadi, muggers in Bhitarkanika National park and saltwater crocodiles.

For the first time, since the Gharials were introduced in the rivers of Odisha, back in 1975, the state has seen their natural nesting. As many as 28 hatchlings were spotted recently.

## Apps & Portals

### 1. Defence Secretary launches DG NCC Mobile Training App 2.0



Defence Secretary Dr. Ajay Kumar launched Directorate General National Cadet Corps (NCC) Mobile Training App Version 2.0 in New Delhi.

The app will assist in conducting countrywide online training to NCC cadets during the COVID-19 pandemic conditions.

It is aimed at providing NCC-related basic information and entire training material (Syllabus, Prcis, Training Videos, etc)

### 2. NCPCR devises online portal 'Baal Swaraj' for children affected by Covid-19



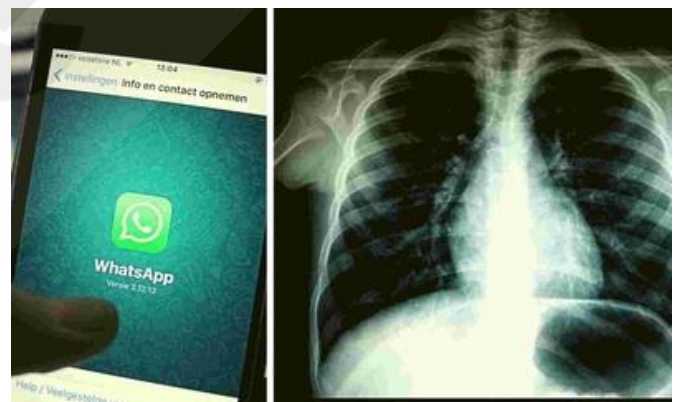
In view of the growing problem related to children affected by COVID-19, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has devised an online tracking portal 'Baal Swaraj (COVID-Care link)' for children in need of care and protection.

The portal has been created with the purpose of tracking and monitoring children who need care and protection in real-time. Union Minister of Women and Child Development: Smriti Zubin Irani

### 3. Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Thawarchand Gehlot launches SAGE initiative & SAGE portal for elderly people

Union Minister Thawarchand Gehlot launched the SAGE initiative and SAGE portal. SAGE or Senior care Ageing Growth Engine portal is envisioned as a 'one-stop access' of elderly care products and services by credible start-ups. A fund of up to Rs 1 crore as one-time equity will be granted to each selected start-up.

### 4. Government launches X-Ray Setu on WhatsApp to detect COVID-19 cases in areas with no RT-PCR tests



Government has launched an artificial intelligence based X-Ray Setu which can be operated through WhatsApp. For this project, the government plans to onboard 10,000 doctors in small towns where RT-PCR and CT Scans are not available for COVID detection.

This is going to be an important tool for rural doctors who are struggling to source equipment for covid detection. The government has partnered with non-profit organisation Artpark & Niramai for the same.



### 5. Law Minister Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad launches 'itat e-dwar', an e-filing portal of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal

Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Union Minister for Law & Justice, Communications and Electronics & IT, formally launched the e-filing portal of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT), 'itat e-dwar', in New Delhi.

The newly developed e-Filing Portal would enable the parties to file their Appeals, Miscellaneous Applications, documents, paper books, etc., electronically.

### 6. Atmanirbhar Krishi app launched by the Chief Scientific Advisory Office of the Government of India



Atmanirbhar Krishi App was launched by the Office of Principal Scientific Adviser to the GoI, Prof. K. Vijay Raghavan.

Data related to soil type, soil health, moisture, weather and water table were aggregated and analyzed to generate personalized insights related to crop selection, fertilizers requirements and water needs for each farmer at the farm-holding level.

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## Acquisitions & Mergers

### 1. Magma Fincorp appoints Adar Poonawalla as chairman, to be rebranded as Poonawalla Group company

Magma Fincorp has appointed Adar Poonawalla as its chairman as part of a management overhaul following the Poonawalla-controlled Rising Sun Holdings acquiring a controlling stake in it.

Rising Sun invested Rs 3,456 crore in the non-bank lender earlier this month. Magma will soon be rebranded as Poonawalla Group company.

The lender has also appointed Abhay Bhutada as MD & Vijay Deshwal as CEO

### 2. Bharti AXA Life in bancassurance pact with Shivalik Small Finance Bank



Bharti AXA General launches Health AdvantEDGE This alliance will enable over 4.5 lakh customers of Shivalik Bank to access the range of products offered by the company to provide financial security.

This alliance is a part of the bank's various measures towards financial inclusion and acceleration of wealth creation for its customers.

### 3. CCI approves acquisition of Avana, TFPL and Unifeeder

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of Avana Logistek Limited, Transworld Feeders Private Limited and Transworld Feeders FZCO by Unifeeder ISC FZCO.

In India, Unifeeder is present through its subsidiaries, Feedertech Pte. Limited (Feedertech) and Perma Shipping Line Pte. Limited. CCI-It is a statutory body founded in 2003; HQ: New Delhi

### 4. Tata Digital to acquire majority stake in online healthcare marketplace 1MG



Tata Digital, a 100 per cent subsidiary of Tata Sons, would acquire a majority stake in digital health start-up 1MG, continuing its series of investments in the online commerce ecosystem. The investment in 1MG is in line with the Tata group's vision of creating a digital ecosystem that addresses the consumer needs across categories in a unified manner.

