

October 2021

BOLT

Monthly Current Affairs



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Banking & Finance

1. Suryoday Small Finance Bank shuts down its ATMs from Oct 1

Suryoday Small Finance Bank informed its customers that it will shut down its automated teller machines (ATMs).

The bank said it will give users the option to use their debit card at ATMs of other banks. The lender will shut down its ATMs from October 1.

Due to operational reasons, Suryoday Bank ATMs will be discontinued with effect from 1st Oct 2021.

2. India has the highest fintech adoption rate of 87%, says FM Sitharaman

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that India has the highest Fintech adoption rate of 87% as opposed to the global average rate of 64 percent, which shows that India is a prime destination for digital payments and activities.

The finance minister added that digital payment transactions have grown tremendously, from Rs two trillion in 2019 to Rs four trillion in 2020

3. AU Small Finance Bank signs pact with NABARD to boost rural development projects in Rajasthan

Private sector AU Small Finance Bank signed a pact with the National Bank for Rural and Development (NABARD) to boost ongoing rural development initiatives in Rajasthan.

The memorandum envisages a joint initiative to benefit farmers, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), Self Help Groups (SHGs), rural artisans, agri-entrepreneurs, and agri-startups in the State. NABARD Chairman : G R Chintala Managing Director, AU Small Finance Bank : Sanjay Agarwal

4. Rajneesh Sharma, ex-CGM BoB, appointed administrator of Srei firms; RBI to initiate insolvency proceedings

Rajneesh Sharma has been appointed as the administrator of NBFCs--Srei Infrastructure Finance Limited & Srei Equipment Finance Limited.

RBI also intends to shortly initiate the process of resolution of the two NBFCs under the Insolvency & Bankruptcy (Insolvency & Liquidation Proceedings of Financial Service Providers and Application to Adjudicating Authority) Rules, 2019.

5. Reserve Bank of India grants licence to NARCL under Sarfaesi Act

RBI has granted the National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL), which is seeking to turn around bad loans worth Rs 2 trillion, the licence to register as an asset reconstruction company (ARC).

The approval to the entity has been accorded under Section 3 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act 2002.

Section 3 of the SARFAESI Act states that an entity cannot start the business of securitisation or asset reconstruction without obtaining a certificate of registration, and should have funds of at least Rs 2 crore or an amount not exceeding 15 per cent of the total financial assets acquired or to be acquired by the asset reconstruction company (ARC).

7. Kotak Mahindra Bank becomes 1st scheduled private sector bank to collect direct, indirect taxes

Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd (KMBL) has received approval from the government for collection of direct & indirect taxes, such as income tax, Goods and Services Tax (GST) etc, through its banking network.

KMBL customers will be able to pay their direct and indirect taxes straight from KMBL's mobile banking or net banking platforms as well as through KMBL's branch banking network.

8. BSE Tech gets RBI in-principle nod to set up, operate Trade Receivables Discounting System

BSE's arm BSE Technologies Pvt Ltd (BSE Tech) has received in-principle approval from the central bank to set up and operate Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS).

TReDS is an electronic platform for facilitating the financing/discounting of trade receivables of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) through multiple financiers. BSE Technologies Pvt. Ltd. (BSE Tech) is a vibrant and agile setup located at Mumbai.

9. BharatPe Forays Into Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL) Segment With Launch Of Postpe

BharatPe announced its entry into the Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL) category with the launch of 'postpe'. Customers can download the postpe app from Play Store and avail interest-free credit limit of up to '10 lakh.

BharatPe aims to facilitate a loan book of \$300 million on postpe in the first 12 months, for its lending partners. Consumer should be able to pay using credit everywhere ' QRs, Card Machine or Online.

10. Launch of I-Sprint'21: IFSCA's Global FinTech Hackathon Series 'Sprint01: BankTech'

International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) and GIFT City launched I-Sprint'21, the global FinTech Hackathon Series of IFSCA. The first Sprint of the series 'Sprint01: BankTech' is focussed on FinTechs for the Banking sector. The Partners to the Hackathon are ICICI Bank, HSBC Bank, iCreate, Zone Startups, and Invest-India. BankTech is hosted jointly by IFSCA and GIFT city in collaboration with NITI Aayog.

11. IMPS daily transaction limit increased to '5 lakh from '2 lakh

Immediate Payment Service Transaction Limit to be increased from '2 Lakh to '5 Lakh considering the importance of IMPS, which enables instant domestic 24*7 fund transfer and This will lead to further increase in digital payments and will provide an additional facility to customers for making digital payments beyond '2 lakh. IMPS is an important payment system providing 24x7 instant domestic funds transfer The RBI also unveiled a slew of other measures related to payment and settlement systems including geotagging of payment system touchpoints. It has proposed to lay down a framework for geotagging (capturing geographical coordinates through latitude and longitude) of physical payment acceptance infrastructure, point of sale terminals, and quick response (QR) codes used by merchants.

12. RBI Retains FY22 GDP Growth Projection At 9.5%; CPI Pegged At 5.3%

The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to maintain status quo and keep the repo rate unchanged at 4%. RBI Governor announced that the CPI inflation is projected at 5.3% for the current financial year 2021-22. For the current fiscal 2021-22, GDP growth projection is retained at 9.5%. 25th Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das.

The policy stance continues to be accommodative (An accommodative stance means a central bank will cut rates to inject money into the financial system whenever needed). The monetary policy committee voted 5:1 to maintain an accommodative stance and keep the key rates unchanged.

Inflation:- Inflation measured by consumer price index (CPI) is defined as the change in the prices of a basket of goods and services that are typically purchased by specific groups of households.

13. PNB launches '6S Campaign' under Centre's Customer Outreach Programme

Punjab National Bank, as the country's second-largest Public Sector Bank, has launched a '6S Campaign' encapsulating different schemes such as '

Swabhiman

Samruddhi

Sampark & Shikhar

Sankalp

Swagat PNB was truly India's first National and swadeshi Bank.

- The objective is to drive special awareness campaign for development of financial services in the country and to accelerate credit growth, improve penetration of social security schemes and drive digital banking push.

- Swabhimaan, the Bank aims to aggressively push the financial inclusion agenda by deepening penetration of the three Jan Suraksha or Social Security Schemes pertaining to the insurance and pension sector (Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Yojana, and Atal Pension Yojana).

- Under the Samruddhi scheme, Bank aims to drive credit outreach for the agricultural sector which is the cornerstone of Indian economy. The scheme will cover all agricultural credit products like KCC, Gold Loans, Investment Credit, etc.

- Under Shikhar, Sankalp and Swagat schemes, the Bank has devised special rates of interest to drive credit offtake in retail and MSME sector.

- Within the ambit of Digital Outreach and Service Delivery, Bank would run a Sampark campaign,

14. Banks get RBI nod to use any other ARR in place of LIBOR

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has permitted banks, which are authorized to deal in foreign exchange, to use any other widely accepted/alternative reference rate (ARR) in place of the London interbank offered rate (LIBOR) for interest payable in respect of export/import transactions.

LIBOR- the global reference rate for unsecured short-term borrowing in the interbank market.

- A reference rate is a benchmark interest rate used to determine other interest rates. For example, LIBOR provides an indication of the average rates at which LIBOR panel banks could obtain wholesale, unsecured funding for set periods in particular currencies. Lenders then use this rate to determine interest rates for a variety debt instruments - such as mortgages and commercial loans - and financial products like derivatives.

- LIBOR is administered by the Intercontinental Exchange or ICE. It is computed for five currencies with seven different maturities ranging from overnight to a year. The five currencies for which LIBOR is computed are **Swiss franc, euro, pound sterling, Japanese yen** and **US dollar**.

15. India Post launches e-PLI bond/ digital version of PLI policy bonds on Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav occasion

Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications, launched the digital version of the Postal Life Insurance policy bonds, also termed as 'ePLI bond', on the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. It is with the collaboration of DIGILOCKER, NeGD, MeitY.

12 October is celebrated as the Postal Life Insurance Day in the week-long Postal week festival. ePLI bond is the Department of Posts' first digital integration with Digilocker.

16. IndusInd Bank gets authorised by RBI to collect Direct and Indirect Taxes

IndusInd Bank announced, that it has been authorised by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for collection of Direct and Indirect Taxes, on behalf of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC).

With this, its customers will be able to pay their Direct and Indirect taxes through 'Indusnet' and 'Indusmobile' platforms HQ of IndusInd Bank- Pune; MD & CEO- Sumant Kathpalia

Tamil Nadu-based Private sector Karur Vysya Bank also commenced the integration process with the Central Board of Direct Taxes to collect direct taxes on its behalf, following the approval it received from the Reserve Bank. Once the integration process gets completed, the bank customers can remit the direct taxes through any branch or through net banking or mobile banking services (DLite Mobile application).

17. Kotak Mahindra Bank launches Micro ATMs across India

To deliver essential banking services conveniently to a larger section of consumers living in relatively far-off areas, private lender Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd announced the launch of Micro ATMs across the country. A mini version of an ATM, micro ATMs are small handheld devices. The bank will use its extensive Business Correspondents (BC) network to launch micro ATMs.

HQ of Kotak Mahindra Bank- Mumbai; MD & CEO- Uday Kotak

18. PhonePe, NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd. partner to launch ClickPay for easy bill payments

Digital payments platform PhonePe announced the launch of ClickPay for its customers in association with NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd.(NBBL).

ClickPay is a unique payment link that enables customers to make recurring online bill payments (electricity, water, gas, loan, etc) and removes the need to remember account details associated with each biller/service.

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) recently appointed **Noopur Chaturvedi** as chief executive of NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd. (NBBL).
- NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of National Payments Corporation of India and came into effect **from 1 April 2021**. Currently, NBBL offers recurring payment services to customers across several segments, including bill payments for electricity, telecom, DTH, Gas, Education fees, water, and municipal taxes, NETC FASTag recharge, loan repayments, insurance, cable, housing society charges, and others.
- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) was incorporated in 2008** as an umbrella organization for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India.
- **Mr. Dilip Asbe**- MD & CEO of; National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

19. Salman Khan to launch NFTs with BollyCoin, takes blockchain plunge after Amitabh Bachchan

Salman Khan will launch NFTs (non-fungible tokens) in partnership with BollyCoin in December 2021, This comes after Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan, in August 2021, announced to launch his own NFT collection through the NFT platform Beyondlife.club. In fact, celebrities such as Snoop Dogg, Paris Hilton have used NFT to release their artwork in the recent past.

20. Centrum, BharatPe get licence from RBI to create 'India's 1st' digital small finance bank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a Small Finance Bank (SFB) licence to the consortium of Centrum Financial Services Limited (Centrum), the small business lending arm of the Centrum Group and Resilient Innovations Private Limited (BharatPe).

A new bank licence has been issued after a gap of nearly six years. The new SFB has been incorporated as 'Unity Small Finance Bank'.

Small Finance Banks is a specific segment of banking created by RBI under the guidance of Government of India with an objective of furthering financial inclusion by primarily undertaking basic banking activities to

un-served and underserved sections including small business units, small and marginal farmers, micro and small industries and unorganized entities.

21. SEBI forms 4-member high powered advisory committee on settlement orders

SEBI has constituted a four-member high powered advisory committee on settlement orders and compounding of offences.

The committee will be chaired by **Vijay C Daga**.

The other members of the panel are - former law secretary in Ministry of Law & Justice, PK Malhotra; ex-Chairman of Deloitte Haskins & Sells LLP PR Ramesh and DN Raval, Partner at Raval & Raval Associates. The panel will work as per the Settlement Proceedings Regulations, 2018.

- Under the settlement mechanism, an alleged wrongdoer can settle a pending case with the regulator without admission or denial of guilt by paying a settlement fee.
- The settlement mechanism is a tool for ensuring speedy and efficient resolution of disputes..
- The time limit for filing settlement applications should be reduced from **180 to 60 days**.
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India. It was established on **12 April 1992** and given Statutory Powers on 30 January 1992 through the **SEBI Act, 1992**.

22. RBI's fourth regulatory sandbox cohort on financial frauds

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will open the fourth cohort under the Regulatory Sandbox (RS) on prevention and mitigation of financial frauds.

The central bank has so far introduced three cohorts. Six entities have successfully exited the first cohort on 'Retail Payments' while under the second cohort on 'Cross Border Payments', eight entities are undertaking tests. The application window for the third cohort of 'MSME Lending' is currently open.

- With a view to preparing the fintech eco-system, it is proposed that the topic for the fourth cohort be **'Prevention and Mitigation of Financial Frauds'**. The focus would be on using technology to reduce the lag between the occurrence and detection of frauds, strengthening the fraud governance structure and minimising response time to frauds.
- **Regulatory sandbox** refers to live testing of new products or services in a controlled/test regulatory environment for which regulators may permit certain relaxations for the limited purpose of the testing.
- In a report released last month, global fraud consultancy **Kroll** said more Indian companies have acknowledged fraud attacks. The survey found that **65%** of companies acknowledged that their organization was a victim of fraud in **2019**, compared with **57%** respondents in the 2019 edition.

23. I-Sprint'21: IFSC Regulator Backed Global FinTech Hackathons Sprint01 - BankTech Hosted By IFSCA & GIFT City

International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) and GIFT City launched I-Sprint'21, the global FinTech Hackathon Series of IFSCA. The first Sprint of the series 'Sprint01: BankTech' is focussed on FinTechs for the Banking sector.

IFSCA introduced a framework for 'Regulatory Sandbox' in October 2020. Injeti Srinivas- Chairperson, IFSCA

- Sprint01: BankTech is hosted jointly by IFSCA and GIFT city in collaboration with NITI Aayog. The Partners to the Hackathon are ICICI Bank, HSBC Bank, iCreate, Zone Startups and Invest-India.
- The aim of the Hackathon is:
 1. to connect IFSCA and GIFT IFSC with FinTech Ecosystem
 2. to solve Business Problems for the Banking Units at GIFT IFSC and
 3. to promote retail business for the Banking Units at GIFT IFSC.
- Major rewards and recognition proposed under Sprint01: BankTech are:
 1. FinTech finalists to be allowed direct entry into IFSCA Regulatory/Innovation Sandbox.
 2. FinTechs will work directly with the Partner Banks on the problem statement who will provide the APIs, mentoring, guidance, etc.
 3. iCreate sponsored Price money of **Rs 24 lakh**
 4. Business Support Solution Partner benefits of upto **\$25,000** per startup from Zone Startups India's network.
- The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has been established on **April 27, 2020** under the International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019. It is headquartered at GIFT City, **Gandhinagar in Gujarat**.

24. RBI imposes fine of Rs 1.95 crore on Standard Chartered Bank over non-compliance

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a fine of Rs 1.95 crore on the Standard Chartered Bank for failing to report a cyber security incident within the prescribed time period, and failure to credit the amount involved in unauthorised electronic transactions, among other reasons. RBI also imposed Rs 1 crore penalty on State Bank of India.

- The bank failed to comply with RBI rules on 'limiting liability of customers in unauthorised electronic banking transactions, cyber security framework in banks, credit card operations of banks read with guidelines on managing risks and code of conduct in outsourcing of financial services by banks, and creation of a central repository of large common exposures across banks read with Central Repository of Information on Large Credits (CRILC) revision in reporting.
- Standard Chartered plc is a British multinational banking and financial services company headquartered in **London, England**.

25. RBL Bank working on Abacus 2.0 for digital engagement, customer acquisition

Private sector lender RBL Bank is working on a new digital platform that would help scale up customer acquisition over the next few years.

Called Abacus 2.0, it would enable the bank to provide products and services to new as well as existing customers digitally.

The bank has about 40 lakh customers in branch banking and credit card as of June 30, 2021. RBL Bank MD :- Vishwavir Ahuja

- RBL Bank, formerly known as Ratnakar Bank.
- RBL Bank is an Indian private sector bank.
- Founded in 1943 ; HQ: Mumbai

26. RBI imposes '1 crore penalty on Paytm Payments Bank

RBI has imposed a penalty of '1 crore on Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL) and '27.78 lakh on Western Union Financial Services for non-compliance with certain directions.

As per RBI, on examination of PPBL's application for issue of final Certificate of Authorisation (CoA), it was observed that it had submitted information which did not reflect the factual position. Satish Kumar Gupta, MD and CEO - Paytm Payments Bank Ltd.

- This was an offence of the nature referred to in **Section 26 (2)** of the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**.
- As regards Western Union Financial Services, the RBI said the company had reported instances of breach of the ceiling of 30 remittances per beneficiary during 2019 and 2020 and filed an application for compounding of the violation.

27. NBFCs: Reserve Bank to step up vigil with four-layered regulatory framework

RBI will put in place a 4-layered regulatory structure for NBFCs to keep a stricter vigil on shadow banking sector & minimise risks for overall financial system. The norms, provides for a Scale Based Regulation (SBR) framework that takes into consideration capital requirements, governance standards, prudential regulation and other aspects of NBFCs.

28. RBI extends Basel-III Capital framework to AIFIs

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decided to extend Basel-III Capital framework to All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs) such as:-

- # Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank),
- # National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard),
- # National Housing Bank (NHB) and
- # Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).
- Basel-III standards mainly seek to raise the quality and level of capital to ensure that financial entities are better able to absorb losses on both a going concern and a gone concern basis.
- These standards also increase the risk coverage of the capital framework, introduce leverage ratio to serve as a backstop to the risk-based capital measure, raise the standards for the supervisory review process and public disclosures etc.
- AIFIs will implement all the three Pillars of Basel-III capital regulations – pillar 1 covering capital, risk coverage and containing leverage, pillar 2 covering risk management and supervision and pillar 3 covering market discipline.
- The central bank wants AIFIs to achieve minimum total capital of 9 per cent and capital conservation buffer of 2.5 per cent, with the minimum total capital and CCB adding up to 11.5 per cent, by April 1, 2022.

29. Competition Commission of India approves HDFC Bank's acquisition of 4.99% stake in HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company

Fair trade regulator CCI approved HDFC Bank's acquisition of 4.99 per cent shareholding in HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company.

In June 2021, HDFC Bank had said its board has given approval to buy more than 3.55 crore shares in group firm HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company for over Rs 1,906 crore from the parent company Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC). CCI is a statutory body within the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

30. ICICI Lombard launches BeFit for cashless OPD and wellness services

ICICI Lombard, private general insurance company has introduced BeFit, serviced through its ILTakeCare app. It provides customers with the benefits of OPD services i.e. doctor consultation, pharmacy and diagnostics services, and physiotherapy sessions in a cashless manner.

The solution aims to empower customers to benefit from a host of wellness services.

- Currently, the rider is launched in 20 locations namely, Mumbai, Delhi NCR, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Pune, Bangalore, Chennai, Jaipur, Nashik Bhubaneswar, Ahmedabad, Nagpur, Indore, Vishakhapatnam, Surat, Chandigarh, Lucknow, Bhopal, Dehradun, Raipur and will expanded in other geographical locations in the next few months.

31. ADB to provide \$100 mn loan for agribusiness development in Maharashtra

The Asian Development Bank will provide a USD 100 million (around Rs 749 crore) loan to promote agribusiness network to boost farm incomes and reduce food losses in Maharashtra.

ADB will also provide a USD 500,000 technical assistance (TA) grant from its Technical Assistance Special Fund and USD 2 million from the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction. Asian Development Bank is a regional development bank established on 19 December 1966.

The agreement for the Maharashtra Agribusiness Network (MAGNET) project was signed between Rajat Kumar Mishra, Additional Secretary in Ministry of Finance for Government of India, and Takeo Konishi, Country Director of ADB's India Resident Mission. The ADB loan will help provide financing opportunities for farmer producer organizations (FPOs) and value chain operators (VCOs) through matching grants and financial intermediation loans to support 300 subprojects. Headquarters: Mandaluyong, Philippines President: Masatsugu Asakawa

32. RBI imposes Rs 90 lakh penalty on Vasai Vikas Sahakari Bank

The RBI has imposed a Rs 90 lakh penalty on Vasai Vikas Sahakari Bank, Maharashtra, for non-compliance with certain directions, including on classification of loans as NPAs, and other directions.

The penalty was imposed after considering the bank's replies to a show-cause notice and oral submissions made during the personal hearing.

Vasai Vikas Sahakari Bank Head Office is located in Thane, Maharashtra.

- Reserve Bank said the bank had not complied with its directions on ensuring end-use of funds in borrowal accounts and classification of loans/ advances as non-performing assets, specific direction of RBI for ensuring that the bank's balance sheet and profit and loss account are signed by at least three of its directors.

33. RBI eases current account opening rules for exposure below Rs 5 cr

For borrowers, where the exposure of the banking system is less than '5 crore, there is no restriction on opening of current accounts or on provision of CC/OD facility by banks, subject to obtaining an undertaking from such borrowers that they shall inform the banks, as and when the credit facilities availed by them from the banking system reaches '5 crore or more.

- Under the new rules, RBI has also allowed banks to open collection accounts provided the funds deposited in such accounts will be remitted within 2 working days to the CC/OD (cash-credit and overdraft) account.

Economy

1. Piyush Goyal addresses Second Global Fintech Fest-2021'

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has said that India is poised to become one of the largest digital markets in the world. Addressing the Second Global Fintech Fest-2021 through video conferencing, he said at 87 per cent, India has the highest FinTech adoption rate in the world against the global average of 64 per cent.

2. GST collection for September crosses '1.17 lakh crore

The gross GST revenue collected in the month of September was 1,17,010 crore rupees, which included CGST component of 20,578 crore, SGST 26,767 crore and IGST component of 60,911 crore rupees. The revenue for September was 23% higher than the GST revenues in the same month last year. During the month, revenue from import of goods was 30% higher.

3. Indian Banks' Association moves RBI seeking licence to set up Rs 6,000-cr bad bank

The Indian Banks' Association (IBA) has moved an application to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) seeking licence to set up a Rs 6,000-crore National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL) or bad bank. RBI has its process and procedure for granting licence for such business, sources said, adding, it could take next few weeks to obtain licence from the regulator. Bad bank: a corporate structure isolates risky assets held by banks in a separate entity.

4. WTO estimates global merchandise trade volume growth at 10.8% in 2021

The World Trade Organization (WTO) has projected that the global merchandise trade volume will grow 10.8 per cent this year, higher than 8 per cent estimated in March (followed by a 4.7 per cent rise in 2022).

Growth should moderate as merchandise trade approaches its pre-pandemic long-run trend and supply-side issues such as semiconductor scarcity & port backlogs. WTO- HQ: Geneva, Switzerland; Founded: 1 Jan1995; Director General: Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala

5. Fino Payments Bank gets SEBI nod to float Initial Public Offering (IPO)

Fino Payments Bank has received market regulator SEBI's nod for launching a '1,300 cr IPO. Fino Payments Bank IPO is likely to see fresh issue of equity shares worth '300 cr and an Offer for Sale of 15,602,999 equity shares by promoter Fino Paytech Limited (FPL). IPO refers to the process of offering shares of a private corporation to the public in a new stock issuance. SEBI- Headquarters: Mumbai; Founded: 12 April 1992

6. Tatasons' SPV ' Talace Pvt Ltd - Wins Bid for Air India

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) - empowered Air India Specific Alternative Mechanism (AISAM) approved the highest price bid of M/s Talace Pvt Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of M/s Tata Sons Pvt. Ltd for sale of 100% equity shareholding of Government of India in Air India along with equity shareholding of Air India in AIXL and AISATS. The winning bid is for Rs 18,000 crore as Enterprise Value (EV) consideration for AI.

7. Ficci projects 9.1% GDP growth for FY22

The latest round of Ficci's Economic Outlook Survey has put forth an annual median GDP growth forecast for 2021-22 at 9.1 per cent. This marks a marginal improvement from the growth projection of 9 per cent recorded in the previous survey round (July 2021).

- The survey was conducted in September 2021 and drew responses from leading economists representing the industry, banking and financial services sector.
 - With regard to heading back to the process of normalization, it was largely felt that the Reserve Bank may indicate a change of stance from accommodative to neutral in the February 2022 policy meeting.
- FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry): -Established in 1927, FICCI is the largest and oldest apex business organisation in India. A non-government, not-for-profit organisation, FICCI is the voice of India's business and industry. President: Harshavardhan Neotia ;CEO: Sangita Reddy ;Headquarters: New Delhi

8. Government accords 'Maharatna' status to PFC

GoI accorded 'Maharatna' status to the state-owned Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC), thus giving PFC greater operational and financial autonomy. An order to this effect was issued by the Department of Public Enterprises, under the MoF. PFC (1986) is the largest Infrastructure Finance Company, exclusively dedicated to Power Sector under the administrative control of MoP. Criteria for Maharatna: Average annual turnover/networth > 25000/15000 cr in last 3yrs

9. Mobikwik and Cardekho have become unicorns

IPO-bound fintech firm Mobikwik became the 32nd Indian unicorn after a recent secondary ESOP sale round led by former Blackstone India head Mathew Cyriac. Girnar Software Pvt. Ltd, which runs CarDekho, an online portal for new and used cars, has raised \$250 million. The fundraising has made CarDekho the 33rd Indian startup to become a unicorn. What is unicorn? It refers to any startup that reaches the valuation of \$1 billion.

10. India cuts import duty on cooking oils; September imports of palm oil are highest single month imports in 25 years

The central government has reduced the import duty on crude and refined palm oil, soybean oil and sunflower oil between 16.5 % to 19.25% from October 14 upto March 31, 2022. Meanwhile, The impact of the duty reduction on crude palm oil is about Rs.14,000/- while on crude soyabean oil and crude sunflower seed oil is about Rs.20,000/- per tonne. Palm oil is currently the world's most consumed vegetable oil.

11. Nirmala Sitharaman attends 4th G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) Meeting in Washington D.C.

Nirmala Sitharaman participated in the 4th G20 Meeting for a sustained recovery from the pandemic, the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors agreed to avoid any premature withdrawal of support measures, while preserving financial stability and long-term fiscal sustainability, and safeguarding against downside risks and negative spill overs.

12. Cabinet okays Rs 28,655 cr subsidy on P&K fertilisers for rabi season to benefit farmers

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for P&K fertilisers for October 2021 to March 2022 period. Rabi (winter-sown) season starts in October.

Under the NBS, the per kg subsidy rates of N (nitrogen) has been fixed at Rs 18.789, P (phosphorus) Rs 45.323, K (potash) Rs 10.116 and S (sulphur) Rs 2.374

13. PM Modi launches Rs 100 lakh crore Gati Shakti National Master Plan for infrastructure

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan worth Rs 100 lakh crore, which aims at streamlining infrastructure development undertaken by several ministries and departments in the country and enhancing multi-modal connectivity.

Aim is to bring down logistics cost, which is currently around 13% of gross domestic product in the next 5 yrs Gati Shakti will undertake adoption and utilisation of geospatial information technology

14. Ayushmann Khurrana joins CoinDCX as a part of 'Future Yahi Hai' campaign

Ayushmann Khurrana has become the latest celebrity to venture into the cryptocurrency space through his association with CoinDCX's 'Future Yahi Hai' campaign.

The CoinDCX 'Future Yahi Hai' Megadrive is directed towards addressing major questions and doubts and dispel myths when it comes to crypto investments from the perspective of young India. CoinDCX is India's largest cryptocurrency exchange valued at \$1.1 billion.

15. Centre's fiscal deficit for April-September 2021 is at 35% of budget estimates vs 115% a year ago

India's fiscal deficit for April-September period compressed to 35 per cent of the Budget Estimates (BE) from 115 per cent in the same period last year. This is even lower than the pre-Covid level (FY20) of Rs 6.5 trillion.

- The fiscal deficit of a country is calculated as a percentage of its GDP or simply as the total money spent by the government in excess of its income. In either case, the income figure includes only taxes and other revenues and excludes money borrowed to make up the shortfall.

SBI PO

Crash Course 2021

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National

1. AIIB approves USD356.67 million loan for expansion of Chennai Metro Rail System

AIIB approved USD356.67 million loan to India involves the construction of a new corridor in Chennai's metro network as part of Chennai Metro Rail Phase 2. It will span from Lighthouse in the east to Poonamalee Bypass in the west to ensure seamless multimodal transport across Chennai by providing integrated access to suburban rail, bus stations and the city's main airport. Energy & transport sectors has received highest amount of AIIB's financing.

2. Chacha Chaudhary Declared Mascot For Namami Gange Programme

At the 37th Executive Committee meeting of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), Chacha Chaudhary was declared as the mascot of the Namami Gange Programme and some major projects in Uttar-Pradesh and Bihar.

NMCG has been focusing on youth as part of its outreach and public communications efforts as they are the impellers of change. Rajiv Ranjan Mishra: Director General, NMCG

3. Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India celebrates Fifth Annual Day

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) celebrated its Fifth Annual Day.

The Prime Minister graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Rajesh Verma, Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs and Dr. Krishnamurthy Subramanian, Chief Economic Adviser, Ministry of Finance were Guests of Honour.

4. ECI launches inaugural edition of 'The ECI Annual National Essay Contest on Election & Democracy'

The Election Commission of India (ECI) launched the inaugural edition of 'The Election Commission of India Annual National Essay Contest on Election & Democracy,' conducted jointly by India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM) & Jindal Global Law School (JGLS), O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonapat, Haryana.

5. PM launches Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 and AMRUT 2.0

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 and Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation 2.0 (AMRUT 2.0).

In 2014, the countrymen took a pledge to make India open defecation free-ODF and they fulfilled this pledge with the construction of more than 10 crore toilets.

Now the goal of Swachh Bharat 2.0' is to keep the cities Garbage-Free

6. Union Minister Bhupender Yadav launches DigiSaksham - a digital skills programme to enhance employability of youth

Labour and Employment Minister Bhupender Yadav launched DigiSaksham - a digital skills programme to enhance the employability of youth by imparting digital skills.

This joint initiative with Microsoft India is an extension of the Government's ongoing programmes to support the youth from rural and semi-urban areas.

7. NITI Aayog launches State Nutrition Profiles for 19 States & UTs

NITI Aayog, in a joint effort with International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Indian Institute of Population Sciences (IIPS), UNICEF and Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) launched the State Nutrition Profiles for 19 States and Union Territories.

The State Nutrition Profiles (SNPs) give insights on nutrition outcomes and interventions based on the NFHS. NFHS : National Family Health Survey

8. Nation pays homage to 'Mahatma Gandhi' and former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri on their birth anniversary

The Nation pays homage to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi on his 152nd birth anniversary. Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary is also observed as the International Day of non-violence.

The nation is also remembering former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri on his 117th birth anniversary.

9. IISc-incubated startup L2MRail, SID, IISc sign MoU with Kerala Rail

IISc Bangalore, IISc-incubated startup L2MRail and the Society for Innovation and Development have signed an MoU with Kerala Rail aimed at enhancing rail safety, especially in vulnerable terrains.

The L2M Rail team and IISc have pioneered Fibre Bragg Grating sensing technology, to develop a Structural Health Monitoring System which will monitor civil engineering structures.

10. IFSCA constitutes panel for development of sustainable finance hub

International Financial Services Centres Authority(IFSCA) set up an expert panel headed by former Environment and Forest Secretary C K Mishra to suggest a framework to develop a world-class sustainable finance hub at IFSC.

India aspires to be a frontrunner in climate action, which is evident in its commitment towards Nationally Determined Contributions under Paris Agreement

11. AIIB to extend USD 356 million loan for Chennai Metro Rail expansion

The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has approved USD 356.67 million loan for expansion of the Chennai Metro rail system.

