

September 2021

# BOLT

*Monthly Current Affairs*



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## Banking & Finance

### 1. RBI imposes fine on five payment system operators for violation of norms

A monetary penalty has been imposed on 5 payment system operators for violation of norms.

-The maximum fine, Rs 3 crore, has been slapped on Transaction Analysts (India) Pvt Ltd. The 4 other entities that have been fined are White Label operators

-BTI Payments Pvt Ltd & Hitachi Payment Services Pvt Ltd (Rs.2Cr).

-Tata Communications Payment Solutions Ltd & Vakrangee Ltd (Rs.1Cr).

### 2. India's economy grew 20.1% in April-June quarter; strong growth helped by low-base effect

India's economy grew by 20.1% during the April-June quarter of this financial year, as against a 24.4% contraction seen during the same period last year.

The massive growth seen in the first quarter has made India the fastest-growing major economy across the globe.

The construction sector's GVA was 68.3% higher than the previous year. For the full financial year 2020-21, India's GDP contracted by 7.3%.

### 3. RBI Raises Incentives For Distribution Of Coins To '65 From '25 Per Bag

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) increased incentives for banks for the distribution of coins to the general public to '65 from '25 per bag, with effect from September 1, 2021.

The central bank, while reviewing incentives, announced that the banks will also be provided an additional incentive of '10 per bag for coin distribution in rural and semi-urban areas.

### 4. SEBI bars Kotak AMC from FMP launch for six months, fines Rs 50 lakh

Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company (AMC) has been barred from launching any new fixed maturity plan (FMP) scheme for the next six months, as per an order issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

The market regulator, which examined the case of delayed payments made in these six FMP schemes, has also decided to impose a fine of Rs 50 lakh on the company.

### 5. RBI fines Axis Bank for non-compliance with provisions of KYC norms

RBI has imposed a monetary penalty of '25 lakh on Axis Bank Limited for violation of rules.

The monetary penalty was imposed for 'contravention of/non-compliance with certain provisions of directions issued by RBI contained in the Reserve Bank of India ' (KYC) Direction, 2016".

The penalty on Axis Bank has been imposed under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

### 6. RBI to set up five-member panel on NUE licences

RBI will set up a committee to scrutinise applications and give recommendations on new umbrella entity (NUE) licences, people aware of the development said.

The five-member committee will be headed by RBI chief general manager P Vasudevan.

NUEs will establish their own payment infrastructure to compete with National Payments Corp. of India (NPCI).

### 7. RBI imposes penalty on Kosamba Mercantile Co-operative Bank

RBI imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 1 lakh on the Kosamba Mercantile Co-operative Bank Ltd for violation of rules.

The bank didn't comply with certain directions issued by RBI on 'Loans and advances to directors, relatives, and firms'.

The statutory inspection of the bank conducted by RBI revealed that the bank had sanctioned loans to relatives of a director.

### 8. Axis Bank raises \$600 million with first ESG bonds in India

Axis Bank has raised \$600 million from offshore investors by selling sustainable additional tier-1 (AT1) bonds at a coupon of 4.1 per cent.

The bank will be using the proceeds towards eligible green and social project categories.

This is the third environment, social and governance-themed bond issue by any lender globally and the first one in India. MD and CEO of Axis Bank: Amitabh Chaudhry. Headquarters: Mumbai.

## **9. RBI imposes '50 lakh penalty on Bombay Mercantile Co-operative Bank**

The penalty on Bombay Mercantile Co-operative Bank, Mumbai is for deficiency in regulatory compliance.

The RBI has also imposed a penalty '2 lakh on Akola District Central Co-operative Bank Limited, Akola (Maharashtra) for non-compliance with certain provisions of Know Your Customer (KYC) norms.

## **10. Federal Bank launches three variants of credit card named Celesta, Imperio and Signet**

Federal Bank launched three variants of credit card, in association with Visa. Celesta card is targeted at high net-worth individuals (HNIs), Imperio is for family-oriented customers and Signet is targeted at young, early professionals. MD and CEO of Federal Bank: Shyam Srinivasan. Headquarters: Aluva, Kochi.

## **11. Zerodha gets SEBI's approval to set up an AMC**

The in-principle approval from SEBI will allow Zerodha to launch its own mutual funds. In December 2019, SEBI eased regulations for fintech startups planning to enter the MF industry. It said entities with a net worth of Rs 100 crore and five years of being profitable were eligible to sponsor MFs. AMCs should also maintain their minimum net worth continuously. Co-Founder & CEO of Zerodha: Nithin Kamath, Co-founder & CFO: Nikhil Kamath.

## **12. Google Pay launches digital Fixed Deposits in tie-up with Equitas Small Finance Bank**

In an industry-first, consumers can through the Google Pay app book high-interest rate FDs fully digitally - without needing to open a savings account with Equitas Bank on its own Spot integrated with the Google Pay platform. To start with, this functionality will be available for Google Pay users who are accessing the app from Android. MD and CEO of Equitas SFB: Vasudevan P N, Headquarters: Chennai.

## **13. Kotak Mahindra Bank to sell 8.6% stake in Airtel Payments Bank to Bharti Enterprises**

Kotak Mahindra Bank had executed a Share Purchase Agreement for sale of 20 crore equity shares of Airtel Payments Bank Limited to Bharti Enterprises Limited. The sale is expected to be completed by September 15 for a cash consideration of Rs 294 crore. Chairman of Airtel Payments Bank: Sunil Bharti Mittal.

## **14. IDBI Intech successfully implements Anti Money Laundering solution at Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)**

IDBI Intech Ltd, the technology led business transformation organisation offering specialised solutions in the Banking, Financial Services and Insurance verticals, announced that it has successfully implemented their iAML (Anti Money Laundering) solution at insurance provider, the LIC.

IDBI Intech Ltd, incorporated in the year 2000, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of IDBI Bank

## **15. Bank of Baroda tops the MeitY Digital Payment Scorecard for 2020-21**

Bank of Baroda, announced that the bank has Ranked #1 with a total of 86% marks on the scorecard issued by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) for the months of February and March 2021.

The scorecard ranks 44 banks (Public Sector Banks, Private Banks, Foreign Banks, Payments Banks, Small Finance Banks) on various parameters on the digital business

## **16. India Post Payments Bank, LIC HFL announce strategic partnership for providing home loan products**

India Post Payments Bank and LIC Housing Finance Limited announced a strategic partnership for providing home loan products to over 4.50 crore customers of India Post Payments Bank.

Through its robust and extensive network of 650 branches and more than 1.36 lakh banking access points, India Post Payments Bank, IPPB will make home loan products accessible to its customers.

## **17. South Indian Bank launches SIB-OneCard credit card**

The Kerala-based lender South Indian Bank, in association with OneCard, launched the SIB ' OneCard Credit Card.

The premium metal card, the SIB ' OneCard has a unique app-based onboarding process, which is in line with the bank's vision of digital transformation. The internationally valid credit card on the Visa Signature platform can be controlled through the OneCard App.

## **18. UCO Bank out of RBI's PCA watchlist**

The Reserve Bank removed UCO Bank from its Prompt Corrective Action Framework (PCAF) following improvement in various parameters and a written commitment that the state-owned lender will comply with the minimum capital norms.



This bank has been in the PCA list since May 2017 & had been barred from increasing risk-weighted assets due to high NPA ratios. UCO Headquarters: Kolkata; CEO: Atul Kumar Goel

### **19. RBI selects eight entities for second cohort of regulatory sandbox on cross-border payments**

RBI had received 27 applications from 26 entities, of which, only eight have been selected.

The eight entities are as follows -

1. Book My Forex Private Limited
2. Cashfree Payments India
3. Fariex Solutions
4. Flyremit Private Limited
5. Nearby Technologies Private Limited
6. Open Financial Technologies
7. SoCash India Private Limited
8. Wall Street Finance Limited

### **20. RBI announces third cohort under regulatory sandbox with 'MSME lending' as theme**

The first cohort for regulatory sandbox was under the theme of retail payments.

In its second cohort under regulatory sandbox the RBI had announced 'Cross-border Payments' as its theme.

The Regulatory sandbox allows the regulator, innovators, financial service providers and customers to conduct field tests to collect evidence on the benefits and risks of new financial.

### **21. Bank of India ties-up with MAS Financial Services for co-lending**

BOI has entered into a co-lending arrangement with MAS Financial Services for MSME loans.

The tie-up comes on the occasion of the bank's 116th Foundation Day ('Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav').

Co-lending was introduced by the RBI to increase the credit flow to the unserved & underserved sector by utilising nimble-footed NBFC coverage to the informal sector.

### **22. RBI develops escalation matrix for redressal of complaints of SGB investors**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has drawn up an escalation matrix for redressal of customer complaints of investors of Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB).

The nodal officer of the Receiving Office will be the first point of contact for attending to the queries/complaints.

SGBs are government securities denominated in grams of gold. They are substitutes for holding physical gold. The bond is issued by RBI on behalf of the Union government.

### **23. Paytm Payments Bank launches India's first FASTag-based metro parking facility**

Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) has enabled the country's first FASTag-based metro parking facility in partnership with Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC).

As an acquiring bank for the parking facility at the Kashmere Gate metro station, PPBL will facilitate the processing of all FASTag based transactions for cars having a valid FASTag sticker]

### **24. RBI imposes monetary penalty on Jila Sahakari Kendriya Bank**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 1 lakh on Jila Sahakari Kendriya Bank Maryadit of Madhya Pradesh for violation of directions issued by the central bank on Know Your Customer (KYC). This action is based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction of the bank.

### **25. Reserve Bank penalises Spice Money, Kuppam Co-op Town Bank**

The Reserve Bank has imposed a penalty of Rs. 2.44 lakh on Spice Money Limited for contravention of certain norms. Spice Money is one of the largest Rural Fintech Companies in India.

The RBI also imposed a fine of Rs 5 lakh on The Kuppam Co-operative Town Bank, Kuppam, Chittoor district (Andhra Pradesh) for deficiencies in regulatory compliance.

### **26. Govt announces guarantee of up to Rs 30,600 crore to back Security Receipts to be issued by NARCL**

The '30,600 crore government guarantee for security receipts issued by the National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited, NARCL as part of resolution of bad loans will be valid for a period of 5 years. The NARCL will purchase bad loans from banks under a 15:85 structure, where it will pay up to 15% of the net asset value in cash and issue Security Receipts for the rest.

## **27. Simplified Procedure for confirmation of Bank Guarantees of Foreign Banks in Capital Acquisitions under DAP- 2020**

The Acquisition wing of Ministry of Defence has promulgated a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to facilitate clarity in procedure to be followed by the Buyer in respect of Bank Guarantees (BGs) submitted by the bidders from international banks. This will facilitate timely conclusion of contracts in procurement cases involving BGs from foreign banks.

## **28. HDFC Bank partners with Paytm to launch co-branded credit cards**

HDFC Bank and Paytm announced a plan to launch a range of credit cards powered by VISA. The partnership aims to provide a range of offerings across customer segments, with special focus on millennials, business owners and merchants. This is the first co-branded credit card launch after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) lifted a ban on the bank on new credit card launches

## **29. BPCL, SBI Card launch co-branded RuPay contactless credit card**

Fuel retailer BPCL and SBI Card announced the launch of a co-branded RuPay contactless credit card, offering fuel and other benefits. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and SBI Card have joined hands to launch the 'BPCL SBI Card co-branded RuPay Contactless Credit Card'.

The card will provide rewarding fuel savings and other benefits to the customers. This will offer 13X reward points on every Rs.100 spent on fuel purchases at BPCL pumps.

## **30. RBI issues master circular on transfer of NPAs, securitisation of standard assets**

It has made it mandatory for lenders to put in place a comprehensive board-approved policy for transfer and acquisition of loan exposures under these guidelines.

As per the Master Circular, loan transfers should result in transfer of economic interest without being accompanied by any change in underlying terms and conditions of the loan contract usually.

## **31. RBI imposes '11-lakh penalty on The Jammu & Kashmir State Co-operative Bank**


The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) fined the Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) State Co-operative Bank, Srinagar with an Rs 11 lakh penalty for inadequacy in regulatory adherence.

According to the report, contravention of section 23 read with section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 as the J&K State Co-operative Bank had opened branches without getting a prior nod from RBI.

## **32. RBI slaps Rs 2 cr penalty on RBL Bank for deficiencies in regulatory compliance**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a penalty of Rs 2 crore on RBL Bank for non-compliance with provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.


RBI said the penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in it under the provisions of section 47 A (1) (c) read with section 46 (4) (i) of the Act.



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## Economy

### 1. Flipkart Unveils D2C Initiative 'Flipkart Boost' To Support Made In India Brands

Flipkart, India's leading e-commerce platform, has unveiled the introduction of 'Flipkart Boost,' an integrated initiative designed to help new era digital-first consumer companies to expand their growth to the next level.

Flipkart Boost would develop Made in India brands with end-to-end support, including planning, advertising, cataloguing, logistics, quality control, etc.

### 2. Ford Stops Making Cars In India, The Third U.S. Vehicle Maker To Exit

Ford Motor Company announced that it would stop producing cars in India as the global auto industry continues to grapple with a shortfall in semiconductors and other components due to supply chain disruptions.

Other US companies stopped operation in India are Ford's American rival General Motors (GM) and the American motorcycle company Harley-Davidson. Ford Motor Company: headquarters in Dearborn, Michigan, a suburb of Detroit.

### 3. The GST Council's 45th meeting was held in Lucknow under the chairmanship of the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

The Council decides to set up 2 GoMs to examine issue of correction of inverted duty structure for major sectors and for using technology to further improve compliance, including monitoring. Council also recommends major changes in GST rates and scope of exemption on Services and also Recommends several clarifications in relation to GST rates on Goods and Services.

Zolgensma and Viltepso used in treatment of Spinal-Muscular Atrophy exempted from GST.

### 4. RBI to conduct open market purchase of Government Securities under G-SAP 2.0

Reserve Bank of India will conduct open market purchase of Government Securities under the G-Sec Acquisition Programme (G-SAP 2.0) for Rs15000 crore. RBI will also sale Government Securities under Open Market Operations (OMO) for Rs15000 crore. RBI has asked eligible participants to submit their bids/offers in electronic format on E-Kuber system. e-Kuber is the Core Banking Solution of Reserve Bank of India.

### 5. Exports of software services up 2.1% to \$148.3 billion in 2020-21: RBI survey

RBI released data related to the 2020-21 round of its annual survey on exports of computer software and information technology enabled services. Computer services and ITES accounted for 65.3 percent and 34.7 percent, respectively, of the total software services exports. BPO services were the dominant component of exports of IT enabled services (ITES).

### 6. India attracts FDI inflow of 27.37 billion dollar during first four months of this financial year

India has attracted FDI inflow of \$27.37 billion which is 62% higher as compared to last year. FDI equity inflow grew by 112% in the first 4 months of this financial year compared to same period last year. Automobile Industry emerged as top sector with 23% share of the total FDI Equity inflow followed by Computer Software & Hardware with 18% and Services Sector 10%

### 7. Piyush Goyal launches National Single Window System for investors, businesses

Commerce and Industry Minister launched National Single Window System for businesses. The portal presently hosts approvals across 18 central departments & 9 states. NSWS would usher in Azadi from legacy of running to Govt. offices, i.e. Ease of doing business & Ease of living Azadi from paperwork, duplication & information asymmetry Azadi from Windows within Window.

### 8. Crypto Industry Could Add \$184B of Economic Value to India by 2030: NASSCOM

The 'CryptoTech' industry 'companies involved in trading, payments, remittances, retail and more' is expected to reach a size of \$241 million in India by 2030, and \$2.3 billion globally by 2026.

The report, entitled 'Crypto Industry in India,' was published by the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) in conjunction with WazirX. National Association of Software & Service Companies President: R. Chandrasekhar; HQ: Delhi

### 9. Govt to borrow Rs 5.03 lakh crore in second half of FY22 to fund revenue gap

The government will borrow Rs 5.03 lakh crore in the second half of the current fiscal to fund the revenue gap for reviving the pandemic-hit economy.

During the first half (April-September), the government has raised Rs 7.02 lakh crore by issuing bonds. Out of gross market borrowing of Rs 12.05 lakh crore projected for FY 2021-22 in the Union Budget..



## National

### **1. Union Ministry of Information (MIB) and Broadcasting provides official recognition to the self-regulatory body of NBF**

Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has officially recognised the News Broadcasters Federation (NBF)'s self-regulatory body. Getting an official status from the MIB, make NBF the only institution of its sort in the country to get accreditation from the Government of India. NBF's Professional News Broadcasters Standards Authority (PNBSA) is recognized by GOI. Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting: Anurag Thakur.

### **2. Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan to address 61st Foundation Day of NCERT**

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan addressed the 61st Foundation Day of National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).

On the 61st foundation day of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said the New Education Policy-2020 will turn India into a global knowledge superpower.

### **3. Women and Child Development Minister inaugurates NUTRI GARDEN at All India Institute of Ayurveda**

The Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Zubin Irani inaugurated NUTRI GARDEN to mark the beginning of Poshan Maah ' 2021 at All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA).

Plantation of Shigru (Sahijan) and Amla saplings were also carried out.

AIIA, New Delhi under the direction of the Ministry of Ayush initiated the celebration of Poshan Maah - 2021.

### **4. PM releases a special commemorative coin on the occasion of 125th Birth Anniversary of Srila Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada Ji**

PM Narendra Modi released a special commemorative coin on the occasion of the 125th Birth Anniversary of Srila Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada Ji.

This was a happy coincidence of Janmashtami day before and the 125th birth anniversary of Srila Prabhupada ji.

The PM noted that the occasion is taking place amidst the celebration of Azadi ka Amrit mahotsav.

### **5. Election Commission of India organizes two-day SVEEP Consultation Workshop**

The Election Commission of India organized a two-day SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) Consultation Workshop.

The agenda of the workshop was to review State SVEEP Plans & conduct extensive deliberations on the important aspects of SVEEP for a comprehensive strategy for the forthcoming elections.

### **6. PM Modi Inaugurates Renovated Jallianwala Bagh Smarak in Amritsar**

PM Modi inaugurated the renovated Jallianwala Bagh Smarak complex displaying 'the horrific massacre of April 1919' in Amritsar.

Jallianwala Bagh is the place which gave courage to countless revolutionaries, sacrificers, fighters like Sardar Udham Singh, Sardar Bhagat Singh to die for the freedom of India.

Those time of April 13,1919, became the saga of our freedom struggle.

### **7. India Launches Its First QSim Toolkit, A Collaborative Initiative Of IIT Roorkee, IISc Bangalore, And C-DAC**

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has launched the country's first 'Quantum Computer Simulator (QSim) Toolkit'.

Quantum Computing is a rapidly emerging computational paradigm which can perform a variety of tasks with greater speed and efficiency than present day digital computers by harnessing the power of Quantum Mechanics. QSim is a first-of-its-kind toolkit to be indigenously developed

### **8. India adds 557 new species to its fauna: Zoological Survey of India**

India has added 557 new species to its fauna, which includes 407 new species and 150 new records, reveals Animal Discoveries 2020, a document published recently by the Zoological Survey of India.

The number of faunal species in India has climbed to 1,02,718 species with the discovery of the new species. India is the world's 8th highest 'mega biodiverse' country.



### **9. Skylo partners BSNL to launch mobile communications solution for fisheries ecosystem**

Satellite narrowband Internet of Things (NB-IoT) solution Skylo launched 'Fish Catch Report' for the fishermen community to help initiate the selling process even before they dock boats on the shore. The Fish Catch Report is a mobile communications solution and leverages the Skylo network, offered in partnership with the state-run BSNL and Britain's Inmarsat to provide safety.

### **10. Centre sets up panel to develop technological platform for streamlining revenue litigation**

The Centre has constituted a committee headed by Ashish Shiradhonkar, who is heading the e-courts project in National Informatics Centre, to develop a technological platform streamlining the appeal filing process related to direct and indirect taxation matters.

The Supreme Court said Ashish is the backbone of the e-court project and will streamline the Centre's litigation.

### **11. First consignment of Ladakh Apricot exported to Dubai**

The first commercial shipment of Apricot sourced from the Union Territory of Ladakh has been exported to Dubai.

The consignment of Apricot was transshipped from Leh, Ladakh to Mumbai prior to being exported to Dubai.

APEDA has been working to establish an export value chain for Ladakh Apricot in association with an importer Group based in Dubai.

### **12. India to host conference on International Climate Summit 2020-21**

India is going to host a very important conference on the International Climate Summit 2020-21.

Director of CSIR, National Chemical Laboratory, Dr. Ashish Lele has underlined the importance of the conference for the future mitigation strategies of climate change.

The need to adopt these strategies and the problems arose due to dependence on conventional fuels.

### **13. Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) celebrates its 38th Foundation Day on September 3**

C-DOT organized the international technical conference in virtual mode as part of GB Meemamsi Lecture Series 2021. The technical conference was inaugurated by Shri Anshu Prakash, Chairman, Digital Communications Commission & Secretary (Telecom). The event also witnessed the launch of C-DOT's Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) lab. C-DOT is the premier Telecom R&D Centre of the Department of Telecommunications.

### **14. Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Celebration: Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal launches 'AYUSH AAPKE DWAR' campaign from Mumbai**

He launched the campaign from Mumbai by distributing medicinal plant saplings to citizens. This was as part of the National campaign which was launched by AYUSH Ministry.

### **15. Railways float tender for 58 new Vande Bharat trains, aims to deliver 102 trains by 2024**

The Indian Railways has floated a tender for the production of 58 new Vande Bharat trains and aims to deliver 75 trains by next year.

These trains will be manufactured in Integral Coach Factory, Chennai, Modern Coach Factory, Rae Bareilly and Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala.

PM Modi flagged off the maiden run of a Vande Bharata train on the New Delhi-Varanasi route in 2019.

### **16. Hindustan Petroleum Corp launches branded store 'Happy Shop'**

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd, India's third largest fuel retailer, unveiled its branded store 'Happy Shop', marking its foray into the non-fuel retailing business.

Non-fuel retail services such as convenience stores are an integral component in the revenue makeup of fuel retail companies globally but in the Indian market it is a relatively new format.

### **17. IREDA to Support TANGEDCO in Green Energy projects; MoU Signed**

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) signed a MoU with the Tamil Nadu Generation & Distribution Corporation Limited (TANGEDCO), for providing its technical expertise in developing Renewable Energy projects and fundraising.

Under the MoU, IREDA will extend its technical expertise to TANGEDCO for Renewable energy project development.

### **18. CBDT amends Income-tax Rules to ease authentication of electronic records submitted in faceless assessment proceedings**

Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has amended the Income-tax Rules to ease authentication of electronic records submitted in faceless assessment proceedings.

Electronic records submitted through a registered account of the taxpayers in the Income-tax portal shall be deemed to have been authenticated by the taxpayer by electronic verification code.

### **19. NITI Aayog and Gujarat University Sign SoI to Promote Cooperation in Agriculture**

A Statement of Intent (SoI) was signed between NITI Aayog and Gujarat University.

An MBA programme in agri-preneurship and value chain management was also launched during the event.

The SoI focuses on technical collaboration between the two institutions to strengthen knowledge-sharing and policy development in India.

The objective is to encourage cooperation in agriculture.

### **20. MGNREGA Entitlement Awareness Week conducted nationally as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**

As part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, States/UTs conducted Entitlement Awareness Week to make workers aware about their rights and entitlements under the MGNREG Act.

The week was observed between 27th August to 2nd September 2021.

MGNREGA provides a number of legal entitlements to the job seekers through a series of provisions in the Act. MGNREGA : Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act

### **21. CIFT Develops Technology to Convert Fish Waste into Aqua Feed**

Authorities will no longer be concerned about the disposal of fisheries waste in harbors as the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology(CIFT) has built a new tech to overcome the threat of fisheries waste being turned into fish feeds while providing feasible income opportunities.

The technology developed by ICAR-CIFT will aid in the conversion of fish waste into aqua feed Matsyafed has signed an MoU with CIFT to take the new tech for production and marketing.

### **22. Habibganj Railway Station gets 5 star GEM Rating**

Habibganj Railway Station has been awarded with GEM 5 rating in GEM Sustainability Certification for Green, sustainable design and eco-friendly project by ASSOCHAM.

