

July 2021

# BOLT

*Monthly Current Affairs*



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## Banking & Finance

### 1. World Bank Boosts Covid-19 Vaccine Funding From \$8 Billion To \$20 Billion

The World Bank has increased its Covid-19 vaccine fund for developing countries by \$8 billion to \$20 billion.

In addition, the bank's private financing arm secured a 600 million euro package for a South African vaccine manufacturer to ramp up production, the institution announced. The \$20 billion is available through 2022 to finance vaccine distribution as well as cold chain. President: David Malpass; HQ: Washington, D.C., United States

### 2. ICICI Bank launches comprehensive banking solutions for medical doctors

ICICI Bank announced the launch of comprehensive banking solutions for medical doctors called Salute Doctors.

It provides banking and value-added services to all doctors, beginning with medical students to senior medical consultants to an owner of a hospital or a clinic.

### 3. RBI tweaks norms for interest on unclaimed amount after deposit matures

The RBI has tweaked the norms for interest on the amount left unclaimed with the bank after a term deposit matures.

It has decided that if a term deposit matures and proceeds are unpaid, the amount left unclaimed with the bank shall attract rate of interest as applicable to savings account or the contracted rate of interest on the matured TD, whichever is lower. New norms are applicable on commercial banks, SFBs, local area banks & Co-op banks.

### 4. Reserve Bank of India imposes Rs 25 lakh penalty on Punjab & Sind Bank

The Reserve Bank of India imposed a penalty of Rs 25 lakh on Punjab and Sind Bank for non-compliance with certain provisions of directions on 'Cyber Security Framework in Banks'. The state-owned bank had reported a few cyber incidents to the RBI on May 16 and 20, 2020, the central bank said while giving details. The RBI issued a show-cause notice to the bank.

### 5. Indian Overseas Bank surpasses PNB, BoB to become the second most-valued listed PSB

IOB became the second most-valued listed public sector bank with a market capitalization of over '50,000 crore. As Street discounts privatization of the state-owned lender, its shares have appreciated over 50% on the BSE. The privatization plan was announced in the Union budget for 2021-22 as a part of the government's broader divestment goals for FY22.

### 6. Indian Bank partners with Fisdom to offer wealth management solutions

Indian Bank, the seventh largest public sector bank, has partnered wealth-tech company Fisdom to offer a comprehensive suite of wealth management products and services to the bank's 10 crore customers.

The partnership will focus on enabling large-scale facilitation and distribution of wealth products and services through Indian Bank's network.

### 7. Equitas SFB waives off non-maintenance fees for current account holders

Equitas Small Finance Bank has waived the non-maintenance charges across CASA accounts, making it one of the first private sector banks to launch the initiative aimed at benefiting small businesses hit by COVID-19.

Equitas will be one of the first private sector banks to waive off NMC across CASA (current account, savings account), thereby making banking simple & limitless.

### 8. Tata Motors partners IndusInd Bank to offer finance solutions for passenger vehicles

As part of the partnership with IndusInd Bank, Tata Motors will provide the 'Step Up' scheme where the customers can choose and buy from the safest range of passenger cars in the country, with a special low EMI option scheme for the first 3-6 months. IndusInd Bank Headquarters: Pune

### **9. Bank of Baroda signs MoU with STPI to support startups**

Bank of Baroda, has signed a MOU with Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) & AIC STPINEXT Initiatives to support startups across India under its Baroda Startup Banking programme. Under this programme, 15 dedicated startup branches are operational across the major startup hubs, including Gurugram, Delhi, Noida, Bengaluru, Chennai, Mumbai, Jaipur, & others. Bank of Baroda Subsidiaries: Vijaya Bank, Bobcards, Nainital Bank.

### **10. Max Bupa Health Insurance and Axis Bank enter into a Bancassurance partnership**

Max Bupa Health Insurance, a standalone health insurer, has entered into a bancassurance partnership with Axis Bank, the country's third largest private sector bank. This partnership will help provide comprehensive health insurance solutions to Axis Bank's employees and customers.

bancassurance is aimed at offering insurance products to the bank's customers.

### **11. IPO-bound LIC to have CEO, managing director as Centre scraps chairman post**

As the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) readies itself for public listing, the government has abolished the position of chairman at the insurer, which will have a chief executive officer (CEO) and managing director (MD).

The insurer will continue with the post of MD. Both CEO and MD will be appointed by the central government.

### **12. IDBI Bank disinvestment: Govt approves 100% stake sale by Centre, LIC**

The government has approved the sale of its entire stake, and that of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), in IDBI bank.

At present, IDBI Bank is classified as a private sector bank by the RBI with the government's shareholding at 45.5 percent, LIC's shareholding at 49.24 percent and the non-promoter shareholding at 5.29 percent.

### **13. IFSCA sets up expert group to suggest road map for longevity finance hub**

The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) set up an expert committee to recommend the road map for the development of the Longevity Finance Hub.

The expert committee is being co-chaired by Kaku Nakhate, Bank of America, Country Head (India), and Gopalan Srinivasan, Ex-CMD, New India Assurance Company Limited. Currently, GIFT IFSC is the only international financial services center in the country.

### **14. Reserve Bank introduces RBI Retail Direct facility to facilitate investment in Government Securities by individual investors**

RBI issued a scheme 'RBI Retail Direct', a one-stop solution to facilitate investment in government securities by individual investors.

It was launched to improve ease of access by retail investors through online access to the government securities market along with the facility to open their gilt securities account 'Retail Direct' with the RBI. No fee will be charged for opening and maintaining the 'Retail Direct Gilt Account'.

### **15. RBI imposes restrictions on Mastercard from adding new customers from July 22**

RBI imposed restrictions on Mastercard Asia/Pacific Private Limited for adding new domestic customers and it is not allowed to add customers onto its network as the entity has failed to comply with the directions on Storage of Payment System Data.

It has been done in the exercise of powers vested in RBI under Sec 17 of Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007. Mastercard CEO: Michael Miebach. HQ: New York, The USA.

### **16. RBI Cancels Licence Of Dr Shivajirao Patil Nilangekar Urban Co-operative Bank**

The Reserve Bank of India canceled the license of Dr Shivajirao Patil Nilangekar Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd, Nilanga, Latur, as it does not have adequate capital and earning prospects and as such, it does not comply with the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

The bank with its current financial position would be unable to pay its depositors in full.



### **17. RBL Bank to issue Visa credit cards after RBI bans Mastercard**

RBL Bank has entered into an agreement with Visa Worldwide to start issuance of credit cards on the Visa platform, the lender informed the indices. The bank also added that it will be able to issue the new cards after technology integration which is expected to take 8 to 10 weeks. RBI indefinitely barred US-based Mastercard from issuing new credit, debit, & prepaid cards. RBL bank is the fifth largest credit card issuer in the country with a 5% market share.

### **18. Federal Bank Launches AI-Powered Virtual Assistant For Customers**

The Federal Bank launched FEDDY, an Artificial Intelligence-powered virtual assistant to help customers with banking-related queries anytime.

The bank said while most of the similar AI-powered virtual assistants are available only on its website, FEDDY can be accessed via Alexa, Google Assistant and WhatsApp.

FEDDY is integrated into Google Business Messaging, a first-of-its-kind by an Indian bank

### **19. Razorpay acquires TERA in its 3rd buyout**

Business payments and financial services startup Razorpay on Monday said it has acquired artificial intelligence (AI)-based risk analysis platform TERA Finlabs, marking its third acquisition since inception.

Bengaluru-based TERA Finlabs provides risk management software, along with customized credit offerings to make lending more affordable for consumers.

Razorpay Capital, which was launched in 2019.

### **20. Reserve Bank of India launches two keys surveys, [1]- quarterly Industrial Outlook Survey (IOS)**

The 95th round of IOS of the Indian manufacturing sector will assess business sentiment for the current quarter and expectations for the ensuing quarter (Q3:2021-22) based on qualitative responses on a set of indicators pertaining to demand conditions, financial conditions, employment conditions and price situation.

### **21. Reserve Bank of India launches two keys surveys, [2]-quarterly Services and Infrastructure Outlook Survey (SIOS)**

The SIOS survey will assess the business situation for the current quarter from selected companies in the services and infrastructure sectors in India and their expectations for the ensuing quarter. It is based on responses on a set of indicators pertaining to demand conditions, financial conditions, employment conditions and the price situation.

### **22. RBI revises personal loan limit for bank directors to '5 crore from '25 lakh**

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has overhauled rules for extending loans to directors of other banks and relatives of directors. As per the amendments, the central bank has allowed banks to extend personal loans up to '5 crore to directors of other banks and directors' relatives other than spouses without board approval. The earlier limit for such loans was '25 lakh. The earlier limit of '25 lakh will continue to apply to business loans.

### **23. International Finance Corporation extends \$250 million to HDFC for green, affordable housing**

IFC's has extended a \$250 million loan to HDFC Ltd 'India's largest housing finance company' to support its moves to grow its affordable housing and emerging green affordable housing portfolio.

This will enable low and middle-income borrowers improved access to finance while supporting the country's climate goals. International Finance Corporation (IFC), the investment arm of the World Bank group,

### **24. LIC CSL launches Co-branded RuPay Credit Cards powered by IDBI Bank - 'Lumine' and 'Eclat'**

LIC Cards Services Limited (LIC CSL) and IDBI Bank partners to launch two variants of co-branded RuPay Credit Cards - LIC CSL 'Lumine' Platinum Credit Card and LIC CSL 'Eclat' Select Credit Card powered by IDBI Bank.

Initially, the card variants are targeted to LIC Policyholders, LIC Agents, and Employees of LIC of India and its Subsidiaries/Associates.

### 25. HDFC Bank launches 'Dukandar Overdraft Scheme'

HDFC Bank announced the launch of an overdraft facility for small retailers in partnership with CSC SPV. Known as 'Dukandar Overdraft Scheme', this facility will help shopkeepers and merchants ease their cash crunch. Retailers operating for a minimum of three years can avail the overdraft facility by providing 6 months bank statement from any bank.



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## Economy

### **1. Government brings retail and wholesale trade under ambit of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME)**

Government has decided to bring retail and wholesale trade under the ambit of MSME. It has issued revised guidelines to include retail and wholesale trade as MSME and extending to them the benefit of priority sector lending under RBI guidelines. With the revised guidelines the retail and wholesale trades will now be allowed to register on Udyam Registration Portal.

Udyamregistration.gov.in is the only Government Portal for registration of MSME (Udyam).

### **2. India achieves highest ever Merchandise export of 95 Billion dollar in first quarter of current financial year**

India has recorded the highest ever merchandise export in the first quarter of April to June this year despite the severity of the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. Also, the country has also received the highest ever Foreign Direct Investment of 81.72 billion US dollars in the last financial year. India has set a target of 400 billion US dollars merchandise exports in the current FY.

### **3. NCGTC issues guidelines for Rs 50,000-cr scheme for medical infra**

National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Ltd (NCGTC) issued operational guidelines for the Rs 50,000-crore credit guarantee scheme announced as part of Rs 6.29-lakh-crore stimulus package last month by Finance Minister

A maximum loan of Rs 100 crore will be given with a capped interest rate of 7.95 per cent (for healthcare projects) and guarantee provided for three years.

### **4. At \$608.99 Billion, India Emerges As 5th Largest Forex Reserves Holder In The World**

With \$608.99 billion in foreign exchange reserves as of June 25, 2021, India has surpassed China, Japan, Switzerland, and Russia to become the world's fifth-largest foreign exchange reserve holder. India's foreign exchange reserves position is comfortable in terms of import cover of more than 18 months and provides cushion against unforeseen external shocks. India's balance of payments surplused in both the current and capital accounts in 2020-21

### **5. Digital Banking On The Rise, Nearly 72% Of PSB Transactions Done Online: MoS Finance**

The Ministry of Finance said that the share of financial transactions of Public Sector Banks (PSB) done through digital channels has now increased.

The Minister of State for Finance Dr Bhagwat Kisanrao Karad claimed that nearly 72% of financial transactions of PSBs are now done digitally.

The government has now taken a number of steps to facilitate digital banking. Union Finance Minister:- Nirmala Sitharaman.

### **6. Govt approves '6,322 cr PLI scheme for specialty steel**

The Union cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved a '6,322 crore production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for specialty steel that is expected to attract investments of around '40,000 crore.

The aim is to help India specialty steel production reach 42 million tonnes (MT) by 2026-27 from 18MT. The duration of the scheme will be five years, from 2023 to 2028.

### **7. Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2021 introduced in Lok Sabha**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2021 in Lok Sabha. It amends the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016. The Code provides a time-bound process for resolving the insolvency of corporate debtors i.e. within 330 days, called the corporate insolvency resolution process. Insolvency is a situation where companies are unable to repay their outstanding debt.

### 8. GoI to amend GIBNA Act to privatise general insurance companies.

To facilitate privatisation of one of the public sector general insurance firms, the govt is working on amendments to the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act (GIBNA). The draft Bill, seeks to remove the 51% floor on government holding. Foreign investors will be able to hold up to 74% in the divested general insurance firm subject to Indian management & control.

### 9. Kandla becomes the first Green SEZ to achieve the IGBC Green Cities Platinum Rating

Kandla Sez or KASEZ is the First Green SEZ to achieve the IGBC Green Cities Platinum Rating for Existing Cities. The efforts of the KASEZ team were applauded, especially noting the fact that this was accomplished in the Bhuj region where water conservation and afforestation are critical interventions. This is part of celebrations marking India@75 - Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav. The rating has been awarded for 'implementation of green infrastructure' by CII's IGBC.

### 10. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) projects 9.5% growth rate for India in 2021 and 8.5% for 2022

IMF projects 9.5% growth rate for India in 2021 and 8.5% for 2022. India's economy is gradually recovering from a deep contraction in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2021 (7.3 per cent) and a subsequent severe second wave of COVID-19 IMF headquarters: Washington DC, United States, MD: Kristalina Georgieva

### 11. The RBI Digital Payment Index rises to 270.59 as against 207.84 for March 2020

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) March digital payments index (DPI) rose to 270.59 as against 207.84 for March 2020 indicating significant growth in digital transactions. The RBI announced the construction of a composite Reserve Bank of India ' Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI) with March 2018 as base to capture the extent of digitisation of payments across the country. Governor of RBI : Shaktikanta Das

### 12. RBI imposed a penalty of Rs. 5 crore on Axis bank for violating the rules

The Reserve Bank of India imposed a monetary penalty of Rupees five crore on Axis Bank for non-compliance with certain provisions. The statutory Inspections for Supervisory Evaluation (ISE) of the bank were conducted by RBI with reference to its financial position. The related correspondence revealed non-compliance with the above-mentioned directions issued by RBI. Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Axis Bank : Amitabh Chaudhry

### 13. RBI cancels licence of Madgaum Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd, Margao

RBI cancelled the licence of The Madgaum Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd, Margao, Goa, as the bank with its current financial position would be unable to pay its present depositors in full. It mentioned that as per the data submitted by the bank, about 99% of the depositors will receive full amounts of their deposits from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation. Chairman of DICGC : M.D Patra. M.D Patra is the Deputy Governor, RBI

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## National

### **1. Atal Innovation Mission concludes first fintech cohort of 'AIM-iLEAP' as major step to accelerate Tech Start-ups across India**

Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog concluded its first fintech cohort of AIM-iLEAP- an initiative to back tech start-ups.

The fintech cohort was done through a series of thematic virtual demo days organized AIM in partnership with StartupRseau and Visa as part of the AIM-iLEAP (Innovative leadership for entrepreneurial agility and profitability) initiative.

### **2. Asia's longest high-speed test track NATRAX is now in India**

Prakash Javadekar inaugurated Natrax- High-Speed Track (HST) in Indore. Claimed to be the fifth-longest high-speed test track in the world, the NATRAX has been built on 1,000 acres.

Natrax test-track is 11.3 km long, 16 metre wide, and has 14 different types of tracks, including braking track, wet pad, sustainability track, handling track, and more.

### **3. Indian Space Research Organisation gives nod to parliamentary panel to implement satellite TV classrooms**

ISRO has given its nod to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education to provide technical assistance for satellite TV classrooms in the country to bridge the learning gap due to COVID-induced lockdown.

ISRO scientists appeared before the Parliamentary Standing Committee for Education & made a detailed presentation about proposed satellite TV classroom for students. ISRO HQs: Bengaluru; Director: Kailasavadivoo Sivan.

### **4. CBSE, NPCI to launch financial literacy curriculum for Class VI students**

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has partnered with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to introduce a financial literacy curriculum for students of Class VI.

The Financial Literacy Textbook is launched as a part of a new elective 'financial literacy' subject that will enable students to have an understanding of basic financial concepts. Union education minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank

### **5. Govt looks to raise Rs 3,600cr by divesting 7% in NMDC**

The government is planning to raise over Rs 3,600 crore by offloading nearly 22 crore shares or about 7.5% in NMDC (National Mineral Development Corporation) through an offer for sale (OFS).

Citigroup Global Markets India, ICICI Securities and SBICap Securities are managing the OFS. HQ: Hyderabad. Formed:-1958

### **6. Centre sets up separate ministry of cooperation**

The Union government created a new ministry of cooperation to provide a separate administrative, legal and policy framework for strengthening the cooperative movement in India.

The new ministry will work to streamline processes for 'ease of doing business' for cooperatives and enable development of multi-state co-operatives (MSCS).

### **7. Indian Army inaugurates war memorial of CaptGurjinder Singh Suri who died during 1999 'Birsa Munda' operation**

On the occasion of the birthday of Captain Gurjinder Singh Suri, who died during the operation "Birsa Munda" in 1999, the Indian Army inaugurated a war memorial in memory of Captain in Gulmarg near the Line of Control (LOC).

'Birsa Munda' operation was a punitive raid conducted against a Pakistani post by a Bihar battalion of the Indian Army in the month of November 1999. Gurjinder Singh Suri was later awarded MahaVir Chakra (Posthumous).

### **8. Govt brings Dept of Public Enterprises under Finance Ministry**

The government has merged the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) with the Finance Ministry to give it better control over state-owned firms and facilitate its ambitious privatisation programme.

Finance Ministry will now have 6 departments. Also, Foreign Investment Promotion Board was abolished and administration of foreign investments was given to the Finance Ministry. Earlier, DPE was part of Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.

### **9. Defence Ministry implements SPARSH, integrated system for automation of sanction and disbursement of defence pension**

Defence Ministry has implemented SPARSH, an integrated system for automation of sanction and disbursement of defence pension. This web-based system processes pension claims and credits pension directly into the bank accounts of defence pensioners without relying on any external intermediary. State Bank of India and Punjab National Bank have been co-opted as Service Centres

### **10. KVIC secures trademark registrations in Bhutan, UAE, Mexico**

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has recently secured trademark registrations in three countries namely Bhutan, UAE and Mexico which is a big stride towards protecting the identity of brand Khadi globally. KVIC has got registrations in various classes that pertains to Khadi fabric, Khadi readymade garments and village industry products like Khadi soaps, etc. KVIC has trademark registrations in a total of 9 countries including these three

### **11. GI certified Fazil mango variety from West Bengal exported to Bahrain**

A consignment of GI certified Fazil mango variety sourced from Malda district of West Bengal was exported to Bahrain.

A geographical indication (GI) tag is used for an agricultural, natural or a manufactured product (handicraft and industrial goods) originating from a definite geographical territory. The GI tag helps growers get premium price for the product.

Capital: Manama; Currency: Bahraini dinar

### **12. Late Harappan-era artefacts found at virgin site in Jalgaon**

A Maharashtra archaeologist may have hit a jackpot by discovering several potteries and artefacts, dating back to the later era of the Indus Valley Civilization (IVC), at Yawal in Jalgaon district.

Discovery team led by Bhujang R. Bobade found the pottery pieces in the white mounds near the entrance of the Nimbalkar Fortress, around 20 km from Bhusaval.

### **13. Demat accounts with CDSL cross 4-crore mark**

Demat accounts at Central Depository Services (CDSL) crossed a record four crore mark in June, underscoring the growing influence of retail investors in equities.

The surge in demat accounts began in March 2020, when the shutdown on account of Covid-19 prompted individual investors to venture directly into the markets.

CDSL is the first listed Indian central securities depository in Mumbai. Formed: 1999

### **14. Minister of Tribal Affairs launches the nationwide campaign 'COVID Teeka Sang Surakshit Van, Dhan aur Uddyam'**

Minister of Tribal Affairs, Arjun Munda virtually launched the nationwide campaign 'COVID Teeka Sang Surakshit Van, Dhan aur Uddyam' to accelerate the pace of COVID vaccination among tribals, in India.

The campaign will leverage the 45,000 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras of the TRIFED.

It will highlight the three key Js:

Jeevan (Life)

Jeevika (Livelihood)

Jaagrookta (Awareness) TRIFED is a national-level cooperative body under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

### **15. Union Education Minister and Union Tribal Affairs Minister to jointly launch School Innovation Ambassador Training Program**

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan & Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda will jointly launch the 'School Innovation Ambassador Training Program' for 50,000 School Teachers. The innovative and one of its kind training program for School Teachers aims at training 50,000 school teachers on Innovation, Entrepreneurship, IPR, Design Thinking, Product development. The program has been designed by the Innovation Cell of MoE&AICTE for School Teachers.

### **16. PM Modi inaugurates Rs 1,500 crore worth projects, convention centre 'Rudrakash' in UP's Varanasi**

PM inaugurated & laid foundation stones of multiple development projects in Varanasi worth more than '1500 cr. at IIT-BHU. He inaugurated the International Cooperation and Convention Centre, 'Rudrakash', which has been constructed with Japanese assistance.

PM inaugurated projects worth around '744 cr. & laid foundation stones of several projects & public works worth '839 cr Varanasi is PM's constituency.

### **17. Manduadih railway station renamed as Banaras**

The Manduadih railway station has been finally renamed as Banaras by the North eastern railways (NER). The newly painted signboards were put up with Banaras written in Hindi, Sanskrit, English, and Urdu.

The code for the station with the new identity will now be 'BSBS'. The name 'Banaras' has returned on the map of Indian Railways after a gap of 64 years.

### **18. PM Modi inaugurates & dedicates to nation multiple projects in Gujarat**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated multiple Railway projects and 3-new attractions at Science city Ahmedabad.

The Railway projects include the newly redeveloped Gandhinagar Capital Railway station, gauge converted cum electrified Mahesana 'Varetha' line, and the newly electrified Surendranagar 'Pipavav' section.

### **19. Delhi-Meerut RRTS: Manufacturing begins for high-speed rail trainsets in Gujarat**

Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) trains are 100% indigenously manufactured, with over 80% localisation and are being manufactured in Alstom's factory in Savli (Gujarat). This facility will produce the bogies, car bodies and undertake train testing.

The propulsion systems and electricals are being manufactured at the company's factory in Maneja (Gujarat). The Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS corridor is India's first RRTS corridor.

### **20. PM Modi inaugurated revamped Vadnagar railway station**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated a revamped Vadnagar railway station. He also flagged off the Gandhinagar-Varetha Mainline Electric Multiple Unit (MEMU) train which passes through Vadnagar.

PM Modi also inaugurated a five-star hotel atop the redeveloped Gandhinagar railway station and some new attractions at Science City in Ahmedabad.

### **21. NEIFM renamed as NEIAFMR to render education in Ayurveda**

The Union Cabinet has approved changing of name and mandate of North Eastern Institute of Folk Medicine (NEIFM) located at Pasighat in Arunachal Pradesh as North Eastern Institute of Ayurveda & Folk Medicine Research (NEIAFMR).

The NEIAFMR is mandated for imparting quality education and research in Ayurveda & Folk Medicine.

### **22. FDI limit in NPS fund managers hiked to 74%**

Government notified a hike in the foreign direct investment limit in pension fund management to 74% from 49% under the national pension system (NPS), opening doors for experienced foreign partners in this space and facilitating more competition in the fledgling segment.

Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority (PFRDA) Act links the FDI ceiling in the insurance sector.

### **23. NSE Foundation launches largescale CSR Project CAVACH for increased vaccination in Aspirational Districts**

NSE Foundation, a Section 8 subsidiary of National Stock Exchange of India Limited, has launched an innovative programme called Cavach (COVID-19 and Vaccination Assistance Campaign for Health) in partnership with UNICEF and NITI Aayog. Dr Vinod K. Paul, Member NITI Aayog, launched Project CAVACH in the presence of District Collectors and NSE Officials.