Phase-II of the Chennai Metro Rail will span the area from the Lighthouse in the east to Poonamale Bypass in the west. This will ensure seamless multimodal transport across Chennai, by providing integrated access to suburban rail & bus station

12. Cabinet clears doubling of Nimach-Ratlam railway line worth Rs 1,095.88 crore

Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the doubling of the Nimach-Ratlam railway line at a total estimated cost of Rs 1,095.88 crore.

The total length of doubling of the Nimach-Ratlam railway line is 132.92 km. The project will be completed in four years.

The total estimated cost of the doubling Rajkot-Kanulus railway project will be Rs 1,080.58 crore

13. Kangana Ranaut becomes brand ambassador of UP govt's 'one district-one product' scheme

The Uttar Pradesh government named actor Kangana Ranaut as the brand ambassador of its ambitious 'one district-one product' programme. The actor met Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at his official residence. The UP govt has launched the one district-one product (ODOP) programme with the aim to create product-specific traditional industrial hubs across 75 districts of state.

14. Skill India organizes National Apprenticeship Mela to support the hiring of one lakh apprentices

Skill India, in association with the Directorate General of Training (DGT) and National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), is organizing a day-long "Apprenticeship Mela" across the country in over 400 locations.

The event witnessed participation from more than 2000 organizations operating in more than 30 sectors such as Power, Retail, Telecom, ITITeS, etc. SKILL INDIA aims to train over 40 cr people in India by 2022.

15. World's largest Khadi National Flag unveiled in Leh

Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, R. K Mathur unveiled the monumental National Flag at an event organized by Fire Fury Corps, Indian Army at Leh.

The unfurled flag is the largest handwoven & handspun cotton Khadi flag ever manufactured in India & it measures 225 feet by 150 feet and weighs 1000 kg.

The Sura-Soi Engineer Regiment -brought the national flag from Mumbai to Leh. The flag is made by Khadi Dyers and Printers based in Mumbai.

16. Centre organises 'Buddhist Circuit Train FAM Tour and Conference' to promote religious tourism

Union Minister of State for Tourism Ajay Bhatt flagged off the "Buddhist Circuit Train FAM Tour" from Safdarjung railway station (part of Delhi Suburban Railways).

Ministry of Tourism in association with the Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has organized the Buddhist Circuit Train FAM Tour as part of the Union government's "Dekho Apna Desh" initiative.

17. Union Minister Shri Giriraj Singh launches People's Plan Campaign 2021 and Vibrant Gram Sabha Dashboard

Union Minister for Panchayati Raj & Rural Development Shri Giriraj Singh launched People's Plan Campaign 2021- Sabki Yojana Sabka Vikas & Vibrant Gram Sabha Dashboard. He also released a booklet on the People Plan Campaign-2021 for the preparation of plans for FY 2022-23 & the 10th issue of Gramoday Sankalp Magazine. Panchayats are the centre points of grassroots democracy. There are 31.65 L elected Panchayat representatives across the country (14.53 are women).

18. Expert group responsible for determining minimum wages reconstituted

The labour ministry has reconstituted the expert group responsible for determining the national floor level minimum wages under the Code on Wages (Code focuses on simplifying the existing labour laws dealing with payment of wages, overtime, bonus, etc.), replacing the head of the expert panel and adding few members, barely three months after the committee was set up. Labour expert **SP Mukherjee** will now head the committee.

19. World Bank retains India's GDP forecast at 8.3% for current fiscal

A new report titled 'Shifting Gears: Digitization and Services-led Development', released by the World Bank, India is expected to grow at 8.3 percent in the current fiscal. It is helped by an increase in public investment and schemes like PLI to boost the manufacturing sector. World Bank estimates that India will

grow by 7.5 percent in FY2022-23 & 6.5 per cent in FY2023-24. World Bank- HQ: Washington, D.C.,US; President: David Malpass; Founded: July 1944

20. Foreign Firms Allowed To Buy 100% Of Bharat Petroleum; Govt Modifies Rules For Easy FDI

The government has permitted 100 percent foreign investment under the automatic route in oil and gas PSUs which have received in-principle approval for strategic disinvestment.

This move is to smoothen the privatization of India's second-biggest oil refiner Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL).

The government is selling the stake in only BPCL.

FDI limit in PSU promoted oil refineries will continue at 49% that was set in 2008

21. Smt Darshana Jardosh dedicates new version of 'Mile Sur Mera Tumhara' song to the Nation

Minister of State for Railways and Textiles dedicated a new version of the 'Mile Sur Mera Tumhara' song to the Nation through video conferencing. This song is part of the initiatives being undertaken by the Ministry of Railways to celebrate the 75th anniversary of India's Independence- Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. The new version of this song has been prepared by Railway employees and officers.

22. Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya distributes Green Ribbons to spread awareness on Mental Health

Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya distributes Green Ribbons to spread awareness on Mental Health. The event was organized by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in partnership with Hansraj College, Delhi to raise awareness on Mental Health as part of the activities being taken up during ongoing Mental Health Awareness Week, 5th-10th October. 10th October is observed around the world as World Mental Health Day.

23. DRDO conducts All India Official Language, Scientific and Technical Seminar

Integrated Test Range (ITR) Chandipur, a premier laboratory of DRDO organized the All India Official Language, Scientific and Technical Seminar. 'Test and Evaluation of Defence Products: The Necessity and Achievements' was the theme of the seminar. The seminar was formally inaugurated by the Member of Parliament and Chairman, Standing Committee on Defence Shri Jai Oram.

24. Civil Aviation Minister Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia inaugurates greenfield Sindhudurg airport under the UDAN scheme

Union Minister of Civil Aviation virtually inaugurated the greenfield Sindhudurg airport in Maharashtra & also flagged off the first flight from Sindhudurg to Mumbai under the RCS-UDAN (Regional Connectivity Scheme - Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik) scheme of the Government of India. The airport is spread over 275 hectares area. Sindhudurg Airport also known as Chipi Airport is in Sindhudurg District of Maharashtra.

25. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Announces a new 3 km long four-lane bridge on Brahmaputra River in Kamrup District

Union Finance Minister announced in Guwahati that the Government of India has approved the construction of a 3 km long 4-lane bridge on the Brahmaputra river in the Kamrup district. The bridge will facilitate direct connectivity to the internationally renowned silk town of Sualkuchi and the industrial region of Amingaon with Guwahati and the International airport. The bridge will be constructed at an estimated total cost of Rs 3094 crores.

26. PM Modi launches Indian Space Association (ISpA)

ISpA is the premier industry association of space and satellite companies, which aspires to be the collective voice of the Indian space industry. It will undertake policy advocacy and engage with all stakeholders in the Indian space domain, including the government and its agencies.

Lt Gen **Anil Bhatt (Retd)** has been appointed the director-general of the new body.

- The Founding members include Larson & Toubro, Nelco (Tata Group), OneWeb, Bharti Airtel, Mapmyindia, Walchandnagar Industries and Ananth Technology Limited. Other core members include Godrej, Hughes India, Azista-BST Aerospace Private Limited, BEL, Centum Electronics, Maxar India.

27. Railways successfully operates two long haul freight trains 'Trishul' and 'Garuda' for the first time over South Central Railway

Indian Railways successfully operated two long haul freight trains 'Trishul' and 'Garuda' for the first time over South Central Railway(SCR). Long haul trains, which are twice or multiple times longer than the normal composition of freight trains, provide a very effective solution to the problem of capacity constraints in critical sections. South Central Railway HQ: Rail Nilayam, Secunderabad

- Trishul is SCR's first long haul comprising of three freight trains, i.e., 177 wagons. This train was started on October 7, 2021, from Kondapalli station of Vijayawada division to Khurda division of East Coast Railway. SCR followed it up with running of yet another similar one named Garuda on October 8 from Raichur of Guntakal division to Manuguru of Secunderabad division.

28. Govt to open 10,000 Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras by March 2024

Government has set a target to increase the number of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras to 10000 by March 2024.

PMBJP scheme was launched in 2008 with an objective of making quality generic medicines available at affordable prices to all.

The medicines available under PMBJP are priced 50% to 90% less than that of branded medicines. PMBJP was launched by the Dept. of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers.

29. IMF retains India's growth forecast for FY22 at 9.5%

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) retained India's GDP at 9.5 per cent for the current fiscal i.e. 2021-22 while cutting forecasts for the global economy by 5.9 per cent for the year 2021.

The Indian economy recorded growth of 7.3 per cent during FY 2020-21.

Also maintains growth outlook for 2022-23 at 8.5 per cent. India's monetary policy projections are consistent with achieving the RBI.

30. BSNL tests first ever indigenously developed 4G network in Chandigarh

BSNL has announced the first ever successful test of their indigenously developed 4G cellular network in Chandigarh.

The technology which was designed, developed and made in India was tested with a successful call made between the Department of Telecom secretary and Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw. The aim of the test was to check the sustainability of commercial deployment for future.

31. India's first Atal Community Innovation Center launched by Vivekananda Global University, Jaipur.

India's 1st Atal Community Innovation Center (ACIC) was inaugurated at Vivekananda Global University, Jaipur (VGU).

This will be the first center in the country to be set up by the Government of India, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and NITI Aayog. This center, started under the joint aegis of Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog and VGU, will benefit the hardwork

32. National Testing Agency (NTA) has announced the first-ever aptitude test for school students and youth aged between 13 and 25

National Testing Agency (NTA) has announced the first-ever aptitude test for school students and youth aged between 13 and 25 to assess their conceptual understanding in a scientific manner and help them make better career decisions. The test is part of NTA's ongoing 'exploratory research' to map the 'abilities of Indian learners.' NTA, an autonomous testing organisation under the ministry of education

33. Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurates 29th Hunar Haat at Rampur in Uttar Pradesh

Union Minister for Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated the 29th Hunar Haat at Rampur in Uttar Pradesh yesterday. The Hunar Haat is being organised by the Union Ministry for Minority Affairs as a part of a series of 75 Hunar Haat to be organised across the country under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

34. Govt launches vaccination anthem as India nears milestone of 100-crore COVID jabs

As India's COVID-19 vaccination coverage is set to reach a 100-crore landmark milestone, the Centre on Saturday launched the country's vaccination anthem.

The audio-visual song sung by renowned singer and Padma Shri awardee Kailash Kher, was launched at Shastri Bhawan in New Delhi Union ministers Hardeep Singh Puri and Mansukh Mandaviya launched the song

35. For the first time in the history of major ports, Ship-to-Ship operation of LPG undertaken at Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port

For the first time, Kolkata Port has successfully handled ship-to-ship (STS) lighterage operation of Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) of BPCL at Sandheads. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port said the first-ever STS operation of LPG in the Indian Coast was undertaken by Bharat Petroleum in October and a quantity of 23,051 MT of cargo was transferred to the daughter vessel in 17 hours. The Kolkata Port, located on the bank of Hugli River is the only Riverine Port in India

36. Telangana Develops India's First Smartphone-Based E-Voting Solution

Telangana's 'e-Voting' solution was particularly meant to increase voting accessibility for persons with disabilities, senior citizens, and sick people, among others. The initiative is done by the Telangana State Election Commission with the implementation support of the Emerging Technologies Wing of the state's IT Dept, and the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing. The solution uses Artificial Intelligence and Blockchain (Distributed Ledger) technology.

37. DGCA temporarily suspends SpiceJet's licence to carry dangerous goods

Aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has temporarily suspended SpiceJet's licence for the transportation of 'dangerous goods' for alleged violations. The suspension is for 30 days, and during this period, SpiceJet will not be allowed to carry dangerous goods, including lithium-ion batteries, on its domestic as well as international flights. The DGCA is a statutory body of the Indian Central Government to regulate civil aviation.

- The Directorate General of Civil Aviation is the regulatory body in the field of Civil Aviation primarily dealing with safety issues.
- It is responsible for regulation of air transport services to/from/within India and for enforcement of civil air regulations, air safety and airworthiness standards. It also co-ordinates all regulatory functions with International Civil Aviation Organisation.
- The headquarters are located in **New Delhi** with regional offices in the various parts of India.

38. Microsoft, Facebook, Netflix Form Merchants Alliance To Address Financial Regulation Disparity In India

Online merchants that are dependent on fintech and other financial institutions for subscription and revenue models have formed a Merchants Payments Alliance of India (MPAI) to address the financial regulation disparity as well as promote financial literacy among consumers.

39. BPCL launches automated fuelling technology 'UFill' for customers

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) - a PSU under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has announced the launch of 'UFill' - a digital customer experience which delivers on BPCL's promise of ensuring that their customers have complete control over Time, Technology and Transparency as part of their fuelling experience. UFill invitation to customers is - 'Fast forward your fill',

- The UFill functionality does not need any App download, is payment App agnostic (i.e. customer can use any payment app already downloaded on his / her phone like GPay, PayTM, PhonePe etc), offers real time QR and voucher code through SMS and is accepted at all BPCL Fuel Stations where the functionality is enabled.
- UFill is yet another milestone in Company's digital transformation journey that is aimed to improve customer's turn-around time (TAT) at fuel outlet and increase transactional transparency, thereby providing enhanced retail like experience.

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited is an Indian government-owned oil and gas corporation. Under:- Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India, HQ:- Mumbai, Maharashtra ,Founded: 1952. It operates two large refineries in Kochi and Mumbai.

40. Finance Ministry Launches Blockchain-Based Pilot Project To Improve Efficiency In Logistics Industry

The central board of indirect taxes and customs under the country's finance ministry has launched a pilot electronic cargo tracking system (ECTS) project based on blockchain technology. This aims to achieve secure documentation and GPS-based tracking of containers.

This latest experiment has been in the area of domestic trade.

- The test run is being carried out at the Inland Container Depot (ICD) of the **Tughlakabad Import Commissionerate**, which accounts for about 20% of the total tax revenues under Delhi Customs.
- The cargo traffic at all airports alone stood at **264,509 tonnes** in August this year, according to data by the Airports Authority of India. At the country's major ports, the figure was 57.59 million tonnes in the year-ago period, the Indian Ports Association said in a statement.
- For the initiative at ICD Tughlakabad Import Commissionerate, the finance ministry has partnered with the **Asian Development Bank**.

41. PM Modi inaugurates 806-bedded Infosys made 'Vishram Sadan'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Infosys Foundation made 806-bedded Vishram Sadan at National Cancer Institute (NCI) in Jhajjar Campus of AIIMS New Delhi.

The 806 bedded Vishram Sadan is a part of Infosys' Corporate Social Responsibility to provide air-conditioned accommodation facilities to the accompanying attendants of the Cancer Patients. It is built at the cost of about ' 93 crore.

42. UIDAI to host 'Aadhaar Hackathon 2021' starting 28th October to 31st October

Government agency UIDAI is hosting a Hackathon titled 'Aadhaar Hackathon 2021'. The hackathon is starting on 28 Oct 21 and would continue till 31 Oct 21.

With new challenged and themes, the Hackathon 2021 will have two topics:-

'Enrolment and Update'

'Identity and Authentication' UIDAI:- Unique Identification Authority of India

- Under this theme, UIDAI is soliciting innovative solutions to prove Identity without sharing the Aadhaar number or any demographics information. Also, it is looking for innovative applications around **face authentication API (Application Programming Interface) - the newly launched authentication modality of UIDAI**. The objective is to popularize some of the existing and new APIs to solve the needs of residents.

- UIDAI is mandated to issue an easily verifiable 12 digit random number as Unique Identity - Aadhaar to all Residents of India.

43. NITI Aayog launches Atal Innovation Mission digi-book

NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has launched "Innovations for You," which attempts to showcase success stories of Atal Innovation Mission's Startups in different domains.

These startups have worked to create new, disruptive and innovative products, services, and solutions that can pave a path for a sustainable future. The first edition of this book is focused on innovations in Health Care.

- The book is a compilation of 45 health tech startups, incubated at Atal Incubation Centres spread across the country. These startups are leveraging frontier technologies such as AI, IoT, ICT and others to provide socially relevant solutions to problems like anaemia, Malaria, dental care, mental health, neonatal and child care and monitoring human vitals, among others.

44. 3% dearness allowance hike for central govt staff

A Union Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved an additional instalment of three percent dearness allowance for the central government employees and dearness relief to the pensioners with effect from July 1, 2021.

This three percent increase will be on the existing rate of 28 percent of the basic pay or pension; (i.e. 31% of the basic pay). DA:- a bonus or pay increase to meet a rise in the cost of living.

45. GAIL to build largest green hydrogen plant

State-owned GAIL (India) Ltd will build India's largest green hydrogen-making plant as it looks to supplement 'its natural gas business with carbon-free fuel.

Speaking at India Energy Forum by CERAWEEK, GAIL chairman and managing director Manoj Jain said the company has floated a global tender to procure an electrolyser.

GAIL -Headquarters: New Delhi; Founded: August 1984

- o GAIL is under the ownership of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

- o Hydrogen can be produced in three different ways through coal gasification (brown hydrogen), deriving it from methane in natural gas (blue hydrogen) and using renewable energy to produce green hydrogen. Green hydrogen is the cleanest of all with zero carbon emission. The plant planned is for 10 MW capacity. Indian Oil Corp (IOC) has also announced plans to build a green hydrogen plant at its Mathura refinery.

46. Dr Bharati Pawar Addressed WHO SEAR High-level Meeting For Renewed TB Response

Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar addressed the inaugural session of WHO SEAR High-Level Meeting for Renewed TB Response.

South-East Asia Region bears the highest burden of TB disease among all six Regions. According to her, TB has been a major cause of death for decades and has now surpassed HIV/AIDS and malaria.

- o Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar also emphasised the encouraging political commitment that has resulted in increased domestic resource allocation for TB programmes, particularly in India and Indonesia, where domestic sources will account for 43% of the budget in 2020.

47. Government Sets Up National Steering Committee For Implementation Of The NIPUN Bharat Mission

The Department of School Education and Literacy had launched the National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy,

NIPUN Bharat Mission on 5th July, 2021 with the aim to achieve the goal of universal proficiency in foundational literacy and numeracy for every child by grade 3, as envisaged by National Education Policy 2020.

- o A National Steering Committee (NSC) for implementation of the NIPUN Bharat Mission has been constituted under the chairpersonship of the Union Education Minister, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and Vice Chairpersonship of Minister of State for Education, Smt. Annpurna Devi.

- o The following are some of the roles and responsibilities of the NSC for the NIPUN Bharat Mission: To oversee the progress of National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy and provide guidance on policy issues.

To arrive at the target to be achieved nationally in 2026-27.

To disseminate tools for measurement of yearly progress in the form of guidelines.

To prepare and approve a National Action Plan (based on the State's Action Plans) with KRAs for every State/UT vis--vis factors attributable for the gaps (i.e., lack of Fund, Vacancies, Teachers, Demography, Local issues, Need of Training for teachers, Curriculum & pedagogy related).

48. Ayush Minister Sarbananda Sonowal To Inaugurate Incubation Centre For Innovation And Entrepreneurship At AIIA

Sarbananda Sonowal, Minister of Ayush and Ports, Shipping and Waterways will inaugurate the Incubation Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (AIIA- iCAINE) at All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), on 29th Oct 2021 at a program organized in Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi.

The incubation centre will be set up under the mandate of Ministry of AYUSH.

o The event will witness representatives from Ayurveda Sector across the country. Besides, a National Seminar on Start-ups in Ayush Sector- Scope and Opportunities (AYUR-UDYAMA) is also being organized on 30th of October as a part of the programme. In order to promote entrepreneurship leveraging the academic knowledge, All India Institute of Ayurveda ; has set up an Incubation and Innovation Centre in its campus to nucleate a cluster of new age ventures.

o The All India Institute of Ayurveda, Delhi is a public Ayurveda medicine and research institution located in New Delhi, India.

49. CBSE launches Veer Gatha project in schools to raise awareness on Gallantry Awards

Schools affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) have been asked to prepare projects and engage in activities based on the Gallantry Award winners.

The Veer Gatha project aims to raise awareness about the brave acts and sacrifices of the Gallantry Award winners among school students. The Veer Gatha project is being conducted from October 21- November 20.

50. Union Minister for MSME Narayan Rane launches 'SAMBHAV' National Level Awareness Programme, 2021

Union Minister of MSME Shri Narayan Rane has called for engagement of the youth in promoting entrepreneurship leading to the economic development of the country.

Launching 'SAMBHAV', a National Level Awareness Programme-2021 being organised by Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Government of India, in New Delhi.

51. Labour Ministry hikes minimum wages for central sphere workers from October 1

The Ministry of Labour and Employment has revised the rate of variable dearness allowance for 1.5 crore central sphere workers. The hike, which will be effective from October 1, will result in an increase in the minimum wages for central sphere employees and workers. Union Labour Minister is Shri Bhupender Yadav.

o The VDA is revised on the basis of average Consumer Price Index for industrial workers (CPI-IW), a price index compiled by the Labour Bureau (an attached office of the Ministry of Labour & Employment).

o The average CPI-IW for the months of January to June, 2021 was used for undertaking the latest VDA revision.

o This move will benefit around 1.5 crore workers engaged in various scheduled employment in the central sphere across the country. These workers are employed in construction, maintenance of roads, runways, building operations etc.; sweeping and cleaning; loading and unloading; watch and ward; mines and agriculture.

52. Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya launched 6th edition of National Formulary of India

Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya on October 28 launched the 6th edition of National Formulary of India to promote rational use of medicines in the country. Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission has published the National Formulary of India, NFI. Mansukh Mandaviya is a Rajya Sabha MP from Gujarat.

o NFI, 2021 will act as a guidance document for all the healthcare professionals such as clinicians, pharmacists, nurses and dentists. It will play a crucial role in daily clinical practices.

o Medicines behave differently in different bodies and it is important to know about the content, impact and side effects of medicines. The NFI will be very beneficial for Clinicians and Healthcare professionals while prescribing the medicines to the patients.

53. 52nd edition of IHGF-DELHI FAIR ' AUTUMN 2021 inaugurated

The 52nd edition of IHGF-DELHI FAIR ' AUTUMN 2021 being held from 28th to 31st October 2021 at India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida Expressway , was inaugurated by Shri Ramdas Athawale, Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment. IHGF means Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fair.

o IHGF Delhi Fair is organized twice every year in Spring and Autumn editions, by the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH), the apex organization representing handicraft manufacturers & exporters in India.

o EPCH has its Headquarter in New Delhi.

54. Brahmaputra Mail becomes the first passenger carrying train on Electric Traction

The train No. 05956 Delhi ' Kamakhya (Brahmaputra) Mail Special became the first Mail/Express train to run on electric traction up to Kamakhya station of Guwahati after successful operation of a parcel train on electric traction.

Earlier on October 21, 2021, the Northeast Frontier Railway ran its first parcel train on electric traction up to Kamakhya station and achieved a historical moment for Northeast Frontier Railway and North-eastern region.

55. Chennai ' Mysore- Chennai Shatabdi Express becomes the first IMS certified train of Southern Railways

Chennai ' Mysore- Chennai Shatabdi Express becomes the first Integrated Management Systems (IMS) certified train of Southern Railway, first Shatabdi of Indian Railways and second mail/express train on Indian Railways. This is the first ever train service of Southern Railway to bag IMS Certification with ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 & ISO 45001:2018 Certifications. General Manager of Southern Railway: Shri John Thomas

56. India's First Manned Ocean Mission "Samudrayan" Launched

India's first manned ocean mission "Samudrayan" was launched in Chennai on Oct 29, 2021, by Union Minister Jitendra Singh. With this, India joins elite club of select nations USA, Russia, Japan, France & China having such underwater vehicles for carrying out subsea activities. Matsya 6000, the deep sea vehicle, will be ready for qualification trials by December 2024.

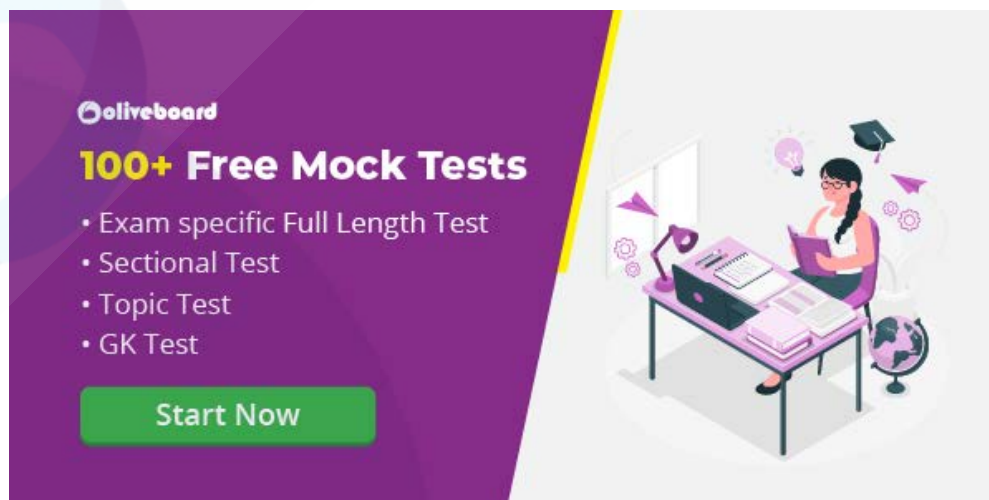
The Matsya 6000 under Samudrayan initiative is capable of carrying three human beings in titanium alloy personnel sphere of 2.1 metre diameter enclosed space with an endurance of 12 hours and an additional 96 hours in case of emergency situation.The Samudrayan project, undertaken by the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), will be a part of the '6,000 crore Deep Ocean Mission.

57. 'Ganga Utsav 2021 ' The River Festival' To Be Celebrated From 1st to 3rd Nov

National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) celebrates Ganga Utsav every year to mark the anniversary of announcement of River Ganga as the 'National River' i.e. 4th November. This year's Ganga Utsav is being organised from 1st to 3rd November, 2021. 'Ganga Utsav 2021 ' The River Festival' will be celebrating not just River Ganga but all the rivers across the country. Activities have been planned across 150 districts ' 112 in the Ganga belt.

o The celebrations this year will be part of the ongoing celebrations for 75 years of Independence and Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

o This year, the aim will be to take Ganga Utsav 2021 to the various river basins in India and promote the celebration of 'Nadi Utsav' (River Festival) which was highlighted by Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on the occasion of the World River Day on 26th September 2021, in order to connect with the traditions which are associated with rivers for centuries in our country.



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International

1. Piyush Goyal inaugurates India Pavilion at Dubai Expo 2020, says India to drive next phase of global growth

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal inaugurated the India Pavilion at Dubai Expo 2020, featuring an innovative kinetic facade made up of 600 individual colourful blocks.

Among the 192 participating countries, India has the biggest pavilion in the expo.

Fifteen states and nine central ministries from India are participating in this six-month-long expo.

2. India, US, Japan & Australia to kick-off second phase of this year's Malabar naval exercise in Bay of Bengal

Quad countries ' India, US, Japan and Australia will kick off the second phase of this year's Malabar naval exercise in the Bay of Bengal. The Second phase, holds from October 12-15, will focus on advanced surface and anti-submarine warfare exercises, seamanship evolution and weapon firings. The exercise will seek to build on the synergy, coordination and interoperability. First summit of Quad was held in March 2021

3. India and US reaffirm commitment to raise 100 billion US Dollars annually to tackle climate change

India and the US reaffirmed their commitment to raising \$100 billion annually from public and private sector sources to help develop the two countries' efforts to tackle climate change. The climate crisis was the first topic of discussion at a meeting of the India-US Economic and Financial Partnership yesterday under the leadership of India's FM Nirmala Sitharaman India-US Economic and Financial Partnership was launched in 2010

4. India gets re-elected to U.N. Human Rights Council for 2022-24 term

India was re-elected to the U.N. Human Rights Council for the 2022-24 term with an overwhelming majority in the General Assembly. The 76th UN General Assembly held elections on Thursday for 18 new members of the U.N. Human Rights Council who will serve for a period of three years, starting in January 2022. India got 184 votes in the 193-member assembly, while the required majority was 97.

5. India gifts ambulance and medical supplies to Kumudini hospital in Bangladesh

The High Commission of India in Bangladesh handed over a Life Support Ambulance and essential medical supplies to the Kumudini Hospital in Mirzapur. High Commissioner Vikram Doraiswami handed over the ambulance and oxygen cylinders, respiratory support equipment etc to the Managing Director of the Kumudini Welfare Trust Rajiv Prasad Shaha Bangladesh Capital: Dhaka Currency: Bangladeshi taka

6. Russian team back on Earth after filming first movie in space

A Russian actor and a film director have returned to Earth after spending 12 days on the International Space Station shooting scenes for the first movie in orbit. The film-makers had blasted off from the Russia-leased Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan earlier this month, travelling to the ISS with veteran cosmonaut Anton Shkaplerov to film scenes for "The Challenge". The ISS is not owned by one nation. It is 'co-operative programme' between 5 space agencies

7. PM congratulates H. E. Jonas Gahr Store on assuming office of PM of Norway

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Jonas Gahr Store on assuming the office of Prime Minister of Norway. Jonas Gahr Store is the leader of Norway's Labor Party, which won the elections in September, became the country's new prime minister. Oslo is the biggest city in Norway, and has been the country's capital since 1814.

8. Death anniversary of Lalon Fakir observed in Bangladesh

The 131st death anniversary of the legendary Sufi saint of Bangladesh Lalon Fakir was observed in the country. A programme 'Lalon Smaran Utsab' was organised at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) to pay tribute to Lalon on this occasion. During the programme a discussion on life and philosophy of Lalon Fakir was organised at the BSA.

o Fakir Lalon Shah is considered the most prominent figure of the Baul tradition of Bangladesh. He was born in 1774 at Horishpur in Jhenaidah district of Bangladesh. He is revered as a great mystic saint, philosopher and social reformer of his time. He composed thousands of songs which were compiled later by his disciples. His songs celebrate the spirit of humanism blending elements of various religions.

o His philosophy combines elements of Islam, Vaisnavism, Shahajiya Budhhism and Jainism.

o He inspired and influenced people like **Rabindranath Tagore**, Kazi Nazrul Islam and the American poet Allen Ginsberg among others.

o He is believed to have died on the first day of the Bangla month of Kartik in 1890.

Sports

1. Sania Mirza-Shuai Zhang win Ostrava Open women's doubles title

India's Tennis veteran, Sania Mirza won the doubles title at the Ostrava Open with her Chinese partner Shuai Zhang.

They defeated the pair of Kaitlyn Christian and Erin Routliffe by 6-3, 6-2 and clinched the title in just over an hour.

The final was held at the EZ Arena in Ostrava in the Czech Republic.

2. Smriti Mandhana becomes first Indian women to score a Test hundred on Australian soil

In a historic moment in women's cricket, Smriti Mandhana became the first Indian woman to score a Test hundred on Australian soil.

She completed her century to shape up India's first innings on the second day of the first pink-ball day and night.

The match was played at the Carrara Oval in Queensland, Australia today. She scored 127 runs with 22 fours and a six.

3. Tokyo Olympic Bronze medalist India hockey star Birendra Lakra announces retirement

Hockey India announced that Lakra, who represented India in 201 international games as a defender, has retired from the sport with immediate effect. The 31-year-old Lakra, a defender, was part of India's bronze medal-winning side in the Tokyo Olympics. He was also part of the 2014 gold medal-winning Incheon Asian Games team and the side that claimed bronze in 2018 Jakarta.