GEM 5 is the highest achievable rating level.

ASSOCHAM's GEM Sustainability Certification Rating Program aims to promote environment friendly green building design and construction. Habibganj Railway Station is in Bhopal, MadhyaPradesh & part of the West Central Railway.

### **23. PM Modi launches key initiatives in education sector on 'Shikshak Parv'**

PM launched the Indian Sign Language Dictionary, Talking Books (audio books for the visually impaired), School Quality Assurance & Assessment Framework of CBSE, NISHTHA teachers' training programme for NIPUN Bharat and Vidyanjali portal (for facilitating education volunteers, donors and CSR contributors for school development). Theme of ShikshakParv 2021- Quality &Sustainable Schools: Learnings from Schools in India

### **24. Centre to give \$3.5 bn in incentives under revised clean tech scheme for automakers**

India will give about \$3.5 billion in incentives to auto companies over a five-year period under a revised scheme to boost the manufacturing and export of clean technology vehicles.

The government's original plan was to give about \$8 billion to automakers and part manufacturers to promote mainly gasoline technology, with added benefits for electric vehicles (EVs).

### **25. Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) to launch India's first luxury cruise liner.**

IRCTC has joined hands and signed the agreement with Cordelia Cruises being operated by M/s Waterways Leisure Tourism Pvt Ltd for promotion and marketing of the first indigenous luxury cruise in India.

This is another incredible luxury travel offering under IRCTC's umbrella of tourism services to the public. Cordelia Cruises is India's premium cruise liner.

### **26. L&T builds 1,100-tonne full span launching equipment for high-speed railway project**

The 40-m long girders weighing 975 tonnes will be the heaviest PSC box girders to be precast and erected in India's construction industry.

To encourage the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan initiative, a full span launching equipment of 1,100 tonne capacity was indigenously designed by L&T for a high-speed rail project. Ashwini Vaishnaw: Union Minister for Railways, Communications & Electronics & Information

#### **27. Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy launches program 'Bujurgon ki Baat-Desh Ke Saath'**

The programme aims at enhancing the interaction between the youth and the elder persons who are 95 years and above and have spent around 18 years in India before independence.

This is a unique programme where the Country's youth will spend time and interact with the older generation.

#### **28. Government sets up board for advance rulings in income tax matters**

Union government proposes to revamp the advance ruling mechanism under the GST by setting up a centralised authority to address the issue of contradictory orders passed by the Authority for Advance Rulings (AAR) in different states.

The plan is to replace the AARs with a BAR (Board for Advance Ruling) located at the central level with operational centres in Delhi & Mumbai.

#### **29. India's first pilot plant to convert high ash coal to methanol to accelerate India's journey towards clean technology**

India has developed an indigenous technology to convert high ash Indian coal to methanol and established its first pilot plant in Hyderabad. This technology will help the country move towards the adoption of clean technology and promote the use of methanol as a transportation fuel (blending with petrol), thus reducing crude oil imports. The project is initiated by NITI Aayog and DST under Clean Energy Research Initiative.

#### **30. India's first indigenous luxury cruise liner launched by The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)**

IRCTC has joined hands and signed the agreement with Cordelia Cruises being operated by M/s Waterways Leisure Tourism Pvt. Ltd for promotion and marketing of the first indigenous luxury cruise in India. This is another incredible luxury travel offering under IRCTC's umbrella of tourism services to the public. The IRCTC cruise liner, is travelling to tourist spots like Goa, Diu, Lakshadweep etc.

#### **31. Wipro launches co-innovation space with Google Cloud in Bengaluru**

IT services major Wipro announced the launch of the Wipro-Google Cloud Innovation Arena in Bengaluru to accelerate adoption of cloud services.

This cloud collaboration space will provide in-house technical expertise, ensure seamless cloud adoption, and accelerate innovation to drive business transformation for customers.

#### **32. Civil aviation ministry announces new MRO policy to attract investments**

To attract more investments, the civil aviation ministry has announced a new policy for Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) services that includes leasing of land through open tenders and abolishing royalty charged by the AAI.

Besides, land allotment for entities setting up MRO facilities will be done for 30 years instead of the current short term period of 3 to 5 years. Jyotiraditya Scindia is the Union Minister of Civil Aviation.

#### **33. Justice AIS Cheema to be reinstated as NCLAT acting chairman**

The Centre has informed the Supreme Court that former acting chairperson of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) Justice AIS Cheema will be reinstated and allowed to continue in office till September 20.

The newly appointed NCLAT chairperson Justice M Venugopal will be asked to go on leave until then, informed Attorney General KK Venugopal to the top court. NCLAT is also the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against IBBI.

#### **34. Ministry of Defence constitutes high-power committee to revamp NCC**

The committee, which will function under the chairmanship of Bajajant Panda, will suggest measures to empower NCC cadets to contribute more effectively towards nation-building and national developmental efforts in various sectors. The Committee will propose ways for gainful engagement of NCC alumni for betterment of the organisation. It is a 15 member expert committee. Former Indian cricket team captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni is a member of the committee.

#### **35. Google introduces accelerator programme for digital news startups in India**

Google has announced a new Google News Initiative (GNI) Startups Lab programme for aspiring news entrepreneurs from across India.

GNI Startups Lab is a four-month program to help independent local or single-subject journalism organisations find a pathway to financial and operational sustainability through intensive coaching, skills training and other support. The program is created in partnership with the global innovation lab Echos and DIGIPUB.

### **36. PAN-Aadhaar linking deadline extended to March 2022**

PAN-Aadhaar linking deadline has yet again been extended by the Central Government. The deadline to link PAN with Aadhaar has been extended by six months to March 31, 2022 from the current deadline of Sept 30, 2021. There are 2 ways in which you can link your PAN with your Aadhaar card. One way is to do it via SMS & the other is to do it through the Income-Tax dept. portal. The government has already extended the deadline thrice due to Covid-19.

### **37. Dwarf containers train flagged off, to reduce logistics cost**

Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways flagged-off dwarf container train from Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT). With this, 1st consignment of laden dwarf containers from port was moved by train to ICD Kanpur. Introduction of dwarf containers train will help in reducing logistics cost. Dwarf containers can carry weight of 71 tons against 40 tons by ISO container.

'Dwarf Containers' are shorter in height than normal ISO containers by 660 mm, but 162 mm

### **38. World's highest electric vehicle charging station at 500 ft inaugurated in Himachal Pradesh.**

In a bid to promote a sustainable environment, the world's highest electric vehicle charging station was inaugurated in Kaza of Lahaul and Spiti district in Himachal Pradesh.

### **39. Chennai's MGR Railway Station is now fully powered by solar energy**

Puratchi Thalaivar Dr.M.G.Ramachandran Central (Chennai Central) railway station has installed solar panels with power capacity of 1.5MW, meeting all the day time power requirements of station.

Union Railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw

### **40. I&B Minister Anurag Singh Thakur Launches India's Highest Altitude TV, Radio Transmitters In Ladakh**

Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Anurag Singh Thakur launched the high power transmitters of Doordarshan and All India Radio at Hamboting La near Kargil in Ladakh.

The 10 kilowatt (KW) transmitters are the highest altitude TV and Radio transmitters in the country, located at the height of 4054 metre (about 13,300 ft) above the mean sea level.

### **41. Digital airspace map for drone operations released, demarcates zones for flying**

Ministry of Civil Aviation has released an interactive digital airspace map for flying drone. The map demarcates green, yellow and red zones across the country for the purpose of drones operations.

Green zone consists of the airspace up to 400 feet. In green zones, no permission whatsoever is required for operating drones with an all-up weight upto 500 kg.

The map is available on DGCA's digital sky platform: <https://digitalsky.dgca.gov.in/home>

### **3. NITI Aayog Launches Report on Reforms in Urban Planning Capacity in India**

Report on measures to ramp up urban planning capacity in India, titled 'Reforms in Urban Planning Capacity in India', was released by NITI Aayog. According to the report, India is home to 11% of the total global urban population. By 2027, India will surpass China as the most populous country in the world. Unplanned urbanization, however, exerts great strain on our cities.



## International

### 1. Dubai is now home to the largest and tallest observation wheel in the world

The tallest observation wheel is going to be inaugurated on October 21 in the city of Dubai in UAE. The latest attraction is twice the height of the London Eye. Called Ain Dubai, it will take visitors up to 250 m to see the incredible skyline of Dubai.

Ain Dubai is located at Bluewaters Island.

One rotation of the wheel is about 38 minutes, & two rotations take 76 minutes.

### 2. BRICS bank NDB admits UAE, Uruguay, Bangladesh as new members

The New Development Bank (NDB) established by the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) countries in 2015 has approved Bangladesh as its new member.

The NDB Board of Governors initiated the negotiation to expand its membership in 2020.

It has now approved the United Arab Emirates, Uruguay and Bangladesh as its first new member countries.

### 3. WhatsApp faces \$267 million GDPR fine over privacy breaches

Facebook-owned WhatsApp has been fined a record 225 million euros (or \$267 million) by the Irish data privacy regulator for privacy breaches. The action came on the back of pressure from the European privacy watchdog for raising the penalty on the popular messaging platform. General Data Protection Regulation is a regulation on data protection and privacy in EU.

### 4. South Korea becomes world's first country to frame legislation that forces Apple, Google to allow third-party app store payments

The legislation forces both Apple and Google to change their policies for app marketplaces that currently reject payments systems from third parties. The bill will put a damper on proprietary billing systems that both companies have managed for their operating systems. Any third-party developer will be able to push its own payments system and both companies have to allow it South Korea President: Moon Jae-in, Capital: Seoul, Currency: South Korean Won.

### 5. Bangladesh I&B Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud inaugurates Bangabandhu Media Centre

Bangladesh Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud inaugurated the Bangabandhu Media Centre at the Press Club of India in New Delhi.

This initiative will strengthen the Indo-Bangladesh relationship.

Bilateral relations between both the countries have touched new heights under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

### 6. Over half the world's population, four billion, doesn't have any social security, says ILO

More than four billion people or 53% of the global population do not have any kind of social security despite the unprecedented worldwide expansion of social protection during the COVID-19 crisis, the International Labour Organization (ILO) said, suggesting countries should enhance their expenditure on social protection to guarantee at least basic social protection coverage

### 7. In world first, Cuba starts COVID-19 vaccine for toddlers

Cuba became the first country in the world to vaccinate children from the age of two against Covid-19, using home-grown jabs that are yet to be recognized by the World Health Organization.

Several other countries in the world are vaccinating children from the age of 12, and some are conducting trials on younger kids. Capital of Cuba: Havana; Currency: Peso; President: Miguel Diaz-Canel

### 8. El Salvador Becomes First Country to Adopt Bitcoin as National Currency

El Salvador's move to become the first country in the world to adopt bitcoin as legal tender got off to a bumpy start, as the government took its bitcoin e-wallet offline for several hours after tens of thousands of people tried to download the app, overloading servers.

The government is rolling out bitcoin ATMs, an e-wallet and stylish kiosks. San Salvador is the capital city of El Salvador

### 9. Justin Trudeau's Liberal Party narrowly wins Canada elections but falls short of majority

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberal Party has narrowly won parliamentary elections, but it failed to secure a majority. This is Mr Trudeau's third federal election win. The Liberals are projected to win 158 seats, short of the 170 seats needed for the majority Mr Trudeau was seeking with his early election call.

## 10. NEC iris recognition technology ranks first in NIST accuracy testing

NEC announced that its iris recognition technology ranked first in the world in the most recent iris recognition technology benchmark test, IREX 10, conducted by U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). In this benchmark test, the technology was evaluated with an accuracy rate of 99.59% for 1: N Identification for images including both eyes. NEC: Japanese multinational IT and electronic corporation, headquartered in Tokyo.

## 1. Preview Facebook unveils Horizon Workrooms for remote coworking in VR

Facebook is launching its open beta for Horizon Workrooms, a way for people to work together remotely in groups with Oculus Quest 2 virtual reality headsets or other ways of connecting.

Workers can use the avatar creation system (built for the Facebook Horizon virtual play platform) to create cartoon-like characters in 3D-animated work spaces.

## 11. China declares transactions involving cryptocurrencies illegal

China's central bank(the People's Bank of China )has intensified its clampdown on cryptocurrencies by making all transactions in the virtual assets illegal.

The price of bitcoin fell more than 8% immediately after the announcement.

## 12. Thousands flee as volcano erupts on Spain's La Palma Island; houses destroyed

A volcano eruption on La Palma in the Spanish Canary Islands has destroyed houses and forced about five thousand residents to evacuate. Lava from the Cumbre Vieja volcano has been pouring downhill since eruption, devastating everything in its path. La Palma is a volcanic island in Spain's Canary Islands archipelago off Africa's western



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## State/UTs

### 1. Meghalaya Enterprise Architecture Project launched by IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and CM Meghalaya Shri Conrad Sangma.

The MeghEA initiative is spread across 6 pillars i.e. Governance, Human Resources, Entrepreneurship, Primary Sector, Infrastructure and Environment, and envision to make Meghalaya a high income state by 2030. The project aims to improve service delivery and governance for the people using power of Digital technologies.

### 2. Sirarakhong Chilli & Tamenglong Orange of Manipur receive GI tag

Manipur Chief Minister, N. Biren Singh has announced that the famous Sirarakhong Chilli and Tamenglong Orange have now received the Geographical Index (GI) tag. He made the announcement while speaking at the inaugural function of the Van Dhan Vikas Kendra (VDVK) Mela, 2021, organised by the State Forest Department.

### 3. Nuakhai ' The harvest festival of western Odisha celebrated widely.

Nuakhai is the harvest festival of Western Odisha. 'Nua' means new, and 'Khahi' means to eat. The occasion marks the consumption of the first harvested crops and falls on the Bhadraba Shuklapakhyia Panchami tithi, which is the day following Ganesh Chaturthi. It is the most important festival in the region.






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## Sports

### 1. South Africa's Dale Steyn announces retirement from all forms of cricket

South African pacer Dale Steyn has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket. Since making his international debut in 2004, he played 93 Tests, 125 ODIs and 47 T20Is.

The right-arm pacer, who holds the record for the fastest bowler to 400 Test wickets (80 matches), bagged 439 wickets in the longest format, 196 wickets in the ODIs and 64 wickets in T20 international.

### 2. Tokyo Paralympics 2020:-India wins two medals in high jump, Singhraj Adana wins bronze in 10m air pistol final

# Thangavelu Mariyappan and Sharad Kumar won silver and bronze medals, respectively in the men's high jump - T63 final.

# Shooting: Singhraj Adana won bronze in 10m air pistol final and Rubina Francis came seventh in the women's 10m air pistol SH1 final.

# Bhagyashri Jadhav finished seventh with a personal best throw of 7m in the Women's Shot Put F34 final. # Archery: Rakesh Kumar lost 143-145 to Ai Xinliang of China

### 3. Tokyo Paralympics: Mariyappan, Sharad win silver and bronze respectively in men's high jump

Double delight for India, in the Men's High Jump T42 event at Tokyo Paralympics, Mariyappan Thangavelu won silver medal while Sharad Kumar clinched bronze.

With this, India's medal tally at the Paralympics touched an unprecedented 10.

Singhraj Adana won a bronze medal in the 10-metre Air Pistol SH1 shooting at the Asaka Shooting Range.

### 4. Tata Motors extends association with Wrestling Federation of India(WFI)

Following the Indian wrestlers' fine performance in the Tokyo Olympics, Tata Motors extended its 3-year-old association with the WFI with a 'quest for gold' in Paris 2024.

Holistic development of the wrestlers, providing assured and enhanced access to world-class training facilities, internationally-acclaimed coaches, support through nutritional programmes to young wrestler

### 5. Praveen Kumar wins silver medal in men's high jump T64 at Tokyo Paralympics

Praveen Kumar won silver in the men's high jump T64 event with a new Asian record jump of 2.07m.

India's medal tally now stands at 11 in this Paralympics. It has now won two golds, six silvers and three bronzes.

This is India's best tally at a single edition of the Para Games.

It had won four medals at Rio 2016 and four at the 1984 Paralympics. Britain's Jonathan Broom-Edwards won gold. Poland's Maciej Lepiato won bronze.

### 6. Tokyo Paralympics 2020: Shooter Manish Narwal wins Gold, Singhraj Adana wins silver

The 19-year-old Narwal shot a total of 218.2, a Paralympic record, to claim the gold medal.

Singhraj Adana bagged the silver in the P4 Mixed 50m Pistol SH1 event.

Adana had already won the bronze in the P1 men's 10m air pistol SH1 event in the 2020 paralympics.

### 7. Coca-Cola's brand Thums up partners with Jasprit Bumrah for campaign ahead of ICC T20 World Cup

The campaign's tag line Apni Pace Se, India Ka Game #PalatDe is continuation of the brand's recent #PalatDe and #TaanePalatDe marketing campaigns released for the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympic Games 2020. ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 is set to take place in the UAE and Oman.

### 8. Avani Lekhara leads Indian contingent at closing ceremony of Tokyo Paralympics

Indian shooter Avani Lekhara led India's contingent at the Closing Ceremony of Tokyo Paralympics as the flag-bearer.

The 19-year-old shooter won gold in Women's 10m Air Rifle standing SH1 and bronze medals in Women's 50m rifle 3 positions SH1 at the Paralympic Games 2020.

A total of 54 para-athletes from India across nine sports disciplines participated in the event.

### 9. 130th edition of Durand Cup, the oldest football tournament in Asia & the third oldest football tournament kicks off in Kolkata

The 130th edition of the Durand Cup kicked off at the Vivekananda Yubabharati Krirangan in Kolkata. West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee kicked the ball and inaugurated the tournament.



16 teams are playing in this edition of the oldest club football tournament in Asia while two clubs East Bengal and Mohun Bagan are not participating.

The final match will be held on 3rd October. Tournament began in 1888 under leadership of Sir Henry Durand.

#### **10. Tokyo Paralympics: Shuttlers Pramod Bhagat wins gold, Manoj Sarkar wins bronze in men's singles SL3 category**

At the Tokyo Paralympics, Indian shuttler Pramod Bhagat won the gold medal in the men's singles SL3 category while in the same event, Manoj Sarkar won a bronze medal for India.

Manish Narwal finished on top of the podium in the Mixed 50m Pistol SH1 final and Singhraj followed him at the second place for a silver medal.

#### **11. Krishna Nagar wins Gold medal in Badminton at Paralympics Games 2020**

Krishna Nagar won Gold medal in Badminton at the Paralympics Games in Tokyo.

The Indian contingent finished their campaign at the Paralympic Games at an all-time high by securing a total of 19 medals which includes 5 gold, 8 silver, and 6 bronze medals. Badminton and Taekwondo made their debut in Tokyo, both of which were represented by India.

#### **12. Cristiano Ronaldo sets world record, surpasses Iran's Ali Daei to become highest-ever international goalscorer**

Cristiano Ronaldo set the world record for most international goals, surpassing Iran's Ali Daei tally of 109 goals in international football.

The Portugal captain reached the mark during his side's World Cup Group A qualifying match against Ireland.

The 36-year-old has taken 180 matches to get to the tally of 110 goals.

Ali Daei had scored 109 goals in 149 appearances.

#### **13. MS Dhoni to mentor Indian team for the T20 World Cup**

BCCI announced that the former India captain MS Dhoni will mentor the team for the tournament, which will be played in UAE and Oman in October and November.

He announced his retirement from international limited-overs cricket on August 15, 2020.

He had last played for India in the 2019 ICC World Cup semi-final against New Zealand.

#### **14. Emma Raducanu clinches Women's Singles title; Joe Salisbury of Britain and Desirae Krawczyk win Mixed Doubles title**

Rising British sensation Emma Raducanu beat Leylah Fernandez of Canada to win Women's Singles title at US Open Tennis. The 18-year-old Emma Raducanu defeated her Canadian opponent in straight sets 6-4, 6-3 in the summit clash held at the Arthur Ashe Stadium in New York. She has become the first British woman to win the title in 53 years. Raducanu has also become the first British woman in 44 years to win a Grand Slam singles

#### **15. US Open : Daniil Medvedev stuns Novak Djokovic to win Maiden Grand Slam title**

Daniil Medvedev of Russia lifted his first Grand Slam trophy after beating Novak Djokovic 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 in the US Open men's singles final at the Arthur Ashe Stadium in New York.

The second seed Medvedev ended Djokovic's bid for a calendar slam and a 21st major by dominating from start to finish. Medvedev capped off a stellar US Open outing with a memorable win.

#### **16. Daniel Ricciardo won the F1 Italian Grand Prix 2021**

Australian Daniel Ricciardo won the Italian Grand Prix in a stunning McLaren one-two with Lando Norris at Monza, Italy.

One title rivals Max Verstappen and Lewis Hamilton took each other out of the race. The victory was McLaren's first since 2012 and Ricciardo's first since he was at Red Bull in 2018.

#### **17. Samantha Stosur, Zhang Shuai win US Open women's doubles title 2021**

Experience triumphed over youth as Australian Sam Stosur and Zhang Shuai of China beat Americans Coco Gauff and Caty McNally 6-3 3-6 6-3 in a tightly fought U.S. Open women's doubles 2021.

The duo, who also won together at the Australian Open in 2019.

#### **18. Former Tamil Nadu captain Sridharan Sharath appointed as BCCI junior selection committee chairman**

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has announced the Junior National Selection Committee and has appointed Sridharan Sharath as its chairman.

Former Tamil Nadu captain Sridharan Sharath is the first cricketer to play 100 Ranji Trophy matches for Tamil Nadu. He also played over 100 List A games scoring more than 3000 runs. He has also been BCCI match referee.

### 19. Pankaj Advani wins Asian Snooker Championship for second successive time

India's Pankaj Advani successfully defended the Asian Snooker Championship at the Al Messila, a luxury collection resort & spa, in Doha, Qatar last week by outplaying Amir Sarkhosh of Iran for 6-3. The 36-year-old triumphed in 2019 and came runner up in 2017. Pankaj also became the only player to win the titles in all forms of billiards, snooker, 6Reds, 10Reds competitions. Yasin Merchant, Alok Kumar, Aditya Mehta were the other Indian who won the championship.

### 20. Odisha to host the prestigious FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup 2021 in Bhubaneswar

After successfully hosting the 2018 Men's Hockey World Cup, the temple city of Bhubaneswar will stage the prestigious FIH Odisha Hockey Men's Junior World Cup Bhubaneswar 2021.

This marquee event in the international hockey calendar will be held from 24 November to 5 December 2021 and will feature 16 teams. Odisha will also host the 2023 FIH Men's Hockey World Cup in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela.

### 21. Jyothi Surekha Vennam collects an unprecedented third silver medal at the World archery championships

Jyothi, who earlier helped India bag silver medals in compound women's team and mixed team events, took another silver going down fighting in the women's individual final to top-ranked Colombian Sara Lopez 146-144. This was the Indian's sixth medal from the event.

Jyothi had won bronze medals in individual and women's team events in 2019 and a team silver in 2017.

### 22. Sania Mirza & Zhang Shuai Win Ostrava Open WTA Doubles Title

India's Sania Mirza and her Chinese partner Zhang Shuai won the women's doubles title in the women's doubles final at the Ostrava Open in Ostrava, Czech Republic, beating Kaitlyn Christian and Erin Routliffe in straight sets.

It was Sania's second final of the season, following a runner-up finish at the WTA 250 Cleveland event in the US last month with Chirstina Mchale.

### 23. Lewis Hamilton 1st F1 Driver To Reach 100 Wins With Victory At Russian Grand Prix

Lewis Hamilton won the Russian Grand Prix for his 100th Formula One Grand Prix success.

The 7th-time world champion reached the unprecedented century in his Mercedes after being stuck on 99 since the British Grand Prix.

He also took over the championship lead from Max Verstappen, who finished second.

- Carlos Sainz finished in the 3rd spot - Daniel Ricciardo (4th) & Valtteri Bottas (5th)




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## Agreements & MoUs

### **1. Department of Animal husbandry & Dairying (DAHD) & Department of Rural Development (DoRD) sign an MoU**

As part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahostav, Atul Chaturvedi, Secretary, Department of Animal husbandry and Dairying, and Department of Rural Development signed an MoU between DAHD and MoRD for Leveraging SHG platform for rural economic growth through convergence of DAHD, MoFAHD and National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), MoRD.