### 5. BharatPe acquires Payback India

Merchant payment and lending service provider BharatPe has acquired Payback India from American Express and ICICI Investments Strategic Fund.

This is the first-ever acquisition by BharatPe and will make Payback India a wholly-owned subsidiary of BharatPe.

Payback India - launched in 2010 - is a multi-brand loyalty programme with over 100 million members.

### 6. Bengaluru-based Fintech startup Niyo acquires personal finance startup Index

Digital banking fintech startup Niyo has acquired the Bengaluru-based personal

finance startup Index for an undisclosed sum.

It plans to integrate Index's personal finance tracking features into its products, especially NiyoX, that will give users access to a 360-degree view of their earnings, savings, investments, insurances in a single view. The Index team including founders Anand Krishna and Kumar Siddhartha will join Niyo.

### **7. CCI clears proposed deal to acquire stake in Magma HDI General Insurance by 2 entities**

Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the proposed acquisition of a stake in Magma HDI General Insurance Company by two entities. Under the transaction, India Advantage Fund S4 I & Dynamic India Fund S4 US I, and NHPEA Trisul Holding B.V. would acquire a stake in the general insurance company.

### **8. Muthoot Fincorp acquires 54% stake in Paymatrix**



Gold loan company Muthoot Fincorp has picked up a 54 percent stake in Hyderabad-based fintech startup Paymatrix by buying out existing investors as part of its added focus on the digital payments segment.

Paymatrix was set up in 2016 with a vision to streamline property rent payments and rent collections for tenants and landlords.

### **9. Cabinet approves merger of CRWC with holding company Central Warehousing Corporation**

The Union Cabinet chaired by PM approved the merger of Central Railside Warehouse Company Ltd with its holding enterprise Central Warehousing Corporation.

The merger will facilitate the setting up of at least 50 more railside warehouses near goods-shed locations, which is likely to generate employment opportunities.

The merger is expected to be completed within 8 months.

### **10. HDFC Bank to buy 4.99% stake in HDFC ERGO for Rs 1,906 crore**

HDFC Bank's Board approved to buy more than 3.55 crore shares in group firm HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company for over Rs 1,906 crore from the parent company Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC).

HDFC is the promoter and related party of the bank. HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company CEO: Ritesh Kumar HQ: Mumbai

### **11. PharmEasy to acquire 66% stake in Thyrocare for over Rs 4,500 crore**

Online pharmacy startup PharmEasy is acquiring a majority stake in diagnostics chain Thyrocare Technologies as it looks to diversify and bolster its testing business.

PharmEasy parent API Holdings signed a definitive agreement to acquire a 66.1% stake in Thyrocare for Rs 4,546 crore.

This is the first acquisition of a listed company by an Indian unicorn.

## Agri-Business

### 1. Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launches Horticulture Cluster Development Programme

To ensure holistic growth of horticulture, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shri Narendra Singh Tomar virtually launched the Horticulture Cluster Development Programme (CDP). It is a central sector programme implemented by the National Horticulture Board (NHB) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. In a pilot phase, the programme will be implemented in 12 horticulture clusters.

### 2. Three Centers of Excellence established in Karnataka under Indo-Israel Agriculture project

Three Centers of Excellence (COEs) namely COE Kolar for Mango, COE Bagalkote for Pomegranate and COE Dharwad for Vegetables established in Karnataka have been inaugurated under Indo-Israel Agricultural Project (IIAP).

These CoE generate knowledge, demonstrate best practices and train officers and farmers. Every year, these COEs produce more than 25 million quality vegetable seedlings.

### 3. India starts exporting GI-certified Jalgaon banana to Dubai

In a major boost to India's exports of Geographical Indications (GI) certified agricultural produce, a consignment of fibre and mineral-rich 'Jalgaon Banana' has been shipped to Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

The twenty-two metric tonnes of GI-certified Jalgaon banana were sourced from progressive farmers of Tandalwadi village(Jalgaon district).

Jalgaon district, Maharashtra, which is known as "Banana City of India"

### 4. Dragon fruit cultivated by Maharashtra farmers exported to Dubai



A consignment of Dragon fruit, which was renamed as Kamalam in India, cultivated by the farmers of Tadasar village in Maharashtra's Sangli has been exported to Dubai.

Dragon fruit is not a local product of India and grown mainly in Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, the United States and Vietnam, production of the fruit began in India in the early 1990s  
Producing states:- Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Odisha, etc.

## FinTech

### 1. Google Pay announces cards tokenization with SBI, IndusInd Bank in collaboration with Visa



Google roped in more banks for card tokenization on the Google Pay app. Cards tokenization is a feature that lets users make debit or credit card payments through a secure digital token attached to their phone without having to physically share their credit or debit card details.

Google Pay had earlier rolled out the feature with Kotak Mahindra Bank, SBI Cards & Axis Bank. Google Pay has added SBI, Federal Bank & Credit cards by IndusInd Bank and HSBC India now

### 2. ICICI Bank extends instant 'Cardless EMI' for online shopping



The 'Cardless EMI' facility enhances affordability to millions of the Bank's pre-approved customers, as it allows them to instantly buy products or services online through EMIs in just a few clicks by using their mobile phone and PAN.

