

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2021

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## Important Days

Date	Day	Theme/Others
August 1	Muslim Women Rights Day	Second anniversary of the Muslim Women Act passed in the Rajya Sabha.
August 1 to 7	World Breastfeeding Week	Protect Breastfeeding: A Shared Responsibility
August 4	Coast Guard Day	Commemorating the founding of the United States Coast Guard as the Revenue Marine on August 4, 1790, by then-Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton
August 6	Hiroshima Day	In 1945, the United States dropped the very first deployed nuclear bomb in the city of Hiroshima
August 6	34th foundation day of Tribal Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (TRIFED)	
August 7	National Handloom Day	Hand Loom – An Indian Legacy (The first Handloom Day was celebrated on 7 August 2015)
August 8	79th anniversary of Quit India movement	
August 9	International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples	Leaving no one behind: Indigenous peoples and the call for a new social contract (Pronounced by the General Assembly of the United Nations in December 1994)
August 9	Nagasaki Day	76th anniversary of the Nagasaki bombing
August 10	World Lion Day	The day was launched in 2013.
August 10	World Biofuel Day	It was first observed in 2015 by the Ministry of Petroleum and Gas
August 12	International Youth Day (United Nations decided to commemorate International Youth Day in 1999)	Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health
August 12	World Elephant Day	Haathi Hamara Saathi

August 13	World Organ Donation Day	First-ever organ donation was done in 1954
August 13	International Left Handers Day	It was first observed in 1976
August 14	Partition Horrors Remembrance Day	Pakistan celebrates August 14 as its Independence Day
August 19	World Humanitarian Day	Focuses - Immediate human cost of the climate crisis.
August 19	World Photography Day	Pandemic lockdown through the lens
August 20	Akshay Urja Diwas	The campaign was first organized in Delhi by former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh
August 20	Sadbhavana Diwas (Harmony Day)	77 <sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi
August 20	World Mosquito Day	Reaching the zero malaria targets
August 21	World Senior Citizens' Day	Pandemics: Do They Change How We Address Age and Ageing?
August 21	International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism	
August 19 to 25	Sanskrit Week	
August 22	World Sanskrit Day	It was first time celebrated in 1969.
August 22	International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief	It was first made official in 2019
August 23	International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition	
August 23 - 31	World Water Week 2021	Building Resilience Faster
August 26	Women's Equality Day	Commemorating the 1920 adoption of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution
August 27	International Dog Day 2021	The day was founded in 2004.
August 29	National Sports Day	First National Sports Day was celebrated in India on 29 August 2012

August 29	International Day against Nuclear Tests	It was established on December 2, 2009. Palau became the first nuclear-free nation in 1980
August 30	National Small Industry Day	
August 30	International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances	Resource centre for missing persons in Kosovo has also been initiated by the UN
August 31	International Day for People of African Descent	

### **I&B Minister to launch Iconic Week as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav - from 23rd to 29<sup>th</sup> August**

- Union minister for information and broadcasting **Anurag Thakur** will kick off a series of activities to celebrate the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' starting **August 23**.
- The series of events will go on till August 29.
- The **activities organised by the ministry** will aim to ' **showcase the convergence of the values and glories of the freedom struggle of the past** with the aspirations and dreams of a young, new and iconic India'.
- Thakur will kick off the '**Iconic Week**' which will attract participation from across the country under the overall spirit of '**Jan Bhagidari and Jan Andolan**'.
- During the Iconic Week, the ministry will showcase the journey of new India and celebrate the contribution of freedom fighters, including the 'Unsung Heroes of the freedom struggle, through massive outreach activities.

## **Important Banking News**

### **RBI**

#### **RBI's New Rules on Interchange Fee and make available 24/7 Bulk Clearing Facility Functional**

- The **Reserve Bank of India's new directions on raising interchange fee** and making available the facility of bulk clearing round the clock have become effective on Aug 01.
- The **RBI in June** raised the interchange fee for **financial transactions from Rs 15 to Rs 17**, while for non-financial transactions the increase was from **Rs 5 to Rs 6**.
- These new rates have become applicable from August 1, 2021, as per the RBI's direction.
- An interchange fee is a fee charged by banks to the merchant who processes a credit card or debit card payment.
- Besides, **National Automated Clearing House (NACH)** has been made available on all days of the week, effective August 1, 2021.

#### **GyanDhan gets NBFC licence from RBI**

- **GyanDhan, India's first education financing platform** stated it has received an NBFC license from the Reserve Bank of India and it aims to disburse **Rs 650 crore worth of education loans in FY22**.



- Out of this, **Rs 50 crore** will be for domestic short-term courses offered by various ed-tech players and coaching institutes.
- The **Delhi-based, digital-first company** has already partnered companies including Great learning and various IAS institutions to offer interest-free education loans to prospective students wanting to pursue short-term courses.
- “Till now, we have **disbursed more than Rs1000 crore in total**.
- The **NBFC license** will allow us to design new loan solutions that meet the customers’ needs.

#### **RBI imposes penalty of Rs 50.35 lakh on Janalaxmi Co-operative Bank**

- **Reserve Bank of India** has imposed a **penalty of Rs 50.35 lakh on Janalaxmi Co-operative Bank, Nashik** for non-compliance with certain regulatory requirements.
- The penalty on **Janalaxmi Co-operative Bank** has been imposed for non-compliance with directions issued by RBI on 'Placement of Deposits with Other Banks by Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks' and 'Membership of Credit Information Companies (CICs)'.
- A statutory inspection conducted by RBI with reference to the **bank's financial position as on March 31, 2019** and the inspection report pertaining thereto, and examination of all related correspondence revealed non-compliance with the directions.
- RBI has also imposed a penalty of **Rs 3 lakh on the Noida Commercial Co-operative Bank, Ghaziabad**.

#### **RBI Authorised IndusInd Bank to act as an 'Agency Bank'**

- **IndusInd Bank** stated it has been empanelled by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to act as an '**Agency Bank**' to facilitate transactions related to government businesses.
- It will **strengthen the bank's presence** within the government domain.
- The announcement comes close on the heels of a recent RBI guideline that authorises scheduled private sector banks as agency banks of the regulator for the conduct of government business.
- With this, **IndusInd Bank joins ranks with few other private banks of the country** to carry out general banking business on behalf of the central and state government, while also offering customers - the convenience of undertaking routine financial transactions through its banking platform.

#### **RBI imposes Rs 6 lakh penalty on Hewlett-Packard Financial Services, Bengaluru**

- The RBI has imposed a **penalty of Rs 6 lakh on Hewlett-Packard Financial Services (India) Private Ltd, Bengaluru** for **non-compliance with certain directions issued by it**.
- RBI mentioned the statutory inspection of the company, with reference to its financial position as on March 31, 2019, revealed non-compliance with the **statutory directions on submission of credit information to CRILC** and submission of credit data to credit information companies (CICs).
- The penalty, RBI informed, is based on deficiencies in **regulatory compliance** and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the company with its customers.

#### **About Hewlett-Packard Financial Services:**

- Hewlett-Packard Financial Services Company **provides financial asset management solutions**.

- The Company offers solutions such as **cost-effective leasing offers**, trade-in programs, asset management, and asset recovery.
- **Headquarters:** Berkeley Heights, New Jersey, United States.

#### RBI Keeps Repo Rate Unchanged at 4% - August 2021

- The **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** met on 4th, 5th and 6th August 2021.
- **Based on an assessment** of the evolving domestic and global macroeconomic and financial conditions and the outlook, the MPC voted unanimously to keep the policy **repo rate unchanged at 4 percent**.
- The **MPC also decided on a 5 to 1 majority to continue with the accommodative stance** as long as necessary to revive and sustain growth on a durable basis and continue to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the economy, while ensuring that inflation remains within the target, going forward.
- The **marginal standing facility (MSF) rate** and the bank rate remain unchanged at **4.25 per cent**.
- The **reverse repo rate** also remains unchanged at **3.35 per cent**.

#### RBI to levy penalty Rs 10,000 per ATM on ATMs that run out of cash from October 1

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has asked **banks and white label automated teller machine (ATM) operators** to **put in place a robust system** that will allow them to monitor the availability of cash in ATMs and ensure timely replenishment to avoid cash-out situations.
- The **central bank has introduced a 'scheme of penalty for non-replenishment of ATMs'**, effective October 1, 2021, wherein banks and white label ATM operators will be penalised, in the event of **cash-outs beyond the permissible time limit**.

#### About the penalty:

- According to the scheme, a **penalty of Rs 10,000 per ATM** will be levied in the event of a cash-out situation for more than 10 hours in a month.
- “In the case of **white label ATMs**, the **penalty** would be charged to the bank which is meeting the cash requirement of that particular white label ATM.
- The bank, may, at its discretion, recover the penalty from the white label ATM operator”.

#### RBI increases limit for collateral free loans to SHG to Rs 20 lakhs

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

#### About the loan:

- **DAY-NRLM adopts a demand driven approach**, enabling the states to formulate their own state-specific poverty reduction action plans.
- For loans to SHGs up to Rs 10 lakh, no collateral and no margin will be charged.

- Also, no lien should be marked **against savings bank account of SHGs** and no deposits should be insisted upon while sanctioning loans.

#### **RBI imposes Rs 1 crore penalty to Cooperative Rabobank UA**

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) informed it has imposed a penalty of **Rs 1 crore on Cooperative Rabobank U.A.** for deficiencies in regulatory compliances.
- The penalty has been imposed for contravention of certain provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and directions related to '**transfer to reserve funds**'.
- RBI said it conducted a statutory **Inspection for Supervisory Evaluation (ISE)** of the bank with reference to the bank's financial position as on March 31, 2020.
- Examination of the **risk assessment report** pertaining to the same, revealed contravention of the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act and the directions issued by RBI.

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

- The **Reserve Bank** has **canceled the license of Raigad based Karnala Nagari Sahakari Bank Limited in Maharashtra.**
- The license was cancelled due to the **insufficient capital** and earning prospects and its continuance would have adversely affected depositors.
- According to the data submitted by the bank, **95%** of the depositors will receive full amounts of their deposits from Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)
- On liquidation, every depositor would be entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of Five lakh rupees.

#### **RBI introduces the Financial Inclusion Index**

- The **Reserve Bank of India** has created a composite **Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index)** to capture the extent of financial inclusion across the country.
- The announcement regarding the creation of the Financial Inclusion Index was made in the **first Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement for 2021-2022 on April 7.**
- The annual **FI-Index** for the period ending March 2021 is 53.9 against 43.4 for the period ending March 2017.

#### **About FI-Index:**

- The FI-Index will be published annually in July every year.
- The **FI-Index has been conceptualized as a comprehensive index**, incorporating details of banking, investments, insurance, postal as well as the pension sector, in consultation with government and respective sectoral regulators.
- It also captures information on the financial inclusion aspects in a single value ranging between 0-100, where 0 represents complete financial exclusion and 100 indicates full financial inclusion.
- The **FI-Index comprises three broad parameters** -- Access (35%), Usage (45%), and Quality (20%), with each of these consisting of dimensions computed based on many indicators.

### RBI came out with revised instructions for banks on locker management

- The **Reserve Bank** came out with **revised guidelines** for the hiring of lockers under which the liability of banks will be limited to **100 times its annual rent in case of fire, theft, building collapse or frauds by bank employees**.
- As per the revised guidelines, which shall come into effect from January 1, 2022, **banks will be required to incorporate a clause in the locker agreement** prohibiting the hirer from keeping anything illegal or hazardous in lockers.
- The RBI stated it has reviewed the '**Deposit Locker/Safe Custody Article Facility provided by the banks**' after taking into consideration various developments in the area of banking and technology, nature of consumer grievances and also the feedback received from banks and Indian Banks' Association (IBA).
- The review also takes into account, the principles enumerated by the Supreme Court in '**Amitabha Dasgupta vs United Bank of India**'.
- The revised instructions will be applicable to **both new and existing safe deposit lockers** and the safe custody of articles facility with the banks.

### RBI to launch 'Regulatory GAAR' for round tripping

- **Some of the largest Indian companies**, startups and multinationals with an India presence have put their outbound investment, fundraising and restructuring plans on hold as the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** looks to introduce fresh regulations around "round tripping."
- The central bank is looking to tweak the existing regulations and has come up with draft rules around round tripping.
- As the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) hopes **to introduce new regulations** on "round tripping", some of the largest Indian companies, startups and multinational companies with branches in India have presence their outbound investment, fundraising and restructuring plans.
- The central bank is seeking to **adjust existing regulations**.
- RBI to put in place a "**PRISM**" to strengthen compliance by lenders

### RBI to launch PRISM platform

- The Reserve Financial institution of India (RBI) is putting in a **Platform for Regulated Entities for Built-in Supervision and Monitoring (PRISM)**, a **web-based end-to-end workflow automation system**, to strengthen compliance by supervised entities (SEs).
- This comes within the backdrop of steady engagement and extra frequent opinions of threat profiles and **supervisory assessments** being envisaged for supervised entities, together with banks and non-banking monetary firms.
- With the rising depth and attain of the **Reserve Financial institution's supervisory** operate, the main target of its new strategy to 'steady supervision' is on early identification of dangers and conduct of supervisory actions, in response to an article in RBI's newest month-to-month bulletin.
- That is **aimed toward serving to supervised entities** to strengthen their inside defences and resilience and bringing deal with root trigger evaluation (RCA).

### RBI now extends card payment tokenisation facility to laptops, wearable devices

- The **Reserve Bank of India** has extended the **scope of permitted devices** for undertaking tokenised card transactions to include consumer devices such as laptops, desktops, wearables (wrist watches, bands, etc.), and **Internet of Things (IoT) devices**.
- **RBI** provided reference to its **circular DPSS on Tokenisation** - Card transactions, permitting authorised card networks to offer card tokenisation services to any token requestor, subject to the conditions listed therein.
- The **facility** was available only for **mobile phones and tablets** of interested card holders.
- There has been an uptake in the volume of tokenised card transactions during the recent months.

### RBI includes PM SVANidhi Scheme beneficiaries under PIDF Scheme in tier 1 and 2 centers

- The **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.
- The **scheme**, operationalized in January this year, **has now been extended to select street vendors in tier 1 and 2 centres**.
- Launched in June 2020, the **PM Street Vendor's AatmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme** is aimed at helping street vendors impacted by the coronavirus pandemic to resume their livelihood activities.
- It facilitates collateral-free working **capital loans of up to Rs 10,000** of one-year tenure to approximately 50 lakh street vendors.