4. World women's chess championship: India loses to Russia in final, wins first ever medal at event

India clinched a silver medal after going down 0-2 to Russia in the final of the FIDE World Women's Team Chess Championship. After losing the first match 1.5-2.5 despite a brilliant win for D Harika on the board, the Indians were outclassed 3-1 in the second as a strong Russian team stormed to a title triumph.

It was India's first-ever medal in the world chess championship.

5. Germany unveils logo for soccer's Euro 2024 tournament

Germany has unveiled the logo for soccer's 2024 European Championship.

The logo features an outline of the Henri Delaunay Cup ' the bulbous tournament trophy ' set on a colored oval outline that resembles the Olympiastadion's roof.

It features colors from the flags of UEFA's 55 member nations.

The tournament's slogan: "United at the Heart of Europe".

Germany - Capital: Berlin, Currency: Euro, Chancellor: Angela Merkel

6. Magnus Carlsen wins first Meltwater Champions Chess Tour title

After the 7th round of the final tournament of the "Meltwater Champions Chess Tour" - Magnus Carlsen is the "Tour Winner". Although neither the World Champion nor his direct rival Wesley So scored, So cannot catch up to Carlsen's seven-point lead with only two remaining rounds. Carlsen lost to Teimour Radjabov 1:3, while So lost to Levon Aronian 0.5:2.5 after just 3 games. Magnus Carlsen is a Norwegian chess grandmaster who is the current World Chess Champion.

7. Ibha revealed as mascot of FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in India

The Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) Ibha as the official mascot of FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2022 in India. Ibha, an Asiatic lioness, was unveiled on the day coinciding with the International Day of the Girl Child.

FIFA Women's World Cup kicks off in Australia and New Zealand in 2023.

Sarai Bareman, FIFA Chief Women's Football Officer. Praful Patel, President of All-India Football Federation.

o **Ibha** symbolizes courage and strength, which are core qualities of every woman, while also embodying the vibrance and visionary spirit of the tournament.

o The next edition of the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup will take place in India from **October 11-30** in 2022.

8. Sarita Mor wins bronze at World Wrestling Championships

Sarita Mor defeated Sweden's Johanna Lindborg 8-2 to bag the bronze medal in the 59kg category at the World Wrestling Championships.

She becomes the sixth Indian woman wrestler to win a bronze medal at the World Championships.

It was India's second medal of this edition of the World Championships as Anshu Malik won silver in the 57kg category.

o The 20-year-old put up a brave show but lost to two-time Olympic medallist Helen Maroulis of the USA in the final.

o The reigning Asian champion took a commanding 6-0 lead by the break and pulled off another breathtaking move to race to a 8-0 lead.

9. Australia's Beth Mooney tops ICC T20 batters rankings

Australia's Beth Mooney has topped ICC T20 batters rankings with 754 points. Shafali Verma drops a spot to 2nd and Smriti Mandhana stood at 3rd position. Two others from Australia, skipper Meg Lanning and Alyssa Healy (6th), feature in the top 10. Sophie Ecclestone (England) topped in T20I bowling rankings. Sophie Devine topped in T20I All-Rounder rankings. Leading run-scorer in Women's T20I: Suzie Bates (New Zealand)

10. Ireland's Amy Hunter becomes world's youngest ODI centurion

The 16-year old schoolgirl from Belfast overtook the record previously held by India's Mithali Raj, who scored 114 not out against Ireland at the age of 16 years and 205 days in June 1999.

Hunter hit eight fours in her 127-ball innings at number three and reached her century with a leg-side flick for four as Ireland finished its innings on 312-3 in Harare. She is just the fourth woman to hit an ODI century for Ireland and the first since 2000.

11. Chennai Super Kings beat Kolkata Knight Riders to win its 4th IPL title

Chennai Super Kings beat Kolkata Knight Riders by 27 runs to win its fourth IPL title in Dubai. Ruturaj Gaikwad who scored 32 off 27 deliveries in the final clash, has won the Orange Cap for scoring highest run with 635 runs.

The Purple Cap goes to RCB's Harshal Patel, who has registered 32 wickets in 15 games in this IPL season.

12. 2021 ISSF World Championships | India end campaign as the most successful nation, with 43 medals

India won a whopping 43-medals, including all 12 available on Saturday (Oct 9), the 11th and final day of competitions, as the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Championship Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun concluded at the Las Palmas Shooting range in the Peruvian capital of Lima.

13. ICC & UNICEF to Partner for Mental Wellbeing of Children & Adolescents

Ahead of the 2021 men's T20 World Cup in the UAE and Oman, the International Cricket Council (ICC) and UNICEF have said that they would partner to help break the stigma around mental health by raising awareness about the issue amongst children and adolescents. UNICEF Headquarters: New York, USA
President: Tore Hattrem.

14. Viraj Madappa keeps his nerve to lift TATA Steel PGTI MP Cup 2021; Khalin Joshi finishes runner-up

Viraj Madappa kept his nerve on a high-scoring day to lift the trophy at the Rs. 70 lakh TATA Steel PGTI MP Cup 2021 Presented by Delhi Golf Club (DGC) Supported by Just In Time Sports Foundation. The Kolkata golfer thus bagged his second professional title and his first win in three years.

15. India beat Nepal 3-0 to clinch SAFF Championship title for 8th time

India clinched the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship for eighth time defeating Nepal 3-0 in Male. India dominated possession in the first-half but they failed to score any goal. However, captain Chhetri put India ahead minutes into the second half and even before Nepal could settle down, Suresh made it 2-0. Chhetri's goal in the finals helped him level with Lionel Messi on 80 international goals

16. Formula 1: Max Verstappen Holds off Lewis Hamilton to Win US Grand Prix Thriller

US Grand Prix: Max Verstappen beat Lewis Hamilton to the race to extend his Formula 1 world championship lead to 12 points.

The victory by 1.33 seconds was Verstappen's eighth of the season at a track where Hamilton had won five times.

Sergio Perez completed the podium for Red Bull ahead of Charles Leclerc in a Ferrari and McLaren's Daniel Ricciardo.

17. RPSG Group and CVC Capital land successful bids to acquire Lucknow and Ahmedabad IPL teams

The RPSG Group picked Lucknow as their home base with a winning bid of INR 7090 crores and Irelia Company Pte Ltd. (CVC Capital Partners) opted for Ahmedabad with a bid of INR 5625 crores, reports said. The franchise aspirants had a choice of picking from six cities- Cuttack, Dharamsala, Guwahati and Indore being the others.

BCCI President, Mr Sourav Ganguly.

o **Sunrisers Hyderabad**, the last team to join IPL via a tender process in 2012, had paid **Rs. 850 crore**;

- o The companies that cleared the final round of technical vetting to be eligible to place the bids included RPSG, the Adani Group, HT Media Private Limited, Torrent Pharma, Aurobindo Pharma, All Cargo, CVC, Kotak group in a consortium and the Glazers of Manchester United through their equity firm.
- o The Governing Council of the IPL had issued an **Invitation to Tender (“ITT”)** to acquire the right to own and operate 2 (two) new franchises. Pursuant to the tender process, various interested parties submitted their bids for the new franchises.
- o The new franchises will participate in IPL from 2022 season onwards subject to the bidders completing the post-bid formalities as specified in the ITT document. The IPL 2022 season will comprise ten teams and will have **74 matches**, wherein each team will play 7 home and 7 away matches.

18. FIFA (Federation Internationale de Football Association) Rankings: India rise one spot to 106th, Belgium hold onto top position

India has also moved one spot ahead to the 106th position after the Sunil Chhetri-led side won the SAFF Championship. The Blue Tigers had defeated Nepal in the summit clash.

Belgium remain on top despite UEFA Nations League defeats to France (3rd, 1) and Italy (4th, 1). Among the top five, only Les Bleus and Gli Azzurri have improved their positions. FIFA is the highest governing body of association football. HQ: Zrich, Switzerland

19. Viktor Axelsen of Denmark & Japan's Yamaguchi win Denmark Open 2021 singles titles

Tokyo Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen won the Denmark Open after coming back from one game down to beat No.1 seed Kento Momota at Odense, Denmark.

The second seeded local star spent one hour and 33 minutes on court to win against the two times former winner from Japan in three games, 20-22, 21-18, 21-12. Akane Yamaguchi, gold medalist of 2016 edition, won women's singles.



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Agreements & MoUs

1. India, US sign two MoUs for cooperation in Health and Biomedical Sciences

Two MoUs were also signed at the concluding session of the 4th Indo-US Health Dialogue being hosted by India. One MoU was signed concerning cooperation in the field of Health and Biomedical sciences. The other MoU was signed for cooperation with International Centre for Excellence in Research (ICER).

2. CSC e-Governance, PNB Housing collaborate to provide home loan in tier-2, 3 towns

PNB Housing Finance announced that it has joined hands with CSC e-Governance Services India to provide last-mile home loan facilities to individuals living in tier 2 and 3 cities.

CSC e-Governance Services India Limited, a Special Purpose Vehicle, has been set up by the Ministry of Electronics and IT under the Companies Act, 1956.

3. TCS, SBI extend partnership for 5 years to drive innovation, enhance customer experience

IT services, consulting & business solutions organisation Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has announced that its 20-year long partnership with India's largest public lender ' State Bank of India (SBI)' has been extended for 5 more years as SBI goes ahead with its next leg of growth based on technology, resilience and people. The partnership between TCS & SBI started in 2001.

4. NMCG & WASH Institute Signs MoU for Capacity Building in Faecal Sludge & Septage Management.

National Mission of Clean Ganga (NMCG) has signed an MoU with Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Institute (WASH Institute) to conduct a series of training to enhance the quality of service of officials in Urban Local Bodies (ULBs). This MoU is also to efficiently address FSSM issues in towns and cities of the Ganga Basin. The project will be funded by USAID and supported by The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

5. 3rd India ' UK Energy for Growth Partnership ' Ministerial Energy Dialogue

The 3rd India ' UK Energy for Growth Partnership ' Ministerial Energy Dialogue was co-chaired by Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy from the Indian side and the Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) from the UK side. Both sides to set in motion concrete action plans for driving clean energy transition in Power Sector.

6. PM Modi meets Danish counterpart, sign MoUs to boost 'green strategic partnership'

India and Denmark agreed on measures to take forward their unique 'green strategic partnership' and signed four agreements aimed at boosting cooperation in green technologies and management of natural resources such as groundwater. This partnership is an example of how by collective effort, through technology, one can work for green growth while preserving the environment. Denmark Capital: Copenhagen; Currency: Danish krone..

7. NMPB inks deal with IHBT for production of planting material for medicinal plants

National Medicinal Plant Board (NMPB) has joined hands with Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology, based in Himachal Pradesh's Palampur area, to promote the production of quality planting material of medicinal plants. NMPB works towards supporting policies and programs for the growth of trade, export, conservation, and cultivation of medicinal plants. NMPB is established under the Ministry of Ayush.

The two organisations have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to facilitate the development of quality planting material (QPM) for medicinal plants and herbs identified by the NMPB and help establish their nurseries for QPM development, promotion, conservation and cultivation of the appropriate medicinal plants in different agro-climatic zones, including the Rare Endangered Threatened (RET) species and those growing in high-altitude regions. The Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa and Homoeopathy; Founded: 9 November 2014

8. TRIFED to sign MoU with the Government of Jammu and Kashmir for the implementation of Van Dhan Yojana

TRIFED and Government of Jammu and Kashmir will soon enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the implementation of the Van Dhan Yojana and to promote tribal enterprise in the region. The tribal-dominated districts in J & K include Kupwara, Baramula, Badgam, Rajauri, Udhampur, and Kathua. 11.91% of the total population of J&K constitutes Scheduled Tribes

9. NTPC in pact with lectricit de France S.A. for cooperation in international power sector

In a significant development for the power sector, lectricit de France S.A. (EDF), one of the world's leading power sector companies headquartered in Paris, France, and NTPC Ltd, India's largest energy integrated company signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to explore potential power project development opportunities in the Middle East, Asia, Europe, and Africa.

10. India, Croatia collaborate for academic research in traditional medicine systems

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed between All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) & Croatia's Kvarner Health Tourism Cluster. AIIA is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Ayush.

The MoU with Croatia is a significant step towards bolstering India's ties with other countries and promoting academic research, clinical & educational activities, medical education, etc. AIIA is a public Ayurveda medicine and research institution located in New Delhi, India

11. India announces \$200 million line of credit for Kyrgyzstan

India announced a \$200-million line of credit for Kyrgyzstan and signed an agreement to carry out small but high impact projects for community development in the Central Asian state.

The two initiatives were among several measures announced by external affairs minister S Jaishankar at the end of a two-day visit to Kyrgyzstan. Kyrgyzstan - Capital: Bishkek; Currency: Kyrgyzstani som;

President: Sadyr Japarov

o India was one of the first countries to recognise the independence of Kyrgyzstan after the break-up of the erstwhile Soviet Union and establish diplomatic relations in 1992.

12. MOU with NHAH & TIDCO for Development of Multi-Modal Logistics Park (MMLP) in Chennai Port's land

Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Shri Sarbanand Sonowal has announced forming of a Special Purpose vehicle (SPV) for development of a Multimodal Logistics Park (MMLP) at VOC Port in Chennai.

The MMLP to be developed through PPP with the SPV providing land and connectivity and the actual MMLP infrastructure to be developed by a private developer. V. O. Chidambaranar Port Trust is one of the 13 major ports in India.

13. India hands over Jaynagar-Kurtha cross-border rail link to Nepal govt

India handed over 34.9 km long cross-border rail link connecting Jayanagar in Bihar to Kurtha in Nepal to Nepal government. The handing over ceremony took place in the presence of Nepal minister for physical Infrastructure and transport Renu Kumari Yadav and Indian ambassador to Nepal Vinay M. Kwatra.

14. Flybig, IRCTC enter pact for ticket booking

Newly launched airline flybig has entered into an agreement with IRCTC to facilitate travellers to book tickets for any of its northeast destinations through the latter's 'Air' platform. The pact will allow the passengers to book their travel tickets to any NE flybig destination through the IRCTC portal, which will help in boosting tourism in the region.

15. Govt notifies rules for the sustainability of electricity sector & promotion of clean energy

Ministry of Power has notified rules for the sustainability of electricity sector and the promotion of clean energy. These rules are Electricity (Timely recovery of costs due to Change in Law) Rules, 2021 and Electricity (Promotion of generation from renewable sources of energy by addressing Must Run and other matters) Rules, 2021.

16. Tata Power, IIT Delhi to collaborate in clean energy space

Tata Power, one of India's largest private sector integrated utilities, and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate in areas like smart grid technology, clean energy solutions.

17. India, ADB sign USD 251 mn loan for urban flood management in Chennai

The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a USD 251 million loan for climate-resilient, integrated urban flood protection and management in the Chennai-Kosasthalaiyar basin to strengthen the resilience of Chennai city to floods. Asian Development Bank HQ: Manila, Philippines; President: Masatsugu Asakawa.

o Department of Economic Affairs Additional Secretary Rajat Kumar Mishra and ADB India Resident Mission Country Director Takeo Konishi signed the pact.

o The project will construct 588 kilometres of new stormwater drains, rehabilitate or replace 175 km of stormwater drains, improve 11 km stretches in the Ambattur, Ariyallur, Kadappakkam, and Korattur channels to enhance water-carrying capacity, and upgrade a stormwater pumping station and construct a new one.

Schemes

1. Union Minister Bhupender Yadav launches DigiSaksham - a digital skills programme to enhance employability of youth

DigiSaksham, a joint initiative with Microsoft India is an extension of the Government's ongoing programmes to support the youth from rural and semi-urban areas. Through DigiSaksham initiative, free of cost training in digital skills including basic skills as well as advance computing, will be provided to more than three lakh youths in the first year.

2. I&B Minister Anurag Singh Thakur launched Clean India Programme from Prayagraj

The aim of the cleanliness drive is to create awareness, mobilize people & ensure their involvement in cleaning waste mainly Single Use Plastic waste throughout India. This programme is being organised across the country through the networks of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan-NYKS affiliated Youth Clubs and National Service Scheme-affiliated institutions.

3. Govt to organise Vayo Naman Programme in honour of senior citizens

Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry will organise Vayo Naman Programme in honour of senior citizens on occasion of International Day of Older Persons. Vice President will dedicate Elderly Help Line 14567 to Nation & launch Senior Able Citizens Reemployment in Dignity (SACRED) & Senior Care Ageing Growth Engine (SAGE) Portals on this occasion.

International Day of Older Persons: 1 October

4. PM launched Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 and AMRUT 2.0 on 1st October

PM Narendra Modi launched Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 and Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation 2.0 on 1st October 2021, at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi. In line with the vision of the Prime Minister, SBM-U 2.0 and AMRUT 2.0 have been designed to realize the aspiration to make all our cities 'Garbage Free' and 'Water Secure'.

5. Defence Accounts Department develops IT-enabled payment system

The Defence Accounts Department under the aegis of the Ministry of Defence has developed an IT-enabled payment and accounting system called PRABAL to ensure that the domestic defence suppliers get payments without any delay. This is being done following the clarion call of Aatmanirbhar Bharat by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

6. Mid-day meal scheme is now 'PM Poshan', pre-primary children will be covered

The mid-day meal scheme will now be known as PM POSHAN/PM Poshan Shakti Nirman, with the Centre initiating a major political push pivoted around 'child nutrition', and announcing that around 24 lakh students receiving pre-primary education at government and government-aided schools will also be brought under the ambit of the scheme from next year. Last year, the government had opened pre-schools called Balvatikas attached to angandwadi

7. Cabinet approves Rs 4,445-cr PM MITRA (Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel Yojana to set up 7 mega textile parks

The Union Cabinet approved the setting up of 7 Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel parks with a total outlay of Rs 4,445 crore for five years to position India strongly on the global textiles map. The parks will be set up at greenfield/brownfield sites located in different willing states (Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Assam, etc). Sites for the park will be selected by a "Challenge Method" based on objective criteria.

8. Samarth training at 75 training centers in different crafts inaugurated across the country;

To coincide with the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti, on 2nd October 2021, the office of DC (H) inaugurated Samarth training at 75 training centers in different craft throughout the country. The Samarth training is providing skill training to the 2,250 artisans as well as extending wage compensation of Rs. 300 per day per trainee at these centers. The wage compensation to successful trained artisans is paid through DBT mode.

9. Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying launches a nationwide River Ranching Programme in Uttar Pradesh.

Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying launches a nationwide River Ranching Programme in Uttar Pradesh. 'River ranching program' is introduced as a special activity under the PMMSY scheme for augmenting and enhancing fish production and productivity through expansion, intensification, diversification, and productive utilization of land and water. National Fisheries Development Board, is the Nodal Agency for implementing River Ranching

10. Jal Jeevan Mission: 43% households have tap connection till now, 100% coverage in 6 states/UTs

About 43 per cent rural households have been provided with tap water connections till date under the Jal Jeevan Mission with 100 per cent homes in six states and Union Territories having tap water supply. However, in seven states and UTs, less than 25 per cent households have tap water supply.

Data shared by the Jal Shakti Ministry (Minister -Gajendra Singh Shekhawat)

These states and UTs are Assam (22 per cent), Rajasthan (20.89 per cent), Ladakh (16.32 per cent), Jharkhand (15.12 per cent), West Bengal (13.48 per cent), Chhattisgarh (13.17 per cent) and Uttar Pradesh (12.72 per cent). Goa, Telangana, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Puducherry, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu and Haryana have provided tap water supply to 100 per cent of the households. Jal Jeevan Mission aims to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections by 2024 to all households in rural India.

11. Giriraj Singh launches Climate Resilience Information System and Planning CRISP-M tool

Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister launched CRISP-M tool for integration of climate information in Geographic Information System, GIS-based watershed planning under MNREGA. This tool will be used in seven states namely: Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Rajasthan.

12. Country's first 'One Health' consortium launched by D/o Biotechnology, Post COVID 19

Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of S&T, GoI supported a mega consortium on 'One Health'. Dr. Renu Swarup, Secretary, D/o Biotechnology, Govt. of launched 1st 'One Health' project. This programme envisages carrying out surveillance of important bacterial, viral and parasitic infections of zoonotic as well as trans-boundary pathogens in India.

13. Union Cabinet extends Swachh Bharat, AMRUT schemes by 5 years

Union Cabinet approved the second phase of the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban and the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation till 2025-26.

A financial outlay of Rs 1,41,600 crore has been finalised for SBM-U 2.0, including a central share of Rs 36,465 crore, which is over 2.5 times the financial outlay of Rs 62,009 crores in the last phase of the mission

14. Textile Ministry issues notification for setting up seven PM MITRA Parks

Textiles Ministry has issued notification for setting up of seven PM MITRA Parks. The scheme is aimed at realising the vision of PM Modi of building an Aatmanirbhar Bharat. PM MITRA is inspired by the 5-F vision of Prime Minister. The '5F' Formula encompasses - Farm to fibre; fibre to factory; factory to fashion; fashion to foreign.

The seven PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks will be setup at Greenfield or Brownfield sites located in different willing States. For a Greenfield PM MITRA park, the Union Development Capital Support will be thirty per cent of the Project Cost, with a cap of 500 Cr rupees and for Brownfield sites 30 per cent of project cost of balance infrastructure and restricted to a limit of 200 crore rupees.

The scheme is to develop integrated large scale and modern industrial infrastructure facility for entire value-chain of the textile industry. It will reduce logistics costs and improve competitiveness of Indian Textiles. The scheme will help India in attracting investments, boosting employment generation and position itself strongly in the global textile market. These parks are envisaged to be located at sites which have inherent strength for Textile Industry to flourish and have necessary linkages to succeed.

15. I&B Minister Anurag Thakur compliments Goa for achieving ODF & connecting every household with electricity

India set a target of electrifying every household and Goa achieved that. The minister also lauded Goa for providing tap water to every household under Har Ghar Jal Mission and it has become the first state to achieve the feat. Mr Thakur said, Goa also achieved 100 per cent target in providing free ration to the poor and needy.

Jal Jeevan Mission: Har Ghar Jal

o The On 15th August, 2019, Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi had announced Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) to provide safe piped drinking water to every rural household in the country by 2024.

o The total cost of this mission is estimated to be around Rs. 3.6 lakh crores; out of this the share of the center is around Rs. 2.08 lakh crores.

The Jal Jeevan mission

o The vision of the mission is to ensure that every rural household has drinking water supply in adequate quantity of prescribed quality on regular and long-term basis at affordable service delivery charges leading to improvement in living standards of rural communities.

o The Jal Jeevan Mission will be based on a community approach to water and will include extensive Information, Education and communication as a key component of the mission.

o The programme will also implement source sustainability measures as mandatory elements, such as recharge and reuse through grey water management, water conservation, rain water harvesting.

16. Union Minister for Education and Skill Development inaugurates phase-II of Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship

Union Minister for Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan has launched the phase 2 of Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (MGNF).

The MGNF is a two-year long fellowship created as an opportunity for young, dynamic individuals to contribute to enhancing skill development at the grassroots. The two-year fellowship seeks to combine classroom sessions by academic partner IIMs.

o The MGNF program under SANKALP was designed to provide a cadre of professionals at district level who not only know about governance and public policy in general but vocational education too. MGNF is a unique blend of academic and work-based training handled at the IIM campus and the districts, respectively. MGNF Phase 2 (National Roll Out) launched with 661 MGNFs will be deployed across all districts of the country.

Eight more IIMs have been onboarded taking the total to nine IIMs (IIM Ahmedabad, IIM Bangalore, IIM-Jammu, IIM Kozhikode, IIM Lucknow, IIM Nagpur, IIM Ranchi, IIM-Udaipur and IIM Visakhapatnam).

17. Union Civil Aviation Minister Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia releases Krishi UDAN 2.0

Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya released Krishi UDAN 2.0, which lays out the vision of improving value realization through better integration and optimization of Agri-harvesting and air transportation.

The scheme proposes to facilitate and incentivize the movement of Agri-produce by air transportation. Krishi UDAN 2.0 is an example of the government's collaborative approach to policymaking.

o This scheme will open up new avenues of growth for the agriculture sector and help attain the goal of doubling farmers' income by removing barriers in the supply chain, logistics and transportation of farm produce. The scheme will also strengthen cargo-related infrastructure at airports and off airports, by facilitating the development of a hub and spoke model and a freight grid. Airside transit and transshipment infrastructure will be created at Bagdogra and Guwahati airports, and at Leh, Srinagar, Nagpur, Nashik, Ranchi, and Raipur airports as a part of a focus on NER, Tribal and Hilly Districts.

o **The Krishi Udan scheme, launched by the Centre in September 2020**, waived airport charges such as parking charges and terminal navigational landing charges on select Indian airports for air cargo operators if the agricultural cargo is over 50 per cent of the total chargeable weight carried.

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Appointments & Resignations

1. Air Marshal BR Krishna assumes charge of CISC

Air Marshal BR Krishna assumed charge of Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC).

The CISC paid homage to the bravehearts at the National War Memorial, in New Delhi followed by the Tri-Service Guard of Honour.

Commissioned as a fighter pilot in 1983, Air Marshal Krishna has had a distinguished career spanning over 38 years.

2. Air Marshal Sandeep Singh AVSM VM assumes the Appointment of Vice Chief of the Air Staff

Air Marshal Sandeep Singh AVSM VM took over as Vice Chief of the Air Staff (VCAS).

An alumnus of National Defence Academy, the Air Marshal was commissioned in the flying branch of IAF in Dec 1983 as a Fighter pilot.

The Air Officer is an Experimental Test Pilot and a Qualified Flying Instructor.

He has diverse experience in operational and experimental test flying.

3. Alok Sahay appointed as Secretary-General and Executive Head of Indian Steel Association

Indian Steel Association (ISA) announced that former executive director of state-owned SAIL, Alok Sahay has assumed office as its new Secretary-General and Executive Head from 1st October 2021, taking over from Bhaskar Chatterjee.

Sahay has represented India at the Global Forum on Steel Excess Capacity (GFSEC) held in Paris in 2018.

4. CCI chief Ashok Kumar Gupta gets addl charge as NFRA chairperson

Competition Commission chief Ashok Kumar Gupta has been given additional charge as the chairperson of the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA).

NFRA Chairperson R Sridharan is demitting office after being at the helm for three years.

The decision has been taken with the approval of Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

5. Captain Alok Mishra named MD of India Ports Global that runs Iran's Chabahar Port

The government has picked Captain Alok Mishra as the managing director of India Ports Global Ltd, the state-owned entity tasked with developing and running the strategically important and India-funded Chabahar port in Iran.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has cleared the candidature of Mishra for the full-time role, a year after the previous incumbent office

6. Sanjay Bhargava to head Elon Musk's Starlink satellite broadband venture in India

Sanjay Bhargava, who had worked with Elon Musk as part of a team that had founded electronic payment firm, PayPal, will now head the tech billionaire entrepreneur's Starlink satellite broadband venture in India. Bhargava joins SpaceX as Starlink's country director (India), as the Musk-led US aerospace company gears up to compete with Bharti group-backed OneWeb.

7. B C Patnaik takes charge as MD of LIC

B C Patnaik has taken charge as the managing director (MD) of the Life Insurance Corporation of India. He was appointed as Managing Director vide a government notification dated July 5, 2021.

Prior to taking charge as MD of LIC, Patnaik was the Secretary-General, Council for Insurance Ombudsman, (CIO) Mumbai.

He joined as a Direct Recruit Officer in 1986.

8. Haier's Eric Braganza appointed as CEAMA president

The Consumer Electronics and Appliances Manufacturers Association (CEAMA) said that Eric Braganza has been appointed as its president for a two-year term.

He succeeds Godrej Appliances Business Head and Executive Vice-President Kamal Nandi for the CEAMA chair.

Established in 1978, CEAMA represents the consumer electronics and home appliances industry.

9. CRISIL appoints Amish Mehta as MD & CEO

Amish Mehta will take over as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of CRISIL. Mehta's appointment will be effective from October 1, 2021. The veteran will take over from Ashu Suyash.

Amish Mehta was appointed as CRISIL's President and COO in July 2017.

Mehta joined CRISIL as President and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) in October 2014.

10. Tunisia's president names Najla Bouden as country's first female PM

Tunisia's president named geologist Najla Bouden as the country's first-ever female prime minister-designate, to form a government with limited executive clout after the president seized wide-ranging powers two months ago. Romdhane will be Tunisia's tenth prime minister since a 2011 uprising overthrew

longtime dictator Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, sparking the Arab Spring revolt Capital: Tunis; Currency: Tunisian dinar; President Kais Saied

11. Ethiopia's Abiy Ahmed sworn in as PM for second five-year term

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has been sworn in for a new five-year term as his government faces a host of challenges, including a months-long conflict in the northern region of Tigray.

In June, the prime minister's party won 410 of the 436 parliamentary seats that were contested.

He won the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize for restoring ties with neighbouring Eritrea. Ethiopia- Capital: Addis Ababa; Currency: Ethiopian birr

12. E. R. Sheikh assumes charge as first Director General of the Ordnance Directorate

E.R. Sheikh assumed charge as first Director General of the Ordnance Directorate (Co-ordination and Services). It is the successor organization of Ordnance Factory Board (OFB). he has contributed to the establishment of the modern production line system for the manufacture of small arms ammunition at the Ordnance Factory Varangaon. He led the successful development of Bi-Modular Charge System for artillery ammunition.

13. P L Haranadh takes over as Chairman of Paradip Port Trust

Shri P.L. Haranadh took over the post of Chairman of Paradip Port Trust (PPT). An IRTS officer of the 1994 batch, he has studied MSc & Ph.D. from Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa, New Delhi. During his 27 years of service, he worked in Indian Railways for 22 years and 5 years in the Ministry of Shipping. Paradip Port is a natural, deep-water port.

14. Justice Rajesh Bindal appointed Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court

Justice Rajesh Bindal as the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court ' one of the oldest high courts to be established in India.

He is the senior-most Judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court and is currently the Acting Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court.

- o Justice Bindal had headed the five-Judge Bench that delivered the verdict on the Kolkata post-poll violence. Justice Bindal was Acting Chief Justice of the Jammu & Kashmir High Court prior to this.

- o Justice Bindal was recently appointed as chairperson of a committee constituted by the Supreme Court's e-committee to formulate modern electronic registers for use by the district judiciary across the country. The effort is to replace all manual registers or paper records.

- o As chairman of a committee constituted by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), Justice Bindal has already submitted a report on optimal use of technology, including the use of Artificial Intelligence.

15. CoinSwitch Kuber ropes in Ranveer Singh as its brand ambassador

Crypto platform CoinSwitch Kuber has brought on board Ranveer Singh as its brand ambassador. Through this association, CoinSwitch Kuber aims to leverage Ranveer Singh's mass appeal, along with his popularity among Gen Z and millennial customers.

Ranveer Singh will feature in three ad films for CoinSwitch Kuber's ongoing 'Kuch Toh Badlega' campaign.

CoinSwitch Kuber has recently reached unicorn status in India and is valued at \$1.9 bn.