### **2. NMCG signs MoU with SAIARD for Capacity Building on Integrated River Basin Management**

National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) signed an MoU with South Asian Institute for Advanced Research and Development (SAIARD) to create an academic platform to engage young students as well as develop a research and capacity building hub to support regional development in the eastern region. Both NMCG and SAIARD will focus on geospatial technology in riverine ecosystems.

### **3. India, UK agree \$1.2 billion clean energy investment boost at Economic and Financial Dialogue**

New steps to tackle climate change and boost investment were announced at the 11th India-UK Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD) between FM Nirmala Sitharaman and UK Chancellor Rishi Sunak, driving forward the bilateral agenda of an Enhanced Trade Partnership.

They signed off a USD 1.2-billion package of public and private investment in green projects and renewable energy.

### **4. IIM-Ahmedabad to train senior officers of organisations under DAE**

IIMA will now train senior executives of organisations functioning under the Department Atomic Energy (DAE).

The IIMA signed a MoU with the Homi Bhabha National Institute (HBNI), which falls under the DAE.

As per the agreement, the IIMA will offer custom-designed 'Sarabhai Management Development Programme' for senior executives of DAE organisations.

### **5. APEDA signs MoU with ICAR-IIMR to boost millet exports**

The key focus of the MoU would be to promote commercial cultivation of processable varieties developed by ICAR-Indian Institute of Millet Research (ICAR-IIMR) for exports which are expected to promote value addition of millets, a cereal with high nutritive value. A joint coordination committee with representatives from APEDA and ICAR-IIMR would be set up.

ICAR- Indian Institute of Millets Research is in Hyderabad.

### **6. IIM Shillong joins hands with SHRM, Talentedge to deliver online course in human resource management**

The programme is designed to help students gain knowledge and application across the HR functions. The post graduate certificate in Human Resource Management will be a co-branded certificate from IIM Shillong and SHRM.

### **7. All India Institute of Ayurveda inks MoU with Western Sydney University to appoint Ayurveda Chair**

All India Institute of Ayurveda under Ministry of Ayush has signed a MoU in coordination with Western Sydney University Australia to appoint an Academic Chair in Ayurveda.

The new Academic Chair will undertake academic and collaborative research activities in Ayurveda.

It includes herbal medicine and yoga as well as design academic standards.

### **8. Gujarat govt signs MoU with Amazon India to boost export of MSME sector**

Gujarat Government has signed a MoU with Amazon India to boost the export of MSME sector.

The agreement would help the state's Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector to reach the global market.

It will open up the link with the MSME sector in the state with Amazon's digital market operational in 17 countries like USA, Canada, Brazil, France, Germany, UK, etc.

### **9. Coal India Ltd signs MoU with Dept of Sports for betterment of sports infrastructure**

Coal India Limited has signed an MoU with the Department of Sports in New Delhi for betterment of sports infrastructure in the country.

Under the MoU, Coal India Ltd, under its Corporate Social Responsibility program will contribute 75 crore rupees towards the National Sports Development Fund.

The fund will be used for construction of 3 large hostels meant for sports person

#### **10. HDFC Bank signs pact with NSIC to provide credit support to MSMEs**

HDFC Bank has signed a pact with the National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) for providing credit support to the micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) sector.

Under this, the country's largest private sector bank will also provide MSMEs with a set of specially-tailored schemes to enhance their competitiveness.

HDFC Bank headquartered in Mumbai; CEO: Sashidhar Jagdishan

#### **11. India, ADB sign \$112 million loan to improve water supply infrastructure in Jharkhand**

The Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed a \$112 million loan to develop water supply infrastructure and strengthen capacities of urban local bodies (ULBs) for improved service delivery in four towns in the state of Jharkhand.

The project will be ADB's first urban project in the state and help establish a model for continuous water supply.

#### **12. Asian Development Bank has approved a \$150 million loan for a sustainable housing project for the urban poor in Tamil Nadu**

Multilateral funding agency Asian Development Bank has approved a \$150 million (about '1,095 crore) loan for a sustainable housing project for the urban poor in Tamil Nadu. The loan to provide access to inclusive, resilient, and sustainable housing for the urban poor in Tamil Nadu. The headquarters of ADB is in Manila, Philippines.

#### **13. Central Government and ADB signs \$300 million loan to scale up improvement of rural connectivity in Maharashtra**

The central government and the Asian Development Bank signed a \$300 million loan as additional financing to scale up improvement of rural connectivity to help boost rural economy in Maharashtra. The additional financing for the ongoing Maharashtra Rural Connectivity Improvement Project will help improve an additional 1,100 rural roads and bridges in 34 districts. Shri Bhagat Singh Koshyari is the Governor of Maharashtra.

#### **14. Rail Vikas Nigam inks MoU with NHAI for construction of Multi-Modal Logistics Parks under Bharatmala Pariyojana**

Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) represented by the National Highways Logistics Management Limited (NHLML).

The MoU has been signed to develop Multi-Modal Logistics Parks (MMLPs) across the country under the Bharatmala Pariyojana programme.

#### **15. UNDP, HDFC and Greater Noida Authority ink pact to set up dry waste management facility**

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), HDFC Bank and the Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority (GNIDA) on inked a pact to set up a facility to manage up to 300 metric tonnes of dry waste in the city every month.

The material recovery facility (MRF) in Greater Noida will come up at a cost of Rs 3 crore and will be funded by the HDFC bank.

#### **16. Agriculture Ministry signs MoU with Cisco, Jio, ITC, NeML and Ninjacart to build farmers' database**

Modernisation of the Agriculture sector will continue by infusing new technologies so that farmers can increase their income. Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar stated this at the MOU signing ceremony at KrishiBhavan. MOUs were signed for pilot projects with CISCO, Ninjacart, Jio Platforms Limited, ITC Limited and NCDEX e-Markets Limited (NeML).

#### **17. TRIFED signs MoU with IIT-Delhi and M/s Rusicaa Beverages to commercialize Mahua Nutra Beverage in the State of Jharkhand**

TRIFED has entered into a collaborative project with Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FIIT), a unit established by IIT Delhi and M/s Rusicaa Beverages Private Ltd, Jharkhand to commercialize the production of Mahua Nutra beverage 'A Heritage Drink in the State of Jharkhand. Mahua beverage is a value added product made out of Mahua flower. TRIFED, as the nodal agency is working for the empowerment of tribals in India.



### **18. Prasar Bharati & Sansad TV ink MoU for uplink of 'Sansad TV' in HDTV format**

The teleport facility of Sansad TV is presently capable of uplinking only one channel in SDTV. Prasar Bharati will also carry Sansad TV-SD in its DD Free Dish form. It has now been decided to merge Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TV channels and rechristen the merged entity as 'Sansad TV', which will be telecast in both HDTV and SDTV formats as Sansad TV-HD and Sansad TV-SD. Ravi Kapoor - Chief Executive Officer, SANSAD TV.

### **19. Niti Aayog in tie-up with ISRO, CBSE launch 'Space Challenge' for school students**

Niti Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission in collaboration with ISRO and CBSE has launched 'Space Challenge' for school students across India. This challenge has been designed for all the school students, mentors and teachers across the country who not only are associated with schools having Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) labs but for all the non-ATL schools as well. The Challenge aligns with the World Space Week 2021 which is observed from Oct 4-10.

### **20. Microsoft, OYO team up to digitally transform the travel industry**

Microsoft and OYO have announced a multi-year strategic partnership to co-develop next-gen travel and hospitality products and technologies.

The duo plan to develop solutions using Microsoft's cloud and AI capabilities that will be geared to benefit clients who operate small and medium hotel and home storefronts across the world. OYO will develop Smart Room Experience for travellers in its platform.

### **21. TCS signs 10-year deal with Transport for London to digitally transform taxi, private cab services**

Global IT services, consulting and business solutions organisation, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has been selected by Transport for London (TfL) to design, implement and operate a new smart mobility system that will re-imagine the administration of taxi and private hire vehicles in London. Over the 10-year contract it has the opportunity for a five-year extension TCS will launch the system using its DigiGOV framework for rapid digital transformation.

### **22. India, Italy sign MoU on disaster management**

The Union Cabinet has approved the MoU between India and Italy on cooperation in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management. The MoU was signed in June this year between the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) (India) and the Department of Civil Protection (Italy) on Cooperation in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management.

### **23. Infosys wins five-year deal with US-based Frost Bank**

Infosys Ltd has bagged a five-year deal from Texas-based Frost Bank to provide strategic business consulting and digital capabilities that will enable the latter to offer mortgage loans along with its other consumer loan products. Infosys and Frost Bank will work together to create a human-centric, digital-first approach to customer mortgage loans.

Salil Parekh is the CEO of Infosys

### **24. Dassault Systèmes' partners with NITI Aayog to promote start-ups**

Dassault Systèmes has signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) with NITI Aayog's initiative, Atal Innovation Mission to support current and future initiatives of AIM programs and beneficiaries in India. The AIM beneficiaries are Atal Tinkering Labs, AIM incubators, Atal Community Innovation Centres, grantees under Atal New India Challenge and ARISE. The SoI allows 3DEXPERIENCE Lab start-up acceleration program to selected AIM Start-ups.

### **25. Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying signs MoU with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to support India's livestock sector**

Government of India and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation have signed a multi-year MoU to work together on sustainably improving India's livestock sector to support the nation's food and nutritional security, and protect the economic wellbeing of small-scale livestock producers. The event was organized as a part of ongoing celebrations of 'AzadiKaAmritMahotsav'.

### **26. Indian Oil Corporation collaborates with Automation Anywhere to accelerate automation**

Automation Anywhere, a global leader in Robotic Process Automation (RPA) announced a collaboration with Indian Oil Corporation Limited, the first oil marketing company in India to speed and scale automation to drive increased innovation across its 30,000 employee organization. IOCL has automated select key processes across departments including finance, HR, inventory, etc.

## **27. India Post Payments Bank ties up with Tata AIG and Bajaj Allianz for Non-Life Insurance Products**

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) announced a strategic alliance with Tata AIG General Insurance Co. Ltd. for distribution of non-life insurance products across the country.

As part of the alliance, IPPB will strive to make available affordable insurance products through its robust network of 650 branches and over 136,000 banking access points to citizens at large. INDIA POST PAYMENTS BANK LIMITED, a public limited company wholly owned by the GOI

## **28. ARAI signs MoU with Bharat Electronics Limited to manufacture indigenous chargers for electric vehicles**

The Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) has indigenously developed charger for electric vehicles considering the need to boost the charging mechanism of electric vehicles in the country.

ARAI has developed an indigenous technology for EV charger AC001, which has been taken up for manufacturing and promotion by Bharat Electronics. ARAI is co-operative industrial research association; Headquarters: Pune, Maharashtra,

## **29. WFP, ICRISAT to partner on climate-resilient food security, nutrition, livelihood**

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) will partner on programmes and research to improve food, nutrition security, and livelihoods in India.

This is a strategic partnership between the WFP & ICRISAT as both are aligned by their vision of food security, especially for the poor. ICRISAT Headquarters: Patancheruvu; Founded: 1972

## **30. Biocon Biologics Limited and Serum Institute Life Sciences Announce Strategic Alliance to expand tie-up for R&D, new vaccines**

Under the terms of the agreement, Biocon Biologics Limited (BBL) will offer approximately 15% stake to Serum Institute Life Sciences (SILS), at a post-money valuation of ~\$4.9 billion, for which it will get committed access to a 100 million doses of vaccines per annum for 15 years, primarily from SILS's upcoming vaccine facility in Pune.

## **31. MoU signed between Zoological Survey of India and the Natural History Museum of United Kingdom**

MoU is for implementing relevant national and regional laws and regulations concerning biodiversity, including laws relating to access to faunal specimens, associated benefit sharing and traditional knowledge.

Both the institutions are committed to implementing the 1973 CITES and the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). ZSI: Director: Dhriti Banerjee HQ: Kolkata

## **32. Veranda acquires Edureka for '245 cr, deepens foray into edtech**

Veranda Learning Solution said it has acquired Edureka, a live-instructor-led online solutions provider for the IT industry, for '245 cr. It is planning an outlay of around \$100 mn for acquisitions over the next 6 months to "seize the opportunities opening up in the edtech space". The acquisition of Edureka is the 2nd buyout by the company since its launch in December 2020.

## **33. TCS bags five-year contract from German bank NORD/LB**

Tata Consultancy Services Ltd (TCS) has bagged a five-year IT transformation contract from NORD/LB, a leading German commercial bank that is targeting a new business model by 2024 with a more agile operating model.

TCS will work with the bank to simplify and transform its application estate across multiple businesses ' financial markets, wholesale and retail banking, etc.

## **34. ICICI Bank partners with Amazon India to offer OD facility to sellers, small businesses**

ICICI Bank has partnered with Amazon India to offer overdraft (OD) facility of up to '.25 lakh to individual sellers and small businesses registered on the e-commerce player's online marketplace.

ICICI Bank has developed the facility that functions on the back of an industry-first scorecard to instantly evaluate credit worthiness of sellers based on their financial profile.

## Schemes

### **1. RBI extends PIDF scheme to street vendors covered under PM SVANidhi (PM Street Vendor's AatmaNirbhar Nidhi) in tier 1, 2 centres**

Reserve Bank extended the scheme for encouraging deployment of Point of Sale (PoS) infrastructure to street vendors covered under the PM SVANidhi programme in tier 1 and 2 centres. The Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) scheme, with a corpus of Rs 345 crore, envisages creating 30 lakh new touch points every year for digital payments in tier-3 to tier-6 centres.

PM SVANidhi: -Launched in June 2020.

### **2. 45 solar parks with 37 GW capacity approved under solar park scheme**

Promoting solar parks is part of govt's strategy with India's solar and wind generation recording an all-time high of 43.1GW on 27 July. India has also crossed the GW of installed renewable energy capacity. India is running the world's largest clean energy programme to achieve 175 GW of renewable capacity, including 100GW of solar power and 60 GW of wind power by 2022. The scheme is implemented by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

### **3. Govt approves incentives worth Rs 10,683 Cr for textiles sector under PLI**

In a bid to boost the textiles sector, the Indian government approved incentives worth Rs 10,683 crore under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for MMF Apparel, MMF Fabrics and 10 segments/products of technical textiles. This scheme is also expected to attract fresh investment of more than Rs 19,000 crore and an additional production turnover of over Rs 3 lakh cr. This scheme will cover states such as Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Telangana, etc.

### **4. Govt launches 'Main Bhi Digital 3.0' campaign for Digital Onboarding & Training for street vendors**

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in collaboration with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology launched the pilot drive 'Main Bhi Digital 3.0' - A special Campaign for Digital Onboarding and Training for street vendors under PM SVANidhi scheme across 223 cities in the country. The drive is in line with PM Narendra Modi's vision of Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas.

### **5. Centre clears Rs 26,000 cr PLI scheme to push manufacturing in auto, drone industries**

Union cabinet led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi cleared a Rs 26,058 crore production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for auto, auto-components and drone industries to ensure higher manufacturing output.

The new PLI scheme will now incentivize the emergence of advanced automotive technologies' global supply chain in India. Union I&B minister, Anurag Thakur.

### **6. Centre unveils SVAMITVA dashboard to monitor implementation of land records digitization**

Union Minister for Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Giriraj Singh inaugurated a national meet on SVAMITVA Scheme: A Stepping-Stone Towards Upliftment of Rural Economy in New Delhi. SVAMITVA is aimed to provide an integrated property validation solution for rural India leveraging property as a financial asset by the citizens with accurate land records for rural planning. States to complete the implementation of SVAMITVA scheme well before the deadline 2024

### **7. Samajik Adhikarita Shivir' for Divyangjan and Senior Citizens**

Samajik Adhikarita Shivir for distribution of aids & assistive devices to Divyangjan under ADIP Scheme and to Senior Citizens under Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana of Ministry of Social Justice&Empowerment, will be organized by ALIMCO which is a Public Sector Enterprise under Administrative control of Department of Empowerment of Person with Disabilities (Divyangjan) in Kanpur

### **8. Ministry of Law and Justice launches Pan-India Special Campaign for Justice Delivery at doorstep**

As the nation celebrates 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav', Department of Justice launched the 'Ek Pahal' drive across the country from 17th September till 2nd October to encourage mass registration under Tele-Law. The medium of Tele Law effectively provides pre-litigation advice / consultation to beneficiaries by Panel Lawyers through a huge network covering 34 States and UTs. Article 32 of Indian Constitution deals with Right to Constitutional Remedies.

### **9. Government widens scope of Transport and Marketing Assistance scheme, adds dairy products**

Enhanced assistance under the revised scheme is expected to help Indian exporters of agricultural products to meet rising freight and logistics costs. Under the TMA, the government reimburses certain

portion of freight charges and provides assistance for the marketing of agricultural produce. It was launched in 2019 to boost exports of such commodities to certain countries. The scheme has been extended till March 31, 2022.

#### **10. Govt to train 50,000 youths in 3 years under Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana**

The government has launched Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana to empower youth by way of providing entry level training in industry relevant skills through Railway training institutes. The program was launched by Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw. The training will be provided to 50,000 candidates over a period of 3 years. Initially, the training will be provided to 1000 candidates.

#### **11. Ministry of Education and UGC organises Webinar on Ensuring Inclusive Governance: Making Every Person Matter**

Equity & inclusion of NEP 2020 has given national perspective to education of tribals, it is true manifest of good governance. DigitalIndia, SamagraShiksha are facilitating students from tribal & rural areas to compete at national level. Eklaya Model Residential School (EMRS) Scheme reflects inclusive education & provides access to education in marginalized tribal areas

#### **12. Ministry Of Law And Justice Launches Pan-India Special Campaign For Justice Delivery At Doorstep**

Department of Justice and NALSA has undertaken a special pan-India campaign to mainstream legal aid and to actualize the aspiration of access to justice for every citizen. Department of Justice launched the 'Ek Pahal ' drive across the country from 17th September till 2nd October to encourage mass registration

#### **13. Centre approves Rs 1 lakh crore oil & gas projects for North Eastern Region**

The projects which include Rs 27,000 crore upstream project, Rs 30,000 crore for Numaligarh Refinery Limited, Rs. 10,000 crore for Indradhanush gas Grid Limited etc will be completed by 2025.

The exploration acreage in the region will be doubled from the existing 30,000 square kilometres to 60,00 sq kms by 2025. Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister: Hardeep Singh Puri

#### **14. Centre Notifies Rs. 400 crore "Promotion of Medical Device Parks" scheme for affordable Medicinal Equipments**

The Medical Devices Parks to be developed under the scheme will provide common infrastructure facilities at one place thereby creating a robust ecosystem.

The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers said that the Government of Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh & Uttar Pradesh have been given "in-principle" approval under the scheme.

The tenure of the scheme is from FY 2020-2021 to FY 2024-2025.

#### **15. SAUBHAGYA completes FOUR years of successful implementation**

2.82 crore households have been electrified since the launch of SAUBHAGYA. These figures are till March 31st of this year.

SAUBHAGYA is one of the largest household electrification drives in the world. SAUBHAGYA was announced by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 25th September 2017.

#### **16. PM launches Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, says it has potential to bring revolutionary change in country's health system**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission under which every citizen will get a digital health ID, and health solutions of hospitals across the country will be connected with each other digitally.

It is being implemented in a pilot phase in six union territories.

It is a holistic and inclusive model which stresses preventive healthcare.



## Appointments & Resignations

### 1. BNP Paribas names Sanjay Singh as CEO of India operations

BNP Paribas is set to appoint Sanjay Singh as the new chief executive officer of its Indian operations. Singh, who is the deputy chief executive, will take over as the head of the French bank's domestic unit on September 1. This is the first time an Indian has been appointed as BNP's country chief since it set up shop here in 1860.

BNP-world's 7th largest lender by assets.

BNP Paribas: French international banking group

### 2. Mansukh Mandaviya takes charge as Stop TB Partnership Board chairman

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya took charge as the Chairman of Stop TB Partnership Board. India's leadership in the global fight against TB continues with this appointment.

StopTB Board which supports global efforts in achieving UN goal to end TB by 2030. Stop TB Partnership is a UN-hosted partnership program that aims to fight against tuberculosis collectively. Vision of ending TB in India by 2025.

### 3. ACMA appoints SONA Comstar chairman Sunjay J Kapur as president

Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA), the apex body representing India's auto component manufacturing industry, appointed Sunjay J Kapur, chairman, SONA Comstar Ltd. as president, and Shradha Suri Marwah, chairperson and managing director, Subros Ltd. as vice president, ACMA for the 2021-22 session.

### 4. J B Mohapatra appointed as chairman of CBDT

J B Mohapatra has been appointed the chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).

He has been holding the additional charge of CBDT chairman since May 31, after the extended tenure of incumbent P.C. Mody had ended.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes is a statutory authority functioning under the Central Board of Revenue Act, 1963.

### 5. PPK Ramacharyulu appointed Rajya Sabha secretary general

Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu appointed Dr PPK Ramacharyulu, who is secretary in the Rajya Sabha Secretariat since 2018, as the secretary general.

He succeeds Desh Dipak Verma, who demitted office as secretary general after serving the post for four years.

Parasaram Pattabhi Kesava Ramacharyulu is the first insider to have risen from the ranks of the secretariat.

### 6. Vartika Shukla becomes first woman CMD of Engineers India Ltd

State-owned engineering consultancy firm Engineers India Ltd (EIL) announced Vartika Shukla has assumed charge as the first woman Chairperson & Managing Director of the company.

Shukla joined EIL in 1988 and possesses consulting experience comprising Design, Engineering and implementation of complexes in Refining, Gas Processing, Petrochemicals, Fertilizers sectors.

### 7. India Trade Promotion Organisation CMD LC Goyal gets fifth extension till September 1 2022

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the extension in the tenure of Goyal, a 1979-batch IAS (retired) officer of Kerala cadre, as the CMD of ITPO for a period of one year beyond 01.09.2021 i.e. up to 01.09.2022 or until further orders.

Goyal, who had briefly worked as the Union home secretary, was on August 31, 2015 appointed the ITPO chief. ITPO is the premier trade promotion agency of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

### 8. AG Thankappan Appointed as Chairman of Spices Board

AG Thankappan is the new Chairman of Spices Board, Kochi. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has appointed him at this position for a period of three years.

Spices Board was founded in the year 1987 under Spices Board Act, 1986. Its responsibilities included the production and development of cardamom and the export promotion of 52 spices named in the Act. The Spices Board of India is the regulatory and export promotion agency for spices.

### 9. Govt appoints Suman Sharma as new Managing Director of SECI

The government has appointed Suman Sharma as the managing director (MD) of Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI).

Sharma is currently serving as the Additional DGFT, Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Department of Commerce. Suman Sharma will replace the current CMD Jatindra Nath Swain.

#### **10 Yoshihide Suga steps down, setting stage for new premier**

Suga, who took over after Shinzo Abe resigned last September citing ill health, has seen his approval ratings drop below 30% as the nation struggles with its worst wave of COVID-19 infections ahead of a general election this year. Yoshihide Suga belongs to Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

#### **11. Govt appoints Atul Bhatt as CMD of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd**

Bhatt was the CMD of state-owned consultancy firm MECON, which offers a full range of services required to set up a project from concept to commissioning including turnkey execution. He replaces P K Rath who retired as CMD RINL on May 31. RINL is a special steel-making player based in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

#### **12. Former Australian pacer Shaun Tait appointed bowling coach of Puducherry**

The Cricket Association of Pondicherry (CAP) has appointed former Australian express pacer Shaun Tait as the bowling coach of the Puducherry team.

Shaun Tait's presence in the upcoming season is going to help the budding and exciting young pace bowlers in the team.

Shaun Tait also took over as bowling coach of the Afghanistan cricket team before the government collapsed.