### **24. Govt. forms three Aviation Advisory Groups for advice on sectoral issues**

Under the chairmanship of the Minister of Civil Aviation, Jyotiraditya Scindia, the Ministry of Civil Aviation has formed 3 advisory groups comprising airlines, airport operators and maintenance, repair and overhaul companies (MRO), cargo carriers, flying training organisations (FTO) & ground handling companies.

1st advisory group comprises:- chiefs of Indian Airlines. 2nd:- officials of Indian airport operators; 3rd:- four sub-groups (1 for each MRO, FTO, etc)

### **25. Cabinet gives nod to raise FDI limit in PSU oil refineries to aid BPCL sale**

The Union Cabinet approved raising the foreign investment limit in privatisation-bound public sector oil refiners, a move that will aid the sale of government stake in BPCL.

Cabinet has approved a proposal to allow foreign direct investment (FDI) limit in public sector refineries that are disinvestment candidates to 100 per cent from the current 49 per cent. This limit meant BPCL couldn't have been sold to a foreign player.

### **26. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh flagged-in ARMEX-21 in Delhi**

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh flagged-in the Indian Army Skiing Expedition, ARMEX-21, in New Delhi.

The ARMEX-21 was conducted in the mountain ranges of the Himalayan region to promote the adventure activity in the country and the Indian Army.

The expedition was flagged off at Karakoram Pass in Ladakh and culminated at Malari in Uttarakhand.

### **27. Kakatiya Rudreshwara Temple inscribed as UNESCO World Heritage Site**

Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple, Telangana has been inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

India's 39th World Heritage Site. The decision was taken at the 44th session of the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO.

Ramappa temple is a 13th century engineering marvel named after its architect, Ramappa

### **28. Government sets up Dairy Investment Accelerator to promote & facilitate investments in the Dairy sector**

The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD), Government of India, with a view to provide dedicated focus towards promoting & facilitating investments in the Indian Dairy sector, has setup Dairy Investment Accelerator under its Investment Facilitation Cell.

Dairy Investment Accelerator is also generating awareness among investors about AHIDF. Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development fund (AHIDF):- flagship schemes by DAHD

### **29. Amit Shah Launches 'Prarthana' Scheme & Lays Foundation Stone Of Tamulpur Medical College & Hospital.**

Union Home Minister Amit Shah laid the foundation stone of Tamulpur Medical College and Hospital in Guwahati. He also distributed cheque of Rs. 1 lakh each to the 100 selected Covid-19 victims under the State Government's 'Prarthana Achari' in the presence of Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma, Health Minister Keshab Mahanta and Bodoland Territorial Region Chief Promod Boro. The Tamulpur Medical College and Hospital is a mission under the Bodo Accord.



### **30. Lok Sabha passes the Factoring Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2021 and The National Institutes of Food Technology Bill.**

The Lok Sabha passed the Factoring Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2021 and The National Institutes of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management Bill, 2021. The Factoring Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2021 ' aimed at helping MSMEs tide over problems of delayed payments as it seeks to broaden the participation of entities undertaking factoring The second Bill aimed to declare certain institutions of national importance.

### **31. GoI to set up a National Centre of Excellence for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics.**

The Union Government has decided to set up a National Centre of Excellence for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics for creating a world-class talent pool in India to cater to the Indian as well as global industry. It will be set up in collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay. Minister of Information and Broadcasting : Anurag Thakur

### **32. GoI reduces import duty on lentils to zero to boost domestic supply**

The Union Government has reduced the import duty on masoor dal to zero. It has also cut the Agriculture Infrastructure Development Cess on the lentil or masoor to 10 percent from 20 per cent. The move will boost domestic supply and check its price rise. The estimated revenue implication of this notification is about 1100 crore rupees.

### **33. The Harappan city of Dholavira gets UNESCO's World Heritage site status**

The Harappan city of Dholavira, in Gujarat named the 40th Indian site on UNESCO's World Heritage list. Located in the Kutch district, Dholavira is the larger of the two most remarkable excavations of the Indus Valley Civilisation dating back to about 4,500 years ago. This archaeological site is one of the best-preserved urban settlements from the period in Southeast Asia. UNESCO also declared Mexico's Tlaxcala Cathedral as a World Heritage site.

### **34. Parliament passes the Marine Aids to Navigation Bill, 2021**

Parliament passed a bill that will replace an over nine-decade-old law governing lighthouses and provide a fresh framework to establish and manage vessel traffic services. The Bill will provide for the development, maintenance and management of aids to navigation in India; for training and certification of the operator of aids to navigation, development of its values. This bill repeals the 90-year-old colonial Lighthouse Act, 1927

### **35. Trial run conducted between Vangaichungpao railway station in Tamenglong with Jiribam RS moves towards Imphal**

Closing in on Imphal, Indian Railways has successfully conducted a trial run connecting Vangaichungpao railway station in Tamenglong, Manipur with Jiribam Railway station. The Vangaichungpao railway station will be linked to Silchar and to the rest of the country. Flagged off from Silchar railway station. The 110-km long Jiribam-Imphal railway line project is targeted to be completed by 2022.

### **36. Center to set up Garima Grihas for transgender persons to provide safe shelter**

The Centre is setting up the Garima Grihas for the transgender persons are with the help of community-based organizations. Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment A. Narayanaswamy informed Lok Sabha, 12 pilot shelter homes have been initiated with the aim of providing safe and secure shelter to transgender persons. Such shelter homes are in Maharashtra, Delhi. These homes are also in the states of WB, Rajasthan, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, TN, and Odisha.

### **37. GI tagged king chilli 'Raja Mirchi' of Nagaland exported to London for the first time**

Geographical Indications (GI) products from the north-eastern region, a consignment of 'Raja Mircha' also referred as king chilli from Nagaland was exported to London for the first time. Naga king chilli has been considered as the world's hottest chilli and is constantly on the top five in the list of the world's hottest chilies based on the Scoville Heat Units. The chilli of Nagaland is also called Bhoot Jolokia & Ghost pepper. It got GI tag in 2008

### **38. BIAL signs a deal with IBM to set up 'Airport in a Box' platform**

To create a new 'Airport in a Box' platform that supports end-to-end travel experience for passengers at the Kempegowda International Airport, IBM has entered into a 10-year partnership with IBM & Kyndryl. This will help BIAL, improve its productivity, automate its information technology services, increase operational flexibility to handle future growth in passenger traffic. BIAL : Bangalore International Airport Limited

### **39. NFL and RCF signs MoU with IFFCO, for 'transfer of technology' of a revolutionary Nano Urea Liquid**

National Fertilisers Limited (NFL) and Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilisers Ltd (RCF) signed MoU with Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) for 'transfer of technology' of a revolutionary and game changer fertiliser Nano Urea Liquid. Under this IFFCO will transfer the technology of Liquid Nano Urea to NFL and RCF, to increase the supply of Nano Urea to farmers Minister of Chemicals & Fertilisers and Health & Family Welfare: Mansukh Mandaviya

### **40. Cabinet clears amendment of DICGC act, ensuring Rs 5 lakh for depositor in 90 days**

The Union Cabinet approved amendment to the DICGC Act to provide account holders access to up to Rs 5 lakh funds within 90 days of a bank coming under moratorium to ensure timely support to depositors. Continuing efforts to foster ease of doing business as well as encourage startups ecosystem, the govt also approved amendments to the Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) Act.

### **41. Intel partners up with CBSE to announce AI for All Initiative**

Intel has collaborated with the CBSE, Ministry of Education to announce the launch of the AI For All initiative. With this, the company aims to create a basic understanding of artificial intelligence (AI) for everyone in India. Based on Intel's AI For Citizens program, AI For All is a 4-hour, self-paced learning program that demystifies AI in an inclusive manner.

### **42. Lok Sabha passes Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Bill & The Inland Vessels Bill**

The Lok Sabha today passed the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Bill 2021 and The Inland Vessels Bill 2021 without any discussion. The AERA bill thrusts upon the increase of air traffic and related economic activities across the country including tier-two and tier-three cities. The Inland vessels bill replaces the Inland Vessels Act, 1917.

### **43. PM Modi launches Academic Bank of Credit and Artificial Intelligence programme for education sector**

PM announced the launching of several initiatives undertaken under the National Education Policy 2020 including Academic Bank of Credit and the Artificial Intelligence programme to make the youth future-oriented and open the way for an AI-driven economy. He also launched Structured Assessment For Analysing Learning Levels (SAFAL) an assessment for Grades 3, 5 and 8 in school PM launches NISHTHA 2.0 to train teachers as per their necessity.

### **44. GoI directs states not to file cases under scrapped section 66A of IT Act**

Central directed all states and Union Territories to ask all police stations under their jurisdiction not to register cases under the repealed Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000. Under the scrapped Section 66A of the IT Act, a person posting offensive messages could be imprisoned for up to three years and also fined.

### **45. Govt announces 27% reservation for OBCs, 10% quota for EWS in medical, dental courses**

The government announced a 27-per cent quota for OBCs and 10 per cent reservation for the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) category in the All-India Quota (AIQ) scheme for undergraduate and postgraduate medical and dental courses from the current academic year, 2021-22.

Initially, there was no reservation in the AIQ scheme up to 2007.

AIQ scheme was introduced in 1986 under the Supreme Court's directions

#### **46. 27% Quota For OBCs, 10% For Economically Weak Sections In Medical Courses**

Medical and dental courses in the country will have a 27 per cent reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs), 10 per cent for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) under the All India Quota Scheme for undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. This will apply to courses like MBBS, MD, MS, BDS, MDS and diploma medical programmes from this academic year.

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## International

### 1. Malta placed on global money laundering watchdog's grey list for monitoring

The Paris-based Financial Action Task Force, or FATF, added the European Union nation Malta to its so-called gray list, along with Haiti, the Philippines and South Sudan.

Malta's financial intelligence unit needs to support law enforcement authorities" to pursue criminal tax and related money-laundering cases.

### 2. Rafael unveils Sea Breaker AI missile with 300 km range

Israeli defense electronics company Rafael Advanced Defense Systems unveiled Sea Breaker, a 5th generation long range, autonomous, precision-guided missile system, which can precisely target sea and land targets up to a range of 300 kilometers.

Sea Breaker can be launched from naval platforms, varying in size, and from fast attack missile boats, to corvettes and frigates.

### 3. From 30 million cases to zero: China is certified malaria-free by WHO

Following a 70-year effort, China has been awarded a malaria-free certification from WHO ' a notable feat for a country that reported 30 million cases of the disease annually in the 1940s.

China is the first country in the WHO Western Pacific Region to be awarded a malaria-free certification in more than 3 decades. Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus:- WHO Director-General.

### 4. Haiti President Jovenel Moise assassinated at home

Haitian President Jovenel Moise was assassinated after a group of unidentified people attacked his private residence the country's interim prime minister Claude Joseph said in a statement.

Haiti is a Caribbean country.

Capital: Port-au-Prince; Currency: Haitian gourde; Continent: North America.

### 5. Giant pandas are no longer classified as endangered but are still vulnerable: Chinese officials

Giant pandas are no longer classified as endangered but are still vulnerable.

The classification was downgraded as their number in the wild has reached 1,800. Experts say that the country managed to save its iconic animal through its long-term conservation efforts, including the expansion of habitats.

China considers pandas a national treasure, & also uses them as diplomatic tools

### 6. Sweden's Stefan Lofven re-elected PM in narrow parliamentary vote

Swedish Social Democrat leader Stefan Lofven was narrowly re-elected as prime minister by parliament after leading the country in a caretaking capacity since his resignation last month.

He needed to avoid a majority voting against him in the Swedish Riksdag. In Sweden, P.M. can govern as long as there is no parliamentary majority ' a minimum of 175 votes ' against them Sweden: Capital: Stockholm Currency: Swedish krona

### 7. Ethiopia PM Abiy's party wins landslide victory in election for 2nd term

In Ethiopia, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's Prosperity party won national parliamentary election. National Election Board of Ethiopia announced that the ruling party won 410 seats out of 436 in the federal parliament. This landslide victory assured a second term for the prime minister Abiy Ahmed. Abiy Ahmed came to power in April 2018 after the former prime minister resigned

### 8. Zaila Avant-garde Becomes 1st African-American To Win US Spelling Bee

Zaila Avant-garde, a 14-year-old basketball prodigy, has won the 2021 Scripps National Spelling Bee, becoming the first African-American contestant to win in 93 editions of the prestigious competition. Chaitra Thummala, a 12-year-old from San Francisco and Bhavana Madini, 13, from New York won the second and third place at the keenly-fought competition. first-place prize of USD 50,000 was won by Z Avant-garde



### **9. EAM Jaishankar unveils statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Georgia**

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar unveiled a statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Georgia at a prominent park. During his two-day visit to Georgia, a strategically important country situated at the intersection of Eastern Europe and Western Asia, Jaishankar held talks with the country's top leadership & also handed over the relics of 17th century St. Queen Keteva. Capital: Tbilisi; Currency: Georgian lari

### **10. Bhutan becomes first country to adopt UPI standards for its QR deployment**

BHIM UPI has forayed in Bhutan in collaboration with the Royal Monetary Authority of Bhutan. NPCI's international arm, NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) and Royal Monetary Authority of Bhutan (RMA) collaboration will help enable UPI acceptance powered by BHIM App in Bhutan.

The service will be launched by India's Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman. Bhutan Capital: Thimphu; Currency, Ngultrum.

### **11. Nepal signs \$1.3 billion mega deal with India's SJVN to develop 679 MW Lower Arun Hydropower project**

Nepal has signed a \$1.3 billion deal with India's hydropower major Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) to develop a 679-megawatt hydropower project in eastern Nepal, the second mega venture undertaken by India in the neighbouring Himalayan nation.

The project will be developed under the build, own, operate and transfer (BOOT) model.

### **12. China begins construction of world's 1st commercial small modular reactor 'LingLong One'**

China has officially begun the construction of the world's first commercial modular small reactor 'Linglong One' at the Changjiang Nuclear Power Plant in the country's Hainan Province. Also called the ACP100, it was given a green signal by the International Atomic Energy Agency in 2016.

The ACP100 comes with a generation capacity of 125,000 kilowatt-hours. Once completed, the generation capacity can climb up to 1 billion kilowatt-hours.

### **13. Singapore unveils one of world's largest floating solar panel farms**

Singapore unveiled one of the world's largest floating solar panel farms, which can produce enough electricity to power the island's five water treatment plants. The project is part of efforts by the country to meet a goal of quadrupling its solar energy production by 2025 to help tackle climate change.

It could help to reduce carbon emissions by about 32 kilotons annually. it is comparable to taking 7,000 cars off the roads.

### **14. Turkey to pull out of Istanbul Convention**

The Istanbul Convention is also known as Council of Europe Convention on Preventing & Combating Violence against Women & Domestic Violence, is a regional human rights instrument that aims to protect women against all forms of violence & hold perpetrators accountable. Turkey is the first & only country in the Council of Europe to have withdrawn from a human rights convention. Capital: Ankara; Currency: Turkish lira

### **15. UNESCO Strips Liverpool of Its World Heritage Status**

Over the centuries, Liverpool has been one of the world's most vital ports, a symbol of post-industrial decay, and an inspiring tale of urban renewal fueled by its hard-earned cultural legacy. Now, the inherent tension between the city's aspirations and its history has cost the English town its UNESCO World Heritage status.

Liverpool is located in United Kingdom. That decision came at a recent UNESCO committee meeting held in Fuzhou, China

#### **16. A webinar series named 'ShotoBorshoShoto Asha- Rise Up' inaugurated by ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak**

A 6-part webinar series named 'ShotoBorshoShoto Asha- Rise Up' was inaugurated by the Bangladesh State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak and High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Vikram Doraiswami. The RiseUp platform will bring together mentors, innovators, entrepreneurs and investors from India and Bangladesh. Capital of Bangladesh: Dhaka, Currency: Taka.

#### **17. UN Adopts its first ever resolution on vision, aims to help 1 billion**

The U.N. The General Assembly approved its first-ever resolution on vision, calling on its 193 member nations to ensure access to eye care for everyone in their countries which would contribute to a global effort to help at least 1.1 billion people with vision impairment who currently lack eye services by 2030.

#### **18. The anti-poverty organisation Oxfam releases its 'The Hunger Virus Multiplies' report**

The anti-poverty organisation Oxfam in its report titled as 'the Hunger Virus Multiplies' said 11 people die of hunger each minute and that the number facing famine-like conditions around the globe has increased six times over the last year. The report listed a number of countries as 'the worst hunger hot spots' including Afghanistan, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Syria, and Yemen Headquarter of Oxfam : Nairobi, Kenya

#### **19. Typhoon In-Fa makes landfall in East China's Zhejiang Province**

Typhoon In-Fa made the second landfall in the coastal area of Pinghu City, east China's Zhejiang Province, packing winds of up to 28 meters per second at its center, according to the provincial flood control headquarters. The typhoon which is the sixth of this year landed in the coastal waters near Pinghu, a county-level city under the administration of Jiaxing City Capital of China : Beijing, Currency of China : Yuan or Renminbi

#### **20. Sweden joins International Solar Alliance (ISA)**

Sweden has ratified the framework agreement for the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and is now a member of the global platform, which is an initiative of India aimed at promoting renewable energy and sustainable development. ISA is an alliance of 121 countries initiated by India, most of them being sunshine countries, lying btw the T. Cancer & T. Capricorn. HQ at Gurugram ISA Director General: Ajay Mathur Swedish Ambassador to India: Klas Molin Founded : 2015

#### **21. Minister of State for External Affairs inaugurates the BRICS Civil Forum 2021**

The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, inaugurated the BRICS Civil Forum 2021 being organised by the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS). The two-day event was organised by India, as BRICS Chair, with an apt focus on 'technology' and 'sustainability' in the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic The BRICS nations are : Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa

#### **22. Global Education Summit begins in London**

The United Kingdom and Kenya are co-hosting a two-day Global Education Summit in London to raise US\$5 billion for the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), which funds public education in up to 90 countries and territories. These countries are home to more than 80% of the world's out-of-school children

#### **23. Peruvian President Pedro Castillo names Marxist party member Guido Bellido as Prime Minister.**

Prime minister Bellido, a congressman, is a member of the self-described Marxist-Leninist Free Peru party, with which Castillo won the presidency this year in the Andean nation.

Peru: Capital:Lima; Currency: Sol

## Sports

### **1. WAKO India Kickboxing Federation gets Government recognition as National Sports Federation (NSF)**

The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has decided to grant recognition to WAKO India Kickboxing Federation as NSF for promotion and development of the Kickboxing sport in India. WAKO India Kickboxing Federation is affiliated to the World Association of Kickboxing Organizations (WAKO), which is the International Federation for the sport of Kickboxing.

### **2. Norway's Karsten Warholm breaks 29-year-old men's 400 metres hurdles world record**

Karsten Warholm, a 25-year-old athlete from Norway, broke the long-standing world record in the 400m hurdles during the Bislett Games. Earlier the record was held by American hurdler Kevin Young for 29 years. His mark of 46.78 seconds was set at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, Spain, which was finally broken with an official time of 46.70 seconds by Warholm.

### **3. Indian wrestler Sumit Malik gets two-year ban**

Indian wrestler Sumit Malik has been banned for two years by the United World Wrestling (UWW) after his B sample also returned positive for a prohibited stimulant.

As per World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) list of prohibited substances, methylhexanamine is prohibited in-competition only as a specified stimulant. WADA HQs: Montreal, Canada

### **4. Mariyappan Thangavelu named India's flag-bearer for Tokyo Paralympics**

Top para high-jumper Mariyappan Thangavelu was named the flag-bearer of the Indian contingent in the Tokyo Paralympics, which begins on August 24.

T. Mariyappan will defend the men's high jump (T-42) gold at the Tokyo Paralympics Games. Thangavelu was conferred with Khel Ratna the country's highest sporting award in 2020.

### **5. NRAI's Pawan Singh becomes first Indian jury member for shooting at Tokyo Olympics**

Pawan Singh, the Joint Secretary General of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI), has been selected as the first ever Indian juror for the upcoming Tokyo Olympic Games.

A total of 26 jury members will officiate at the Olympics of which six will be from Japan and the rest from other countries. Mr Singh is the founder-director of the Gun For Glory Shooting Academy in Balewadi, Pune

### **6. Nihal Sarin wins Serbia Open, claims second consecutive title**

Young Indian Grandmaster Nihal Sarin emerged champion in the Masters' section of the Serbia Open Chess Championship in Belgrade.

This is the second consecutive tournament victory for sixteen-year old Sarin after he claimed the title in Silver Lake Open. Sarin, became a Grandmaster in 2018 at the age of 14.

### **7. Ashleigh Barty beats Karolina Pliskova to win maiden Wimbledon title**

In Wimbledon Tennis Tournament, Australian top seed Ashleigh Barty has won the Women's singles title defeating eighth seed Karolina Pliskova of Czech Republic. Barty won the first set 6-3 but Pliskova fought back to win the second set 7-6(4-7) to level the contest 1 set each. Barty made a strong come back and won the third set 6-3 to clinch the title. Wimbledon or The Championships is the oldest tennis tournament in the world

### **8. Argentina beats Brazil 1-0 to win Copa America 2021**

After 28 years of wait, Argentina finally has a trophy as it beat Brazil in the final of Copa America 2021 at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Angel Di Maria goal gave the side a 1-0 win over Brazil.

It is Argentina's first title since 1993 and 15th Copa America title.

### **9. Italy wins UEFA Euro 2020 football tournament**

Italy defeated England in the UEFA Euro 2020 final in penalty shootout after the score was tied at 1-1 after extra time.

It was the first final to be decided on penalties since Czechoslovakia beat West Germany in 1976

Italy won the European Championship for the first time since 1968

Italy's Goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma named player of UEFA EURO 2020

#### **10. Former India pacer Pankaj Singh retires from all forms of cricket**

Former India pacer and veteran Rajasthan cricketer Pankaj Singh has announced his retirement from all forms of the game

Singh's maiden ODI appearance came against Sri Lanka in a tri-series in Zimbabwe in 2010

The bowler was also a part of Royal Challengers Bangalore and Rajasthan Royals in the Indian Premier League.

#### **11. 2021 Wimbledon Championships other results | 1**

# British pair Alfie Hewett and Gordon Reid won a fourth Wimbledon men's wheelchair doubles title, beating the Netherlands' Tom Egberink and Belgium's Joachim Gerard 7-5 6-2.

# In the women's wheelchair doubled Britain's Jordanne Whiley & Japan's Yui Kamiji, clinched a fifth Wimbledon title together, They beat South Africa's Kgothatso Montjane & fellow Briton Lucy Shuker.

#### **12. 2021 Wimbledon Championships other results | 2**

# Men's Doubles Champion: Mate Pavic and Nikola Pietrangeli

# Men's Doubles Runner-up: Marcel Granollers & Horacio Zeballos

# Women's Doubles Champion: Hsieh Su-wei & Elise Mertens

# Women's Doubles Runner-up: Elena Vesnina and Veronika Kudermetova

# Australian Dylan Alcott sealed a 2nd Wimbledon quad wheelchair singles title with a 6-2 6-2 win over Sam Schroder (Netherlands).

#### **13. Devon Conway, Sophie Ecclestone win ICC Player of the Month Award for June 2021**

New Zealand opener Devon Conway and England spinner Sophie Ecclestone won the ICC Player of the Month for June in the men's & women's category respectively. The Kiwi batter edged out his teammate Kyle Jamieson and South Africa's Quinton de Kock to bag the award. Ecclestone, on the other hand, won ahead of India's teen batting sensation Shafali Verma and Sneha Rana.

#### **14. India to host badminton World Championships in 2026, 2023 Sudirman Cup to be hosted by China**

India will host the World Badminton Championships in 2026. This will only be the second time that India will be hosting the world championship, with Hyderabad having played host to the prestigious event in 2009.

Suzhou, China has been awarded the hosting rights of the TotalEnergies BWF Sudirman Cup Finals 2023. Badminton World Federation (BWF) - Governing body of badminton HQ: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

#### **15. Babar Azam becomes fastest batsman to score 14 ODI centuries; surpasses Hashim Amla, Virat Kohli**

Pakistan captain Babar Azam with the century he scored against England became the fastest batsman to notch up 14 ODI centuries in terms of innings, surpassing the likes of Hashim Amla (84), Indian captain Virat Kohli (103), and Australian batsman David Warner (98). He reached his 14th ton in his 81st ODI innings.