Customers can convert the transactions up to Rs. 5 lakh. ICICI Bank is the first one to introduce a cardless EMI facility for online shopping.

### 3. PhonePe launches India's first wallet with Auto Top - Up

PhonePe has launched Wallet Auto Top-Up feature using UPI e-mandates for its customers. This feature allows PhonePe customers to set up a UPI e-mandate once, after which PhonePe will automatically top up their wallet balance when it falls below a minimum level.

This means customers can make multiple payments using their Wallet, without having to top up their wallet balance.

PhonePe CEO: Sameer Nigam HQ: Bengaluru

## PSUs

### 1. Shri Dharmendra Pradhan dedicates Jumbo Covid Care facility in SAIL's Durgapur Steel Plant

Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Steel Shri Dharmendra Pradhan dedicated Jumbo Covid Care facility in SAIL's Durgapur Steel Plant. The centre is equipped with the facility of gaseous oxygen which will be directly being drawn from the plant through a dedicated pipeline.

The facility has 200- bedded COVID care facility at Durgapur Steel Plant.

### 2. REC to set up 1000 LPM Oxygen Generation Plant and other medical facilities at Base Hospital, Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand



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REC Limited, through its CSR arm REC Foundation has signed an MoA with Chief Medical Officer, Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand, committing financial assistance to the tune of ' 1.85 crore under its CSR initiative. As part of the project, 1000 liters per minute oxygen generation plant will be set up at Base Hospital, Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand. REC Limited is a Navratna NBFC, under the Ministry of Power. Established in 1969.

### 3. NHPC, BSHPC sign pact to set up 130.1-MW hydro power project in Bihar

NHPC signed a pact with Bihar State Hydroelectric Power Corporation (BSHPC) to implement a 130.1-megawatt (MW) Dagmara hydroelectricity project in Bihar.

The pact was signed and exchanged by the signatories in the presence of Union Power Minister R K Singh and Bihar Energy Minister Bijendra Prasad Yadav.

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## States/UTs

### Andhra Pradesh

#### 1. Andhra Pradesh Govt Switches Liquor Policy from Prohibition to Restriction

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy announced a major shift in his government's liquor policy, moving away from prohibition (nishedham) to restriction (nivantrana).

The government has escrowed revenue from liquor sales and borrowed more than Rs 10,000 crore from various banks, the policy has ostensibly been changed from prohibition to restriction. Capitals:- Vishakapatnam (Executive), Amaravati (legislative), Kurnool (judicial)

#### 2. AP govt to establish state museum in Visakhapatnam this year

The Andhra Pradesh government will establish a State Museum in port city Visakhapatnam this year, while three more museums will be set up in temple town Tirupati, Srikakulam and Ongole. Four more museums in different districts will be expanded and upgraded to international standards. The Bapu Museum in Vijayawada city was upgraded to international standards with Rs 6.40 crore. It is the only state with three capitals (proposed):

Visakhapatnam, Amaravati, Kurnool

#### 3. Centre increases annual JJM allocations by four-fold to Rs 3,183 crore to Andhra Pradesh for 'Har Ghar Jal'



**Har Ghar Jal**  
Jal Jeevan Mission

To provide clean tap water to every household in Andhra Pradesh, the Jal Shakti Ministry has increased the Central grant to the state under the Jal Jeevan Mission for the year 2021-22 to Rs 3,182.88 crore, which was Rs 790.48 crore in 2020-21.

Goa, Telangana, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, and Puducherry have achieved 100 percent goal of 'Har Ghar Jal'. Union Minister of Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

#### 4. BEE to develop a roadmap for the MSME sector using Andhra Pradesh study

Andhra Pradesh has again emerged as an integral part of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency's (BEE) endeavour to save energy on a large scale in the country.

Two districts in the state, along with one in Jharkhand, have been chosen by BEE to map energy intensive sub-sectors of MSME industries to introduce energy efficiency measures.

### Assam

#### 1. Raimona becomes Assam's sixth national park



Raimona in Kokrajhar district has become Assam's sixth national park.

Eastern Assam's Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary, under stress for unregulated coal mining in the vicinity, is in the process of becoming the seventh national park.

The five national parks that existed prior to the 422 sq. km Raimona are Kaziranga, Manas, Nameri, Orang and Dibru-Saikhowa. Chief Minister of Assam: Himanta Biswa Sarma; Governor:-Jagdish Mukhi

## 2. Dihing Patkai is Assam's 7th National Park

The 'last remaining stretches' of the Assam Valley tropical wet evergreen forests have become Assam's seventh National Park.

Assam now has the third most National Parks after the 12 in Madhya Pradesh and nine in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The five older National Parks in the State are Kaziranga, Manas, Nameri, Orang and Dibru-Saikhowa. Dihing Patkai ( eastern Assam's Dibrugarh & Tinsukia districts) is an elephant habitat.

## 3. Assam CM Himanta Sarma announces welfare schemes for orphans, widows

Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced a slew of welfare schemes for children who lost their parents to the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) and women who lost their husbands to the virus.