### RBI increases limit under Indo-Nepal Remittance Facility to Rs 2 lakh

- The **Reserve Bank** hiked the ceiling on **remittances** per transaction from **India to Nepal** to **Rs.2 lakh from Rs.50, 000**, a move that will help **facilitate retirement and pension-related payments** to ex-servicemen settled in the neighbouring country.
- Besides, the central bank has removed the **cap of 12 remittances in a year per remitter**.
- "As hitherto, banks shall accept remittances by way of cash from walk-in customers or non-customers.
- The **ceiling of Rs 50,000 per remittance** with a **maximum of 12 remittances** in a year shall, however, continue to apply for such remittances".
- While increasing the ceiling, **RBI** has also advised banks to put in place suitable velocity checks and other risk mitigation procedures.
- "The enhancements are also expected **to facilitate payments relating to retirement, pension, etc.,** to our ex-servicemen who have settled/ relocated in Nepal".

### RBI increases the incentive for distribution of coins over the counter by banks to Rs 65

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has increased incentives for banks for the distribution of coins to the general public to **Rs 65 per bag** with effect from September 1.
- Currently, the **incentive is Rs 25 per bag**.

- An **additional incentive of Rs 10 per bag** would be paid for coin distribution in rural and semi-urban areas on the submission of a auditor certificate to this effect.
- The distribution of coins shall also be **verified by RBI Regional Offices** during inspection of currency chest or incognito visit to branches among others.
- **RBI** mentioned that with a view to **meet the coin requirements of bulk customers** (requirement of more than 1 bag in a single transaction), banks are advised to provide coins to such customers purely for business transactions.
- The banks may also endeavour to provide such services as part of their Board approved policy on **'Door Step Banking' services**.

## SBI

### SBI initiates 'SIM Binding' feature for YONO

- To safeguard the **interest of its customers**, Country's largest Lender **State Bank of India (SBI)** has launched a new and enhanced security feature – **'SIM Binding'** in **YONO and YONO Lite app**.
- The new version of these platforms will protect customers from various digital frauds.
- With the SIM Binding feature, **YONO and YONO Lite** will work only on those devices which have the SIM Card of mobile numbers registered with the Bank.
- **To get access to the new version of YONO and YONO Lite**, users will have to update their mobile app and complete the one-time registration process on these Apps.
- The registration process verifies the **SIM of the Registered Mobile Number (RMN)** with the bank in order to complete the registration.
- Customers will have to ensure that they register with the device which has the SIM of the registered contact number.

### SBI General insurance partners with SahiPay

- To increase **non-life insurance penetration** in the rural market, **SBI General Insurance** will tap customers of **fintech player SahiPay**, which provides digital and financial services in the semi-urban and rural parts of the country.
- SBI General Insurance announced a **partnership with Manipal Business Solutions**, the promoter of SahiPay.
- Through this partnership, SBI General will provide a bouquet of non-life insurance solutions to **SahiPay** customers.
- Pushan Mahapatra, President - Strategic Investments & Head - Open Market stated the **tie-up** is a right fit to support the company's endeavour to **maximise its reach to rural segments**.
- SBI General is continuously strengthening its distribution footprints in the country, and this tie-up is a step in that direction.

### SBI Life Insurance introduces New Age Protection Plan 'eShield Next'

- **'eShield Next'** is a non-participating, non-linked, life insurance pure risk premium product.
- State Bank of India (SBI) Life Insurance recently announced the launch of **'SBI Life eShield Next'** - a new age-term insurance policy, which raises or **'levels up'** the protection coverage with the life milestones of the insured.
- **About the plan:**

- The **policy** is a non-participating, non-linked, life insurance pure risk premium product, which allows customers to reap benefits by 'levelling up' the required insurance protection.
- The **process is done through an increase in sum** assured linked to the significant 'level-up' milestones in one's life, such as marriage, becoming a parent, or purchasing property (new house etc).
- The **new age protection plan 'eShield Next'** with its '**level-up' feature**, offers three plan options suited for customer's personalisation.
- '**SBI Life eShield Next**' also offers a range of flexibilities.
- It gives the choice of premium payment term, such as - pay once, pay regularly, or for a limited period.
- The limited period could range from five years to **25 years and also includes** the option to pay for a period of 'policy term minus five years'.
- It also offers an option of life cover up to **100 years or 85 years**.

### Asian Development Bank

#### ADB approves USD 300 million additional loan For Rural Roads In Maharashtra

- **Asian Development Bank** has approved a **USD 300 million loan** as additional financing for the ongoing Maharashtra Rural Connectivity Improvement Project that is **upgrading rural roads** and **connecting remote areas** with **markets**.
- The Project was approved in August 2019, for improving and maintaining the condition and safety of 2,100 kilometres (km) of rural roads across Maharashtra.

#### Important Features of the Additional Financing :

- To help accelerate Maharashtra's economic recovery from COVID-19 devastation by generating rural employment and transforming agriculture.
- It will improve an additional **1,100 rural roads** and **230 bridges** for a total length of **2,900 km** in **34 districts** of Maharashtra
- It will also provide last-mile connectivity to a large number of small villages, enhancing access to health and education facilities and greatly benefiting the poor and vulnerable population by increasing agricultural productivity.
- Also it is expected to generate about **3.1 million** person-days of employment for local communities, of which at least 25 per cent will be for women, over the construction and maintenance periods.

#### ADB sign \$500 million loan to india to expand Metro Rail Network in Bengaluru

- The Government of India and the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** signed a **\$500 million loan** to expand the metro rail network in Bengaluru with construction of **two new metro lines totaling 56 km in length**.
- "The **new metro lines** will further strengthen safe, affordable and **green mobility in Bengaluru**, having positive impact on enhancing quality of life, sustainable growth in urban habitat and livelihood opportunities".

#### About the Project:



- “The project supports urban transformation of **Bengaluru City into a more livable and sustainable city** through support to urban public transport and urban development with concepts of **transit-oriented development (TOD) and multi-modal integration (MMI)**”.
- “The **project will bring various benefits** including road de-congestion, better urban livability and environmental improvement.”
- The **project** will construct **two new metro lines**, mostly elevated, along Outer Ring Road and National Highway 44 between **Central Silk Board and Kempegowda International Airport with 30 stations**.
- This will help decongest traffic in the city area and provide seamless connectivity to the airport.
- The needs of vulnerable groups, such as the elderly, women, children, and differently abled persons, will be reflected on the metro facilities.

### World Bank

#### World Bank grants project to make India's existing dams safe

- The Indian government, the **Central Water Commission**, **representatives from 10 participating states**, and the **World Bank** signed a **\$250 million** project for **long-term dam safety programme** and improving the safety and performance of existing dams across various states.
- The **Second Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP-2)** will strengthen dam safety by building dam safety guidelines, bringing in global experience, and introducing innovative technologies.
- Another major innovation envisaged under the project, that is likely to transform dam safety management, is the introduction of a **risk-based approach to dam asset management** that will help to effectively allocate financial resources towards priority dam safety needs.
- The project will be implemented in approximately 120 dams across Chhattisgarh, **Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Tamil Nadu**, and at the national level through the CWC.
- Other states or agencies may be added to the project during project implementation.

#### World Bank launches New Cyber security Multi-Donor Trust Fund

- **Digital transformation** is **accelerating in many countries**, offering new opportunities for economic growth and enabling low- and medium-income countries to leapfrog development.
- As it **becomes essential to the functioning of** states, economies, and societies, cyber security solutions must keep up.
- The **World Bank** has just launched the Cyber security Multi-Donor Trust Fund under the broader **Digital Development Partnership (DDP)**.

#### About the fund:

- The new fund aims to better define and systematically roll out the cyber security development agenda, helping to ensure a more substantial reflection of cyber security considerations across World Bank programs and financing.



- The **work programme will support** the development of global knowledge on cyber security solutions for low- and middle-income countries.
- It **will fund country maturity** assessments, offer technical assistance, and support training and capacity development for cyber security staff in World Bank client countries.
- The launch of the **Trust Fund is made possible with donor contributions** from Estonia, Germany, Japan, and the Netherlands.

### International Monetary Fund

#### IMF approves historic \$650 bln allocation of Special Drawing Rights

- The **Board of Governors of the IMF** has approved a general allocation of **Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) equivalent to US\$650 billion (about SDR 456 billion)** on August 2, 2021, **to boost global liquidity**.
- “This is a **historic decision** – the largest SDR allocation in the history of the IMF and a shot in the arm for the global economy at a time of unprecedented crisis.
- The **SDR allocation will benefit all members**, address the long-term global need for reserves, build confidence, and foster the resilience and stability of the global economy.
- **IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva** stated “It will **particularly help our most vulnerable countries** struggling to cope with the impact of the COVID-19 crisis,”.
- The general allocation of SDRs will become effective on August 23, 2021.
- The **newly created SDRs will be credited to IMF member countries** in proportion to their existing quotas in the Fund.

### Other Banking News

#### UPI sets new record in July month

- **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**, the **flagship payments platform** of the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, made a record in volume and value of transactions in July as digital payments rise in the pandemic.
- **UPI processed a record 3.24 billion transactions in July, up 15.7 per cent from June** when it processed 2.8 billion transactions. In value terms, in July, the platform processed transactions worth Rs 6.06 trillion, up 10.76 per cent from June.
- **About UPI:**
- **UPI was launched in 2016** and crossed 1 billion transactions for the first time in October 2019.
- The next billion transactions came in just a year.
- In October 2020, **UPI processed more than 2 billion transactions for the first time**.
- Further, the **journey from 2 billion transactions a month to 3 billion transactions** was traversed in just 10 months’ time, indicating the incredible popularity of the UPI as a platform for retail digital payments among consumers.

#### PM to introduces digital payment solution e-RUPI on August 2

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will launch a new digital payment solution - **e-RUPI** through video conferencing.

- Numerous programmes have been **rolled out to ensure that the benefits** reach their intended beneficiaries in a focused and leak-proof manner, in order to limit touch points between the government and the beneficiary.

#### About e-RUPI:

- **e-RUPI is a cashless and contactless platform for digital payments.**
- The instrument acts as an e-voucher which is based on a QR code or SMS string, delivered to the mobile phones of recipients.
- It has been **developed by the National Payments Corporation of India on its UPI platform**, in collaboration with the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and National Health Authority.

#### PhonePe unveiled UPI-based AutoPay functionality for mutual fund SIP investments

- **PhonePe, India's largest digital payments company**, announced the launch of **UPI based AutoPay** functionality for its mutual fund investment offerings that **will allow its customers to set up their Mutual Fund SIPs in just a few seconds.**
- **This makes** PhonePe the first digital investment platform to introduce this feature in the country.
- With **UPI Autopay**, **PhonePe** customers can set up their **SIPs in just 3 steps**: Select Fund, Input Monthly SIP Investment amount, and authenticate with **UPI PIN** making it a first of its kind experience for millions of users across India.
- It also furthers PhonePe's vision to continually enhance the end-to-end customer experience while catering to their needs in building the investment portfolio of their choice.
- The **SIP through UPI AutoPay option is available** for all existing and new investors on the PhonePe app.

#### 'Fish Andhra' brand: Bank of Baroda supports Andhra Pradesh state government in setting up 100 aqua hubs

- The **State Department of Fisheries** designed a **novel scheme under the brand name "Fish Andhra"** by establishing aqua hubs in line with **Pradhana Mantri Matsya Sampadha Yojana (PMMSY)**, a central government scheme.
- The **Bank of Baroda** is **supporting the implementation of the project.**
- Commissioner (Fisheries) K Kanna Babu and Bank of Baroda, Vijayawada region, deputy general manager Ch Raja Sekhar stated a well-structured design and a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** have been devised for implementation of the Fish Andhra Project through the Bank of Baroda as a sole banker across AP.
- **Under the project, 100 aqua hubs** would be set up and around 14,000 outlets of different sizes and nature would be set up across the State.
- The concept involves the setting up of a hub and spokes model.
- **Each aqua hub constitutes 140 beneficiaries** and the project cost is Rs 5.50 crore.

#### LIC Cards Services and IDBI Bank jointly launch RuPay credit cards Lumine, Eclat

- **LIC Cards Services Limited (LIC-CSL)** has partnered with IDBI Bank to launch '**Lumine**' **Platinum Credit Card** and '**Eclat**' **Select Credit Card** on the RuPay platform.
- The cards will initially be available to LIC policyholders, agents, as well as employees of the corporation and its subsidiaries.

- **Aim** is to **enhance the value of digital transactions** by providing a variety of benefits/cards thereby saving time and cost of transactions for both buyer and recipient.
- **LIC CSL** has a vision to be the **top Brand in Cards and Digital Payments**, catering to all segments with geographical spread across the Country”.
- The cards will offer a wide range of benefits to users.
- Lumine and Eclat cardholders will have a credit limit that suits their lifestyles.
- The cardholders will **earn 3 'delight' points on every spend of Rs 100** via the Lumine card and 4 points on the Eclat card.
- The cards also **offer special benefits of 2x reward points** while paying renewal insurance premium of LIC.

#### Govt may get defers sale of two PSU banks to next year

- The **Narendra Modi-led Union government's attempts to sell two public sector banks** may get deferred to the financial year as no approval has been taken from Parliament for making changes in laws required to initiate the deals.
- **The finance ministry** is yet to work out the modalities to seek approval from lawmakers for the sale, leaving little time for the process to be completed this year.
- In February this year, **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** had stated the government will seek buyers for two state-run banks by March 2022.
- She made the statement while presenting the **Budget for the current financial year**.
- In June, government **think-tank Niti Aayog** had submitted a list of public sector banks that are to be privatized in the current fiscal year to the **Core Group of Secretaries on Disinvestment**.

#### Suryoday Small Finance Bank launches 'Health and Wellness Savings Account'

- **Suryoday Small Finance Bank (SSFB)** has launched “**Suryoday Health and Wellness Savings Account**”, a premium savings account product, to ensure that customers' wealth not only grows but they and their families are also taken care of on the health front in the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### Benefits:

- Besides offering an attractive interest rate, the **new savings account also offers three benefits for a family of four (self, spouse and two children)** — top-up health insurance of Rs 25 lakhs, annual healthcare package and on-call emergency ambulance medical care Services.
- **Top-up health insurance and healthcare packages** are free of charge for one year after opening the account.
- **Free Ambulance service up to a distance of 20 Kms** will be available at 102 locations across the country till March-end 2022.
- A resident individual (18 years to 65 years) can open the “Suryoday Health and Wellness Savings Account” **either singly or jointly**.
- The criteria for opening the “Suryoday Health and Wellness Savings Account” include **maintenance of average monthly balance of Rs 3 lakhs** and being eligible as per the key health declaration form.