#### **13. S.L. Tripathy appointed as CMD of United India Insurance**

The central government has selected S.L.Tripathy as the Chairman-cum-Managing Director of United India Insurance Company Limited. Tripathy is currently General Manager and Director at The New India Assurance Company Limited. He is appointed as CMD of United India from the date of assumption of charge of the office and up to the date of attaining the age of superannuation. The Head office of United India Insurance is in Chennai.

#### **14. Ashoka Buildcon MD Satish Parekh appointed as IRF India president**

Ashoka Buildcon Managing Director and promoter Satish Parekh has taken over as the president of India Chapter of International Road Federation (IRF).

The governing council of the International Road Federation unanimously endorsed Satish Parakh as President, IRF-IC.

He takes over from Subhmay Gangopadhyay, former director of Central Road Research Institute.

#### **15. Govt. appoints G.S Pannu as Officiating ITAT President**

The Government has appointed G.S. Pannu as Officiating President of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT).

G. S. Pannu is presently a Vice-President, ITAT, New Delhi and will be Officiating President of ITAT with effect from September 6, 2021 till appointment of regular President. ITAT is a quasi judicial institution set up in January, 1941.

#### **16. Arun Kumar Singh takes charge as Chairman and Managing Director of BPCL**

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), a 'Maharatna' and a Fortune Global 500 Company has announced the appointment of Arun Kumar Singh as the Chairman and Managing Director of the company.

He has headed Business Units and Entities in BPCL such as Retail, LPG, Pipelines, Supply Chain Optimization, etc.

#### **17. Nirlep Singh Rai is new CMD of National Fertilizers Ltd**

Nirlep Singh Rai, who is currently serving as Director (Technical) of National Fertilizers Limited (NFL), has been appointed to the post of Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of the company.

National Fertilizers Ltd was established on 1 September 1979.

National Fertilizers Limited ' a Miniratna company.

Headquarters: Noida

#### **18. G C Murmu, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has been elected as the Chairman of ASOSAI from 2024-2027.**

The CAG, as the Chairman, will be the Chief Executive of Assembly of Asian Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI) and represent ASOSAI in its dealings with national and international organizations. The 56th Governing Board of ASOSAI elected G C Murmu and approval was conveyed by the 15th Assembly of ASOSAI. India is also going to host the 16th Assembly of ASOSAI in 2024.

### **19. Harsha Bangari takes charge as Exim Bank chief**

Harsha Bangari took charge as the Managing Director of Export-Import Bank of India (India Exim Bank).

The top position in the bank was vacant ever since David Rasquiniha completed his three-year tenure as MD in May 2021.

Prior to her elevation as MD, Bangari was the Deputy Managing Director (DMD) of the bank, which is the national export credit agency.

### **20. Iqbal Singh Lalpura, appointed chairman of National Commission for Minorities**

Former IPS officer Iqbal Singh Lalpura has been appointed chairman of the National Commission for Minorities.

He hails from Punjab and has authored several books on Sikh philosophy.

He has also won several awards such as the president's police medal, police medal for meritorious services, Shiromani Sikh Sahitkar Award and Sikh scholar award.

Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi is the Hon'ble Union Cabinet Minister for Minority Affairs.

### **21. BBB recommends Atul Kumar Goel for PNB MD & CEO's position**

The Banks Board Bureau (BBB) has recommended the candidature of Atul Kumar Goel for the position of Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) in Punjab National Bank (PNB).

Currently, Goel is the MD & CEO of UCO Bank. He has been at the helm of the Kolkata-headquartered public sector bank since November 2018. Shri Bhanu Pratap Sharma is the chairman of The Banks Board Bureau (BBB).

### **22. President Ram Nath Kovind appoints new governors to Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Nagaland**

President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed new governors in four states.

#Lt Gen Gurmit Singh-Governor of Uttarakhand.

#Banwarilal Purohit- Governor of Punjab.

# RN Ravi -Governor of Tamil Nadu.

# Jagdish Mukhi -at present governor of Assam, has been appointed to discharge the functions of the governor of Nagaland.

### **23. US tech giant Adobe appoints Prativa Mohapatra as India MD and VP**

US tech giant Adobe has announced the appointment of Prativa Mohapatra as vice president and managing director for Adobe India. In this role, Mohapatra will lead Adobe's India business across Adobe Experience Cloud, Adobe Creative Cloud and Adobe Document Cloud, reporting to Simon Tate, Adobe's president for Asia Pacific (APAC).

### **24. Ex-M&M MD Pawan Goenka appointed chairperson of In-SPACE**

Former managing director of Mahindra & Mahindra Pawan Kumar Goenka has been appointed as the chairperson of Indian National Space Promotion Authorization Centre (In-SPACE).

During his R&D tenure in M&M he led the development of the Scorpio SUV.

IN-SPACE functions as an independent nodal agency under the Department of Space, Government of India.

Department of Space (DOS) was established in June 1972.

### **25. Najib Mikati chosen as Lebanon's new Prime Minister**

A new government has been announced in Lebanon over a year after the previous administration quit following the devastating Beirut port explosion. Najib Mikati - Lebanon's richest man - becomes Prime Minister, a position he has held twice before. His appointment, along with the naming of a new cabinet, ends months of political paralysis. Lebanon Capital: Beirut: Currency:-Lebanese pound

### **26. Salil Kumar given additional charge as CMD MECON for three months**

Salil Kumar has been given the additional charge as CMD of the state-owned consultancy company MECON for an initial period of three months, according to an official notification.

The decision has been taken after the acting MECON Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) Atul Bhatt was appointed as the CMD of the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL).

## **27. Vijay Goel takes charge as Vice Chairman of Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti**

Former Union Minister Vijay Goel took charge as Vice Chairman of Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti at a function in Gandhi Smriti, New Delhi, the site of the Martyrdom of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation.

He emphasised the need to take the message of Mahatma Gandhi's life throughout the country and to every household. Gandhian vision projects:- 'swachhata', 'digital India', 'construction of toilets'.

## **28. Aziz Akhannouch named as Morocco's new Prime Minister**

King Mohammed VI of Morocco has appointed Aziz Akhannouch of the liberal National Rally of Independents (RNI) party as Prime Minister and asked him to form a government.

Mr Aziz Akhannouch is a billionaire seen as close to the monarchy. Elected politicians in Morocco have only limited powers, as key decisions remain in the hands of the monarch. Morocco Capital: Rabat; Currency:- Dirham

## **29. Bhupendra Patel to be sworn-in as new Chief Minister of Gujarat**

Ghatlodia BJP MLA Bhupendra Patel will be sworn-in as the new Chief Minister of Gujarat. State governor Acharya Devvrat administered the oath of office and secrecy at Raj Bhavan in Gandhinagar.

59-year-old first-time MLA, Patel was unanimously elected leader of BJP Legislature Party.

This came after the resignation of Vijay Rupani as Chief Minister of Gujarat.

## **30. RBI approves re-appointment of Vaidyanathan as IDFC FIRST Bank chief**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted its approval for the re-appointment of V. Vaidyanathan as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of IDFC FIRST Bank.

Vaidyanathan's re-appointment as MD & CEO is for 3 years, effective from December 19, 2021.

Vaidyanathan took over as the MD & CEO of IDFC FIRST Bank in December 2018 after Capital First & IDFC Bank merger.

## **31. Rahul Dravid appointed brand ambassador for Piramal Realty**

Real estate company Piramal Realty, the realty arm of the Piramal Group, has roped in former captain of the Indian cricket team Rahul Dravid as a brand ambassador for its portfolio of four residential projects and one commercial project.

These projects include Piramal Mahalaxmi (Jacob Circle), Piramal Vaikunth (Thane), Piramal Revanta (Mulund), Piramal Aranya (Byculla), etc.

## **32. EESL executive chairman Saurabh Kumar resigns**

Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL) executive vice chairman Saurabh Kumar tendered his resignation.

EESL's Kumar became the face of energy efficiency programmes in the country as he spearheaded the world's largest non-subsidized distribution programme of LED lamps under the 'Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs and Appliances for All' (Ujala) scheme. EESL Subsidiaries: EESL EnergyPro Assets Limited, EPSL Trigenation Private Limited.

## **33. SBI's Amit Saxena joins RBI Innovation Hub as CTO**

Amit Saxena, Global Deputy CTO of State Bank of India joined RBI Innovation Hub as the Chief Technology Officer (CTO).

On Aug 6, 2020, the Reserve Bank announced that it would set up Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) to promote innovation across the financial sector by leveraging on technology and creating an environment that would facilitate and foster innovation. Rajesh Bansal CEO of RBI Innovation Hub.

## **34. Former RBI deputy governor N. S. Vishwanathan joins EY India as an advisor**

Advisory firm, EY India has appointed NS Vishwanathan, former deputy governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as an advisor in their financial services practice. EY also appointed Nandkumar Saravade, former founding CEO of Reserve Bank Information Technology as an advisor. Vishwanathan has over four decades of experience with wide-ranging exposure in core central banking.

## **35. Ujjivan Financial Services names Sanjeev Barnwal as new CEO**

Ujjivan Financial Services Ltd has named Sanjeev Barnwal as the new Chief Executive Officer.

This development has been initiated after its former head Carol Furtado joined as the officer on special duty at Ujjivan Small Finance Bank.

This appointment is effective from 10 September 2021 as per Section 203 of the Companies Act, 2013



### 36. Raninder Singh re-elected National Rifle Association of India chief

Raninder Singh was re-elected as the President of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) - the governing body for the sport of shooting in the country at the elections held within the premises of Punjab Cricket Association.

In the election, Singh beat Shyam Singh Yadav ' a BSP Member of Parliament by a margin of 56 to 3 votes in Chandigarh. NRAI was founded in 1951. Aim of NRAI:- To promote and popularize the shooting sports in India.

### 37. Punjab gets its first Dalit Chief Minister in Charanjit Singh Channi

Charanjit Singh Channi has been unanimously elected as the new Punjab Chief Minister.

Channi will replace Captain Amarinder Singh, who had resigned as the chief minister post recently after months of turmoil within the state unit.

He will be Punjab's first Dalit-Sikh chief minister.

He belongs to the Dalit community, which comprises almost 1/3rd of Punjab's population.

Brahm Mohindra, Sukhjinder Randhawa- Punjab Deputy CMs.

### 38. Yogeshwar Sangwan Appointed as the Next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Paraguay

'Amit Narang has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Sultanate of Oman.

'Munu Mahawar has been appointed as India's next High Commissioner to the Maldives

'Oman, Capital: Muscat; Currency: Omani rial

'Republic of Paraguay, Capital: Asuncin; Currency: Paraguayan guaran

'Maldives, Capital: Mal ; Currency: Maldivian rufiyaa

### 39. Fino Payments Bank signs with actor Pankaj Tripathi as brand ambassador

Fino Payments Bank Limited (FPBL), a fintech for emerging India customers will now work with actor Pankaj Tripathi as its brand ambassador. This is Fino's first ever opportunity to have a brand ambassador, a milestone in itself', said Rishi Gupta, MD & CEO, Fino Payments Bank.

### 40. Facebook India appoints former IAS Rajiv Aggarwal as director of public policy

Rajiv Aggarwal as director of public policy will report to Ajit Mohan, VP & MD Facebook India. Aggarwal will lead policy development initiatives for the company that covers user safety, data protection & privacy, inclusion & internet governance. Aggarwal joins the company from Uber where he served as head of public policy for India & South Asia markets for nearly 2 years.

### 41. Air Marshal VR Chaudhari appointed next IAF Chief

Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari will take charge as the next chief of the Indian Air Force (IAF) after the retirement of RKS Bhadauria on September 30.

In his decades-long career, Air Marshal Chaudhari was awarded Param Vishisht Seva Medal (PVSM), Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM) and Vayu Sena Medal. He was commissioned into the Fighter stream of IAF on December 29, 1982.

### 42. Govt accepts RN Ravi's resignation as interlocutor for Naga peace process

Government has accepted RN Ravi's resignation as interlocutor for the Naga peace process with immediate effect. RN Ravi sworn-in as the Governor of Tamil Nadu, succeeding Banwarilal Purohit.

### 43. Air India chief Rajiv Bansal appointed Civil Aviation Secretary

Rajiv Bansal appointed as Secretary in Ministry of Civil Aviation. Bansal is currently Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of Air India. 1988-batch IAS Nagaland cadre, Bansal was serving as additional secretary in Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas before Air India. Cabinet also announced appointment of IAS officer Anuradha Prasad as Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs

### 44. Former UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown appointed World Health Organization Ambassador for Global Health Financing

The WHO announced the appointment of The Rt Hon Gordon Brown, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, as WHO Ambassador for Global Health Financing.

He is widely credited with preventing a second Great Depression through his stewardship of the 2009 London G20 summit.

He mobilized world leaders to commit an additional \$1.1 trillion to restore credit, growth and jobs.

#### **45. Debabrata Mukherjee elected chairman of Audit Bureau of Circulations**

Debabrata Mukherjee, who is currently serving as Chief Marketing Officer at the United Breweries Group, has been elected as the chairman of Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC) for the year 2021-2022. ABC is a non-profit circulation-auditing organisation. It certifies and audits the circulations of major publications, including newspapers and magazines in India. ABC HQ: Mumbai

#### **46. LIC IPO : Govt shortlists Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas as legal advisor**

The government has shortlisted Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas for giving legal advice on upcoming mega IPO (Initial Public offerings) of India's largest insurance company LIC.

The government aims to come out with the IPO and subsequent listing of Life Insurance Corporation on the bourses in the January-March quarter of 2022. IPO: the process of offering shares of a private corporation to the public in a new stock

#### **47. Aavek Sarkar re-elected as Press Trust of India Chairman**

Aavek Sarkar, the Editor Emeritus and Vice Chairman of the Ananda Bazar Group of Publications, was re-elected Chairman of Press Trust of India (PTI), the country's largest premier news agency.

Sarkar is a man of varied interests and counts books, food, wine and art among his principal loves.

He was captain of the Royal Calcutta Golf Club (RCGC) for 10 years. PTI Founded: 27 August 1947; Headquarters location: New Delhi

#### **48. CavinKare CMD CK Ranganathan appointed new AIMA president**

CK Ranganathan, chairman & managing director, CavinKare Pvt Ltd has been appointed president of All India Management Association (AIMA) for a period of one year till the National Management Convention is held in September 2022. Ranganathan takes over from Harsh Pati Singhania, vice chairman & managing director, JK Paper Ltd. AIMA- statutory body for the regulation and licensing of management profession in India.

#### **49. Lt Gen Gurbirpal Singh takes over as new director general of NCC**

Lt Gen Gurbirpal Singh took over as the new director general of the National Cadet Corps.

He has taken charge of the NCC at a time the Defence Ministry is looking at making it more relevant.

Lt Gen Singh was commissioned into The Parachute Regiment in 1987.

The officer served as a company commander in a counter-insurgency environment in Nagaland and the Siachen Glacier.

#### **50. Vinod Aggarwal appointed ASDC president, Nikunj Sanghi's 10-year tenure ends**

Industry veteran Vinod Aggarwal, Treasurer, SIAM and MD, and CEO of VE Commercial Vehicles, has been appointed President. The announcement was made at the ASDC Convention.

ASDC envisions making India self-sufficient in the availability of skilled personnel for sustaining growth and increasing the competitiveness of the automobile industry.

Automotive Skill Development Council (ASDC), the first sector skill Council of India.

#### **51. Padmaja Chunduru appointed Managing Director, CEO of NSDL**

Padmaja Chunduru has been appointed Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of National Securities Depositories Limited.

This accounts for over 89 percent of all securities dematerialised in the country.

Chunduru has served as MD and CEO of the Indian Bank from September 2018 to August 2021. She has worked with SBI as Deputy Managing Director (Digital Banking). NSDL is India's first and largest securities depository.

#### **52. Sunil Kataria elected ISA Chairman for sixth consecutive term**

The newly elected Executive Council of the Indian Society of Advertisers (ISA) met on September 27, 2021. Sunil Kataria, Chief Executive Officer, India and SAARC, Godrej Consumer Products Limited, was elected Chairman of the ISA.

ISA is a founder member of the World Federation of Advertisers (WFA) and one of the founders of ASCI.

#### **53. Ex Diplomat Fumio Kishida Picked As Japan's Next Prime Minister**

Former Japan foreign minister Fumio Kishida won a ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) leadership race, a victory that virtually ensures he will become Japan's next prime minister.

Kishida defeated former defence and foreign minister Taro Kono.

After a special parliamentary session, Kishida will be confirmed as the 100th Prime Minister of Japan.

## Awards

### **1. Zamboanga Sibugay-based fisherman and community environmentalist Roberto Ballon among 2021 Ramon Magsaysay awardees**

The Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation announced this year's five awardees in a virtual event. The other 2021 Ramon Magsaysay awardees are Pakistani social entrepreneur Muhammad Amjad Saqib, Bangladeshi scientist Firdausi Qadri, Steven Muncy who helps displaced refugees of Southeast Asia, and Indonesian production house Watchdoc. Ramon Magsaysay Award --- regarded as the Asian version of the Nobel Prize.

### **2. Powergrid Wins the Prestigious global ATD Best Award**

Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a Maharatna CPSU under Ministry of Power, GoI has been awarded the coveted 'Association for Talent Development (ATD) 2021 BEST Award' securing 8th rank among the 71 organizations from around the globe, thus becoming the only PSU to win this award and one of the only two companies of India in Top 20.

### **3. President Ram Nath Kovind presents National Award for Teachers-2021 on Teacher's Day**

President Ram Nath Kovind on Sept 5, presented the National Teacher Award to 44 most talented teachers selected from all over the country on the occasion of Teachers' Day.

The award was also bestowed upon Pramod Kumar Shukla of Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS), Chhattisgarh.

It is the second award in a row for an EMRS established under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

### **4. Indian biologist wins global award in turtle conservation**

Shailendra Singh, a biologist from India, has won the Behler Turtle Conservation Award.

He has been awarded for bringing three critically endangered turtle conservation species viz, the Northern River Terrapin (Batagur Baska), Red-crowned roofed turtle (Batagur Kachuga) and Black Softshell Turtle (Nilssonina nigricans) back from the brink of extinction.

### **5. Trichy Golden Rock Workshop bags best Energy Efficient Unit Award**

The Golden Rock Railway Workshop (GOC), Tiruchchirappalli has bagged 22nd National Award for Excellence in Energy Management from the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for having adopted and implemented various energy conservation measures. GOC Workshop is the only workshop of Indian Railways to have received the award this year. CII Founded :1895

### **6. Sixth edition of NIRF Ranking 2021: IIT-Madras Best Institute for Third Time in a Row, IISc Top in Research**

IIT Madras has created a history for becoming the best ranking Indian institute for the third time in a row. The institute has been an undefeated champion since 2019. IISc has continued to obtain the second rank. IISc used to be the best-ranking institute in 2018 and before. In the six years of NIRF, no other institute has got the top spot yet. IISc followed by JNU and BHU

### **7. ICRISAT awarded 2021 Africa Food Prize**

The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) has been awarded the 2021 Africa Food Prize for work that has improved food security across 13 countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

ICRISAT, a CGIAR Research Centre, is a non-profit, non-political public international research organisation that conducts agricultural research for development in Asia. ICRISAT:- Patancheru, near to Hyderabad

### **8. UNESCO Literacy Prize awarded to NIOS for Innovation in Education**

The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) of India, Noida won the prestigious UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize 2021 for 'enabling education of persons with disabilities through technology-enabled inclusive learning materials, with a specific focus on Indian Sign language-based content' in an award function organised at UNESCO's New Delhi. Prize established in 1989, with the support of the Government of the Republic of Korea.

### **9. Gujarat Nurse Bhanumati Gheewala To Get National Florence Nightingale Award For Service Amid COVID**

The Florence Nightingale Award will be given to a nurse, Bhanumati Gheewala, from Sir Sayajirao General Hospital, Gujarat.

She has been in charge of COVID-19 positive pregnant women's deliveries as well as infant care. She worked in the gynaecology department as well in the paediatric ward.



The Florence Nightingale Award is given by the Indian Nursing Council. Indian Nursing Council : statutory agency under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

#### **10. Super 30 founder Anand Kumar conferred with Swami Brahmanand Award 2021**

Mathematician Anand Kumar conferred with the Swami Brahmanand Award 2021 for his contribution in the field of education through his 'Super 30' initiative, which prepares underprivileged students for the IIT entrance exam. Friederike Irina Bruening, a German national received the first Swami Brahmanand Award for cow protection in 2019. 'Super 30' is a coaching programme of Kumar's Patna-based Ramanujan School of Mathematics

#### **11. Union Education and Skill Development Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan presented "Kaushalacharya Awards 2021" to Skill Trainers**

The Kaushalacharya Awards 2021 was presented to 41 skill trainers for their exemplary contribution to the skill ecosystem. These 41 trainers are from several initiatives and training programmes of Skill India' Directorate General of Training (DGT), Apprenticeship, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) and Entrepreneurship.

#### **12. Bangladeshi Fairouz Faizah Beether gets 2021 Changemaker Award for her work promoting good health and well-being**

The Award celebrates an individual who has inspired change using personal experience or from a position of leadership. Changemaker Award is part of the Goalkeepers Global Goals award instituted by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to accelerate progress towards attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN.

#### **13. OP Jindal Global University announces Soli J Sorabjee endowment award, scholarship for law students**

OP Jindal Global University has established the Soli J Sorabjee endowment award and scholarship. This award and scholarship will be awarded annually to a deserving student in the field of human rights law and theory, offered as part of the undergraduate programmes at the Jindal Global Law School. The award will be announced on March 9 every year (Birth anniversary of Soji)

Soli Sorabjee was a champion of freedom of speech and expression.

#### **14. NHPC's 510 MW Teesta-V Power Station Wins 'Blue Planet Prize' by International Hydropower Association(IHA)**

The award for Teesta-V Power Station, located in the Himalayan State of Sikkim, was announced during the World Hydropower Congress, 2021.

The Blue Planet Prize of IHA has been awarded to hydropower projects that demonstrate excellence in sustainable development.

IHA is a London-based non-profit membership association operating in 120 countries.

#### **15. Government e Marketplace Bags Prestigious CIPS Award**

Government e Marketplace (GeM) was announced as the winner in the 'Best Use of Digital Technology' category at the CIPS Excellence in Procurement Awards 2021 (CIPS Awards).

The CIPS Awards are one of the leading recognitions around procurement globally, which is conducted under the aegis of The Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply (CIPS), London. GeM is a 100% Government owned Section 8 Company setup under Ministry of Commerce.

#### **16. Names of 11 scientists declared for India's highest science award, Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (SSB) Prize**

The names of 11 scientists, who received the country's highest science award Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for science and technology 2021, were announced during the 80th foundation day of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

The prize is given to Indian scientists below the age of 45 for outstanding research in seven fields.

SSB Prizes, each of the value of Rs 5,00,000, are awarded annually.

#### **17. HDFC Bank most outstanding company in India: Asiamoney 2021 Poll**

HDFC Bank most outstanding company in India - Asiamoney 2021 Poll.

The poll, known as Asia's Outstanding Companies Poll, is designed to acknowledge listed companies that have excelled in areas such as financial performance, management team excellence, investor relations, and CSR initiatives.

HDFC Bank received the most votes among listed companies in India.



## Ranks & Reports

### **1. Academic Ranking of World University (ARWU) Ranking 2021: IISc Bengaluru, Calcutta University Ranked India's Top Institutes**

Shanghai Ranking Consultancy has released the Academic Ranking of World University 2021. IISc Bangalore has been ranked as the best university in the country while Calcutta University has been ranked second in the 2021 ARWU ranking. The 2021 ARWU released by Shanghai Ranking Consultancy is one of the premier & globally recognized rankings of higher educational institutions. Banaras Hindu University has been ranked third this time.

### **2. Indian data centre industry capacity to double by 2023: JLL**

Driven by growth in digitalisation, rising cloud adoption and ambitious growth plans of operators, India's data centre industry is expected to double capacity and cross the 1GW mark by 2023, according to the 'H1 2021 India Data Centre Market Update' report by JLL. The industry capacity is expected to double from 499MW in H1 2021 to 1008 MW by 2023.