Under the chief minister's Sishu Seva scheme, children will receive a fixed deposit of '781,000 with a monthly interest of '3,500 till they attain the age of 24. Girls of marriageable age will receive '50,000 & one tola gold under the Arundhati scheme

## 4. Assam to institute own versions of Bharat Ratna and Padma awards

The Assam government will present its own versions of the Bharat Ratna and the Padma awards from next year. The cabinet also instituted other civilian honours such as the Asom Bibhushan Award to be presented to three persons, the Assam Bhushan to five, and the Asom Shree to 10 people every year. These 4 awards will carry cash prizes of

'5 lakh, '3 lakh, '2 lakh & '1 lakh respectively.

## 5. Assam govt signs MoU with Survey of India for rural property survey

The Assam government has signed an MoU with the Survey of India for implementing the Svamitva scheme in the state, which aims to provide an integrated property validation solution for rural areas.

The Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj, and Assam Government's Department of Revenue and Disaster Management will implement the scheme. Assam CM: Himanta Biswa Sarma; Governor: Jagdish Mukhi

## Bihar

### 1. First consignment of GI-certified Jardalu mangoes from Bhagalpur exported to UK

The first commercial consignment of Jardalu mangoes from Bhagalpur, Bihar, was exported to the UK. With distinct aroma and taste, Jardalu mangoes from Bhagalpur received GI (Geographical Indications) certification in 2018.

A GI is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin. Darjeeling tea was the first product to get the GI tag in India, in October 2004.

## Chhattisgarh

### 1. Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurates Indus Best Mega Food Park at Raipur, Chhattisgarh

Food Processing Industries Minister virtually inaugurated the Indus Best Mega Food Park at Tilda block of Raipur district in Chhattisgarh.




The Mega Food Park will ensure value addition, longer shelf life for farm produce, better price realization for farmers, excellent storage facility and will provide an alternate market for farmers in the region.



## Goa


### 1. Goa Claims To Be First Rabies-Free State In The Country With Not Even Single Case In 3 Years

Sharmila Cooldino

ERADICATION EFFORTS							
Year	Rabies cases diagnosed in humans	Rabies cases diagnosed in dogs		 Financial Year	 Dogs vaccinated	Awareness and education campaign	
						Children covered	Teachers covered
2014	17	-					
2015	5	-					
2016	1	27		2013-14	5,767	-	-
2017	2	77		2014-15	24,306	72,744	3,024
2018	0*	28		2015-16	56,681	40,070	2,589
2019 (till Oct)	0	6 (till June)		2016-17	51,294	62,782	3,054
				2017-18	35,008	1,76,854	7,606
				2018-19	1,68,463	43,076	2,495

\*One case from Saveri wadi, Maharashtra brought to GMC, Bambolim

Financial Year	Grants released to Mission Rabies (In rupees)
2015-16	4.8 lakh
2016-17	4.1 lakh
2017-18	5.4 lakh
Total	1.4 crore



Goa is now the first rabies-free state in the country. The task of rabies control has been carried out by the Mission Rabies project, which is being run through a central government grant. Goa achieved 5,40,593 vaccinations against rabies in dogs and educated nearly a lakh people in dog bite prevention across the state as well as set up 24-hours rabies surveillance. Goa CM: Pramod Sawant; Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshiyari

## Gujarat

### 1. Gujarat's Vishwamitri river project gets National Green Tribunal nod

The Principal Bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) recently directed the Vadodara Municipal Corporation (VMC) and other authorities to implement the Vishwamitri River Action Plan, including preparation for demarcation, plantation, and maintaining the integrity of the river.

The crocodiles, turtles, & highly protected species have been breeding in the stretches of river

### 2. Gujarat Maritime Board to Set-up India's First International Maritime Services Cluster at GIFT City

Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) will set up the country's first international maritime

services cluster at GIFT City. The maritime cluster will be developed as a dedicated ecosystem comprising ports, shipping, logistics services providers and government regulators, all present in the same geographic vicinity ' GIFT City. GIFT City is India's first operational smart city and international financial services.

### 3. Portal, App launched for unorganised sector workers to register for smart cards in Gujarat

The Gujarat government launched a web portal and a mobile application to facilitate online registration of workers from the unorganised sector to give them smart cards for availing various welfare schemes.

The 'e-Nirman' portal and its mobile App were launched by Chief Minister Vijay Rupani, 9.20 lakh workers from the unorganised sector were already registered & given U-WIN cards

### 4. PM Modi inaugurated Zen Garden and Kaizen Academy at Ahmedabad Management Association, Ahmedabad

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a Zen garden and Kaizen Academy in Gujarat's Ahmedabad.

This is yet another instance showcasing the close bond between India and Japan. Zen-Kaizen' at AMA seeks to showcase several elements of Japanese art, culture, landscape and architecture.

### 5. Gujarat CM e-launched Agricultural Diversification Scheme, over 1.26 lakh farmers from 14 tribal districts to benefit



Gujarat Chief Minister Mr. Vijay Rupani e-launched the Agricultural Diversification Scheme-2021 for benefitting vanbandhu-farmers in the tribal areas of the state.