CoinSwitch Kuber is an app-based cryptocurrency exchange platform exclusive to the Indian market for retail investors. Headquarters: Bengaluru; Founded: 1 June 2020

16. EESL appoints Arun Kumar Mishra as CEO

Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a joint venture of Public Sector Undertakings under the Ministry of Power has announced the appointment of Arun Kumar Mishra as chief executive officer (CEO) on deputation.

He will be responsible for EESL's operations across the nation.

- o Founded in 2009, EESL is promoted by the Ministry of Power, Government of India.

17. Former I&B and Higher Education Secretary Amit Khare Appointed Advisor To PM Modi

Former information & broadcasting and higher education secretary Amit Khare has been appointed as adviser to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Khare has been appointed on a contractual basis for two years. He joins the Prime Minister's Office after ex-cabinet secretary PK Sinha and ex-secretary Amarjeet Sinha left the PMO as advisors this year.

18. Former SBI boss Rajnish Kumar appointed BharatPe board chairman

Fintech company BharatPe has announced that the former State Bank of India (SBI) head Rajnish Kumar has been appointed the chairman of the board .

He was the SBI chairman from October 2017 to October 2020. He has also served as the managing director and the managing director (Compliance and Risk) of SBI. Ashneer Grover, Co-Founder and Managing Director, BharatPe.

o In August 2021, Rajnish Kumar was appointed independent non-executive director of **Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation's (HSBC)** Asian entity. Earlier in February, **Kotak Investment Advisors Limited** announced that Kumar would be exclusive adviser for its \$ 1-billion Special Situation Fund.

o BharatPe that provides merchant payments solutions and other financial services turned a unicorn, a company valued at a billion dollar or more, in August when it raised \$370 million in its Series E round led by **Tiger Global**. The round valued BharatPe at \$2.85 billion.

19. New Chief Justices of Chhattisgarh and Tripura High Courts take oath

Chief Justice A.K. Goswami was sworn in as the new Chief Justice of the Chhattisgarh High Court. He was earlier serving as the Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh. Governor Anusuiya Uike administered the oath. In Tripura, Justice Indrajit Mohanty has been sworn in as the new Chief Justice of the Tripura High Court. Governor Satyadev Narayana administered the oath. Judge of a HC is appointed by President and oath of office is administered by Governor.

20. UCO Bank MD A K Goel elected new chairman of IBA

The Indian Banks' Association (IBA) elected UCO Bank Managing Director A K Goel as its chairman. Goel replaces Union Bank Managing Director and CEO Rajkiran Rai G as head of the banking sector association. Goel has been recommended for the post of the managing director of Punjab National Bank (PNB) by the Banks Board Bureau. He would assume charge of PNB after clearance from the Appointments Committee of Cabinet.

o Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by the Prime Minister.

o The Association elected SBI Chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara, Canara Bank MD L V Prabhakar and IDBI Bank MD Rakesh Sharma as deputy chairmen.

o

21. Fire-Boltt ropes in Virat Kohli as new brand ambassador

Indian wearable brand Fire-Boltt has named cricket captain Virat Kohli as its new brand ambassador. The skipper will participate in different marketing, ad and endorsement campaigns of the home grown brand.

Fire-Boltt as a brand personifies energy, dynamism and vibrancy, all of which has actually been a driving force in my sporting as well as life journey.

22. IndusInd Bank appoints Gobind Jain as new CFO

The private lender IndusInd Bank announced the appointment of CFO Gobind Jain with effect from September 29, 2021. He succeeds SV Zaregaonkar, who has worked with the bank for more than 25 years and is getting superannuated.

Jain has more than 29 years of experience in the banking industry.

23. Rahul Dravid appointed as Team India head coach, Paras Mhambrey roped in as bowling coach

Former Indian batter Rahul Dravid has been appointed as Team India's head coach and he will be succeeding Ravi Shastri, whose tenure at the helm ends after the 2021 edition of the T20 World Cup in the UAE. Team India have also appointed lieutenant Paras Mhambrey as their bowling coach, replacing Bharat Arun.

24. S. Balachandran concurrently accredited as the next High Commissioner of India to St. Vincent and the Grenadines

S. Balachandran, presently Ambassador of India to the Republic of Suriname, has been concurrently accredited as the next High Commissioner of India to St. Vincent and the Grenadines with residence in Paramaribo.

25. RBI approves appointment of Pradeep Kumar Panja as Chairman of Karnataka Bank

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of Pradeep Kumar Panja as part-time Chairman of Karnataka Bank, the lender stated in a regulatory filing last week. The appointment will come into effect from November 14, 2021 and will be for a period of three years. Pradeep Kumar Panja retired as Managing Director (Corporate Banking) of State Bank of India (SBI). He will succeed P Jayarama Bhat, who will complete his term on November 13.

26. Sabyasachi Das appointed as CEO of L&T EduTech

Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has appointed Sabyasachi Das as Chief Executive of L&T EduTech, the company's new business initiative into virtual learning and capability building space. Das will lead the venture that will provide an industry-led, application-based, robust learning platform for students and aspiring professionals, strongly rooted in technology. L&T aims to skill India's youth to enhance their employability through this venture.

27. Amitabh Chaudhry reappointed Axis Bank CEO

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the re-appointment of Amitabh Chaudhry as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of private lender Axis Bank for a period of three years. Amitabh had taken charge as Axis Bank's new MD and CEO in January 2019 after as outgoing MD and CEO Shikha Sharma retired, effective December 31, 2018. The extended three-year term will be effective from January 1, 2022.

28. RailTel and C-DOT sign MoU to expand telecom services in India

RailTel Corporation has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT) to work together in several areas to help expand telecom in the country.

RailTel works under the Ministry of Railways while the C-DoT is a research centre that operates under the Department of Telecommunications (DoT). RailTel was incorporated on September 26, 2000.

- o RailTel a "Mini Ratna (Category-I)" Central Public Sector Enterprise, is one of the largest neutral telecom infrastructure providers in the country owning a Pan-India optic fibre network of 60,000 RKM covering several towns and cities and rural areas of the country.

- o Puneet Chawla, CMD, RailTel.

- o **Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw** handles both the Ministry of Railways as well as the Department of Telecommunications.

- o C-DOT has primitively designed various cutting edge Telecom technologies spanning Switching, Optical, Wireless, Network Management & Security Domains and innovative solutions that are successfully deployed in national networks including those of strategic importance.

- o The Centre for Development of Telematics was established in **1984**, Founder: Sam Pitroda. Headquarters: Delhi, India.

29. A Balasubramanian appointed AMFI chairman, Radhika Gupta vice chair

A Balasubramanian, the managing director and chief executive officer of Aditya Birla Sunlife Mutual Funds, was elected as the chairman of the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI).

Radhika Gupta, the MD and CEO of Edelweiss AMC, has been appointed as AMFI's vice chair.

The outgoing chairman of AMFI - Nilesh Shah. Saurabh Nanavati was serving as the incumbent vice chairperson.

- o **Balasubramanian**, apart from being elected as the AMFI chairman, has also been appointed as the **ex-officio chairman of AMFI's Financial Literacy Committee**.

- o **Radhika Gupta**, along with being elected as the vice-chair, has also been re-elected as **chairperson of AMFI ETF Committee**.

- o **Sanjay Sapre**, president of Franklin Templeton Asset Management (India), has been re-elected as the **chairman of AMFI Operations & Compliance Committee**.

- o **Vishal Kapoor**, chief executive officer of IDFC Asset Management Co Ltd, has been elected as the chairman of **AMFI Standing Committee of Certified Distributors (ARN Committee)**.

- o **Nilesh Shah**, the managing director of Kotak Asset Management Company, has now been appointed as chief of the **AMFI's Valuation Committee**.

- o AMFI, **founded in 1995**, is a nodal association of mutual funds across India. The **44-member organisation** provides key insights regarding mutual funds and investments, and aims to improve the MF sector in India by focusing on ethical and professional standards.

30. Kia India elevates Tae-Jin Park as MD and CEO

Kia India (KIN) announced that Tae-Jin Park, Executive Director and Chief Sales & Business Strategy Officer (CSBO) will assume the role of Managing Director and CEO, Kia India. Park has been associated with Kia India since January 2020.

Park will succeed Kookhyun Shim, the current MD & CEO of Kia India, who played a crucial role in introducing the Kia brand in India.

31. Toshiba India appoints Shuichi Ito as Managing Director

Toshiba India announced the appointment of Shuichi Ito as its Managing Director.

He will succeed Tomohiko Okada, and lead Toshiba India's energy and social infrastructure businesses in the country. Okada was at the helm of TIPL's operations for more than five years.

Toshiba India Private Limited (TIPL) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Toshiba Corporation, Japan.

32. Commodore Amit Rastogi (Retd) is the new Chairman & Managing Director of National Research Development Corporation

Commodore Amit Rastogi (Retd), after an illustrious career of 34 years in Indian Navy has taken over as Chairman & Managing Director of National Research Development Corporation .

He was earlier director at Electrical Engineering at Integrated Headquarters, Ministry of Defence, for five years and additional general manager, tech services, at naval dockyard for two years.

o NRDC is an enterprise of the **Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India.**

33. Meera Mohanty appointed as joint secretary in PMO, Ritesh Chauhan will be PM Fasal Bima Yojana CEO

Senior bureaucrats Meera Mohanty and Ritesh Chauhan have been appointed as the joint secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and the chief executive officer of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana respectively as part of a bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the Centre.

The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana launched on 18 February 2016.

o Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana- The new Crop Insurance Scheme is in line with One Nation & One Scheme theme. It incorporates the best features of all previous schemes and at the same time, all previous shortcomings / weaknesses have been removed. The PMFBY will replace the existing two schemes National Agricultural Insurance Scheme as well as the Modified NAIS. Objectives

- o To provide insurance coverage and financial support to the farmers in the event of failure of any of the notified crop as a result of natural calamities, pests & diseases.
- o To stabilise the income of farmers to ensure their continuance in farming.
- o To encourage farmers to adopt innovative and modern agricultural practices.
- o To ensure flow of credit to the agriculture sector.

34. OnePlus promotes Navnit Nakra as India CEO and Head of India region

Smartphone maker OnePlus said it has elevated Navnit Nakra as its India CEO and Head of OnePlus India region operations.

As part of this new senior leadership role, Nakra will spearhead the company's business operations and overall strategy for the India region.

OnePlus is a Chinese smartphone brand founded by former Oppo vice-president Pete Lau and Carl Pei.

35. Icra appoints Ramnath Krishnan as Managing Director and Group CEO

Icra announced the appointment of Ramnath Krishnan as the company's Managing Director and Group Chief Executive Officer. Krishnan, who will assume the new charge with immediate effect, had joined Icra in 2020 and is currently President Ratings and Chief Rating Officer of the company.

36. SAI appoints Arjuna Awardee Commodore PK Garg as new CEO of TOPS

The Sports Authority of India (SAI) appointed Commodore PK Garg as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) at the Mission Olympic Cell meeting.

Commodore Garg, who was the High-Performance Director with Sports Authority of India.

He is also an Arjuna Awardee recipient (1990) in Sailing. He has also won the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Awardee in 1993-94.

o TOPS (Target Olympic Podium Scheme) is a flagship program of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports which is an attempt to provide assistance to India's top athletes. The Scheme looks to add a premium to the preparations of these athletes so that they can win medals in the Olympics. The Scheme currently supports 104 TOPS Core Group athletes across 13 sports disciplines & Hockey (M & W) teams and 269 TOPS Development Group athletes across 12 sports disciplines.

37. Siddhartha Lal appointed Eicher Motors MD for 5 years

Eicher Motors Ltd passed the resolution to reappoint Siddhartha Lal as the Managing Director of the company for five years, starting May 1, 2021.

The board also approved a revised remuneration structure for the Managing Director, with a maximum cap of 1.5 percent of profits as per Section 198 of the Companies Act.

38. Sunil Paliwal assumes charge as chairperson of Chennai Port Trust

Sunil Paliwal has assumed charge as Chairperson of the Chennai Port Trust (ChPT). He is holding the post of Chairman cum Managing Director of the Kamarajar Port Ltd.

Paliwal succeeds P Raveendran, who has reverted to his parent organisation ' the Indian Railways. Paliwal, a 1993-batch Tamil Nadu Cadre IAS Officer, has held various portfolios in the Tamil Nadu government.

Chennai is the oldest artificial harbour on the East Coast of India.

39. K Madhavan re-elected as President of Indian Broadcasting & Digital Foundation

K Madhavan, Country Manager & President - The Walt Disney Company India and Star India, has been re-elected as president of the Indian Broadcasting and Digital Foundation (IBDF).

This is the second consecutive term for Madhavan, who was re-elected in the 22nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the body.

o During the AGM, the members also re-elected TV Today Network Chairman Aroon Purie, Prasar Bharati CEO Shashi S Vempati, Viacom 18 Managing Director Rahul Joshi, and Star and Disney India President and Head & Network Entertainment Channels, Kevin Vaz, as members on the board of IBDF.

o India TV Chairman Rajat Sharma, Rahul Joshi and Shashi Vempati have been also elected as Vice Presidents of IBDF, which was formerly known as the Indian Broadcasting Foundation.

o IBDF members provide channels and programmes that deliver about 90 per cent of television viewership and nearly 48 per cent of OTT market share in India.

40. Indo-Canadian Anita Anand appointed Canada's defence minister

Indo-Canadian Anita Anand became just the second woman to be appointed Canada's minister of national defence as Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced his new cabinet.

The ministers were sworn in by governor-general Mary May Simon in a ceremony at Rideau Hall in Ottawa. She is the first woman to serve as defence minister since Kim Campbell in the 1990s.

o Anand was the first Hindu to become a cabinet minister when she was appointed minister of public services and procurement in 2019.

41. RBI approves appointment of Baldev Prakash as J&K Bank MD & CEO

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the candidature of Baldev Prakash as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Jammu and Kashmir Bank for a period of three years.

Presently, RK Chhibber is the Chairman and Managing Director of J&K Bank, who assumed charge of the bank in June 2019.

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited, Headquarters: Srinagar.

o Jammu and Kashmir Bank (J&K Bank) is a scheduled commercial bank and one of the oldest private sector Bank in India, incorporated in 1938.

42. Govt appoints veteran banker K V Kamath as chairperson of Rs 20,000-cr NaBFID

The government announced the appointment of veteran banker K V Kamath as chairperson of the newly set up Rs. 20,000 crore development finance institution NaBFID to catalyse investment in the funds-starved infrastructure sector.

Parliament had in March cleared the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) Bill 2021.

o The DFI has been established as a statutory body to address market failures that stem from the long-term, low margin and risky nature of infrastructure financing.

43. India's Solicitor General Tushar Mehta To Host 19th SCO Prosecutors General Meet On Oct 29

A 3-day meeting of the Prosecutors General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states will be hosted by India from 27 Oct. The nineteenth conference in a row will be chaired by the Solicitor General of India, Tushar Mehta on 29 Oct.

The main agenda assigned to the meeting is Combating the Menace of Trafficking of persons, especially in Women & Children.

o The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) was established as a multilateral association & **to ensure security and maintain stability across the vast Eurasian region.** The SCO is an intergovernmental organization founded in Shanghai on 15 June 2001. The SCO currently comprises eight Member States (China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan).

o Founders: China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan

44. Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev secures second term in landslide election victory

Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has been re-elected for a second five-year term, according to the preliminary results of a poll that Western observers criticised as uncompetitive despite recent political reforms.

Mirziyoyev's win will allow him to deepen his reform campaign and likely lead to Uzbekistan opening up further to foreign trade and investment. Capital: Tashkent; Currency: Som

45. Axis Bank board approved the appointment of Rajiv Anand as Deputy Managing Director

The board of Axis Bank approved the appointment of Rajiv Anand, executive director' wholesale banking, as the deputy managing director of the bank.

The appointment is subject to further approvals from the Reserve Bank of India and shareholders of the bank.

Rajiv carries more than 30 years of experience in financial services across Indian and MNC banks.

Axis Bank Limited is third largest private sector bank in India. HQ: - Mumbai

46. Rahul Mithal Takes Over As CMD Of RITES

Rahul Mithal took over as the Chairman and Managing Director of RITES Ltd., a Miniratna (Category ' I) Schedule 'A' Public Sector Enterprise & a leading player in the transport consultancy and engineering sector in India.

Mithal is a Mechanical Engineer from the Indian Railway Service of Mechanical Engineers (SCRA 1985 Batch). RITES Limited :- only export arm of Indian railways for providing rolling stock overseas.

o Rail India Technical and Economic Service Limited, abbreviated as RITES Ltd, is under the ownership of Indian Railways, Ministry of Railways, Government of India and an engineering consultancy corporation, specializing in the field of transport infrastructure.

o Headquarters: Gurugram

47. Ex-SC judge Ashok Bhushan appointed NCLAT chairman for 4 years

Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has appointed Retired Supreme Court (SC) judge Justice Ashok Bhushan as the chairperson of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) for 4 years from the date of assuming the charge or till the time he turns 70 years of age. Currently, Justice M Venugopal is the Acting Chairperson of the appellate tribunal. Principal bench of NCLAT is in New Delhi. NCLAT has a bench in Chennai.

o National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) was constituted under Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013 for hearing appeals against the orders of National Company Law Tribunal(s) (NCLT), with effect from 1st June, 2016.

o NCLAT is also the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by NCLT(s) under Section 61 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC), with effect from 1st December, 2016.

NCLAT is also the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India under Section 202 and Section 211 of IBC.

48. Navrang Saini gets additional charge as Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) Chairperson

The post fell vacant after M.S. Sahoo retired after a five-year tenure on September 30.

Mr. Saini is a Whole Time Member of IBBI.

o IBBI is a key institution in implementing the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), which came into force in 2016.

o It is a unique regulator: regulates a profession as well as processes. It has regulatory oversight over the Insolvency Professionals, Insolvency Professional Agencies, Insolvency Professional Entities and Information Utilities. It writes and enforces rules for processes, namely, corporate insolvency resolution, corporate liquidation, individual insolvency resolution and individual bankruptcy under the Code.

49. EAC-PM reconstituted, Bibek Debroy retained as chairman

The government reconstituted the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) for another two years retaining Bibek Debroy as its chairman. While Rakesh Mohan, Poonam Gupta and TT Ram Mohan have been appointed as its new part-time members, V Anantha Nageswaran has been dropped.

Apart from Debroy, Neelkanth Mishra, Nilesh Shah and Sajid Chinoy have been retained.

The council has been tasked with analysing any issue, economic or otherwise, referred to it by the Prime Minister, according to its terms of reference. It can also take up issues of macro-economic importance suo motu.

50. Government reappoints Shaktikanta Das as RBI Governor for 3-years

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the reappointment of Shaktikanta Das as Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for a period of three years. The re-appointment is effective from December 10, 2021, or until further orders, whichever is earlier. Mr. Das was directly associated with the preparation of as many as 8 Union Budgets.

51. Isha Ambani appointed on the Board of Trustees of the prestigious Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art

The appointment is for 4 years. Apart from Isha Ambani, Carolyn Brehm, founder and CEO of the consulting firm Brehm Global Ventures LLC and lecturer, and Peter Kimmelman, also joined the board.

Antoine van Agtmael is the chair of the museum's board of trustees.

o Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art, part of the Smithsonian Institution, is arguably the world's largest museum, education and research complex, based in the US.

o The museum collection of Asian art includes more than 45,000 objects, dating from the Neolithic period to the present.

o In 2019, Nita Ambani, wife of Reliance Industries' Chairman and Managing Director Mukesh Ambani, was elected to the board of New York's The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

52. Centre Appoints Former CJ Of Manipur HC Justice Ramalingam Sudhakar As President Of NCLT

The Central Government has approved the appointment of former Chief Justice of Manipur High Court, Justice Ramalingam Sudhakar as the president of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for a period of five years.

NCLT Principal Bench is in New Delhi.

The Central Government has constituted National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) under section 408 of the Companies Act, 2013 (18 of 2013) w.e.f. 01st June 2016.

53. Yezdi Nagporewalla appointed as KPMG India CEO; to take charge from Feb 2022

Yezdi Nagporewalla has been appointed as the new chief executive of KPMG India for a four-year term commencing February 2022 and ending December 2026. He succeeds Arun M Kumar, the current Chairman and CEO. Bill Thomas is the global chairman and CEO of KPMG.

54. IAMAI appoints Ashish Singhal and Sumit Gupta as co-chairs for its crypto council

The Blockchain and Crypto Assets Council (BACC), a part of Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), has appointed Ashish Singhal, founder and CEO, CoinSwitch and Sumit Gupta, co-founder and CEO, CoinDCX, as its co-chairs. IAMAI Chairman: Sanjay Gupta, Vice-Chairman: Ajit Mohan.

o The role of the co-chairs will be driving the adoption and growth of the crypto industry in India, along with creating a consumer-safe environment. Considerably, more than 1.5 crore Indians currently hold crypto assets, IAMAI said in a statement.

o India ranks second in the percentage of cryptocurrency ownership across the world.



राजस्थान कांस्टेबल

टारगेट बैच

-  200+ लाइव क्लासेस
-  20 स्पेशल प्रश्नोत्तरी क्लासेस
-  सभी विषयों का सम्पूर्ण कवरेज

40% की छूट /-
कोड "LAUNCH" का प्रयोग करें

अभी ज्वाइन करें

Awards

1. USIBC to present Global Leadership Award to Shiv Nadar and Mallika Srinivasan

Industrialists Shiv Nadar & Mallika Srinivasan have been chosen by a top India-centric business advocacy group as the recipients of its 2021 Global Leadership Award.

The US India Business Council (USIBC) announced the selection of Nadar, founder and chairman emeritus, HCL Technologies and Srinivasan, chair and managing director, Tractors and Farm Equipment Limited for award

2. US duo David Julius and Ardem Patapoutian win 2021 Nobel Prize in medicine

The Nobel Prize in the field of physiology or medicine has been awarded to the US. scientists David Julius and Ardem Patapoutian. They were cited for their discovery of receptors for temperature and touch.

The prizes, for achievements in science, literature, and peace, were created and funded in the will of Swedish dynamite inventor and businessman Alfred Nobel.

The prestigious award comes with a gold medal and 10 million Swedish kronor.

3. Professor Eric Hanushek and Dr. Rukmini Banerji awarded the 2021 Yidan Prize- the world's highest education accolade

Out of 130 nominated countries, Dr. Rukmini Banerji, Pratham's CEO has been awarded the 2021 Yidan Prize for Education Development for improving learning outcomes in schools at scale.

The Yidan Prize was founded by Charles Chen Yidan in 2016 to create a better world through education.

Yidan Prize Laureate receives a gold medal and a sum of \$3.9 million. Dr. Koichiro Matsuura, Chairman-Yidan Prize Judging Committee.

4. Syukuro Manabe, Klaus Hasselmann, Giorgio Parisi win 2021 Nobel Prize in Physics

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has decided to award the 2021 #NobelPrize in Physics to Syukuro Manabe, Klaus Hasselmann, and Giorgio Parisi "for groundbreaking contributions to our understanding of complex physical systems." The Nobel Prize in Physics is awarded by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm, Sweden. John Bardeen- only scientist to have received two Nobel Prizes in the Physics category.

5. 2021 Nobel Prize for Chemistry goes to Benjamin List and David W.C. MacMillan

Benjamin List of Germany and Scotland-born David W.C. MacMillan developed "asymmetric organocatalysis" ' work that has already had a significant impact on pharmaceutical research, said Goran Hansson, secretary-general of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

The prize money comes from a bequest left by the prize's creator, Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel, who died in 1895.

6. Abdulrazak Gurnah wins the 2021 Nobel prize in literature

The Nobel prize in literature has been awarded to the novelist Abdulrazak Gurnah, for his "uncompromising and compassionate penetration of the effects of colonialism and the fate of the refugee in the gulf between cultures and continents".

The Nobel prize for literature has been awarded 118 times. Just 16 have gone to women, seven of those coming in the 21st century. Rabindranath Tagore was the first Indian to get a Nobel Prize (Literature) in 1913.

7. Philippines journalist Maria Ressa and Russian journalist Dmitry Muratov win 2021 Nobel Peace Prize

Journalists Maria Ressa & Dmitry Muratov have been awarded the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize 'for their efforts to safeguard freedom of expression', which the Norwegian Nobel Committee called a 'precondition for democracy & lasting peace.'

In 2012, Ressa co-founded Rappler, a digital media company for investigative journalism.

Norwegian Nobel Committee chair Berit Reiss-Andersen. Dmitry Andreyevich Muratov co-founded the newspaper Novaja Gazeta.

8. Malayalam writer Benyamin bags Vayalar Award 2021

Well-known Malayalam writer Benyamin has bagged the 45th Vayalar Ramavarma Memorial Literary Award for his book "Manthilirile 20 Communist Varshangal". The prestigious award, instituted by the Vayalar Ramavarma Memorial Trust, comprises a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh, a sculpture designed by renowned sculptor Kanayi Kunhiraman and a citation.

Vayalar Award is given for the best literary work in Malayalam.

A political satire, the novel revolves around a nondescript village called Manthali and the influence of religion and politics in its culture in two decades. He is most known for his novel Aadujeevitham (Goat

Days), which tells the story of a Malayali labourer in Saudi Arabia. He is a recipient of the Kerala Sahithya Akademi Award, the Crossword Book Award, the JCB Prize for Literature and the Muttathu Varkey Award.

9. Astronautical Society of India Confers Aryabhata Award to Secretary DDR&D and Chairman DRDO, Dr G Satheesh Reddy

Secretary DDR&D and Chairman DRDO Dr. G Satheesh Reddy have been conferred the prestigious Aryabhata Award by the Astronautical Society of India (ASI) for his outstanding lifetime contribution to the promotion of astronautics in India. Dr. G Satheesh Reddy is a pioneer in the area of R&D of advanced avionics, navigation, and missile technologies. ASI - set up in 1990; to foster the development of astronautics.

He has contributed immensely to strategic and tactical missile systems and helped the country become self-reliant in critical defence technologies. He is an institution builder and has set up mechanisms to establish robust defence development and production ecosystem. Due to his persistent effort, defence research in academic institutes is accelerating towards higher technology readiness level. The ASI is engaged in the dissemination of technical and other information related to astronautics by conducting technical meetings, bringing out technical publications and organising exhibitions.

10. Telugu Filmmaker B Gopal Chosen for Satyajit Ray Award

Well-known Telugu filmmaker B Gopal, alias Bejawada Gopal, has been chosen for the fourth Satyajit Ray Award for his overall contribution to Indian cinema. Instituted by the Satyajit Ray Film Society Kerala, a state-based organisation, the award comprises Rs 10,000 cash prize, a memento, and a plaque. Gopal has directed 30 films Telugu films and two Hindi movies.

He was selected by a panel comprising Malayalam filmmaker Balu Kiriyaath, music director Perumbavoor G Raveendranath and others. Eminent filmmaker and Dada Saheb Phalke awardee, Adoor Gopalakrishnan, actress Madhabi Mukherjee, and producer Mohan G were the earlier recipients of the honour.

11. Serbian Lawyer Becomes Balkans' First Winner of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Refugee Award

Nikola Kovacevic, who has spent a decade helping asylum seekers and refugees fleeing hardship around the world find new lives in his Balkan country has received the UN refugee agency's prestigious award for Europe in a ceremony in Belgrade. He offers free legal advice and helps refugees apply for asylum and find shelter, work, and access to education and medical assistance. The UNHCR said Kovacevic has represented nearly one-third of all of the asylum seekers.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was established on December 14, 1950 by the United Nations General Assembly. UNHCR - Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland; Founder: United Nations; Founded: 14 December 1950

12. Nobel Prize 2021 in Economics awarded to David Card, Joshua Angrist and Guido Imbens

Three US-based economists won the 2021 Nobel prize for economics for pioneering research on the labour market impacts of minimum wage, immigration and education, and for creating the scientific framework to allow conclusions to be drawn from such studies that can't use traditional methodology. Peter Fredriksson, chair of the Economic Sciences Committee.

o Canadian-born David Card of the **University of California** at Berkeley was awarded **one half of the prize**, while the other half was shared by Joshua Angrist from the **Massachusetts Institute of Technology** and Dutch-born Guido Imbens, 58, from **Stanford University**.

o Card worked on research that used restaurants in New Jersey and in eastern Pennsylvania to measure the effects of increasing the minimum wage. He and his late research partner Alan Krueger found that an increase in the hourly minimum wage did not affect employment, challenging conventional wisdom which held that an increase in minimum wage will lead to less hiring.

o Card's work also challenged another commonly held idea, that immigrants depress wages for native-born workers. He found that incomes of the native-born can benefit from new immigration, while it is earlier immigrants who are at risk of being negatively affected.

o Angrist and Imbens won their half of the award for working out the methodological issues that enable economists to draw solid conclusions about cause and effect even where they cannot carry out studies according to strict scientific methods.

o In **1968, Sveriges Riksbank (Sweden's central bank)** established the Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel, founder of the Nobel Prize. The Prize is based on a donation received by the Nobel Foundation in 1968 from Sveriges Riksbank on the occasion of the Bank's 300th anniversary. The first Prize in Economic Sciences was awarded to **Ragnar Frisch** and **Jan Tinbergen** in 1969.

13. Indian Army wins gold medal in the Exercise Cambrian Patrol 2021

In the latest Cambrian Patrol Exercise, a team from 4/5 Gorkha Rifles (Frontier Force) represented the Indian Army and was awarded a gold medal. The Cambrian Patrol Exercise was organized at Brecon, Wales, the UK.

The Ex Cambrian Patrol is sometimes referred to as the Olympics of Military Patrolling among several militaries across the globe. 96 teams participated in the Exercise Cambrian Patrol 2021

14. Agri waste-recycling project Takachar named among Prince William's Earthshot Prize winners

A Delhi-based entrepreneur's agricultural waste recycling project was named among the winners of Prince William's inaugural Earthshot Prize, dubbed the "Eco Oscars".

Vidyut Mohan led Takachar was named the winner of the GBP 1 million prize for its cheap technology innovation to convert crop residues into sellable bio-products in the "clean our air" category.

15. Parambikulam Tiger Conservation Foundation wins Earth Guardian Award

Parambikulam Tiger Conservation Foundation has won the Earth Guardian Award for its efforts in supporting the conservation of tigers and biodiversity. The award was instituted by NatWest Group India (formerly RBS India) at the 11th edition of the NatWest Group Earth Heroes Awards.

The 8 winners of the award were felicitated by UN CITES.

Parambikulam Tiger Reserve is situated in Chittur taluk of Palakkad district, Kerala

16. Alexei Navalny awarded the European Parliament's 2021 Sakharov Prize

The European Parliament's annual human rights honour, the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought, has been awarded to Russian opposition leader Aleksei Navalny for his work to expose corruption and measures to curtail freedoms in Russia.

He has campaigned consistently against the corruption of Vladimir Putin's regime. He has helped expose abuses & mobilize the support of millions of people across Russia.

o Every year, the Sakharov Prize, named after Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov, is presented to people working for human rights or democracy.

o Last year's prize of 50,000 euros (\$58,000) went to a movement in Belarus challenging President Alexander Lukashenko.

o The other nominees for the prize were a group of Afghan women for their battle for women's rights in Taliban-run Afghanistan, and Jeanine Anez, a former Bolivian president who is currently imprisoned on allegations of organising a coup in 2019.