### **3. New Delhi and Mumbai ranked among the first 50 on the Global Safe Cities Index 2021 released by The Economist Intelligence Unit.**

The Economist Intelligence Unit ranked 60 major global cities on 76 indicators based on digital, health, and infrastructure, environmental and personal security. Copenhagen tops the rankings this year with a score of 82.4 out of 100. Cities in the Asia-Pacific region dominate the top-10 with Singapore, Tokyo, Sydney, Hong Kong, and Melbourne. Toronto ranks second in the Global Safe Cities Index 2021.

### **4. Oxford Named World's Best For Record Sixth Year As Universities Get Covid-19 Research Boost**

Oxford retains top spot in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings for the 6th consecutive year, while its great rival Cambridge improves from sixth in last year's ranking to fifth.

US continues to dominate the top of the rankings, taking the remaining 8 spots in the top 10, with the California Institute of Technology & Harvard claiming a tie for 2nd position.

### **5. Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2021: Bengaluru 23rd, Delhi 36th in the ranking**

Bengaluru rose up three spots to be ranked 23rd in an annual analysis of the world's most favourable ecosystems to build a globally successful startup.

Delhi held on to its 36th position in the Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2021' by Startup Genome, with Mumbai topping a parallel 'Top Emerging Ecosystems' ranking for the second year in a row.

Silicon Valley, London, New York, Beijing and Boston complete this year's top five.

### **6. Rising CO2 concentration threatens all 17 SDGs, says World Meteorological Organization (WMO) report**

The WMO studied seven climate indicators 'CO2 concentration, temperature, ocean acidification and heat, sea ice extent, glacier melt and sea-level rise, while preparing the report.

The organisation's scientists found that rising CO2 concentration due to human activities was a key driver of global climate change.

WMO: Secretary-General: Petteri Taalas; HQ: Geneva

### **7. Hardeep Singh Puri launches 'Swachh Survekshan 2022'**

Union housing and urban affairs minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched the 'Swachh Survekshan 2022', the seventh edition of the annual cleanliness survey under which district rankings have been introduced for the first time.

This survey will create a level playing field for smaller cities by introducing 2 population categories:- under 15,000 & btw 15,000-25,000.

## Important Days

### 1. World Coconut Day celebration on September 2

The Kochi-headquartered Coconut Development Board celebrated 23rd World Coconut Day on the theme 'Building a safe, inclusive, resilient and sustainable coconut community amid covid 19 pandemic and beyond' on 2nd September in association with MIDH Division of Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India. September 2 is the foundation day of International Coconut Community (ICC).

### 2. International Vulture Awareness Day

International Vulture Awareness Day (IVAD) falls on the first Saturday in September every year and is a way to show the human kind's appreciation for vultures and the ecosystem services they provide.

The initiative is run jointly by the Birds of Prey Programme of the Endangered Wildlife Trust in South Africa and the Hawk Conservancy Trust in England.

### 3. International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies: September 7

September 7 is celebrated as International Day of Clear Air for Blue Skies every year.

The day advocates the importance of air quality and intends to reduce air pollution.

This year, the theme for the day is "Healthy Air, Healthy Planet. " The day, which was first established in 2019, at the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

### 4. International Literacy Day 2021: September 8

September 8 was declared as International Literacy Day by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the year 1966.

It is usually observed to remind the international community about the importance of literacy for individuals, communities and societies.

The theme 2021:- 'Literacy for a human-centered recovery: Narrowing the digital divide'.

### 5. World EV Day : September 9

World EV Day is observed on September 9 every year. The day marks the celebration of e-mobility. Special awareness campaigns are organised globally to educate people about the benefits of electric vehicles. World EV Day was an initiative created by sustainability media company Green.TV. The first World EV day was observed in 2020. China is the largest EV market in the world.

### 6. International Day to Protect education from Attack: September 9

The 9th of September marks the International Day to Protect Education from Attack.

9th September 2020 marked the first observation of the International Day to Protect Education from Attack, a day established by the unanimous adoption of UN General Assembly Resolution 74/275, presented by the State of Qatar and 62 co-sponsoring countries. UNESCO and UNICEF will facilitate the annual observance of the Day

### 7. National Forest Martyrs Day is marked on September 11.

The day is observed to pay tributes to those who laid down their lives in order to protect the jungles, forests and wildfire.

The date of September 11 was chosen as on this date in 1730, the infamous Khejarli massacre took place. During this tragic incident, people started cutting Khejarli trees on the orders of the then king Maharaja Abhay Singh of Rajasthan. These trees were considered sacred by the people that belonged to the Bishnoi community.

### 8. Hindi Diwas 2021: 14th September

India celebrates Hindi Diwas, also known as Hindi Day, on September 14 every year to commemorate the adoption of Hindi in the Devanagari script as one of the official languages of the nation.

One of the reasons behind celebrating this day is to prevent the increasing trend of the English language in the nation and the neglect of Hindi.

### 9. National Engineer's Day 2021: September 15

Engineer's Day is celebrated on September 15 every year to mark the birth anniversary of Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya. Engineer's Day is celebrated to pay rich tributes to Bharat Ratna Visvesvaraya who was regarded as the 'Father of Modern Mysore'.

Theme 2021:- 'Engineering for A Healthy Planet- Celebrating the UNESCO Engineering Report'. UNESCO celebrates World Engineer's Day on March 4 annually.

#### **10. International Day of Democracy 2021: September 15**

September 15 is celebrated as International Day of Democracy after being established in 2007 through a resolution passed by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). International Day of Democracy provides an opportunity to review the state of democracy in the world.

It was adopted on September 15, 1997 by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). Theme 2021:- "strengthening democratic resilience in the face of future crises."

#### **11. International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer 2021: September 16**

September 16 has been designated as the International Day for the Preservation of Ozone Layer by the UNO. The ozone layer is a fragile shield of gas protecting the Earth from the harmful portion of the Sun rays. This helps in preserving the life on this planet. It focuses to highlight on slowing climate change & helping to boost energy efficiency in the cooling sector. Theme for World Ozone Day 2021: Montreal Protocol - keeping us, our food & vaccines cool

#### **12. Military Nursing Service by DG wins National Florence Nightingale Award for 2020**

President Ram conferred the Award to Deputy Director General of Military Nursing Service Brig S V Saraswati for her immense contribution to the MNS as nurse administrator. National Florence Nightingale Award is the highest national distinction a nurse can achieve for selfless devotion and exceptional professionalism. 12th May, International Nurse day marks the birth of Florence Nightingale

#### **13. AICHLS, MIMC to jointly organize 11th International Peace Conference to observe International Day of Peace in Leh**

11th International Peace Conference will be conducted in collaboration with the all-religious organizations in Ladakh. On the occasion, the Council also conferring the 7th Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Award to Venerable Bhikkhu Sanghasena, the Founder of Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre. This year's theme is Recovering Better for an equitable and sustainable world. International Peace Day was established in 1981 by the UN General Assembly.

#### **14. World Rhino Day , September 22, 2021!**

World Rhino Day is a day of awareness for all five rhino species and the work being done to save them. Since 2011, World Rhino Day has been celebrated internationally on September 22nd ' this year is the 10th anniversary!

Five living rhino species (Black, White, Greater One-Horned, Sumatran, and Javan). Indian Rhino Vision 2020, launched to Attain a population of 3000 Wild Rhinos in Assam.

#### **15. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to celebrate 'Sign Language Day'**

Ever since the UN declared 23rd September as the International Sign Language Day, ISLRTC has celebrated it every year. ISLRTC signed an MoU with National Council of Educational Research & Training (NCERT) for converting NCERT textbooks from Class I to XII into Indian Sign Language (digital format) to make the textbooks accessible to children with hearing disabilities ISLRTC (Indian Sign Language Research and Training Center) was setup in 2015.

#### **16. World Pharmacists Day | September 25, 2021**

World Pharmacists Day is observed on September 25 each year to pay tributes to pharmacists for the role they play in improving global health.

This year's theme, developed by the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP), is 'Pharmacy: Always trusted for your health' International Pharmaceutical Federation: HQ: The Hague, Netherlands.

#### **17. Antyodaya Diwas | September 25, 2021**

Antyodaya Diwas is observed every year on September 25.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in 2014, dedicated it in honour of late Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya to mark his birth anniversary.

He was a veteran politician who was one of the key leaders of Bharatiya Jana Sangh from which the BJP emerged. This year will mark the 105th birth anniversary of Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya.

#### **18. World Rivers Day | Fourth Sunday of September**

World Rivers Day is celebrated on the fourth Sunday of September every year to increase public awareness about rivers and to encourage their conservation. The day celebrates Earth's waterways, in which over 60 countries participate every year.

#### **19. World Contraception Day | September 26**

World Contraception Day takes place on 26 September. The aim is to improve awareness of all contraceptive methods available and to enable young people to make informed choices on their sexual and reproductive health.

## **20. World Environmental Health Day | September 26**

It is annually celebrated on September 26 to raise awareness about the health of our environment. The theme for this year's World Environmental Health Day is 'Prioritizing Environmental Health for healthier communities in the global recovery.'

The International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH) declared the celebration of the day on 26th September 2011.

IFEH is based out of London.

## **21. International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons | 26 September**

The International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons has been observed annually since 2014 on September 26th.

This Day provides an occasion for the world community to reaffirm its commitment to global nuclear disarmament as a priority.

## **22. World Tourism Day : September 27**

World Tourism Day is observed every year on September 27 to mark the anniversary of the adoption of the Statutes of the Organization in 1970, paving the way for the establishment of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).

UNWTO is an United Nations' agency responsible for the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism. Theme 2021:- 'Tourism for Inclusive Growth'

## **23. International Day for Universal Access of Information 2021: September 28**

This day focused on making information accessible for all so that a robust structure of sustainable policies can be developed in society.

On November 17, 2015, UNESCO announced that the International Day for Universal Access of Information will be observed on September 28.

Theme 2021:- 'The Right to Know ' Building Back Better with Access to Information.'

## **24. Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority(PFRDA) to observe 1 Oct as NPS Diwas to promote retirement planning**

PFRDA will observe 1 October as the National Pension System Diwas to promote pension and retirement planning. For this, the regulator has kickstarted a campaign under 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

The pension regulator aims to encourage every citizen ' working & self-employed professionals to plan - a financially sound future after retirement. PFRDA Founded: 23 August 2003; Headquarters: New Delhi

## **25. International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction: 29 September**

On 29 September 2021, the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste will be observed for the second time.

Reducing food loss and waste is of significant importance as it contributes to the realization of broader improvements to agri-food systems toward achieving food security, food safety, improving food quality and delivering on nutritional outcomes. In 2019, the 74th UNGA designated 29 September as Food Loss & Waste day

## **26. World Heart Day 2021: September 29**

World Heart Day is celebrated every year on 29 September. It is organized by World Heart Federation to raise awareness about Cardiovascular disease (CVD). Cardiovascular diseases are world's leading cause of death claiming 18.6 million lives each year. World Heart Day plays a very significant role in spreading awareness about CVD. Theme 2021:- 'Use Heart To Connect'.



## Summit & Conferences

### 1. Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar, MoS Power and Heavy Industries, chairs the 'Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Energy'

During the Meeting, BRICS Energy Report 2021, BRICS Energy Technology Report 2021 and BRICS Energy Research Directory 2021 were launched.

During the meeting, India reiterated focus on one sun, one world and one grid as the initiative. This was the 6th meeting of BRICS energy ministers.

### 2. IAF chief attends three-day-long Pacific Air Chiefs Symposium 2021 in Hawaii

Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria attended a three-day-long Pacific Air Chiefs Symposium 2021 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Hawaii. The event themed "Enduring Cooperation towards Regional Stability" was attended by air chiefs from countries in the Indo-Pacific region. Bhadauria was nominated as the Dean for the symposium. Honolulu is the capital of Hawaii.

### 3. Prime Minister Narendra Modi chairs 13th BRICS Summit

As part of India's ongoing Chairship of BRICS in 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chair the 13th BRICS Summit.

The meeting will be attended by the President of Brazil, Russia, China, and South Africa.

The theme for the Summit is 'BRICS@15: Intra-BRICS cooperation for continuity, consolidation and consensus'.

This is the second time PM Modi will be chairing the BRICS.

### 4. MoS Power Krishan Pal Gurjar attends 15th East Asia Summit Energy Ministers meet

The theme of the meeting 'We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper', aimed at coordinating efforts of ASEAN countries in pursuing the goal of energy security and energy transition. Engagement with ASEAN has been and will remain a critical element of India's 'Act East' policy and strategy, Acting East is now a central element in India's Indo-Pacific vision. 8th August-ASEAN Day India's trade with ASEAN: 10.6% of India's total trade

### 5. PM to participate in Quad Leaders' Summit in Washington on September 24

Prime Minister will participate in the first in-person Quad Leaders' Summit in Washington on 24th September. The Quad grouping comprises the US, India, Australia and Japan. US is hosting the in-person summit of the leaders of Quad to boost practical cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region as well as to send a strong signal about Washington's commitment to the grouping.

### 6. PM Modi to address 21st Meeting of SCO Council of Heads of State.

Meeting is hosted by Tajikistan, where India will be represented by External Affairs Minister. It is 1st SCO Summit being held in hybrid format and the 4th Summit that India will participate as a full-fledged member of SCO. At the Summit, leaders are expected to review the organization's activities over past 2 decades and discuss the state & prospects of future cooperation

SCO founded in 2001. It has 8 member states

### 7. Prime Minister participates in 21st Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

The 21st meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State was held on 17 September 2021 in Dushanbe in hybrid format.

The meeting was chaired by H.E. Emomali Rahmon, the President of Tajikistan.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the Summit via video-link. At Dushanbe, India was represented by External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar. PM highlighted the problems caused by growing radicalisation and extremism in SCO border.

### 8. India participates in Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate (MEF) convened virtually by US President

Representing India at the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate (MEF) convened virtually by US President, the Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav stated that combating climate change is a shared global challenge and our response must be based on the fundamental principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities. The Environment Minister highlighted India's target of 450 GW of Renewable Energy by 2030

### 9. PM Narendra Modi 3-day visit to USA: attend Quad leaders' summit, to address UNGA

The maiden in-person Quad (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) summit with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US President Joe Biden, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga was held at White House, Washington.

And PM Modi will address the 76th session of the UN General Assembly in New York.

### 10. India, Australia hold first Joint Working Group meet on coal, mines

The meeting was a precursor to the upcoming India-Australia Energy Dialogue scheduled to be held next month. The meeting was co-chaired by Additional Secretary in Ministry of Coal Vinod Kumar Tiwari from the Indian side and Head of Resources Division Paul Trotman from Australian side.

### 11. Amit Shah addresses first National Cooperative Conference

The maiden National Cooperative Conference (Sehkarita Sammelan) was held at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in the national capital. Amit Shah outlined the government's vision and roadmap for the development of this sector.

Conference was organised by cooperative bodies IFFCO, National Cooperative Federation of India, Amul, Sahakar Bharti, NAFED and KRIBHCO, among others

Amit Shah is the first Minister of Cooperation of India.



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## Science & Technology

### 1. IIT Ropar's startup company introduces World's first 'Plant based' smart air-purifier 'Ubreathe Life'

Scientists of IIT, Ropar & Kanpur and Faculty of Management Studies of Delhi University have developed a living-plant based air purifier 'Ubreathe Life' that amplifies the air purification process in the indoor spaces.

These indoor spaces can either be hospitals, schools, offices and your Homes.

The world's first, state-of-the art 'Smart Bio-Filter' can make breathing Fresh It has been incubated at IIT Ropar, & is a designated iHub-AWADH

### 2. Researchers develop improved water management system to treat toxic textile effluents

Indian researchers have developed an improved water management system that can completely reuse dye wastewater from textile industries, eliminating its toxicity & making it suitable for domestic and industrial usage.

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur along with Malaviya National Institute of Technology, Jaipur and MBM College Jodhpur have developed a modified AOP. AOP:- Advanced Oxidation Process is used to remove this toxicity.

### 3. 'Medicines from the Sky' project launched to send medicines to Primary Health Care Centres using drones

Union Minister for Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia has launched the Medicines from the Sky project to send medicines to Primary Health Care Centres using drones.

The project was launched at Vikarabad in Telangana.

Drones carry a payload of vaccines and other medicines to Public Health Centers under the project. The first sortie was carried out by a drone built by SkyAir Mobility.

### 4. China launches Earth observation satellite that can obtain radioactive data

China launched the 24th Gaofen-series Earth-observation satellite in a bid to monitor environmental protection efforts and boost its natural resources surveillance. The satellite was launched from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in Shanxi province on a Long March 4C carrier rocket. The Gaofen programme was launched by Beijing in 2010. The Gaofen 5-02 is equipped with hyperspectral observational devices.

### 5. Infosys launches digital commerce platform Equinox

IT services major Infosys formally launched its 'Equinox' suite of solutions to help enterprises transform their online and in-store functions and deliver personalised omnichannel commerce experiences for B2B and B2C buyers.

Equinox's target industries include retail, CPG, telecom, automotive, manufacturing and media streaming.

### 6. Low carbon bricks developed using construction and demolition waste for energy-efficient walling envelopes

Researchers have developed a technology to produce energy-efficient walling materials using construction and demolition (C&D) waste a alkali-activated binders. These are called low-C bricks, do not require high-temperature firing, and avoid the use of high-energy materials such as Portland cement.

The annual consumption of bricks & blocks in India is about 900 million tonnes.

### 7. Affordable housing in outer space: Scientists develop cosmic concrete from space dust and astronaut blood

Scientists recently demonstrated that a common protein from blood plasma ' human serum albumin ' could act as a binder for the simulated moon or Mars dust to produce a concrete-like material. The resulting novel material, termed AstroCrete, had compressive strengths as high as 25 MPa (Megapascals), about the same as the 20'32 MPa seen in ordinary concrete.

### 8. MyGov launches Planetarium Innovation Challenge for Indian start-ups and tech entrepreneurs

The challenge aims to bring together the tech firms and Start-ups (based out of India) with the potential to build an indigenous planetariums system software using latest technologies including Augmented Reality (A.R.), Virtual Reality (V.R.) and Merged Reality (M.R.). The Planetarium Challenge aligns with the objective of the nation's progressive digital transformation. MyGov India is under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

### **9. Study probes how ejections from Sun's corona influence space weather predictions crucial for monitoring satellites**

A recent study has shown how conditions and events in the solar atmosphere like coronal mass ejections influence the accuracy of space weather prediction, which is crucial for the health of our satellites. This understanding will aid the interpretation of data from the upcoming Aditya-L1, India's first solar mission.

### **10. Scientists Develop Concrete From Astronaut Blood and Martian Dust to Build Homes on Mars**

A two-year mission by a crew of six astronauts on the Martian surface can produce 500kg of AstroCrete. Scientists showed the protein 'human serum albumin' could act as a binder for the soil available on the Moon or Mars. They have named the resulting material, AstroCrete. It has an impressive strength as high as 25MPa, about the same as ordinary concrete.

### **11. Skyroot Aerospace becomes first Space-tech startup to formally enter into agreement with ISRO**

Skyroot Aerospace, a Hyderabad-based Space technology startup, has become the first private company to formally enter into an agreement with ISRO and is set to benefit from the latter's expertise and access facilities to test and qualify its small rocket ahead of launch next year. This MoU will allow the company to undertake multiple tests & access facilities at ISRO centres Skyroot is building the Vikram series of rockets to carry small satellites into space.

### **12. IIT Bombay Launches Project Udaan, AI-Based Translation For Non-English Speakers**

'Project Udaan,' a donation-based project, is an end-to-end ecosystem, which translates scientific and technical content from English to Hindi and all other Indian languages.

The project has been developed by Institute Chair Professor, Department of Computer Science & Engineering, Prof. Ganesh Ramakrishnan, and his team.

The Project aims to translate 500 engineering texts in Hindi in one year

### **13. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal inaugurates Centre of Excellence in Logistics and Supply Chain Management at NITIE in Mumbai**

The Centre will act as a driving force to train and launch top quality programs to disseminate advanced knowledge and promote Digitisation, Analytics, and IoT Application and Decision Support Systems through Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning applications and Digital Twin & Control towers, to strengthen the monitoring and analysis of complex logistics operations.

### **14. Scientists develop 3D printed vaccine patch in US**

The team at Stanford University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC) in the US applied the vaccine patch directly to the skin of animals, which is full of immune cells that vaccines target.

Scientists have developed a three-dimensional (3D) printed vaccine patch that provides greater protection than a typical immunisation shot.

### **15. In a significant breakthrough that will enable detection of explosives without destroying them, Indian scientists have developed**

In a significant breakthrough that will enable detection of explosives without destroying them, Indian scientists have developed a layer by layer (LBL) polymer detector for the purpose.

The LBL has been the brainchild of a team of scientists led by Dr Neelotpal Sen Sarma from the Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology, Guwahati. Thermally stable & cost-effective electronic polymer-based sensor will help for detection



## Defence

### 1. Rajnath Singh commissions offshore patrol vessel (OPV) ICGS Vigraha

Indian defence minister Rajnath Singh commissioned the L&T built Offshore Patrol Vessel ICGS Vigraha into the Indian coast guard. OPVs are long-range surface ships, capable of operation in the maritime zones of India, including island territories with helicopter operation capabilities.

The commissioning ceremony took place in Chennai. Event was witnessed by Tamil Nadu chief minister MK Stalin & Army chief Manoj.M.Naravane.

### 2. INS Trikand undertakes maritime partnership exercise with German frigate Bayern in Gulf of Aden

INS Trikand undertakes maritime partnership exercise with German frigate Bayern in Gulf of Aden.

Indian Naval Ship Trikand, currently on deployment in Gulf of Aden for Anti-Piracy operations. Several evolutions like Cross deck landings by helicopters, Manoeuvres at sea, Boarding operations by German Navy Helo(Lynx) onboard INS Trikand, approaches were undertaken.

### 3. India, Kazakhstan joint military exercise 'KAZIND-21' begins

The India-Kazakhstan joint military exercise KAZIND-21 commenced at Training Node Aisha Bibi, Kazakhstan.

This is the 5th Edition of Annual bilateral joint exercise of both Armies.

The fourth edition of the exercise was held at Pithoragarh, India in September 2019.

The contingent comprises 120 troops from Kazakhstan and 90 soldiers of the Indian Army.

### 4. Indian Army to participate in Multilateral Exercise ZAPAD, 2021 in Russia

A 200 personnel contingent of the Indian Army will participate in Exercise ZAPAD,2021, a Multinational exercise being held at Nizhniy, Russia.

The Exercise ZAPAD is one of the theatre level exercises of the Russian Armed Forces and will focus primarily on operations against terrorists.

Over a dozen countries from Eurasian and South Asian Region will participate in the event

### 5. India, US sign Unmanned Aerial Vehicles co-development project agreement

India and the United States have signed an agreement recently to co-develop air-launched Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) under the US-India Defense Technology and Trade Initiative, a bilateral defense cooperation mechanism that promotes collaborative technology exchange.

The project is valued at more than USD 22 million with costs shared equally. The project will be carried out jointly between the US AFRL and India's DRDO.

### 6. Modern warfare equipments displayed at 7th International Military-Technical Forum "Army-2021"

The 7th International Military-Technical Forum "Army-2021" concluded recently in Moscow in which new warfare equipment were displayed. Over 1500 Russian and foreign companies presented their inventions in the defence field at the week-long Forum. The Forum showcased drones, trainings to control new generation weapons, K-27 helicopter training module and Kalashnikov rifles.

### 7. Bilateral exercise 'AUSINDEX between Indian Navy & Royal Australian Navy begins

The bilateral exercise 'AUSINDEX between the Indian Navy and Royal Australian Navy commenced in Australia.

This edition of exercise includes complex surface, sub-surface and air operations between ships, submarines, helicopters and Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft.

The participating Indian Naval Ships Shivalik and Kadmat are indigenously designed.

### 8. Indian Navy's aviation wing receives prestigious President's Colour award

President Ram Nath Kovind awarded the President's Colour to the Indian Naval Aviation at a ceremonial parade held at the INS Hansa base near Panjim in Goa.

The president was given the guard of honour by the Indian Navy on the occasion.

The President's Colour is the highest honour bestowed on a military unit in recognition of its exceptional service to the nation.