#### **16. IOA names B K Sinha as Press Attache of India's Olympic contingent**

Indian Olympic Association has appointed retired IPS officer B K Sinha, who will perform the dual role of Security as well as Press Attache of country's contingent at Tokyo Games, which begins on July 23.



India will be represented by a 228-strong contingent, including 119 athletes, at the Tokyo Olympics, which is being held under strict health protocols sans spectators. BK Sinha is a former Haryana DGP and also a recipient of the President's Police Medal.

#### **17. Lewis Hamilton Wins British Grand Prix 2021**

Lewis Hamilton celebrated a record eighth British Grand Prix victory after fighting back from a 10-second penalty for a first-lap collision that halted the race and sent title rival Max Verstappen to hospital.

The win was the 99th of seven-times world champion Hamilton's Formula One career, fourth of the current campaign.

#### **18. ICC welcomes Mongolia, Tajikistan and Switzerland as new members**

The International Cricket Council (ICC) inducted Mongolia, Tajikistan, and Switzerland as members at its 78th Annual General Meeting. Mongolia and Tajikistan as the 22nd and 23rd members of the Asia region.

Switzerland is Europe's 35th member. with the ICC now comprising 106 members in total, including 94 associates.

ICC:- Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates Founded: 15 June 1909

#### **19. Indian wrestlers Aman Gulia and Sagar Jaglan become cadet world champions**

Young wrestlers Aman Gulia and Sagar Jaglan emerged the new world champions in their respective categories.

'Gulia emerged winner with a convincing 5-2 win over American Luke Joseph Lilledahl in 48kg final

'Jaglan blanked James Mockler Rowley 4-0 in the 80kg summit clash. World Championships 2021 venue: Budapest, Hungary.

#### **20. 2032 Olympics awarded to Brisbane, 3rd Australian city to host Games after Melbourne and Sydney**

Brisbane was announced as the host of the 2032 Olympics, thus becoming the third Australian city to host the Games.

Australia became only the second country in the world, after the United States, to host the Olympics in three different cities.

Brisbane had been chosen as the "preferred host" in February. Australia -Capital: Canberra; Currency: Australian dollar; Prime minister: Scott Morrison

#### **21. Tokyo Olympics: IOA rope in Adani Group as sponsor**

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) announced that it has roped in Adani Group as a sponsor for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

Earlier, IOA had announced that SFA Pvt Ltd had joined as one of its sponsors for the showpiece event.

MPL Sports Foundation as the 'Principal Sponsor' covering the Tokyo Olympic Games, 2022 Asian Games, and Commonwealth Games.

Global nutrition company Herbalife as one of its sponsors.

#### **22. AFC Women's Asian Cup 2022: Mumbai, Pune chosen as new venues, Bhubaneswar, Ahmedabad dropped**

AFC Women's Asian Cup 2022 is to be held in Mumbai and Pune after the Asian Football Confederation dropped Bhubaneswar and Ahmedabad as venues to minimise the travelling time for participants and ensure an "optimum environment" for a bio-secure bubble. New venue :- Mumbai Football Arena at the Andheri Sports Complex & the Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex in Balewadi, Pune.

AFC Women's Asian Cup 2022 is on schedule to take place from January 20 -February 6, 2022

### 23. Japan's YutoHorigome wins first ever Olympic gold medal in skateboarding

Japan's YutoHorigome has won the first ever skateboarding competition at the Olympic Games, taking gold in men's street event at the Ariake Urban Sport in Tokyo. Yuto overcame a shaky start to pocket the gold with 37.18 points.

YutoHorigome (Japan) (37.18 pts), 2. Kelvin Hoefler (Brazil 36.15 pts), 3. Jagger Eaton (USA 35.35 pts). Japan's Momiji Nishiya- 1st Women's Olympic Skateboard champion.

### 24. Priya Malik wins gold medal at World Cadet Wrestling Championship 2021.

Indian junior wrestler Priya Malik won a gold medal in the 73-kg category Cadet World Championship held in Budapest, Hungary. The Cadet World Championship is a tournament where the best Greco-Roman, Freestyle and Women wrestlers worldwide below the age of 17 compete. India has won 13 medals, including five Gold at the World Cadet Championships in Budapest

### 25. Japan's 13-year-old, Nishiya Momiji wins first ever women's street skateboarding gold

The inaugural women's street skateboarding event ended with a teen sweep. The gold and silver went to 13-year-olds Momiji Nishiya of Japan and Rayssa Leal of Brazil respectively, while 16-year-old Japanese Funa Nakayama took bronze making the history of the youngest Olympic podium ever. Japan's YutoHorigome won the men's skateboarding gold in Tokyo Olympic 2020

### 26. Government to officially recognise 236 academies across the country under Khelo India Scheme

The Centre has accredited a total of 236 academies across the country under Khelo India Scheme for the training of the Khelo India Athletes. Under this scheme, 360 Khelo India Centres and 24 Khelo India State Centres of Excellence have been notified. Under the State Level Khelo India Centre Scheme, the Ministry has decided to establish 1,000 Khelo India Centres across India. The first edition of Khelo India Youth Games was inaugurated in January 2018

### 27. Bermuda's Flora Duffy wins women's triathlon making Bermuda the smallest country to win gold

Flora Duffy triumphed at the triathlon in Tokyo, and that means Bermuda is officially the smallest country to ever celebrate a Summer Olympic gold medal. The 33-year-old triathlete blew away the 56-woman field with a time of 1:55:36 to earn gold in her fourth Olympic appearance. Great Britain's Georgia Taylor-Brown won silver, while USA's Katie Zaferes won Bronze.

### 28. Lovlina Borgohain assures India of first boxing medal at Tokyo Olympics

Lovlina Borgohain outsmarted former World champion Nien-Chin Chen to reach the women's 69 kg semifinal and assure India of another medal at the Tokyo Olympics.

Lovlina will be the second Indian woman boxer after Mary Kom, and third overall (after Mary Kom and Vijender Singh), to clinch an Olympic medal.

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## Agreements & MoUs

### 1. Ujjivan Small Finance Bank partnered with LoanTap

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank has partnered with digital lender LoanTap to provide personal loans to salaried professionals.

This is part of Ujjivan SFB's Application Programming Interface banking initiative.

This collaboration aims to extend the bank's services to its customers via LoanTap's fast and convenient platforms

### 2. Indian Navy, BEL Ink MOU for Technology Incubation Forum (TIF)

The Indian Navy and BEL have signed an MoU for the creation of a joint Technology Incubation Forum. The TIF reflects the joint vision of Indian Navy and BEL towards innovative and creative thinking and fostering development of emerging technologies. The TIF will spearhead mission mode development of deployable products under the Government's 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative.

### 3. Arun Jaitley NIFM partners with Microsoft to drive cloud and AI-led innovation in FinTech

The Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management (AJNIFM) and Microsoft signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for a strategic partnership to build an AI and emerging technologies Centre of Excellence at the institute. This collaboration seeks to explore the role of cloud, AI & emerging technologies in transforming and shaping the future of public finance.

### 4. Central Reserve Police Force signs MoU with C-DAC to train manpower of force in advanced technologies, undertake joint projects

CRPF has signed a MoU with Centre for Development of Advanced Computing C-DAC.

The MoU aims at augmenting the technical capabilities of CRPF by training its manpower in advanced areas like Internet of Things (IoT), Cyber security, Artificial Intelligence, High-Performance Computing and Big Data Analytics. DG CRPF: Kuldiep Singh; DG C-DAC: Dr. Hemant Darbari.

### 5. Axis Bank inks multi-year deal with Amazon Web Services (AWS) for powering digital banking services

AWS inked a multi-year deal with Axis Bank to power the digital transformation prog. of the country's 3rd-largest private sector bank. As part of the agreement, Axis Bank with help of AWS will build a portfolio of new digital financial services to bring advanced banking experiences to customers, including online accounts that can be opened in 6 min & instant digital payment. This will help the bank increase customer satisfaction by 35% and lower costs by 24%.

### 6. Virgin Atlantic partners with TCS to power recovery and transformation

Tata Consultancy Services announced that it has expanded its strategic partnership with Virgin Atlantic, one of the UK's leading airlines, to help the latter embark on a "new phase of recovery and growth". TCS will build innovative digital solutions with 'Cloud First' guiding principles to help Virgin improve technology resilience, agility, & performance in its transformation. The enhanced partnership builds on a 17-year relationship between the two organisations.

### 7. SJVN Partners With NIWE to Develop Solar, Wind & Hybrid Projects

SJVN Limited has announced signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE) to develop various Solar, Wind (solar-wind) Hybrid, and (solar-wind plus battery storage) Hybrid Energy projects.

NIWE will Support SJVN to assess the feasibility and techno-commercial aspects of Solar, Wind, Hybrid, and Hybrid Energy Projects. NIWE has been established in Chennai in the year 1998

### **8. First aircraft purchase agreement signed between GIFT city-based Vman Aviation & Airbus Helicopters under the Atmanirbhar Bharat**

Indian aviation industry signed the first aircraft purchase order by a GIFT City (Gujarat International Finance Tec) based leasing company under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan of the Government of India. This agreement is the result of the efforts put in for the last 4-5 years to create a viable leasing & financing ecosystem in the country. Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan: mission started by the GOI in 2020

### **9. Cabinet approves MoC between Competition Commission of India and Japan Fair Trade Commission**

Union Cabinet has approved Memorandum on Cooperation (MoC) between Competition Commission of India (CCI) & Japan Fair Trade Commission (JFTC) to promote and strengthen cooperation in the matter of Competition Law and Policy. It will enable CCI to emulate and learn from the experiences & lessons of its counterpart competition agency in Japan which would enhance efficiency CCI is a statutory body responsible for enforcing The Competition Act 2002

### **10. Cabinet approves MoU between ICoAI and ACCA relating to cost accountancy**

Union Cabinet has approved an MoU between the Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICoAI) & the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), UK. This will lead towards exchange of information, research, & publications, which will promote good governance practices in both jurisdictions. MoU will also facilitate the movement of professionals in both jurisdictions Institute of Cost Accountants of India was founded in 1944

### **11. Bharat Dynamics Ltd signs Rs 499-crore deal with IAF for Akash missiles**

Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) signed a contract worth about Rs 499 crore with the Ministry of Defence for the manufacture and supply of Akash missiles to the Indian Air Force (IAF).

BDL is supplying Akash Missiles to the Indian Army and Indian Air Force.

BDL is the prime production agency for projects under India's Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP).

### **12. India, Gambia sign MoU to strengthen cooperation in governance reforms**

India and Gambia signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to strengthen and promote bilateral cooperation in personnel administration and governance reforms.

The cooperation in improving performance management system in government, implementation of contributory pension scheme and e-recruitment in government form part of the areas to be covered under the MoU Gambia Capital: Banjul, Currency: Dalasi, President: Adama Barrow

### **13. Ambuja Cement Foundation, NABARD to skill rural youth in 10 states**

Ambuja Cement Foundation has joined hands with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for implementation of its employability through skill initiative project's second phase.

The foundation received grant assistance from NABARD under the Gramya Vikas Nidhi, a fund created for the development of off-farm sector activities.

### **14. Cabinet approves MoU between India and Denmark on Cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine**

The Union Cabinet approved the MoU signed between India and the Kingdom of Denmark aims to develop the health sector through joint initiatives. This will facilitate the improvement of the public health status of the people of both countries.

It will also strengthen bilateral ties between India and Denmark. Denmark: Capital: Copenhagen Currency: Danish krone



### **15. Cabinet approves MoU between India and Russian Federation on cooperation regarding coking Coal, used for Steel making**

The Union Cabinet approved the MoU between India and the Russian Federation on cooperation regarding Coking Coal, which is used for Steelmaking aims to benefit the entire steel sector by reducing their input cost.

This may lead to a reduction in the cost of steel in the country and promote equity and inclusiveness.

Activities involved in the cooperation are aimed at diversifying source of coking coal.

### **16. DBT, MoES sign inter-ministerial MoU for cooperation in field of polar biology**

An MoU was signed between the MoES & the DBT for cooperation in the area of polar biology.

The MoU envisages mutual collaboration to explore the possibility of cooperation, convergence and synergy to bring out the expertise and services of both organizations under one roof and work hand-in-hand for addressing relevant questions in the field of polar biology. Polar Biology is a focal point for biologists working in polar regions.

### **17. IAHE signs pact with University of New South Wales for setting up centre of excellence**

The Indian Academy of Highway Engineers (IAHE), under the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MORTH), has signed an Agreement with University of New South Wales (UNSW), Australia for setting up a Centre for Advanced Transportation Technology and Systems (CATTS) at IAHE, Noida.

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways: Nitin Jairam Gadkari

### **18. NCW signs MoU with BPRD for gender sensitisation of police personnel**

National Commission for Women has signed an MoU with Bureau of Police Research and Development for gender sensitization of police personnel across the country.

Gender sensitization of police personnel with respect to legislation and policies concerning women, bringing attitudinal and behavioural changes in police are the objectives of the programme NCW Chairperson: Rekha Sharma

### **19. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology enables map services in UMANG App through MoU with MapmyIndia**

As a result of integration of UMANG with MapmyIndia, citizens will be able to find government facilities nearest to their location, such as mandis, blood banks and much more, at the click of a button.

Besides, they will also be able to view the driving distance, get directions and turn by turn voice and visual guidance to locations, including traffic and road safety alerts The UMANG mobile app launched in 2017

### **20. Delhi govt partners with Google to provide real-time bus tracking service**

The partnership aims to launch a system that will enable commuters to access real-time information about buses, such as the arrival and departure times, and their routes.

Users will get an estimation of how long their trip is going to take, and if their bus is delayed. Google Transit will automatically update the times in line with the new conditions Ramesh Nagarajan, the director of product management at Google

### **21. Bank of Maharashtra signs MoU with NABARD**

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will boost ongoing developmental initiatives linked to priority sector lending in Maharashtra.

The MoU envisages joint initiatives for the benefit of farmers, farmer producer organisations, joint liability groups, self help groups, rural artisans, weavers, agri-preneurs, agri start-ups, micro, small and medium enterprises in the State CEO & MD, BoM: A S Rajeev

## **22. Zurich airport signs agreement with Noida International Airport Limited (NIAL) for development of Noida airport**

The Zurich Airport International on Saturday signed a shareholder agreement with the Uttar Pradesh government's entity NIAL in Lucknow for the development of the Noida International Airport.

YIAPL is a 100% subsidiary of Zurich Airport International and has been incorporated to develop the Noida International Airport in Jewar, which is around 70 km from Delhi. Christoph Schnellmann, CEO, Yamuna International Airport Pvt Ltd (YIAPL)

## **23. Dvara E-Dairy partners with IFFCO Tokio General Insurance for AI-led tag for cattle insurance**

Dvara E-Dairy Solutions, a portfolio company of Dvara Holdings has launched an artificial intelligence (AI) led digital tag 'Surabhi e-Tag' to identify cattle based on muzzle identity (muzzle images of the cattle are collected through the Surabhi mobile application).

This will be used for cattle insurance products offered in partnership with IFFCO Tokio General Insurance.

## **24. U GRO Capital, Bank of Baroda in tie-up for '1,000-crore MSME co-lending**

U GRO Capital announced the launch of a co-lending partnership for micro, small and medium enterprises with Bank of Baroda.

It is a '1,000-crore co-lending programme that will allow MSMEs to avail customised lending solutions at a competitive rate of interest with a significant reduction in turn-around time.

The loan amount ranges from '50 lakh to '2.5 crore Sanjiv Chadha, managing director and CEO, Bank of Baroda.

## **25. Indian Bank inks pact with IIT-Guwahati's centre for start-up financing**

Indian Bank signed the MoU with IIT Guwahati Technology Incubation Centre (TIC) for funding eligible Startups under the 'IND SpringBoard' scheme of the Bank. Under this product, Indian Bank supports start-ups by extending credit facilities upto Rs.50 Crore for working capital requirements and also fund based term loan requirements for acquiring fixed assets for their unit. It is one of its kind in the North-Eastern part of India.

## **26. IIM Shillong inks MoU with Arunachal govt**

Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Centre for Policy Research & Analysis of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Shillong and Arunachal Pradesh government have inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for fostering mutual agreement between the Centre and the Finance Planning and Investment department of the Government of Arunachal. Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh:- Pema Khandu; Governor: Brigadier B.D Mishra

## **27. India, Maldives sign \$4.5 mn agreement for community development projects**

External affairs minister S Jaishankar and his Maldivian counterpart Abdulla Shahid signed an agreement on India-funded community projects in the Maldives after they held wide-ranging talks covering a range of bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interests.

The Maldives is one of India's key maritime neighbours in the Indian Ocean Region.

Maldives Capital: Mal; Currency: Maldivian rufiyaa

## **28. CRPF signs MoU with C-DAC to train manpower of force in advanced technologies, undertake joint projects**

The Central Reserve Police Force, CRPF has signed a MoU with Centre for Development of Advanced Computing C-DAC to train the manpower of the force in advanced technologies and undertake joint projects.

The MoU aims at augmenting the technical capabilities of CRPF by training its manpower in advanced areas like Internet of Things (IoT), Cyber security, AI, etc.

## Schemes

### 1. Education minister Ramesh Pokhriyal launch NIPUN Bharat to help children attain foundational literacy

Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launched the National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat) for ensuring that every child in the country necessarily attains foundational literacy and numeracy by the end of grade 3, by 2026-27.

NIPUN Bharat aims to cover the learning needs of children in the age group of 3-9

### 2. Govt clears extension of interest equalisation scheme till September 30

The government of India approves the extension of the Interest Equalisation Scheme (IES) for pre and post-shipment rupee export credit for three months. The extension will take effect from 1st July 2021 to 30th September 2021. The scheme was effective from 1st April 2015 for five years. The scheme aims to boost the MSME sector in particular

### 3. Cabinet okays scheme to provide '1,624 cr over 5 years as subsidy to Indian shipping companies

Union Cabinet approved a scheme to provide Rs 1,624 crore over 5 years as a subsidy to Indian shipping companies in global tenders floated by ministries and CPSEs for import of government cargo.

The subsidy support would be extended only to those ships which have bagged the award after the implementation of the scheme & ships older than 20 years would not be eligible.

The budgetary support would be provided directly to the ministry/department concerned.

### 4. LIC launched benefit based health insurance plan Arogya Rakshak

The Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India has introduced a new health insurance plan called Arogya Rakshak, which is a non-linked, non-participating, regular premium, individual health insurance plan.

It differs from the conventional health insurance plan in terms of method of payment.

Arogya Rakshak provides fixed benefit health insurance cover.

It pays a lump sum benefit irrespective of actual medical costs.

### 5. Centre Extends 'Stand Up India Scheme' To 2025; Activities Allied To Agriculture Included

The Government of India has extended the duration of 'Stand Up India Scheme' up to the year 2025. The objective of the 'Stand Up India Scheme' is to facilitate loans from Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) of value between Rs 10 lakh and Rs 1 crore to atleast one SC or ST borrower and one woman borrower per bank branch for setting up green field enterprise in manufacturing,

### 6. National Ayush Mission to continue as Centrally Sponsored Scheme for another five years till 2026

The Union Cabinet approved continuation of the National Ayush Mission as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for another five years till 2026. The scheme would continue from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2026 with a financial implication of Rs 4,607.30 crore to be spent during the period. The mission was launched on September 15, 2014.

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## Appointments & Resignations

### 1. Air Marshal VR Chaudhari takes charge as IAF's Vice Chief of Air Staff

Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari will be the new Vice Chief of Indian Air Force succeeding Air Marshal Harjit Singh Arora.

Air Marshal Chaudhari is currently serving as commander-in-chief of the IAF's Western Air Command (WAC) that looks after the security of the country's air space in the sensitive Ladakh sector as well as various other parts of north India.

### 2. Uttarakhand Chief Minister Tirath Singh Rawat resigns

Uttarakhand CM Tirath Singh Rawat has handed over his resignation to Governor Baby Rani Maurya. He replaced Trivendra Singh Rawat as CM of the state on 10 March and is the Lok Sabha MP from Pauri Garhwal. Considering the constitutional crisis he resigns from the post.

### 3. Satish Agnihotri joins as new Managing Director of National High Speed Rail Corporation

Satish Agnihotri has taken charge as MD, National High-Speed Rail Corp. Ltd. He has worked as Chairman & MD, RVNL a schedule 'A' CPSE under the Ministry of Railways for close to 9yrs. He also held the position of Chairman, HSRC, a fully owned subsidiary of RVNL since its inception in July 2012 till August 2018.

### 4. PVSLN Murty appointed as new chairman and MD of NEDFi

PVSLN Murty has joined as the new Chairman & Managing Director of North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. Prior to joining NEDFi, Murty was posted as Chief Strategy Officer at SBI. He was instrumental in bringing up APONGHAR a popular Housing loan scheme for the Govt. of Assam employees, in collaboration with Assam Government.

### 5. President clears key appointments, 8 states get new governors | 1

Union Minister Thawarchand Gehlot has been appointed as the new Governor of **Karnataka** while Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel will be the new Governor of **Madhya Pradesh**.

BJP leader Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati will be Governor of **Mizoram** and another party leader Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar has been appointed as the Governor of **Himachal Pradesh**.

### 6. President clears key appointments, 8 states get new governors | 2

Mizoram Governor P.S. Sreedharan Pillai has been appointed as the new Governor of **Goa**. Haryana Governor Satyadev Narayan Arya will now be the Governor of **Tripura**.

Tripura Governor Ramesh Bais is the new Governor of Jharkhand in place of Draupadi Murmu. Himachal Pradesh Governor Bandaru Dattatraya has been transferred and appointed as new Governor of Haryana.

### 7. IIS Officer N Venudhar Reddy takes charge as Director General of All India Radio

N Venudhar Reddy, an Indian Information service, IIS Officer of 1988 batch took charge as Director General of All India Radio.

Currently Working as Principal DG of News Services Division, All India Radio, he was given additional charge of AIR, upon the approval of the Appointments committee of the cabinet.

All India Radio, officially known since 1957 as Akashvani, AIR Founded in 1936, HQ: New Delhi.

### 8. Nandan Nilekani has been named as an advisor to a government panel set up to prevent digital monopolies

The government has set up a nine-member advisory council, including Nandan Nilekani from Infosys and National Health Authority CEO R S Sharma, on steps required to design and accelerate adoption of open network for digital commerce (ONDC).

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has initiated a project on ONDC.



### **9. Cabinet Reshuffle Highlights 1 : New/Additional Portfolio Ministers**

- # Amit Shah: Union minister of home affairs; and Union minister of cooperation
- # Piyush Goyal: Union minister of Commerce and Industry; Union minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; and Union minister of Textiles
- # Dharmendra Pradhan: Union minister of Education; and Union minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

### **10. Cabinet Reshuffle Highlights 2 : New/Additional Portfolio Ministers**

- # Parshottam Rupala: Union minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
- # G. Kishan Reddy Union minister of Culture; Union minister of Tourism; and Union minister of Development of North Eastern Region.
- # Anurag Singh Thakur: Union minister of Information and Broadcasting; and Union minister of Youth Affairs and Sports

### **11. Cabinet Reshuffle Highlights 3 : New/Additional Portfolio Ministers**

- # Raj Kumar Singh: Union minister of Power; and Union minister of New and Renewable Energy.
- # Hardeep Singh Puri: Union minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas; and Union minister of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- # Mansukh Mandaviya: Union minister of Health and Family Welfare; and Union minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

### **12. Cabinet Reshuffle Highlights 4 : New/Additional Portfolio Ministers**

- # Narayan Tatu Rane: Union minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise.
- # Sarbananda Sonowal: Union minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways; and Union minister of AYUSH.
- # Dr. Virendra Kumar: Union minister of Social Justice and Empowerment
- # Giriraj Singh: Union minister of Rural Development; and Union minister of Panchayati Raj.

### **13. Cabinet Reshuffle Highlights 5 : New/Additional Portfolio Ministers**

- # Ramchandra Prasad Singh: Union minister of Steel.
- # Ashwini Vaishnaw: Union minister of Railways; Union minister of Communications; and Union minister of Electronics and Information Technology.
- # Pashu Pati Kumar Paras : Union minister of Food Processing Industries.
- # Kiren Rijiju: Union minister of Law and Justice.

### **14. Shri Ngulkhambath Gangte appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Tunisia**

Shri Ngulkhambath Gangte, presently High Commissioner of India to Zambia, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Tunisia.