17. Martin Scorsese, Istvan Szabo to receive Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement award at IFFI

Hollywood veteran Martin Scorsese and celebrated Hungarian film-maker Istvan Szabo will be honoured with the Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement award at the this year's International Film Festival of India (IFFI).

The 52nd edition of of the film festival will be held from November 20 to 28 in Goa.

International Film Festival of India founded on 24 January 1952.

18. Rajinikanth receives Dada Saheb Phalke award

Actor Rajinikanth was conferred with the 51st Dadasaheb Phalke Award. He received the prestigious award from Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu for his stupendous contribution to Indian cinema.

Superstar Rajinikanth received the 51st Dadasaheb Phalke Award at the presentation ceremony of the 67th National Film Awards. The Dadasaheb Phalke Award is India's highest award in the field of cinema.

19. TCS wins 2021 HPE GreenLake Ecosystem Partner of the Year Award

IT major Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has won the 2021 Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) GreenLake Ecosystem Partner of the Year Award. The 2021 HPE Partner of the Year Awards recognise HPE partners committed to customer excellence, strong performance, focus on growth, and dedication to mutual achievements.

Chairman of TCS: N. Chandrasekaran

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) together provide customers with solutions and help enterprises tackle issues to achieve transformative business outcomes.

Ranks & Reports

1. UNESCO launches 2021 State of the Education Report for India: No Teacher, No Class

This publication is the annual flagship report of UNESCO New Delhi and it is based on extensive research. This third edition of the State of Education Report, focused on the theme of teachers, teaching and teacher education. Access to the internet in schools is 19 per cent all over India.

Higher proportion of women teachers: Chandigarh, Delhi, Kerala, Punjab, Tamil Nadu
Lower proportion of women teachers: Tripura, Assam, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Bihar.

2. India Slips Six Ranks on Henley's Passport Index

India's rank has slipped by six places from last year to 90 on the Henley Passport Index, which lists the world's most travel-friendly passports.

The rankings are based on the survey of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) data. India, which held the 84th rank last year, fell six places to the 90th rank.

The index covers 227 destinations and 199 passports.

o Japan and Singapore with a visa-free **score of 192** have emerged as countries with the most powerful passport in the world. Passport holders of both these countries can travel to 192 countries without requiring a prior visa. Similarly, **Germany** and **South Korea** are **second** on the list with a visa-free score of 190. Finland, Italy, Luxembourg, and Spain are third on the list with a visa-free score of 189 while Austria and Denmark are on the fourth position with a score of 188.

o Prepared by **Henley and Partners**, a global citizenship and residence advisory firm based in **London**, the Henley Passport Index ranks countries' passports in accordance with the number of countries a passport holder of that country can visit without requiring a prior visa.

3. Global Hunger Index ranks India at 101 out of 116 countries

The Global Hunger Index ranked India at 101 position out of a total 116 countries. India is also among the 31 countries where hunger has been identified as serious. India ranked 94 among 107 countries in the Global Hunger Index (GHI). Only 15 countries fare worse than India. India was also behind most of the neighbouring countries.

o Countries worse than India, include Papua New Guinea (102), Afghanistan (103), Nigeria (103), Congo (105), Mozambique (106), Sierra Leone (106), Timor-Leste (108), Haiti (109), Liberia (110), Madagascar (111), Democratic Republic of Congo (112), Chad (113), Central African Republic (114), Yemen (115) and Somalia (116).

o India was also behind most of the neighbouring countries. Pakistan was placed at 92 rank, Nepal at 76 and Bangladesh also at 76.

o The Index tracks key indicators used to measure progress toward Zero Hunger by 2030 at national, regional, and global levels. Based on the values of the four indicators - undernourishment, child wasting, child stunting and child mortality- the GHI determines hunger on a 100-point scale, where 0 is the best possible score (no hunger) and 100 is the worst. Each country's GHI score is classified by severity, from low to extremely alarming.

o GHI published by United Nations sources (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, World Health Organization, UNICEF, and Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation), the World Bank, and Demographic and Health Surveys.

4. Reliance tops Indian firms in Forbes world's top 100 best employers list

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) is among the top 4 Indian companies to work for, according to World's Best Employers rankings 2021 published by Forbes. Mukesh Ambani-owned RIL was placed at the 52nd position in the overall ranking of 750 global corporates.

Other Indian companies that made it to the top 100 rankings include ICICI Bank - 65, HDFC Bank - 77 HCL Tech - 90. Top place in the Forbes rankings was occupied by South Korean giant Samsung Electronics

5. India remains third in Ernst & Young's Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index

India retains its third position in Ernst & Young's (EY) Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index which ranks the world's top 40 nations on the attractiveness of their renewable energy investment and deployment opportunities.

The US retains the top position with China and India taking up the second and third positions, respectively.

India is ranked sixth among the top 30 power purchase agreement (PPA) markets

6. India adds 6,530 MW solar, wind capacities during July 2020-June 2021: Report

India added a total of 6,530 mega watt (MW) of solar and wind capacities between July 2020 and June 2021.

At 6,530 MW, the addition was a rise of 3 per cent compared to the year-ago period, the Bridge to India report said.

Total utility-scale solar & wind capacity addition in the 12-month period between July 2020-June 2021 was 6,530 MW, a nominal 3 % year-on-year increase.

o **Gujarat** added 2,256 MW capacity, the highest capacity during the said period, followed by **Rajasthan** and **Uttar Pradesh** which added 1,438 MW and 822 MW, respectively.

7. India ranks 40th out of 43 global pension systems, as per survey

India has ranked **40th** out of 43 pension systems across the world in the 2021 Mercer CFS Global Pension Index survey, suggesting the need for strategic reforms in India to revamp the pension system so as to ensure adequate retirement income.

India had stood at **34th** position out of 39 pension systems rated in 2020. Mercer is an American asset management firm.

8. India leads in crop burning emissions globally with 13% share, shows Blue Sky Analytics report

India is ranked at the top in emissions related to crop burning, accounting for 13 percent of total global emissions for the 2015-2020 period, according to a new report released by climate tech startup Blue Sky Analytics, which is also part of global coalition "Climate TRACE".

Blue Sky Analytics, the Indian climate tech startup founded by an IIT alumnus.

o The data in the report reveals new insights into recent trends in biomass fires, including emissions from forest and crop residue fires in India. For example, the data verifies the downward trend in crop fires being observed between 2016 and 2019, citing a reduction in the GHG emissions due to cropland fires by 11.39 percent in the said period.

o However, it also points to an increase in emissions by 12.8 percent in 2019-20, increasing India's global contribution to 12.2 percent.

o Climate TRACE is a global coalition with a mission to accelerate climate action by providing independent high-resolution and near-real-time (GHG) emissions data. Its innovative approach fills critical knowledge gaps for all countries that rely on the patchwork system of self-reporting that currently serves as the basis for most existing emissions inventories.

9. India at 71st on Global Food Security index 2021 of 113 nations

India is ranked at 71st position in the Global Food Security (GFS) Index 2021 of 113 countries, but the country lags behind its neighbours Pakistan and Sri Lanka in terms food affordability.

Pakistan (52.6 points) scored better than India (50.2 points) in the category of food affordability. Sri Lanka was even better with 62.9 points in this category on the GFS Index 2021. GFS Index; - a global report released by Economist Impact and Corteva Agriscience

o Ireland, Australia, the UK, Finland, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Canada, Japan, France and the US shared the top rank with the overall GFS score in the range of 77.8 and 80 points on the index.

o According to the report, India held 71st position with an overall score of 57.2 points on the GFS Index 2021 of 113 countries, fared better than Pakistan (75th position), Sri Lanka (77th Position), Nepal (79th position) and Bangladesh (84th position). But the country was way behind China (34th position).

10. UN Environment Programme's (UNEP) latest Emissions Gap Report 2021: The Heat Is On

Latest UNEP Emissions Gap Report finds new and updated Nationally Determined Contributions only take 7.5% off predicted 2030 emissions, while 55% is needed to meet the 1.5C Paris goal

Net-zero commitments could shave off another 0.5C, if these pledges were made robust and if 2030 promises were made consistent with the net-zero commitments.

11. Azim Premji is India's 'most generous' billionaire for 2nd straight year

Azim Premji topped the Edelgive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2021. With a total donation of '9713 crore in FY 2021, amounting to '27 crore per day, Premji, 76, saw his contribution increase by nearly a fourth. He was followed by Shiv Nadar, Mukesh Ambani, Kumar Mangalam Birla, Nandan Nilekani in the list.

Important Days

1. World Habitat Day 2021: October 4

World Habitat Day is commemorated every year on the first Monday of October to remind all the world's citizens of their duty towards shaping the future of cities and towns. This year, it is being observed on Oct 4, 2021. The day is commemorated every year worldwide to throw light on the condition of our towns and cities, and on the basic right of all to adequate shelter. Theme 2021:- "Accelerating urban action for a carbon-free world".

2. World Space Week: October 4-10

World Space Week is dedicated to the celebration of scientific and technological advancements that have been instrumental to the betterment of our lives.

The World Space Week is an UN-declared celebration of space (since 1999) and is considered as the largest space event on earth. The theme for World Space Week 2021 has been chosen to be 'Women in Space'.

3. World Animal Day is observed every year on October 4

The history and origin of World Animal Day dates back to 1925 when cynologist Heinrich Zimmermann organised the first World Animal Day on March 24, 1925, at the Sport Palace in Berlin, Germany.

World Animal Day aims at raising the status of animals in order to improve welfare standards around the globe.

4. World Teachers' Day 2021: October 5

World Teachers' Day or International Teachers' Day is observed every year on October 5 to consider issues related to teachers and teaching. It focuses on appreciation, assessment and changes required for teachers and is also an occasion to honour teachers for their contribution towards students. World Teachers' Day is observed since 1994. Theme 2021:- 'Teachers at the heart of education recovery'.

5. World Cotton Day -- on 7 October | Theme 2021 - "There's more to cotton than you think"

The globe marks World Cotton Day on October 7th every year since 2019. World Cotton Day also strives to emphasise the problems that the world's cotton economies experience, as cotton is important for the world's least developed, emerging, and developed economies. The International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) established the day. India:- world's second-largest cotton producer and largest consumer.

6. Indian Air Force's 89th foundation day | October 8th 2021

The Indian Air Force (IAF) marks its raising day, which is observed annually on October 8 as IAF Day. The year 2021 marks 89 years since the IAF's foundation, celebrations will take place at the Hindon Air Force Station in Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad in the presence of the Chief of Air Staff and senior officials of the three armed forces. IAF is the air wing of the Indian Armed Forces & the 4th largest air force in the world.

7. World Post Day : Every year, October 9

October 9 is marked as the World Post Day to commemorate the anniversary of the establishment of the Universal Postal Union way back in 1874. The remembrance of the World Post Day came into effect in 1969 at the Universal Postal Union Congress held in Tokyo in 1969.

In 2021, the theme for the event has been decided to be 'Innovate to Recover'.

8. 10 October is World Mental Health Day

The overall objective of World Mental Health Day is to raise awareness of mental health issues around the world and to mobilize efforts in support of mental health.

The theme of this year's World Mental Health Day, set by the World Federation for Mental Health, is 'Mental health in an unequal world'.

9. International Day of the Girl Child | 11 October

On December 19, 2011, United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 66/170 to declare October 11 as the International Day of the Girl Child, to recognize girls' rights and the unique challenges girls face around the world.

In 2021, the Generation Equality Forum launched five-year commitments for bolder solutions to gender inequality. International Day of the Girl 2021 theme: Digital Generation. Our Generation.

10. International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction observed on October 13

The day aims to promote a global culture of risk awareness and disaster reduction. The day celebrates how people and communities around the world are reducing their exposure to disasters and raising awareness about the importance of reining in the risks that they face.

The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction was started in 1989, after a call by the United Nations. o The Third UN World Conference in Sendai, Japan reminded the international community in 2015 that disasters were hardest at the local level and had the potential to cause great social and economic

upheaval, as well as loss of life. The region has suffered a devastating earthquake and tsunami in 2011, leading to the loss of over 20,000 lives.

11. Department of Posts celebrates Philately Day as part of National Postal Week and Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations

To make the Philately Day and National Postal Week, 2021 memorable, 103 special covers on Unsung Heroes of India were issued by 22 Postal Circles, spread across the length and breadth of the country. The release events were organized at the birth place of the unsung heroes, ensuring Jan Bhagidari etc.

Philately: collection of postage stamps.

12. International Day for Rural Women 2021: October 15

International Day for Rural Women is celebrated on October 15.

The day focuses on gender equality and empowering women in rural areas. For this year, the theme is 'Rural women cultivating good food for all'.

The United Nations General Assembly had established this day on December 18, 2007, in its resolution 62/136.

According to a report by the United Nations, 40% of the total agricultural labour force in developing countries comprises women. In South American countries, the figure is around 20% whereas, in Asia and Africa, more than 50% of the agricultural labour force is women. The report further stated that providing these women with equal opportunities can increase agricultural production by 2.5 to 4 percent. It can also reduce the number of people with malnourishment from 12 to 17 percent. The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and increasing environmental crisis have deepened the crisis of food insecurity in many parts of the world, despite nature being capable enough to produce sufficient and good quality food for everyone. The recent report by UN Women states that in 2020, 23.7 billion people could not have access to adequate food. This means that around 20% or 3.2 billion people more were pushed towards hunger. Among these people, the group which faced most of the brunt were rural women and children.

13. World Food Day 2021: 16 October

The day acknowledges the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organisation and also highlights the section across the globe that starves from extreme hunger. The Food and Agriculture Association (FAO) was coined on October 16, 1945, by the United Nations. The year, 2021 will mark the 76th anniversary of this historic day. Theme 2021: 'Safe food now for a healthy tomorrow' Global event for World Food Day will take place at Expo Dubai

14. International Day for Eradication of Poverty 2021: 17 October

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is observed every year on 17 October to raise awareness about the struggles of people living in poverty.

As per World Bank, between 88 and 115 million people are being pushed into poverty as a result of the Covid-19 crisis. Theme 2021: Building Forward Together: Ending Persistent Poverty, Respecting all People & our Planet

15. World Statistics Day 2021: October 20

World Statistics Day is celebrated around the globe every year on 20 October to highlight the achievements of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

The day, which was created by United Nations Statistical Commission, was first marked in the year 2010.

Almost every industry and organisation in the world benefits from statistical data and research. India celebrates statistics day as National Statistics Day on 29 June.

National Statistics Day marks the birth anniversary of the statistician Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis was a scientist and statistician from Bengal, who is best remembered for the Mahalanobis distance, a statistical measure, and for being one of the members of the first Planning Commission of free India.

16. Disarmament Week 2021-The protection of the people from the harm of the weapons

Disarmament Week is observed annually to promote the awareness and understanding the issues of disarmament in several countries. The week aims to reduce the use of weapons, specifically nuclear weapons, to bring peace in the society. This year, the disarmament week will be starting on October 24. The week-long observance will continue till October 30.

The United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC) was set up in 1952 under the UN Security Council with a mandate to prepare proposals for a treaty for the regulation, limitation and balanced reduction of all armed forces including the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction. The observance of Disarmament Week was initiated by the United Nations. The observance of disarmament week was first suggested in the Final Document of the UN General Assembly's special session on disarmament in 1978. October 24 also marks the anniversary of the founding of the United Nations.

17. 75th Infantry Day: IAF remembers role of 'Parashurama' aircraft in transporting army troops to J-K in 1947

To commemorate the 75th Infantry Day on 27 October, The Indian Air Force recalled the history of vintage aircraft 'Parashurama'-- one of the refurbished Dakotas-- that played a major role in transporting troops of the 1st Sikh Regiment to Srinagar during the war with Pakistan in 1947.

It is also remembered as the first military event of Independent India.

o Dakotas of No.12 Sqn of then RIAF landed the 1st boots on the ground- 1 Sikh, Indian Army-at Srinagar on **27 Oct 1947**. This day is marked as the Infantry Day."

o Infantry Day is observed as a remembrance of the first military event of independent India, when the Indian Army repelled the first attack on Indian soil on October 27, 1947, in the Kashmir valley.

o The victory was accomplished by the personnel of the First Battalion of the Sikh Regiment.

o On **October 26, 1947**, the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir, Hari Singh, signed the instrument of accession which declared the state to be a part of India. Signing it also meant that and Indian troops could be deployed to fight against Pakistani invaders.



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Summit & Conferences

1. 2nd edition of Naval Commanders' Conference to be held from October 18 to 22

The second edition of Naval Commanders' Conference of 2021 will be held in New Delhi from 18th to 22nd of this month. The conference serves as a platform for Naval Commanders to discuss important maritime matters at the military-strategic level as well as interact with Senior Government Officials through an institutionalised forum. Defence Minister: Rajnath Singh Chief of the Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh

2. Food Tech Summit 2021 organised by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries on 'World Food Day'

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries, under Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises Scheme organised the Food Tech Summit. The Food Tech Summit 2021 is aimed at setting the stage for all food-tech stakeholders to impart, discuss and acquaint micro enterprises on the new emerging trends in food processing and technological innovation. World Food Day is an international day celebrated every year worldwide on 16 October

About the PMFME Scheme

- o Launched under the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**, the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme that aims to enhance the competitiveness of existing individual micro-enterprises in the unorganized segment of the food processing industry and to promote formalization of the sector and provide support to Farmer Producer Organizations, Self Help Groups, and Producers Cooperatives along their entire value chain.

- o With an outlay of **Rs. 10,000 crore** over a period of **five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25**, the scheme envisions to directly assist the 2,00,000 micro food processing units for providing financial, technical, and business support for upgradation of existing micro food processing enterprises.

3. MoS IT Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar attends International Conference and Exhibition on Digital technologies 'Future Tech 2021'

Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Minister of State in the Ministry of Electronics & IT, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, virtually attended the inaugural session of the International Conference and Exhibition on Digital technologies 'Future Tech 2021' organized by the CII.

The event is scheduled from 19 ' 27 October 2021.

- o The event will revolve on 5 theme pillars: **Strategy, Growth, Resilience, Inclusiveness, Trust with a focused theme “ Driving technologies for building the future, we all can trust”**;

- o The International conference would comprise of interaction amongst entrepreneurs, industry leaders and Government officials and shall provide platform for discussion on application of digital technologies.

4. Saudi Arabia aims to reach zero-net emissions by 2060

Saudi Arabia aims to reach zero-net emissions by 2060 and more than double its annual target to reduce carbon emissions. Speaking at the Saudi Green Initiative in the capital Riyadh, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said that the kingdom would tackle climate change while ensuring oil market stability, stressing the continued importance of hydrocarbons.

The Saudi Green initiative is being held ahead of COP-26, the UN climate change conference in Glasgow, that hopes to agree deeper emissions cuts to tackle global warming. Saudi Arabia in March 2021 pledged to reduce carbon emissions by more than four per cent of global contributions. It said that would involve generating 50 per cent of its energy needs from renewables by 2030 and planting billions of trees in the desert state. Cop stands for conference of the parties under the UNFCCC, and the annual meetings have swung between fractious and soporific, interspersed with moments of high drama and the occasional triumph ([the Paris agreement in 2015](#)) and disaster (Copenhagen in 2009). This year is the 26th iteration, postponed by a year because of the Covid-19 pandemic, and to be hosted by the UK in Glasgow.

5. Fourth Assembly of ISA promises to achieve \$1 trillion global in solar investments by 2030

The fourth general assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), was held virtually. It was presided by Union Minister Shri R.K. Singh, Minister for Power, New and Renewable Energy, Government of India and the President of the ISA Assembly. A total of 108 countries participated in the Assembly.

ISA targets US\$1 trillion of investment in solar by 2030. ISA Headquarters: Gurugram; Director General: Ajay Mathur; Founded: 30 November 2015.

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is a treaty-based intergovernmental organisation launch by Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India and Former President Francois Hollande of France. ISA's mission is to provide a dedicated platform for cooperation among solar resource rich countries and the wider global community - including bilateral and multilateral organisations, industry and other stakeholders

- to support the increasing use of solar energy. Seventy-three countries have signed and 50 countries have signed and ratified the ISA Framework Agreement.

6. PM Modi to attend ASEAN plus One, East Asia summits

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will virtually attend the 'ASEAN plus One' Summit with India.

PM Modi's interaction will be held along with the main showpiece events 'back-to-back 38th and 39th summits of ASEAN which are also being held virtually.

The 'ASEAN plus One' series will begin with separate consultations with the US, South Korea and China.

The Chairmanship of 38th ASEAN summit for 2021 is held by Brunei.

o ASEAN is made up of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

7. Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya To Address The Investor Summit ' Opportunities And Partnerships In Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices'

As part of the vision to further strengthen India's position globally in terms of Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices, the Department of Pharmaceuticals, in partnership with Invest India, will host an Investor Summit.

The theme of the summit is 'Opportunities and Partnerships in Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices'. Minister of Health and Family Welfare: Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya

□ The PLI for Pharmaceuticals launched with an outlay of Rs 15000 crore has attracted considerable interest with about 278 companies applying to be considered under the scheme. This Summit will encourage investors looking to build global champions in India in these products.

8. Nirmala Sitharaman attends G20 health, finance ministers meet in Rome

The joint meeting of the G-20 health and finance ministers in Rome was held on the eve of the G20 Leaders' Summit on October 30-31. Sitharaman participated in the G-20 ministerial meet for discussion on long-term challenges in pandemic prevention, preparedness and response and strengthening global health financing governance.

G20 is a major international grouping that brings together 19 of the world's major economies and the European Union, with its members accounting for more than 80 per cent of global GDP, 75 per cent of global trade and 60 per cent of the global population.

9. 13th Meeting of Heads of NSOs of BRICS Countries was held

The 13th Meeting of Heads of National Statistical Offices of BRICS countries was held in virtual format under the Chairship of India on 28th October 2021. The theme of meeting was 'NSOs efforts in monitoring Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)'.

□ Dr. G. P. Samanta, Chief Statistician of India and Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Government of India chaired the meeting.

□ During the meeting, the Joint Statistical Publication (JSP) 2021 and JSPSnapshot 2021 for BRICS Countries were released.

□ The first chapter of JSP 2021 provides a general information with comparable statistics of the five countries, while the other 14 chapters reflect the different aspects of the past development and current status of the individual countries.

□ In addition, NSO India has also brought out the first BRICS JSPSnapshot 2021, a shorter version of BRICS Joint Statistical Publication, 2021, for engagement of wide range of users, as per the agreement by the member countries.

10. NICSI organizes Consultative Workshop on Technical and Regulatory Need Assessment of Cyber Security

A Consultative Workshop on 'Technical and Regulatory Need Assessment of Cyber Security for the Government' was organized by National Informatics Centre (NIC) and National Informatics Centre Services Inc. (NICSI) in New Delhi. The workshop was chaired by Ajay Sawhney, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology. Director General of NIC: Dr. Neeta Verma.

□ In the workshop, Mr. Ajay Sawhney emphasized the need for an initiative to provide Cyber Security as a Service (CSaaS) to enable CISOs in performing their role in more efficient and effective manner.

Science & Technology

1. Indian scientists develop reactor for cost-effective production of hydrogen using sunlight and water

A team of scientists has, for the first time, developed a reactor that produces a substantial amount of hydrogen using sustainable sources like sunlight and water, which is a cost-effective & sustainable process. Development of large-scale prototype reactors with photocatalysts (suspended powders) & a successful use of those in large-scale hydrogen production is under process.

2. Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare launches i-Drone, ICMR's drone-based vaccine delivery model

This is for the first time that a "Make in India" drone has been used in South Asia to transport COVID vaccine over an aerial distance of 15 kms in 12-15 mins from the Bishnupur district hospital to Loktak lake, Karang island in Manipur for administration at the PHC.

The actual road distance between these locations is 26 k.m. Dr. Balram Bhargava, Director General, ICMR.

3. Airtel conducts India's first Rural 5G trial in partnership with Ericsson

Bharti Airtel has conducted a 5G network trial in partnership with Ericsson in a rural landscape, achieving a speed of over 100 Mbps on a smartphone, which was able to connect to the network at a distance of over 10 km from the site. A fixed wireless access (FWA) device at a distance of 10 km from the site recorded a speed of over 200 Mbps. The trial took place in Bhaipur Brahmanan village on the outskirts of Delhi-NCR.

4. Russia claims 1st successful test launch of "Tsirkon" hypersonic missile from a submarine

The Russian military had successfully test-fired a hypersonic "Tsirkon" missile from a submarine for the first time. Hypersonic missiles fly much faster and are more agile than standard ones, making them much more difficult for missile defense systems to stop. The U.S. military conducted its first flight test of a hypersonic missile system in 2011. The missile was launched from the Severodvinsk nuclear submarine, Barents Sea.

5. Indian Scientists Make Biodegradable Polymer From Extracts Of Guar Beans, Crab Shells

A team of Indian scientists has developed an environment-friendly, non-toxic and biodegradable polymer using guar gum and chitosan, both of which are polysaccharides extracted from guar beans and shells of crab and shrimps.

This work has been published recently in the journal 'Carbohydrate Polymer Technologies and Applications'.

6. WHO approves the world's first-ever vaccine against malaria

World Health Organization (WHO) is recommending widespread use of the RTS,S/AS01 (RTS,S) malaria vaccine among children in sub-Saharan Africa and in other regions with moderate to high *P. falciparum* malaria transmission.

The recommendation is based on results from an ongoing pilot programme in Ghana, Kenya & Malawi that has reached more than 800 000 children since 2019. WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

7. ICMR Develops MUDRA Toolbox In Five Indian Languages To Examine Dementia Patients

Indian Council Of Medical Research (ICMR) released the Multilingual Dementia Research and Assessment (MUDRA) Toolbox in five Indian languages - Hindi, Bengali, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam.

Dementia is a neurological illness that affects a person's ability to perform activities of daily living and creates a loss in memory. Indian Council of Medical Research, Founded: 1911.

□ MUDRA Toolbox is a project led by the ICMR Neuro-Cognitive Tool Box (ICMR-NCTB) partnership to improve dementia and mild cognitive impairment research and therapeutic practices in India. NIMHANS (Bengaluru), AIIMS (New Delhi), SCTIMST (Thiruvananthapuram), NIMS (Hyderabad), Apollo Hospital (Kolkata), Manipal Hospital (Bengaluru), and Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College collaborated on the project.

□ Indian Council of Medical Research: -Headquarters: New Delhi; Founder: Government of India; Founded: 1911

8. Nasa launches Lucy spacecraft, first space mission to study Trojans Asteroids

Nasa launched Lucy spacecraft, the first space mission to study the Trojans Asteroids. Lucy will journey for 12 years, observing one main belt asteroid and seven Trojan asteroids.

The swarms of Trojan asteroids associated with Jupiter are thought to be remnants of the primordial material that formed the outer planets. Jupiter Trojan asteroids are leftover raw materials from the formation of big planets

-->The Jupiter Trojan asteroids are leftover raw materials from the formation of our Solar System's giant planets (Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune) over 4.5 billion years ago. -->They hold a record of the composition and physical conditions in the protoplanetary disk from which all the Sun's planets, including

Earth, formed .-->At some time in the distant past, the Trojan asteroids became trapped in their current locations, orbiting the Sun approximately at the distance of Jupiter in two broad swarms associated with the L4 and L5 Lagrange points .-->These are locations where the combined effects of the Sun's gravity, Jupiter's gravity, and orbital motion create an equilibrium, such that objects orbiting near these points will stay near them indefinitely . The 'L4 swarm' leads, one-sixth of a lap ahead of Jupiter, while the 'L5 swarm' trails one-sixth of a lap behind .

9. Microsoft shutting down LinkedIn app in China amid scrutiny

Microsoft is shutting down its main LinkedIn service in China later this year after internet rules were tightened by Beijing.

LinkedIn will replace its localized platform in China with a new app called InJobs that has some of LinkedIn's career-networking features but 'will not include a social feed or the ability to share posts or articles.' Microsoft bought LinkedIn in 2016.

☐ Google pulled its search engine out of mainland China in **2010** after the government began censoring search results and videos on YouTube.

☐ Jeff Weiner became executive chairman after 11 years as LinkedIn's CEO. **Ryan Roslansky**, senior vice president of product, became CEO as of June 1, 2020.

10. NITI Aayog Launches Geospatial Energy Map Of India, Provides Detailed View Of Energy Production And Distribution

NITI Aayog in collaboration with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has developed a comprehensive Geographic Information System (GIS) Energy Map of India with the support of energy ministries of the Government of India.

Dr K Sivan, Chairman ISRO and Secretary Department of Space, attended the launch event. Dr Rajiv Kumar, Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog.

☐ The GIS map provides a holistic picture of all energy resources of the country which enables visualisation of energy installations such as conventional power plants, oil and gas wells, petroleum refineries, coal fields and coal blocks, district-wise data on renewable energy power plants and renewable energy resource potential through **27 thematic layers**.

☐ The map attempts to identify and locate all primary and secondary sources of energy and their transportation/transmission networks to provide a comprehensive view of energy production and distribution in a country. It leverages the latest advancements in web-GIS technology and open-source software to make it interactive and user-friendly. The Geospatial Energy Map of India will be useful in planning and making investment decisions. It will also aid in disaster management using available energy assets.

11. China launches its first solar exploration satellite aboard Long March-2D rocket

China sent its first solar exploration satellite into space from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in northern Shanxi Province.

The satellite was launched aboard a Long March-2D rocket and entered its planned orbit successfully. Ten small satellites including an orbital atmospheric density detection experimental satellite. It was the 391st flight mission of the Long March carrier rocket series.

12. Microsoft Launches Program To Support AI Startups In India

Microsoft recently announced the launch of Microsoft AI Innovate, a 10-week initiative that will support startups in India leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies, helping them scale operations, drive innovation, & build industry expertise.

The program will also enable startups to reach out to newer customers and geographies with Microsoft's sales and partners. Supported by TiE Mumbai, the launch cohort will kickstart in November 2021.

Microsoft AI Innovate offers a range of benefits to startups across different tiers:

☐ **All startups: **Qualified Seed to Series B startups will be provided with technical enablement benefits, including Azure benefits (in addition to free cloud credits), product engineering support, unlimited 24×7 technical support, amongst many other benefits. They will also receive support with business and sales acceleration needs, such as marketplace onboarding.

☐ **Co-sell startups: **Startups with enterprise-ready solutions will be provided opportunities to build their solutions alongside a dedicated team of professionals. They will get go-to-market support as well as co-selling benefits with Microsoft’s sales team and partner ecosystem. The startups will also get access to top partner and customer events to strengthen their networking reach.

☐ **Co-build startups: **Enterprise-ready startups will be supported to envision their solutions with industry experts, future-proofing their technology with dedicated professionals as well as enhancing production with expert partners.

13. China successfully launches satellite to test space debris mitigation technology

China successfully launched a new satellite to test and verify space debris mitigation technologies. The satellite, named Shijian-21, was launched by a Long March-3B carrier rocket from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in southwest China and it entered the planned orbit successfully.

14. Indian Scientists Develop Nano-Materials Based Security Ink To Combat Counterfeiting Of Currency, Branded Goods Indian Scientist

Institute of Nano Science and Technology, Mohali, an autonomous institute under the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India, has developed non-toxic metal phosphate-based ink with excitation dependant luminescent properties which are highly stable under practical conditions such as temperature, humidity and light, etc.