### **9. Indian Army carries out live-fire exercise in Ladakh**

The Indian Army carried out an integrated manoeuvre and live-fire exercise in Ladakh.

The exercise was carried out in super high altitude areas close to 15,000 feet, as the operational preparedness was reviewed by Corps Commander Lt. Gen PGK Menon.

The exercise involved integrated maneuvers, and was conducted to check the operational preparedness of the Snow Leopard Brigade

### **10. India to procure 56 transport aircraft for \$2.6 billion from Airbus**

The Cabinet Committee on Security approved the procurement of 56 C-295MW transport aircraft from Airbus Defence and Space S.A., Spain for the Indian Air Force (IAF).

The C-295MW aircraft is a transport aircraft of 5-10 tonne capacity with contemporary technology that will replace the ageing Avro aircraft of IAF.

The deal is estimated to be worth about \$2.6 billion. The Cabinet Committee on Security is headed by the Prime Minister.

### **11. IAF inducts Barak 8 air defence system that can hit multiple targets 70km away**

The Indian Air Force inducted a medium range surface-to-air-missile (MRSAM) system capable of knocking out aerial threats such as enemy fighter jets, missiles, helicopters and unmanned aerial vehicles at a range of 70 km. India and Israel have jointly developed MRSAM or the Barak 8 air defence system.

The missile is powered by a locally-developed rocket motor and control.

### **12. India to commission INS Dhruv first long-range ballistic missile tracking ship**

The INS Dhruv is a research vessel and missile range instrumentation ship built by India's Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL). The ship can gather electronic intelligence and will be used to track missiles and satellites to aid India's strategic weapons and anti-ballistic missiles. It will be jointly operated by National Technical Research Organization, DRDO. The 10,000-tonne vessel commissioned from Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.

### **13. India Hosts First-Ever 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue**

India and Australia began a high-level foreign and defence ministerial dialogue aimed at further ramping up their overall defence and strategic cooperation including in the Indo-Pacific amid China's increasing military assertiveness in the region.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held the inaugural 'two-plus-two' talks in New Delhi.

### **14. Rajasthan's Barmer gets emergency landing facility on Satta-Gandhav stretch**

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari inaugurated an Emergency Landing Field (ELF) and also witness aircraft operations on the ELF on NH-925 at Gandhav Bhakasar Section (NH-925) South of Barmer (Rajasthan).

This is the first time that a National Highway will be used for emergency landing of aircrafts of IAF. The project will cost '765.52 crore under the Bharatmala Pariyojana.

### **15. Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh approves Delegation of Financial powers to Armed Forces for Revenue Procurement**

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh released an order on Delegation of Financial Powers to Defence Services (DFPDS) 2021, providing enhanced delegation of Revenue Procurement powers to the Armed Forces.

The DFPDS 2021 aims to empower field formations; focus on operational preparedness; promote ease of doing business and enhance jointness among the Services. Chief of the Army Staff: M.M.Naravane; Chief of Defence Staff: General Bipin Rawat

### **16. Tata-Airbus combine to make C295MW transport planes in first major military deal for private sector**

The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) has cleared the procurement of new military transport aircraft that will be made in India by a Tata-Airbus combine.

This is the first such military aviation contract placed with the Indian private sector and is expected to generate more than 6,600 jobs in the coming years, besides introducing cutting-edge technology.

### **17. PM Modi inaugurates new Defence Ministry office complexes in Delhi**

The two new offices are ready for use at the Kasturba Gandhi Marg in central Delhi and the Africa Avenue road near Chanakyapuri in the national capital. The offices have been built for relocating civilian

and military officers whose offices need to be reconstructed due to the construction of the central vista complex coming up in the heart of the centre of power.

#### **18. 15th edition of INDO - NEPAL joint exercise SURYA KIRAN is commenced at Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand**

15th Edition of Indo - Nepal Joint Military Training, Exercise Surya Kiran between Indian Army and Nepali Army is commencing from 20 September 2021 at Pithoragarh (Uttarakhand).

The exercise aims to share experiences gained during the conduct of various counter-insurgency operations by both countries. Capital: Kathmandu; Currency: Nepalese rupee; Prime minister: Sher Bahadur Deuba

#### **19. 6th edition of SCO Exercise Peaceful Mission 2021 commences in Russia**

The sixth edition of SCO Exercise Peaceful Mission 2021 started at Orenburg Region of South West Russia. The aim of the exercise is to foster close relations between SCO Member States and to enhance abilities of the military leaders to command multinational military contingents. SCO Peaceful Mission is a Multilateral & Joint Counter Terrorism Exercise.

#### **20. Research and Analysis Wing (RAW): India's undercover operations agency completes 53 years in service to the nation**

India's premier intelligence agency, RAW is observing its 54th foundation day today. Established in 1968 to handle the nation's international intelligence affairs, RAW came into force after the China-India War in 1962. At present, RAW operates under the aegis of the PMO. In 1968, then India's PM Indira Gandhi appointed R. N. Kao as the first director of RAW

#### **21. Peace Mission-2021: India takes part in SCO joint military exercise in Russia**

India participated in the sixth edition of multinational military exercise organised by the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Russia's Oregon region.

The Indian military contingent comprising an all arms combined force of 200 personnel including 38 personnel from the Indian Air Force is participating in the Exercise Peaceful mission -2021. SCO:- world's largest regional organisation in geographic scope and population

#### **22. Defence ministry places order for 118 Arjun Mk-1A tanks worth '7,523 crore**

The Mk-1A tanks will be manufactured at the Ordnance Factory Board's (OFB) Heavy Vehicles Factory at Avadi, outside Chennai.

The Arjun Mk-1A is an upgraded version of the Arjun Mk-1 main battle tank (MBT) currently in army service.

DRDO's Chennai-based Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (CVRDE) has designed and developed the tank. The OFB controls 41 ordnance factories split into seven government-owned entities.

#### **23. Air Force Station Srinagar to conduct Air Show at Dal lake on September 26 as part of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'**

As part of ongoing celebration commemorating 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav', Air Force Station Srinagar will conduct an air show at Dal lake in Srinagar on September 26.

The event, being organised in collaboration with the J & K Government, will be flagged off by Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, at Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC). The event is titled 'Give Wings to your Dreams'

#### **24. Govt seals Rs 22,000 crore deal with Tata, Airbus for purchase of 56 C-295 military transport aircraft**

The Ministry of Defence signed an estimated '22,000-crore deal with Airbus Defence and Space S.A., Spain, for 56 C-295MW transport aircraft to replace the Indian Air Force's ageing 56 Avro aircraft that were procured in the 1960s.

This is the first project of its kind in which a military aircraft will be manufactured in India under technology transfer by the private sector

#### **25. Indian Army kicks off 'Bijoya Sanskritik Mahotsav' in Kolkata**

A four-day cultural event titled 'Bijoya Sanskritik Mahotsav' was kicked off to showcase the cultural linkages between India and Bangladesh during the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War and bring to fore the various tales of valour of Indian Army soldiers & Mukti Jodhas in the historic battle.

The programme is part of the 'Swarnim Vijay Varsh' celebration (50 yrs of war).

Organised by the Indian Army's Eastern Command in Kolkata.

## 26. India's 'Akash Prime' Missile Successfully Destroys Aerial Target In Maiden Flight Test

India successfully test-fired a new version of the Akash missile from the integrated test range at Odisha's Chandipur. The new missile named Akash Prime intercepted and destroyed an unmanned aerial target which mimicked an enemy aircraft during its maiden flight test.

Akash Prime ensuring reliable performance under a low-temperature environment at higher altitudes. DRDO tested this new version of the Akash Missile .

## 27. India and Oman sign memorandum of understanding on white shipping information exchange

The Indian Navy & the Royal Navy of Oman signed a MoU on the exchange of white shipping information. The signing of the MoU between the Royal Navy of Oman & the Indian Navy will facilitate information exchange on merchant shipping traffic through the Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region.

'Naseem Al Bahr': biennial maritime exercise between India & Oman. Indian Chief of the Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh.



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## Books & Authors

### 1. Susanna Clarke wins Women's Prize for Fiction 2021

Author Susanna Clarke won the Women's Prize for Fiction 2021 for her novel 'Piranesi'. Novelist and Booker-winner Bernardine Evaristo chaired the Women's Prize judging panel this year. 'Piranesi' is narrated by a man living in a labyrinthine, statue-filled house ' alone except for a visitor known as the Other ' that comprises his whole universe. Susanna Clarke: English author known for her debut novel Jonathan Strange & Mr. Norrell

### 2. Indian-origin Mahmood Mamdani shortlisted for British Academy Book Prize

Mahmood Mamdani, the Mumbai-born Ugandan academic and writer, was shortlisted for the 2021 British Academy Book Prize for Global Cultural Understanding.

He is among the four authors who have been selected for the GBP 25,000 non-fiction prize.

Mahmood Mamdani, 75, has been shortlisted for his book 'Neither Settler nor Native: The Making & Unmaking of Permanent Minorities'.

### 3. Angelina Jolie Announces Her Book 'Know Your Rights And Claim Them: A Guide For Youth'

Angelina Jolie recently announced that her upcoming book, Know Your Rights and Claim Them: A Guide for Youth is all set to get published. She further added a note on social media for all her fans explaining the importance of equal rights and announced that she will soon be interacting with some young people, who have been fighting for their rights for years.

### 4. Jhumpa Lahiri's latest is a book on translation, will hit the shelves next spring

Jhumpa Lahiri, the Pulitzer Prize-winning fiction writer, will highlight her work as a translator. Lahiri's 'Translating Myself and Others' will come out next spring. Lahiri has lived off and on in Rome for nearly a decade, and her translation projects include 'The Penguin Book of Italian Short Stories' and her novel 'Whereabouts', which she first wrote in Italian.

Her new book will features essays on the meaning of translation.

### 5. Kaveree Bamzai's book 'The Three Khans: And the Emergence of New India

In her latest book, The Three Khans: And the Emergence of New India (Westland), senior journalist Kaveree Bamzai has juxtaposed the careers of the 3 Khans, Aamir, Shah Rukh, & Salman, with the most tumultuous times in the history of the republic. Art often responds to social and political dimensions, & in a country short of role models, film stars often play a double roles

### 6. BJP MP Subramanian Swamy's book :- 'Human Rights and Terrorism in India' :

Subramanian Swamy has published his new book titled 'Human Rights and Terrorism in India'.

It states how to counter terrorism with appropriate sanctions in harmony with the fundamental rights of citizens.

He says that the gist of this study is that India should promote recognition as a nation to stop terrorism.

Book deals with the memories of the famous Kandahar plane hijacking case of 1999.

### 7. The Long Game: How the Chinese Negotiate with India by Vijay Gokhale

In this new book, 'The Long Game: How the Chinese Negotiate with India', former foreign secretary of India, Vijay Gokhale, unpacks the dynamics of India-China relations through the prism of six historical and recent events.

The book gives a practitioner's insight into strategies, tactics, and tools that China uses for diplomatic negotiations.

His 1st book - Tiananmen Square: The Making of a Protest was published earlier this month

### 8. The Fractured Himalaya: How the Past Shadows the Present in India-China Relations forthcoming book, by Nirupama Rao

The book traces how the origins of the dispute between India and China form part of a living history that shapes their fractious relationship today. Understanding this complex panorama yields lessons for all of us who seek a wider perspective on China and its profile in the Indo-Pacific. Nirupama Rao is a former Foreign Secretary.

### 9. Kathmandu Dilemma: Resetting India-Nepal Ties - book by former ambassador Ranjit Rae

As Ranjit Rae, himself a former Indian Ambassador to Nepal, writes in his maiden book Kathmandu Dilemma: Resetting India-Nepal Ties ' some of them behaved as 'viceroys'.

As Rae points out that the 'India-phobia' is bound to have serious implications with China lifting its veil to woo Nepal and for any Indian diplomat, Nepal is one of the finest assignments. Nepal was declared a 'Hindu State' only in 1962 by King Mahendra.

#### 10. The Battle of Rezang La written by Kulpreet Yadav

A new book tells the story of 120 Indian soldiers who put up a valiant fight against the 5,000-strong Chinese military troops in the 1962 Indo-China war, preventing a possible occupation of the entire Ladakh region.

The Battle of Rezang La", published under Penguin Random House's "Veer" imprint, is written by ex-naval officer and author Kulpreet Yadav. Other works of Yadav:- Espionage, True Crime and Romance.



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## Obituary

### 1. Vasoo Paranjape, Indian cricket foremost coach and mentor, dies aged 82

Vasoo Paranjape, the former Mumbai player and renowned coach passes away at the age 82. He scored 785 runs in 29 first-class matches representing Mumbai and Baroda.

He played a crucial role in shaping the careers of Sunil Gavaskar, Dilip Vengsarkar, Sanjay Manjrekar, Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar, Yuvraj Singh and Rohit Sharma, among others.

### 2. Former Rajya Sabha member, journalist Chandan Mitra dies at 66

Veteran journalist and two-term Rajya Sabha MP Chandan Mitra passes away.

The 66-year-old former BJP MP who had been the editor-in-chief of The Pioneer.

A year into heading The Pioneer, its then owners, the Thapar Group, handed over the newspaper to Mitra in 1998.

### 3. Actor Sidharth Shukla passes away at 40

Popular television and film actor Sidharth Shukla, best known for his role in the long-running TV show 'Balika Vadhu', passed away. He was 40.

According to Mumbai's Cooper Hospital, the cause of death is yet to be ascertained. He is survived by his mother and two sisters.

### 4. Former Union Health Secretary Keshav Desiraju passes away

Keshav Desiraju, former Union Health Secretary and the grandson of former President Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan passed away in Chennai.

Desiraju was a humanist and a dedicated social worker for the cause of the differently abled.

After retirement, Desiraju remained involved in issues of public health, particularly on mental health, primary health care and community health. He has written a biography of legendary singer MS Subbulakshmi.

### 5. Rajni Kaul, the first News Broadcaster for BBC Hindi passed away in Haryana

Rajni Kaul who was the first News Broadcaster for BBC Hindi passed away in Faridabad, Haryana. She was 93.

She was not only the first woman to join BBC Hindi as a staff member but she also became the first woman to read a news bulletin in Hindi on the network in 1961.

She was well-known for her programme Indradhanush.

### 6. Eminent Kashmiri Writer Aziz Hajini Passes After Brief Illness

Noted writer and former secretary of Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages Aziz Hajini breathed his last following a brief illness. He held the designation of secretary of the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages.

### 7. Senior Rajya Sabha MP and former Union minister Oscar Fernandes no more

Senior Rajya Sabha member and former Union minister, a Congress veteran leader Oscar Fernandes took his last breath at Yenepoya hospital in Mangaluru. Oscar Fernandes is reported to be treated for a head injury he suffered in July.

A five-term Lok Sabha MP from Udupi parliamentary constituency in Karnataka. He also served as Parliamentary Secretary to late former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

### 8. Renowned astrophysicist Thanu Padmanabhan passes away

Thanu Padmanabhan, a distinguished professor at Pune's Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics and a cosmologist passed away. Professor Padmanabhan was selected for 'Kerala Shashtra Puraskaram' 2021 last month. The award is institutionalised by the Kerala government to honour scientists from the state. He is a recipient of the famous Padma Shri award.

### 9. Former England Footballer Jimmy Greaves Dies Aged 81

Jimmy Greaves, one of England's most prolific strikers and Tottenham Hotspur's record goalscorer, has died at the age of 81.

Greaves, who suffered a stroke six years ago, scored 266 goals for Tottenham between 1961-1970 & his 37 league goals in the 1962-63 season remains a club record. He began his career with Chelsea and netted 124 league goals for the London club (1957-61).

#### 10. Ex-Arunachal Guv & former Delhi top cop YS Dadwal passes away

Former Delhi Police Commissioner YS Dadwal has died. The 1974-batch IPS officer became the Delhi Police Commissioner in 2007 and was transferred to Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) as its Director General in 2010.

After retiring from the services, he was also appointed as the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh in 2016.

#### 11. Eminent women's rights activist Kamla Bhasin passes away at 75

Eminent women's rights activist, poet and author Kamla Bhasin passed away.

Bhasin has been a prominent voice in the women's movement in India and other South Asian countries.



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## Person in news

### 1. Noted Writer Namita Gokhale To Be Conferred Yamin Hazarika Woman Of Substance Award

Writer and Festival Director, Namita Gokhale was awarded the 7th Yamin Hazarika Woman of Substance Award 2021.

The award is instituted in memory of Yamin Hazarika, the first woman from the Northeast to join the central police service.

The award is given every year by a collective of women professionals since 2015. Namita's recent novel, Jaipur Journals, was released in 2020

### 2. Piyush Goyal appointed as India's Sherpa for G20

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has been appointed as India's Sherpa for the G20 which is an influential grouping that brings together the world's major economies.

India will be holding the G20 Presidency from 1st December 2022 and will convene the G20 Leaders' Summit in 2023 for the first time.

India has been a member of the G20 since its inception in 1999.

### 3. India's Jeev Milkha Singh becomes first golfer in world to be granted 10-year Dubai Golden Visa

Jeev Milkha Singh has become the 1st professional golfer in the world to receive the prestigious 10-year Dubai Golden Visa in recognition of his outstanding achievements.

The Golden Visa was instituted by the UAE government in 2019 as a new system which allowed investors (minimum of AED 10 million) and entrepreneurs, as well as professionals and specialized talents.

### 4. Ramesh Narayan to be inducted into AFAA Hall of Fame

Indian advertising doyen Ramesh Narayan will be inducted into the Asian Federation of Advertising Associations (AFAA) Hall of Fame at AdAsia 2021.

Ramesh has been honoured with AAAI Lifetime Achievement Award, the International Advertising Association Global Champion Award, the Public Relations Society of India Special Award.

### 5. General Prabhu Ram Sharma appointed new chief of Nepal Army

The Nepal government has appointed Prabhu Ram Sharma as Chief of the Army Staff. This comes after the cabinet raised the name of Sharma as the most eligible person to hold the topmost rank in the Nepal Army.

The new Army Chief, Prabhu Ram Sharma, is an alumnus of the National Defense College in India and hails from Kathmandu. Nepal President:- Bidhya Devi Bhandari; PM:- Sher Bahadur Deuba

### 6. Tata AIA ropes in Neeraj Chopra as its brand ambassador

Tata AIA Life Insurance has entered into a multi-year brand partnership Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra, as its brand ambassador.

Post-Olympic win, this is his first brand partnership.

As part of the partnership, Chopra will support Tata AIA's efforts in offering life protection and health and wellness solutions to its consumers over the next few years. Neeraj Chopra who won gold in the javelin throw.

### 7. Raja Randhir Singh appointed acting president of Olympic Council of Asia

India's Raja Randhir Singh has taken over as acting president of the Olympic Council of Asia as Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah appeals a guilty verdict in a Swiss forgery trial.

A five-time Olympic shooter and an Asian Games gold medallist in 1978, Singh was promoted to the role from his position as an honorary life vice president. Olympic Council of Asia Headquarters: Kuwait City, Kuwait; Founded: 16 November 1982

### 8. Lasith Malinga announces retirement from all forms of cricket

Sri Lanka pace veteran Lasith Malinga announced his retirement from all forms of cricket. His toe-crushing yorkers delivered from a low and distinct sling-arm action made him one of the greatest bowlers in men's T20 cricket.

The 38-year-old was captain of Sri Lanka's 2014 T20 World Cup winning team. He last played a T20I match for Sri Lanka in March 2020 against West Indies

### **9. Shivani Meena becomes first excavation engineer to work in an open cast mine in CCL**

Shivani Meena has become the first woman excavation engineer to work in an open cast mine at Coal India arm CCL.

She will be posted at CCL's Rajrappa project, one of the important enterprises of the coal mining behemoth.

# Akanksha Kumari became Coal India's first woman mining engineer to work in an underground mine. Central Coalfields Limited - a subsidiary of Coal India.

### **10. Raja Rithvik R becomes the 70th Grandmaster of India**

Hyderabad's promising R Raja Rithvik became chess Grandmaster after he crossed the ELO Rating of 2500. The 17-year-old achieved this GM title in Vezerkepzo Grandmaster Chess Tournament at Budapest, Hungary. He thus became the 70th Grandmaster from the country.

Raja Rithvik defeated FIDE Master Finek Vaclav of Czechoslovakia in 57 moves and reached the live rating of 2501. Subbaraman Vijayalakshmi, first woman Grandmaster of India.

### **11. CISF Official Geeta Samota Becomes 'Fastest Indian' to Summit Two Peaks**

CISF official Geeta Samota became the "fastest Indian" to summit two peaks located in Africa and Russia. Samota works with the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), a central paramilitary force under the command of the Union home ministry.

While Mt Elbrus (5,642 mts) is in Russia, the Kilimanjaro peak (5,895 mts) is located in Tanzania and is Africa's highest peak. CISF Founded on: 10 March 1969; Headquarters: New Delhi, India

### **12. Pankaj Advani wins his 24th world title in Doha**

Star Indian cueist Pankaj Advani grabbed his 24th world title when he triumphed at the IBSF 6-Red Snooker World Cup with a victory over Pakistan's Babar Masih in the final.

Advani, who won his 11th Asian title last week, started the final with a comfortable 42-13 win in the opening frame.

Babar drew parity by winning the second 38-14.

### **13. Zimbabwe batsman Brendan Taylor announces retirement from international cricket**

Former Zimbabwe skipper and wicketkeeper batsman Brendan Taylor (34 yrs) has decided to retire from international cricket.

He made his debut in 2004 in an ODI against Sri Lanka & went on to become one of Zimbabwe's finest ever cricketers in international cricket.

He has scored 6677 runs from 204 ODIs & is just 112 runs short of former Zimbabwe batsman Andy Flower (6786).

Zimbabwe's Capital: Harare; Currencies: United States Dollar, Real Time Gross Settlement

### **14. Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak launches space start-up Privateer**

Apple's co-creator Steve Wozniak has launched a new space start-up called Privateer Space, bringing potential competition to a field dominated by billionaires Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos and Richard Branson.

The global space economy, which has attracted many top companies such as Tesla and Amazon, involves various activities such as research & development, and space tourism, etc. Bank of America predicts the space economy will have more than tripled in size by 2030.

### **15. Guinness World Records: Japanese sisters certified world's oldest twins**

Guinness World Records Sisters Umeno Sumiyama and Koume Kodama turned 107 years and 300 days old, officially breaking the record for the world's oldest living identical twins.

The Japanese siblings are also the oldest identical twins to have ever lived.

Sumiyama and Kodama were born on Shodoshima island in western Japan on November 5, 1913.

### **16. Rohit Sharma scripts history, becomes first player to score 1,000 runs against single opposition in IPL**

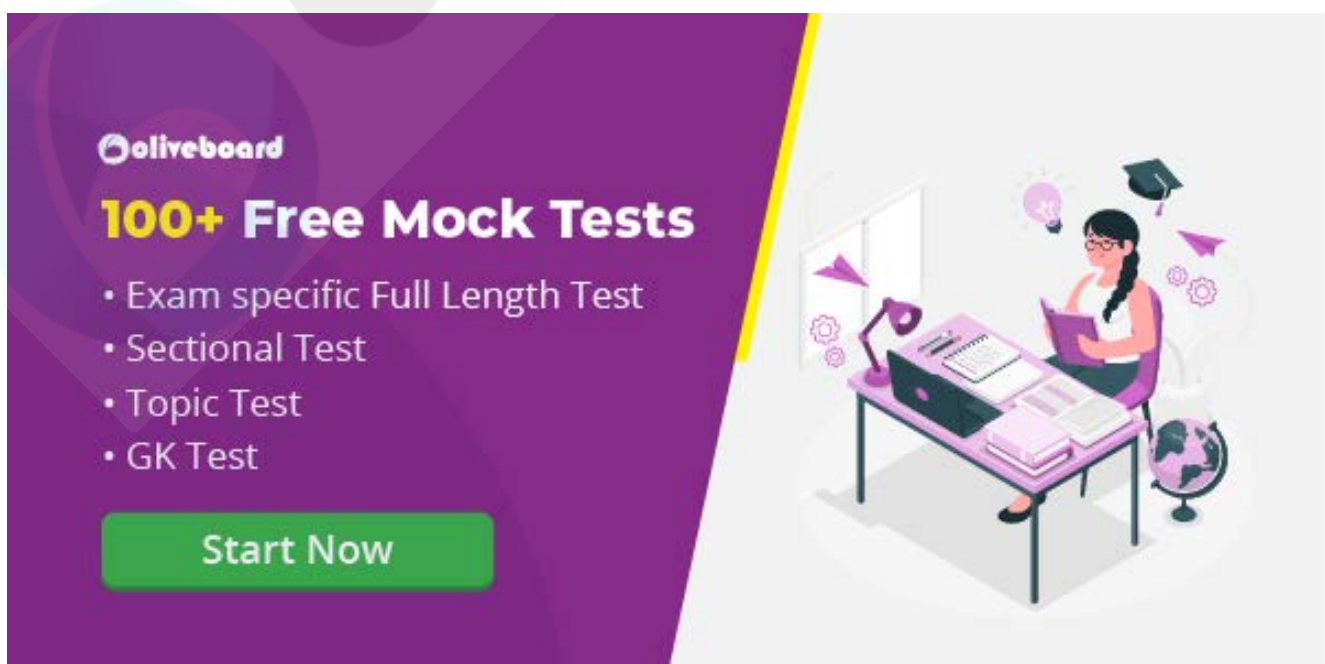
Rohit Sharma became the first batter in the Indian Premier League (IPL) history to score 1000 runs against a single team during Mumbai Indians' (MI) contest against Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium, Abu Dhabi.