### CCI approves Carlyle-led deal with PNB Housing Finance

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has approved **Carlyle Group's** proposed Rs 4000 crore investment in **PNB Housing Finance**.
- **PNB Housing Finance** making it the majority shareholder, even as the Securities Appellate Tribunal is yet to give its judgement on the matter.
- The share price of **PNB Housing** zoomed to hit the **5% upper circuit at Rs 720.45**.
- The CCI received a notice relating to acquisition of equity stake in PNB Housing Finance by Pluto Investments, a group company of Carlyle, and Salisbury Investments, under Green Channel.
- "Notice received under the **Green Channel is deemed to be approved under regulation 5A of the Competition Commission of India**".

### ICICI Prudential Life make tie up with NPCI for UPI Autopay

- **ICICI Prudential Life Insurance** has partnered with the government payments corporation - National Payments Corporation of India or NPCI to provide the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI) AUTOPAY** facility to customers.
- The **initiative** will allow customers to buy insurance policies and make premium payments digitally, from their homes - a facility that assumes relevance amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### About the tie-up:

- With this tie-up, ICICI Prudential Life has become the **first such life insurance company** to provide the UPI AUTOPAY facility to its customers to simplify the payments processes.
- The **UPI AUTOPAY facility** will provide an instant premium paying mechanism.
- To avail the facility, customers can link their bank accounts with **UPI AUTOPAY and make premium payments**, at the time of purchasing a life insurance policy.

### CBIC unveiled Indian Customs Compliance Portal (CIP)

- The **Central Board for Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC)** launched the Indian Customs Compliance Information Portal (CIP) at **[www.cip.icegate.gov.in/CIP](http://www.cip.icegate.gov.in/CIP)** for providing free access to information on all Customs procedures and regulatory compliance for nearly 12,000 Customs Tariff Items.

#### About CIP:

- **CIP is yet another facilitation tool developed by CBIC** to empower our business as well as any interested person with **up-to-date information** on the legal and procedural requirements of Customs and **Partner Government Agencies** (FSSAI, AQIS, PQIS, Drug Controller, etc.) for carrying out imports and exports.
- The **portal** would provide at the click of a button complete knowledge of all import and export related requirements for all items covered under the Customs Tariff thereby improving the ease of doing cross-border trade.

### Axis Bank reached one million customers on WhatsApp banking

- **WhatsApp banking Private sector lender Axis Bank** has crossed the milestone of over one million customers on its **WhatsApp banking channel** with a total **request count of 6 million till now**.

- “This **simple and convenient form of banking** has seen a great adoption amongst customers with an **average daily active user count of more than 13,000**, while the average monthly active user count goes up to 0.2 million”.

#### About the service:

- **Axis Bank launched WhatsApp banking** Axis Bank had launched banking services on WhatsApp in **January 2021** and has since witnessed robust organic growth in its customer base for WhatsApp banking After signing up for the service, customers can inquire and get details of products across savings account, credit and debit cards, deposits and personal loans.
- **Non-financial service requests can also be initiated**, such as locating ATMs or getting updates on third-party deals available on credit and debit cards.

#### SEBI nods payments banks to act as investment bankers

- To provide easy access to investors to participate in public and rights issues by using various payment avenues, markets regulator **Sebi allowed payments banks to carry out the activities of investment bankers**.
- Non-scheduled payments banks, which have prior approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), will be eligible to act as a banker to an issue (BTI).
- This is subject to **fulfillment of the conditions** stipulated in the **BTI rules**.
- Further, payments banks registered as a BTI will also be permitted to act as self-certified syndicate banks, subject to the **fulfillment of the criteria laid down by the Sebi** in this regard from time to time.
- 'The blocking/movement of funds from the investor to issuer shall only be made through the savings account of the investor held with the payments bank'.
- The regulator amended the Bankers to an Issue rules, thereby permitting such other banking company, as may be specified by the **Sebi, from time to time**, to carry out the activities of Bankers to an Issue (BTI), in addition to the scheduled banks.

#### DBS Bank 'Most Innovative in Digital Banking' globally by 'The Banker'

- **DBS** has been honoured as the global winner for **Most Innovative in Digital Banking** by **Financial Times** publication, The Banker, in its 2021 **Innovation in Digital Banking Awards**.
- The bank was also recognised as the **Asia-Pacific winner**, and won in the Cyber Security category for its Secure Access and Remote Working Solution.
- **The Banker's Innovation in Digital Banking Awards** recognise the most innovative banks across the world for their digital banking initiatives, strategy, and overall commitment to digital transformation.
- These awards, now in their second year, are the evolution of **The Banker's Technology Projects of the Year Awards**.
- “DBS’ digital capability was tested to the core by Covid, and it not only stepped up but turned the situation to its advantage.

#### Central Bank of India co-lending partnership with Dhanvarsha Finvest

- **Central Bank of India** has entered into a **strategic Co-lending Partnership with Dhanvarsha Finvest (DFL)** to offer loans against gold ornaments **under priority sector to MSME borrowers** at competitive rates.

- The participation by both the entities in this co-lending arrangement will result in greater expansion of portfolio by **Central Bank of India & Dhanvarsha Finvest**.
- Under this arrangement, **Dhanvarsha Finvest will originate and process loans against gold ornaments** as per jointly formulated credit parameters & eligibility criteria and Central Bank of India will take into its book **80% of the Gold Loans** under mutually agreed terms.
- DFL will service the loan account throughout the **life cycle of the loan**.

#### About partnership:

- This **Co-lending arrangement** is expected to help both the entities to offer convenient experience & customer delight to their customers as well as help expand their reach across India.
- Central Bank of **India is a commercial bank**.
- The bankas segments **include Treasury Operations**, Corporate/Wholesale Banking, Retail Banking and other Banking business.

#### Finance Ministry reported over 5.82 crore Jan Dhan accounts inoperative

- The **Finance Ministry** informed the Rajya Sabha that over **5.82 crore Jan Dhan (PMJDY) accounts are inoperative**.
- This is **14 per cent of the total number of accounts**.
- It means at least one out of 10 Jan Dhan accounts is inoperative.
- According to guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India, “**a savings as well as current account should be treated as inoperative/dormant if there are no transactions in the account for over a period of two years.**”
- For the purpose of classifying an account as ‘**inoperative**’ both types of transactions i.e. debit as well as credit, induced at the instance of customers as well as third party, should be considered.
- This is key as these accounts are also used for payment under welfare schemes, food grain procurement mechanism or even rural employment guarantee programmes.

#### Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana:

- **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana** is a **financial inclusion program** of the Government of India open to Indian citizens that **aims to expand affordable access** to financial services such as bank accounts, remittances, credit, insurance and pensions.
- **Launch year:** 2014

#### IndusInd Bank plans to provide supported para-athletes qualify for upcoming Paralympic Games

- The **21 para-athletes** who are part of the IndusInd Bank’s ‘**Para Champions Programme**’ will represent the country at the **2020 Summer Paralympic Games** to be held in Tokyo between 24 August and 5 September.
- The programme was launched in 2015, in partnership with the **GoSports Foundation** with an **objective to support para-athletes** across various sports disciplines.
- Overall, the **Bank helps 43 para-athletes** underneath its ‘**Para Champions**’ Programme, in collaboration with **GoSports Foundation** throughout **7 disciplines from 14 States** by serving to them fulfil their vitamin, health and conditioning, medical assist in addition to home and worldwide coaching necessities.



### RBL Bank chosen AWS as preferred cloud provider

- RBL Bank has chosen Amazon Web Services (AWS), an Amazon.com company, as its preferred cloud provider to strengthen its AI powered banking solutions and drive digital transformation at the Bank, adding significant value to the Banks innovative offerings, saving costs, and tightening risk controls.
- The Bank is building on its analytics practice and investing in AI capabilities to implement various use cases across multiple segments, including Risk, Customer Service, Human Resources, and Operations.
- The Banks AI Center of Excellence worked with AWS to create a templated framework to roll out use cases using Amazon SageMaker to quickly and easily build, train, and deploy machine learning (ML) models as part of the Banks larger AI roadmap.

### Deutsche Bank to set up IFSC Banking Unit at GIFT City

- Deutsche Bank, a leading German bank with strong European roots and a global network spread across 59 countries, has received approval from the GIFT SEZ Authority to set up an IFSC banking unit at India's first International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) at GIFT City, Gujarat.
- Deutsche Bank is among the largest international banks in India, having set up its first branch in the country in Mumbai more than 40 years ago.
- With over INR19,000 crore of capital deployed in its India branch operations and a presence across all major business centres, Deutsche Bank is a trusted partner and advisor to its customers and clients, offering a whole range of services across Corporate Banking, Investment Banking and its International Private Bank.
- The Deutsche Bank Group currently employs more than 18,000 people across its various entities in the country.

### Indian Navy, IDFC FIRST bank bring 'Honour FIRST' banking solutions

- The Indian Navy has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC) FIRST Bank to initiate 'Honour FIRST', a premium banking solution for serving personnel and veterans of the Indian Navy.
- The MoU for Honour FIRST was signed at the Naval Headquarters in New Delhi between Commodore Neeraj Malhotra, Commodore – Pay and Allowances, Indian Navy and IDFC FIRST Bank's senior officials.
- Designed especially keeping in mind the needs of the Armed Forces and its veterans, the Honour FIRST Defence Account is supported by a dedicated team of defence veterans.

### About 'Honour FIRST':

- Studded with a range of privileges and features, the Honour FIRST Defence account comes with a free enhanced Personal Accident Insurance Cover of Rs. 46 lakhs for both on-duty and off-duty incidents.
- Additionally, the insurance not only covers accidental death but also total and partial permanent disability.
- The Personal Accident Insurance Cover also includes a child education grant of Rs. 4 lakhs and a marriage cover of Rs 2 lakh.
- With zero – balance salary account feature, Honour FIRST account holders will receive up to 5 per cent interest per annum and a net banking and customised mobile app that offers a superior user interface and experience

- In addition, other key features include free Air Accidental Insurance cover of **Rs. 1 Crore**, a top-of-the-line Visa Signature Debit Card with no annual charges and complimentary airport lounge access at domestic airports, eight times annually.
- **Honour FIRST Defence Account** also comprises a free lost card liability and fraud protection of up to Rs. 6 lakhs, purchase protection against theft and damage up to 90 days.

#### HDFC Bank gave approval to issue of AT1 bonds

- **HDFC Bank** stated the bank plans to **raise capital by additional tier- I (AT1) bonds** in the overseas market to fund its business growth.
- The bank is expected to **raise up to USD 1 billion** from these dollars denominated bonds.
- “**Bank informed that the bank** had approved the issuing of debt instruments in the form of the notes, subject to market conditions”.
- An **offering memorandum (OM)** has been prepared and shall be made available to the prospective investors in relation to the contemplated issue of notes.
- The notes will not be offered or sold in India under the applicable laws, including the **Companies Act, 2013**, as amended from time to time.

#### HDFC introduces 'Green & Sustainable' fixed deposit

- The **country's largest mortgage lender**, **HDFC Ltd**, launched a “**green and sustainable**” deposits programme for retail clients, funds from which will be used to finance sustainable housing credit solutions and services.
- **HDFC Ltd** stated individuals can **earn interest at 6.55 per cent** on their deposits, whose period can range from 3-10 years.
- Also, senior citizens will be eligible for an **additional 0.25 per cent per annum** on their **deposits of up to Rs 2 crore**.
- Further, an **additional interest rate of 0.1 per cent per annum** will be applicable on these **deposits up to Rs 50 lakh** if the deposits are made through the company's online platform.
- Typically, **HDFC Ltd** offers 6.65 per cent interest rates on normal deposits.
- So, people who want to opt for “green and sustainable” deposits will get 10 basis points lower in terms of return on deposits, which **translates to Rs 100 on a deposit of Rs 1 lakh**.

#### Kotak Mahindra Bank partners with Creditas Solutions

- To deliver a superior repayment experience for customers and increase efficiencies, **Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMBL)** announced that it has deployed a secure, **Do It Yourself (DIY) Digital Repayment Platform** for missed loan repayments, in a **tie-up with Creditas Solutions**.
- Powered by **Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML)**, the 'Neo Collections' platform delivers a personalised and non-intrusive experience thereby enabling customers to manage their dues seamlessly on their own through an intuitive repayment platform.
- Using data analytics to target the right customer segments, the '**Neo Collections**' platform creates hyper-personalised scenarios to connect with each customer.



- The **platform analyses both historical as well as live customer interaction data**, deploying sophisticated behavioural models to create individual customer-level personas that take into account the unique preferences of each customer, including their preferred communication mode, the best time to contact them and the language of their choice.

#### **NPCI partners with Mashreq Bank to unveil UPI in the UAE**

- **NPCI's global arm NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL) has partnered with UAE-based Mashreq Bank** to provide its mobile-based real-time payment system UPI in the gulf nation.
- This strategic partnership will be a significant game-changer in the digital payment ecosystem in the UAE.
- With this **tie-up, more than 2 million (20 lakh) Indians** travelling to the UAE are expected to benefit from Unified Payments Interface (UPI) enabled mobile applications to pay for their purchases in a shop or merchant establishment across the country.
- Developed by **National Payments Corporation of India**, UPI facilitates inter-bank transactions.
- The **tie-up is very timely with growing appetite for mobile-based payments** and the bank has witnessed 20 per cent month-on-month growth in pick-up rate.
- The **implementation of UPI** also opens a whole new world of opportunities for enterprises in the UAE and allows them to compete with much larger retailers.
- The **partnership with Mashreq Bank will enable consumers from India to transact seamlessly using NPCI's world-renowned UPI platform** and deliver a seamless user experience.

#### **Paytm and HDFC Bank enter into strategic partnership to deliver financial solutions across India**

- **Paytm and HDFC Bank** announced a **strategic partnership** to deliver financial solutions across India.
- The giants will launch products across **digital payments, lending and POS solutions**.
- The combined network of both the companies is expected to have a wide reach.
- “The fusion of HDFC Bank’s network, products and credit appraisal capabilities and **Paytm’s technological platform** will accelerate digital transformation in semi-urban and rural India while bringing more people into formal banking channels”.
- Through this **partnership Paytm and HDFC Bank** will build comprehensive solutions across payment gateways, POS machines, credit products such as Paytm Postpaid, Eazy EMI, Flexi Pay, and more.
- In the **first leg**, the companies will roll out a payment gateway and POS solutions for Indian merchant partners.

#### **Honda Cars ties up with Canara Bank**

- The **new finance schemes** will be offered across the model range of Honda cars
- Honda has been **partnering with multiple banks** to offer these schemes across the country
- **Honda Cars India (HCIL)** has rolled out a host of finance schemes for its customers in collaboration with Canara Bank.
- The **partnership facilitates customers** to avail financing options and car loans from Canara Bank on the purchase of the Amaze, City, Jazz, and WR-V.