□ The luminescent security ink developed is based on lanthanide ions (Ln^{3+}) doped $\text{Gd}_{1-x}\text{Bi}_x\text{PO}_4$ nano-materials. It showed very strong downshifting as well as upconversion luminescence properties. Also, the downshifting luminescence colour of the ink is highly dependent on the excitation wavelength making it difficult to decode the covert tag.

□ These luminescent nanomaterials were synthesized via simple co-precipitation method. A composite was made with these nanoparticles and commercially available PVC gold medium ink. The composite ink was used to print patterns and letters on black paper. The patterns of this ink under different excitation wavelengths were found to be stable against various conditions which may occur during practical applications.

15. Government ties up with Google to boost app innovations by desi startups

MeitY Startup Hub, an initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Google has announced a partnership to launch a growth and development program called the Appscale Academy.

The program is aimed to train early to mid-stage startups across India on building high-quality apps for the world.

Jeet Vijay, CEO, MeitY Startup Hub.

□ As part of the 6-month program, 100 selected startups will get trained through a curriculum including sessions on data safety and security practices, monetisation, UX design and global market expansion. The startups will receive access to virtual instructor-led webinars, self-learning material, and mentorship sessions with local and global industry professionals, and many will get an opportunity to pitch to leading venture capitalists.

16. NASSCOM and MeitY Launch Futureskills Prime Incentive Program

The program is for Online Courses in Artificial Intelligence and other technologies. The FutureSkills Prime an aggregator learning platform offering globally competitive curriculum. Rekha Menon is the Chairperson of NASSCOM.

□ Employees in both IT and non-IT firms, young professionals seeking a career in emerging technologies, central & state government employees, PSU officials and autonomous bodies, fresh hires, interns, and apprentices, all can benefit from this reimbursement program.

□ The government of India will give reimbursement of Rs 8000 or 50% of the course fee (whichever is lower) for the deep skill courses, Rs 3000 or 50% of course fee (whichever is lower) for the foundation courses and Rs 3000 or 50% of course fee (whichever is lower) for Bridge Courses.



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Defence

1. Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhari takes over as Chief of Air Staff

Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhari took over as the Chief of the Air Staff at a ceremony at Air Headquarters in New Delhi. An alumnus of NDA, the Chief of Air Staff was commissioned in December 1982 in the fighter stream of the IAF. He has flown more than 3,800 hours on multiple fighter and trainer aircraft.

2. SBI launches NAV-eCash card in collaboration with Indian navy

State Bank of India (SBI) announced the launch of SBI's NAV-eCash card on INS Vikramaditya, the largest naval aircraft carrier of India.

The new journey envisioned for the card is set to change the payment ecosystem, while the ship is sailing with no dependency on utilisation of any form of cash to avail any of the service on board. The new NAV-eCash card will facilitate both online and offline transactions.

3. India, Sri Lanka begin 12-day military exercise with focus on counter-terror cooperation

8th edition of India-Sri Lanka bilateral Joint Exercise, Mitra Shakti, started at Combat Training School, Ampara, in Sri Lanka.

The aim of the exercise is to promote close relations between armies of both countries and enhance interoperability and sharing best practices in counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations. Mitra Shakti translates to 'power of friendship', is carried out under a UN mandate

4. JIMEX: India, Japan 3-day Bilateral Maritime Exercise to be Held in Arabian Sea

The fifth edition of India-Japan Maritime Bilateral Exercise, JIMEX, between the Indian Navy and the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force, will be held in Arabian Sea. Indigenously built Guided Missile Stealth Destroyer Kochi & Guided Missile Frigate Teg, under the command of Rear Admiral Ajay Kochhar, Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet, will represent the Indian Navy.

5. The Indian Navy Sailing Championship 2021 was conducted at INWTC in Mumbai

Mumbai-headquartered Western Naval Command, the sword arm of the Indian Navy, has won the overall sailing championship hosted by the 3-dimensional blue-water force. The Western Naval Command won the overall championship and Kochi-based Southern Naval Command was the runners-up. A total of 63 personnel from the 3 naval commands (Western, Eastern, Southern) participated.

Chief of Indian Navy :- Admiral Karambir Singh.

6. India-UK Joint Company Level Military Exercise 'Ajeya Warrior' Commences

The 6th Edition of India ' UK Joint Company Level Military Training EXERCISE AJEYA WARRIOR has commenced at Chaubatia, Uttarakhand.

The exercise is part of an initiative to develop interoperability and sharing expertise with friendly foreign nations.

Armies would familiarise themselves with each other's weapons, equipment, tactics, techniques, etc.

7. FIFTH EDITION OF JAPAN-INDIA BILATERAL MARITIME EXERCISE 'JIMEX'

The 5th edition of the bilateral maritime exercise JIMEX, between Japan and India, was conducted in the Arabian Sea. The exercise saw the ships and aircraft of Japan Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) and Indian Navy (IN) engaging in a high tempo of operations focused on air, surface, and sub-surface dimensions of maritime operations as well as the air domain.

8. 16th meeting of India-US Defence Policy Group held in Washington

The 16th meeting of the India-US Defence Policy Group (DPG) took place in Washington to review the progress on various defence cooperation issues between the two countries.

During the meeting, both sides shared regional security perspectives and agreed to cooperate "to work together to promote shared interests in the Indo-Pacific region".

□ The DPG meeting was co-chaired by Indian Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar and US Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Colin Kahl.

□ The DPG is the apex official-level mechanism between the Ministry of Defence of India and the US Department of Defense to comprehensively review and guide all aspects of bilateral defence cooperation.

□ The two sides reviewed preparation for the forthcoming 2+2 ministerial dialogue. It was agreed to hold the next DPG meeting in India on mutually convenient dates.

9. INS Ranvijay, INS Satpura participate in Multilateral Maritime Ex Malabar Phase II in Bay of Bengal

INS Ranvijay (D55) and INS Satpura (F48) are participating in Multilateral Maritime Ex Malabar Phase II in Bay of Bengal. The Exercise has the participation of nine ships. The Second Phase of the exercise is focusing on advanced surface and anti-submarine warfare exercises, seamanship evolution and weapon firings.

10. Indian Army Contingent Departs for 17th Edition of Indo-US Joint Military Exercise 'Ex Yudh Abhyas 2021'

YudhAbhyas is largest running joint military training and defense cooperation endeavor between India & USA. This will be 17th Edition of joint exercise which is hosted alternately between both countries. The previous version of this was held at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Bikaner, Rajasthan in February 2021.

11. The 17th Edition of Indo ' US joint training exercise 'Ex Yudh Abhyas 21' commenced at Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, Alaska

The 17th Edition of Indo ' US joint training exercise commenced at Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, Alaska on 15 October 2021 with an opening ceremony. 300 US Army soldiers belonging to First Squadron (Airborne) of the 40th Cavalry Regiment and 350 soldiers of 7 MADRAS Infantry Battalion Group of Indian Army are participating in the exercise. It includes joint training in Counter Insurgency/Terrorism environment under UN mandate.

12. Defence Ministry dedicates 7 new companies carved out of Ordnance Factory Board to the nation

Seven new defence companies were dedicated to the nation at a function organised by the Defence Ministry.

They started business operations from October 1. The government decided to convert the 200-year-old OFB from a government department to seven 100 per cent government-owned corporate entities to enhance functional autonomy, efficiency and unlock new growth potential.

The seven new DPSUs are as follows: **(1.) Advanced Weapons and Equipment India (AWE) Limited:** AWE India is based in *Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh*. According to a media report, the firm has got defence orders worth ₹4066 crore. It is involved in the manufacturing of small arms and weapons for the armed forces and police. **(2.) Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVANI):** The same report notes that AVANI has been given a contract for defence goods worth ₹30,025 crore, the highest among all the seven new DPSUs. The company is located in *Chennai*. **(3.) Gliders India Limited (GIL):** This company, too, is has its registered address in *Kanpur*. GIL is involved in the manufacture of textiles. **(4.) India Optel Limited (IOL):** Headquartered in *Dehradun, Uttarakhand*, IOL is involved in the manufacturing of electrical machinery and apparatus. **(5.) Munitions India Limited (MIL):** The entity is based in *Pune, Maharashtra*, and works to manufacture general purpose machinery. **(6.) Troop Comforts Limited (TCL):** The company manufactures wearing apparel, except those made of fur. Like AWE India and GIL, the headquarters of TIL, too, is in *Kanpur*. **(7.) Yantra India Limited (YIL):** According to a report, YIL has inherited OFB assets worth ₹11,000 crore. It is based out of *Nagpur, Maharashtra*, and manufactures components such as shells of ammunitions.

13. Indian Navy receives its 11th Boeing P-8i aircraft; to boost anti-submarine operations in Indian Ocean Region

The Indian Navy has received the 11th anti-submarine warfare aircraft P-8I from the US-based aerospace company Boeing.

The Defence Ministry had first signed a contract for eight P-8I aircraft in 2009.

Later, in 2016, it signed a contract for four additional P-8I aircraft. The Indian Navy had received the 10th P-8I aircraft in July this year. P-18 to boost anti-submarine operations in Indian Ocean Region.

□ In addition to unmatched maritime reconnaissance and anti-submarine warfare capabilities, the P-8I has been deployed to assist during disaster relief and humanitarian missions.

□ the Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance Anti Submarine Warfare (LRMRASW) aircraft reached Goa from Seattle.

□ The patrol aircraft is an integral part of the Indian Navy's fleet and has surpassed 30,000 flight hours since it was inducted in 2013.

□ Boeing's integrated logistics support has enabled a high state of fleet readiness at the lowest possible cost.

14. Indian Army team wins Gold at military patrol exercise in UK

The Indian Army, represented by 4/5 Gorkha Rifles (Frontier Force), bagged the coveted Gold medal at exercises in the UK dubbed the "Olympics of Military Patrolling".

The Indian team was among only three out of 96 participating teams in the Exercise Cambrian Patrol 2021 at Brecon in Wales to win the Gold medal.

Indian High Commissioner to the UK :- Gaitri Issar Kumar

□ 5th Gorkha Rifles (Frontier Force), also abbreviated as 5 GR(FF) is an infantry regiment of the Indian Army comprising Gurkha soldiers of Nepalese origin. It was formed in 1858 as part of the British Indian Army. The regiment's battalions served in the First World War (Mesopotamia) and Second World War.

15. Indian Navy conducts Offshore Sailing Regatta from Kochi to Goa

Indian Navy is conducting an Offshore Sailing Regatta under aegis of Indian Naval Sailing Association, INSA. 6 Indian Naval Sailing Vessels Mhadei, Tarini, Bulbul, Neelkanth, Kadalpura & Hariyal will participate in event. Race is scheduled to start this month & would cover an approximate distance of 360 nautical miles between the start point at Naval Base, Kochi to Goa.

16. DRDO conducts successful flight test of high-speed expendable aerial target drone, Abhyas

ABHYAS - the High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) was successfully flight-tested by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha. Abhyas is designed and developed by DRDO's Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), Bengaluru.

17. Maiden India-UK tri-service exercise Konkan Shakti commences

The maiden India-UK tri-services joint exercise, Konkan Shakti 2021, has commenced.

The exercise is aimed at bolstering the continuing co-operation between the two countries.

Held in two phases, the seven-day exercise will run from 21-27 October.

The maritime part of the exercise involves the harbour phase, which is being held in Mumbai.

□ The land phase of the exercise is being conducted between the Indian Army and British Army at Chaubatia in the Indian state of Uttarakhand.

□ The exercise at sea will include activities such as over-the-horizon targeting drills, advanced warfare tactics, and ASW exercises.

□ The Indian Navy will be represented by stealth guided missile destroyers INS Kolkata, INS Chennai and INS Kochi, stealth frigates INS Talwar and INS Teg, and INS Aditya. Integral Sea King 42-B, MIG 29-K fighter aircraft, Dornier and P-8I maritime patrol aircraft (MPA), Kamov-31 and Chetak helicopters, and a submarine will also represent the Indian Navy in the exercise. Indian Air Force aircraft SU-30 MKI fighters, AWACS, AEW&C and a flight refueling aircraft will also take part in the exercise.

18. India's first indigenous aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant begins second phase of sea trials from Kochi

India's first indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC) Vikrant set sail for the second sea trials, ahead of its planned induction into the Indian Navy by August next year.

The 40,000-tonne aircraft carrier, the largest and most complex warship to be built in India, successfully completed a five-day maiden sea voyage in August 2021.

19. Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue commences from October 27 for 3 days

First conducted in 2018, the Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) is the apex international annual conference of the Indian Navy, and is the principal manifestation of the navy's engagement at the strategic-level.

The National Maritime Foundation is the navy's knowledge partner and chief organiser of each edition of this annual event. Rajnath Singh and EAM Jaishankar will address sessions.

□ The aim of each successive edition of the IPRD is to review both opportunities and challenges that arise within the Indo-Pacific.

□ This year's IPRD will focus on eight specific sub-themes under the broad theme of 'Evolution in Maritime Strategy during the 21st Century: Imperatives, Challenges, and, Way Ahead'. Panel-discussions on these sub-themes would be spread over eight sessions on three successive days thereby providing ample scope for varied perspectives to be considered. The aim is to encourage a free flow of ideas and views. The eight sub-themes are: (1) Evolving Maritime Strategies within the Indo-Pacific: Convergences, Divergences, Expectations and Apprehensions. (2) Adaptive Strategies to Address the Impact of Climate Change upon Maritime Security. (3) Port-led Regional Maritime Connectivity and Development Strategies. (4) Cooperative Maritime Domain Awareness Strategies. (5) Impact of the Increasing Recourse to Lawfare upon a Rules-based Indo-Pacific Maritime Order. (6) Strategies to Promote Regional Public-Private Maritime Partnerships. (7) Energy-Insecurity and Mitigating Strategies. (8) Strategies to Address the Manned-Unmanned Conundrum at Sea.

20. Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh chairs Ambassadors' Round Table for DefExpo 2022

In a major outreach to the friendly foreign countries as also to the defence manufacturing industries of the world, Raksha Mantri Mr. Rajnath Singh chaired the Ambassadors' Round Table for Def Expo 2022, in New Delhi on October 25, 2021.

DefExpo 2022 will be Asia's largest defence exhibition.

□ The Round Table was aimed to brief the Ambassadors of foreign missions about the planning, arrangements and other details of DefExpo 2022, which will be held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat between March 10-13, 2022.

21. India successfully test-fires surface-to-surface ballistic missile Agni-5

India successfully test-fired a surface-to-surface ballistic missile, Agni-5, from APJ Abdul Kalam Island off Odisha coast.

The missile, which uses a three-stage solid-fuelled engine, is capable of striking targets up to a 5,000-km range with a very high degree of accuracy.

22. MoS Defence flags off NIMAS' adventure sports expedition to Europe

Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt flagged off an upcoming adventure sports expedition in Europe of National Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports.

NIMAS will be conducting this expedition in the general area Chamonix, France in November 2021, which is considered the adventure capital of Europe.

Union Defence Minister: - Rajnath Singh National Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports, Arunachal Pradesh.

23. Indian Navy's stealth frigate Tushil launched in Russia

The first of two additional Krivak or Talwar-class stealth frigates, Tushil, being built in Russia for the Indian Navy, was formally launched. It is part of four follow-on frigates contracted by India from Russia, of which two are being built by Russia and two are under construction in India through technology transfer. Tushil is a Sanskrit word meaning 'protector shield'.

24. Indigenous Long Range Bomb successfully flight tested by DRDO and IAF

The Long-Range Bomb has been designed and developed by Research Centre Imarat. The DRDO confirmed that the Long Range Bomb, released from IAF fighter aircraft, hit a land-based target at a long range with accuracy within specified limits.

□ In August 2021, DRDO developed an Advanced Chaff Technology to safeguard fighter aircraft of the IAF against hostile radar threats. The Indian Air Force has started the process of induction of this technology after the completion of successful user trials.



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Books & Authors

1. The Custodian of Trust: A Banker's Memoir, Former SBI chairman Rajnish Kumar's memoir

As the Chairman of SBI, Kumar recounts, his term was rather momentous as the period—from 2017 to 2020—during which he shouldered this responsibility was rather unique under any circumstances. The Custodian of Trust is a candid memoir by the former Chairman of India's largest commercial bank. "The Custodian of Trust", published under Penguin's 'Viking' imprint.

2. The Contrarian: Peter Thiel and Silicon Valley's Pursuit of Power book by Max Chafkin

In the first major biography of Thiel, Max Chafkin traces the trajectory of the innovator's singular life and worldview, from his upbringing as the child of immigrant parents and years at Stanford as a burgeoning conservative thought leader to his founding of PayPal and Palantir, early investment in Facebook and SpaceX.

3. Defence Minister launched the book titled "Veer Savarkar: The Man Who Could Have Prevented Partition"

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched the book titled "Veer Savarkar: The Man Who Could Have Prevented Partition" authored by Uday Mahurkar.

Veteran journalist & political analyst Uday Mahurkar along with co-author Chirayu Pandit in their book write about the visionary that Savarkar was and how he had envisioned the national security problems India is facing today.

4. The book, titled 'Writing for My Life: The Very Best of Ruskin' released

A new anthology, "Writing for My Life", released brings together some of the most exemplary stories, essays, poems and memories by celebrated award-winning author Ruskin Bond. It is published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI).



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Miscellaneous

1. Mukesh Ambani dominates as richest Indian for 10th year, Adani earned Rs 1,002 crore per day

According to the IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List, Mukesh Ambani and family are now worth Rs 7,18,000 crore, a 9% increase from the previous year. At a distance, on the second spot, Gautam Adani and Family are now the second richest in the country with their wealth standing at a staggering Rs 5,05,900 crore.

2. NITI Aayog releases performance assessment report of district hospitals in India

NITI Aayog released a performance assessment report of district hospitals in India, titled Best Practices in the Performance of District Hospitals. The report is an outcome of collaboration with the Health Ministry and WHO India. The assessment framework covers 10 Key Performance Indicators across the domains of Structure and Output.

3. SEBI approves frameworks for Gold and Social Stock Exchanges

SEBI also approved amendments to delisting framework for equity shares. A gold exchange is being set up to trade gold in the form of EGR, which will help in having transparent domestic spot price discovery mechanism. Instrument representing gold will be called Electronic Gold Receipt (EGR) & will be having trading, clearing & settlement features akin to other securities.

4. Rakesh Jhunjhunwala-backed Akasa Air gets aviation ministry nod

Akasa Air, backed by billionaire Rakesh Jhunjhunwala, has said it has received initial clearance from the civil aviation ministry to launch the country's latest ultra-low-cost carrier and expects to begin flights across India next year. After the aviation ministry's nod, it will also need clearance from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). The airline plans to operate approximately 70 planes in the next four years.

5. Government notifies Indian Telegraph Right of Way (Amendment) Rules, 2021

Government has notified the Indian Telegraph Right of Way (Amendment) Rules, 2021 to incorporate the provisions related to nominal one-time compensation and uniform procedure for establishment of Overground Telegraph Line. The amount of one-time compensation for establishment of overground telegraph line will be maximum 1000 rs/km.

6. Tamil film 'Koozhangal' is India's official entry to the Oscars 2022

Tamil film 'Koozhangal', has been announced as India's official entry to the Oscars 2022. Shaji N. Karun, the Chairperson of the 15-member Selection Committee, set up by the Film Federation of India, made the announcement. 'Koozhangal' had also won the prestigious Tiger Award, the top honour at the 50th edition of the International Film Festival Rotterdam.

7. Matchboxes to get costlier, price to increase after 14 years

After a period of 14 years, All India Chamber of Matches in Sivakasi has decided to increase the cost of matchboxes. The cost of a matchbox will be doubled from Rs 1 to Rs 2. The last hike in prices was in the year 2007 when the rate of a single box was increased from 50 paise to Rs 1. Prior to that, in 1995, the cost of matchbox was increased from 25p to 50p.

8. Haryana to provide smartwatches to officials to track attendance

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar announced that state government officials would get smartwatches to track their movement during office hours. It will also serve as a tool to mark attendance. The GPS-enabled wristwatch costs around Rs 7,000- Rs 8,000 and the government has to pay for it.

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Obituary

1. Shakti Sinha, former bureaucrat and private secretary to former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee, passes away

Shakti Sinha, former bureaucrat, and academician who was private secretary to late prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, passed away. He was 64.

Sinha, an IAS officer of the 1979 batch, was also former Director of Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML).

2. Arvind Trivedi Who Played 'Raavan' In Ramanyan Passes Away At 82

Veteran actor Arvind Trivedi, best known for playing Raavan on the popular 1986 mythological show Ramayan, died following a heart attack. He was in his early 80s.

He also served as the chief of the Central Board for Film Certification (CBFC) from 2002-2003.

He acted in nearly 300 Hindi and Gujarati movies.

3. Abolhassan Banisadr, Iran's first president after 1979 revolution, dies

Abolhassan Banisadr, Iran's first president after the country's 1979 Islamic Revolution who fled Tehran after being impeached for challenging the growing power of clerics as the nation became a theocracy, died.

He was 88.

Iran -President: Ebrahim Raisi ; Capital: Tehran; Currency: Rial

4. Ex-diplomat V.M.M. Nair passes away

Vallilath Madhathil Madhavan Nair, the oldest living former diplomat of India, passed away, two days short of his 103rd birthday. He is survived by wife Krishnakumari.

Mr. Nair joined the Indian Civil Service or the ICS in 1942 and was allotted to the Bihar Cadre. He was permanently seconded to the Indian Foreign Service on November 1, 1944. He was born on October 8, 1919. He retired from the IFS in the late 1970s.

□ His early recruitment into the IFS during World War II meant he was present in the foreign affairs team of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru from the very beginning of the new India in 1947.

□ Mr. Nair served as Under Secretary in the External Affairs Department from August 1946 to September 1948. He was the Senior Under Secretary in charge of Commonwealth Relations between September '48 to July '49. He served as the High Commissioner of India in Kuala Lumpur during 1957-'58. In 1958, he was appointed as ambassador to Cambodia. He also served in Poland as an ambassador.

5. Abdul Qadeer Khan, father of Pakistan's nuclear programme, passes away

A.Q. Khan, a scientist known as the father of Pakistan's clandestine nuclear programme, passed away after a brief illness.

He was 85.

The nuclear physicist faced criticism in 2004 when he was forced to accept responsibility for nuclear technology proliferation and was forced to live a life of official house arrest.

He was born in Bhopal and migrated to Pakistan along with his family after 1947.

6. PM Modi condoles demise of Chairman Dainik Jagran Group Yogendra Mohan Gupta

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expressed grief over the demise of the Chairman of Dainik Jagran Group Yogendra Mohan Gupta.

Apart from being recognized for propelling the Jagran group to new heights, Gupta has made significant contributions to the country's art and culture. He was the driving factor behind the establishment of Kanpur's Lakshmi Devi Lalit Kala Academy.

7. Former Tamil Nadu batter R.C. Vasanth Kumar passed away

Vasanth made 1097 runs in 22 first class games at 32.26. He notched up three hundreds and an equal number of 50s, with a highest of 151.

Vasanth, also the Hon. Secretary of the Magnet Cricket Club, was active in the cricketing circles.

8. Sri Lanka's first Test captain Bandula Warnapura passes away

Sri Lanka's first-ever Test captain Bandula Warnapura passed away, following a brief illness. He was 68.

A right-handed batsman, he led his country when it faced England in its first-ever Test match in 1982 and played three more Tests, scoring 96 runs overall at an average of 12.

He also played 12 ODI matches, scoring 180 runs at an average of 15.

9. Colin Powell, first Black US secretary of state, dies of Covid-19 complications amid cancer battle

Colin Powell, the trailblazing soldier and diplomat whose sterling reputation of service to Republican and Democratic presidents was stained by his faulty claims to justify the 2003 US war in Iraq, died of Covid-19 complications.

He was 84.

He instead joined President George W. Bush's administration in 2001 as secretary of state The first Black person to represent the US government on the world stage.

10. Former hockey international Saranjeet Singh passes away

Former hockey international Saranjeet Singh has passed away in Hyderabad.

He was 59 and is survived by his wife, daughter and son.

The former State Bank of India hockey player, who played for Coronation Club in local league, represented Hyderabad juniors and seniors for many years in the late 70s and 80s and also played for India, which toured Germany in 1983.

11. Prime Minister pays tributes to cartoonist RK Laxman on his 100th birth anniversary

Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has paid tributes to cartoonist RK Laxman on his 100th birth anniversary. Mr Modi recalled Laxman's powerful cartoons and said the world-famous cartoonist beautifully conveyed the socio-political realities of the times.

12. Hiroshima nuclear bomb attack survivor, Sunao Tsuboi dies at 96 in Japan

A leading Japanese campaigner against nuclear weapons who survived the world's first atomic bomb attack has died at the age of 96.

Some 140,000 people were killed and Tsuboi dedicated his life to campaigning to eradicate nuclear arms.

He met Barack Obama on his historic visit to Hiroshima as US president.

13. Ex-South Korean President Roh Tae-woo dies at 88

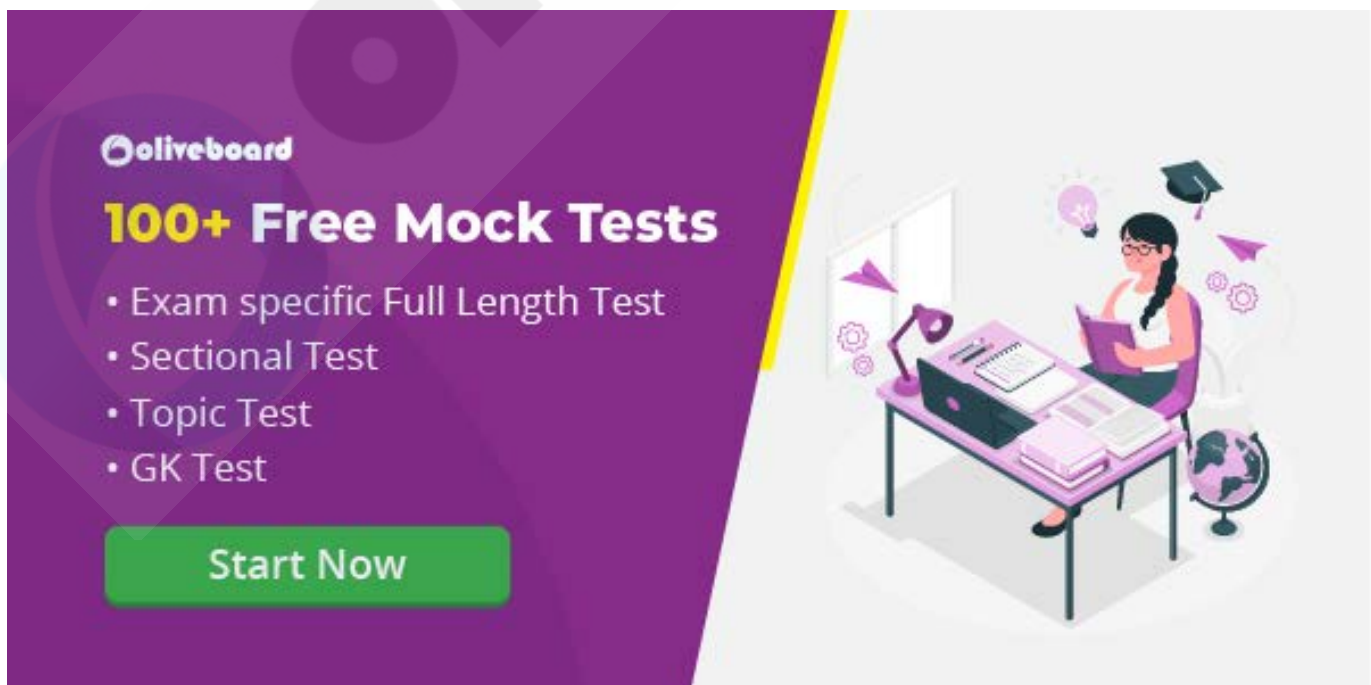
Former South Korean President Roh Tae-woo, who took part in a military coup and later won the election that was the country's first move towards democracy before he was imprisoned for corruption, died. He was 88.

Roh was a key participant in the 1979 military coup that made his army friend and coup leader Chun Doo-hwan president.

14. Madhya Pradesh: Ambassador of peace in Chambal Gandhian Subba Rao passes away

Eminent Gandhian and ambassador of peace in Chambal region, Salem Nanjundaiah Subba Rao, passed away in Sawai Man Singh Government Hospital in Jaipur.

He was 92.



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Person in news

1. Mukesh Ambani tops Hurun Rich list 2021, spotlight on Gautam Adani's 261% wealth growth

Mukesh Ambani continues to be the richest man in India for the 10th consecutive year with a wealth of Rs 7,18,000 crore.

Gautam Adani gained the 2nd spot in the IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2021 owing to the outstanding performance the stock performed on the bourses.

Shiv Nadar, founder and chairman emeritus of HCL Technologies, retained the 3rd rank.

46 startup founders make it to IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List

2. Rupinder Pal Singh, Birendra Lakran & Veteran Striker SV Sunil Retires from International Hockey

Drag-flicker Rupinder Pal Singh, who played a starring role in the Indian hockey team's historic bronze-winning Tokyo Olympics campaign, announced his international retirement with immediate effect "to make way for youngsters".

The 30-year-old, regarded as one of the best drag-flickers of the country, represented India in 223 matches. Hockey India president -Gyanendro Ningomba.

3. CoinDCX ropes in Amitabh Bachchan as its first brand ambassador

Cryptocurrency exchange CoinDCX has roped in actor Amitabh Bachchan as its first-ever brand ambassador.

India's first crypto unicorn CoinDCX, established in 2018, brings investing and trading solutions for crypto-based financial products for retail, HNI, and enterprise customers.

The exchange is insured by BitGo and certified by ISO.

4. International Hockey Federation's (FIH) Awards: Gurjit Kaur, Harmanpreet Singh Bag Top Honours

Team India showed their dominance in the FIH Hockey Stars Awards 2020-21.

Drag-flickers Harmanpreet Singh & Gurjit Kaur won the men's and women's Player of the Year awards.

Savita Punia: women's Goalkeeper of the Year

PR Sreejesh: men's Goalkeeper of the Year.

Sjoerd Marijne: best coach award (women's).

Graham Reid - best coach award (men's). Vivek Prasad - Award for rising star in men Sharmila Devi - Award for rising star in women

5. Anshu Malik scripts history, becomes 1st Indian woman to win silver at World Wrestling Championships

Anshu Malik lost the final to Olympic medallist Helen Maroulis 4-1 in Oslo, Norway.

The American wrestler pinned Anshu Malik in the women's 57 kg division during the summit clash.

Anshu Malik has been a trainee of SAI national centre of excellence Lucknow since 2016. She made her debut in the Olympics earlier this year. Anshu Malik is a two Asian Championship medalist.

6. Dr Randeep Guleria bags 22nd Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence

The Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu presented the 22nd Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence to the eminent pulmonologist and Director of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Dr Randeep Guleria at Upa-Rashtrapati Nivas.

Anil Shastri, Chairman - Lal Bahadur Shastri Institute of Management (LBSIM).

□ Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu presented virtually **21st** Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence for the year **2020** to **Sudha Murty**, Chairperson of the Infosys Foundation. Sudha Murty received the award in recognition of her outstanding philanthropic work. The award ceremony was organized by Lal Bahadur Shastri Institute of Management. Mrs Sudha Murty was given plaque and citation. Sudha Murty dedicated the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award to **Indian Armed Forces**.