The 34-year-old achieved the feat in the fourth over of MI's innings.

### 17. Manny Pacquiao Announces Retirement From Professional Boxing

After 26 years and 72 professional bouts, Former world champion Manny Pacquiao announced his retirement from professional boxing.

Pacquiao made his professional debut in 1995 at age 16. He became the first boxer to win the lineal championship in five different weight classes, and is the only boxer to hold world championships across four different decades. He held the welterweight title as recently as 2019 at age 40.



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## India & World

### 1. India, Nepal sign pacts to reconstruct over 100 projects damaged by 2015 earthquake

India and Nepal signed MoUs for the reconstruction of 14 cultural heritage and 103 health sector projects damaged by the devastating 2015 earthquake in the country. These projects will be reconstructed at a cost of 420 crore Nepalese Rupees (\$36 million). CLPIU (Building), Nepal is the implementing agency for both health and cultural heritage sector projects. CLPIU - Central Level Project Implementation Unit (Building)

### 2. India climbs two spots to rank 46th in Global Innovation Index (GII) 2021

India has climbed two spots and has been ranked 46th by the World Intellectual Property Organization in the Global Innovation Index 2021 rankings. India has been on a rising trajectory, over the past several years in the GII, from a rank of 81 in 2015 to 46 in 2021. Switzerland, Sweden, US & UK have retained their top four ranks in the index while China is ranked 12th.

### 3. Bangladesh govt to export 2080 MT Hilsa fish to India

Bangladesh Govt. has been giving special permission for export of Hilsa to India for the last few years as a token of friendship, though export of Hilsa was banned in the country in 2012. The demand for the fish during Durga Puja is extremely high in West Bengal as the quality of 'Padmar Ilish' or Hilsa fish from Padma River in Bangladesh is considered of superior quality. Bangladesh produces almost 75 percent of the world's Hilsa output.

### 4. India, UAE launch negotiations for a mutually beneficial Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement

CEPA is expected to increase bilateral trade in goods to USD 100 billion within 5 years of the signed agreement and increase trade in services to USD 15 billion. UAE is currently India's 3rd largest trading partner with bilateral trade in 2019-20 valued at USD 59 billion. The UAE is also India's 2nd largest export destination after the US.

### 5. Bangabandhu-Bapu digital exhibition opens for public viewing in Dhaka

The exhibition showcases in a thematic manner the lives of the father of the nation of Bangladesh Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi.

Education Minister of Bangladesh Dr. Dipu Moni, State Minister for Culture K.M. Khalid and High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Vikram Doraiswami opened the exhibition at the Shilpkala Academy, Dhaka.



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## Environment

### 1. US-based Ohmium launches India's first green hydrogen electrolyzer gigafactory

Ohmium International, a US-based renewable energy start-up has launched India's first green hydrogen electrolyzer gigafactory at Bengaluru through its Indian subsidiary. The gigafactory will manufacture India-made Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) hydrogen electrolyzers with an initial manufacturing capacity of about 500 MW per year & will scale it up to 2GW per year.

It uses power generated from renewable resources to break water into hydrogen and oxygen.

### 2. Tata Steel commissions India's first plant for CO2 capture from blast furnace gas

Tata Steel commissioned a 5-tonne per day (TPD) carbon capture plant at its Jamshedpur Works, making it the country's first steel company to adopt such a carbon capture technology that extracts CO2 directly from the blast furnace gas.

This project has been executed with technological support from Carbon Clean, a global leader in low-cost CO2 capture technology. Tata Steel will reuse the captured CO2 on site to promote circular carbon economy.

### 3. Shoonya: NITI Aayog launches a Zero-Pollution initiative by encouraging adoption of electric vehicles by deliveries segment

NITI Aayog, with RMI and RMI India's support, launched Shoonya--an initiative to promote zero-pollution delivery vehicles by working with consumers and industry. The campaign aims to accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) in the urban deliveries segment and create consumer awareness about the benefits of zero-pollution delivery.

RMI Managing Director Clay Stranger; NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant.

### 4. India's largest open air fernery developed in Uttarakhand

The fernery has been developed over four acres and houses various 'threatened' and rare species of ferns at Ranikhet in Uttarakhand's Almora district. The fernery has been developed by the research wing of Uttarakhand Forest Department over a period of three years under the Centre's compensatory afforestation scheme -CAMPA. It has a collection of 120 types of ferns.

It has species from the western and eastern Himalayan regions as well from Western Ghats.

### 5. Environment Minister calls upon developed countries to fulfil their promise under Paris Agreement to support developing nations

Environment Minister said COP-26 should focus on climate finance in scope, scale and speed, and transfer of green technologies at low cost. He also mentioned about the concrete climate actions that India has been taking including 450 GW of Renewable Energy by 2030. He called upon the developed countries to fulfil their promise of \$100 billion per year goal made in 2009.

### 6. Kovalam beach in Tamil Nadu & Eden in Puducherry get 'Blue Flag' certificate

International eco-label 'Blue Flag', has accorded the Blue Flag Certification for 2 new beaches this year 'Kovalam in Tamil Nadu and Eden in Puducherry beaches. India now has 10 Blue Flag beaches. Foundation for Environment Education in Denmark (FEE) which accords the globally recognized eco-label - Blue Flag certification. Blue Flag certification is based on 33 stringent criteria.

### 7. CSIR-CMERI Solar DC Cooking System- A Step Towards a Green & Pollution Free India

CSIR-CMERI developed Solar DC Cooking Technology was transferred to 2 companies, M/s Asansol Solar & LED House, WB & M/s Meeco Solar & Infrastructure Associates, Durgapur, WB. The technology provides a Clean Cooking Environment, Inverter-Less Direct Operation, Fast and Uniform Heating and a potential to save 1 ton Carbon Dioxide emissions year/household. CSIR: Established in 1942 Director-General: Shekhar C. Mande.

### 8. WHO Releases Stricter, Updated Air Quality Guidelines After 16 Years

WHO released their revised Air Quality Guidelines for the first time after 16 years. The recommended annual standard of PM2.5 concentration has been decreased from 10 g/m3 to 5 g/m3, while the daily standard has dipped from 25 g/m3 to 15 g/m3, suggesting a stricter monitoring of air pollution levels across the globe.

### 9. India and US launch 'Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue' (CAFMD)

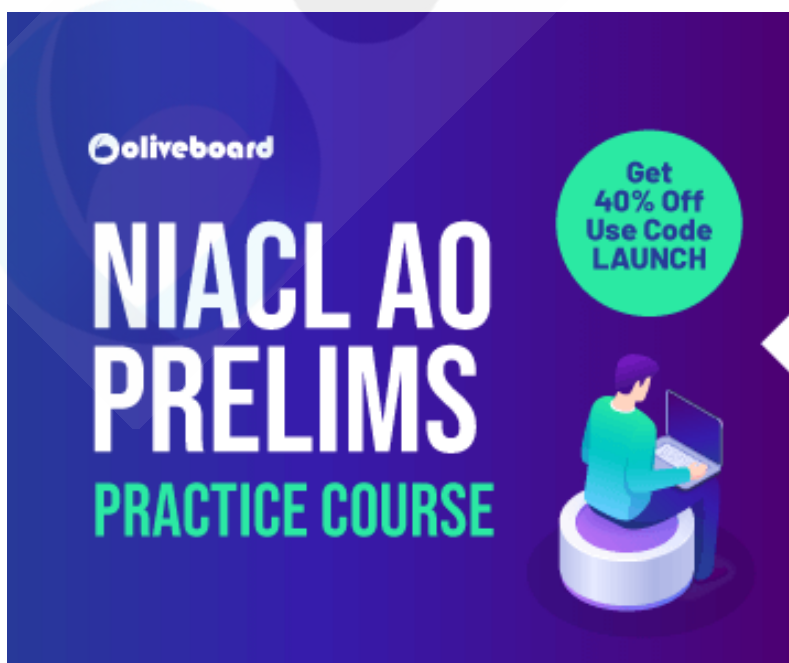
India and the United States of America (USA) launched the 'Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue (CAFMD)'. The CAFMD is one of the two tracks of the India-U.S. Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 partnership launched at the Leaders' Summit on Climate in April 2021, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Joseph Biden. Major pillars are defense, security, energy, technology, education & healthcare.

### 10. Cyclone Gulab Reaches Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Winds Up To 100 Kmph

The deep depression over the Bay of Bengal intensified into cyclone 'Gulab' on 26th sept.

Cyclone Gulab made landfall in coastal regions of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha,

The cyclone crossed the coasts between Kalingapatnam in Andhra Pradesh and Gopalpur and weakened into a deep depression overnight. Cyclone Gulab is the 2nd to hit Odisha in 4 months after Cyclone Yaas in May. Cyclone Gulab was named by Pakistan. It refers to Rose in English.







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## Apps & Portals

### **1. PhonePe launches 'Pulse'; India's first interactive geospatial website for digital payment insights**

PhonePe has launched 'PhonePe Pulse'. It is India's first interactive website with data, insights and trends on digital payments in the country.

PhonePe also released Pulse Report, an in-depth study on the evolution of digital payments over the past 5 years. It includes detailed geographical and category specific trends.

Sameer Nigam is the Founder and CEO of PhonePe.

### **2. C-DoT launches lab to design and develop a pan-India integrated alert system for disaster management.**

State-run telecom research and development organisation C-DoT has launched a lab to design and develop a pan-India integrated alert system for disaster management. The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) launched the lab on the occasion of its 38th Foundation Day. A pilot project of the system was used to send alerts to people at the time of cyclone Yaas. Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) was established in August 1984.

### **3. AYUSH Ministry to launch 'Y-Break' app to help professionals de-stress and refocus.**

AYUSH Ministry has prepared a 5-minute yoga protocol for professionals. The five-minute protocol intends to introduce people at the workplace to yoga. It promotes the idea of a break of five minutes from the work schedule to practice yoga to refresh, de-stress and re-focus. The five-minute protocol encompassing asanas, Pranayama, and Dhyana will be available through the app. The Minister of AYUSH is Shri Sarbananda Sonowal.

### **4. Amazon India announces the launch of 'Kisan Store'**

Amazon India has announced the launch of Kisan Store - an online platform that will enable farmers across India to get access to more than 8,000 agriculture inputs such as seeds, farm tools and accessories, plant protection, nutrition, and more.

Listed by small and medium businesses (SMBs) these products will be available at competitive prices on Amazon India.

### **5. BoB launches revamped mobile banking app 'bob World'**

Bank of Baroda (BoB) has launched its revamped mobile banking application 'bob World' to provide all-inclusive virtual banking experience, encompassing all its digital banking services under one roof, for its customers.

BoB's mobile banking application was earlier known as M-Connect Plus. Bank of Baroda was nationalised in 1969.

### **6. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change launches PRANA portal for regulation of air pollution**

MoEFCC, Shri Bhupendar Yadav launched a portal named 'PRANA' (Portal for Regulation of Air-pollution in Non-Attainment cities) under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) on the occasion of the second International Day of Clean Air For Blue Skies.

Knowledge Lens collaborated with the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), GIZ and MoEFCC to develop PRANA. Knowledge Lens: a B2B product company that builds innovative solutions including AI, IoT

## Acquisitions & Mergers

### 1. HDFC Life to acquire 100% stake in Exide Life Insurance for Rs 6,687 crores

The life insurance company will acquire 100% stake in Exide Life from Exide Industries through issuance of 8,70,22,222 shares at an issue price of '685 per share and a cash payout of '726 crore aggregating to '6,687 crore.

The company expects Exide Life's strong foothold in South India, especially in Tier 2 and 3 towns, to provide access to a wider market. MD and CEO of HDFC Life: Vibha Padalkar. Chairman: Deepak Parekh.

### 2. Sony comes to Zee Entertainment's rescue, signs term sheet for merger

53% of the merged entity would be owned by Sony India shareholders and the rest by Zee's holders. Majority of the board will be nominated by Sony. The deal provides an exclusive negotiation period of 90 days during which Zee and Sony will conduct mutual diligence and negotiate definitive, binding agreements. Zee CEO Punit Goenka will lead the entity.




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## Agri-Business

### **1. India accounts for 34% of global coconut production: Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar**

The Minister said production during 2020-21 was 21,207 million nuts which account for more than 34 per cent of the global production. The productivity has been recorded at 9,687 nuts per hectare which is the highest in the world. Sushri Shobha Karandlaje, the MoS for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, called upon farmers to give a major thrust to product diversification. World Coconut Day is observed every year on September 2.

### **2. Public sector firm FACT restarts production of fishnet raw material after a decade**

After a gap of nine years, the public sector FACT has restarted its Caprolactam production, which was suspended in 2012 following the rise in feedstock price of naphtha and furnace oil.

Caprolactam, produced only by FACT and Gujarat State Fertiliser and Chemicals in India, is a raw material for the production of Nylon-6. This compound is also used to make tyre cords, filament yarn, fishing nets, etc.

### **3. Tata Consumer Products to sign MoU with IIMR to strengthen R&D in millets**

Tata Group company Tata Consumer Products (TCP) will be signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Millet Research (IIMR) to unlock the full potential of millets as a healthier and more sustainable alternative to traditional grains. India, China, Niger are the largest Millets producers in the world.

### **4. Centre signs model MoU with CSC e-Governance Services India Limited**

Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) under Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution entered into a model MoU with CSC e-Governance Services India Limited (CSC) to increase the business opportunities and income of Fair Price Shops by way of delivery of CSC services through interested Fair Price Shop (FPS) dealers.

### **5. In a first, Centre issues uniform specifications for Fortified Rice Kernels (FRK) for grade A & Common Rice**

Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) under Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution for the first time issued uniform specifications for Fortified Rice Kernels (FRK) for grade A & Common Rice. In case of procurement of Fortified Rice Stocks, of which 1% of FRK (w/w) should be blended with normal rice stock. Rice is consumed by 2/3 of the population and per capita rice consumption in India is 6.8.

### **6. Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya releases FSSAI's 3rd State Food Safety Index**

FSSAI released 3rd State Food Safety Index to measure State performance across 5 parameters of food safety. Health minister felicitated 9 leading States & UTs based on 2020-21 ranking for their impressive performance. Gujarat stood 1st followed by Kerala & Tamil Nadu. Among smaller states, Goa was 1st followed by Meghalaya & Manipur. 1st World Food Safety Day celebrated on 7 June 2019.

### **7. Telangana Government Signs MoU with Wingsure to Provide AI-Driven Personalized Insurance and Advisory Services to Farmers**

Telangana govt signed MoU with Wingsure, an insurtech venture spin-out of Stanford Research Institute that leverages artificial intelligence and deep technology to protect farmers worldwide. As a part of the agreement, Wingsure will provide deep-tech-based personalized crop insurance products and advisory services to small, underserved farmers in the state.

### **8. DFC and USAID announce \$55 million guarantee programme in India**

The US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) are jointly sponsoring a \$55 million credit guarantee to address the economic impact of covid-19 by supporting loans to farmer producer organizations, ag-tech companies, and companies engaged in clean energy solutions for the agriculture sector.

### **9. KVK, Kapurthala organises 'VANIJYA UTSAV' prog for export-oriented agri supply chain**

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kapurthala under the aegis of the Director of Extension Education, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana and as per the direction of the Director, ICAR-ATARI, Ludhiana organised an awareness programme cum workshop on 'Capacity Building Program for FPOs' and Farmers for Vegetable Based Export Oriented Agri Supply Chain' in collaboration with APEDA.

### 10. PM Narendra Modi launches 35 crop varieties with special traits to address climate change, malnutrition

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched 35 crop varieties with special traits -- developed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) -- to address the twin challenges of climate change and malnutrition.

According to the PMO, 35 crop varieties with special traits like climate resilience and higher nutrient-content have been developed in 2021. These include sterility mosaic resistant pigeon pea, chickpea, wilt, maize, etc.



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## External Affairs

### 1. EAM Jaishankar to visit Slovenia, Croatia and Denmark from September 2-5, 2021

The visit is part of a tour to review the bilateral relationship with the three European countries.

EAM will attend the Bled Strategic Forum (BSF) being held in Slovenia, and participate in the panel discussion on "Partnership for a Rules-Based Order in the Indo-Pacific".

Slovenia currently holds the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

## FinTech

### 1. NPCI and Fiserv launch 'nFiNi' programme

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and Nasdaq-listed Fiserv Inc. entered into an understanding that will enable the launch of plug-and-play RuPay credit card stack, 'nFiNi'.

This BaaS (banking-as-a-service) programme provides a ready stack of services required for fintechs and banks to issue RuPay credit cards. Mr. Dilip Asbe is the MD & CEO of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

## PSUs

### 1. Indian Railways' alternative energy arm shuts on full electrification, muted performance

Indian Railways shut Indian Railways Organisation of Alternative Fuels (IROAF). IROAF primarily focused on bio-diesel. It was closed because Indian Railways is chasing the goal of full electrification by 2023, slash its use of diesel and become a net zero emitter of carbon emission by 2030.

### 2. SJVN bags 1,000 MW solar power project

State-run SJVN bagged 1,000 MW Grid connected Solar PV Power Project through Request for Proposal (RFP) floated by Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA).

The project is expected to generate 2,365 million units (MU) in the First year and the project cumulative energy generation over a period of 25 years would be about 55062 MU.



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## States/UTs

### Andhra Pradesh

#### 1. eSanjeevani, Govt. of India's telemedicine initiative, completes 1.2 Crore consultations

eSanjeevani AB-HWC has completed around 67,00,000 consultations. It is being implemented at Health & Wellness Centres under Ayushman Bharat Scheme. It was rolled out in November 2019. Andhra Pradesh was the first State to roll out eSanjeevani AB-HWC services. Since its roll out, over 2000 hubs and around 28,000 spokes have been set up in various States.

eSanjeevani was launched in 2019. The first state to launch this service was Andhra Pradesh.

### Arunachal Pradesh

#### 1. Modi govt starts work to develop 'Parshuram Kund' in Arunachal Pradesh

The Modi government has started work for the development of 'Parshuram Kund', a Hindu pilgrimage site on the Brahmaputra plateau in the lower reaches of the Lohit river in Arunachal Pradesh.

The project costing Rs 37.88 crore was sanctioned under the Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive' (PRASHAD) Scheme of the Ministry of Tourism. Arunachal Pradesh CM:- Pema Khandu; Governor:- Biswa Bhushan Harichandan

### Assam

#### 1. Assam's Deepor Beel Wildlife Sanctuary breathes easy after eco-sensitive zone notification

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change notified the eco-sensitive zone of the Deepor Beel Wildlife Sanctuary on the south-western edge of Guwahati.

Deepor Beel is one of the largest freshwater lakes in Assam and the state's only Ramsar site in addition to being an important area for birds.

The wetland has been threatened for decades by the rubbish dump

#### 2. Centre signs tripartite Karbi Anglong agreement, announces funds for development

The historic Karbi Anglong Agreement was signed in New Delhi in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Assam Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma.

Around one thousand cadres of more than five organizations have joined the mainstream shunning arms.

The Centre and Assam Government are fully committed to their rehabilitation. Assam Govt will spend around Rs 1000 crore for the development of Karbi region in 5 years

#### 3. SIDBI to provide project-specific loan to Assam govt for upgrading MSME clusters

Project-specific moderately priced loan assistance under the SIDBI Cluster Development Fund (SCDF) shall be extended by SIDBI to the state government for upgrading various existing MSME clusters and for developing new industrial infrastructural facilities in Assam.

Assam presented its expectations on start-ups, cluster development, and livelihood and enterprise promotion. SIDBI Chairman and Managing Director Sivasubramanian Ramann.

### Gujarat

#### 1. Gujarat rolls out 'Vatan Prem Yojana' for rural development

Gujaratis settled outside India and looking to donate for development works in their native villages will now get 40 per cent financial support from the Gujarat government.

Under the newly launched 'Vatan Prem Yojana', the Gujarat government encourages donations from non-resident Indians (NRIs) with Gujarati origins to fund development projects.

Under the scheme, State govt looks to create development projects worth '1000 cr by 2022

#### 2. PM Modi inaugurates Sardardham Bhavan, lays foundation stone of Sardardham Phase-II Kanya Chhatralay

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the state of art Sardardham Bhavan at Ahmedabad in Gujarat. PM Modi has also laid the foundation stone of Sardardham Phase-II Kanya Chhatralay on this occasion.

The Sardardham has been constructed at the cost of 200 crore rupees. Sardardham Bhavan at Vaishnodevi circle in Ahmedabad has been developed by Patidar Samaj.



## Haryana

### 1. Haryana was adjudged first in the country in installation of off-grid solar pumps under PMKUSUM

Haryana was adjudged first in the country in installation of off-grid solar pumps under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthan Mahaabhiyaan with installation of 14,418 pumps against 15,000 sanctioned pumps for the year 2020-21. This announcement was made by the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy in the concluding session of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'. Haryana Chief Minister:- Manohar Lal Khattar ; Governor:- Bandaru Dattatreya

## Himachal Pradesh

### 1. Himachal Pradesh becomes first state to administer first dose of Corona vaccine to 100 percent of its eligible population

Himachal Pradesh has achieved a unique distinction of achieving cent percent target of first dose of Covid-19 vaccination above the age of 18 years.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has congratulated the State Government and has agreed to address the people of the State on 6th of September.

### 2. Centre & state to set-up Weavers Services, design centre at Kullu, Himachal Pradesh

The central government has decided to set-up a weaver Services and Design Resource Centre at Kullu in Himachal Pradesh, which will be one of its own kind hub to promote and facilitate the continuous growth of the local handloom projects to compete in the global market.

Handkerchief of Chamba along-with Kullu shawl & cap and the shawl of Kinnaur had been given G.I. Tags.

Union minister for Commerce and textiles:- Piyush Goyal

## Jharkhand

### 1. Jharkhand assembly clears 75% quota in private jobs for locals

Jharkhand assembly has cleared bill with some changes - a key piece of legislation that accords 75% reservation to locals in all existing jobs up to '40,000/- month in the private sector.

Jharkhand State Employment of Local Candidates Bill 2021 was originally tabled in the assembly's budget session in March, when it was referred to the panel for deeper examination. CM:- Hemant Soren, Governor:- Ramesh Bais

## Madhya Pradesh

### 1. Indore becomes first district in country to inoculate 100% eligible population with first dose of Covid-19 vaccine

In Madhya Pradesh, Indore has become the first district in the entire country with a population of more than 10 lakh to inoculate 100% eligible population with the first dose of Covid19 vaccine.

The target of Indore district was to vaccinate 28 lakh, 7 thousand ,559 people. Surpassing the target, a total of 28, lakh 08, thousand 212 persons have been vaccinated.