- As a part of the partnership, the **finance schemes will include** concession in rate of interest to women buyers, maximum loan quantum; **up to 90 per cent of the total value** of the car inclusive of registration, life tax, and accessories, as well as the maximum repayment period of up to 84 months.
- **Honda has been partnering with multiple banks** to offer these schemes across the country with a focus on semi-urban to rural regions.

#### About Honda Motor Company:

- The Honda Motor Company, Ltd. is a **Japanese public multinational conglomerate manufacturer of automobiles**, motorcycles, and power equipment, headquartered in Minato, Tokyo, Japan.

#### PayPal to allow UK users buy, hold and sell crypto currency

- **PayPal** is to allow users in the **UK to buy, hold and sell crypto currencies** through the **payment platform for the first time**.
- The firm stated it would allow customers to choose from **four types of cryptocurrency – bitcoin, ethereum, litecoin and bitcoin cash** – and that the service would be available via the PayPal app and its website.
- A **crypto tab** will be added to the platform, showing real-time currency prices as well as offering educational content to help answer common questions and learn more about crypto currencies, including the potential risks.
- The payment company hoped that the move to embrace the currency would help improve knowledge and understanding of it.
- **Crypto currencies** remain controversial because of their lack of regulation and volatile value fluctuations, and some critics have raised concerns about the anonymity offered to users as part of transactions, arguing the currencies are used by cybercriminals to hide their activities.

#### HDFC Bank now divests over 2% stake in CDSL for Rs 222.71 crore

- **HDFC Bank** has **divested more than 2 per cent stake in Central Depository Services (India) Ltd (CDSL)** in tranches during **June-August this year**, garnering **nearly Rs 223 crore** from the sale.
- HDFC Bank sold 23,11,000 **equity shares** of face value of Rs 10 each fully paid up held by the bank in CDSL through the secondary market route on the NSE.
- The divestment of **2.21 per cent stake in Central Depository Services (India) Ltd** took place over a period from June 22 to August 24, 2021.
- The **bank sold** 20,36,000 shares (1.95 per cent) of CDSL at an average price of Rs 937.46 per piece on June 22. On August 23, it sold 2,13,481 shares at Rs 1,168.94 apiece and on August 24, it sold 61,519 shares for Rs 1,119.31 apiece.
- The shares were sold for a cash consideration of Rs 222.71 crore.
- **CDSL** provides depository **services to market participants**.
- **It has three operating services:** depository, data entry and record keeping of KYC documents of capital market investors, and repository.

#### Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman reviews performance of PSBs and launches EASE 4.0

- Union finance and corporate affairs minister Nirmala Sitharaman reviewed the performance of 12 public sector banks in an annual review meeting held in Mumbai.
- She unveiled the Enhanced Access and Service Excellence (EASE) 3.0 report and gave EASE 3.0 awards to best performing PSB's.
- Sitharaman handed over EASE 3.0 awards to Canara Bank, Punjab National Bank, Indian Bank, Union Bank of India, Bank of Baroda and State Bank of India for their achievements in clean and smart banking.
- She also launched EASE 4.0 on the occasion.
- EASE is a common reform agenda for PSBs aimed at institutionalizing clean and smart banking.
- Ms. Sitharaman stated that collectively all public sector banks have done well.
- She has requested all the banks to work in collaboration with state governments.

#### DBS Bank India to enter credit card business this year

- DBS Bank India Limited (DBIL), the wholly-owned subsidiary of DBS Bank of Singapore, is preparing to enter the country's credit card market this year in a bid to grow the high-margin unsecured loan portfolio.
- The lender plans to cash in on the consumer credit that is likely to peak this festive season as second wave ebbs and economic activity gathers momentum.
- "DBS Bank already issues debit cards to digibank customers.
- Now, we have outlined a strategy for expansion into credit cards.
- By the end of 2021, DBS plans to launch a co-branded credit card along with Bajaj Finance and subsequently come with our proprietary card over a period of 2-3 quarters," Prashant Joshi, Managing Director and Head - National Distribution.

#### PhonePe gets in-principle grant as an account aggregator from RBI

- Walmart-backed digital payments firm PhonePe's subsidiary, PhonePe Account Aggregator Pvt Ltd, has got an in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as an account aggregator.
- With the license, PhonePe can now launch its account aggregator platform that will enable the free and instant exchange of financial data between financial information users (FIUs) and financial information providers (FIPs) with due consent from customers, thus helping Indian consumers avail financial services in a faster, cheaper and more convenient manner.
- Account aggregators are responsible for providing services based on the explicit consent of individual clients, which includes the transfer, but not storing, of a client's data.

#### Karnataka Bank introduces KBL FASTag for seamless toll deduction

- Karnataka Bank launched KBL FASTag for seamless movement of vehicles at toll plazas by facilitating automatic deduction of the toll amount.
- Karnataka Bank launched its KBL FASTag, a pre-loaded payment instrument to facilitate seamless movement of vehicles at the toll plazas across India, in association with NPCI and Worldline, the FASTag processor.

- "The **FASTag facilitates** the users with the ease and convenience during transit through the toll plaza by saving time, fuel and money".
- **Customers can procure FASTag through the bank's website** or by approaching the nearby branch.

#### About FASTag:

- A **FASTag can be pre-loaded digitally** for the required amount and can be recharged online through credit card, debit card, net banking, IMPS, among others.
- While driving through a **toll plaza**, the applicable **toll amount gets automatically debited through the sensors** at the plaza and the driver gets instant SMS alerts for the toll transactions, and balance maintenance.

#### LIC introduces ANANDA mobile app for Agents/Intermediaries

- **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** has introduced a **new mobile application** for its agents and intermediaries to facilitate the on boarding of prospective customers.
- The mobile application is the latest dimension of the **Atma Nirbhar Agents New Business Digital Application or ANANDA**, the paperless solution for new business processes, that the insurance company had introduced last year.
- The **new app was launched by Chairperson M.R. Kumar** in the presence of managing directors and other senior officials of LIC.
- **LIC** stated that the app was a **digital tool** to get new customers on board using a paperless process.

#### RuPay introduced #FollowPaymentDistancing campaign to promote and encourage contactless payments

- RuPay has launched a strategic campaign **to promote contactless payments**, National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- The **campaign titled #FollowPaymentDistancing** asks consumers to start 'payment distancing' and switch to contactless digital payments with RuPay Contactless Cards.
- While it emphasises '**payment distancing**' is a key measure, the campaign also captures all safety norms for social distancing.
- **RuPay Contactless cards** show the synergy between technology and innovation with multiple unique features.
- The campaign tries to persuade people to pay safely and timely from a distance.
- **#FollowPaymentDistancing** is running on **social media platforms and digital channels**.
- The campaign features multiple **digital films** that revolve around the idea of payment distancing with RuPay Contactless, portrayed in different everyday situations.
- It wants to communicate to the audience, both merchants.

#### PhonePe bags direct broking licence from IRDAI

- Leading **digital payments and financial services fintech PhonePe** received an insurance broking license from **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)**.
- Last year, **PhonePe** entered the insurtech sector with a limited insurance '**corporate agent**' license.
- This confined the fintech company to partner with **only three insurance companies per category** i.e. health, life and general.

- This '**direct broking**' license that **PhonePe** received will allow it to distribute insurance products from all insurance companies across India.
- It can now offer personalised product recommendations to its customer base as well.
- The company stated that it can now offer a diverse portfolio of insurance products for Indian consumers.

### Revision Points

Organizations	Headquarters	President/CEO/Head
Karnataka Bank	Mangaluru	Mahabaleshwara M. S
Indian Overseas Bank	Chennai	Partha Pratim Sengupta
Reserve Bank of India	Mumbai	Shaktikanta Das
State Bank of India	Mumbai	Dinesh Kumar Khara
World Bank	Washington DC	David Malpass
Paytm	Noida	Vijay Shekhar Sharma
National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development	Mumbai	Dr. G.R. Chintala
PayPal	San Jose, USA	Dan Schulman
Competition Commission of India	New Delhi	Ashok Kumar Gupta
Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs	New Delhi	M Ajit Kumar
ICICI Prudential Life Insurance	Mumbai	N S Kannan
Canara Bank	Bengaluru	Lingam Venkat Prabhakar
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	Navi Mumbai	Baskar Babu Ramachandran
Kerala Bank	Malappuram	Sri P S Rajan
Axis Bank	Mumbai	Amitabh Chaudhry
DBS Bank	Singapore	Piyush Gupta
HDFC Bank	Mumbai	Sashidhar Jagdishan
Federal Bank	Aluva, Kerala	Shyam Srinivasan
ICICI Bank	Mumbai	Sandeep Bakhshi
Life Insurance Corporation	Mumbai	MR Kumar
Kotak Mahindra Bank	Mumbai	Uday Kotak
Central Bank of India	Mumbai	M. V. Rao
IndusInd Bank	Pune	Sumant Kathpalia
Indian Bank	Chennai	Padmaja Chunduru

IDFC FIRST bank	Mumbai	V. Vaidyanathan
National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)	Mumbai	Dilip Asbe
Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India	Hyderabad	Subhash Chandra Khuntia
RBL Bank	Mumbai	Vishwavir Ahuja
Mastercard	New York, USA	Michael Miebach
IDBI Bank	Mumbai	Rakesh Sharma
Paytm Payments Bank	Noida	Satish Kumar Gupta
Bank of Baroda	Alkapuri, Vadodara	Sanjiv Chadha
SBI General insurance	Mumbai	Prakash Chandra Kandpal
Manipal Business Solutions	Manipal	Abhay Gupte
SBI Life Insurance	Mumbai	Mahesh Kumar Sharma
Asian Development Bank	Mandaluyong, Philippines	Masatsugu Asakawa
PhonePe	Bengaluru	Sameer Nigam
International Monetary Fund	Washington DC	Kristalina Georgieva
Securities Exchange Board of India	Mumbai	Ajay Tyagi

## Important Financial & Economy Affairs

### Modi govt's fiscal deficit attains 18.2% of annual target

- The **central government's fiscal deficit** stood at **Rs 2.74 lakh crore or 18.2 percent** of the full year's Budget estimate at the end of June.
- The fiscal deficit at the end of June 2020 was **83.2 percent of the Budget Estimates (BE) of 2020-21**.
- In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit was at Rs 2,74,245 crore at the end of June.
- For the current financial year, the **government expects the fiscal deficit at 6.8 percent of GDP or Rs 15,06,812 crore**.
- The fiscal deficit or the gap between expenditure and revenue for 2020-21 was 9.3 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), better than the 9.5 per cent projected in the revised estimates in the Budget in February.

### GST Collections reached Rs.1.16 Lakh Crore in July 2021

- The **Goods and Service Tax (GST)** collections for the **month of July 2021** registered an **increase of 33 percent compared to** the collections of Rs 87,422 crore in the month of **July in 2020**.
- The numbers indicated the **economic activity** picking up in the last month with states gradually easing lockdowns after the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic.

- In June, GST collections registered the **lowest amount in 10 months** as Rs 92,849 tax received for selling activity in May 2021.
- June 2021 was the **first time that GST collections were below the Rs 1 lakh crore in the last 8 months**.
- Of the **gross GST revenue** collected in July 2021, which is the combined central and state GST collection, Rs 22,197 crore was central GST while state GST amounted to Rs 28,541 crore.
- Rs 57,864 crore was Integrated GST (which includes Rs 27,900 crore from imports) and Rs 7,790 crore (includes Rs 815 crore on imports) collected as cess, the Ministry revealed.

#### Gol cuts Mudra loans target to Rs 3 trillion in FY22

- The **government** has cut the loans disbursement target under the **PM Mudra Yojana (PMMY) to Rs 3 lakh crore for the current financial year** as against Rs 3.21 lakh crore sanctioned in FY21.
- **Under the scheme, credit up to Rs 10 lakh** is provided by banks and non-banking financial companies to small and new businesses.
- The **government has sanctioned loans of Rs 15.5 lakh crore** under PMMY since its inception in April 2015.
- Till March 31, 2021, the **Government had sanctioned 29.55 crore loans under the scheme**.
- Of this more than 6.8 crore loans worth Rs 5.2 lakh crores have been given to new entrepreneurs.
- For FY22, loans worth Rs 3,804 crore have been sanctioned by 13 public sector banks (PSBs) as of June 25.
- The government has **also guaranteed loans** worth Rs 3,918 crore to the hospitality, sports, leisure, travel and tourism industry under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) as of July 2, 2021.

#### About MUDRA:

- **Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency Bank** is a public sector financial institution in India.
- It provides loans at low rates to micro-finance institutions and non-banking financial institutions which then provide credit to MSMEs.
- It was **launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 8 April 2015**.

#### There are three types of Mudra loans depending on the loan amount:

- **Shishu** : Loans sanctioned under the PMMY scheme up to Rs. 50000.
- **Kishore** : Loans sanctioned under the PMMY scheme from Rs. 50001 up to Rs. 5.00 lakh.
- **Tarun** : Loans sanctioned under the PMMY scheme Rs. 5,00,001 up to Rs. 10.00 lakh.

#### India's food Grain production estimated to rise 3.74% - 308.65 million tonnes in the crop year 2020-21 (July-June)

- The **Agriculture Ministry** announces In the crop year 2020-21, **India's foodgrain production** is projected to **rise by 3.74 per cent** to a new record of **308.65 million tonnes**.
- Record production is estimated in **rice, wheat, maize, pulses and oilseeds**.
- It is the **fourth** advance estimate for the crop year 2020-21.
- As per the data, Estimated Production of
  1. Rice - **122.27 MT** in 2020-21
  2. Wheat - **109.52 MT** in 2020-21



3. Pulses - **25.72 MT** in 2020-21
4. Oilseeds - **36.10 MT** in 2020-21
5. Sugarcane - **399.25 MT** in 2020-21
6. Cotton - **35.38 million bales** ( declined from 36.07 million bales )
7. Jute/mesta - **9.56 million bales**

#### **CPI based Retail inflation declines to 5.59% in July from 6.26% in June**

- **India's retail inflation** eased to a **three-month low in July**, back within the Reserve Bank's tolerance level (2 per cent-6 per cent) after staying above the upper band for two straight months.
- The **consumer price index (CPI) based inflation** cooled to **5.59 per cent in the last month from 6.26 per cent in June**.
- **Food inflation** fell substantially to **3.96 per cent in July from 5.15 per cent in June**.
- The RBI in **latest monetary policy review** has kept the rates and stance unchanged and pledged to remain accommodative in the near future, while raising its inflation forecast to 5.7 per cent during 2021-22.
- **RBI projected 5.9 per cent in the second quarter, 5.3 per cent in third, and 5.8 per cent in the fourth quarter** of the fiscal, with risks broadly balanced.
- **CPI inflation for Q1FY23 is projected at 5.1 per cent**.
- **Industrial output** for the month of June rose **13.6 per cent**, in a sign that the low base effect of the last year is waning.