7. Imtiaz Ali appointed ambassador of Russian Film Festival in India

Director-producer Imtiaz Ali has been roped in as the ambassador of the Russian Film Festival in India.

As part of the festival, ten notable Russian films of various genres are being premiered for Indian audiences on Disney+ Hotstar from October 16 to November 27.

Russia and India are cooperating in the field of cinematography through the BRICS. Sarfaraz Alam, festival director, Russian Film Festival.

□ The festival brings celebrated and popular romances, dramas, and comedies from Russia like Ice , On the Edge , Tell Her , Doctor Liza , The Relatives , Another Woman! , Jetlag , among others.

- The first-ever online Russian Film Festival in India is organized by **ROSKINO** with the support of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, the Cinema Fund, the Moscow City Tourism Committee, Discover Moscow, Rossotrudnichestvo, and with the assistance of Kartina Entertainment.
- The festival was launched in **2020** and has already been successfully held in 14 countries, with more than 200 thousand viewers.

8. James Pattinson retires from international cricket

James Pattinson, the Australian fast bowler, has announced his retirement from international cricket ahead of the Ashes that begins in December.

In an injury-ravaged career, Pattinson played 21 Tests, 15 ODIs and 4 T20Is since making his debut in 2011, picking 81, 16 and 3 wickets respectively.

He played his last ODI in September 2015.

9. Deepika Padukone becomes adidas' brand ambassador

Adidas has roped in Deepika Padukone as its brand ambassador. Padukone will work closely with adidas on their common commitment towards fitness; both physical & emotional.

Taking forward the brand's attitude of 'Impossible is Nothing', the partnership will be a testament towards breaking barriers & limitless possibilities, inspiring both current as well as future generation.

- Adidas AG is a German multinational corporation, founded and headquartered in Germany.
- It is the largest sportswear manufacturer in Europe, and the second largest in the world.



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Insurance

1. Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority (IRDAI) sets up panel led by D Sai Srinivas to review appointed actuary regulations

According to IRDAI, appointed actuaries play a pivotal role in the functioning of an insurance company. Procedure for appointment of an appointed actuary in an insurance company, his/her duties, obligations, and powers are prescribed in the Appointed Actuary Regulations.

Varun Gupta, Sharad S Ramnarayan, R Padmaja, and Preeti Chandrashekhar will be other members. CS Kumar, DGM (Actuarial), IRDAI, will be the Member Convenor.

2. Future Generali India Insurance enters into bancassurance tie-up with Bank of India

Private sector general insurer Future Generali India Insurance (FGII) has entered into a bancassurance tie-up with the Bank of India (BoI) for further penetration of its general insurance products.

FGII will offer its wide array of best-in-class and innovative insurance solutions to 5,084 BoI branches spread across 28 States and 8 Union Territories. FGII is a joint venture between the Future Group and Assicurazioni Generali.






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India & World

1. Seychelles' Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB) programme launched in partnership with India

Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB), a joint initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), launched its programme in Seychelles on 4th October 2021.

India was chosen as the Partner Administration and has provided a Tax Expert for this programme. This programme is the 6th TIWB program which India has supported by providing Tax Expert.

2. Green Grids Initiative-One Sun One World One Grid Northwest Europe Cooperative Event

One Sun One World One Grid (OSOWOG) initiative was put forth by Narendra Modi, at the 1st Assembly of International Solar Alliance (ISA) in 2018. In 2021, UK and India agreed to combine forces of the Green Grids Initiative and the One Sun One World One Grid initiative and jointly launch GGI-OSOWOG at the COP26 summit being hosted by the UK at Glasgow in November 2021. COP26 - is the 26th United Nations Climate Change

3. BSNL receives license to operate Inmarsat's world-leading Global Xpress satellite communications services in India

Inmarsat confirmed that its strategic partner BSNL has received the necessary licenses to deliver Inmarsat's world-leading Global Xpress (GX) mobile broadband services in India.

Under BSNL's Inflight and Maritime Connectivity (IFMC) licence from the Department of Telecommunications, GX will be available to Indian customers across government, aviation and maritime. Rajeev Suri, Inmarsat CEO:Chairman and Managing Director of BSNL, Mr P.K. Purwar.

□ GX, **operating in the Ka-band**, is the first and only high-speed broadband network designed for mobility and government customers to seamlessly span the world. The company is launching a further seven GX satellites, including its next generation GX satellites, over the coming three years, each of which will add more capacity into a single region than the first four satellites combined. The GX gateway for India is located in **Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh**.

4. Defence Ministry signs contract worth Rs 423 Cr with US for procurement of Arms for Indian Navy

Defence Ministry has signed a contract with the US Government under Foreign Military Sale (FMS) for procurement of MK 54 Torpedo and Expendable Chaff and Flares for the Indian Navy. These weapons are the outfit of P-8I Aircraft which is used for Long range Maritime Surveillance, Anti-Submarine Warfare and Anti-Surface Warfare.

5. Poland recognizes India's Serum Institute-manufactured Covishield vaccine

Poland has joined the growing group of nations to recognize the India's Serum Institute-manufactured Covishield vaccine. Poland now recognizes Covishield as a vaccine equivalent to those recognized by the EU. This means that fully vaccinated individuals who took the Covishield vaccine are exempt from quarantine after entering the territory of Poland.

6. G-7 nations agree on principles to govern cross-border data use & digital trade

Group of Seven nations agreed on principles to govern cross-border data use and digital trade. Trade ministers from the G7 reached the agreement at a meeting in London. The deal sets out a middle ground between highly regulated data protection regimes used in European countries and the more open approach of the United States.

The Group of Seven (G-7) is an intergovernmental organization that meets periodically to address international economic and monetary issues. G-7 countries consist of the U.S., U.K., France, Germany, Italy, Canada, and Japan. The G-7 was formerly referred to as the G-8 until Russia was suspended from the group in 2014 after illegally annexing Crimea. The G-7 is not an official, formal entity and, therefore, has no legislative or authoritative power to enforce the recommended policies and plans it compiles.

7. AIIB, ADB to co-finance USD 2 billion loan for India's fight against COVID-19

The co-finance facility will provide loan for India to procure COVID-19 vaccines under ADB's Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility (APVAX). AIIB is considering providing USD 500 million and the ADB is expected to finance USD 1.5 billion. About 667 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines were expected to be procured through the loan.

Asian Development Bank HQ: Manila, Philippines; President: Masatsugu Asakawa. Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank HQ: Beijing, China; President and Chair of the Board of Directors: Jin Lique

8. India, Israel hold 15th round of Joint Working Group talks on defence ties

The JWG is the apex body of the defence ministries of both the countries meant to 'comprehensively review and guide all aspects of Bilateral Defence Cooperation'. The JWG has agreed to form a Task Force to formulate a comprehensive Ten-Year Roadmap to identify new areas of cooperation. Israel PM: Naftali Bennett

During the meeting, it was decided to form an Sub Working Group (SWG) on defence industry cooperation. The formation of this SWG is expected to enable efficient utilisation of bilateral resources, effective flow of technologies and sharing industrial capabilities





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Environment

1. India Joins High Ambition Coalition (HAC) for Nature and People

India officially joined the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People, a group of more than 70 countries encouraging the adoption of the global goal to protect at least 30 percent of the world's land and ocean by 2030 (30x30).

India is the first of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) bloc of major emerging economies to join the HAC.

2. Valedictory function of 67th Wildlife Week held at National Zoological Park, Delhi

The valedictory ceremony of the Wildlife week which is being celebrated under the theme ' - (a conservation collective)' was held at National zoological Park Delhi. Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Union Minister of State Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change presided over the meeting.

3. NITI Aayog ' UNDP Launch Handbook on Sustainable Management of Plastic Waste for ULB's

NITI Aayog and UNDP India launched a handbook to promote sustainable management of plastic waste in the country.

The report, titled 'NITI Aayog-UNDP Handbook on Sustainable Urban Plastic Waste Management', was released on 11th October, 2021 by NITI Aayog V-C Dr Rajiv Kumar. The report has been jointly developed by UNDP India and NITI Aayog, in consultation with the experts. UNDP HQs- New York; China top producer of plastic and US generates more plastic waste.

4. NITI Aayog Organises National Policy Dialogue On Plastic-Free Cities And Oceans

In view of the pressing need for combating plastic pollution, NITI Aayog organized a National Policy Dialogue on "Plastic Free Cities and Oceans" under the Chairmanship of Dr Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, with Mr Cyrill Gutsch, founder & CEO of "Parley for the Oceans".

Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change was the chief guest at the dialogue.

Shri Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change.

5. Power minister RK Singh unveils GDAM portal to promote renewable energy

The Union government has launched a new market segment, Green Day Ahead Market (GDAM), which will enable electricity generation and distribution companies to buy or sell renewable energy through open access.

India is the only large electricity market in the world to implement a GDAM exclusively for renewable energy. GDAM will also help pave the way for India to meet its ambitious target.

□ This new initiative will help in enabling this energy transition. It will provide competitive price signals and offer an opportunity to the market participants to trade in green energy in the most transparent, flexible and efficient manner. The distribution utilities would also be able to sell surplus renewable power generated in their area at GDAM.

□ the GDAM will enable electricity generation and distribution companies to buy or sell renewable energy through open access.

6. Plastic pollution in aquatic systems may triple by 2040: UNEP

A new report by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has rung alarm bells: The amount of plastics in the oceans has been estimated to be around 75-199 million tonnes at present. Without meaningful action, emissions of plastic waste into aquatic ecosystems are projected to nearly triple by 2040.

It could more than double by 2030, according to the assessment.

7. Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel launches scheme to provide subsidised e-vehicles to workers

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel launched a scheme to provide electric two-wheelers at subsidised rates to construction and industrial workers of the state.

He launched the 'Go-Green' scheme and its portal at a function held at Mahatma Mandir.

Scheme is aimed at reducing fuel bills and saving the environment by curbing vehicular pollution.

□ Under the scheme, a worker of the organised sector, such as an industrial labourer, would get a subsidy of 30 per cent on the vehicle's price or Rs 30,000, whichever is less, on the purchase of battery-powered two-wheelers.

□ For workers in the construction sector, the criteria is 50 per cent subsidy or Rs.30,000, whichever is less, a state government release said, adding that e-vehicle buyers of both these categories would get a one-time subsidy on RTO registration and road tax.

□ In the initial phase, the state government aims to provide such battery-powered two-wheelers to 1,000 construction workers and 2,000 organised sector workers. Only government-approved Made in India

vehicles will be considered eligible for the scheme. Moreover, only high-speed models capable of covering a distance of 50 kilometers in one charge are covered under the scheme



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Apps & Portals

1. NITI Aayog, Amazon Web Services, Intel collaborate to accelerate Digital Innovation in India

NITI Aayog, Amazon Web Services and Intel have come together to establish a new experience studio at the NITI Aayog Frontier Technologies Cloud Innovation Centre. The studio will be a hub for collaboration and experimentation to enable problem-solving and innovation between government stakeholders, start-ups, enterprises and industry domain experts.

2. Shri Bhupender Yadav launches 'Wetlands of India' Portal, a single point access to all information relating to wetlands

The portal has been developed under a Technical Cooperation project 'Wetlands Management for Biodiversity and Climate Protection' (Wetlands Project) of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in partnership with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. 'Wetlands of India Portal' -->(<http://indianwetlands.in/>)

3. Shipping Minister Shri Sarbanand Sonowal launches 'MyPortApp' for digital monitoring of port operations.

Union Minister for Ports, Shipping, and Waterways Shri Sarbanand Sonowal launched a port mobile application called MyPortApp in Kolkata. The app has various information like Vessel Berthing, Rake & Indent, Rake Receipt, Container Status, Tariff, Bills, Port Holidays, etc., and can be accessed anywhere 24x7 and reach out directly to the port. The App includes all port details digitally and monitors operations virtually.

4. Bharat Bill Pay starts its mobile prepaid recharges services, onboards BSNL

Bharat Bill Payment System, the one-stop platform for facilitating all recurring payments across various categories has gone live with the 'mobile prepaid recharges category'. Bharat Bill Payment System has on-boarded Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) as the first Telecom Operator and the category is now live on BHIM UPI App. RBI had approved mobile prepaid recharges as a biller category in BBPS.

NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd. (NBBL) is in advanced discussions with other telecom operators to on-board them on the BBPS platform, which can give customers wider options and channels for their mobile prepaid recharges.

The addition of this category will help Bharat BillPay enabled banks and non-banks to offer an integrated flow for all recurring payments including recharges to the customers with one click.

Bharat BillPay offers recurring payment services to customers across several segments like electricity, telecom, DTH, Gas, Education fees, water, and municipal taxes, NETC FASTag recharge, loan repayments, Insurance, Cable, Subscription fees, and others. Mobile prepaid recharges are the new entrant that is set to facilitate millions of users with a seamless recharge experience.

5. More than 4 crore unorganized workers registered at e-Shram Portal, India's first National Database on Unorganized Workers

In less than two months, more than 4 crores workers have registered at the e-Shram portal. Odisha, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh at the fore front with highest number of registrations. Largest number of workers register from agriculture and construction sector. This registration would facilitate delivery and accessibility to crucial welfare programmes. Around 65.68% of these registered workers are in the age group of 16-40 years

For online registrations, unorganised individual workers can use E-Shram's mobile application or the website. They can also visit the Common Service Centres (CSC), State Seva Kendra, Labour Facilitation Centres, selected post offices of the Department of Posts; Digital Seva Kendras, to register themselves in this portal.

After registration at e-SHRAM Portal, the unorganised workers shall receive a digital e-SHRAM card and they can update their profiles/ particulars through portal or mobile app. They will have a Universal Account Number (on eSHRAM Card) that will be acceptable across the country and now they will not be required to register at different places for obtaining social security benefits.

If a worker is registered at the e-Shram portal and meets with an accident, he/she will be eligible for Rs 2.0 Lakh on death or permanent disability and Rs 1.0 lakh on partial disability.

6. Donald Trump to launch social media platform called Truth Social

Donald Trump has announced plans to launch a social media platform called TRUTH Social that will rolled be out early next year.

The former US president, who was banned from Facebook and Twitter earlier this year, says his goal is to rival the tech companies that have denied him the megaphone that was paramount to his rise. Truth social will be a product of a new venture called the Trump Media & Technology Group

7. Union Minister Nitin Gadkari launches knowledge App, platform CUNSULT

Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has launched knowledge App and platform CUNSULT. Emphasizing on innovation, entrepreneurship, science technology, research and skill for knowledge transformation.

CUNSULT app is the first such global facility by which people who need information, advice, counsel, guidance can contact and call up experts in multiple sectors.

□ Each expert also gets a unique, exclusive page reflecting their contributions by way of articles and video-blogs and this serves as their intellectual legacy and helps to promote interest in them. CUNSULT uses the framework of context and convergence to instantly connect knowledge seekers and knowledge givers.

8. Truecaller verifies Indian Railways' national helpline number 139

The integrated National Railways Helpline 139 has been verified by Truecaller Verified Business Identity solutions. Users will now see a green verified business badge along with the Indian Railways logo while calling IRCTC's helpline. Chairman & Managing Director IRCTC: Rajni Hasiya

□ Truecaller's verified identity will reduce fraud by assuring people that critical communication like booking details & PNR (Passenger Name Record) status are being delivered by IRCTC and no one else.

□ In addition, verified SMS message headers will ensure that people know that they are receiving communication about their bookings and other travel details from IRCTC authorities and no one else. The verified tick mark icon will lock the Indian Railways brand name and profile photo on Truecaller, offering a safer consumer experience and reducing fraud.

□ IRCTC has partnered with Truecaller to provide passengers with greater trust in communication.



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Acquisitions & Mergers

1. Adani Group buys 10% equity stake in CSC Grameen eStore

Indian conglomerate Adani Group has acquired a 10 per cent stake in government promoted CSC SPV's e-commerce subsidiary CSC Grameen eStore.

CSC SPV created the CSC Grameen e-store in which Tata Digital bought 5 per cent a year ago, HDFC bank 1.5 per cent and Adani Group being the latest investor.

CSC Grameen e-store currently serves over 10,000 PIN codes across all states.

CSC SPV Managing Director -Dinesh Tyagi.

2. Microsoft acquires Ally.io, OKR startup that raised \$76 million

Microsoft has acquired Ally.io, a SaaS startup headquartered in Seattle with a centre in Chennai, and founded by Vetri Vellore for an undisclosed value. Founded in 2017, Ally has built a technology platform in the space of goal setting and business execution software or what is commonly called as Objectives and Key Results (OKR) segment.

□ Ally.io will power a new Microsoft Viva module. Viva is an employee experience platform that brings together communications, knowledge, learning, resources and insights – from anywhere you work

3. Accenture Acquires Bengaluru Based AI And Analytics Startup BRIDGEi2i

Accenture has entered into an agreement to acquire Bengaluru-based AI and analytics firm BRIDGEi2i.

With the acquisition, Accenture will add 800 BRIDGEi2i employees to its Applied Intelligence team.

Founded in 2011 by Prithvijit Roy, Ashish Sharma and Pritam Kanti Paul, the Bengaluru-based startup with offices in the US and Australia offers services like data engineering

4. Reliance Brands acquires 40% stake in designer Manish Malhotra's MM Styles

Reliance Industries Ltd's Reliance Brands Ltd (RBL) and famous designer Manish Malhotra have announced a strategic partnership to acquire a 40 percent stake in Malhotra's MM Styles Pvt Ltd.

Launched in 2005, the Manish Malhotra luxury retail is spanned across four flagship stores in Mumbai, New Delhi, and Hyderabad, 2 SIS.

5. Competition Commission of India approves Betaine B.V's acquisition of Hinduja Global Solutions' healthcare BPO services

The transaction will involve the acquisition of worldwide healthcare business process outsourcing (BPO) services of Hinduja Global Solutions, along with certain assets, contracts and employees by Betaine, the fair trade regulator.

Betaine is an entity that has been recently incorporated in the Netherlands for the purpose of this transaction. Betaine is currently not engaged in any business activity in India.

Betaine is owned and controlled by funds comprising The Baring Private Equity Asia Fund VIII, which is a fund affiliated with Baring Private Equity Asia Pte. Ltd. (BPEA). BPEA is an international private equity firm with a focus on private equity investments in Asia. BPEA and its affiliates are engaged in providing IT and IT-enabled services in India, including BPO services. Hinduja Global Solutions also provides IT and IT-enabled services, and caters to customers across the globe.

Competition Commission of India:-The Competition Commission of India is the main national competition regulator in India. It is a statutory body within the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.(Founded: 14 October 2003).

6. CCI clears Phoenix Parentco's acquisition of Parexel International Corp

Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the acquisition of Parexel International Corporation by Phoenix Parentco Inc.

Phoenix Parentco is a special purpose investment vehicle that operates solely as an investment holding company. It is jointly controlled by EQT Fund Management S. r.l. and The Goldman Sachs Group Inc.

Competition Commission of India (CCI), Chairperson- Ashok Kumar Gupta.

□ Headquartered in the US, Paraxel provides biopharmaceutical outsourcing services to biopharmaceutical companies.

□ The **Competition Act, 2002**, as amended by the **Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007**, follows the philosophy of modern competition laws.

Agri-Business

1. CCEA approves fixation of nutrient based subsidy rates for Phosphatic & Potassic fertilizers for year 2022

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved proposal of Department of Fertilizers for fixation of Nutrient Based Subsidy Rates for Phosphatic & Potassic fertilisers (P&K) for year 2021-22. Approved rate for Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) for Nitrogen has been fixed at 18.789 rs/kg, for Phosphorus 45.323 rs/kg, for Potash 10.116 rs/kg & 2.374 rs/kg for Sulphur.

2. Dvara E-Dairy, Jana Small Finance Bank tie-up targets dairy farmers

Agri-fintech firm Dvara E-Dairy Solutions Pvt Ltd has entered into a partnership with Jana Small Finance Bank (Jana SFB) to service small dairy farmers. Dvara E-Dairy hopes to use digital technology to assist small and medium dairy farmers with financial and livestock management solutions. Jana SFB has a large branch network in India's rural and agricultural areas.

Jana SFB product - Surabhi e-Tag provides accurate cattle identification based on the muzzle identity. Similarly, the Surabhi Score, based on digital assessment, complements the underwriting of cattle loans based on dairy activities and customised cattle management recommendations. This helps dairy farmers improve their livelihood and achieve household financial goals.





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FinTech

1. NPCI launches NTS platform for tokenization of RuPay cards

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) announced the launch of the NPCI Tokenization System (NTS) that will support tokenization of cards as an alternative to storing card details with merchants. The NPCI Tokenization System will support the tokenization of RuPay cards to further enhance the safety of customers and provide a seamless shopping experience.

□ **NPCI's Token Reference On File (TROF) service** will help millions of RuPay cardholders maintain the security of their financial data. Experts say the card details of cardholders will be completely safe and secure at the RuPay Network Secure vault.

□ Based on the set of guidelines that have been mandated by the RBI, sensitive customer information is to be stored in the form of an encrypted 'token' to help secure transactions. These tokens then allow payments to be processed without disclosing the customer details or allowing the payment intermediaries to store customer data that could breach security and privacy.

□ With NTS, acquiring Banks, Aggregators, Merchants and others can get themselves certified with NPCI and can play the role of Token Requestor to help save the Token reference number (Token Reference On File) against all card numbers saved. All these businesses can maintain their RuPay consumer base utilizing TROF for future transactions initiated by their respective RuPay consumers.



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आज ही ज्वाइन करें माध्यम-हिंदी

States/UTs

Andhra Pradesh

1. Andhra government's 'Swechha' programme to provide branded sanitary napkins to female students

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy launched the 'Swechha' program to tackle the stigma attached to menstruation, prioritize female personal hygiene, and encourage a healthy dialogue of information. Under the initiative, the state government will provide quality branded sanitary napkins to female students at government educational institutions, free of cost. Andhra Pradesh Governor:- Biswabhusan Harichandan

2. Andhra Pradesh Launches Its First-Ever Project Under PM-WANI Scheme

As part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, TESS and TERA, the first Public Data Office Aggregator (PDOA) and App Provider of Andhra Pradesh have been inaugurated under the brand name Wi-DOT.

Finance Minister Buggana Rajendranath Reddy formally inaugurated the PM-WANI (Wi-Fi Access Network Interface) Project at Uyyalawada village in Kurnool district.

The Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the proposal of Department of Telecom (DoT) to proliferate Broadband through Public Wi-Fi networks under the framework of the Prime Minister's Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) on **9th December 2020**.

This framework takes forward the goal of National Digital Communications Policy, 2018 (NDCP) of creating a robust digital communications infrastructure. The PM-WANI framework envisages provision of Broadband through Public Wi-Fi Hotspot providers. It will consist of elements such as Public Data Office (PDO), Public Data Office Aggregator (PDOA), App Provider and Central Registry.

Assam

1. India's first e-fish market app 'Fishwaale' launched in Assam

Assam launched App Fishwaale, India's first e-fish market. India's first e-fish market app looks to provide a one-stop solution for aquaculture.

The App is developed by Aqua Blue Global Aquaculture Solutions Pvt. Ltd. in collaboration with the state fisheries department and brings a one-stop solution for Aquaculture.

Assam CM - Himanta Biswa Sarma. # Assam Governor- Jagdish Mukhi.

2. Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurates Brahmaputra River Heritage Centre

Vice-President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu, who is in Guwahati as part of his Northeast tour, inaugurated the Mahabahu Brahmaputra River Heritage Centre in presence of Governor Prof. Jagdish Mukhi and Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma at Panbazar in Guwahati.

This centre has on display the heritage of boats, an amphitheatre, an exhibition space, a cafeteria.

13th & current vice president of India:-M. Venkaiah Naidu

It contains a Central Hall with the theme 'Life Along the River' and 'Majuli Corner', containing famed masks, panel paintings and other artifacts.

He released a coffee-table book Forever Guwahati on this occasion.

The old Deputy Commissioner's bungalow atop the BarphukanarTila in Panbazar, beside the Brahmaputra, has been converted into the Brahmaputra River Heritage Centre by the State Government. The British annexed Assam in 1826. The post of DC was created for Guwahati in 1839. But the city had no appropriate house at that time to accommodate Captain James Matthie, the first DC. Several sites were surveyed before Barphukanar Tilla on the banks of the Brahmaputra, where cannons used in the Battle of Saraighat lay scattered, were chosen. Post-Independence, it continued to be the DC's bungalow until 2011. A project to convert it into a heritage museum was later taken up under the Brahmaputra Riverfront Development plan.

Gujarat

1. Kiren Rijiju inaugurates Sports Arbitration Centre in Ahmedabad

Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju inaugurated the country's first "Sports Arbitration Centre of India" in Gujarat which will serve as an independent body to fast track disputes in the sports sector.

The SACI is promoted by Ahmedabad-based SE TransStadia Pvt Ltd as an independent body to fast track disputes in the sports sector.

2. Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurates 'Ayush Van' in Gujarat's Gandhidham

Union Minister for AYUSH Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated Ayush Van, a dedicated forest for Ayurvedic plants in a program held at the Deendayal Port Trust (DPT)- Rotary Forest in Gandhidham area of Gujarat's Kutch.

Ayush Van was set up in 30 acres of land allotted by DPT in a green-belt area where tree plantation is being done to improve greenery in the urban areas. Aim:- To increase the density of tree cover in the Kutch region.

Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa & Homoeopathy (AYUSH) is formed on 9 November 2014.

3. India's 1st Banni buffalo calf born through in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) procedure

The first IVF calf of Banni breed of buffaloes, found primarily in Gujarat's Kutch region, was born at a farmer's house in the state's Gir Somnath district, Gujarat. The process was carried out to enhance the number of genetically superior buffaloes to increase milk production.

Banni buffalo is known for its resilience & higher milk producing capacity in an arid environment. Banni breed of buffalo is known as mini elephant.

4. President Ramnath Kovind inaugurates housing scheme for Economically Weaker sections at Bhavnagar in Gujarat

He also handed over the keys of the flats to several beneficiaries. A total of 1088 affordable houses have been constructed by Bhavnagar Municipal Corporation under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. Gujarat Chief Minister: Bhupendra Patel, Governor: Acharya Devvrat.

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban (PMAY-U), a flagship Mission of Government of India being implemented by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), was launched on 25th June 2015. The Mission addresses urban housing shortage among the EWS/LIG (Economically Weaker Section/ Low Income Group) and MIG (Middle Income Group) categories including the slum dwellers by ensuring a pucca house to all eligible urban households by the year 2022, when Nation completes 75 years of its Independence.

Haryana

1. Free education for those whose family income is less than Rs 1.80 lakh per annum: Manohar Lal Khattar

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar announced free education for those whose verified family income is less than Rs. 1.80 lakh per annum under the state government's ambitious Parivar Pehchan Patra (family id) scheme.

Himachal Pradesh

1. Himachal Pradesh becomes first state in India to begin organised cultivation of true dalchini

The CSIR's Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (IHBT) has introduced cinnamon cultivation in Himachal Pradesh on pilot basis.

True cinnamon or Cinnamomum verum is grown mainly in Sri Lanka, while minor producing countries include Seychelles, Madagascar, and India. India imports 45,318 tonnes of cinnamon annually from China, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Indonesia and Nepal.

Jharkhand

1. INDIA'S NEWEST TIGER RESERVE IN CHHATTISGARH

National Tiger Conservation Authority approved the Chhattisgarh government's proposal to declare the combined areas of the Guru Ghasidas National Park & Tamor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary as a Tiger Reserve. It is located in the northern part of the state, bordering Madhya Pradesh & Jharkhand.

This is the 4th Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh (Udanti-Sitanadi, Achanakmar, Indravati)

Karnataka

1. Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) bags two national awards

Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank, sponsored by Canara Bank, has bagged two national awards ('APY Big Believers' and 'Leadership capital') for significant enrolment under the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) from the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA). KVGB is playing a pivotal role in implementing all the 3 social security schemes (PMJJBY, PMSBY, APY).

Kerala

1. Kuttiattoor mango and Edayur chilli gets GI tags

Kuttiattoor mango and Edayur chilli get Geographical Indication tag from the GI Registry at Chennai, following applications from the growers from respective regions.

The Intellectual Property Cell of the Kerala Agricultural University had facilitated the registration process. The fruit of Edayur chilli is a drooping berry, solitary, with a moderately triangular shape.

2. Kerala wins award for city with most sustainable transport system

Kerala has won the award for the 'city with the most sustainable transport system'.

The award, which will be presented on October 29 at Delhi, has been given in recognition of the projects implemented -- like Kochi Metro, Water Metro and e-mobility -- to enhance the transport facilities in the city of Kochi.

The award would be presented by Union minister of MoHUA. Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs:- Hardeep Singh Puri.

The award is given in recognition of the transport facilities in various states and Union Territories of India. Kerala:- capital : Thiruvananthapuram; CM: Pinarayi Vijayan; Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan

Madhya Pradesh

1. Madhya Pradesh govt announces implementation of Mukhyamantri Ration Aapke Dwar Yojana in state from next month

Madhya Pradesh government has announced the implementation of Mukhyamantri Ration Aapke Dwar Yojana in the state from next month. Under the scheme, ration will now be transported by vehicles in those villages where there are no fair price shops in tribal development blocks of the state. Under the scheme, tribal families of 7,511 villages will be benefited from 16 districts.

Madhya Pradesh Capital: Bhopal; Governor: Mangubhai C. Patel; CM:- Shivraj Singh Chouhan

The objective of Mukhyamantri Ration Aapke Dwar Yojana is to provide ration material to Divyang and senior citizens near their homes so that they do not need to go to the ration shop of other villages to get their monthly food.

Maharashtra

1. Maharashtra CM inaugurates wildlife week

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray inaugurated 'Wildlife Week' at the Sahyadri State Guest House in Mumbai.

The Chief Minister assured that the forest rangers are the true custodians of the forest and they will be provided all the necessary facilities in the near future.

The logo of the Pench Tiger Reserve project and the book 'Wild Maharashtra' were also unveiled.

2. Maharashtra: Alibaug white onion gets GI tag for health benefits

The Alibaug white onion was given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag bringing worldwide recognition to its unique sweet taste, no-tears factor, as well as its medicinal properties.

The soil of Alibaug taluka has low sulphur content. The NABL-approved lab test report mentions low pungency, sweet taste, 'no tear' factor, low pyruvic acid, high protein, fat & fibre, etc.

3. Maharashtra: Palghar's famed Wada Kolam rice gets GI tag

A variety of rice widely grown in Wada in the Palghar district of Maharashtra has been given a 'Geographical Indication' (GI) tag, which will give it a unique identity as well as wider markets. Wada Kolam, also known as Zini or Jhini rice, is a traditional variety grown in Wada tehsil of Palghar, with the grain being off white in colour.

It is priced between Rs 60-70 per kg.

Meghalaya

1. Justice Ranjit Vasantrao More appointed as Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court

The President of India appointed Meghalaya High court Judge, Justice Ranjit Vasantrao More as the Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court.

He is a native of the Satara district in Maharashtra.

In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (1) of Article 217 of the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to appoint Justice Ranjit Vasantrao More as Chief Justice. Meghalaya CM:- Conrad Kongkal Sangma; Governor:- Satya Pal Malik

Under the North Eastern Areas (Reorganization) Act, 1971 and other related laws Amendment Act, 2012

separate High Court in the name of High Court of Meghalaya was established for the State of Meghalaya w.e.f. 23rd March, 2013.