This scheme will benefit more than 126000 Vanbandhu farmers of 14 tribal districts from Ambaji to Umargam in Gujarat.

Under this scheme tribal farmers will get fertilizer-seed assistance of Rs. 31 crores.

### Haryana

#### 1. New initiatives of Haryana :- 'Pran Vayu Devta Pension Scheme', and Oxy Van (Oxygen Forests)

Pran Vayu Devta Pension Scheme:-

Initiative to honour all those trees which are of the age of 75 years and above and have served humanity throughout their life by producing oxygen, reducing pollution. Village panchayats will now be paid Rs 2,500 as 'pension' per tree for their upkeep.

Oxy Van are identified pieces of land, on which as many as 3 crore trees would be planted. The Oxy Vans will occupy 10 per cent of the 8 lakh hectares of land across Haryana.

#### 2. Haryana Pran Vayu Devta Pension Scheme for Maintenance of Older Trees



Haryana government launched Pran Vayu Devta Pension Scheme 2021. This Life Air God Pension scheme aims to ensure an adequate supply of natural oxygen in the state.

Trees which are of the age of 75 years and above will be identified throughout the state and these will be looked after by involving local people in this scheme.

For maintenance of trees older than 75 years, pension amount of '2500/year to be provided

### Jharkhand

#### 1. Jharkhand State Education Dept in collaboration with Doordarshan to broadcast online classes for students of Class 1 to 12

In Jharkhand, the State Education Department in collaboration with Doordarshan will broadcast video lectures and online classes for students of Class 1 to 12 from June 14 onwards for next three months. The department has signed a contract with Doordarshan in this regard.

Jharkhand education minister: Jagarnath Mahto. Chief Minister of Jharkhand: Hemant Soren; Governor: Draupadi Murmu

### Karnataka

#### 1. Bengaluru international airport achieves net energy neutral status in FY 2020-21



The Kempegowda International Airport here has achieved net energy neutral status in the Financial Year 2020-21 as part of its sustainability goals.

BIAL has been able to save nearly 22 lakh units of energy in the Financial Year 2020-21, enough to power nearly 9,000 houses for a month.

## 2. Karnataka CM launches DBT mobile app for fund transfer to beneficiaries

Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa launched a DBT mobile application that will help transfer funds directly to beneficiaries of various government welfare schemes.

Schemes announced in the budget, which provide financial assistance in the state, will be brought under the DBT platform.

This platform will identify the beneficiary through Aadhaar number. 120 schemes in the state have been included in this platform.

## 3. Karnataka CM BS Yediyurappa launches one-of-a-kind war room for animal welfare to help cattle breeders, dairy farmers

The war room for animal welfare in Bengaluru which will provide aid to cattle breeders and dairy farmers to increase the health and productivity of livestock in the state.

This animal welfare war room has been set up at the Commissionerate of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services (CAHVS). The authorities have also set up an animal welfare helpline number at the CAHVS.

### Kerala

## 1. Kerala Government launches Knowledge Economy Mission to boost job prospects



Kerala government launched the Knowledge Economy Mission to bring the

ongoing efforts to provide employment to the educated and support 'knowledge workers' under a single program.

A plan would be drawn up to provide basic facilities and a social security system for knowledge workers, working close to their homes and interacting with employers. The project is being spearheaded by Kerala Development and Innovation Strategic Council.

## 2. World Bank sanctions Rs 925 crore mortgage for second part of Rebuild Kerala Initiative



Two years after sanctioning a help of USD 250 million for the primary part of the Rebuild Kerala Initiative (RKI), the World Bank permitted USD 125 million help for the second part.

The mortgage shall be beneath the Programme-for-Results financing scheme, which implies the quantity shall be sanctioned for particular growth initiatives permitted by unbiased evaluators. 1st part of the RKI helped the state draft a River Basin Conservation and Management act.

### Madhya Pradesh

## 1. Madhya Pradesh Government launches 'Yuva Shakti Corona Mukti Abhiyan'

The Government of Madhya Pradesh has launched 'Yuva Shakti Corona Mukti Abhiyan' to make the people of the state aware of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. It translates to free from Corona with the help of the youth power campaign.

Students in colleges in small groups will be given information and details about

the significance of COVID-friendly behaviour and vaccination.

## 2. Madhya Pradesh Govt launches 'Yuva Shakti Corona Mukti Abhiyan'



The Madhya Pradesh Government has launched 'Yuva Shakti Corona Mukti Abhiyan' involving youth to make the people aware of the COVID-19 pandemic and covid appropriate behavior.

Chief Minister also launched a mobile app 'Covi-Sandesh' designed for real-time monitoring of the campaign.

Madhya Pradesh CM: Shivraj Singh Chauhan

### Maharashtra

#### 1. PM Modi launches ethanol dispensing stations in Pune

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched three E100 ethanol dispensing stations in Pune under a pilot project on the occasion of World Environment Day.

One of the ethanol dispensing stations has come up at Samgamwadi petrol pump, another at Chowisawadi village and third at Wesley road.

In 2020, oil companies spent '21,000 crore on ethanol procurement. To meet the target of 20 percent ethanol blending in petrol by 2025.