#### **APEDA in collaboration with HPMC exports five varieties of apples to Bahrain**

- **APEDA** collaboration with Himachal Pradesh Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation Ltd (HPMC) exported five unique varieties of **apples**
  1. Royal Delicious,
  2. Dark Baron Gala,
  3. Scarlet Spur,
  4. Red Velox
  5. Golden Delicious to Bahrain.

#### **Purpose :**

- To promote agricultural and processed food products exports to newer destinations.
- The five unique varieties of apples have been sourced from the farmers of **Himachal Pradesh** and exported by **APEDA** registered DM Enterprises.
- The apples will be showcased at the apple promotion programme organized by leading retailer – Al Jajira group
- It is commencing from 15th August, also marking the 75th year of India's independence celebration.

#### **Recent News :**

- In July 2021, For **boosting mango export** potential from the middle east countries, a consignment of **Geographical Identification (GI)** certified Fazil mango variety sourced from **Malda district of West Bengal** was exported to Bahrain.
- It was exported by **APEDA** registered DM enterprises in **Kolkata** and imported by **Al Jazira group in Bahrain**.



### Wholesale price-based inflation lessen for 2nd straight month to 11.16% in July

- The Office of the Economic Adviser, **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** released index numbers of **wholesale prices in India (Base Year: 2011-12)** for the month of July, 2021.
- It noted that **annual rate of inflation is 11.16%** (Provisional) for the month of July, 2021 (over July, 2020) as compared to (-0.25%) in July, 2020.
- The **high rate of inflation in July 2021** is primarily due to low base effect and rise in prices of crude petroleum & natural gas; mineral oils; manufactured products like basic metals; food products; textiles; chemicals and chemical products etc as compared the corresponding month of the previous year.
- **Primary articles group index increased by** (1.05%) to 153.4 (provisional) in July, 2021 from 151.8 (provisional) for the month of June, 2021. Prices of Crude Petroleum & Natural Gas (7.91%), Non-food Articles (2.35%) and Food Articles (0.69%) increased in July, 2021 as compared to June, 2021. Prices of Minerals (-8.11%) declined in July, 2021 as compared to June, 2021.
- **Fuel & power group index** increased by (0.53%) to 114.3 (provisional) in July, 2021 from 113.7 (provisional) for the month of June, 2021.
- Prices of Mineral Oils (5.41%) increased in July, 2021 as compared to June, 2021.
- Prices of Electricity (-11.61%) declined in July, 2021 as compared to June, 2021. Prices of coal remain unchanged.

### About Wholesale Price Index:

- The **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** reflects changes in the average prices of goods at the **wholesale level** — that is, commodities sold in bulk and traded between businesses or entities rather than goods bought by consumers.
- A wholesale price index (WPI) measures and tracks the changes in the price of goods before they reach consumers: goods that are sold in **bulk and traded between entities or businesses** (rather than consumers). Wholesale price indexes (WPIs) are one indicator of a country's level of inflation.

### Ind-Ra predicts GDP growth projection to 9.4% in FY22

- **India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra)** has revised **GDP growth rate to 9.4 per cent for FY22** from its **earlier estimate of 9.6 per cent**.
- The agency stated that its earlier estimates were based on India's vaccination progress.
- It had stated that if India is able to **vaccinate everyone over 18 years of age by December 31**, then the GDP growth would touch 9.6 per cent.
- "Going by the pace of vaccination, it is now almost certain that India will not be able to vaccinate its entire adult population by 31 December 2021".
- The agency estimated that **5.2 million doses** need to be **administered daily from August 18** onwards to **fully vaccinate more than 88 per cent of the adult population** as well as administer single doses to the rest by March 31.

### About India Ratings:

- **India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra)** is India's **most respected credit rating agency** committed to providing India's credit markets accurate, timely and prospective credit opinions.

- **Built on a foundation of independent** thinking, rigorous analytics, and an open and balanced approach towards credit research, **Ind-Ra has grown rapidly during the past decade**, gaining significant market presence in India's fixed income market.
- **Ind-Ra currently maintains coverage of corporate issuers**, financial institutions (including banks and insurance companies), finance and leasing companies, managed funds, urban local bodies, and structured finance and project finance companies.

#### Revision Points

Organizations	Headquarters	President/CEO/Head
Fitch Ratings	New York	Paul Taylor
Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority	New Delhi	Dr. M. Angamuthu
India Ratings	Mumbai	Rohit Sawhney

#### Important Business News

##### In India J&J's single dose COVID-19 vaccine approved for emergency use

- India **approved US major Johnson & Johnson's (J&J) single dose Covid-19 vaccine** for emergency use.
- The **country** now has **five approved Covid vaccines**.
- J&J did not divulge details of when the **vaccine will be available in India** and what kind of initial volumes can be expected.
- "India expands its vaccine basket! **Johnson and Johnson's single-dose COVID-19 vaccine** is given approval for Emergency Use in India. Now India has 5 EUA vaccines."

##### About the approval:

- This will be the fifth Covid-19 vaccine to get **approval after Covishield, Covaxin, Sputnik V and Moderna in India**.
- "Government of India issued **Emergency Use Authorization (EUA)** for the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 single-dose vaccine in India, to prevent COVID-19 in individuals 18 years of age and older".

##### Kakori Train Conspiracy now renamed to Kakori Train Action

- The **Uttar Pradesh government** has renamed a **landmark freedom movement event as Kakori Train Action** while paying tributes to the revolutionaries who were hanged for **robbing a train at Kakori to buy weapons in 1925**.
- The new name was used in official communications to refer to the event, usually described as the '**Kakori train robbery**' or the '**Kakori train conspiracy**'.
- **UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Governor Anandiben Patel** attended a programme held on the anniversary of the event at Kakori-based Kakori Shaheed Smarak on the outskirts of Lucknow.
- **Family members of the freedom fighters** were **honoured** on this occasion, and an **art exhibition** was also **held**.

- A government official stated it was **derogatory to describe the robbery** that was a part of the freedom movement as “conspiracy”.

#### Handbook to Guide EV Charging Infrastructure in India released by Niti Aayog

- **NITI Aayog** has released a handbook to **guide state governments** and **local bodies** to frame policies and norms towards setting up charging networks for **electric vehicles**.
- It has been jointly developed by NITI Aayog, Ministry of Power (MoP), Department of Science and Technology (DST), Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), and World Resources Institute (WRI) India.
- The handbook was prepared with support from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, and Department of Heavy Industry.

#### Aim :

- To enable states and local bodies to establish public charging networks efficiently.

#### Objective :

- To enhance charging **infrastructure** and **facilitate** a rapid transition to **electric mobility** in the country.
- It provides a systematic and a holistic approach for adoptions by implementing authorities and other stakeholders involved in planning, authorisation and execution of electric vehicles charging infrastructure.
- The handbook highlights the critical role of planning authorities in integrating EV charging infrastructure into their transport and urban planning frameworks.
- The handbook addresses the common challenges being faced by different local authorities in implementing EV charging networks.

#### Prime Minister Narendra Modi initiates automobile scrappage policy

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched the **Vehicle Scrappage Policy** while virtually addressing the **Gujarat Investor Summit**.
- PM Modi stated the policy will help phase out unfit and polluting vehicles in an environment-friendly manner during the video address.
- He informed vehicles will not just be scrapped by their age but also if they are found to be unfit in automated testing.

#### About the policy:

- "The launch of **Vehicle Scrappage Policy** is a significant milestone in India's development journey.
- Vehicle scrapping will help phase out unfit and polluting vehicles in an environment-friendly manner.
- **Aim is to create a viable circular economy** and bring value for all stakeholders while being environmentally responsible".
- The **objective of the Vehicle Scrappage Policy** is simply to phase out and recycle old vehicles through a systematic process.
- The ultimate goal of the policy is to reduce environmental pollution caused by old vehicles that have surpassed their lifecycle and run without a valid fitness certificate.

- At the time of announcing the policy during the Union Budget 2021, Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** stated the scrapping of old vehicles would result in more benefits than just reducing air pollution.
- **Recycling old vehicles** will help in reusing key materials like steel, plastic and copper. This will result in reducing the cost of manufacturing.
- The **policy also aims to provide a boost to vehicle sales in the country**, given the incentives offered for buying a new car.

#### **Bharat Petroleum introduces door-to-door delivery of 'High-Speed Diesel'**

- **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited** has launched **door-to-door delivery of 'High-Speed Diesel'** to meet the growing demand.
- Celebrating the '**spirit of nationalism**', the company on the eve of **Independence Day** also dedicated 15 mobile browsers and 9 jerry can facilities in different corners of the Eastern Region.
- The **initiative of door-to-door delivery** through mobile dispensers has resulted in commissioning of 1588 FuelKarts and 129 FuelEnts within a span of about two years across the industry.

#### **CII made announcement of RoDTEP rates by Govt**

- **Confederation of Indian Industry, CII** has welcomed the announcement of **Remission of Duties and Taxes on Export Products-RoDTEP** rates by the Government.
- The trade association stated the move will help traders to take advantage of **global tailwinds**.
- The **decision will help exporters to factor** in the rates while finalizing new orders and create a level playing field for them in the international market.
- The **scheme will support** India's mission to achieve 400 billion dollars in exports.

#### **TCS becomes 2nd Indian company to cross m-cap of Rs 13 lakh crore**

- **Seventeen years after** it sold its stock **for the first time** in a relatively late public debut, **Tata Consultancy Services** crossed the **Rs 13-lakh-crore mark in market value**, becoming only the second in the country to do so **after Reliance Industries**.
- The **latest climb by India's software bellwether** after a relatively tepid run endorses emerging bullish views that the company stands to enhance its dominance in an environment where global clients are increasingly embarking on multi-year transformational projects with implications across revenue streams.
- "A strong order book and a robust deal pipeline have led to strong structural growth, which will drive growth further".
- "Moreover, the company is gaining market share from small and big players.
- It will consistently expand an abundance of native capabilities, opening up new opportunities for technology-driven differentiation."

#### **China state firms started to invest in TikTok sibling, Weibo chat app**

- **China** appears to be taking **greater control of ByteDance**, the Chinese company that **owns global video app TikTok, and Weibo, China's version of Twitter**.
- State-backed **firms took stakes** in Chinese subsidiaries of the two companies **this April and last year**.

- Beijing has been clamping down on its technology sector with investigations and new rules.
- Its **newly reported involvement with ByteDance** raised concerns in the U.S. about the effect on TikTok, which has millions of U.S. users.
- **About TikTok:**
- **TikTok, known in China as Douyin**, is a video-sharing focused social networking service owned by Chinese company ByteDance.
- The social media platform is used **to make a variety of short-form videos**, from genres like dance, comedy, and education, that have a duration from fifteen seconds to three minutes.

#### Facebook introduces "Small Business Loans Initiative" in India

- **Facebook India** announced a **new programme** called the "**Small Business Loans Initiative**", in partnership with **online lending platform Indifi**, to help small and medium businesses (SMBs) that advertise on Facebook to get quick access to credit through independent lending partners.
- **India is the first country where Facebook is rolling out this programme.**
- It is open to businesses registered across 200 towns and cities of India.
- Indifi is the first lending partner that **Facebook has tied up with** and the programme is built with the potential to bring more partners on board.
- The **goal of the initiative** is to make business loans more easily accessible to small businesses, and reduce the credit gap within India's MSME sector.

#### India's foreign exchange reserves decrease by USD 2.099 billion

- The **forex kitty** had increased by **USD 889 million** to a lifetime high of **USD 621.464 billion** in the previous reporting week.
- Foreign currency assets (FCAs), a major component of the overall reserves, **decreased by USD 1.358 billion** to **USD 576.374 billion** in the reporting week.
- Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.
- Value of the gold reserves declined for the second consecutive week, dropping **USD 720 million** to **USD 36.336 billion**, the data showed.
- The **special drawing rights (SDRs)** with the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** dipped by USD 7 million to USD 1.544 billion.
- The country's reserve position with the **IMF also fell by USD 14 million** to **USD 5.111 billion**.

#### CCI (Competition Commission of India) imposes penalty of Rs 200 crore on Maruti Suzuki

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** imposed a penalty of **Rs.200 crore** on **Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSIL)** for indulging in anti-competitive conduct.
- The **ministry of corporate** affairs stated that MSIL implemented a **discount control policy** in passenger vehicle segment through Resale Price Maintenance.

- **"CCI found that MSIL** had an agreement with its dealers whereby the dealers were restrained from offering discounts to the customers beyond those **prescribed by MSIL**.
- MSIL had a **'Discount Control Policy'** in place for its dealers whereby the dealers were discouraged from giving extra discounts, freebies, etc. **to the consumers** beyond what were **permitted by MSIL**".
- The CCI probe also found out that MSIL **appointed** mystery shopping agencies who used to pose as customers to find out if any additional discounts were being offered.

#### Infosys shares hit \$100 billion m-cap, fourth Indian firm to reach milestone

- **Infosys shares hit a record high and helped it enter the 'Big Four' club.**
- **Reliance Industries, Tata Consultancy Services and HDFC Bank** is the **other firms** with a market **capitalisation of \$100 billion or above**.
- The shares of Information Technology major Infosys hit a record high during intraday trading, which helped the company cross \$100 billion in market capitalisation.
- Infosys is the **fourth Indian company to achieve this milestone**.
- The Sensex too rose above 100 points tracking gains in Infosys, Tata Steel and Reliance Industries amid a positive trend in global equities.
- Reliance Industries (m-cap of \$140 billion), Tata Consultancy Services (m-cap \$115 billion) and HDFC Bank (m-cap \$100.1 billion) are the other Indian firms in the club with Infosys.
- The shares of Infosys reached **Rs.1,755.60 apiece** on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), which pushed the company's m-cap to **Rs.7.44 trillion or \$100 billion**.

#### Yahoo shuts down its news sites in India

- **Yahoo** has shut down its news websites in India due to the **new foreign direct investment rules** that limit foreign ownership of digital content platforms in the country.
- These **include** Yahoo News, Yahoo Cricket, Yahoo Finance, Entertainment and MAKERS India.
- This, however, will not affect Yahoo Mail and Search in India.
- As of August 26th, 2021, **Yahoo India** will no longer be publishing content.
- Your **Yahoo Account, Mail and Search experiences** will not be affected in any way and will operate as usual.