Tunisia is situated on the Mediterranean coast of Northwest Africa. Capital: Tunis; Currency: Tunisian dinar; President: Kais Saied

### **15. Government sets up 25-member development council for cement industry**

The government has set up a 25-member development council for the cement industry, including Dalmia Bharat Group CMD Puneet Dalmia and UltraTech Cement MD K C Jhanwar, which will suggest ways to eliminate waste, obtain maximum production, improve quality, reduce costs and promote standardization of products.

Puneet Dalmia is the chairman of the council.

### **16. Federal Bank gets RBI nod to re-appoint Shyam Srinivasan as MD & CEO for 3 yrs**

Private sector Federal Bank said it has received approval from the RBI to re-appoint Shyam Srinivasan as its MD and CEO for three years.

Srinivasan took charge as MD and CEO of the lender on September 23, 2010. He had joined Federal Bank with the experience of over 20 years with leading multinational banks in India, Middle East and South East Asia. Federal Bank Headquarters: Aluva, Kerala

### **17. Twitter Names Vinay Prakash as Resident Grievance Officer for India to Follow New IT Rules**

As per the information updated on Twitter's website, Vinay Prakash is the Resident Grievance Officer (RGO). Users can contact him using an email ID listed on the page. The company has also published its compliance report for the period of May 26, 2021, to June 25, 2021. This was another key requirement under the IT rules that came into effect on May 26.

### **18. US President Joe Biden nominates Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti as Ambassador to India**

Eric Garcetti will succeed Kenneth Juster who served as ambassador to India during the Trump administration.

Mr Garcetti has been mayor of Los Angeles since 2013, is a former intelligence officer from the U.S. Navy and a Rhodes Scholar. The US Embassy in New Delhi is currently being run by interim envoy Atul Keshap

### **19. Vietnam appoints first honorary Consul General in India**

As part of Vietnam's efforts to deepen cooperation with various states, Industrialist N.S. Srinivasa Murthy based in Bengaluru has been appointed as Honorary Consul General of Vietnam for Karnataka.

He is the first honorary consul general of Vietnam from India and the 19th across the world. Mr. Murthy is the owner and Managing partner of N. K. Subbiah Setty & Sons.

### **20. Sher Bahadur Deuba to take oath as new Nepal PM**

Nepal Supreme Court reinstated the dissolved lower house of Parliament and issued a mandamus ordering the appointment of Nepali Congress President Sher Bahadur Deuba as Prime Minister.

Nepali Congress President Sher Bahadur Deuba is set to succeed KP Sharma Oli as Prime Minister of Nepal.

### **21. IMAI appoints Google India MD Sanjay Gupta as Chairman**

Industry body IMAI said Google India Vice President and Managing Director Sanjay Gupta has been elected as its chairman for the period 2021-23.

He succeeds Amazon Senior Vice President and India Country Manager Amit Agarwal. Internet and Mobile Association of India (IMAI) has also named Facebook India Vice President, Ajit Mohan as Vice Chairman.

### **22. Piyush Goyal appointed as the Leader of House in Rajya Sabha**

Union Minister of Textiles Piyush Goyal replaces Thawar Chand Gehlot as the leader of the house in Rajya Sabha. Goyal was the deputy leader when Gehlot was the leader.

Thawar Chand Gehlot was appointed as Karnataka Governor. Rajya Sabha is the Upper House of the Parliament of India.

### **23. Lebanon's Prime Minister-Designate Saad Hariri Resigns After Failing to Form Government**

Lebanon President Michel Aoun tasked Mr. Hariri in October 2020 with forming a new government after the last one collapsed in the aftermath of the deadly Beirut explosion in August 2020 that destroyed much of the capital.

Mr. Hariri is the second prime minister-designate to give up trying to form up a government amid a deadlock among the country's ruling elite. Lebanon caretaker Prime Minister: Hassan Diab. Capital: Beirut, Currency: Lebanese pound

### **24. Syrian President Bashar al-Assad sworn in for fourth seven-year term**

He officially won 95% of the vote in an election dismissed abroad. U.S. and European officials have questioned the legitimacy of the election.

In power since 2000, Assad's re-election in a landslide was never in doubt. His new term starts with the country still devastated by 10 years of war and sliding deeper into a worsening economic crisis.

The U.N. estimates that more than 80% of Syrians live under the poverty line.

### **25. Kambhampati Haribabu takes oath as Governor of Mizoram**

The former BJP state president and former Vizag MP K Haribabu was sworn in as the Governor of Mizoram at the Durbar Hall, Raj Bhavan in Aizawl.

The former professor of Andhra University, Kambhampati Hari Babu, was administered the oath of office by Justice Michael Zothankhuma, judge on behalf of the chief justice of the Gauhati high court. Mizoram Capital: Aizawl; CM: Zoramthanga

### **26. MoRTH's Secretary Aramane Giridhar gets additional charge as NHA Chairman**

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) Secretary Aramane Giridhar (IAS) has been given additional charge of the Chairman of the National Highways Authority of India (NHA). Present NHA Chairman, Sukhbir Singh Sandhu has been appointed the new Chief Secretary of Uttarakhand. He took over as NHA Chairman in October 2019.

### **27. Ariel Henry to take over as new Haitian Prime Minister**

Henry was installed as head of a new government in an attempt to stabilize a country on the brink of chaos since the murder of president Jovenel Moise at his residence in the early hours of July 7.

The swearing-in of Henry, who was named to the post by Moise days before his death, was seen as a key step towards holding elections as demanded by many Haitians. Haiti Capital: Port-au-Prince; Currency: Haitian gourde

### **28. Pedro Castillo declared president-elect of Peru**

Rural teacher-turned-political novice Pedro Castillo became the winner of Peru's presidential election after the country's longest electoral count in 40 years. Castillo, whose supporters included Peru's poor and rural citizens, defeated right-wing politician Keiko Fujimori by just 44,000 votes.

Peru, the world's second-largest copper producer. He is the first peasant to become president of Peru. Peru Capital: Lima; Currency: Sol

### **29. Binaya Srikanta Pradhan appointed as new high commissioner of India to Tanzania**

Shri Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, presently Deputy Chief of Mission in Embassy of India, Moscow has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the United Republic of Tanzania.

Pradhan joined Indian Foreign Service in 2002. As a diplomat, he served in senior positions in Indian Embassies in Moscow, Turkmenistan and Pakistan during 2004-12. Tanzania Capital: Dodoma; President: Samia Suluhu Hassan; Currency: Tanzanian shilling

### **30. Senior IPS officer Nasir Kamal appointed Bureau of Civil Aviation Security DG**

Senior IPS officer Nasir Kamal has been appointed the Director-General of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS). Kamal is a 1986-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved Kamal's appointment to the post of Director General in BCAS for a tenure up to his superannuation on July 31, 2022

### **31. Property consultant Colliers appoints Ramesh Nair as CEO for India**

Property consultant Colliers has appointed Ramesh Nair as the chief executive officer (CEO) for India and managing director, market development, for Asia. Nair joined Colliers from JLL India, where he held the position of CEO & country head.

The Asia Pacific CEO of Colliers is John Kenny. Sankey Prasad : Chairman & managing director of Colliers in India

### **32. HCL technologies founder Shiv Nadar resigns as its MD, named as Chairman Emeritus**

HCL Technologies founder Shiv Nadar will take on the role of Chairman Emeritus and Strategic Advisor to the company's board. Nadar, Chief Strategy Officer and Managing Director of the

company, has tendered his resignation as the MD and the Director of the company. The company has appointed C Vijayakumar - President and CEO of the company - as the Managing Director for 5 yrs

### **33. Voltas appoints Jitender Verma as its chief financial officer**

Tata Group's consumer durables major Voltas Ltd has appointed Jitender P Verma as its chief financial officer. Jitendra Verma, who was the senior Executive Vice President and Group CFO and a Member of the Board and Executive Committee of Thoresen Thai Agencies Public Ltd Company, Thailand, will succeed Anil George. CEO of Voltas : Pradeep Bakshi



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## Awards

### **1. Invest India won the most innovative Investment Promotion Agency 2021 award**

Invest India has been awarded the world's most innovative Investment Promotion Agency 2021 by OCO Global.

OCO Global is a leading authority on foreign investment and offers a range of economic development services, products, and unique company assessment tools.

### **2. Indian economist Kaushik Basu awarded prestigious Humboldt Research Award**

Kaushik Basu is a professor of economics and the Carl Marks Professor of International Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences and SC Johnson College of Business at Cornell University.

He was the Chief Economist of the World Bank from 2012 to 2016, and Chief Economic Adviser to the Indian government from 2009 to 2012. Humboldt Award:-sponsored by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (Bonn, Germany)

### **3. Journalist P Sainath awarded Japan's Fukuoka Grand Prize for 2021**

Renowned journalist and founder of PARI (People's Archive of Rural India) P Sainath has been awarded the Fukuoka Grand Prize for 2021.

The award, established by Japan's Fukuoka city and the Fukuoka City International Foundation, is given to individuals and organisations for their work in preserving Asian culture.

### **4. BKS Literary Award goes to N N Pillai - Journalist and playwright**

Journalist and playwright Omchery N N Pillai has been selected for the Bahrain KeraleeyaSamajam (BKS)'s Literary Award for 2021. The award constitutes a cash prize of `50,000 and a citation acknowledging the achievement. The award ceremony will be held later in Delhi. As a playwright, he contributed many works, including ThevarudeAana and Pralayam

### **5. TSCAB, Karimnagar DCCB win NABARD best performance awards**

The Telangana State Cooperative Apex Bank (TSCAB) has been adjudged the best State Cooperative Bank in the country while Karimnagar District Cooperative Credit Bank (DCCB) was adjudged the best DCCB in South India by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).TSCAB managing director Dr.NethiMuralidhar. The awards were announced on the occasion of 40th Foundation Day celebrations of NABARD.

### **6. 400 colleges, varsities receive 'One District One Green Champion' swachhata award**

The Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Education (MGNCRE) has released a list of 400 colleges who are receiving the 'One District One Green Champion' swachhata award for keeping clean campuses. Notable names in the list are NIT Silchar, St. Xavier's College of Management and Technology in Patna, ITM University Raipur, National Law University Delhi, IIT Gadhinagar.,etc. MGNCRE is awarding institutions who are making progress towards a 'Swachh Bharat'.

### **7. 'Hunger Has No Religion': Hyderabad Activist Wins Top UK Award for Feeding the Poor**

Hyderabad's hunger activist Syed Osman AzharMaqsusi, who has been feeding thousands of people every day as part of his food drive 'Hunger Has No Religion' was awarded a top UK award recently.

In order to honour Maqsusi's efforts, he was conferred with the Commonwealth Points of Light award for his drive that helps to feed 1,500 people on a daily basis. Award is for those 'outstanding individuals who are making a change in their community

### **8. Shibaji Banerjee, who denied Pele a goal, to be conferred with Mohun Bagan Ratna posthumously**

Former India and Mohun Bagan shot-stopper Shibaji Banerjee, who famously denied Brazil's legendary football player Pele from scoring a goal in an exhibition match in 1977, will be conferred with Mohun Bagan Ratna posthumously.

The friendly match against New York Cosmos at the iconic Eden Gardens ended in a thrilling 2-2 draw. Banerjee played for Bagan for 11 years and died at the age of 68 four years ago.

### **9. 74th Cannes 2021: Payal Kapadia's A Night of Knowing Nothing Wins Best Documentary**

Mumbai-based filmmaker Payal Kapadia's first feature A Night of Knowing Nothing bagged the prestigious Oeil d'Or award (golden eye) for 'Best Documentary' presented at the Cannes Film Festival 2021.

The film was up against 27 other documentaries showcased across sections at the festival.

### **10. Julia Ducournau becomes second woman in history to win Palme d'Or at Cannes Film Festival**

French director Julia Ducournau has become only the second woman in history to win the top award at the Cannes Film Festival.

Ducournau, 37, was awarded the Palme d'Or prize for the film Titane, a wildly imaginative movie about a serial killer.

Other awards:-

French filmmaker Leos Carax was awarded best director for Annette;

Best actress award:-Renate Reinsve

### **11. Bangladesh Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus to get Olympic Laurel**

Bangladeshi Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus will receive the Olympic Laurel at the Tokyo Games, the second time the trophy will be awarded, the International Olympic Committee.

Yunus, whose pioneering micro-lender has been hailed for cutting poverty across the globe, will be honoured for 'his extensive work in sport for development'. It was given for the first time at the 2016 Rio Games to Kenyan former Olympian Kip Keino

### **12. Two Indian organisations win UNDP Equator Prize 2021**

AadhimalaiPazhangudiyinar Producer Company Limited and Snehakunja Trust are among the 10 awardees of the prestigious Equator Prize for their work in the field of conservation and biodiversity, said United Nations Development Fund (UNDP). UNDP gives a biennial award to recognize community efforts to reduce poverty through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The winners received a prize of US\$10,000

### **13. Assam's Cachar district bag the National Silver SKOCH Award for Pushti Nirbhor**

Cachar district of Barak Valley in South Assam has got the prestigious National Silver SKOCH award under health category on the project called 'Pushti Nirbhor'.

It is a convergence project with transformation and Development along with Panchayat and Rural Development Department in one of the 'AxomAdarxo Gram yojana' Village name DinnathpurBagicha near Indo-Bangladesh Border under Katigorah, Cachar, Assam

### **14. Odia poet Rajendra Kishore Panda bags KuvempuRashtriyaPuraskar 2020**

The KuvempuRashtriyaPuraskar, the national award instituted in memory of late poet laureate Kuvempu, has been awarded to renowned Odia poet Dr Rajendra Kishore Panda for the year 2020. RashtrakaviKuvempu Trust instituted this national annual literary award in 2013 to recognise litterateurs who had contributed in any language that recognised by the Constitution of India. He was awarded the Gangadhar National Award in 2010, & the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1985

### **15. Sandesh Jhingan named AIFF men's Footballer of Year, Suresh Singh wins Emerging Player award**

Blue Tigers defender Sandesh Jhingan is the AIFF Men's Footballer of the Year 2020-21, with midfielder Suresh Singh Wangjam being named the winner of the AIFF Men's Emerging Footballer of the Year 2020-21 Award. Both the players were voted by the club coaches.

It is the first time that the towering central defender has received the Player of the Year award

## Ranks & Reports

### 1. India jumps 3 spots up in global start-up ranking

India stands at the 20th spot among the top 100 countries that have been ranked in the Global Startup Ecosystem Index 2021 by Startup Blink.

India has jumped three spots up in the global start-up ranking this year, a possible silver lining amid the chaos that the pandemic has wrought upon us. Top ranking countries :- US, UK, Israel.

### 2. Mumbai & Delhi rank among world's 5 'most stressful' cities to live in

A global survey across 100 cities has found Mumbai to be the 'most stressful' city to live in, ranking last on the list. Delhi is also among the bottom five, ranking 97 among 100.

Reykjavik in Iceland, was found to be the world's least stressful city, followed by Bern in Switzerland and Helsinki in Finland.

Survey by German wellness company Vaay compared 100 cities of the world.

### 3. RBI Financial Stability Report: Banking Sector NPAs May Rise To 9.8% By March 2022

Gross NPA ratio for banking sector could rise to 9.8% by Mar 2022 under a baseline, as compared with 7.48% in Mar 2021. The baseline scenario used in the current stress tests in one where GDP growth for FY22 is at 9.5%. While the two stress scenarios could push it to 10.4% & 11.2%, respectively. On sectoral basis, borrowers in agriculture & industry segments saw drop in NPA. Borrowers with outstanding loans of '5cr & above, constituted 77.9% of banking sector NPA

### 4. India ranked 14th as the most charitable country, shows World Giving Index 2021 report

India is one of the world's top 20 most giving countries. In the midst of the coronavirus outbreak, the country ranked 14th in the World Giving Index (WGI) 2021.

The Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) poll highlighted the impact of COVID-induced lockdowns, inspiring people to provide a helping hand to those in need.

Indonesia gets the highest overall Index score of 69 percent. Nigeria, Ghana, Uganda, and Kosovo made their first appearance in the top 10

### 5. India Ranks 67th Globally In Data Skills: Coursera Report

According to Coursera's 2021 Global Skills Report (GSR). India ranks 67th globally in data skills.

In Asia, India ranks 16, below Singapore and Japan, but above Thailand and the Philippines. India's digital skill proficiency stood at 38 percent.

Globally, India ranks 55th in skills and 66th in technology and data science.

Cloud computing is India's strongest technology skill with 83 percent proficiency.

### 6. India's natural gas consumption to rise 4.5% in 2021: IEA

According to International Energy Agency (IEA), India's natural gas consumption will rise 4.5% while global demand will rebound by 3.6% in 2021.

By 2024, the global gas demand is forecast to be up 7% from 2019's pre-Covid levels, according to the IEA's latest report. Global demand dropped by 1.9% in 2020 due to an exceptionally mild winter in the northern hemisphere & Covid19 IEA HQ: Paris, France; Founded : 1974

### 7. US continues to be no.-1 in latest rankings of countries where AIR Live-streams on NewsOnAir App are most popular

The US continues to remain in number one position in the latest rankings of top countries in the world where All India Radio Live-streams on NewsOn Air App are most popular.

The US is followed by Fiji and Australia. Fiji has jumped from 5th position to 2nd, while Saudi Arabia has made a comeback in top 10. More than 240 Radio Services of All India Radio are live-streamed on NewsOnAir App.

#### **8. India has highest number of unvaccinated, under-vaccinated kids worldwide at 3.5 million: UNICEF**

India has the highest number of under-vaccinated or unvaccinated children worldwide at 3.5 million, an increase of 1.4 million from 2019, amid the pandemic outbreak.

It also noted that over 3 mn zero-dose children in 2020 lived in India.

At nearly 4.4 million, South Asia recorded highest number of children having failed to receive routine vaccination in the past 10 years. Just 10 countries account for 62% of all under- or unvaccinated children globally.

#### **9. WWF-UNEP report: 35% of India's tiger ranges outside protected areas**

The report, A Future for All ' A need for Human-Wildlife Coexistence, examined increasing human-wildlife conflict, and has found that marine and terrestrial protected areas only cover 9.67 per cent globally.

As per the report, 40% of the African lion range and 70% of the African and Asian elephant ranges fall outside protected areas. World Wide Fund for Nature, Headquarters: Gland, Switzerland. UNEP HQ: Nairobi, Kenya

#### **10. OECD-FAO: Global pulses trade to slow as India may boost production by 2030**

The global pulse market that reached a volume of 92 million tons in 2020 - following an annual growth of 3 per cent during the previous decade ' is expected to increase by 22 ml t by 2030, says OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2021-2030.

India's production which is currently in the 23-25 ml t range is expected to expand by a further 6.6 ml t by the end of this decade. OECD HQ:- Paris, France; FAO HQ:- Rome, Italy

#### **11. JNCASR hits Nature Index Top 50 for materials science**

The Jawaharlal Nehru Centre For Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bengaluru, ranked 23rd globally among universities and institutions as part of its '50 Rising Institutions' list.

Shanghai Jiao Tong University is in the first place, the University of Texas Austin (fourth), the University of Berkley (12th) and the University of Cambridge (27th).

The top 50 table appeared in the Nature supplement "Nature Index 2021 Materials Science".

#### **12. Fourth serosurvey finds 67.6% have antibodies, 40 crore Indians still vulnerable**

The fourth round of national serosurvey that was conducted in 70 districts in June-July revealed that a third of the population did not have antibodies against the coronavirus (Covid-19) disease, meaning about 40 crore Indians were still vulnerable to the virus.

It was found that two-thirds of the general population (above the age of six years) had SARS-CoV-2 infection.

#### **13. India Records Highest Ever Road Building Speed With 36.5 Km Per Day Of Highway Construction In 2020-21**

India recorded the highest ever construction speed of National Highways in 2020-21 with a pace of 36.5 km per day.

The Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, said India has also created a world record by constructing a 2.5 km four-lane concrete road in just 24 hours and 26 km single lane Bitumen road in just 21 hours.

#### **14. Xiaomi overtakes Apple as world's No 2 smartphone maker: Canalsys report**

Xiaomi Corp. has become the world's second biggest smartphone maker over the past quarter following an 83 per cent jump in shipments, according to preliminary estimates by Canalsys.

This marks the first occasion that Xiaomi, the Chinese maker of everything from rice cookers to gaming monitors, has broken into the top two, historically dominated by Samsung and Apple.



### 15. Asian Development Bank Lowers India's Growth Forecast To 10% For This Fiscal

The Asian Development Bank has downgraded India's economic growth forecast for the current financial year to 10 per cent on from 11 per cent projected in April, on account of the adverse impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

India's GDP growth recovered to 1.6 per cent in the last quarter of fiscal year ended March 2021. The projection for India's FY2022 -23:- 7.5 %

### 16. India Enters WTO's Top 10 Agricultural Produce Exporters In 2019

India cracked into the top ten list of agricultural produce exporters in 2019 with a significant share within the export of rice, soya beans, cotton and meat, according to a World Trade Organisation (WTO) report on trends in world agricultural trade in recent 25 years.

In 2019, India ranked 9 with a share of 3.1% in global agricultural exports.

1st Spot - European Union, 2nd Spot:- US, 3rd:- Brazil, 4th- China,



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## Important Days

### 1. National Doctor's Day | July 1

National Doctors' Day is celebrated on July 1 in India every year.

The day honours the birth and death anniversary of physician and second chief minister of West Bengal, Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy.

The day celebrates the doctors and healthcare workers who have been serving the people by risking their lives. The day first observed on July 1, 1991

### 2. State Bank of India (SBI) celebrates 66th Foundation Day | July 1

The oldest commercial bank in the country, State Bank of India, celebrated its 66th year. SBI descends from the Bank of Calcutta founded in 1806 through the Imperial Bank of India.

The Bank of Madras merged into the other two presidency banks, the bank of Calcutta and the bank of Bombay to form the Imperial Bank of India which in turn became the SBI on 1st July 1955.

### 3. International Day of Cooperatives : 3 July

International Day of Cooperatives is celebrated on the first Saturday of July every year. The aim is to increase awareness on cooperatives and promote the movement's successes and ideals of international solidarity, economic efficiency, equality, and world peace.

Theme 2021: "Rebuild better together"

### 4. International Plastic Bag Free Day: 3rd July

Started by Zero Waste Europe, International Plastic Bag Free Day is observed globally on 3 July. The purpose of observing this day is to raise awareness against the use of this often non-biodegradable material which causes harm to our environment. The organization aims to eliminate single-use plastics from daily use.

### 5. World Zoonoses Day | July 6

World Zoonoses Day is observed on July 6 every year to commemorate the scientific achievement of administering the first vaccination against a zoonotic disease (Rabies).

Zoonosis is the spread of infectious disease from animals to humans.

The French biologist, Louis Pasteur, successfully administered the first vaccine against a Zoonotic disease on July 6, 1885. Theme 2021: 'Let's Break the Chain of Zoonotic Transmission.'

### 6. National Fisheries Development Board celebrated National Fish Farmers Day on 10th July

National Fisheries Development Board celebrated 'National Fish Farmers Day' virtually. This annual event is celebrated to commemorate Professor Dr.Hiralal Chaudhury and his colleague Dr.Alikunhi for their contribution in achieving the successful induced breeding of major carps on 10th July,1957 at Angul in Odisha for the first time in the country. Manipur would provide loans with 50% grant to fish farmers who produce local fish sareng

### 7. World Population Day is observed on 11 July to draw people's attention towards overpopulation

World Population Day is observed every year on 11 July to remind people of the challenges being faced due to overpopulation. The day is marked to call for attention to issues like the importance of family planning, child marriage, gender equality, human rights, and others. As per statistics, the world population stands roughly at 7.7 billion. Theme 2021: impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on fertility

### 8. World Youth Skills Day: July 15

World Youth Skills Day is a United Nations designated event dedicated to the importance of equipping young people around the world with essential skills for employment, work, and entrepreneurship.

United Nations General Assembly declared July 15 as World Youth Skills Day in 2014. The day was first observed in 2015.

#### **9. International Chess Day is celebrated on July 20**

Chess was invented in India in the fifth century.

It was then named 'Chaturanga'. International Chess Day is celebrated every year as the founding day of FIDE (World Chess Federation).

This year will mark FIDE's 97th anniversary.

International Chess Day began as the founding day of the FIDE on the same day July 20 in 1966.