#### 2. Maharashtra Cabinet nod to proposed amendments for protection of 'heritage' trees

An amendment to the Maharashtra (Urban Areas) Protection and Preservation of Trees Act, 1975 to bring in the concept of 'heritage trees' was approved in a meeting of the Maharashtra Cabinet recently.

The Cabinet also green-lighted the formation of the Maharashtra Tree Authority, which will take all decisions regarding protection of trees.

#### 3. Maharashtra Govt aims to train 5 lakh educated youths under the ambitious apprenticeship scheme in next five years

The Maharashtra Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (MAPS) aims to provide employment and training to 5 lakh educated unemployed youths in the next five years.

During the current year, one lakh youths will get apprenticeship opportunities.

Under this scheme, the trainees will be entitled to get 75% of the scholarship payable to them or a maximum of Rs 5,000 whichever is less.

### Mizoram

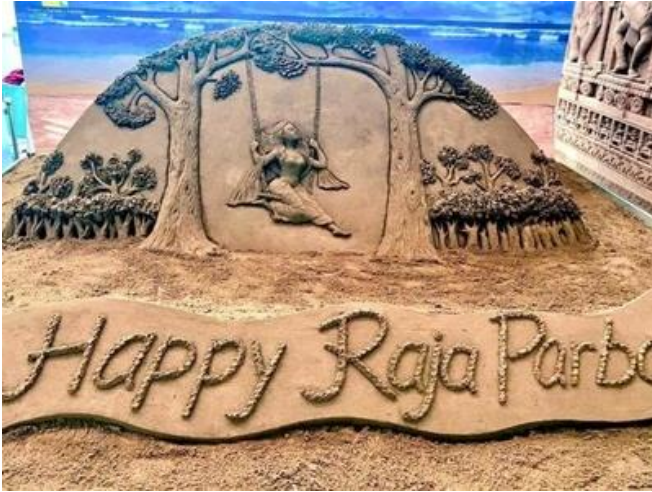
#### 1. Centre, state govt and World Bank sign \$32 million Mizoram Health Systems Strengthening Project



The Government of India, Government of Mizoram and the World Bank have signed a \$32 million Mizoram Health Systems Strengthening Project to improve management capacity and quality of health services in Mizoram, particularly for the benefit of under-served areas and vulnerable groups. A key focus will be to strengthen the effectiveness of the state health insurance programme. Mizoram CM: Zoramthanga; Governor:- P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

## Odisha

### 1. Raja Parba: Odisha's 3-day festival celebrating menstruation commences



Raja Parba, a 3-day festival celebrating womanhood is being celebrated across Odisha.

Different kinds of pithas such as 'Poda Pitha', 'Manda', 'Kakara', 'Arisha', 'Chakuli' and 'Chandrakala' have been made available on 'Pitha on Wheels' (kiosks on wheels). These vehicles selling traditional cakes have been stationed in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Sambalpur.

### 2. Odisha CM launches 'Ashirbad' for education and health of Covid orphans

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced a new scheme 'Ashirbad' for education, health and maintenance of Covid orphans. The Chief Minister announced that Rs 2500 per month will be deposited in the bank accounts of family members who have taken responsibility of the children after death of their parents.

### 3. Odisha govt joins hands with UN World Food Programme (WFP) to empower, support women through SHGs

The partnership effective till December 2023 is for achieving nutritional security in Odisha focused on empowerment, livelihood, incomes of women and increasing women's participation in

decision making are some of the core objectives for the Department of Mission Shakti of the state as well.

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik on June 1 had approved formation of Dept of Mission Shakti

## Punjab

### 1. Punjab to provide free sanitary pads to needy under new 'Udaan' scheme

The Punjab government on the occasion of International Menstrual Hygiene Day (28 May) launched a scheme to provide free sanitary napkins to needy girls and women across the state.

An amount of Rs 40.55 crore per annum will be incurred on the scheme, called 'Udaan'. The new scheme would cover school drop-outs, out-of-school girls, young women not attending college, etc.

### 2. Athletics Federation announces Indian Grand Prix 4 on June 21 in Patiala.

The Athletics Federation of India (AFI), announced that the Indian Grand Prix 4 will be held on June 21 at the National Institute of Sports in Patiala. The decision to host the domestic events was made to give Indian athletes the maximum chance to qualify for Tokyo. India's star sprinters Dutee Chand & Hima Das are expected to participate in the fourth Indian GP of 2021. National Inter-State Athletics Championships will be held at the same venue from June 25

### 3. Punjab Sports and Youth Services Minister launches a special Mobile App "Khedo Punjab"

Punjab Sports and Youth Services Minister Rana Gurmit Singh Sodhi launched a special Mobile App "Khedo Punjab" for putting the Sports Department and all the Sportspersons of the State of Punjab on a Digital platform.

## Rajasthan

### 1. Rajasthan govt announces one-time Covid relief of Rs 5,000 for financially weak artists

The Ashok Gehlot-led Rajasthan government has decided to provide one-time financial assistance of Rs 5,000 to artists reeling under financial troubles due to the Covid-19 lockdown.

Around 2,000 financially weak artists will receive the financial aid.