#### SEBI banned Kotak Mahindra AMC from launching FMP for 6 months

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi)** has banned **Kotak Mahindra Asset Management** Company from launching **fixed maturity plan (FMP) schemes** for six months.
- The action came as **Kotak AMC** delayed payment of full proceeds to investors of six FMP schemes run by the AMC.
- Sebi has also **imposed a penalty of Rs 50 lakh** on the mutual fund, which is to be **paid within 45 days**.
- It has also asked the AMC to refund part of the investment management and **advisory fees collected from unitholders** of six FMP schemes with **15 per cent interest per annum**, to be calculated from the date of FMP maturity to the date of actual payment.

**About FMP:**

- **Fixed maturity plans (FMPs)** are a special class of **close-ended debt mutual funds** that mature after completion of a pre-determined time period.
- Thus one can make investments in an **FMP only** during the new fund offer (NFO) period.
- After completion of the **NFO period**, no new investments can be made into an FMP scheme.

#### Amazon India introduces Karigar Mela in partnership with Tribes India

- **Amazon India** introduced the launch of **Karigar Mela** in **partnership with Tribes India**, whereby the **e-commerce platform** will characteristic a devoted storefront for conventional tribal and native Indian handicrafts.
- As a **part of the initiative**, prospects will be capable to entry and store from a number of over 1.2 lakh distinctive conventional tribal and native Indian handicrafts and handloom choices.
- Among the **distinctive artwork types** that might be out there in merchandise listed for buy as a part of Karigar Mela embrace **Bidri, Dhokra, Ikkat, Patachitra, blue artwork pottery, and so on**.
- As a part of the **Karigar Mela initiative**, Karigar sellers will even profit from a **100% Promoting on Amazon (SoA)** charge waiver for 2 weeks from August 30-September 12.
- The **long-term partnership** of Tribal Cooperative Advertising and marketing Improvement Federation of India (**TRIFED**) and Amazon helps improve visibility for native merchandise by bringing the choices to the forefront.

#### Revision Points

Organizations	Headquarters	President/CEO/Head
Johnson & Johnson	New Jersey	Alex Gorsky
Niti Aayog	New Delhi	Narendra Modi
Bureau of Energy Efficiency	New Delhi	P K Pujari
Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited	Mumbai	S Varadarajan
Confederation of Indian Industry	New Delhi	TV Narendran
Tata Consultancy Services	Mumbai	Rajesh Gopinathan
Facebook	California, USA	Mark Zuckerberg
Competition Commission of India	New Delhi	Ashok Kumar Gupta
Infosys	Bengaluru	Salil Parekh
Yahoo	California, USA	Jerry Yang, David Filo
Amazon	Washington, USA	Andy Jassy



## Important State Wise News

### Andhra Pradesh

#### NTPC commissioned India's largest Floating Solar PV Project in Andhra Pradesh

- **NTPC Limited** has started operations at **India's largest floating solar PV project** at its Simhadri thermal station in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- The **project** was declared **open after commissioning a 15 MW floating solar project** at Simhadri thermal station.
- With this, the total installed capacity at the facility **reached 25 MW**.
- "In line with the Corporate Disclosure requirements, we wish to inform that consequent upon successful commissioning of **15 MW capacities**, Simhadri Floating Solar PV Project at Simhadri, Andhra Pradesh is hereby declared on commercial operation w.e.f. 21.08.2021".
- With this, the installed capacity of NTPC and NTPC Group stood at **53,475 MW and 66,900 MW**, respectively, according to the filing.
- This solar project is notably the first of its kind to be set up **under the Flexibilisation Scheme**, which was brought in by the government of India in 2018.
- Solar power installation so unique is the anchoring design as well as the sheer scale of it as it is **spread over 75 acres** of the reservoir.

#### GHMC unveiled '10 mins at 10 am' campaign

- The **Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation -GHMC** has taken up a **novel initiative** to get rid of diseases like Malaria and Dengue, implementing '**Every Sunday at 10 AM for 10 mnts**' campaign.
- **Hyderabad Mayor G Vijayalakshmi** formally **launched** the campaign by **destroying all mosquito breeding sources** at her camp office.
- The rise in cases, especially diseases like **dengue and malaria**, the authorities have taken up a **10-week long campaign to create awareness** among people about the need for destroying up mosquito larva and their growing areas like planters, old tyres and waste bottles.

#### About the Campaign:

- A **massive campaign** of destroying potential sources of mosquito breeding has been taken up during the current monsoon season and efforts are underway to make citizens take an active part in it.
- The **campaign will continue for ten weeks**.
- Hyderabad **Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi** urged people to **spare 10 mnts on every Sunday** to destroy the mosquito breeding sources to get rid of these seasonal diseases.

### Assam

#### Assam: state cabinet announces No new cases to be registered against Gorkha community at foreigners' tribunals; existing cases to be withdrawn

- The **Assam cabinet** has decided that no new cases will be registered against the **Gorkha community** in the state at the **Foreigners' Tribunals** and already registered cases will be withdrawn.



- **The Assam cabinet took a decision not to prosecute any Gorkha citizen** under the Citizenship Amendment Act 1955 and also to withdraw all pending prosecution relating to Gorkhas from foreigners' tribunals.
- According to the organization representing Gorkhas there are around **25 lakh Gorkhas in Assam**.
- Around 22,000 people from the community are tagged as doubtful voters.
- Around one lakh Gorkhas failed to make it to the final.

#### **Kaziranga National Park become 1<sup>st</sup> National Park in India with satellite phones**

- **Assam's Kaziranga National Park (KNP)** became the first national park in India to be equipped with satellite phones.
- **Assam Chief Secretary Jishnu Barua handed over 10 satellite phones to the forest personnel of the Kaziranga National Park.**
- The **decision** to provide satellite phones to the forest personnel of the park was taken at a meeting chaired by Assam Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma at the Kaziranga National Park **on May 27**.
- The meeting was attended by Minister for Environment and Forest, Parimal Suklaibaidya, ministers Keshab Mahanta and Atul Bora, the director of Kaziranga National Park and deputy commissioners of adjoining districts.
- Other senior officials of the forest department were also present.
- An official of the Kaziranga National Park stated that the step to equip the forest personnel with satellite phones would boost anti-poaching measures in the park.
- The official further said the satellite phones will be used in the **park's six ranges** with no wireless or poor mobile connectivity.

#### **Assam CM announces Covid relief package for drivers, helpers, priests**

- The Assam government will **make learning history and geography** mandatory in class 9 and 10 in schools.
- The state government has also announced COVID relief package where drivers and helpers of privately operated buses will get **one-time relief of Rs 10,000**.
- The priests of the temple and head of Namghars (Vaishnavite place of worship) will get **Rs 15,000 each**.

#### **Assam indigenous community celebrates Wanchuwa Festival 2021**

- **Tiwa also known as Lalung** is indigenous community inhabiting the states of **Assam and Meghalaya** and is also found in some parts of **Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur**.
- They are recognized as a Scheduled tribe within the state of Assam.
- They practice Jhum or shifting cultivation.

#### **Wanchuwa festival:**

- This festival is celebrated by **Tiwa tribesmen** to mark their good harvest.
- It **comes with** songs, dances, a bunch of rituals and people clad in their native attires.

### **Chhattisgarh**

#### **Chhattisgarh: 1<sup>st</sup> state to recognize community forest resource rights**

- **Chhattisgarh, carved out of Madhya Pradesh on November 1, 2000, became the first State** on August 09 to recognize the **Community Forest Resource Rights** in urban areas.
- The State Government recognized the rights of residents of **Dhamtari district** spread over 4,127 hectares of forest.
- In addition to Dhamtari district, the **State Government also recognized** the community resource rights over 5,544 hectares of forest within the core area of the **Sitanadi Udanti tiger reserve area**.
- **Chhattisgarh Chief Minister, Bhupesh Baghel** stated that with the recognition of community resource rights, the tribal community or the village dependent on forest would not need to struggle for their rights for water, forest or livelihood.
- The **State Government also celebrated World Tribal Day** for the **first time (August 09)**.
- On the occasion, it also released the State's atlas featuring the tribal population in the State.
- The CM also mentioned that the Government will speed up the process of recognizing more community forest resource rights in future.

#### **Community Forest Resource:**

- Any forest resource that the **tribal and other forest dwelling communities** use and depend on for a livelihood is **known as Community Forest Resource**.
- This can be a common forest area that the community has been conserving and protecting to make use of its resources.
- According to **Section 2(a) of the Forest Rights Act**, Community Forest Resource is the customary common forest land within the traditional or customary boundaries of the village or seasonal use of landscape in the case of pastoral communities, including reserved forests, protected forests and protected areas such as sanctuaries and national parks to which the community had traditional access.
- The **community forest resource** area may include forest of any category i.e. revenue forest, classified and unclassified forest, deemed forest, reserve forest, protected forest, sanctuary and national parks etc.

#### **Chhattisgarh got 4 new districts to take total administrative districts to 32**

- **Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel** greeted people on the **country's 75th Independence Day** and announced the **creation of four new districts** in the state as well as development of parks exclusively for women in all districts of the state.
- The CM also stated that steps taken to curb the Naxal menace in the state were **"showing encouraging results"**.
- "Taking the process of decentralisation further, four new districts will be created - namely Mohla-Manpur, Sakti, Sarangarh-Bilaigarh and Manendragarh, while **18 new tehsils** will also be formed".

#### **Chhattisgarh became first state to recognise Community Forest Resource (CFR) rights in an urban area**

- **Chhattisgarh, carved out of Madhya Pradesh on November 1, 2000, became the first State, August 9** to recognize the **Community Forest Resource Rights** in urban areas.
- The **State Government recognized the rights of residents of Dhamtari district** spread over 4,127 hectares of forest.

#### **Recognized Community Resource Rights:**

- In addition to **Dhamtari district**, the State Government also recognized the **community resource rights over 5,544 hectares of forest** within the core area of the **Sitanadi Udanti tiger reserve** area.
- Chhattisgarh Chief Minister, Bhupesh Baghel stated that with the recognition of community resource rights, the tribal community or the village dependent on forest would not need to struggle for their rights for water, forest or livelihood.

#### **Forest Rights Act:**

- The **Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006** is also known as the **Forest Rights Act**.
- The **Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006** recognizes the rights of the forest-dwelling tribal communities and other traditional forest dwellers to forest resources, on which these communities were dependent for a variety of needs, including livelihood, habitation, and other socio-cultural needs.
- The **Act provides certain individual rights such as Rights of Self-cultivation and Habitation** and community rights such as grazing, fishing, and access to water bodies in forests, community right to intellectual property and traditional knowledge etc.
- The Act empowers the forest dwellers to access and use the forest resources in the manner that they were traditionally accustomed to, to protect, conserve and manage forests, protect forest dwellers from unlawful evictions, and also provides for basic development facilities for the community of forest dwellers to access facilities of education, health, nutrition, infrastructure, etc.

#### **Chhattisgarh decided govt to provide Rs.6, 000 to landless labourers**

- The Chhattisgarh government has decided to provide **Rs 6,000 per year to landless agricultural labourer families of rural areas in a major move**.
- The aid will be given under '**Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Bhumihheen Krishi Mazdoor Nyay Yojna**'.
- The CM announced this development during a discussion in the state Assembly on the supplementary budget.
- The scheme will be implemented from FY22 and a **provision of Rs 200 crore** has been included in the Rs 2,485.59 crores supplementary budget for this scheme.
- Noting that Chhattisgarh is a state of farmers, Bagel informed that his government has the resolve to bring **"Nyay"** to them.
- The Chief Minister highlighted that **schemes such as Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Bhumihheen Krishi Mazdoor Nyay Yojna and Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojna benefited lakhs of people**.
- Baghel also specified the success of **loan waivers, Minimum Support Price (MSP), irrigation tax waivers** and procurement of forest produce to help tribal and forest-dependent people.

#### **Delhi**

#### **Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar initiates world's second-largest refurbished gene bank in New Delhi**

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

- The **Gene Bank** was established in 1996 to preserve the seeds of Plant Genetic Resources for future generations.
- It has the **capacity** to preserve about **ten lakh germplasm** in the form of seeds.
- Presently, it is **protecting four lakh 52 thousand accessions**, of which over **two lakh** are Indian germplasm.
- Mr Tomar stated that the farmers of India are fully capable of accepting the challenges faced by the agriculture sector and conquering them.
- He stated that the **country's farmers are skilled human resources** even without any major educational degree.

#### Delhi CM to inaugurate country's first smog tower

- Chief Minister **Arvind Kejriwal** will inaugurate the **country's first smog tower** on **August 23, 2021**, at Baba Kharak Singh Marg, Connaught Place.
- The smog tower will clean 1,000 cubic metres of air every second and reduce PM 2.5 and PM 10 levels in Delhi.
- The **smog-tower** built at the **cost of Rs 20 crores** will contribute immensely towards this cause.
- The smog tower will work with full force after the monsoon season.
- The scientists of the **Delhi Pollution Control Committee** will accordingly assess the performance of the tower and present a monthly report."
- The smog-tower will **yield positive results**.
- It must be noted that Central Government is also constructing **one such tower at Anand Vihar**.
- This is being done after Supreme Court ordered both Delhi and Central Government to immediately install smog towers in the national capital".

#### Tourism Minister inaugurates mega-tourism event "Ladakh: New Start, New Goals"

- **Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy** inaugurated a mega-tourism event "**Ladakh: New Start, New Goals**" in Leh virtually from Delhi.
- Centre and Union Territory **Ladakh** are organizing a **3-Day mega-event from 26th to 28th of this month**.
- Our correspondent reported that the Minister appealed to all the pilots of the tourism industry to promote Ladakh as a domestic and international tourist destination.
- **Three-day event** is organized **to promote Ladakh** as a tourist destination with focus on aspects of adventure, culture and responsible tourism.
- While inaugurating the Ladakh New Start, New Goals, **Kishan Reddy** listed various government initiatives like Dekho Apna Desh, to promote tourism in Ladakh and boost local economy with sustainability.

### Gujarat

#### Gujarat CM introduces eNagar mobile application and portal

- Gujarat Chief Minister **Vijay Rupani** has launched **eNagar mobile application and portal**.
- The **eNagar covers 10 modules** with 52 services including property tax, professional tax, water & drainage, Complaints and grievance redressal, building permission, fire and emergency services.
- **Gujarat Urban Development Mission** has been **appointed** as a **nodal agency for eNagar project**.

- **Total 170 locations** including 162 municipalities and 8 Municipal Corporations are covered under the eNagar project.