Chess is a board game for two players.

#### **10. World Brain Day | July 22**

The World Federation of Neurology (WFN) celebrates World Brain Day on every July 22, focusing on a different theme each year.

Many public awareness programmes and educational & social media activities are promoting the movement to stop multiple sclerosis, commencing July 22, 2021 & continuing until October 2022. The theme for this World Brain Day is 'Stop Multiple Sclerosis'.

#### **11. National Broadcasting Day | July 23**

National Broadcasting Day is observed annually in India on 23 July to commemorate the first-ever radio broadcast in the country that went on air from the Bombay Station under the Indian Broadcasting Company in 1927.

All India Radio (AIR) has been officially known since 1956 as 'Akashvani'. It has the largest radio network in the world. AIR is owned by Prasar Bharti, which is a statutory autonomous body.

#### **12. Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) celebrate the 161st anniversary of Income Tax Day, July 24**

The Income Tax department marked 161st Income Tax Day or AaykarDiwas. July 24 has been celebrated as the Income Tax day in India since 2010.

Income tax was first levied as a duty in the year 1860 and the authority to levy that duty came into force on July 24 of that year.

On July 24, 1860, income tax was introduced in India by Sir James Wilson.

#### **13. Kargil Vijay Diwas 2021: July 26**

Kargil Vijay Diwas is observed every year on 26 July. The day is celebrated to mark India's victory against Pakistan in Kargilwar 1999. Indian Armed Forces, on this day took back the higher posts of Kargil from Pakistan.

This year, marks the 22nd anniversary of India's victory in Kargil War. The operation was known as Operation Vijay. War lasted for around 60 days & came to an end on 26 July 1999.

#### **14. World Mangrove Day is observed on 26th July every year**

The day 26th of July, aims to raise awareness of the importance of mangrove ecosystems as a unique, special & vulnerable ecosystem and to promote solutions for their sustainable management, conservation and uses. Plantation of 15 cr saplings over 10 thousand acres of land has been initiated in the Sundarban area of West Bengal, with the help of Women members under MGNREGA. The Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem day had been adopted by UNESCO 2005

#### **15. World Nature Conservation Day is observed on 28th July every year**

World Natural Conservation Day is celebrated every year on July 28 to raise awareness about the importance of working for a healthy environment and protecting nature and conserving natural resources. The Theme of the World Nature Conservation Day 2021 is 'Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet'.

### 16. International Tiger Day observed every year on 29th July

International Tiger Day or World Tiger Day is observed on July 29 every year to spread awareness about dangers and problems faced by tigers across the globe. International Tiger Day was first marked and celebrated in the year 2010 at the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit in Russia. The Current tiger population in India stands at 2967 which is 70% of the global tiger population. The theme for this year's International Tiger Day is- "Their Survival is in our hands'.

### 17. World Ranger Day | 31st July

World Ranger Day is celebrated on 31 July to commemorate Rangers killed or injured in the line of duty and to celebrate the work Rangers do to protect the world's natural and cultural heritage.

The first World Ranger Day took place in 2007, the date represented the 15th anniversary of when the IRF was founded. IRF stands for the International Ranger Federation.

IRF was founded on 31 July 1992 in Peak National Park in the UK.

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## Summit & Conferences

### 1. Minister of State for Culture and Tourism, Prahlad Singh Patel, chairs 6th meeting of BRICS Culture Ministers

Prahlad Singh Patel virtually hosted the 6th BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting. In the meeting, it was agreed upon to strengthen & enhance cultural co-op. amongst BRICS Nations in fields of museums, art galleries, theatre, libraries and promote the use of modern technologies to conduct online events to overcome adverse effects of pandemic-like situations. BRICS is an acronym for Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.

### 2. PM Modi Addresses CoWIN Global Conclave

Prime Minister Narendra Modi shared his thoughts at the CoWIN Global Conclave as India will offer the CoWIN platform as a digital public good to other countries to run their own COVID-19 inoculation drives.

About 50 countries, including Canada, Mexico, Nigeria, Panama and Uganda, have shown interest in adopting CoWIN, a digital platform, to run their vaccination drives.

### 3. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman participates virtually in G20 High-Level Tax Symposium on tax policy and Climate Change

N Sitharaman participated virtually in the G20 High-Level Tax Symposium on tax policy & Climate Change. Symposium was organised by G20 Italy, ahead of the 3rd G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting. She emphasised on the role of technology in fighting Climate Change & called for international cooperation to increase supply of alternative energy sources India is to host G20 Summit in 2023.

### 4. Union Minister Bhupender Yadav chairs 7th BRICS Labour & Employment Ministers' Meeting

Minister for Labour Employment Bhupender Yadav chaired the BRICS Labour & Employment Ministers' Meeting under India's Presidency.

Discussion on 4 priority areas of cooperation took place viz., Promoting Social Security Agreements amongst BRICS Nations; Formalisation of Labour Markets; Participation of Women in Labour Force; & Gig & Platform Workers: Role in Labour Market. Significant aspect of the meeting was adoption of BRICS Labour Ministers' Declaration.

### 5. Vice-President Of India Inaugurated The World Universities Summit 2021

M. Venkaiah Naidu, Hon'ble Vice-President of India inaugurated the World Universities Summit 2021 (WUS 21) organised by O.P. Jindal Global University, at Sonapat, Haryana.

Theme of the WUS 21:- 'Universities of the Future: Building Institutional Resilience, Social Responsibility and Community Impact'.

He called upon India to be 'Vishwaguru' in Education.

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan:- Union Minister of Education also addressed the summit

### 6. India to Take Part in Environment Ministers' Meet at G20 Summit

India will participate in the environment ministers' meeting at the 16th G20 Summit.

Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav will virtually take part in the two-day meeting, along with Minister of State for Environment Ashwini Choubey.

The 16th G20 Summit under Italian Presidency is slated to revolve around its primary theme of "People, Planet" and Prosperity".

### 7. Russia gives India its first invite for Troika Plus meet on Afghanistan

Russia has invited India for the first time to the Russia-US-China Troika Plus meet on Afghanistan that will discuss, among other issues, the role of Taliban and the future of the landlocked country.

Besides India, Iran has also been invited for the meeting.

Pakistan and representatives from Kabul are also expected to be part of the meet.

## Science & Technology

### 1. DRDO gives licence to Laurus Labs to make & market 2-DG

Hyderabad-based pharma player Laurus Labs has received a licence from the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) for manufacturing and marketing Covid-19 drug 2-Deoxy-D-Glucose (2-DG) in India.

Dr Reddy's Laboratories, which was the first to tie up with DRDO, has already received an EUA from the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI).

### 2. Govt readies two more Central Drug Laboratories in Pune and Hyderabad to test Covid vaccines

Government has set up two additional labs from the PM Cares fund; each located in Hyderabad & Pune. The additional labs would help the government 'to facilitate expedited testing and the pre-release certification of vaccines.

At present, there are 2 vaccine-testing laboratories in India:- the Central Drug Laboratory at Kasauli and National Institute of Biologicals at Noida.

### 3. Indian scientists spot rare superluminous supernova shining with borrowed energy source

An extremely bright, hydrogen deficient, fast-evolving supernova that shines with the energy borrowed from an exotic type of neutron star with an ultra-powerful magnetic field has been spotted by Indian researchers.

A deep study of such ancient spatial objects can help probe the mysteries of the early universe, the Department of Science and Technology (DST).

Supernovae (SNe) are highly energetic explosions in the universe.

### 4. ISRO successfully conducts long duration hot test of Vikas Engine for Gaganyaan Program

ISRO successfully conducted the third long-duration hot test of the liquid propellant Vikas Engine for the core L110 liquid stage of the human-rated GSLV MkIII vehicle, as part of the engine qualification requirements for the Gaganyaan Programme.

The engine was fired for a duration of 240 seconds at the engine test facility of ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC) in Tamil Nadu. Gaganyaan is India's first manned mission to space.

### 5. T-Hub and AIM join hands for healthcare innovation boost

T-Hub has partnered up with Niti Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission to foster innovation and entrepreneurship in the healthcare space. Under this, T-Hub has rolled out a 3-month cohort-based programme called AIC T-Hub Foundation exclusively for deep tech startups creating new-age solutions in the field of life sciences and healthcare.

T-Hub was established in 2015. CEO: Ravi Narayan HQ: Hyderabad, Telangana

### 6. India's first pod taxi to operate between Jewar Airport and Noida Film City

Indian Port Rail and Ropeway Corporation Ltd (IPRCL) has prepared a Detailed Project Report or DPR for the pod taxi service between Noida Airport at Jewar and Film City. This is a 14 km stretch.

This will be India's first pod taxi service.

Pod taxis can accommodate four to six passengers per car. There are plans to run a driverless taxi between the two destinations.

### 7. Google announces its second Google Cloud Region in Delhi NCR

Google Cloud launched its new cloud region in Delhi-NCR (National Capital Region) to serve its customers in India and Asia-Pacific. This new Google Cloud region is the second such in India after Mumbai and the 10th in Asia-Pacific.

As the second cloud region, customers are expected to benefit from improved business continuity planning, while maintaining data sovereignty. Totally, 26 Google Cloud regions are present across the world.

## **8. IIT-Madras develops AI algorithm called 'NBDriver' to spot cancer-causing mutations**

The algorithm uses a relatively unexplored technique of leveraging DNA composition to pinpoint genetic alterations responsible for cancer progression, which is difficult using present methodologies.

Understanding the underlying mechanism of these alterations will help identify the most appropriate treatment strategy for a patient in an approach known as 'precision oncology'

## **9. Astronomers Find One Group Of Appearing And Disappearing Stars**

An international collaboration of astronomers has identified a curious occurrence of 9 stars like objects that appeared and vanished in a small region within half an hour in an old photographic plate. Such a group of objects appearing & disappearing at the same time have been detected for the first time in the history of astronomy.

Astronomers have not found any explanation

Scientists from Sweden, Spain, USA, Ukraine, and India

## **10. IIT Ropar develops first-of-its-kind Oxygen rationing device ' AMLEX**

To increase the life of medical oxygen cylinders threefold, the Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar has developed a first-of-its-kind Oxygen Rationing Device ' AMLEX that supplies a required volume of oxygen to the patient during inhalation and trips when the patient exhales CO<sub>2</sub>. This process saves oxygen which otherwise unnecessarily get wasted.

## **11. China unveils world's first 600 km/h high-speed maglev train**

China unveiled a homegrown magnetic levitation train capable of reaching 600 kph, the fastest train ever built by the country.

The new train's speed approaches the 603 kph world record set by a Japanese maglev built by Central Japan Railway, ushering in an intense competition for technical supremacy in the high-speed train market.

China Railway Rolling Stock Corporation had been fine-tuning the maglev

## **12. IIT-K launches technology innovation hub to find cyber security solutions for anti-drones technologies**

Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IIT-K) launched the first technology innovation hub to find cyber security solutions for anti-drones technologies, intrusion detection system, block-chain and cyber physical system. As many as 13 start-ups and 25 research and development principal investigators were selected after a rigorous application process.

## **13. GoI to set up Centre for Bio-Resources and Sustainable Development in Northeast**

The Ministry of Science and Tech will set up a first-of-its-kind Centre of Excellence in the Northeast. The project for establishing the Centre for Bio-Resources and Sustainable Development was sanctioned by the Department of Biotechnology. It is the region's first own Technology Resource Centres and the proposed Centre aims to address technological growth as its objective. The location of the project is at Kimin in district Papum Pare in Arunachal Pradesh.

## **14. For the first time astronomers detect water vapour on Jupiter's Moon Ganymede**

Astronomers have discovered evidence of water vapor in the atmosphere of Jupiter's moon Ganymede for the first time. Ganymede, the largest moon in the Solar System, is covered in an icy crust. Scientists believe Ganymede may have a liquid ocean 100 miles (161 km) beneath its surface, and that such an ocean could host aquatic alien life.

## **15. Google's parent Alphabet to launch a new robotics and AI firm- Intrinsic**

Google-parent Alphabet will launch a new robotics company - Intrinsic, which will focus on building software for industrial robots. Intrinsic is developing software tools with an aim to make industrial robots easier to use, less costly and more flexible. The segment comes out of X, Alphabet's Moonshot factory that houses futuristic firms such as Waymo, Wing and Verily  
CEO of Intrinsic: Wendy Tan White, Alphabet CEO: Sundar Pichai

### 16. IIT Hyderabad developed the country's first Rapid Electronic Covid RNA test kit called COVIHOME

India's first Rapid electronic Covid-19 RNA Test kit that allows self-testing at home called 'COVIHOME' has been developed by a research group at the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad. The Project Incharge, Govind Singh, said the kit has been validated by the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology and can be used to check for Covid-19 trace at the comfort of home.

### 17. NASA's Europa Clipper to fly on SpaceX's Falcon Heavy

NASA's Europa Clipper will start its journey to Jupiter's icy moon aboard a Falcon Heavy rocket built by SpaceX. NASA will Pay SpaceX \$178 million to launch the vehicle in October 2024. The Europa Clipper got the green light from NASA in 2015. It will fly by the moon 45 times, providing researchers with a tantalizing look at the icy world of Jupiter's moon. SpaceX first launched its Falcon Heavy rocket in 2018 & started flying satellites in 2019

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## Defence

### **1. Coast Guard launches 'Operation Oliva' to intercept unlawful trawling along Odisha coast**

The Coast Guard has launched 'Operation Oliva' to intercept unlawful trawling activities along Odisha coast while embarking on its annual mission to ensure safe mid-sea sojourn of Olive Ridley turtles. The Coast Guard pressed into service an improvised ship, besides a dronier aircraft to keep a tab on illegal fishing in the Gahirmatha marine sanctuary,

### **2. BRO constructs 63 critical bridges for movement of heavy weapon systems**

To ensure unhindered movement of heavy weapon systems, including guns, tanks and other specialized equipment, the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has constructed 63 critical bridges in the bordering areas extending to six states and two Union Territories.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh virtually inaugurated the 63 bridges at an event held at Kyungam, 88 km from Leh.

### **3. Hyderabad-based Grene Robotics develops India's 1st indigenous drone defence dome - 'Indrajaal'**

Drone defence dome has the capability to autonomously protect an area of 1000-2000 sq km against the aerial threats by assessing and acting on aerial threats such as Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), loitering munitions, and Low- Radar Cross Section (RCS) targets.

Indrajaal Features are:-Real-time situational awareness,24/7 persistent,action&tracking,etc.

### **4. Army inducts 10m bridging system developed by DRDO**

The first production lot of 12 numbers of Short Span Bridging System (SSBS)-10 m designed and developed by Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) has been inducted into Indian Army.

The SSBS-10 m plays a crucial role of bridging the gaps up to 9.5 m as a single span providing a 4 m wide, fully decked roadway, ensuring faster movement of the troops.

Chief of the Army Staff:General MM Naravane

### **5. 7th Indian Ocean Naval Symposium was hosted by the French Navy at La Reunion**

Admiral Karambir Singh, Chief of the Naval Staff, Indian Navy, participated virtually in the inaugural session of the event.

France has assumed the Chairmanship on 29 Jun 21 for a two-year tenure.

IONS, conceived by the Indian Navy in 2008, seeks to enhance maritime cooperation among Navies of the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

### **6. Rajnath Singh launches AI- powered grievance management application**

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched an Artificial Intelligence (AI) powered grievance management application in New Delhi. The system was developed by the Ministry of Defence with the cooperation of IIT-Kanpur.

This is the 1st AI-based system developed to improve grievance redressal in the Government. The system can identify repeat complaints or spam automatically.

### **7. India, Sri Lanka and Maldives Hold Joint Exercise TTX-2021 On Maritime Security**

Top defence officials from India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives participated in a virtual trilateral table top exercise where they discussed best practices and procedures for countering common transnational maritime crime like curbing narcotics and assistance in maritime search and rescue.

TTX-2021 was organized by Maritime Warfare Centre, Mumbai from July 14-15, 2021.

### **8. US Navy hands over first two MH-60R multi role helicopters to India**

The Indian Navy is procuring 24 of these helicopters manufactured by Lockheed Martin under foreign military sales from the US government at an estimated cost of USD2.4 billion.

The MH-60R helicopter is an all-weather helicopter designed to support multiple missions with state-of-the-art avionics. India's Ambassador to the US: Taranjit Singh Sandhu

### **9. US, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan to form new quad grouping**

The United States, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Uzbekistan, have agreed in principle to establish a new quadrilateral diplomatic platform focused on enhancing regional connectivity. The parties consider long-term peace and stability in Afghanistan critical to regional connectivity and agree that peace and regional connectivity are mutually reinforcing.

### **10. Ordnance Factory Tiruchirappalli hands over 12.7 mm M2 NATO Stabilized Remote Control Gun to Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard**

Ordnance Factory Tiruchirappalli hands over Fifteen 12.7 mm M2 NATO Stabilized Remote Control Gun to Indian Navy & 10 to Indian Coast Guard. It is manufactured with transfer of technology agreement from Elbit Systems, Israel. It is equipped with an inbuilt CCD camera, thermal imager & a laser range finder for observation & tracking of targets through day and night operations. The gun is meant for marine applications and can remotely engage targets.

### **11. Indian Navy receives first two 24 MH-60R helicopters from US**

The United States Navy has handed over the first two Sikorsky MH-60R multi-role helicopters to the Indian Navy at Naval Air Station in North Island, San Diego.

The Indian Navy is procuring 24 MH-60R Multi Role Helicopters (MRH) manufactured by Lockheed Martin under foreign military sales from the US government at an estimated cost of \$2.4 billion.

### **12. IAF Chief First Foreign Service Head Reviewed Bangladesh Air Force Passing Out Parade**

Signifying the strong bonds between India and Bangladesh, Indian Air Force chief RKS Bhadauria reviewed the Passing Out Parade and Commissioning Ceremony at Bangladesh Air Force.

This was the first instance when any foreign chief was invited to review the Parade as the Chief Guest.

### **13. Defence Research and Development Organisation successfully flight tests New Generation Akash Missile off Odisha coast**

India successfully flight-tested the New Generation Akash Missile (Akash-NG) off the Odisha coast.

The missile system has been developed by the Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories.

The surface-to-air missile was launched from the Integrated Test Range (ITR). DRDO HQ: New Delhi; Founded: 1958

### **14. Turkey, Azerbaijan hold joint military drills in Baku**

The Turkish and Azerbaijani militaries completed joint drills in Baku.

The two countries deployed tanks, helicopters, and drones in the drills in an effort to improve the two countries' combat interoperability.

The drills, called "Mustafa Kemal Atatürk 2021", The name is a reference to modern Turkey's founder Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. Turkey Capital: Ankara; Currency: Turkish lira - Azerbaijan Capital: Baku; Currency: Manat

### **15. DRDO successfully test flights indigenous Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile**

The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight tested indigenously developed low weight, fire and forget Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM). The man-portable missile is launched using a tripod designed for a maximum range of 2.5 km with a launch weight of less than 15 kg.

### **16. India's Defense Ministry Issues First P-75I Submarine Tender**

The Indian Ministry of Defense (MoD) has issued a Request for Proposals (RFPs) for the construction of six new Project 75(India) (P-75I) diesel-electric attack submarines (SSKs) featuring air-independent propulsion (AIP) for greater endurance and equipped with land-attack cruise missiles and capability to integrate indigenous weapons and sensors.

### **17. 12th Edition of Indo-Russia joint military Exercise INDRA 2021 will be held at Volgograd, Russia**

The Exercise INDRA will be held at Volgograd, Russia from 01 to 13 August 2021. The exercise will entail conduct of counter terror operations under the United Nations mandate by a joint force against international terror groups. Exercise INDRA-21 will further strengthen mutual confidence and interoperability between the Indian & Russian Armies. The Exercise will enable sharing of best practices btw contingents of both the countries.

### **18. Naval ship Talwar to participate in Exercise Cutlass Express 2021 along the East Coast of Africa.**

Indian Naval Ship Talwar is participating in Exercise Cutlass Express 2021, being conducted from 26 July 2021 to 06 August 2021 along the East Coast of Africa. The exercise is an annual maritime exercise conducted to promote national and regional maritime security in East Africa and the Western Indian Ocean. Indian Navy is participating in the exercise in a 'trainer role'.

### **19. India celebrates the 83rd Raising Day of CRPF on 27th July.**

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), observed its 83rd Raising Day on 27 July 2021. CRPF was first established as the Crown Representative's Police on 27 July 1939, but after the Independence of India, it became the Central Reserve Police Force on the enactment of the CRPF Act on 28 December 1949. Its headquarter is in New Delhi. CRPF is under the authority of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

### **20. INS TABAR participates in the Navy day celebration of Russian Navy**

INS TABAR to participate in the 325th Navy Day celebrations of the Russian Navy. On 23 Jul, Mr D B Venkatesh Varma, Ambassador of India to the Russian Federation visited the ship and was briefed by the Commanding Officer regarding the present deployment. The Ambassador appreciated the role played by the Indian Navy in guarding our sea frontiers. This helps in strengthening the friendly India-Russia relations.

### **21. The Ministry of Defence approves Innovations for Defence Excellence 'iDEX' with a budget of Rs.498.80 Cr**

The Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence has approved a central sector scheme viz. Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) with budgetary support of Rs. 498.80 crore for the next 5 years from 2021-22 to 2025-26. The objective of the scheme is to provide financial support to nearly 300 Startups/ MSMEs/ individual innovators.

### **22. INS Tabar participates in Indra Navy-21**

12th edition of exercise INDRA NAVY, a biennial bilateral maritime exercise between Indian Navy and Russian Navy was held in the Baltic Sea from 28 to 29 July 2021.

Initiated in 2003, Ex INDRA NAVY epitomises the long-term strategic relationship between the two navies.

This exercise was undertaken as part of visit of INS Tabar to St Petersburg for 325th Russian Navy Day.

### **23. 36th edition of IND-INDO CORPAT**

The Indian Naval Ship (INS) Saryu, an indigenously built Offshore Patrol Vessel is undertaking coordinated patrol (CORPAT) with Indonesian Naval Ship KRI Bung Tomo from July 30 to 31. India and Indonesia have been carrying out Coordinated Patrols along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) twice a year since 2002.

### **24. Cochin Shipyard Ltd launches five ships, including three for Border Security Force**

Three of them are Floating Border Outpost Vessels for the Border Security Force and the remaining two, Mini General Cargo Ships with a dead-weight tonnage of 8,000 each for JSW Shipping & Logistics Pvt Ltd.

The vessels were launched by Rameetha K., scientist at the Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory.

## Books & Authors

### 1. 'Home in the World': Amartya Sen's memoir to release in July

In his memoir, 'Home in the World', to be published by Penguin next month, Sen, who won the Nobel Prize for Economics in 1998, brilliantly recreates the atmosphere in each of these places he called home.

In one memorable chapter, Sen evokes 'the rivers of Bengal' along which he travelled with his parents between Dhaka and their ancestral villages.

### 2. Pan Macmillan to publish Nathuram Godse's biography in 2022

A biography of Nathuram Godse, Mahatma Gandhi's infamous assassin, situates the man and his most defining act in the larger context of modern Indian history and contemporary society and politics.

"Nathuram Godse: The True Story of Gandhi's Assassin" by Mumbai-based journalist Dhaval Kulkarni will be published by Pan Macmillan India in 2022.

### 3. 'The Light of Asia': Jairam Ramesh's new book is a biography of an epic bio-poem on the Buddha

Ramesh, author, Member of Parliament, former Union Minister, and Congress leader, digs deep in his new book to bring out the fascinating story behind the epic 1879 poem, "The Light of Asia" by Sir Edwin Arnold, that took the world by storm and in some ways, brought the Buddha's story to the world at the turn of the last century.

### 4. Kavitha Rao comes out with her new Book 'Lady Doctors'

Author Kavitha Rao's new book titled Lady Doctors: The Untold Stories of India's First Women in Medicine, will release on July 12, 2021.

The book will be published by Amazon-backed Westland Books.

In the book, the author recovers the stories of India's first women doctors, often ignored by history.

### 5. Kareena Kapoor Khan introduces the 'Pregnancy Bible'

The actress shared a video on her Instagram handle in which she revealed that she has been working on her book, titled 'Kareena Kapoor Khan's Pregnancy Bible.', co-authored with Aditi Shah Bhimjyani. is vetted and approved by FOGSI, India's official body of gynecologists and obstetricians

### 6. PM Modi receives 1st copy of the book 'The Ramayana of Shri Guru Gobind Singh'

Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi received the first copy of "The Ramayana of Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji" which is written by the late Baljit Kaur Tulsi'the mother of noted lawyer KTS Tulsi.