The Rajasthan government had made an allocation of Rs 15 crore in this year's state budget for artist welfare. Rajasthan Governor:- Kalraj Mishra

## Tamil Nadu

### 1. Tamil Nadu CM opens 'Minnagam' to redress electricity issues 24x7



Chief Minister MK Stalin inaugurated a new electricity consumer care centre at the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation headquarters to redress all the grievances, including electricity connection, voltage fluctuation, power outage, damaged poles and cables.

The new electricity consumer care centre called Minnagam will function 24x7 with a total of 195 staff. Tamil Nadu Governor:- Banwarilal Purohit

### 2. Nobel laureate Esther Duflo, ex-RBI chief Raghuram Rajan named in Tamil Nadu economic advisory panel



The Tamil Nadu government named Nobel laureate Esther Duflo and former Reserve Bank of India Governor Raghuram Rajan as part of a five-member Economic Advisory Council for the state.

The other members in the council are former Chief Economic Adviser Arvind Subramanian, development economist Jean Drze and former Union Finance Secretary S Narayan. Rajan headed the Reserve Bank of India from 2013 to 2016.

### 3. Tamil Nadu power sector companies incurred Rs 13,000 Cr loss: CAG

Increased power purchase, coal handling, financing and employee costs has resulted in the five Tamil Nadu state power sector companies incurring a loss of about Rs 13,176 crore, said the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) in its report for 2018-19.

The CAG report said the power utility incurred an additional cost of Rs 7,396 crore in higher power purchase and generation

## Telangana

### 1. Telangana government launches Revv Up for AI startups to solve tough business problems



As part of the Year of AI 2020 initiative, the Telangana government launched the Telangana Artificial Intelligence Mission (TAIM) accelerator programme Revv Up, which is exclusively designed for growth-stage artificial intelligence (AI) startups. The vision of T-AIM is to develop Telangana as a global hub for AI startups. Revv Up, which will begin its first cohort in July. Hyderabad a global destinations for AI and other emerging technologies.

## Uttar Pradesh

### 1. Uttar Pradesh government to provide smartphones to 4 lakh Anganwadi workers.

To promote the welfare of Anganwadi workers in the state, the Uttar Pradesh government will equip Anganwadi workers with smart phones.

The Anganwadi workers have been important in controlling COVID in the state.

This move will facilitate the functioning of Anganwadi workers to work and lend maximum transparency in the implementation of the schemes.

Dudhwa National Park is located in Lakhimpur Kheri district, Uttar Pradesh

### 2. Justice Sanjay Yadav appointed Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court



The Law Ministry notified the appointment of Justice Sanjay Yadav as the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court.

In exercise of the power conferred by clause (1) of Article 217 of the

Constitution, the President is pleased to appoint Shri Sanjay Yadav, Judge of the Allahabad High Court, to be the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court. Justice Yadav, however, would demit office on June 25 when he turns 62.

### 3. Justice Munishwar Nath Bhandari to take over as acting Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court



Justice Munishwar Nath Bhandari, senior most judge of the Allahabad High Court will take over as acting Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court after retirement of current Chief Justice, Sanjay Yadav. Justice Yadav will retire on June 25 after a very short tenure as Chief Justice lasting a little over two weeks.

### 4. UP Govt Appoints Deepak Agarwal As First Head Of Religious Affairs Directorate

Varanasi Divisional Commissioner Deepak Agarwal has been appointed the first director of the directorate of religious affairs, headquartered in Varanasi. The state cabinet in December 2020 approved the proposal to set up the Directorate of Religious Affairs (DRA) [Dharmarth Karya Vibhag] to ease administrative functioning in promoting religious sites as tourism hubs.

## West Bengal

### 1. Mamata Banerjee launches Krishak Bandhu 2.0, doubles assistance for all farmers

West Bengal relaunched the Krishak Bandhu scheme, doubling the assistance to farmers to Rs 10,000 a year. Farm laborers and sharecroppers who own at least one kottah (0.0165 acre) of land,

will now get Rs 4,000 a year, instead of Rs 2,000 they used to get earlier.

Those having less than one acre of cultivable land will now receive a minimum of Rs 4,000 per annum. The scheme aims to benefit over 60 lakh farmers.

## Delhi

### 1. Delhi CM Launches 'Jahan Vote, Wahan Vaccination' Campaign To Vaccinate All Above 45 Years Within 4 Weeks

Jahan Vote, Wahan Vaccination' aims to vaccinate all people above 45 years against COVID-19 in Delhi within the next four weeks.

The Delhi government will tell people to visit their designated polling stations to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

The central government is providing vaccine doses for beneficiaries of this age group. Delhi CM:- Arvind Kejriwal; Governor:- Anil Bajjal

### 2. Delhi govt creates portal for 'Mukhyamantri COVID-19 Pariwar Aarthik Sahayata Yojana'

Under the scheme, an ex-gratia of Rs 50,000 will be provided to those who have lost a family member to coronavirus and an additional Rs 2,500 pension per month if the deceased was the sole breadwinner.

Children who lost their both parents or single parent to COVID-19 will also be provided Rs 2,500 per month till they achieve 25 years of age and free education as well.