#### Gujarat: PM Modi inaugurates and lays foundation stone of multiple projects at Somnath

- The **projects inaugurated** include the **Somnath Promenade, Somnath Exhibition Centre and reconstructed temple precinct of Old (Juna) Somnath.**
- The Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone of **Shree Parvati Temple** during the event.
- Prime Minister paid **tribute** to **Sardar Patel** who showed indomitable will power for the **revival of India's ancient glory.**
- **Sardar Patel linked Somnath Mandir** with independent spirit of independent India.
- it is the good fortune that taking forward the efforts of **Sardar Saheb in the 75th year of Independence** and imparting new splendour to Somnath Temple.
- The Prime Minister also remembered **Lokmata Ahilyabai Holkar** who renovated several temples from Vishwanath to Somnath.
- Country is moving forward taking inspiration from the blend of modernity and tradition in her life.

#### First commercial batch of Covaxin released from Bharat Biotech's new plant at Ankleshwar in Gujarat's Bharuch district

- The **first commercial batch of Covaxin** was released from the **new plant of Bharat Biotech** at Ankleshwar in **Gujarat's Bharuch district** by Union Health Minister **Mansukh Mandaviya.**
- **"Vaccination is the most important** thing to strengthen the country's fight against coronavirus.
- Released the **first commercial batch** of **#COVAXIN** from **Bharat Biotech's plant** at Ankleshwar, Gujarat.
- This will increase the supply of vaccine in the country and will help the vaccine reach every Indian".
- The government had earlier this month given approval to Bharat Biotech's Ankleshwar-based manufacturing plant to produce anti-COVID-19 vaccine Covaxin.

### Haryana

#### Faridabad Smart City 'ropes in' comic book icon to aid mission

- **Faridabad Smart City Limited** has roped in an unlikely collaborator **to help promote its initiatives** on social media – **comic hero Chacha Chaudhary.**
- The **social media campaign's objective** will be to promote the steps taken by the agency, which include **CCTV surveillance, road safety, traffic rules, and waste management.**
- It will involve releasing "excerpts of 'Talking Comics', with each social media post depicting **Chacha Chaudhary and his sidekick, Sabu,** "teaching and guiding people on effective use of infrastructure".
- "These comic strips are a unique way to interact with children as well as adults since they effectively communicate messages through pictures.
- The **format** will prove to be an intelligent and quick connection to the people of Faridabad".

#### Haryana: Hisar Airport renamed as Maharaja Agrasen International Airport

- The Chief Minister of Haryana **Shri Manohar Lal Khattar** has announced to **rename** the **Hisar Airport** as **Maharaja Agrasen International Airport.**

- In Haryana, The Hisar Airport is a domestic airport and it is also the **first DGCA licensed Public Aerodrome** of the State.

#### About the Airport:

- Hisar Airport, officially known as Maharaja Agrasen International Airport existing as domestic airport presently under upgrade by 30 March 2024, is a DGCA-licensed public airport serving Hisar in Haryana state of India.
- It is located 5 kilometres north-east of the city center on NH-9.

### Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh

#### Border Roads Organisation (BRO) constructs world's highest motorable road at Umlingla Pass in eastern Ladakh, previous

- The **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** has constructed the world's highest motor-able road at **Umling La Pass in Eastern Ladakh** at the height of 19,300 feet.
- With this record, India has smashed Bolivia's record, which connected a road to its volcano Uturuncu at 18,953 feet.
- Previous to Bolivia's record, the **Khardung La pass in Ladakh at 17,600 feet** was the highest motorable road in the world.
- The **new Umling La Pass**, which is a **52 km long tarmac stretch**, will connect towns in the Chumar sector of Eastern Ladakh and will provide a direct route connecting Chisumle and Demchok from Leh.
- "It will prove to be a boon to the local population as it **offers an alternate direct route connecting Chisumle and Demchok from Leh**.
- It will enhance the socio-economic condition and promote tourism in Ladakh".

#### J&K governor Manoj Sinha flags off Cyclothon event 'Pedal for Dal' from shores of Dal La

- In the **Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir**, **Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha** flagged off Cyclothon event '**Pedal for Dal**' from the shores of the Dal Lake in the run-up to the Independence Day celebrations.
- The **cyclothon witnessed** the enthusiastic participation of more than 200 boys and girls from different age groups along with professional cyclists.
- Mr Sinha stated that activities like 'Pedal for Dal' **mark the celebrations of 'Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav'** and also give hope to the entire humanity of a prosperous future while instilling the spirit of cultural and patriotic ethos among the citizens.

#### J&K: LG Manoj Sinha inaugurates "Bungus Awaam Mela" at Bungus Valley

- **Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha** inaugurated the **Bungus Awaam Mela** with grand arrangements for village games, exhilarating local performances, and other activities to celebrate the 75th year of Independence at **Bungus valley in Kupwara district**.
- Lt Governor stated that the spirit of celebration among the local population is a befitting response to all those who try to vitiate the atmosphere of peace and development.
- He noted that the government is continuously working to reach out to the last person in the queue with **development and welfare schemes**.

#### Ladakh: IAF builds one of the world's highest mobile ATC towers

- Indian Air Force (IAF) has built **one of the world's highest mobile air traffic control (ATC) towers** at the Advanced Landing Ground in Ladakh's Nyoma area.
- The ATC controls operations of the fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters operating in the **eastern Ladakh region**.
- India has been considering multiple options of developing airfields in eastern Ladakh including **Daulat Beg Oldi (DBO), Fukche and Nyoma** which are at a distance of few minutes from the **Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China**.
- The Air Force also has deployed the Igla man-portable **air defence missiles** to tackle any aerial incursion by any adversary aircraft.
- The Indian Air Force has been regularly deploying fighter aircraft including the **Rafale and MiG-29s** to carry out operations in eastern Ladakh where there has been disengagement of troops at two locations including Pangong Tso and Gogra heights but both sides have not de-escalated.

#### Govt decided to set up separate Civil Services Exam Centre at Leh

- Union Minister Jitendra Singh has stated that the government **will set up a separate Civil Services Exam Centre for Ladakh to be located at Leh**.
- The announcement came after **Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh RK Mathur** called on Dr Singh in New Delhi to discuss the placement of IAS officers and other service-related matters in the context of Ladakh.
- Union Public Service Commission UPSC will from this year have an Examination Centre at Leh which will operate for the **first time** for the Civil Services (**Preliminary**) Examination 2021, **scheduled** to be held on **10th of October this year**.
- This will address a long pending demand of the youth from the Ladakh region whose grievance was that they found it difficult to reach Examination Centres in other parts of the country because of the constraints of affordability of airfare and uncertain weather conditions.

#### World's Highest Altitude Movie Theatre launched in Ladakh

- A newly launched **mobile digital movie theatre in Ladakh** has made history as the highest theatre in the world.
- The inflatable theatre has been established at an altitude of **11,562 feet at the Paldan area of Leh in Ladakh**.
- **Bollywood film Bell Bottom**, starring Akshay Kumar and the **short film Sekool** were screened for the army at the theatre.
- To bring cinema watching experience to most remote areas, a mobile theatre, situated at an altitude of 11,562 ft, was **introduced in Leh**.
- 'It offers affordable tickets & has several facilities. Seating arrangement is also good'.

### Karnataka

#### Karnataka becomes First State To Issue Order Implementing NEP-2020

- **Karnataka** has become the **first state** in the country to issue the order with regard to the implementation of **National Education Policy-2020**.



- The National Education Policy-2020 will be implemented in the state with effect from the current academic year, 2021-2022.

#### Key People :

- Kumar Nayak, Additional chief secretary to higher education, Thimmegowda vice-chairman Karnataka higher education council, and other senior officials were also present in the meeting.

#### About National Education Policy 2020 :

- National Education Policy 2020 which was approved by the **Union Cabinet of India on 29 July 2020** & it outlines the vision of **India's new education system**.
- It is a comprehensive framework for elementary education to higher education as well as vocational training in both rural and urban India.
- The policy aims to **transform India's education system by 2040**.
- Reducing the curriculum load of students and allowing them to be more **"inter-disciplinary"** and **"multi-lingual"**.
- The **"10 + 2"** structure will be replaced with the **"5+3+3+4" model**.
- It will Focus on **Foundational Literacy and Numeracy**

#### Venkaiah Naidu laid foundation stone of Innovation and Development Centre at JNCASR, Bengaluru

- The **Vice President of India Shri M Venkaiah Naidu** unveiled the **foundation stone of Innovation and Development Centre of Jawaharlal Nehru Centre** for Advanced Scientific Research, JNCASR in Bengaluru.
- It will be **developed into** a facility where **laboratory** inventions will be taken forward for scale-up and technology transfer.
- **Start-up from inventors** within the Centre and from other institutions **in Bengaluru** and across the country will also be hosted in this new facility.
- Scientists will be provided with state-of-the-art processing and prototyping tools to enable translation of inventions.
- During the foundation stone unveiling ceremony **Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, Chief Minister Basavaraj S. Bommai** graced the occasion.

#### India's first green hydrogen electrolyser manufacturing unit launched at Bengaluru

- **Ohmium International**, a US-based renewable energy start-up, has launched **India's first green hydrogen electrolyzer gigafactory at Bengaluru** through its India subsidiary.
- The **gigafactory** will manufacture India-made **Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM)** hydrogen electrolyzers with an **initial manufacturing capacity** of about **500 MW per year** and will scale it up to **2 GW per year**.
- The PEM hydrogen electrolyser is the **main equipment** for the production of green hydrogen as it uses power generated from renewable resources to break water into hydrogen and oxygen.
- It would ensure **availability of an end-to-end solution** within the country and cut down dependence on imports for this key equipment.

#### Karnataka - first State to officially implement National Education Policy

- **Karnataka** has become the **first state** in the country to **officially implement the National Education Policy**.

- The **Higher Education Department** has introduced an admission module under the new policy.
- The process of admissions under the new policy will be initiated by the Universities in the state.
- A **website and a helpline** were launched last week for the reference of students. The teaching programme under the new policy will begin from 1st of October.
- Higher Education Minister Dr. C. N. Ashwath Narayana on the significance of introducing the New Education Policy in the state.

## Kerala

### India's first Drone Forensic Lab launched in Kerala

- The **Kerala Police** will launch a **first-of-its-kind Drone Forensic Lab and Research Centre** to address a rising security threat.
- The centre will be **inaugurated by chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan**, informed Manoj Abraham, Additional Director General of Police, Thiruvananthapuram Range.
- **Abraham**, who has the additional charge of ADGP, State Crime Records Bureau and is the nodal officer of CyberDrome, stated this **lab-cum-research centre** will look into both utility and threat aspects of a drone.
- **Cyberdome** is a technological research and development centre of the Kerala Police Department.

### Onam, Harvest Festival celebrated in Kerala

- **Onam** is an annual **harvest festival** celebrated in the **Indian state of Kerala**.
- A major annual event for **Keralites**, it is the **official festival** of the state and includes a spectrum of cultural events. Drawing from Hindu mythology, **Onam commemorates King Mahabali**.
- **Onam is a harvest-time** occasion which celebrates the return of King Mahabali, who was known to be kind even though he was a demon.
- Its **main** feature is the **sadya feast**, traditionally eaten on the banana leaf, elaborate versions of which can comprise more than 30 dishes.
- **Onam is one of the biggest festivals** in the state of Kerala and it is marked by the harvest season of the standing crops.

## Lakshadweep

### Lakshadweep: Maldives style water villas to be set up in the island

- **India's popular island destination Lakshadweep** will soon have three premium Maldives style water villas, claimed to be the first of its kind in the country.
- The **three premium projects** will come up in Minicoy, Kadmat and Suheli islands at a cost of Rs 800 crore, for which the administration floated global tenders.

- With a vision to **establish a robust base for maritime economic growth with tourism development** at its core, the administration stated it is engaged in developing high end eco- tourism projects at these islands as anchor projects under the aegis of NITI Aayog.
- The **scientific approach** adopted in each stage of the project's finalization ensures that it strikes a balance between protection of the fragile corals' ecosystem and the need to improve livelihood opportunities of the islanders.

## Madhya Pradesh

### Madhya Pradesh: Cleanest city of country Indore now declared as first Water Plus city of country

- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan informed, **Indore**, the **country's cleanest city**, has now been declared the **first "water plus" city** of India under the **Swachh Survekshan 2021**.
- Indore, the **state's commercial capital**, has set an example for other cities.
- **About Swachh Survekshan:**
- Swachh Survekshan is an annual survey of cleanliness, hygiene and sanitation in cities and towns across India launched as **part of the Swachh Bharat Mission**.
- Informing about the work done to achieve this tag, Indore district collector Manish Singh stated, "According to the guidelines of **Water Plus Protocol of Swachh Survekshan**, 1,746 public and 5,624 domestic sewer outfalls in 25 small and big nullahs were tapped by the **Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC)** which also freed the city's Kanh and Saraswati rivers from sewer lines."

### MP state Govt launches comprehensive Talent Search Campaign

- In Madhya Pradesh, the State Government has launched a comprehensive **Talent Search Campaign** in the field of sports.
- State government has decided to search for new talented players and train them in 18 sports academies of state.
- **Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan** has stated that Indian players have made a record in **Tokyo Olympics** and have opened doors for future possibilities.
- The Chief Minister has appealed to the youth interested in sports to register themselves in the **Talent Search Campaign** of the state.
- So far, **more than 50 thousand players** have applied for online registration of talent search.
- On the basis of physical strength and proficiency in sports, promising sportspersons will be groomed through coaching and **training in 18 academies** equipped with world-class sports facilities.

## Maharashtra

### Maharashtra government launches e-crop Survey Initiative

- Maharashtra Chief Minister **Uddhav Thackeray** launched the **e-crop survey initiative** which will become effective in Maharashtra from **August 15**.
- It will be implemented jointly by the **department of revenue and agriculture** and **Tata Trusts**.

## About the e-crop Survey Initiative

### Aim :

- To **increase the income of farmers** through the 'Vickel to Pickel' campaign.
- Through this initiative farmers will be able to register their crops on their own and avail crop loans and crop insurance.
- Also, the project will understand each crop pattern area by village taluka and district.
- It **reduces the hardships** of the farmers & also it will provide crop-related information without hassles.

### Note :

- Also the Maharashtra Government, introduced a digitized 7/12 document, which is an extract from the '**Land Register**' that the farmers can now access on their mobile phones.

## Maharashtra's Environment Minister Aaditya Thackeray launches charging facility for electric vehicles

- Maharashtra's Environment Minister **Aaditya Thackeray** inaugurated the charging facility for electric vehicles at the parking lot of Mumbai's Kohinoor building.
- Mr. Thackeray stated, it is heartening to witness that efforts are being made on all fronts to make **Maharashtra Electric Vehicle friendly**.
- The State Government had announced its **new Electric Vehicle Policy** last month with an ambitious target of having 10 per cent share of electric vehicles in the **market by 2025**.
- It also **aims to achieve 25 per cent share** in public transport in Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur, Aurangabad and Nashik.