The book is published by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts. KTS Tulsi is the sitting Rajya Sabha MP of Congress from Chhattisgarh.

### 7. 'A Kashmiri Century - Portrait Of A Society In Flux' by Khem Lata Wakhlu offers glimpse into lives of Kashmiris

The book 'A Kashmiri Century ' Portrait Of A Society In Flux' offers a glimpse into the lives of Kashmiris 'Hindus and Muslims alike ' and how their existence revolved around the simple pleasures of life.

The book, written by former cabinet minister Khem Lata Wakhlu and published by Harper Collins India, released recently on 'Soft Cover'.

### 8. Former RBI governor Bimal Jalan writes a new book titled 'The India Story'

The book focuses on India's economic history and aims to provide lessons for the future of India's political economy.

Jalan traces India's economic policies from 1991 to 2019 to offer insights on learning from the past, before moving 'Beyond the Metrics of Economy' to talk about the role of governance in implementing these policies.



Bimal Jalan also authored the books 'India Then and Now', 'India Ahead'

#### **9. Sudhanshu Mittal's book on RSS now in Chinese**

BJP leader Sudhanshu Mittal's book on the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has now been translated into Chinese language. "RSS: Building India Through SEWA", which talks of RSS's history, ideology and policies, and their subsequent impact on the nation, was brought out by Har-Anand Publications in 2019. The Chinese translation is by Jack Bo.

#### **10. Vice President Releases Book 'PallekuPattabhishekam' On Rural India And Agriculture**

Releasing the book 'PallekuPattabhishekam' by former MP Shri Yalamanchili Sivaji at Dr Marri Channa Reddy Human Resource Development Institute in Hyderabad, the Vice President said that villages and agriculture are intrinsically connected and we must address their issues holistically to bring 'Gram Swarajya' to our villages.

#### **11. Former RBI Governor, Duvvuri Subbarao Unveils Dr. C K Garyali's Book 'Bank With A Soul: Equitas'**

Shri. Duvvuri Subbarao released Dr. C K Garyali's book, 'Bank with a Soul: Equitas'.

Dr. C K Garyali is a founder trustee of EDIT (Equitas Development Initiative Trust) and the book chronicles the journey of Equitas and EDIT in transforming the lives of women with frequent social reform initiatives helping them setup micro-enterprises.

#### **12. CJI Ramana unveils Justice RV Raveendran's book, says it covers procedural and substantive law, electoral reforms**

Chief Justice of India Justice NV Ramana released former Supreme Court judge RV Raveendran's book Anomalies in Law and Justice.

The book is an attempt to explain to the layman that the law and the legal system is still evolving and that it requires more critical thinking to resolve issues which have persisted in the system for a long time.

#### **13. Ashok Lavasa's new book - 'An Ordinary Life: Portrait of an Indian Generation'.**

This book by Ashok Lavasa (Former Chief election Commission), appropriately titled An Ordinary Life: Portrait of an Indian Generation elaborates on those times and people through the life of its hero, Bauji, Ashok's father, who consistently struggled to benefit from the rewards of hard work and honesty and found no reason whatsoever to follow another path.

#### **14. Novelist Kunal Basu's 'In An Ideal World' to come out in 2022**

Renowned novelist Kunal Basu's new work of fiction, In An Ideal World, will be released next year.

The book, scheduled to released under the publishing house's 'Viking' imprint, is touted to be a 'powerful, gritty and fast-paced literary novel' exploring a variety of themes relevant to the current times ' college, politics, family, crime investigation and fanaticism.

His other works: The Yellow Emperor's Cure, Kalkatta and Sarojini's Mother.

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## Miscellaneous

### 1. National Film Archive of India adds Aamir Khan's 'PK' to its collection

National Film Archive of India (NFAI), announced a significant addition of the original camera negative of Rajkumar Hirani's 2014 film 'PK' in its collection.

The filmmaker handed the negatives over to Director NFAI, Prakash Magdum, in Mumbai.

The National Film Archive of India was established as a media unit of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in 1964.

### 2. Tokyo Olympics: Anurag Thakur Launches AR Rahman, Ananya Birla's 'Hindustani Way' Song

Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur launched Team India's official cheer song 'Hindustani Way' for the upcoming Tokyo Olympics. The song, created by AR Rahman and Ananya Birla, was unveiled ahead of the highly-anticipated Tokyo Olympics which is scheduled to commence from July 23 and conclude on August 8. India is sending their biggest contingent to the Tokyo Olympics 2020.



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## Obituary

### 1. 'Sudharma' Sanskrit Daily Editor K.V. Sampath Kumar Passes Away

Managing Editor of Sudharma,' the world's only Sanskrit Daily printed and published from Mysuru, passed away.

Sampath was awarded the prestigious Padma Shri award along with his wife Vidushi KS Jayalakshmi by the government in 2020.

Sampath ensured that Sudharma, founded by his father Varadaraja Iyengar in 1970, reached a widespread audience across the country.

### 2. Former US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld dies at 88

Donald Rumsfeld, the two-time defence secretary and one-time presidential candidate whose reputation as a skilled bureaucrat and visionary of a modern US military was unraveled by the long and costly Iraq war, died recently.

He was 88.

Rumsfeld is the only person to serve twice as Pentagon chief. The first time, in 1975-77, he was the youngest ever.

### 3. Former India footballer Prasannan passes away

Former international footballer M Prasannan passed away. He played for Kerala, Maharashtra, and Goa in Santosh Trophy National Football Championship.

He was part of the Indian team coached by PK Banerjee and captained by Inder Singh in the Merdeka Cup in 1973.

### 4. Noted Kannada poet, writer, Dalit activist Siddalingaiah dies

Noted Kannada poet, playwright and Dalit activist Prof Siddalingaiah died in Bengaluru. He was 67. He is credited with starting the Dalit-Bandaya movement in Kannada, as well as starting the genre of Dalit writing in Kannada literature. His poem 'Yaarige Bantu Yellige Bantu Nalavattera Swatantrya became an anthem of the Dalit movement.

### 5. Olympic gold-winning hockey legend Keshav Datt dies

Two-time Olympic gold medal-winning hockey legend Keshav Datt died due to age-related ailments, marking the end of a glorious era in the sport.

Datt was 95.

He was part of India's historic feat at the 1948 Olympics.

He was conferred with the Mohun Bagan Ratna award in 2019, becoming the first non-footballer recipient of the honour.

### 6. Dilip Kumar, actor extraordinaire, dies at 98

In six decades and over 60 films, Dilip Kumar played a range of characters with singular sensitivity, from the alcoholic Devdas to the dacoit Ganga.

He inspired generations of filmmakers and actors.

Some of his movies ' Andaaz, Deedar, Devdas, Jogan, Madhumati, Naya Daur. etc. are ranked among the classics of Hindi cinema.

### 7. Congress face in Himachal, six-time CM Virbhadra Singh dies at 87

Virbhadra Singh, the longest-serving chief minister of Himachal Pradesh, passed away in Shimla after prolonged illness.

The six-time chief minister and nine-time member of the Legislative Assembly of Himachal Pradesh dominated the political landscape of the state for almost 50 years. Singh, popularly known as Raja Sahib, was 87.

### 8. Doyen of Ayurveda Dr P K Warriar dies at 100

Dr PK Warriar was the chief physician and managing trustee of the Kottakkal Arya Vaidya Sala, one of the leading Ayurvedic healthcare chains in the country. In his nearly seven-decade career, Warriar set a benchmark for the Indian traditional healing system and played a

pivotal role for the renaissance of ayurveda. In 1942, Warriar took a break from ayurveda learning and joined the Quit India Movement

#### **9. Former Tamil Nadu Football Association president C. R. Viswanathan passes away**

C.R. Viswanathan (CRV), a well-known football administrator in Tamil Nadu, passed away aged 85. CRV was the president of Tamil Nadu Football Association (TFA) and the vice-president of the All India Football Federation (AIFF). He was also the president of the Chennai District Football Association (1984-2009) and the Coimbatore District Football Association (1972-74). CRV was instrumental in the construction of the Nehru Stadium in the city

#### **10. Yashpal Sharma, India's 1983 World Cup winning team member, passes away**

Former Indian cricketer and 1983 World Cup winner Yashpal Sharma passed away due to a cardiac arrest.

A middle-order batsman, Sharma represented India in 37 Test matches and 42 one-day internationals.

Sharma was India's second-highest scorer behind Kapil Dev in the tournament.

#### **11. Danish Siddiqui: Indian photojournalist killed in Kandahar, Afghanistan**

Pulitzer Prize-winning Indian photojournalist Danish Siddiqui has been killed in Afghanistan while covering the region's escalating conflict for Reuters

A Reuters photographer since 2010, Siddiqui's work spanned the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the Rohingya refugee crisis, the Hong Kong protests and Nepal earthquakes. In 2018, he won the Pulitzer Prize in feature photography.

#### **12. Veteran actress Surekha Sikri passes away in Mumbai**

Veteran actress Surekha Sikri passed away in Mumbai.

An Alumni of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) and the National School of Drama (NSD) Surekha Sikri was awarded with 3 national awards. She is also a recipient of Sangeet NatakAkademi award in 1989

#### **13. Gira Sarabhai Co-founder Of National Institute of Design Passes Away At 98**

The pioneer of design education in the nation has played a vital part in establishing several other institutions and also made remarkable contributions in the field of art and architecture.

She was the daughter of industrialist Ambalal Sarabhai & sister of Dr Vikram Sarabhai.

She also established Calico Museum of Textiles.

#### **14. Renowned theatre personality Urmil Kumar Thapliyal dies**

Renowned theatre personality and litterateur Urmil Kumar Thapliyal has passed away. He was 78.

The veteran was associated with Darpan, the 50-year-old popular theatre group of the state capital. He also had a long innings with the All India Radio.

#### **15. Noted Carnatic Classical Violinist Sikkil R Bhaskaran passes away**

In Tamil Nadu, noted Carnatic Classical Violinist 'Kalaimamani' Sikkil Shri R Bhaskaran passed away at Chennai.

He was 85.

He started learning the Violin at the age of 11 from Thiruvavur Shri SubbaIyer and later trained under Mayuram Shri Govindarajan Pillai. He was an 'A' Grade Artist of AIR and has served for nearly 2 decades in Chennai radio Station from 1976 to 1994.

#### **16. Veteran multilingual actor Jayanthi passes away at 76**

Jayanthi made her full-fledged acting debut with the Kannada movie JenuGoodu in 1963 and has more than 500 movies in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam film industries. Her work in superhits like Pedarayudu, Swathi Kiranam, Kodama Simham, Justice Chowdary and KondaveetiSimham brought her recognition among the Telugu audiences.



### **17. HaridhamSokhada founder, Yogi Divine Society head Hariprasad Swami passes away at 87**

HaridhamSokhada founder, Yogi Divine Society head and spiritual leader Hariprasad Swami took his last breath at a private hospital in Vadodara. He was the head of one of the Swaminarayan sects, headquartered in Sokhda town of Vadodara, who spent 56 years as a monk since 1965.

### **18. Indian badminton great Nandu Natekar passes away at 88**

Legendary badminton player Nandu Natekar, the first Indian to win an international title in 1956, died in Pune. He won over 100 national and international titles in his career. 6-time national champion & first Indian to win an international title when he claimed the Sellanger International title in Malaysia in 1956. In 1961 he was conferred with the prestigious Arjuna Award.

### **19. Former England paceman Mike Hendrick passes away at 72.**

Former England pace bowler Mike Hendrick, who took 26 of his 87 Test wickets against India during the 1974 and 1979 series and held the world record for most Test wickets without a five-wicket haul, died. Hendrick, who took 770 wickets in 267 first-class matches and 35 wickets in 22 ODIs, was also the first professional coach of Ireland.

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## Person in news

### 1. Grandmaster D. Gukesh wins \$15,000 Gelfand Challenge Chess Title

The world's second youngest Grandmaster D. Gukesh has won the \$15,000 Gelfand Challenge chess title.

With this win, the 15-year-old Gukesh has also secured a 'wild card' for the elite Meltwater Champions Chess Tour.

Chennai-based Gukesh and his compatriot Praggnanandhaa, tied with 14 points in 19 rounds, but Gukesh won the tournament on tiebreak.

### 2. Abhimanyu Mishra, 12, becomes youngest grandmaster in chess history

Abhimanyu Mishra is now the world's youngest chess grandmaster. The tween from New Jersey, all of 12 years, 4 months and 25 days, broke Sergey Karjakin's 19-year-old record with a third norm in Budapest.

Karjakin, who was a world championship challenger to Magnus Carlsen in 2016, had earned his GM title at 12 years, 7 months. For a GM title, a player must score 3 GM norms and touch an Elo rating of 2500 & above.

### 3. Atul Keshap takes charge as United States' new envoy to India

Atul Keshap took charge as United States' new envoy to India. 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 the Maldives.

### 4. Indian Navy Athlete MP Jabir Qualifies for Tokyo Olympics in 400m Hurdles

Ace athlete of the Indian Navy, MP Jabir, has qualified for the Tokyo Olympics in 400m hurdles after he clocked 49.78s to win gold at the recently concluded Inter-State Athletics Championships.

When he competes in the Tokyo Olympics, Jabir would be the first Indian male athlete to participate in the 400m hurdles in Olympics. The 25-year-old Naval sailor hails from Malappuram, Kerala.

### 5. Red Bull's Max Verstappen won the Austrian Grand Prix 2021

Red Bull's Max Verstappen reeled off his third win in a row from pole in the Austrian Grand Prix to consolidate his world championship lead over Lewis Hamilton who came in fourth.

Hamilton's Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas took second with McLaren's Lando Norris in third. Max recently won:- Monaco Grand Prix 2021, French Grand Prix 2021, Styrian grand prix 2021

### 6. Maana Patel becomes first Indian female swimmer to qualify for Tokyo Olympics

Maana (21yr) will take part in the 100m backstroke at the Tokyo Games and is the third Indian swimmer to have qualified after both Srihari Nataraj and Sajan Prakash achieved Olympic Qualification Timing (OQT) 'A' level recently.

She won a gold medal at a meet in Uzbekistan in April and then competed in Serbia and Italy. She is from Ahmedabad, Gujarat

### 7. Mithali Raj becomes highest run-scorer in women's international cricket

Indian skipper Mithali Raj became the leading run-getter in Women's international cricket across formats. She scripted the history during India's successful run-chase against England in the final ODI in Worcester.

Mithali Raj and Charlotte Edwards are the only players to scale the 10,000-run mark in women.

### 8. Mary Kom, Manpreet Singh to be India's flag-bearers at Tokyo Olympics

MC Mary Kom, the six-time world boxing champion, and Manpreet Singh, the men's hockey team skipper, will be India's flag-bearers at the opening ceremony of the Tokyo Olympics.

In a first, India is having two flag-bearers -- one male and one female -- at the upcoming Tokyo Olympics to ensure "gender parity". Bajrang Punia (Wrestler) will be the the flag-bearer at the closing ceremony.

#### **9. Malvika Bansod wins RSL Lithuanian International Badminton crown**

India's Malvika Bansod defeated Rachael Darragh of Ireland in straight games to clinch the women's singles crown at the RSL Lithuanian International badminton tournament.

The third seeded Indian got the better of fourth seed Darragh 21-14 21-11 in the summit. A few weeks ago, Malvika reached the quarterfinals of the Austrian Open.

#### **10. Nitin Gadkari Becomes Brand Ambassador Of India's First 'Eco-Friendly' Cow Dung Paint**

Nitin Gadkari would be the brand ambassador of Khadi Prakritik Paint and would promote it across the country so as to encourage young entrepreneurs to take up the manufacturing of the cow dung paint.

The new Khadi Prakritik plant has been set up in the campus of Kumarappa National Handmade Paper Institute, Jaipur.

#### **11. Sirisha Bandla will become the second Indian-born woman to fly into space**

Sirisha Bandla will become the second Indian-born woman to fly into space on July 11.

She was born in Andhra Pradesh's Guntur district.

She will be one of the five people alongside Virgin Galactic's billionaire founder Richard Branson to travel to space, in what will be the company's fourth crewed test space flight.

'Unity 22' : Virgin Galactic's fourth crewed next rocket-powered test flight of VSS unity

#### **12. Kanchan Ugursandi finishes world's first solo motorcycle expedition covering 18 passes of Himalayas**

Mountain biker Kanchan Ugursandi finished in New Delhi the world's first solo motorcycle expedition covering 18 treacherous passes of northern Himalayan mountain ranges.

Ms. Ugursandi has become the first solo woman biker to scale the Umlingla Pass, the first woman to cover the 18 passes.

She traversed the distance in 25 days.

#### **13. Novak Djokovic wins sixth Wimbledon crown for record-tying 20th Grand Slam**

Novak Djokovic tied Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal by claiming his 20th Grand Slam title.

The No. 1 -ranked Djokovic earned a third consecutive championship at the All England Club and sixth overall.

The 34-year-old from Serbia is now the only man since Rod Laver in 1969 to win the first three major tournaments in a season

#### **14. Indian-origin player Samir Banerjee wins Wimbledon Boys' singles title**

Indian-American tennis player Samir Banerjee, 17, has won the Wimbledon Boys' singles title. He defeated Victor Lillov of the USA 7-5, 6-3 to win the title in the final, which lasted one hour and 22 minutes.

At the junior French Open, Banerjee, ranked 19 in the world, had crashed out in the first round.

This was the 17-year-old's second appearance at a junior Grand Slam.

#### **15. Deepak Kabra to become the first Indian to judge Gymnastics at the Olympics**

A gymnastics judge from India, Deepak Kabra, will be seen judging the artistic gymnastics events at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. This is the first time that an Indian will be seen officiating in the sport of Gymnastics at the Olympics.

The Mumbai based Deepak Kabra was appointed as a member of the Asian Gymnastics Union's technical committee in the year 2019.

### **16. Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi appointed deputy Leader of House in Rajya Sabha**

Union minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi has been appointed as the deputy Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha.

Naqvi had served as the minister of state for parliamentary affairs during the first term of the Modi government.

Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi is one of the few leaders in BJP who is believed to have a good working relationship with other political parties. In 2017, he was handed over the charge of the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

### **17. Jeff Bezos, world's richest man, carries out inaugural space voyage**

Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos blasted off Blue Origin's New Shepard flight from its Launch Site One in a remote location in the West Texas desert in the United States. The founder of Blue Origin was accompanied by brother Mark Bezos. The successful launch and subsequent touchdown made Wally Funk, 82, the oldest person and Daeman the youngest to have flown in space.

### **18. Madhya Pradesh Para Shooter Creates World Record, Bags Gold For India At Peru Event**

Shooter Rubina Francis (21) has set a world record at the ongoing Para Sport Cup in Peru. She has won gold in the 10-metre air pistol para-event for women. Scoring 238.1 points, she went past the world record of Aysegul Pehlivanlar of Turkey. This win also secured her the quota for India at the Tokyo Summer Paralympics 2020.

### **19. Mirabai Chanu wins Silver in weightlifting, India opens medal account in Tokyo**

Mirabai Chanu won the silver medal and became the first Indian to win an Olympic medal at the 2020 Tokyo Games in the Women's 49kg category with a total lift of 202 kg.

China's Hou Zhihui clinched the gold medal.

Mirabai Chanu goes for 110kg in her first attempt and she executes it perfectly to be assured of an Olympic medal in clean and jerk. Miraitowa is the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games mascot.

### **20. India's GM Viswanathan Anand clinch Sparkassen Trophy**

India's GM Viswanathan Anand won the Sparkassen Trophy after playing out a draw in his fourth and final round 'No Castling' game' against longtime rival Vladimir Kramnik of Russia. Playing white in a Tarrasch variation, Anand, a former world champion, settled for a draw in 40 moves, to win the match 2.5-1.5.

Castling is a special move to protect the king & activate the rook. Castling is the only time in chess a player can move two pieces in one move.

### **21. Paralympic-bound shuttler Pramod Bhagat named Differently Abled Sportsman of the Year 2019**

World No. 1 para shuttler Pramod Bhagat named Differently Abled Sportsman of the Year at Indian Sports Honour for 2019. The delay in announcement was due to COVID-19 pandemic. Bhagat, who won two gold medals and a bronze at the Dubai, Para Badminton Tournament. This year he will be participating in singles and mixed doubles events at Tokyo Paralympics 2021.

### **22. Indian businessman Yusuffali MA appointed vice-chairman of top govt business body in Abu Dhabi**

Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan has appointed prominent Indian businessman Yusuffali MA as the vice-chairman of the apex government body for all businesses operating from the UAE's capital city, making him the only person from India on the 29-member board. The ADCCI is the apex government body of all businesses established in Abu Dhabi. Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates, Currency: Dinar

### **23. Najib Mikati named as the new Prime Minister of Lebanon**

Najib Azmi Mikati is a Lebanese politician and businessman who served as Prime Minister of Lebanon in 2005 and from 2011 to 2014. His appointment comes just 11 days after Saad



Hariri resigned as prime minister-designate. Capital of Lebanon : Beirut, Currency : Lebanese Pound

#### **24. Former CJI Bobde conferred with honorary Doctor of Laws degree**

Former Chief Justice of India, Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde was conferred with the degree of Honorary Doctor of Laws (LLD) by Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari at the 108th convocation of the Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University (RTMNU).

#### **25. Vaidehi Dongre from Michigan crowned as Miss India USA**

25-year-old Vaidehi Dongre from Michigan was crowned Miss India USA 2021 while Arshi Lalani from Georgia was declared the first runner up at the beauty pageant. The winner of Miss India USA is the only delegate from USA at the Miss India Worldwide Pageant, which is organised by Indian Festival Committee (IFC).

#### **26. Graphic artist Anand Radhakrishnan wins prestigious Eisner award**

Mumbai-based graphic artist Anand Radhakrishnan, 32, has won the prestigious Will Eisner Comic Industry Award, considered the Oscars equivalent of the comics world. The Eisner Awards are given out annually and the award won by Radhakrishnan -- Best Painter/Multimedia Artist (interior art) -- recognises the creator of a graphic novel's art and images. Radhakrishnan shares the award with UK-based colourist John Pearson.

#### **27. Akasa Air: Rakesh Jhunjhunwala to invest \$35 million for low-cost airline in India**

Investor and billionaire Rakesh Jhunjhunwala is considering investing \$35 million to launch 70 aircraft within the next four years, as a part of his ultra-low-cost airline Akasa Air. Akasa Air is expected to get a no-objection certificate from the aviation ministry within the next 15 days and will include a fleet of planes that can carry around 180 passengers.

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## Insurance

### 1. Govt extends superannuation age of LIC chairman to up to 62 years

The government has extended the superannuation age of IPO-bound LIC Chairman, M R Kumar, to up to 62 years by making amendments to the Life Insurance Corporation of India (Staff) Regulations, 1960.

It is to be noted that the retirement age for the top executives of the majority of PSUs is 60 years, barring a few exceptions, including the State Bank of India (SBI).

### 2. Max Bupa rebrands itself as Niva Bupa, stops using 'Max' brand name

Standalone health insurer Max Bupa Health Insurance, backed by private equity firm True North and Bupa, has rebranded itself to Niva Bupa Health Insurance.

Max India, which owned 51 per cent in the insurer sold its stake to True North in February 2019 for Rs 510 crore.

Niva Bupa is one of the five pure-play health insurers in the country.

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## India & World

### 1. World Bank Approves \$500 M Program To Support India's Large Informal Workforce

The World Bank Board of Executive Directors approved a \$500 million program to support India's large informal workforce and create greater flexibility for states to cope with the ongoing pandemic, future climate, and disaster shocks.

Of the \$500 million commitment, \$112.50 million will be financed by a credit from the International Development Association (IDA). \$387.50 million will be a loan from the IBRD.

### 2. India joins OECD, G20 Inclusive Framework tax deal

India has joined Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the G20 Inclusive Framework tax deal.

The proposed solution consists of two components- reallocation of an additional share of profit to the market jurisdictions and minimum tax subject to tax rules. OECD HQs: Paris, France; Founded: 30 September 1961.