2. Jyotiraditya Scindia flags off maiden Shillong-Dibrugarh direct flight

Union Minister of Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya M. Scindia virtually flagged off the first direct flight on the Shillong ' Dibrugarh route under the Regional Connectivity Scheme ' UdeDeshKaAamNaagrik (RCS-UDAN) of the Government of India. Shillong is the hub of education for entire North-East India.

Shillong is one of the highest & wettest places in the world. CM of Meghalaya:- Conrad Kongkal Sangma.

Rajasthan

1. Rajasthan ranks 2nd after Karnataka on State Energy Efficiency Index 2020

Rajasthan has ranked 2nd after Karnataka in the country in terms of energy efficiency. The state has been ranked second at the State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) 2020 released by the Ministry of Power.

The second-highest performer, Rajasthan, is the only state to have constituted an ECBC cell in its Public Works Department (PWD).

Chief Minister of Rajasthan- Ashok Gehlot. Rajasthan is the largest Indian state by area and the seventh largest by population.

The SEE index, assesses the states in four categories of Aspirant with a score below 30 points, Contenders with score between **30-50**, Achievers with score of **50-60** and the Frontrunners with above 60 points score.

SEEI 2020 has assessed the performance of 36 states and Union territories in energy efficiency (EE) using **68** qualitative, quantitative, and outcome-based indicators aggregating to a maximum score of 100 across six sectors.

Tamil Nadu

1. World Bank to extend \$150 million to Chennai's Sustainable Urban Services Programme

The World Bank said its board of executive directors has approved a \$150 million (about Rs 1,112 crore) program to support Tamil Nadu's vision of making Chennai into a world-class city that is more green, livable, and resilient to climate change.

Chennai City Partnership: Sustainable Urban Services Program' will help strengthen institutions & Urban services, etc.

2. Tamil Nadu CM M.K Stalin launches scheme to melt temple jewellery

Tamil Nadu CM launched preliminary work to melt into 24 carat gold bars, the unutilised jewellery in possession of temples in the State. Gold ornaments lying unutilised at 3 renowned temples of Sri Karumariamman temple in Tiruverkadu, Sri Mariamman temple in Samayapuram and Sri Mariamman temple at Irukkankudi, will be melted and converted into gold bars for monetisation.

Telangana

1. Bathukamma festival begins in Telangana

The nine day floral festival has begun in Telangana.

The festival began with excitement as the women were dressed in traditional clothes and colourful processions were carried out in Telangana, the Bathukamma festival is celebrated during Durga Navratri. Bathukamma festival begins on the day of Mahalaya Amavasya. The festival continues till nine days, ending on the day of Durgashtami.

Uttar Pradesh

1. PM Modi inaugurates 'Azadi@75' New Urban India: Transforming Urban Landscape' Conference-cum-Expo in Lucknow

PM handed over keys of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U) houses to 75,000 beneficiaries in 75 districts of Uttar Pradesh.

Inaugurated/ laid foundation stone of 75 Urban Development Projects of Uttar Pradesh under Smart Cities Mission and AMRUT.

Flagged off 75 buses under FAME-II for Lucknow, Kanpur, Varanasi, Prayagraj, Gorakhpur, Jhansi and Ghaziabad.

2. Khadi exhibition and Khadi Kareegar Sammelan inaugurated in Varanasi to strengthen artisans and traditional arts

Union Minister of State for MSME inaugurated a state-of-the-art Khadi exhibition displaying exquisite handcrafted products from 20 Indian states in Varanasi. KVIC also organized a 'Khadi Kareegar Sammelan' (Khadi artisans' conference), which was attended by over 2000 Khadi artisans, mostly women, from Varanasi and 12 adjoining districts like Prayagraj, Jaunpur, Mirzapur Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma is the Union Minister of State for MSME

The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is a statutory body established by an Act of Parliament (No. 61 of 1956, as amended by act no. 12 of 1987 and Act No.10 of 2006). In April 1957, it took over the work of former All India Khadi and Village Industries Board. The broad objectives that the KVIC has set before it are...

The social objective of providing employment.

The economic objective of producing saleable articles.

The wider objective of creating self-reliance amongst the poor and building up of a strong rural community spirit.

3. Varanasi To Become First Indian City to Start Ropeway Service in Public Transportation

Varanasi, the PM Modi's parliamentary constituency, will soon become the first Indian city to use ropeway services in public transportation.

The world's third (After Bolivia and Mexico city) and India's first public transport ropeway is proposed to be constructed from Cantt Railway Station (Varanasi Junction) to Church Square (Godauliya) to ease the traffic congestion. This ropeway project worth Rs 424 crore.

Covering an aerial distance of 4.2 km, the ropeway is expected to save time and money for the tourists who have to face traffic jams en route to one of the oldest cities in the world, also known as the Gateway of Eastern India.

This pilot project is being developed in state-of-the-art manner on the lines of Kyoto in Japan.

The main terminus will be at Cantt railway station while other stations will be at Sajan Tiraha, Rathyatra, and Girjaghar (Godowlia) crossings.

The ropeway will also run at night. The cost of the project will be divided between the Centre and the state government at 80:20.

The stations built for the ropeway will show a glimpse of Kashi's art, religion and culture.

4. Airport In UP's Kushinagar Launched By PM Modi, First Flight From Sri Lanka

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Kushinagar airport in Uttar Pradesh with a flight from Sri Lanka becoming the first to touch down at the new airport.

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister gave its approval for the declaration of Kushinagar Airport in Uttar Pradesh as an International Airport in June 2020.

Kushinagar is one of the major pilgrimage centres for Buddhism followers from all over the world. It is the final resting place of Gautama Buddha where he attained **Mahaparinirvana** after his death, and is among the most important pilgrim spots for Buddhists.

The airport - built at an estimated cost of **₹260 crore** - will benefit domestic as well as international pilgrims by providing seamless connectivity to the Mahaparinirvana sthal of Lord Buddha.

5. Tourism Minister inaugurates two-day conference on 'Tourism in Buddhist Circuits ' A way forward' in Kushinagar

On the occasion of inauguration of Kushinagar International Airport, Uttar Pradesh, Ministry of Tourism has organised a two days' conference titled 'Tourism in Buddhist Circuit ' A way forward' on 20th & 21st October 2021 at Kushinagar. The conference was inaugurated by the Union Minister for Tourism, Culture & DoNER Shri. G. Kishan Reddy. Kushinagar is the place where The Buddha attained Mahaparinirvana in 483 BC.

6. Khadi exhibition and Khadi Kareegar Sammelan inaugurated in Varanasi to strengthen artisans and traditional arts

Union Minister of State for MSME Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma inaugurated a state-of-the-art Khadi exhibition displaying exquisite handcrafted products from 20 Indian states in Varanasi.

Khadi and Village Industries Commission also organized a 'Khadi Kareegar Sammelan' (Khadi artisans' conference), which was attended by over 2000 Khadi artisans. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission is a statutory body formed in April 1957

A range of exquisite Khadi products including the premium High Altitude Honey from Jammu & Kashmir, a wide variety of Kashmiri and Rajasthani woolen shawls, Muslin fabric from West Bengal, a variety of silk fabric from West Bengal and Bihar, Koti Shawls from Punjab, leather products from Kanpur, terracotta pottery from Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, the widely acclaimed hand-knotted carpets of Mirzapur and Prayagraj are the biggest attractions in the exhibition. This is the second such exhibition organized by KVIC in Varanasi since the Covid-19 lockdown.

KVIC has set up a large number of Khadi Institutions, PMEGP units and SFURI clusters to strengthen the traditional arts and empower the local artisans.

7. PM Modi launches Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission from Varanasi

Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission aims to fill gaps in public health infrastructure, especially in critical care facilities and primary care in both urban & rural areas. It will provide support for 17,788 rural health & wellness centres in 10 high focus states.

He also inaugurated various development projects worth around Rs 5,200 crore in Varanasi. Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission - worth Rs 64,000 crore

As part of the scheme, 730 districts of the country will get integrated public health labs, 3,000 blocks would get block public health units.

1. Civil Aviation Minister Scindia flags off 'Doon Drone Mela' in Uttarakhand

Union Minister of Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia along with the Minister of State in the Ministry of Civil Aviation, General (Retd.) V.K. Singh flagged off the Doon Drone Mela 2021 in Dehradun.

Scindia flagged off the event with a paragliding demonstration.

Uttarakhand Government works towards developing Dehradun as an Aerosports and Drone Hub of India.

The day marked the demonstration of the Drone and Aerosports Demonstrations that included a paragliding demonstration by the Border Security Force, a Paramotor demonstration by Harsh Sachan, and an agriculture spraying drone demonstration by IoTechWorld Aviation and Dhaksha.

The event also included an emergency search and response drone demonstration with an indigenously 3D-printed drone by the Drone Application and Research Centre (DARC) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF).

It was followed by a brief survey drone demonstration by the Aarav Unmanned Systems (AUS) under the SVAMITVA Scheme along with a training drone demonstration by Sqn Ldr Varsha Kukreti (Retd.).

2. Uttarakhand gets country's largest aromatic garden in Nainital district

The research wing of Uttarakhand forest department inaugurated the biggest aromatic garden of India in Lalkuan of Nainital district. Established in an area of over 3 acre, the garden has 140 different species of aromatic species from across India.

The project was initiated in the year 2018-19 after approval of the Research Advisory Committee in June 2018. CM:-Pushkar Singh Dhami; Governor:- Lt Gen Gurmit Singh.

Objective of conservation of various aromatic species, to create awareness about these species, promote further research about these species and to link it with livelihood.

The project has been funded under CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority) scheme of the central government. Lalkuan was selected as the site because it is known for perpetual problem of foul smell due to the stench that comes from certain industrial units.

3. Home Minister Amit Shah launches Ghasiyari Kalyan Yojana in Dehradun

Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched Ghasiyari Kalyan Yojana in Dehradun. The objective of Mukhyamantri Ghasiyari Kalyan Yojana is to eliminate the burden of more than three lakh rural women of the state living in mountainous regions. Under this scheme, packaged silage or safe green fodder will be provided at their doorstep. Uttarakhand CM: Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami, Governor: Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh.

West Bengal

1. First consignment of GI tagged sweet dish Mihidana from West Bengal exported to Bahrain

In an effort to promote indigenous & Geographical Identification (GI) tagged products, first consignment of GI tagged sweet dish Mihidana sourced from Bardhaman, West Bengal has been exported to the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The consignment of unique sweet dish Mihidana was exported to Bahrain by APEDA registered M/S DM Enterprises, Kolkata & imported by Aljazira Group, Bahrain.

2. For the first time in the Major Ports in India, Radio over Internet Protocol system inaugurated at Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port

In view of a much needed solution for providing effective long range Marine communication, the Radio over Internet Protocol (ROIP) System at Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata (SMP, Kolkata), was inaugurated.

ROIP system is being introduced as a marine communication mode, for the first time in any Major Indian Port. It shall cover the entire Hugli river Estuary from Kolkata to Sandheads.

SMP, Kolkata has been constantly maintaining its pivotal position in Indian Major Ports for the past 152 years. Port of Kolkata or Kolkata Port, officially known as Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port Trust, is the only riverine major port of India,

Delhi

1. Delhi govt forms 16-member committee to monitor functioning of Connaught Place smog tower

The Delhi govt has instituted a 16-member committee to check the functioning of the newly installed smog tower at Connaught Place.

The committee will submit three reports- one report each month- about the functioning of the smog tower. It will also comprise of 5-member team from the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) to be headed by scientist Mohan George.

2. Delhi Metro To Build First Ever Integrated Flyover Cum Metro Viaduct Structure Where Flyover And Metro Viaduct Will Run Parallel

For the first time in the history of Delhi Metro, an Integrated 'flyover cum Metro viaduct structure' along with a vehicle underpass is being built near Soorghat on the Majlis Park ' Maujpur corridor of Phase ' IV in north-east Delhi, in association with PWD.

This 12.098 kilometers long corridor is comprising of eight stations and is completely elevated.

3. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has launched the 'Desh ke Mentor' programme

Delhi government has launched the 'Desh ke Mentor' programme to provide career guidance to the students of class 9 to 12. The Delhi government school students will be mentored by people who are experts in their field, giving students insight into diverse career options. Under the initiative, people in the

age group of 18-35 can register themselves as mentors. Actor Sonu Sood : The brand ambassador of this Programme.

These mentors will adopt up to 10 students to provide counseling regarding career and teenage issues. Under this programme, the mentors will dedicate 10 minutes each week to the students. The initiative has been launched under the ‘Youth for Education’ programme by the Directorate of Education. Students from Delhi’s government schools can remotely participate in the initiative. For this, the government has launched an app. To download the app, give a missed call on 7500040004 this number after which the app can be downloaded.

4. I&B Minister Anurag Thakur launches MyParkings app in New Delhi

Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur today launched MyParkings app in New Delhi. Ease of parking through the app will also help reduce pollution from vehicles by minimizing the time spent searching for parking spots. The Minister hoped other Municipal Corporations will take a leaf out of the experience of MyParkings and adopt similar solutions.

Jammu and Kashmir

1. J&K administration signs MoU with Dubai govt to develop real estate, industrial parks

The J&K government signed an MoU with Dubai for real estate development, industrial parks and super-speciality hospitals.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed for real estate development, industrial parks, IT towers, multi-purpose towers, logistics, medical college, super-speciality hospitals. Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor -Manoj Sinha.

2. Piyush Goyal inaugurates 250mm seer water supply project in Kashmir

Union commerce & industry minister Piyush Goyal inaugurated a 250mm seer water supply scheme in Kashmir, concluding his two-day trip to Pahalgam in the Valley as part of the public outreach programme of the BJP led Union government.

The project is aimed to benefit nearly 10,000 people & will be completed within 3 months under the ambit of Jal Jeevan Mission.

The minister also inaugurated a tourist hut of Pahalgam Development Authority at Golf Course, and a sapling plantation drive of Forest Departments Deodar.

3. Union MoS Lekhi inaugurates first ever literary festival at Gulmarg

The first-ever literary festival in J&K was inaugurated by Union Minister Meenakshi Lekhi at ski resort Gulmarg. The literary festival, organised by the UT administration, has brought many literary personalities from across the country to mark the 75 years of independence, and is part of the 'Iconic Week Celebrations' under the Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM). Gulmarg is also known as the Meadow of Flowers.

Fact about Gulmarg:-Gulmarg is a town nestled in the Pir Panjal range of the Western Himalayas at an altitude of 8,690 feet above sea level. Literally translated as 'Meadow of Flowers' it is encased by glimmering snow peaked alps, verdant green pastures, colorful meadows, deep valleys and pine covered slopes.

4. Union Agriculture Minister Tomar and Lieutenant Governor Sinha virtually inaugurated Apple Festival in Kashmir

The Apple Festival is organized for the first time in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir. The organization of the apple festival under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav will prove to be a milestone in increasing the income of the farmers.

With an annual production of more than 2.2 million metric tonnes, the apple from J&K contributes to 87 per cent of the national production and is linked to the livelihood of about 30 per cent of the population of Jammu and Kashmir.

Committees

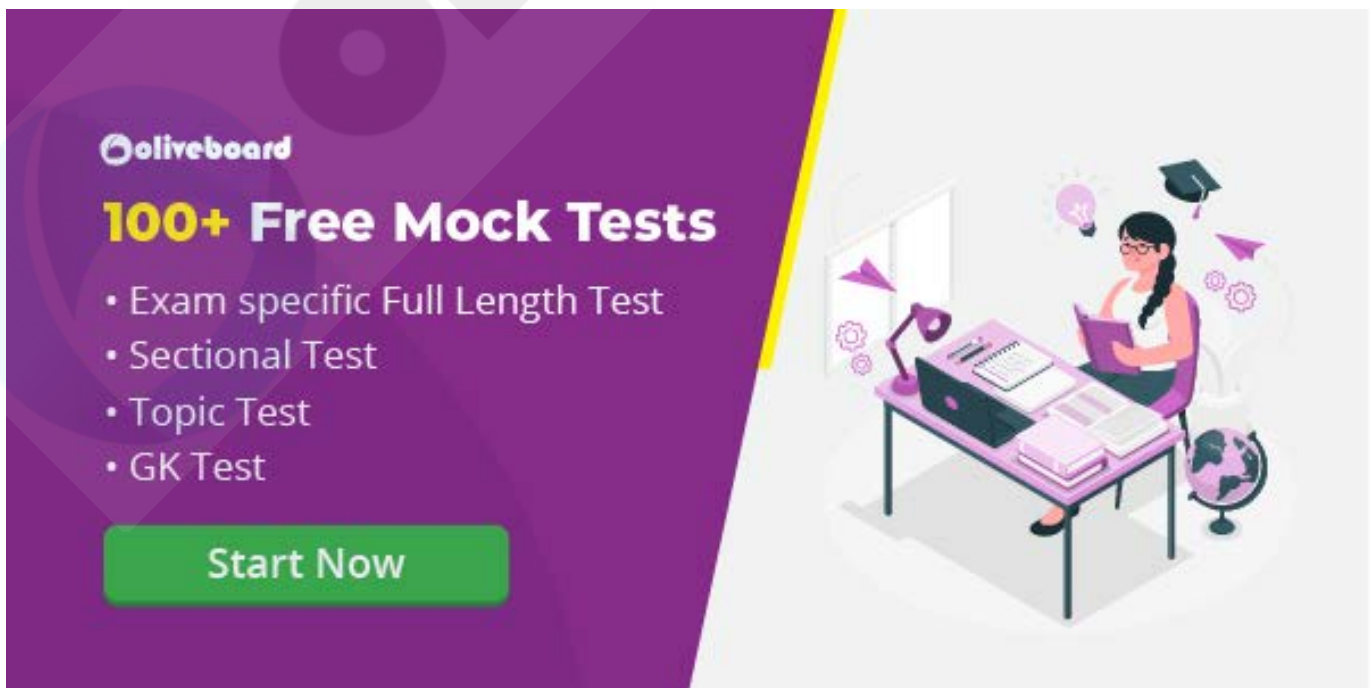

1. Pegasus Snoopgate: Supreme Court orders probe by expert committee


The Supreme Court has formed an expert panel to probe into the Pegasus snoopgate. The expert committee will be headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice RV Raveendran. The Supreme Court also asked the committee to file a report within 8 weeks.

The court added that information gathered by agencies is vital to the fight against terrorism.

The experts are from cyber security and forensics backgrounds. The expert committee will be headed by former Supreme Court judge, Justice **RV Raveendran** and will be assisted by **Alok Joshi** (former IPS Officer) and **Dr. Sundeep Oberoi**, Chairman, Sub Committee in (International Organisation of Standardisation/ International Electro-Technical Commission/Joint Technical Committee).

Pegasus is a **spyware** developed by NSO Group, an Israeli surveillance firm, that helps spies hack into phones. In 2019, when WhatsApp sued the firm in a U.S. court, the matter came to light. In July 2021, Amnesty International, along with 13 media outlets across the globe released a report on how the spyware was used to snoop hundreds of individuals, including Indians. While the NSO claims its spyware is sold only to governments, none of the nations have come forward to accept the claims.




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BANKING

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%

APPOINTMENTS

APPOINTMENT	POST
Air Marshal BR Krishna	Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC)
Air Marshal Sandeep Singh AVSM VM	Vice Chief of the Air Staff (VCAS).
Alok Sahay	Secretary-General and Executive Head of Indian Steel Association
Ashok Kumar Gupta	Chairperson of the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA).
Captain Alok Mishra	Managing director of India Ports Global Ltd.,
Sanjay Bhargava	Director of Starlink India
B C Patnaik	Managing Director (MD) of the Life Insurance Corporation of India.
Eric Braganza	President of Consumer Electronics and Appliances Manufacturers Association (CEAMA)
Amish Mehta	Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of CRISIL
Najla Bouden	First female PM of Tunisia
Abiy Ahmed	Prime Minister of Ethiopian
E.R. Sheikh	First Director General of the Ordnance Directorate (Co-ordination and Services).
P.L. Haranadh	Chairman of Paradip Port Trust (PPT).
Justice Rajesh Bindal	Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court
Ranveer Singh	Brand ambassador of Crypto platform CoinSwitch Kuber
Arun Kumar Mishra	Chief executive officer (CEO) of Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL),
Amit Khare	Advisor to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
Rajnish Kumar	BharatPe board chairman
Justice A.K. Goswami	Chief Justice of the Chhattisgarh High Court.
Justice Indrajit Mohanty	Chief Justice of the Tripura High Court.
AK Goel	Chairman of Indian Bank's Association (IBA)
Virat Kohli	Brand ambassador of Indian wearable brand Fire-Boltt
Gobind Jain	CFO of IndusInd Bank
S. Balachandran,	High Commissioner of India to St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Pradeep Kumar Panja	Chairman of Karnataka Bank,
Sabyasachi Das	CEO of L&T EduTech
Amitabh Chaudhry	CEO of Axis Bank
A Balasubramanian	Chairman of the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI).
Radhika Gupta	Vice- chairman of the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI).
Tae-Jin Park,	Managing Director and CEO of Kia India.
Shuichi Ito	Managing Director of Toshiba India
Commodore Amit Rastogi (Retd)	Chairman & Managing Director of National Research Development Corporation

Meera Mohanty	Joint secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO)
Ritesh Chauhan	Chief executive officer of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana
Navnit Nakra	CEO and Head of OnePlus India
Ramnath Krishnan	Managing Director and Group Chief Executive Officer of Icra
Commodore PK Garg	Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS)
Siddhartha Lal	Managing Director of Eicher Motors
Sunil Paliwal	Chairperson of the Chennai Port Trust (ChPT).
K Madhavan	President of the Indian Broadcasting and Digital Foundation (IBDF).
Indo-Canadian Anita Anand	Minister of national defence ministry of Canada
Baldev Prakash	Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Jammu and Kashmir Bank
K V Kamath	Chairperson of National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID)
Shavkat Mirziyoyev	President of Uzbekistan
Rajiv Anand	Deputy Managing Director of Axis Bank
Rahul Mithal	Chairman and Managing Director of RITES Ltd.,
Justice Ashok Bhushan	Chairperson of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)
Navrang Saini	Chairperson of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)
Bibek Debroy	Chairman of of the PM's Economic Council
Shaktikanta Das	Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
Justice Ramalingam Sudhakar	President of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)
Yezdi Nagporewalla	CEO of KPMG India
Ashish Singhal and Sumit Gupta	Co-chairpersons of Internet and Mobile Association of India's (IAMAI), crypto council
Isha Ambani	Board of Trustees of the prestigious Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art

AWARDS

Winner	Award
Shiv Nadar and Mallika Srinivasan	2021 Global Leadership Award.
Eric Hanushek and Dr. Rukmini Banerji	2021 Yidan Prize
Syukuro Manabe, Klaus Hasselmann and Giorgio Parisi	2021 Nobel Prize in Physics
David Julius and Ardem Patapoutian.	2021 Nobel Prize in Medicine
Benjamin List and David W.C. MacMillan	2021 Nobel Prize for Chemistry
Abdulrazak Gurnah	2021 Nobel prize in Literature
David Card, Joshua Angrist and Guido Imbens	Nobel Prize 2021 in Economics
Maria Ressa and Dmitry Muratov	2021 Nobel Peace Prize
Benyamin	Vayalar Award 2021
Dr. G Satheesh Reddy	Aryabhata Award
B Gopal	Satyajit Ray Award
Nikola Kovacevic	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Refugee Award
Indian Army	Gold medal in the Exercise Cambrian Patrol 2021
Agri waste-recycling project "Takachar"	Prince William's Earthshot Prize winners
Parambikulam Tiger Conservation Foundation	Earth Guardian Award
Alexei Navalny	European Parliament's 2021 Sakharov

	Prize
Martin Scorsese and Istvan Szabo	Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement award
Rajinikanth	Dada Saheb Phalke award
Manoj Bajpayee for Bhonsle (Hindi) and Dhanush for Asuran (Tamil).	The National Award for Best Actor (Male)
Kangana Ranaut for Manikarnika (Hindi)	The National Award for Best Actor (Female)
Sikkim	The National Award for Most film-friendly state
Water Burial	The National Award for Best Film on Environment Conservation
Mathukutty Xavier (Helen- Malayalam)	Indira Gandhi Award for Best Debut Film of Director
Marakkar Arabikadalinte Simham (Malayalam)	The National Award for Best Feature Film
Kastoori (Hindi)	The National Award for Best Children Film
Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)	2021 Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) GreenLake Ecosystem Partner of the Year Award.

IMPORTANT DAYS

DATE	DAY	THEME
4th October	World Habitat Day	Accelerating urban action for a carbon-free world
4th -10th October	World Space Week	Women in Space
4th October	World Animal Day	
5th October	World Teachers Day	Teachers at the heart of education recovery
7th October	World Cotton Day	There's more to cotton than you think
8th October	Air Force's 89 th foundation day	
9th October	World Post Day	
10th October	World Mental Health Day	Mental health in an unequal world
11th October	International Day of the Girl Child	Digital Generation. Our Generation.
13th October	International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction	International co-operation for developing countries to reduce their disaster risk and disaster losses
15th October	International Day for Rural Women 2021:	Rural women cultivating good food for all
16th October	World Food Day	Safe food now for a healthy tomorrow
17th October	International Day for Eradication of Poverty	Building Forward Together: Ending Persistent Poverty, Respecting all People & our Planet
20th October	World Statistics Day	
24th to 30th October	Disarmament Week	
27th October	75th Infantry Day	

OBITUARY

OBITUARY	RELATED FIELD
Shakti Sinha	Bureaucrat and Academician
Arvind Trivedi,	Actor
Abolhassan Banisadr	Iran's first president
Vallilath Madhathil Madhavan Nair	Diplomat
Abdul Qadeer Khan,	Scientist
Yogendra Mohan Gupta	Industrialist
R.C. Vasanth Kumar	Cricketer

Bandula Warnapura	Cricketer
Colin Powell	First Black US secretary of state
Saranjeet Singh	Hockey Player
Sunao Tsuboi	Hiroshima nuclear bomb attack survivor
Roh Tae-woo	Ex-South Korean President
Salem Nanjundaiah Subba Rao	Eminent Gandhian and ambassador of peace in Chambal region

IMPORTANT STATIC & CURRENT INFO

INDIAN STATES, CAPITALS, CHIEF MINISTERS & GOVERNORS

STATE	CAPITAL	CHIEF MINISTER	GOVERNOR
Andhra Pradesh	Amaravati	Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy	Biswa Bhusan Harichandn
Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	Pema Khandu	Brigadier B.D. Mishra (retd)
Assam	Dispur	Himanta Biswa Sarma	Prof. Jagdish Mukhi
Bihar	Patna	Nitish Kumar	Phagu Chauhan
Chhattisgarh	Raipur	Bhupesh Baghel	Anusuiya Uikey
Goa	Panaji	Pramod Sawant	P.S. Sreedharan Pillai
Gujarat	Gandhi Nagar	Vijaybhai R. Rupani	Acharya Dev Vrat
Haryana	Chandigarh	Manohar Lal Khattar	Bandaru Dattatraya
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	Jai Ram Thakur	Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
Jharkhand	Ranchi	Hemant Soren	Ramesh Bais
Karnataka	Bengaluru	Basavaraj Bommai	Thaawarchand Gehlot
Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	Pinarayi Vijayan	Arif Mohammed Khan
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	Shivraj Singh Chauhan	Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel
Maharashtra	Mumbai	Uddhav Thackrey	Bhagat Singh Koshiyari
Manipur	Imphal	N Biren Singh	La. Ganesan
Meghalaya	Shillong	Conrad Kongkal Sangma	Satya Pal Malik
Mizoram	Aizawl	Pu Zoramthanga	Dr Kambhampati Haribabu
Nagaland	Kohima	Neiphiu Rio	Jagdish Mukhi
Odisha	Bhubaneswar	Naveen Patnaik	Ganeshi Lal
Punjab	Chandigarh	Amarinder Singh	R. N. Ravi
Rajasthan	Jaipur	Ashok Gehlot	Kalraj Mishra
Sikkim	Gangtok	PS Golay	Ganga Prasad
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	M. K. Stalin	R. N. Ravi
Telangana	Hyderabad	K. Chandrasekhar Rao	Tamilisai Soundararajan
Tripura	Agartala	Biplab Kumar Deb	Satyadeo Narain Arya
Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	Yogi Aditya Nath	Anandiben Patel
Uttarakhand	Dehradun	Pushkar Singh Dhami	Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh
West Bengal	Kolkata	Mamata Banerjee	Jagdeep Dhankhar

UNION TERRITORIES, LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS & ADMINISTRATORS

UNION TERRITORY	LT. GOVERNOR & ADMINISTRATOR
Andaman and Nicobar Island (UT)	Admiral D K Joshi (Lieutenant Governor)
Chandigarh (UT)	Banwarilal Purohit (Administrator)
Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (UT)	Praful Patel (Administrator)
Delhi (NCT)	Anil Baijal (Lieutenant Governor)
Jammu and Kashmir (UT)	Manoj Sinha (Lieutenant Governor)
Lakshadweep (UT)	Praful Patel (Administrator)
Puducherry (UT)	Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan (Addl. Charge) (Lieutenant Governor)
Ladakh (UT)	Radha Krishna Mathur (Lieutenant Governor)

UNION MINISTERS & PORTFOLIO

UNION MINISTER	PORTFOLIO
Narendra Modi	Ministry of personnel, public grievances and pensions Department of Atomic Energy Department of Space
Rajnath Singh	Ministry of Defence
Amit Shah	Ministry of Home Affairs Ministry of Cooperation
Nitin Gadkari	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
Nirmala Sitharaman	Ministry of Finance Ministry of Corporate Affairs
Piyush Goyal	Ministry of Commerce and Industry Ministry of Textiles Ministry of Consumer affairs, food and public distribution
Narendra Singh Tomar	Ministry of agriculture and Farmers welfare
Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar	Ministry of External Affairs
Arjun Munda	Ministry of Tribal Affairs
Smriti Zubin Irani	Ministry of Women and child Development
Dharmendra Pradhan	Ministry of Education Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
Pralhad Joshi	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs Ministry of coal Ministry of Mines
Narayan Tatu Rane	Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
Sarbananda Sonowal	Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)
Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi	Ministry of Minority Affairs
Dr. Virendra Kumar	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Giriraj Singh	Ministry of Rural Development Ministry of Panchayati Raj
Jyotiraditya M. Scindia	Ministry of Civil Aviation
Ramchandra Prasad Singh	Ministry of Steel
Ashwini Vaishnaw	Ministry of Railways Ministry of Communications Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
Pashu Pati Kumar Paras	Ministry of Food Processing Industries
Gajendra Singh Shekhawat	Ministry of Jal Shakti

Kiren Rijju	Ministry of Law and Justice
Raj Kumar Singh	Ministry of Power Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
Hardeep Singh Puri	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
Mansukh L. Mandaviya	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
Bhupender Yadav	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ministry of Labour and Employment
Mahendra Nath Pandey	Ministry of Heavy Industries
Parshottam Rupala	Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
G. Kishan Reddy	Ministry of Culture Ministry of Tourism Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region
Anurag Singh Thakur	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports



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