## Jammu and Kashmir

### 1. NHPC forms JV with JKSPDCL to set up 850-MW Ratle hydropower project in J&K



State-owned hydro power giant NHPC has incorporated a joint venture firm Ratle Hydroelectric Power Corporation Ltd for implementing 850 MW Ratle project in the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

NHPC Ltd has incorporated this JV firm with Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation Ltd (JKSPDCL) with equity participation of 51:49 respectively. Ratle Hydroelectric Plant constructing under Chenab River, Kishtwar district, J&K

### 2. Weyan village in Bandipora, India's first to inoculate all adults

Weyan, a village in district Bandipora (J&K) has become the first village in the country, where the entire population above 18 years has been vaccinated.

A remote hamlet in the Bandipora district of Jammu and Kashmir has become the first village in India to vaccinate all its adult population against the novel coronavirus.

### 3. J&K plans mythological theme park near Vaishno Devi shrine





The Jammu and Kashmir administration is planning to set up India's best mythological theme park near the famous Vaishno Devi shrine in the Reasi district. The park will come up on the way to the shrine and will have full connectivity, it would provide recreational activities for the pilgrims post-'darshan'. Vaishno Devi shrine atop the Trikuta hills.

#### **4. Jammu & Kashmir signs MoU with Go Air (now Go First) for transportation of agri produce**

Jammu and Kashmir government signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with a private airline for the transportation of perishable horticulture and agricultural produce to various destinations across the country.

It will address the transportation hiccups for the horticulture produce especially the highly perishable items like Cherry, Plum, Apricots etc.

#### **5. Theatre personality Arvind Gaur releases book 'Habba Khatoon' written by Kajal Suri**

Book 'Habba Khatoon' was released by Sanjana Prakashan. The book has been penned down by Kajal Suri. Habba Khatoon, also known by the honorary title 'The Nightingale of Kashmir', was a Kashmiri poet and ascetic. She was the wife of Yousuf Shah Chak, the last Emperor of Kashmir.

#### **6. Union Minister Jitendra Singh inaugurates mega quintal capacity Seed Processing plant at Kathua District of Jammu and Kashmir.**

Dr.Singh dedicated to the public the mega quintal capacity Seed Processing Plant with 16 lakh seed generation and 24 lakh seed processing capacity, the first-of-its-kind, to have come up in this entire region.

The move will help in doubling farmers' income in India and the plant will cater to entire Union Territory and also to Punjab and Himachal Pradesh.

#### **7. Lt Governor launches "HAUSLA-Inspiring her growth", a comprehensive Programme for Catalysing Women Entrepreneurship in J&K**



The intent of the innovative initiative is to empower Women as vital drivers of the overall development process in the UT by identifying & empowering Women Entrepreneurs as role models, providing them with markets, networks, training & continuous support and subsequently building an ecosystem to inspire other local women entrepreneurs.

#### **8. J&K Chief Secretary inaugurates 'SUKOON', a mental health helpline initiative**

J&K Chief Secretary, Arun Kumar Mehta, inaugurated SDRF first Battalion's 247 mental health helpline 'SUKOON' at its headquarters.

This initiative, launched by SDRF First Battalion Kashmir in collaboration with Mission Youth J&K and Tourism department, will guide the caller to avail services of clinical psychologists, therapists, counsellors and psychiatrists.

#### **Ladakh**

#### **1. Ladakh Lt Governor RK Mathur launches YounTab scheme for students to encourage digital learning**

Ladakh Lt Governor has launched the YounTab scheme for students in the Union Territory. It is formulated to encourage digital learning, bridge the digital divide between connected and unconnected and mitigate the Covid

pandemic disruptions. A total of 12,300 students of 6th to 12th class from government schools will benefit from the scheme.

## 2. Two-day Hemis Festival to commemorate the birth anniversary of Guru Padmasambhava held in Leh



The two-day Hemis Festival is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of Guru Padmasambhava also known as second Buddha.

The annual festival which is also known as Hemis Tses-Chu is celebrated on the 10th day of the fifth month of Tibetan lunar calendar which is believed to be the birth anniversary of Guru Padmasambhava.

### Committees

#### 1. Labour ministry constitutes an expert group to fix minimum wages

The government has constituted an expert group led by Prof Ajit Mishra, Director, Institute of Economic Growth, that will give recommendations on fixation of minimum wages & national floor minimum wage.

National floor refers to the minimum level of wage that is applicable to all categories of workers across the country. Minimum wage is different for different categories of workers.

#### 2. Ex-Infosys CEO SD Shibu Lal to head task force to help govt in bringing major reforms in bureaucracy



Former Infosys CEO S D Shibu Lal appointed chairperson of a three-member task force formed to help the government in bringing major bureaucratic reforms through its ambitious "Mission Karmayogi".

To effectively roll out this competency-driven mission, a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), namely Karmayogi Bharat, to be set up as a not-for-profit company. Shibu Lal is also the founder of ShikshaLokam.

#### 3. The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) forms committee to explore avenues for ship financing and leasing



This 11-member committee will be chaired by Vandana Aggarwal, former senior economic advisor to government of India.

The committee will examine existing legal, regulatory, tax and other applicable frameworks, along with best global practices and submit its recommendations to IFSCA within a period of three months. IFSCA is the unified regulator at GIFT City in Gandhinagar.

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