### 3. Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) will set up the 'Bangabandhu Chair' at the Delhi University

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) will establish the 'Bangabandhu Chair' at the Delhi University to honour Bangladesh's founding father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the country's Liberation War as well as India's diplomatic ties with Dhaka

The Chair will focus on the Indo-Bangladesh common cultural heritage Director General, ICCR: Dinesh K Patnaik

### 4. India-China trade grows 62.7% in 1st half of year, crosses \$57 billion

Amid the Ladakh impasse and the COVID-19 pandemic, the China-India bilateral trade in the first half of the year totaled USD 57.48 billion, up 62.7%, perhaps the highest in recent years.

Though Indian exports to China picked up with a 69.6% YoY increase, the trade deficit climbed to 55.6%. India's imports from China amounted to USD 42.755 billion, up 60.4%.

### 5. Bhutan's Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB) programme launched in partnership with India

TIWB, a joint initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), launched its programme in Bhutan. India was chosen as the Partner Jurisdiction and has provided the Tax Expert for this programme.

The focus of the programme will be in the area of International Taxation and Transfer Pricing. Bhutan Capital: Thimphu; Currency, Ngultrum.

### 6. Indian finance ministry officer appointed to UN tax committee among 24 other global experts

Finance ministry joint secretary Rasmi R Das will be serving in the UN committee that guides countries towards forward-looking tax policies adapted to globalised trade.

The committee, formally known as the UN Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters, guides countries' efforts to advance stronger & more forward-looking tax policies. It assists countries in their efforts to prevent double/ multiple taxations.

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## Environment

### 1. Biodiversity hotspots in India and neighbouring nations lost 90% of their original natural vegetation, shows report

India and its neighbouring countries have lost 90 per cent of their original natural vegetation under their four common 'biodiversity hotspots,' with the largest one ' the Indo-Burma hotspot ' being the worst hit, reporting a loss of nearly 95 % of natural vegetation from an originally estimated area of 2.3 million sq.km.

Centre for Science & Environment released the data. 36 biodiversity hotspots in the world.

### 2. Antarctica hits record temperature of 18.3 degrees Celsius, UN World Meteorological Organization confirms report

According to the UN agency, the high temperatures in Antarctica are a result of a large high-pressure system creating "fohn conditions", which are downslope winds creating significant surface warming.

The earlier record temperature for the Antarctic continent, according to the WMO, was 17.5C. The Antarctic Peninsula is among the fastest-warming regions on the planet. WMO Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland'

### 3. In a first, Himalayan yaks to be insured

The high-altitude yak, feeling the climate change heat across the Himalayan belt, will now be insured. The National Research Centre on Yak (NRCY) at Dirang in Arunachal Pradesh's West Kameng district has tied up with the National Insurance Company Ltd. for insuring their livestock. The insurance policy will shield the yak owners against the risks posed by weather calamities, The total yak population in India is about 58,000.

### 4. Amazon rainforest now emitting more CO2 than it absorbs

The Amazon rainforest is now emitting more carbon dioxide than it is able to absorb, scientists have confirmed for the first time.

The emissions amount to a billion tonnes of carbon dioxide a year, according to a study. The giant forest had previously been a carbon sink, absorbing the emissions driving the climate crisis. Most of the emissions are caused by fires. Nearly two-thirds of the Amazon rainforest is found in Brazil.

### 5. Indian Oil Corporation to build India's first green hydrogen plant at Mathura refinery

IOC will build the nation's first 'green hydrogen' plant at its Mathura refinery, as it aims to prepare for a future catering to the growing demand for both oil and cleaner forms of energy. IOC has drawn a strategic growth path that aims to maintain focus on its core refining & fuel marketing businesses while making bigger inroads into petrochemicals, hydrogen, etc. Hydrogen is the latest buzz for meeting the world's energy needs.

### 6. 14 tiger reserves get accreditation of the Global Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS).

The 14 tiger reserves, which have been accredited, are Manas, Kaziranga and Orang in Assam; Satpura, Kanha and Panna in Madhya Pradesh; Pench in Maharashtra; Valmiki Tiger Reserve in Bihar; Dudhwa in Uttar Pradesh; Sunderbans in West Bengal; Parambikulam in Kerala; Bandipur Tiger Reserve in Karnataka; and Mudumalai and Anamalai Tiger Reserves in Tamil Nadu.

India has 51 tiger reserves across 18 states

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## Apps & Portals

### 1. Flipkart launches Shopsy app for small entrepreneurs

Walmart-owned Flipkart has launched Shopsy, an app to help individuals start online businesses without any investment, and also deepen e-commerce penetration, particularly in non-metros.

After registering on the app, Shopsy users will be able to share catalogues of 15 crore products offered by Flipkart sellers, ranging across categories such as fashion, beauty, mobiles, etc

### 2. TRAI launches Channel Selector Portal

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has launched a TV Channel Selector web portal for consumers who could not access its mobile phone app through smartphones.

With the help of this portal subscribers can choose a preferred channel of interest and remove the unwarranted. The portal also allows the subscriber to modify existing subscriptions.

Chairman :P. D. Vaghela Founded: 20 February 1997; Headquarters: New Delhi

### 3. Paytm launches 'Postpaid Mini' to provide small-ticket instant loans

Paytm, in partnership with Aditya Birla Finance Ltd, has launched Postpaid Mini - an extension of its Buy Now, Pay Later service - to drive affordability amongst those new to credit.

These small-ticket instant loans will give flexibility to users and also help manage their household expenses to maintain liquidity during the ongoing pandemic. It will offer access to loans ranging from Rs 250 to Rs 1000.

### 4. Govt launches mobile app 'MatsyaSetu' for Indian aqua farmers

Union Minister of Fisheries, Livestock and Dairy Farming Giriraj Singh launched the 'MatsyaSetu' online course mobile application.

The app has been developed by the ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA), Bhubaneswar, with the funding support of the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad.

### 5. Ayush Ministry Launches 5 Portals, 4 Publications On Ayurveda

Five portals and four publications were released by the ministry of Ayush in an online event.

Ayush ministry launched CTRI portal pertinent to Ayurveda Dataset along with AMAR, RMIS, SAHI and e-Medha portals. Four publications related to the Traditional Indian Medicine System of India (collaborative efforts of ICMR and Archaeological Survey of India)

Union minister of AYUSH: SarbanandaSonowal



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## Acquisitions & Mergers

### 1. Amazon Web Services acquires Signal-rival, encrypted messaging app Wickr

Amazon Web Services has acquired a messaging application Wickr. The messaging application Wickr which was founded in 2012, rivals the likes of Signal for providing encryption. The application has even been used by journalists and whistleblowers.

### 2. CCI approves Summit India (Tripura)'s 23.5 pc stake-buy in ONGC Tripura Power Co

Fair trade regulator Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the acquisition of 23.5 per cent stake in ONGC Tripura Power Company Ltd by Summit India (Tripura).

The transaction represents a credible business opportunity for Summit India (Tripura) as ONGC Tripura Power Company operates a 726.6 MW, fully operational natural gas based power plant in Palatana, CCI Headquarters: New Delhi; Founded: 14 October 2003

### 3. Microsoft acquires cybersecurity firm RiskIQ

Microsoft has reached a deal to acquire RiskIQ, a San Francisco-based provider of cybersecurity services, including malware and spyware monitoring and mobile app security.

RiskIQ's services and solutions will join Microsoft's suite of cloud-native security products, including Microsoft 365 Defender, Microsoft Azure Defender, and Microsoft Azure Sentinel. RiskIQ uses machine learning applications to analyze threats.

### 4. Reliance Retail buys stake in Just Dial

Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL) is acquiring a controlling stake of 66.95% in 25-year-old search engine platform Just Dial for Rs 5,719 crore.

RRVL will acquire 25.33% in Just Dial through a preferential allotment at Rs 1,022.25 per share and take another 15.62% from its founder VSS Mani at Rs 1,020 per share would make an open offer to acquire up to 26%.

### 5. Visa to acquire Currencycloud at 700 million pounds valuation

Visa inc. had agreed to buy British cross-border payments provider Currencycloud at a valuation of 700 million pounds (\$962.01 million).

Visa has been a Currencycloud shareholder since 2020, and the financial consideration will be reduced by the equity that the card network company already owns in the startup.

### 6. Magma Fincorp is now Poonawalla Fincorp after takeover by Serum Institute CEO Adar Poonawalla

Magma Fincorp has been renamed as Poonawalla Fincorp with effect from July 22 after Adar Poonawalla-led Rising Sun Holdings acquired a controlling stake in the non-banking finance company (NBFC). Rising Sun Holdings had acquired a controlling stake in the NBFC through an equity infusion of Rs 3,456 crore. The transaction was completed on May 21. Poonawalla is also the CEO of Serum Institute of India (Manufacturing Covishield Vaccine)

## Agri-Business

### 1. 93rd Foundation day of ICAR celebrated virtually

Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) celebrated its 93rd foundation day virtually on July 16.

'Kisan Sarathi', a digital platform to facilitate farmers to get 'right information at right time' in their desired language, was launched

ICAR Headquarters: New Delhi

## FinTech

### 1. Twitter CEO announces new Bitcoin based business named TBD for Square

Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey has announced to create a new business focused on building an open developer platform for Bitcoin for his financial payments company Square

Called 'TBD,' the new business joins existing payments services like Seller, Cash App and Tidal

### 2. SBI selects Paisalo as its National Corporate Business Correspondent

State Bank of India has selected Paisalo Digital as its National Corporate Business Correspondent for boosting its financial inclusion drive with the help of kiosk-based banking services.

Paisalo is tapping into the Rs 8 lakh crore market opportunity of small ticket loans for India's 365 million unbanked population.

### 3. ICICI Bank and HPCL launch 'ICICI Bank HPCL Super Saver' co-branded Credit Card

ICICI Bank launched a co-branded credit card with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL).

Titled, 'ICICI Bank HPCL Super Saver Credit Card', the card offers best-in-class rewards and benefits to customers on their everyday spends on fuel as well as other categories including electricity and mobile, departmental stores like Big Bazaar and D-Mart, among others.

## PSUs

### 1. NTPC to set up India's single largest solar park at Rann of Kutch in Gujarat

National Thermal Power Corporation, NTPC will set up India's single largest 4750 Mega Watt renewable energy solar park at Rann of Kutch in Khavada, Gujarat. It is a part of the parent's plan to transform itself from being India's biggest coal burner to a green energy major.

NTPC Limited aims to build 60 Giga Watt renewable energy capacity by 2032. NTPC commissioned the largest floating solar power project of 10 MW in Andhra Pradesh.

### 2. Govt permits 100% FDI in oil & gas PSUs approved for disinvestment

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) permitted 100% foreign investment under the automatic route in oil and gas PSUs that have received in-principle approval for strategic disinvestment. This would lead the way for the privatisation of the country's biggest oil refiner Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL), where the govt is selling its 52.98% stake



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## States/UTs

### Andhra Pradesh

#### 1. Andhra Pradesh govt allocates '750 crore for YSR Bima scheme for 2021-22

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy formally re-launched the YSR Bima scheme with new guidelines, where the government itself will directly pay the insurance amount to the family of the deceased to make the insurance claims easier.

The State government has allocated '750 crore for the scheme for the year 2021-22. Under the scheme, '1 lakh will be paid if the beneficiary aged between 18 to 50 yrs.

#### 2. Andhra Pradesh introduces programme to transform foundational learning with World Bank aid

Andhra Pradesh has started a programme to transform foundational learning in government schools for which the World Bank has approved a loan of 250 million dollars.

The main objectives of the programme called Supporting Andhra's Learning Transformation (SALT) are strengthening foundation schools and providing training and skill development to teachers.

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#### 4. 3 monuments of Andhra Pradesh Identified as 'Adarsh Smarak' for providing additional facilities

Monuments at Nagarjunakonda, Budhhist Remains at Salihundam and Veerabhadra Temple identified as 'Adarsh Smarak' in Andhra Pradesh.

Additional facilities to be provided at an Adarsh Smarak include Wi-Fi, Cafeteria, Interpretation centre, Brail signages, Illumination etc .

Fort at Gandikota included in Government's Adopt-a-Heritage scheme. 135 Centrally Protected Monuments/Sites in Andhra Pradesh

### Assam

#### 1. Assam govt to create new department to protect indigenous faith, culture

Most ethnic communities in Assam are believers of animism, though some, over the years, have turned to the dominant religion in their respective areas. The Assam cabinet decided to create a new department to protect the culture and practices of people belonging to tribal and other indigenous communities. Indigenous tribes of Assam:- Bodos, Rabhas, Mishings, etc. CM:- HimantaBiswaSarma; Governor:-Jagdish Mukhi

#### 2. Haryana defers Khelo India Youth Games to 2022

The Haryana government applied brakes on its earlier decision to hold Khelo India Youth Games-2021 in November-December and has now decided to organise the sports show in February 2022, in view of the possible third wave of Covid-19 pandemic. Khelo India Youth Games 2022 will feature 4 new indigenous sports:- Gatka, Thang-Ta, Mallakhamba and Kalaripayattu.

#### 3. Assam Govt To Provide Jobs For All National Games Medalists, Guarantees Sports Pension

Chief Minister HimantaBiswaSarma said that along with Olympics, Asian and Commonwealth games medalists, the medal winners in National Games would also get government job.

All those who won medals in National Games so far for Assam would be given Sports Pension by the State Government.



Assam also planning to increase the pension of sportsperson from Rs 8000 to Rs 10,000.

## **Goa**

### **1. 52nd IFFI to be held from 20th -28th Nov 2021 in Goa, Prakash Javadekar releases poster**

The International Film Festival of India (IFFI) is reckoned as one of Asia's oldest and India's biggest international film festivals.

The Festival is being organized by the Directorate of Film Festivals (DFF), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India in collaboration with the State Government of Goa and the Indian Film Industry. IFFI is recognized by the International Federation of Film Producers Associations (FIAPF)

## **Gujarat**

### **1. Amazon Sets Up First Digital Kendra in Surat**

Amazon India launched its first 'Digital Kendra' in Surat, Gujarat, as part of its commitment to digitise 10 million Indian micros, small and medium enterprises by 2025.

Amazon Digital Kendras are bricks-and-mortar resource centres that will provide MSMEs information on benefits of e-commerce and help avail shipping and logistics support, digital marketing services, etc. Amazon CEO: Andy Jassy; Founder: Jeff Bezos; Founded: 5 July 1994

### **2. Govt opens CoE for research on narcotics and psychotropic substances**

The Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the newly built Center of Excellence (CoE) for Research & Analysis of Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances of the National Forensic Science University in Ahmedabad. an indigenous kit will also be made in this university to conduct a lot of tests which will be made available to police forces across the country. Cyber Defence Center&Ballistic Research Center set up in this Center are unique for Asia

### **3. First-ever elections of Balika Panchayat successfully held at Kunariya village in Gujarat**

The Kunariya village of Kutch district in Gujarat has come out with a unique idea of holding Balika Panchayat. The first-ever elections of this Balika Panchayat were successfully held.

That young females aged between 10 to 21 years contested elections for this unique Panchayat which will take up issues pertaining to adolescent girls and women in the village. This Panchayat will be run by the girls and for the girls.

## **Haryana**

### **1. Haryana Govt Sets Up India's First 'Grain ATM' Pilot Project In Gurugram**

Haryana government has set up India's first-ever 'Grain ATM' as a pilot project in Gurugram. The newly installed machines can dispense approximately 70 kg of grains in five to seven minutes' time. It is installed under the 'World Food Programme' of the United Nation.

It aims to provide relief to the consumers who wait in long queues to get the ration. Three types of grains - wheat, rice, and millet can be distributed through this machine.

### **2. BandaruDattatreya takes oath as 18th Governor of Haryana**

Former Union minister BandaruDattatreya sworn in as the 18th governor of Haryana. Dattatreya was administered the oath of office by Punjab and Haryana High Court Chief Justice Ravi Shanker Jha.

He was the minister of state for labour and employment in the NDA government headed by Narendra Modi in 2014 and was also part of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee cabinet earlier. Dattatreya was governor of Himachal Pradesh. He succeeds SatyadeoNarain Arya.

### **3. Haryana to introduce 'One Block, One Product' scheme**

To encourage and promote small industries in the rural areas, the Haryana government will soon introduce the 'One Block, One Product' scheme.

Under the scheme, the state government plans to connect every block of the state with some industrial vision.

Arrangements for common services, lab testing, packaging, transportation, accountancy will be set up in the cluster itself. CM of Haryana: Manohar Lal, Deputy CM of Haryana: Dushyant Chautala

## **Himachal Pradesh**

### **1. India's first monk fruit cultivation exercise begins in HP's Kullu**

The 'monk fruit' from China, which is known for its properties as non-caloric natural sweetener, was introduced for field trials in Himachal Pradesh by the Palampur-based Council of Scientific Research and Industrial Technology-Institute of Himalayan Bio-resource Technology (CSIR-IHBT) in Kullu.

This is the first ever monk fruit cultivation exercise in India The monk fruit (siraitiagrosvenorii), is known for its intensely sweet taste

### **2. Yami Gautam joins hands with Himachal Pradesh government for 'Baccho Ka Sahara, Phone Humara' initiative**

Yami Gautam joins hands with Himachal Pradesh government for 'Baccho Ka Sahara, Phone Humara' initiative. The initiative 'Baccho Ka Sahara, Phone Humara' is a phone donation camp that has been launched by the Himachal Pradesh government to help needy children who cannot afford smartphones. Launched under the 'Samgra Shiksha Abhiyan' of the state government, Yami who herself

Governor: Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar Chief Minister: Jai Ram Thakur

## **Karnataka**

### **1. Indian Railways first movable freshwater tunnel aquarium opened at KSR Bengaluru station**

Indian Railway's first-ever movable freshwater tunnel aquarium opened in Bengaluru.

IRSDC (Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation) in collaboration has opened the first movable freshwater tunnel aquarium of Indian Railways with the HNI Aquatic Kingdom at KSR Bengaluru railway station.

One-of-its-kind aquatic park based on the concept of the Amazon river.

### **2. Karnataka to develop 46 Kempegowda heritage sites in Bengaluru, adjoining districts**

The Karnataka state government decided to develop 46 Kempegowda heritage sites located in Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, Ramanagara, Chikballapura, and Tumakuru districts, in a bid to promote tourism. According to the Authority, these sites are developed to help people acknowledge the contribution of Kempegowda or Nada Prabhu Kempegowda, the founding father of Bengaluru. The sites identified to be in three circuits, would be developed at a cost of Rs 223 cr.

### **3. Karnataka govt unveils bike taxi scheme for state**

The Karnataka Electric Bike Taxi Scheme-2021 aims to reduce the travel time and inconvenience faced by the public to travel from their home to the bus stand, railway station, and metro stations while boosting self-employment and promoting an eco-friendly environment.

The distance between the origin and destination for a trip shall not be more than 10 km. Vehicles registered under this to be in transport category & exempted from permits & tax.

### **4. Karnataka became the first state in India to provide reservation for transgenders in all government services**

Karnataka has become the first Indian state to set aside government jobs for transgenders by giving the community 1 percent reservation. The quota will be applicable to transgender candidates in all categories' general, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes. The notice came after amending the Karnataka Civil Service (General Recruitment) Rule, 1977

### **5. Basavaraj Bommai sworn in as new Chief Minister of Karnataka**

Basavaraj Bommai is the three-time MLA from Shegaon in Haveri district in North Karnataka and was the Home Minister and Parliamentary Affairs Minister in the Yediyurappa Cabinet. This came after the resignation of the former CM Y.S Yediyurappa

### **Kerala**

#### **1. Cochin International Airport launches flood mitigation project 'Operation Pravaah'**

The Cochin International Airport Limited, Kerala rolled out 'Operation Pravaah', a multifaceted infrastructure programme scoping to integrate flood mitigation projects already initiated by CIAL with District Administration and various local self governments.

CIAL is spending around Rs 130 crores for comprehensive flood mitigation activities.

#### **2. Covid vaccination campaign for pregnant women in Kerala, 'Mathrukavacham'**

The Kerala government's campaign 'mathrukavacham' to vaccinate all the pregnant women in the state against COVID-19 infection was inaugurated at the district level recently.

Spot registrations for vaccination of pregnant women would be carried out at various government hospitals.

Pregnant women can receive the COVID vaccine at any time during their pregnancy. The special vaccination drive comes as a strong defense to protect pregnant women.

#### **3. MathruKavacham: A Campaign By Kerala Government to Vaccinate Pregnant Women**

MathruKavacham is a campaign to be launched by the Kerala government to vaccinate all pregnant women in Kerala against COVID-19.

As part of the campaign, all pregnant women will be registered for vaccination at the ward level by ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) workers.

The health workers will ensure that all pregnant women are registered and vaccinated.

Kerala CM:- Pinarayi Vijayan; Governor:- Arif Mohammed Khan

#### **4. Kerala inks \$125-million pact with World Bank to boost disaster preparedness**

The World Bank Board of Executive Directors approved a \$125 million program to support Kerala's preparedness against natural disasters, climate change impacts, disease outbreaks and pandemics.

Secondly, it will help make the health, water resources management, agriculture, and road sectors more resilient to calamities. The First Resilient Kerala Development Policy Operation (DPO) approved in June 2019

#### **5. Perumkulam becomes the first book village of Kerala**

Perumkulam in Kulakkada panchayat in Kollam district is the first village of books in Kerala. With this, Perumkulam also owned the credit of being the second village of books in the country.

Writer M T Vasudevan Nair declared Perumkulam as village of books via online on Reading Day.

Bhilar in Satara district of Maharashtra is the first village of books in India.

#### **6. Kerala police launched 'Pink Protection' project for women safety**

The Kerala Police launched a new initiative called the Pink Protection project for the protection of women in public, private and digital spaces. The Pink Protection project aims to prevent dowry-related issues, cyber-bullying & humiliation in public places. It has 10 components, one of which is activating the existing Pink Police Patrol system, named Pink Janamaithri Beat CM of Kerala : Pinarayi Vijayan

## **Madhya Pradesh**

### **1. Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurates National Horticulture Board Centre at Gwalior**

Sh. Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare inaugurated the new Centre of NHB at Gwalior, MP.

National Horticulture Board (NHB) which is mandated for integrated development of hi-tech commercial horticulture and post-harvest management/cold chain infrastructure in the country, is having centers/offices at various locations of the country

### **2. UNESCO's 'Historic Urban Landscape' project for Gwalior, Orchha launched**

In Madhya Pradesh, Gwalior and Orchha cities have been selected by UNESCO under 'Historic Urban Landscape Project', which was started in the year 2011, for the inclusive and well-planned development of fast-growing historical cities while preserving the culture and heritage. The cities will be jointly developed by UNESCO, the Government of India & Madhya Pradesh. CM Madhya Pradesh:- Shivraj Singh Chouhan; Governor: Mangubhai C. Patel

### **3. Madhya Pradesh govt prepares the Ayush-based economic upgradation scheme 'Devaranya Yojana'**

The MP Government has prepared the Ayush-based economic upgradation scheme 'Devaranya Yojana' with the twin objectives of improving people's health and livelihood of tribals. AYUSH and tourism will be brought together to boost employment opportunities in tribal areas under the scheme. Chief Minister of MP : Shivraj Singh Chouhan

### **4. Indore Becomes The First Indian City To Be Selected For International Clean Air Catalyst Programme**

Clean Air Catalyst Programme is an initiative by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), WRI and the Environmental Defense Fund to expedite clean air solutions in cities. The only Indian city to be selected in this international project is Madhya Pradesh's Indore, which is also known as the cleanest city in the country. CM of Madhya Pradesh : Shivraj Singh Chauhan

## **Maharashtra**

### **1. New jumping spider species named after 26/11 martyr Tukaram Omble**

A group of scientists who discovered two new species of jumping spider from the Thane-Kalyan region (Maharashtra) named one of them after the brave police constable Tukaram Omble who lost his life in the 26/11 terror attacks.

The paper citing the discovery of the new species were published in the Russian science journal *Anthropoda Selecta*.

### **2. Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari inaugurates country's first LNG facility plant at Nagpur**

The Country's first Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) facility plant has been set up by Baidyanath Ayurvedic Group on Kamptee Road near Nagpur Jabalpur Highway.

LNG is a clean and cost effective fuel which is capable of decreasing the logistics cost.

LNG is the fuel of the future and will revolutionize the transport sector.

### **3. Maharashtra Govt Implements (LegitDoc) Blockchain Technology To Tackle Issues Related To Fake Education Certificates**

The Maharashtra State Skill Development Board recently took an initiative to prevent cases of forged education certificates being shared among citizens.