### 2. Project Fulwari under Azadi Amrit Mahotsav to Strengthen Northern Coalfields' Limited (NCL) fight against Malnutrition in kids

NCL has signed an MoU with the District Administration to start 75 'Fulwari Centers' in the Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh. NCL is striving for poverty alleviation, good health, well-being and quality education for the people of its command area. This initiative will give impetus to the Centre's fight against malnutrition and its commitment towards Sustainable Social Development Project Fulwari aims to address malnutrition, physical & mental growth issues of infants.

## Maharashtra

### 1. Mumbai becomes first district to administer over one crore doses of Corona vaccine

Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has announced that Mumbai has become the first district to complete one crore vaccinations against COVID-19 in the country.

According to the data published on the CoWin portal, Mumbai has administered a total of 1 crore 60 thousand 411 vaccine doses, covering 78 per cent of the adult population with at least one shot.

## Meghalaya

### 1. POWERGRID has laid the foundation stone for first ever Electric Vehicle Charging Station (EVCS) in Meghalaya

Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), has laid the foundation stone for first ever Electric Vehicle Charging Station (EVCS) in the state of Meghalaya at its office complex yesterday at Lapalang, Shillong. The EVCS are being developed under Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid) & Electric Vehicles (FAME) India Scheme Phase-II. CMD of POWERGRID: K Sreekant. POWERGRID is a 'Maharatna' Central Public Sector Enterprise

## Mizoram

### 1. Nagaland's first Software Technology Park of India to be inaugurated

Nagaland will get its first software Technology Park centre in September 2021. The Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) Centre, Kohima will be inaugurated by the Union Minister of State for Entrepreneurship, Skill Development, Electronics & Technology, Rajeev Chandrasekhar.

Till date, STPI has launched 20 Centres of Entrepreneurship (CoEs)

## Nagaland

### 1. Nagaland's "sweet cucumber" gets a geographical indication tag

Naga cucumbers are juicy, soft and sweet and is grown completely organically.

They are low in calories but high in potassium and contain a high level of water & can serve as an alternative to consuming sports drinks.

It is one of the important component crops in the jhum cultivation. Some tribes like Konyak are found to grow cucumber all throughout the year. Capital: Kohima; Chief minister: Neiphiu Rio

## Rajasthan

### 1. Footprints of 3 dinosaur species found in Rajasthan's Thar desert

Footprints of three different species of dinosaurs have been found in the Thar desert of Jaisalmer district at Rajasthan. The footprints were spotted in the deposits of the seashore, which eventually became permanently stone-like figures.

It is to be noted that Eubrontes is the name of the footprints, identified by their shape, and not of the genus or genera that made them. All the three species, belonging to the early Jurassic period, were carnivorous.

## Sikkim

### 1. Sikkim Government Declares 'Copper Mahseer', Locally Called Katley, As State Fish

The Sikkim government has declared *Neolissochilus hexagonolepis* commonly known as Copper Mahseer and locally named as 'Katley' as a State fish to highlight the importance of the fish and to give emphasis to its conservation measures. In Sikkim, Katley is found in varied altitudes covering entire state predominantly confined in Teesta and Rangit rivers and their tributaries. In 2014 the fish was also categorized as endangered by the IUCN.

## Tamil Nadu

### 1. Tamil Nadu announces 4,000 MW solar parks with 2,000 MW of battery storage projects

The state government has announced solar power parks across the state to generate 4,000MW of solar energy with battery storage system of 2,000MW in areas excluding corporations and municipalities. The government is also committed to install smart meters to make it easier for monitoring power consumption, and facilitate payments either post-paid or prepaid. M. K. Stalin is the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

### 2. Proposed heritage village at Singaperumal Koil under Rurban mission to boost tourism

The Centre's proposed plan to create a heritage village and boost tourism at Singaperumal Koil and nearby villages, about 40 km south of Chennai, is expected to give a much-needed fillip to the region's development.

The government has sanctioned '25 lakh under the Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission based on the State government's suggestion to promote heritage villages.

It also covers ,Appur, Chettipuniyam, Guruvanmedu, Kolathur, Reddipalayam, & Venkatapuram

## Uttar Pradesh

### 1. PM Modi lays foundation stone of Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh Varsity in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh

Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh State University in Aligarh. The university is being established by the Uttar Pradesh government in the memory and honour of Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh, the great freedom fighter, educationist and social reformer. It is being set up in a total area of over 92 acres. Location:- Lodha village and Musepur Kareem Jarouli village of Aligarh's Kol tehsil.

### 2. Uttar Pradesh becomes first state in country to administer over 10 crore doses of Corona vaccine

Uttar Pradesh has become first state in country to administer over ten crore doses of Covid 19 vaccine. UP has also tested the highest number of Covid samples among the states.

According to state health department a total of 10 crore 36 thousand 235 Covid vaccine doses have been administered so far in state.

### 3. Uttar Pradesh govt to set up electronic park in 250 acres near Jewar Airport

The Uttar Pradesh government will set up an electronic park in the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (Yeida) area that is expected to attract an investment of '50,000 crore.

The growing interest in Uttar Pradesh among electronic industry giants due to 'investor-friendly' policies has prompted the government to develop the Electronic Park. Uttar Pradesh government has recently announced a sprawling medical device park in Noida.

## Uttarakhand

### 1. Uttarakhand to start '39 crore man-wildlife conflict mitigation project

Over 280 km-long fencing will be set in different parts of the state at a cost of over ' 18 crore. Also, 1,393 km elephant-proof trenches will be built in areas frequented by the pachyderms at a cost of ' 4.4 crore. Both fencing and trenches will act as barriers, preventing wildlife to sneak into residential areas.

### 2. Uttarakhand's Tehri Dam Achieves Full Capacity of 830 Metres For the First Time Ever

The Uttarakhand government permitted raising the Tehri reservoir level to EL 830 metres on August 25, 2021. Prior to this permission, dam authorities were not allowed to raise it to full level and full potential, as water and power were not getting fully utilised.

Tehri Dam is the 3rd highest among earth-fill dams and 10th highest among all dams.

Tehri Dam is a multipurpose hydropower scheme on the Bhagirathi river.

## Chandigarh

### 1. Chandigarh's first Pollen Calendar can help identify potential allergy triggers and guard sensitive people from exposure

Chandigarh has its first pollen calendar, which can identify potential allergy triggers and provide a clear understanding for clinicians as well as allergy sufferers about their causes to help limit their exposure during high pollen loads.

About 20-30% of the population suffers from allergic rhinitis/hay fever in India, and approximately 15% develop asthma.

### 2. Chandigarh Railway Station certified five-star 'Eat Right Station'

The Chandigarh Railway Station (CRS) was awarded a 5 star 'Eat Right Station' certification for providing high-quality, nutritious food to passengers. The certification was awarded by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) upon the conclusion of FSSAI-empowered third-party audit agency.

CRS was selected to upgrade on the pattern of World Class Railway Station.

## Delhi

### 1. Former SC judge Indu Malhotra appointed DDCA Ombudsman cum Ethics Officer

Former Supreme Court judge, Justice (Retired) Indu Malhotra will be the new Ombudsman cum Ethics Officer of Delhi and Districts Cricket Association (DDCA).

In 2007, Malhotra was designated senior advocate by the Supreme Court and she became only the second woman to be designated by the apex court after a gap of three decades. The DDCA, headed by its president Rohan Jaitley.

## **2. Indraprastha Gas, South Delhi Municipal Corpn ink MoU to establish waste-to-energy plant**

The Indraprastha Gas (IGL) inked a memorandum of understanding with the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) to establish waste-to-energy plant in Delhi to convert municipal solid waste into compressed bio-gas (CBG) for use as fuel for running vehicles. The agreement was signed as part of extension of SATAT initiative of the government under synchronisation scheme. SATAT:- Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation.

### **Jammu and Kashmir**

#### **1. Union Home Minister Amit Shah launches web portal for industrial investments in Jammu and Kashmir**

The portal was launched under the 'New Central sector scheme for industrial development of Jammu and Kashmir' which is applicable for any eligible manufacturing entity or eligible service sector enterprise which is registered as a business enterprise under the GST. The portal is for the registration of units for the industrial development of Jammu & Kashmir.

#### **2. Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurates Doppler Weather Radar & Indigenous GPS based Pilot Sonde at IMD, Jammu**

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated the latest upgraded state-of-the-art Doppler Weather Radar (DWR) & Indigenous GPS based Pilot Sonde at Indian Meteorological Office in Jammu.

India's lavender led Purple Revolution and first Cannabis Medicinal Plant was launched by IIIM Jammu, the first ever National Institute of High Altitude.

#### **3. J&K: LG Manoj Sinha felicitates Young achievers with 'Kashmir Young Leadership Award'**

In Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha felicitated Young achievers with the 'Kashmir Young Leadership Award' during the Kashmir Leadership Summit in Srinagar.

Young achievers received the award for their outstanding work in different fields and lauded their contribution for bringing positive changes in society.

#### **4. Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurates 'Saath' initiative for women associated with SHGs**

J-K LG Sinha launched Rural Enterprises Acceleration Programme titled 'Saath' for Self Help Group (SHG) women. here are 48000 SHGs in Jammu and Kashmir.

There are 48000 SHGs in Jammu and Kashmir.

Four lakh women are connected to these SHGs.

This Saath initiative will stress on mentoring and market linkages of products created by these women.

#### **5. J-K LG launches digital banking mission 'One Gram Panchayat-One DIGI-Pay Sakhi'**

In order to promote door-to-door digital banking and financial services in remote areas of Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha launched 'One Gram Panchayat-One DIGI-Pay Sakhi' in the union territory.

The mission was launched at Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute, Pampore. Initially, the DIGI-Pay facility will be provided in 2,000 remote villages of the UT.

#### **6. Nitin Gadkari Lays Foundation Stone For 4 NH Projects Worth Rs 3612 Crore In J&K**

Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) Nitin Gadkari laid the foundation stone for four national highway (NH) projects of 121 km worth 'Rs. 3612 crore in Jammu & Kashmir (J&K). The Baramula-Gulmarg NH-701A & the Vailoo to Donipawa (P-VI) NH-244 are two of the initiatives that were inaugurated by Gadkari during his visit to the union territory. Prestigious Srinagar Ring Road project would be completed by end of 2023.

### **Ladakh**

#### **1. Ladakh gets its first highest mobile digital movie theatre in world**

Ladakh had its first mobile digital movie theatre at an altitude of 11,562 feet which makes it the highest theatre in the world.

To bring cinema watching experience to most remote areas, a mobile theatre was introduced in the Paldan area of Leh in Ladakh.

Actor Pankaj Tripathi and President of Ladakh Buddhist Association, Thupstan Chewang were present for the inauguration.

#### **2. Snow leopard, Black necked crane declared state animal and birds in Ladakh**

The Union Territory government of Ladakh has declared 'snow leopard' (Panther unca) its state animal and black-necked crane (Grus nigricollis) state animal and black-necked crane state bird.



The black-necked crane is found in eastern Ladakh's high-altitude wetlands and marshes.

There are about 7,500 snow leopards left in the world, out of which 500 are in India.

### Committees

#### 1. Government constitutes task force, expert committee on coal-based hydrogen production

The Centre has constituted a task force and expert committee to prepare a road map for coal-based hydrogen production. This is aimed at contributing to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's agenda of a hydrogen-based economy in a clean manner. Ministry of Coal has constituted 2 Committees, one to oversee the program and another of experts to give guidance to the Ministry. Committee Chairman: Coal Additional Secretary Vinod Kumar Tiwari

#### 2. Govt to replace Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940, forms panel to frame new laws

The Central government has constituted an eight-member expert committee chaired by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI), Dr V.G Somani, to draft new legislation for drugs, cosmetics, and medical devices to replace the present Drugs and Cosmetics Act, which was enacted in 1940.

The committee is expected to submit a draft document by November 30.

#### 3. Centre forms GoM for better implementation of schemes meant for SC, ST, OBC, minorities, women

The Centre has constituted a group of ministers (GoM) chaired by Rajnath Singh for better implementation of various welfare schemes meant for SC, ST, OBC, minorities & women.

Home Minister Amit Shah & Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman are also members of the GoM.

The broader objective of the GoM is to work for empowerment & prosperity of backward classes and minorities.

#### 4. National Education Policy (NEP) 2020: Education Ministry forms committee to draw national curriculum frameworks

The 12-member committee will be chaired by former ISRO chief K Kasturirangan.

The committee will develop four National Curriculum Frameworks - the National Curriculum Framework for School Education, National Curriculum for Early Childhood Care and Education, National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education, and National Curriculum Framework for Adult Education.

K Kasturirangan also chaired drafting committee of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

#### 5. Karnataka CM Basavaraj Bommai heads panel on rationalisation GST rates

Setting the stage for an overhaul of the multiple tax rates under the Goods and Services Tax regime, the government has tasked a group of ministers (GoM) led by Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj S. Bommai with proposing a rationalisation of tax rates and considering the merger of different tax slabs within two months. Currently, the GST regime has five broad tax rate slabs of zero, 5%, 12%, 18% and 28%.



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## QUICK LEARNERS

### 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)	4.00%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	18.00%

### APPOINTMENTS

APPOINTMENT	POST
<b>Sanjay Singh</b>	New chief executive officer of its Indian operations, BNP Paribas
<b>Mansukh Mandaviya</b>	Chairman of Stop TB Partnership Board
<b>Sunjay J Kapur</b>	Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA) president
<b>J B Mohapatra</b>	Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) chairman
<b>PPK Ramacharyulu</b>	Rajya Sabha secretary general
<b>Vartika Shukla</b>	CMD of Engineers India Ltd
<b>LC Goyal</b>	India Trade Promotion Organisation CMD
<b>AG Thankappan</b>	Chairman of Spices Board
<b>Suman Sharma</b>	Managing director (MD) of Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI).
<b>Yoshihide Suga</b>	Japan's PM (Resignation)
<b>Atul Bhatt</b>	CMD of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd
<b>S.L. Tripathy</b>	CMD of United India Insurance
<b>Shaun Tait</b>	Bowling coach of the Puducherry team.
<b>Satish Parekh</b>	IRF India president
<b>G.S Pannu</b>	Officiating President of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT).
<b>Arun Kumar Singh</b>	Chairman and Managing Director of BPCL
<b>Nirlep Singh Rai</b>	CMD of National Fertilizers Ltd
<b>G C Murmu</b>	Chairman of ASOSAI from 2024-2027
<b>Harsha Bangari</b>	Managing Director of Export-Import Bank of India (India Exim Bank).
<b>Iqbal Singh Lalpura</b>	Chairman of National Commission for Minorities
<b>Atul Kumar Goel</b>	Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) in Punjab National Bank (PNB)
<b>Lt Gen Gurmit Singh</b>	Governor of Uttarakhand.
<b>Banwarilal Purohit</b>	Governor of Punjab

<b>RN Ravi</b>	Governor of Tamil Nadu
<b>Jagdish Mukhi</b>	Governor of Nagaland
<b>Prativa Mohapatra</b>	Vice president and managing director for Adobe India
<b>Pawan Goenka</b>	Chairperson of Indian National Space Promotion Authorization Centre (In-SPACE)
<b>Najib Mikati</b>	Lebanon's new Prime Minister
<b>Salil Kumar</b>	CMD MECON
<b>Vijay Goel</b>	Vice Chairman of Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti
<b>Aziz Akhannouch</b>	Morocco's new Prime Minister
<b>Bhupendra Patel</b>	Chief Minister of Gujarat
<b>V. Vaidyanathan</b>	Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of IDFC FIRST Bank.
<b>Rahul Dravid</b>	Brand ambassador for Piramal Realty
<b>Amit Saxena</b>	RBI Innovation Hub as CTO
<b>Sanjeev Barnwal</b>	Ujjivan Financial Services CEO
<b>Raninder Singh</b>	National Rifle Association of India chief
<b>Charanjit Singh Channi</b>	Punjab Chief Minister.
<b>Vivek Ram Chaudhari</b>	Next chief of the Indian Air Force (IAF)
<b>Debabrata Mukherjee</b>	Chairman of Audit Bureau of Circulations
<b>Aveek Sarkar</b>	Press Trust of India Chairman
<b>CK Ranganathan</b>	President of All India Management Association (AIMA)
<b>Lt Gen Gurbirpal Singh</b>	Director general of the National Cadet Corps.
<b>Vinod Aggarwal</b>	Automotive Skill Development Council (ASDC) President
<b>Padmaja Chunduru</b>	Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of National Securities Depositories Limited.
<b>Sunil Kataria</b>	Chairman of the Indian Society of Advertisers (ISA)
<b>Fumio Kishida</b>	Japan's Next Prime Minister

## AWARDS

WINNER	AWARD
<b>Roberto Ballon</b> <b>Muhammad Amjad Saqib</b> Firdausi Qadri Steven Muncy Watchdoc	2021 Ramon Magsaysay awardees
<b>Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID)</b>	'Association for Talent Development (ATD) 2021 BEST Award
<b>Shailendra Singh</b>	Behler Turtle Conservation Award.
<b>IIT-Madras Best Institute for Third Time in a Row, IISc Top in Research</b>	Sixth edition of NIRF Ranking 2021

<b>International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)</b>	2021 Africa Food Prize
<b>National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)</b>	UNESCO Literacy Prize
<b>Super 30 founder Anand Kumar</b>	Swami Brahmanand Award 2021
<b>41 skill trainers</b>	The Kaushalacharya Awards 2021
<b>Fairooz Faizah Beether</b>	2021 Changemaker Award
<b>NHPC's 510 MW Teesta-V Power Station</b>	'Blue Planet Prize'
<b>Government e Marketplace (GeM)</b>	'Best Use of Digital Technology' category at the CIPS Excellence in Procurement Awards 2021 (CIPS Awards).
<b>11 scientists-India's highest science award</b>	Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (SSB) Prize
<b>HDFC Bank</b>	Asiamoney 2021 Poll.

### IMPORTANT DAYS

DATE	DAY	THEME
<b>September 2</b>	World Coconut Day	'Building a safe, inclusive, resilient and sustainable coconut community amid covid 19 pandemic and beyond'
<b>first Saturday in September</b>	International Vulture Awareness Day	
<b>September 7</b>	International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies	"Healthy Air, Healthy Planet. "
<b>September 8</b>	International Literacy Day	'Literacy for a human-centered recovery: Narrowing the digital divide'.
<b>September 9</b>	World EV Day	Promotion of biofuels for a better environment
<b>September 9</b>	International Day to Protect education from Attack	Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human & Planetary Health
<b>14th September</b>	Hindi Diwas	
<b>September 11</b>	National Forest Martyrs Day	
<b>September 15</b>	National Engineer's Day	'Engineering for A Healthy Planet- Celebrating the UNESCO Engineering Report'
<b>September 15</b>	International Day of Democracy	<b>"strengthening democratic resilience in the face of future crises."</b>
<b>September 22</b>	World Rhino Day	
<b>23rd September</b>	'Sign Language Day	
<b>September 25</b>	World Pharmacists Day	<b>'Pharmacy: Always trusted for your health'</b>
<b>September 25</b>	Antyodaya Diwas	
<b>Fourth Sunday of September</b>	World Rivers Day	
<b>September 26</b>	World Contraception Day	



<b>September 26</b>	World Environmental Health Day	'Prioritizing Environmental Health for healthier communities in the global recovery.'
<b>26 September</b>	International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons	
<b>September 27</b>	World Tourism Day	'Tourism for Inclusive Growth'
<b>September 28</b>	International Day for Universal Access of Information	'The Right to Know ' Building Back Better with Access to Information.'
<b>29 September</b>	International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction	
<b>September 29</b>	World Heart Day 2021	'Use Heart To Connect'

## OBITUARY

OBITUARY	RELATED FIELD
<b>Vasoo Paranjape</b>	Cricket
<b>Chandan Mitra</b>	Veteran journalist
<b>Sidharth Shukla</b>	Actor
<b>Keshav Desiraju</b>	former Union Health Secretary
<b>Rajni Kaul</b>	first News Broadcaster for BBC Hindi
<b>Aziz Hajini</b>	Noted writer
<b>Oscar Fernandes</b>	Senior Rajya Sabha MP
<b>Thanu Padmanabhan</b>	Renowned astrophysicist
<b>Jimmy Greaves</b>	Footballer
<b>YS Dadwal</b>	Former Delhi Police Commissioner
<b>Kamla Bhasin</b>	Women's rights activist

## IMPORTANT STATIC & CURRENT INFO

### INDIAN STATES, CAPITALS, CHIEF MINISTERS & GOVERNORS

STATE	CAPITAL	CHIEF MINISTER	GOVERNOR
Andhra Pradesh	Amaravati	Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy	Biswa Bhusan Harichandan
Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	Pema Khandu	Brigadier B.D. Mishra (retd)
Assam	Dispur	Himanta Biswa Sarma	Prof. Jagdish Mukhi
Bihar	Patna	Nitish Kumar	Phagu Chauhan
Chhattisgarh	Raipur	Bhupesh Baghel	Anusuiya Uikey
Goa	Panaji	Pramod Sawant	P.S. Sreedharan Pillai
Gujarat	Gandhi Nagar	Bhupendra Patel	Acharya Dev Vrat

Haryana	Chandigarh	Manohar Lal Khattar	Bandaru Dattatraya
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	Jai Ram Thakur	Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
Jharkhand	Ranchi	Hemant Soren	Ramesh Bais
Karnataka	Bengaluru	Basavaraj Bommai	Thaawarchand Gehlot
Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	Pinarayi Vijayan	Arif Mohammed Khan
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	Shivraj Singh Chauhan	Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel
Maharashtra	Mumbai	Uddhav Thackrey	Bhagat Singh Koshyari
Manipur	Imphal	N Biren Singh	La. Ganesan
Meghalaya	Shillong	Conrad Kongkal Sangma	Satya Pal Malik
Mizoram	Aizawl	Pu Zoramthanga	Dr Kambhampati Haribabu
Nagaland	Kohima	Neiphiu Rio	Jagdish Mukhi
Odisha	Bhubaneswar	Naveen Patnaik	Ganeshi Lal
Punjab	Chandigarh	Charanjit Singh Channi	Banwarilal Purohit
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, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd.)
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
<b>Narendra Modi</b>	Ministry of personnel, public grievances and pensions Department of Atomic Energy Department of Space
<b>Rajnath Singh</b>	Ministry of Defence
<b>Amit Shah</b>	Ministry of Home Affairs Ministry of Cooperation
<b>Nitin Gadkari</b>	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
<b>Nirmala Sitharaman</b>	Ministry of Finance Ministry of Corporate Affairs
<b>Piyush Goyal</b>	Ministry of Commerce and Industry Ministry of Textiles Ministry of Consumer affairs, food and public distribution
<b>Narendra Singh Tomar</b>	Ministry of agriculture and Farmers welfare
<b>Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar</b>	Ministry of External Affairs
<b>Arjun Munda</b>	Ministry of Tribal Affairs
<b>Smriti Zubin Irani</b>	Ministry of Women and child Development
<b>Dharmendra Pradhan</b>	Ministry of Education Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
<b>Pralhad Joshi</b>	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs Ministry of coal Ministry of Mines
<b>Narayan Tatu Rane</b>	Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
<b>Sarbananda Sonowal</b>	Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)
<b>Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi</b>	Ministry of Minority Affairs
<b>Dr. Virendra Kumar</b>	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
<b>Giriraj Singh</b>	Ministry of Rural Development Ministry of Panchayati Raj
<b>Jyotiraditya M. Scindia</b>	Ministry of Civil Aviation
<b>Ramchandra Prasad Singh</b>	Ministry of Steel
<b>Ashwini Vaishnaw</b>	Ministry of Railways Ministry of Communications Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
<b>Pashu Pati Kumar Paras</b>	Ministry of Food Processing Industries
<b>Gajendra Singh Shekhawat</b>	Ministry of Jal Shakti
<b>Kiren Rijiju</b>	Ministry of Law and Justice
<b>Raj Kumar Singh</b>	Ministry of Power

	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
<b>Hardeep Singh Puri</b>	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
<b>Mansukh L. Mandaviya</b>	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
<b>Bhupender Yadav</b>	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ministry of Labour and Employment
<b>Mahendra Nath Pandey</b>	Ministry of Heavy Industries
<b>Parshottam Rupala</b>	Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
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