According to reports, the board has decided to issue a total of 10 lakh digital diploma certificates using blockchain technology.

The initiative was recently launched on the occasion of World Youth Skills Day.

LegitDoc, an Ethereum blockchain technology developed by Crossforge Solutions Pvt.



## **Meghalaya**

### **1. Amit Shah inaugurates Greater Sohra Water Supply Scheme**

Union Home Minister Amit Shah along with chief minister Conrad K. Sangma inaugurated the much-awaited Greater Sohra Water Supply Scheme at Sohra in East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya. The Greater Sohra Water Supply Scheme was conceptualised by the Meghalaya government and an amount of Rs. 24.08 cr was sanctioned by the DoNER ministry in 2019 under NESIDS. NESIDS:- North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme

## **Odisha**

### **1. Puri became the first city in the country to implement the Drink from Tap Project**

Puri in Odisha became the first city in the country to implement the Drink from Tap project. It is now placed in the big league of global cities like London, New York and Singapore in providing potable water directly from the tap. The project will benefit about 2.5 lakh residents of Puri city in addition to about two crore tourists who visit the holy city every year. This was stated by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik while inaugurating the project.

## **Rajasthan**

### **1. Rajasthan govt to set up Vedic Shiksha and Sanskar Board**

The government of Rajasthan has decided to set up Vedic Shiksha and Sanskar Board within 4-5 months to teach students how Vedic education is linked to Science and Yoga.

Technical and Sanskrit Education Minister of Independent Charge, Dr Subhash Garg informed that a committee formed to look into the matter has submitted its report.

### **2. Khadi and Village Industries Commission's Unique Project BOLD to Boost Tribals' Income and Bamboo-based Economy in Rajasthan**

A unique scientific exercise serving the combined national objectives of reducing desertification and providing livelihood and multi-disciplinary rural industry support has been initiated by KVIC.

The project named 'Bamboo Oasis on Lands in Drought' (BOLD) is the first of its kind exercise in India which was launched from the NichlaMandwa in Udaipur, Rajasthan.

### **3. Rajasthan schools rank last in terms of gender parity in senior classes: UDISE+ Report**

Rajasthan schools rank last in the Gender Parity Index (GPI) at the higher secondary level when compared with the rest of the country, reveals the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) report 2019-20, which analyses trends in school education in the country.

GPI for gross enrollment ratio (GER) is the ratio of girls to boys enrolled in schools. UDISE+:- the largest Management Information Systems on School Education

### **4. Rajasthan Government launches 'Mission NiryatakBano' to encourage export**

The Rajasthan government's industries department and the Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation (RIICO) have launched the "Mission NiryatakBano" campaign to promote aspiring exporters in the state. The campaign is aimed at registering and handholding the local traders willing to expand their business to foreign countries. CM of Rajasthan : Ashok Gehlot

## **Telangana**

### **1. Telangana to Pay Old-age Pension for People Above 57 from August**

The Telangana government will provide old-age pensions to people aged above 57 years. The decision to reduce the eligibility age limit for old-age pensions from 65 years to 57 years will be implemented from August. The monthly pension for various categories of beneficiaries was also increased from Rs 1,000 to Rs 2,016 as per the election promise. CM:K.Chandrasekhar Rao; Governor:TamilisaiSoundarajan

## **2. Goldman Sachs sets up global centre in Hyderabad**

Banking and financial services major Goldman Sachs has opened a new facility in Hyderabad as part of its commitment to expand its global centre for engineering and business innovation in India.

The new office is expected to have about 800 people by year-end and grow to over 2,500 people by 2023.

Hyderabad is emerging as a key investment destination for the banking & financial service

## **3. CM KCR to Launch 'Telangana Dalit Bandhu' from Huzurabad**

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhara Reddy will launch his government's new Dalit empowerment scheme, now christened DalitaBandhu, on a pilot basis from the Huzurabad assembly constituency.

As per the scheme, an eligible Dalit family will get assistance worth Rs 10 lakh. The sanctioned amounts will be deposited in the bank accounts of eligible beneficiaries.

## **Tripura**

### **1. KN Bhattacharjee appointed new Lokayukta in Tripura**

Veteran advocate Kalyan Narayan Bhattacharjee has been appointed as the new Lokayukta in Tripura. He has been appointed to the post for three years w.e.f. July 1.

The Lokayukta Act has been in force in Tripura since 2008 and in 2012, the first Lokayukta was appointed in Tripura. Bhattacharjee is the third Lokayukta in the state and the first to hold the post as a lawyer. Former Gujarat & Guwahati HC judge Pradeep Kumar Sarkar was 1st Lokayukta in Tripura.

### **2. Satyadev Narayan Arya takes oath as Tripura Governor**

Satyadev Narayan Arya took oath as the Governor of Tripura.

The Chief Justice of Tripura High Court, Justice AkilAbdulHamidKureshi administered the oath of office to Satyadev Narayan Arya.

He has succeeded Ramesh Bais as the 19th Governor of Tripura. Tripura: Capital: Agartala CM: Biplab Kumar Deb

## **Uttar Pradesh**

### **1. IPS officer Mukul Goel named new DGP of UP**

The Uttar Pradesh government named Mukul Goel, a 1987-batch IPS officer, the new Director General of Police.

Goel, who is currently on deputation and serving as the additional director general of Border Security Force (BSF) in Delhi, replaced Hitesh Chandra Awasthy, who retired from the services.

### **2. Uttar Pradesh: IAS Mukul Singhal takes over as Revenue Board Chairman**

Mukul Singhal took over as Chairman of the Revenue Board. The important post had been lying vacant for the past two months after the incumbent Deepak Trivedi.

The Board of Revenue was established at Allahabad in the year of 1831.

### **3. President Ram Nath Kovind laid foundation stone for Ambedkar Memorial and Cultural Centre in Lucknow.**

The cultural centre will come up at 5493.52 sq meter nazool land in front Aishbagh Eidgah in Lucknow and have a 25-ft high statue of Dr Ambedkar.

The centre, to come up at a cost of '45.04 crore, will also have an auditorium having a capacity of 750 people, library, research centre, picture gallery, museum and a multi-purpose convention centre. UP CM: Yogi Adityanath; Governor: Anandiben Patel

### **4. UP CM Yogi Adityanath unveils new population policy, aims to bring population growth to 2.1%**

The Uttar Pradesh government released the new population policy for 2021-2030 on the occasion of World Population Day.

In the new population policy, a target has been set to bring the birth rate to 2.1 per thousand population by 2026 and to 1.9 by 2030.

The state's total fertility rate is 2.7 percent currently.

### **5. Govt to set up Indian Institute of Heritage at Noida**

The government has decided to set up the Indian Institute of Heritage at Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh.

This will impact higher education and research in the field of rich Indian heritage and its conservation, leading to Masters and Ph.D. courses in History of Arts, Conservation, Museology, Archival Studies, Archaeology, Preventive Conservation, Epigraphy, etc. Union Culture Minister:- Kishan Reddy

### **6. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launches the 'MyGov-Meri Sarkar' portal**

UP CM Yogi Adityanath launched the MyGov-Meri Sarkar portal. The portal aims to further enhance the engagement of common citizens with the state government. It will be a major platform to disseminate the schemes of governance and to know the opinion of common citizens on them.

## **Uttarakhand**

### **1. Pushkar Singh Dhami take oath as the new Chief Minister of Uttarakhand**

BJP leader Pushkar Singh Dhami take oath as the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand at Raj Bhavan in Dehradun. He is the 11th Chief Minister of the state. The change of guard came a day after Tirat Singh Rawat resigned from the post.

He is a two-time BJP MLA from Khatima Constituency in the Kumaon region of the hill state.

### **2. India's first cryptogamic garden opens in Uttarakhand**

India's first cryptogamic garden housing nearly 50 species of lichens, ferns and fungi was inaugurated in Deoban, Dehradun district

Located in the district's Chakrata town, the garden was inaugurated by social activist Anoop Nautiyal.

Around 50 species have been grown in the garden at Deoban in Chakrata at a commanding height of 9,000 ft. Cryptogamae means 'hidden reproduction', meaning no seed, no flowers are produced

### **3. NMGC approves new projects for rejuvenation of 6 rivers in Uttarakhand**

The National Mission for Clean Ganga (in its 36th Executive Committee) approved new projects for the rejuvenation of six rivers in Uttarakhand.

The projects shall cover the six polluted river stretches (Bhela, Dhela, Kichha, Nandor, Pilankha, & Kosi) in the Kumaon region.

An important and progressive feature of the project is comprehensive sludge management arrangements NMCG chaired by Rajiv Ranjan Mishra; NMCG launched on 12 August 2011

## **Delhi**

### **1. DMRC launches India's first FASTag-based parking facility at Kashmere Gate Metro**

The Delhi Metro Railway Corporation launched a FASTag/UPI-based cashless parking facility at Kashmere Gate metro station in the national capital. The parking facility is the nation's first to accept payment via the UPI (Unified Payments Interface) mode. This system is part of DMRC's multimodal integration of transport services initiative.

### **2. Former CBI special Director, Rakesh Asthana, Appointed as Delhi Police Commissioner**

The Border Security Force director general and former special director of the CBI Rakesh Asthana was appointed as the commissioner of Delhi Police. He is the 1984-batch IPS officer from Gujarat cadre. Currently, S S Balaji has been holding the additional charge of Commissioner of Police Delhi after S N Srivastav completed his tenure.

## **Jammu and Kashmir**

### **1. Jammu and Kashmir ends 149-year-old darbar move tradition**

The LG Manoj Sinha formally put an end to a 149-year-old biannual tradition of shifting offices between summer capital Srinagar and winter capital Jammu. Administration cancelled the residential accommodation of 'darbar move' employees in Jammu and Srinagar, implying the employees will remain stationed in either Jammu or Kashmir. The practice was started by erstwhile Dogra rulers in 1872.

### **2. First Commercial Shipment Of Mishri Variety Of Cherries From Kashmir Exported To Dubai**

The union territory of Jammu and Kashmir produces more than 95% of the total country's production of commercial varieties of cherries in the country. It produces four varieties of cherry - Double, Makhmali, Mishri, and Italy.

APEDA assisted the shipment of cherries to Dubai by MS Desai Agri-Food Private Limited, a venture company of MS Innoterra, Dubai.

### **3. Common High Court of J&K, Ladakh changed to 'High Court of J&K and Ladakh'**

A notification has been issued by the Ministry of Law and Justice informing that the 'long-winding and cumbersome' nomenclature 'Common High Court of UT of Jammu and Kashmir and UT of Ladakh' have been changed to 'High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh'. Lieutenant Governor of J&K: Manoj Sinha, Lt. Governor of Ladakh: Radha Krishna Mathur

### **4. Jammu and Kashmir: Govt hosts festival to promote tourism in Gurez Valley**

The tourism department of Jammu and Kashmir recently hosted a three-day festival to boost tourism in Gurez Valley in Bandipora district.

Several cultural and traditional programmes performed by different clubs of Gurez during the three-day event.

Gurez Valley:- a valley located in the high Himalayas.

### **5. Govt approves Rs 18 crore BDMP for Marwah Forest Division**

The government approved the Bio-Diversity Management Plan (BDMP) worth Rs 18 crore for Marwah Forest Division to be funded by Chenab Valley Power Project (CVPP) as a 'component of Environment Management Plan (EMPY) in respect of diversion of Forest Land for commissioning of PakalDul Hydro Electric Power Projects.

### **6. J&K government signs Mou with JSW foundation for restoration of Shalimar Nishat Garden**

The Jammu and Kashmir government signed a MoU with the Mumbai based JSW Foundation for restoration and conservation of Shalimar and Nishat gardens in Srinagar. JSW Foundation has already conducted a study for conservation and restoration of Shiv Khori heritage site in Reasi district Lieutenant Governor of J&K : Manoj Sinha JSW Foundation Chairperson : Sangita Jindal

## **Ladakh**

### **1. National Thermal Power Corporation Limited to set up India's first green hydrogen mobility project in Ladakh**

NTPC REL, a 100 percent subsidiary of NTPC, has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Ladakh to set up the country's first green hydrogen mobility project in the region. It added that the signing of the MoU also marked the inauguration of NTPC's first solar installations in Leh in the form of solar trees and a solar carport. NTPCL Founded in: 1975; Headquarters: New Delhi

### **2. Ladakh signs tripartite MoU with SSOCA to become organic by 2025**

A tripartite Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh and Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council Leh/Kargil with Sikkim State Organic Certification Agency (SSOCA) regarding the implementation of Prampragat Krishi Vikas Yojana and Mission Organic Development Initiative. The aim of MoU is to convert Ladakh into organic by 2025.



### 3. Cabinet Approves Establishment Of The Central University Of Ladakh At A Cost Of '750 Crore

Cabinet approved the establishment of a central university in Ladakh at a cost of Rs 750 crore. The new institution will correct regional imbalances and improve the quality of higher education in the Union Territory since both Jammu and Kashmir have one central university each. The jurisdiction of this university will cover the regions of Leh and Kargil. The government has identified 110 acres of land near village Khaltsi for this university.

### 4. Ladakh Government gets RBI nod to acquire 8.23% stake in J&K bank

The RBI has accorded its approval to the Government of the Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh to acquire 8.23 per cent of the paid-up equity capital of Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd as on the date of enforcement of Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019. This is subject to compliance with the relevant provisions of Banking Regulation Act, 1949.



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POLICY/EXCHANGE RATE & RESERVE RATIO	PERCENTAGE
Repo Rate	4.00%
Reverse Repo Rate	3.35%
Marginal Standing Facility Rate (MSF)	4.25%
Bank Rate	4.25%
Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	4.0%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	18.0%

### ECONOMY

ORGANIZATION/ PARAMETERS	RATE/ FIGURES
International Monetary Fund	Projects 9.5% growth rate for India in 2021 and 8.5% for 2022
Merchandise export (April-June 2021)	\$95 Billion (Highest till date)
Foreign Direct Investment (Received in 2020)	\$81.72 billion (Highest till date)

### APPOINTMENTS

APPOINTMENT	POST
Vivek Ram Chaudhari	Vice Chief of Indian Air Force
Satish Agnihotri	MD, National High-Speed Rail Corp. Ltd
PVSLN Murty	Chairman & Managing Director of North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd.
N Venudhar Reddy	Director General of All India Radio
NgulkhamJathomGangte	Ambassador of India to the Republic of Tunisia
Shyam Srinivasan	MD and CEO of Federal Bank
Vinay Prakash	Twitter's Resident Grievance Officer for India
N.S. Srinivasa Murthy	Honorary Consul General of Vietnam for Karnataka.
Sher Bahadur Deuba	Prime Minister of Nepal
Sanjay Gupta	Chairman IAMAI
Bashar al-Assad	President of Syria
AramaneGiridhar	Chairman of NHAI
Ariel Henry	Prime Minister of Haiti
Pedro Castillo	President of Peru

<b>BinayaSrikanta Pradhan</b>	High Commissioner of India to the United Republic of Tanzania.
<b>Nasir Kamal</b>	Director-General of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security
<b>Ramesh Nair</b>	CEO of Property consultant Colliers
<b>Shiv Nadar</b>	Chairman of Emeritus
<b>Jitender P Verma</b>	Voltas's Chief financial officer

## AWARDS

WINNER	AWARD
<b>Invest India</b>	Most innovative Investment Promotion Agency 2021
<b>Kaushik Basu</b>	Humboldt Research Award
<b>P Sainath</b>	Fukuoka Grand Prize
<b>N N Pillai</b>	Bahrain KeraleeyaSamajam Literary Award 2021
<b>Telangana State Cooperative Apex Bank</b>	India's best State Cooperative Bank
<b>Syed Osman AzharMaqsusi</b>	Commonwealth Points of Light award
<b>Shibaji Banerjee</b>	Mohun Bagan Ratna (posthumously)
<b>Payal Kapadia's "A Night of Knowing Nothing"</b>	Oeil d'Or award (golden eye) for 'Best Documentary'
<b>Julia Ducournau</b>	Palme d'Or at Cannes Film Festival
<b>Muhammad Yunus</b>	Olympic Laurel at the Tokyo Games
<b>AadhimalaiPazhangudiyinar Producer Company Limited; and Snehakunja Trust</b>	UNDP Equator Prize 2021
<b>Assam's Cachar district</b>	National Silver SKOCH award
<b>Dr Rajendra Kishore Panda</b>	KuvempuRashtriyaPuraskar 2020
<b>Sandesh Jhingan</b>	AIFF Men's Footballer of the Year 2020-21
<b>Suresh Singh Wangjam</b>	AIFF Men's Emerging Footballer of the Year 2020-21

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## IMPORTANT DAYS

DATE	DAY	THEME
1 <sup>st</sup> July	National Doctors' Day	
1 <sup>st</sup> July	State Bank of India Foundation Day	
3 <sup>rd</sup> July (first Saturday of July)	International Day of Cooperatives	Rebuild better together
3 <sup>rd</sup> July	International Plastic Bag Free Day	
6 <sup>th</sup> July	World Zoonoses Day	Let's Break the Chain of Zoonotic Transmission
10 <sup>th</sup> July	National Fish Farmers Day	
11 <sup>th</sup> July	World Population Day	Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on fertility
15 <sup>th</sup> July	World Youth Skills Day	Reimagining Youth Skills Post-Pandemic
20 <sup>th</sup> July	International Chess Day	
22 <sup>nd</sup> July	World Brain Day	Stop Multiple Sclerosis
23 <sup>rd</sup> July	National Broadcasting Day	
24 <sup>th</sup> July	Income Tax day in India	
26 <sup>th</sup> July	Kargil Vijay Diwas	
26 <sup>th</sup> July	World Mangrove Day	
28 <sup>th</sup> July	World Natural Conservation Day	Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet
29 <sup>th</sup> July	International Tiger Day	Their Survival is in our hands
31 <sup>st</sup> July	World Ranger Day	

## OBITUARY

OBITUARY	RELATED FIELD
K.V. Sampath Kumar	'Sudharma' Sanskrit Daily Editor
Donald Rumsfeld	Former US Defence Secretary
M Prasannan	Former international footballer
Siddalingaiah	Kannada poet
Keshav Datt	hockey legend
Dilip Kumar	Actor
Virbhadra Singh	Former Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh



<b>Dr PK Warriar</b>	Physician
<b>C.R. Viswanathan</b>	vice-president of the All India Football Federation
<b>Yashpal Sharma</b>	Cricketer
<b>Danish Siddiqui</b>	Photojournalist
<b>Surekha Sikri</b>	Actress
<b>Gira Sarabhai</b>	Co-founder Of National Institute of Design
<b>Urmil Kumar Thapliyal</b>	Theatre personality
<b>Sikkil Shri R Bhaskaran</b>	Carnatic Classical Violinist
<b>Jayanthi</b>	Actor
<b>Hariprasad Swami</b>	HaridhamSokhada founder
<b>Nandu Natekar</b>	Legendary badminton player
<b>Mike Hendrick</b>	Cricketer

### IMPORTANT STATIC & CURRENT INFO

#### INDIAN STATES, CAPITALS, CHIEF MINISTERS & GOVERNORS

STATE	CAPITAL	CHIEF MINISTER	GOVERNOR
Andhra Pradesh	Amaravati	Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy	BiswaBhusanHarichandan
Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	Pema Khandu	Brigadier B.D. Mishra (retd)
Assam	Dispur	HimantaBiswaSarma	Prof. Jagdish Mukhi
Bihar	Patna	Nitish Kumar	Phagu Chauhan
Chhattisgarh	Raipur	Bhupesh Baghel	AnusuiyaUikey
Goa	Panaji	Pramod Sawant	P.S. Sreedharan Pillai
Gujarat	Gandhi Nagar	Vijaybhai R. Rupani	Acharya Dev Vrat
Haryana	Chandigarh	Manohar Lal Khattar	Bandaru Dattatraya
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	Jai Ram Thakur	Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
Jharkhand	Ranchi	Hemant Soren	Ramesh Bais
Karnataka	Bengaluru	Basavaraj Bommai	Thaawarchand Gehlot
Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	Pinarayi Vijayan	Arif Mohammed Khan
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	Shivraj Singh Chauhan	MangubhaiChhaganbhai Patel
Maharashtra	Mumbai	Uddhav Thackrey	Bhagat Singh Koshyari
Manipur	Imphal	N Biren Singh	Najma Heptulla
Meghalaya	Shillong	Conrad Sangma	Satya Pal Malik
Mizoram	Aizawl	Pu Zoramthanga	Dr

			KambhampatiHaribabu
Nagaland	Kohima	Neiphiu Rio	R.N. Ravi
Odisha	Bhubaneswar	Naveen Patnaik	Ganeshi Lal
Punjab	Chandigarh	Amarinder Singh	V P Singh Badnore
Rajasthan	Jaipur	Ashok Gehlot	Kalraj Mishra
Sikkim	Gangtok	PS Golay	Ganga Prasad
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	M. K. Stalin	Banwarilal Purohit
Telangana	Hyderabad	K. Chandrasekhar Rao	TamilisaiSoundararajan
Tripura	Agartala	Biplab Kumar Deb	SatyadeoNarain Arya
Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	Yogi Aditya Nath	Anandiben Patel
Uttarakhand	Dehradun	Pushkar Singh Dhami	Baby Rani Maurya
West Bengal	Kolkata	Mamata Banerjee	Jagdeep Dhankhar

### UNION TERRITORIES, LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS & ADMINISTRATORS

UNION TERRITORY	LT. GOVERNOR & ADMINISTRATOR
Andaman and Nicobar Island (UT)	Admiral D K Joshi (Lieutenant Governor)
Chandigarh (UT)	V.P. Singh Badnore (Administrator)
Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (UT)	Praful Patel (Administrator)
Delhi (NCT)	Anil Baijal (Lieutenant Governor)
Jammu and Kashmir (UT)	Manoj Sinha (Lieutenant Governor)
Lakshadweep (UT)	Praful Patel (Administrator)
Puducherry (UT)	Dr.TamilisaiSoundararajan (Addl. Charge) (Lieutenant Governor)
Ladakh (UT)	Radha Krishna Mathur (Lieutenant Governor)

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## UNION MINISTERS&PORTFOLIO

UNION MINISTER	PORTFOLIO
<b>Narendra Modi</b>	Ministry of personnel, public grievances and pensions Department of Atomic Energy Department of Space
<b>Rajnath Singh</b>	Ministry of Defence
<b>Amit Shah</b>	Ministry of Home Affairs Ministry of Cooperation
<b>Nitin Gadkari</b>	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
<b>Nirmala Sitharaman</b>	Ministry of Finance Ministry of Corporate Affairs
<b>Piyush Goyal</b>	Ministry of Commerce and Industry Ministry of Textiles Ministry of Consumer affairs, food and public distribution
<b>Narendra Singh Tomar</b>	Ministry of agriculture and Farmers welfare
<b>Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar</b>	Ministry of External Affairs
<b>Arjun Munda</b>	Ministry of Tribal Affairs
<b>Smriti Zubin Irani</b>	Ministry of Women and child Development
<b>Dharmendra Pradhan</b>	Ministry of Education Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
<b>Pralhad Joshi</b>	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs Ministry of coal Ministry of Mines
<b>Narayan Tatu Rane</b>	Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
<b>SarbanandaSonowal</b>	Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)
<b>Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi</b>	Ministry of Minority Affairs
<b>Dr. Virendra Kumar</b>	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
<b>Giriraj Singh</b>	Ministry of Rural Development Ministry of Panchayati Raj
<b>Jyotiraditya M. Scindia</b>	Ministry of Civil Aviation
<b>Ramchandra Prasad Singh</b>	Ministry of Steel
<b>Ashwini Vaishnaw</b>	Ministry of Railways Ministry of Communications Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

<b>Pashu Pati Kumar Paras</b>	Ministry of Food Processing Industries
<b>Gajendra Singh Shekhawat</b>	Ministry of Jal Shakti
<b>Kiren Rijiju</b>	Ministry of Law and Justice
<b>Raj Kumar Singh</b>	Ministry of Power Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
<b>Hardeep Singh Puri</b>	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
<b>Mansukh L. Mandaviya</b>	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
<b>Bhupender Yadav</b>	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ministry of Labour and Employment
<b>Mahendra Nath Pandey</b>	Ministry of Heavy Industries
<b>Parshottam Rupala</b>	Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
<b>G. Kishan Reddy</b>	Ministry of Culture Ministry of Tourism Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region
<b>Anurag Singh Thakur</b>	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

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