### About the charging facility:

- The **charging infrastructure** has been **set up by Power Bank**, the **EV charging solutions brand** from **Shuchi Anant Virya** - a joint venture between corporate sustainable mobility solutions provider, Lithium Urban Technologies and Fourth Partner Energy, India's largest solar energy company for commercial and industrial businesses.
- The charging hub will be **maintained and operated by Shuchi Anant Virya's brand Power Bank**.
- It is **estimated that more than 2000 vehicles, monthly**, will avail the facility installed in one of the busiest business centres in Mumbai its close proximity to **India Bulls Finance Centre** will also aid in driving usage of the hub.
- Power Bank as a brand manages **5 hubs in Mumbai and 10+ independent charging points in Mumbai**.

## Maharashtra govt: e-crop survey initiative

- **Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray** launched the **e-crop survey initiative** which will become effective in Maharashtra from August 15.
- The project, which was **initially introduced** as a pilot in two districts, is jointly implemented by the departments of revenue and agriculture along with the Tata Trust.
- Chief Minister stated the **concept will be a role model for the country**, and the e-crop survey app is yet **another initiative to reduce the hardships** of the farmers as it would provide them crop-related information without hassles.
- The CM mentioned his government had already introduced a **digitized 7/12 document**, which is an extract from the '**Land Register**' that the farmers can now access on their mobile phones.

- Earlier, farmers had difficulty **accessing their 7/12 document**.
- CM informed that now we need to change with the times and adopt modern technology **to ease the hardships of people**.

#### **Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray inaugurates Covid Care Centre for children at IT Park in Mumbai University's Kalina campus**

- Stating that the threat of **COVID-19** is not yet over, **Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray** exhorted people to be responsible in their conduct.
- Covid Care Centre for **children built at the IT Park in Mumbai University's Kalina campus**, he reminded people that the restrictions have been eased to give momentum to the wheels of economy.

#### **About the CCC:**

- The Covid Care Centre (CCC) for children has been built on an area of **5 thousand square feet and has 30 beds**.
- There is enough area made **available into the CCC for entertainment of children**.
- The CCC also has a **separate room for breast-feeding of children**.
- Besides, even parents of children who are infected with COVID can stay at the CCC.
- In order to ensure that children do not feel that they have been admitted into a hospital, the walls in hospital have been painted with different colours, toys of various size and shapes have been kept for them to play and cardboard beds have been installed in the CCC.
- **Children below 12 years** will be admitted at this particular Covid Care Centre for their treatment.

#### **Union Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurates Army Sports Institute's stadium in Pune named after Neeraj Chopra**

- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** inaugurated the **Army Sports Institute's stadium in Pune** named after Olympic gold medal winner Neeraj Chopra.
- **Subedar Neeraj Chopra has added his name to the list of great sportspersons** like Major Dhyan Chand, Capt. Milkha Singh, Col Rajyavardhan S Rathore and Captain Vijay Kumar.
- Olympians who missed the medal by a close margin, are **no less than a medallist**.
- The Government of India is trying to enhance the **quality of sports competition** and time has come for us to start giving equal importance to all sports, Women of our country are performing brilliantly.

#### **Maharashtra state govt launches special programme for women who lost their husbands due to COVID**

- The **Maharashtra government** has launched a **special mission for women from poor families** who have lost their husbands to coronavirus infection which aims to provide a bunch of services under one roof.
- **"The new programme- "Mission Vatsalya"-** has been designed for widows, especially from rural areas who come from poor backgrounds and deprived sections.
- Due to the death of the sole breadwinner in their families, their hardship is increased.
- Considering these all aspects, **a bunch of 18 benefits**, schemes, and services will be provided to these widows under one roof".
- In the **last 18 months**, 15,095 women lost their husbands due to COVID-19 infection.

## Odisha

### Bhubaneswar becomes first Indian city to vaccinate 100% against COVID-19

- Odisha capital Bhubaneswar has become the **first city in India to achieve hundred percent vaccination of its people against covid-19.**
- Additionally, about **one lakh migrant workers** have also been administered the **first dose of covid vaccine in the capital city.**
- **Chief executive officer of NITI Aayog Amitabh Kant** congratulated the people of Odisha and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for their achievements in making Bhubaneswar the first city to ensure 100 covid vaccination and **also for making Puri the first city to supply 24/7 drinking water.**
- The **Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation** had set benchmarks for different categories of people to complete the vaccination process within the specific timelines by the 31st July last.
- Those vaccinated include about **9 lakh people of 18 years of age and above.**
- It's worthwhile to note that Odisha Government, which now bears the burden of about 15 thousand covid 19 active caseload, had set district wise targets to vaccinate a sum total of 3.5 lakh people per day.

### Odisha govt. to give smart health cards under Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana

- The **Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana** will enable each family to **get up to Rs.5 lakh as treatment cost a year.**
- **Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik** stated Odisha would provide smart health cards to 3.5 crore people in the State under **Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY)**, which would enable each family to **get treatment cost up to Rs.5 lakh per annum.**
- **Odisha** to be the **first State in the country to provide such smart health cards.**
- The **BSKY was redesigned to provide smart health cards** to people that would work as a debit cards for a certain amount.

#### About the scheme:

- According to the **re-launched BSKY**, each family can avail treatment cost up to **Rs.5 lakh per annum** while women members can avail this benefit up to **Rs.10 lakh every year.**
- The health scheme is meant for **3.5 crore people in 96 families.**
- Stating that the **initiative** would transform health service delivery system and create history in the health sector of the country, Mr. Patnaik stated the beneficiaries could avail health services in **more than 200 hospital chains of the country, including Odisha.**
- “This card will be given to **all the beneficiaries phase wise.**
- **Beneficiaries of national and State food security schemes, Annapurna and Antodaya, will get this card.**
- It will go a long way in strengthening health security of people of Odisha”.

## Tamil Nadu

### Tamil Nadu government introduces State Level Credit Guarantee Scheme to help MSMEs

- **Tamil Nadu government** will launch a **State Level Credit Guarantee Scheme** to enable more MSMEs, particularly micro enterprises to access credit.
- Presenting the budget at state assembly, the **minister stated a digital data** driven credit rating system for MSMEs will be **established** to enable Financial institutions and **new age fintech companies** to lend more to MSMEs based on their business potential.
- He mentioned that **Tamilnadu Industrial Co-op. Bank Ltd** will be repurposed to enable lending to MSMEs.
- This comes after a plea by **Tamil Nadu Small and Tiny Industries Association** which has urged the state government to float Credit Guarantee Corporation with a large capital to rescue the struggling small industries.

### Tamil Nadu government appointed trained aspirants of all castes as priests in temples

- In an effort to fulfill their poll promises, the **Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK)** government appointed nearly **24 trained 'archakas'** of various communities as priests in shrines, August 14.
- During the poll campaign, the DMK had assured to appoint temple priest aspirants belonging to all castes.
- **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin** distributed appointment orders of the HR and CE Department to **75 persons marking appointments to 208 positions under various categories.**
- The state government stated that the **208 appointees** include "Bhattacharyas," "Odhuvars" Poojaris, and technical and office assistants who were recruited after due process.
- He handover appointment orders to **58 trained archakas** including **24 aspirants** who had formally completed training in a state-run center for becoming priests in Hindu temples, 34 others who completed '**archaka**' training in other '**patashalas.**'
- **Odhuvaras are trained in Tamil Shaivite tradition** to recite and sing devotional hymns composed by Shaivite saints including Appar and Manickavasagar in praise of Lord Shiva while Bhattacharyas are Vaishnavite priests.

### Tamil Nadu: become 3<sup>rd</sup> state to put Separate budget for agriculture presented for the first time in the state

- On August 14, **Tamil Nadu will become the third state -- after Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh --** to have a separate agricultural budget.
- While experts believe that this is nothing more than a political move, data **available from Andhra Pradesh indicates** that such a move might actually boost the sector.
- The tradition of having an exclusive budget for agriculture was started by **Karnataka in 2011-12** in order to give a focused approach to the sector.
- Andhra Pradesh followed in 2013-14, terming it as a policy paper on agriculture.
- Though states like **Telangana, Rajasthan and Bihar too had similar plans**, they did not take off due to various legal and technical reasons.
- Telangana had backed out of a plan of having a separate budget citing **Rule 150** of the legislative guidelines which states that only receipts and expenditure were treated as budget.



- **Telangana** was of the view that **other plans, programmes and schemes** would come under bills and could not be treated as separate budgets.

#### **Tamil Nadu: first state to cut petrol price in 2021-22; by Rs. 3/litre**

- In a major relief to consumers, the price of petrol in Tamil Nadu has been slashed by Rs.3, **State Finance Minister Palanivel Thiagarajan** announced during his budget speech.
- He stated This, was on the direction of **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin**, and is expected to cause a revenue loss of **Rs.1,160 crore** to the state exchequer.
- The reduction in petrol prices in Tamil Nadu will come into effect from 14 August.
- FM Thiagarajan presented its **revised budget for 2021-22**.
- "This Government has **decided to reduce the effective rate of tax on petrol by Rs.3 per litre** and thereby provide major relief to the toiling working-class people in the State.
- This measure will result in a loss of revenue of **Rs.1,160 crore a year**".

#### **Tamil Nadu govt constituted 7-member panel for study of hydrocarbon projects**

- The **Tamil Nadu government** has constituted a **seven-member committee** to study the exploration of hydrocarbon projects which will be headed by **Sultan Ahmed Ismail**, part-time member, State Development Policy Council.
- The **environment department** stated the **committee constituted**, August 17, **will have freedom to conduct the study in areas other than the protected agricultural zone** as the terms of reference have been revised.
- The study will be conducted in **areas other than the Cauvery delta region** and will assess the impact of drilling technologies like hydrofracturing on groundwater and environment.
- The **committee** will **also study** whether drilling would have an impact on the land as well as whether it destabilised the tectonic plates below the area of exploration.
- The **impact of the project** on the livelihood of the people of the area will also be a subject of study.

### **Uttar Pradesh**

#### **HouseFresh reported Ghaziabad is world's second most polluted city of 2020**

- Of the **50 most polluted cities worldwide**, 49 are in Bangladesh, China, Pakistan, and India, according to the report.
- **Bangladesh was the most polluted country** across the world in 2020, followed by Pakistan, India and Mongolia - report prepared by **British company HouseFresh**.
- While the **Chinese city of Hotan** in Xinjiang province has been named the **most polluted city**, **Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh** took the **second spot** on the list with an average PM2.5 concentration of 106.6µg/m3.
- PM2.5 refers to fine particulate matter suspended in the air that is two and a half microns or less in width.

#### **UP govt decided to set up ATS commandos training centre**

- The **Uttar Pradesh government** has decided to set up a training centre for **Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS)** commandos in **Saharanpur's Deoband**, known for its Islamic seminary **Darul Uloom Deoband**.
- Amid the Taliban's savagery, here is a piece of news from UP.

- Yogi Ji has decided to **open a commando training centre in Deoband**.
- Over one and a half dozen ATS officers, selected from all over the state, will be deputed there.
- The government has **already allotted over 2,000 square meters of land** for establishing the ATS training centre in Deoband.
- On the government's decision, Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar stated, "**The government is strengthening STF and ATS.**"

#### Aligarh district to be renamed as Harigarh

- The **Aligarh district panchayat** has sent a proposal to the **Uttar Pradesh government**, seeking a change in the name of the city to 'Harigarh'.
- **Another proposal** to change the name of **Firozabad district to Chandra Nagar** is also doing the rounds.
- The **names of many cities and railway stations have been changed in Uttar Pradesh** over the past few years with **Allahabad-Prayagraj** being the most notable of them.
- Even earlier, many organisations had appealed to the UP government asking it to change Aligarh's name.

#### President lays foundation stone of Uttar Pradesh's first Ayush University in Gorakhpur

- President **Ram Nath Kovind**, who is currently in **Uttar Pradesh** as part of his four-day visit to the state, will travel to Gorakhpur, the third day of his tour.
- President Kovind is **scheduled to lay the foundation stone of the AYUSH University** and **inaugurate the Mahayogi Gorakhnath Vishwavidyalaya** in the city on the **same day**.
- President Kovind, who was in Lucknow on the first two days of his visit, will move on to the temple town of Ayodhya, the last day of his visit to the state.

#### About the University:

- The state government plans to **spend Rs.815 crore** on the construction of AYUSH University, for which it had acquired **52-acre land** for the university near Pipri and Tarkulhi villages.
- The **AYUSH University** will be run according to the guidelines of the Central Council of Indian Medicine, regarding the establishment of **Ayurveda, Unani, homeopathy, yoga, and naturopathy educational institutions** in the university.

### Uttarakhand

#### Nitin Gadkari announces about projects in Uttarakhand

- Nitin Gadkari stated **42 works costing Rs.615.48 crores** were sanctioned at the **request of the Uttarakhand government under** the Central Road Infrastructure Fund Union Roads, transport, and Highway Minister Nitin Gadkari has announced **Rs.1,000 crore for new national highways in Uttarakhand** and **an additional Rs.300 crore for the Central Road Infrastructure Fund**.
- Gadkari informed Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami that every requirement of Uttarakhand in terms of roads will be fulfilled.
- He also promised that the Centre will provide all help for ropeway and cable cars in the state.

- The **tunnel is proposed near Rajpur in Dehradun**, which will terminate at Koti Colony near Tehri Lake.
- The total length of the tunnel will be about **35 km**.
- The **estimated cost** of the construction of the tunnel amounts to **Rs.8, 750 crore**.

#### India's highest herbal park unveiled in Uttarakhand

- India's **highest altitude herbal park**, located at the height of **11,000 feet near the Indo-China border** in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district, was launched.
- **Mana** is the **final Indian settlement in Chamoli**, on the Chinese border, close to Badrinath, the famed Himalayan temple.
- Under the central government's **CAMPA**, or **Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act**, scheme, the Uttarakhand forest department's research wing established the park on three acres of land donated by Mana Van panchayat.
- The herbal park comprises roughly 40 species found in high altitude alpine locations in the Himalayan region.
- According to the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** red list and the State Biodiversity Board, many species are endangered or threatened.
- It also contains **several valuable medicinal herbs**.

#### Revision Points

State/UT	Chief Minister	Governor
Andhra Pradesh	YS Jagan Mohan Reddy	Biswa Bhusan Harichandan
Arunachal Pradesh	Pema Khandu	B. D. Mishra (Retd.)
Assam	Himanta Biswa Sarma	Jagdish Mukhi
Bihar	Nitish Kumar	Phagu Chauhan
Chhattisgarh	Bhupesh Baghel	Sushri Anusuiya Uikey
Delhi	Arvind Kejriwal	
Goa	Pramod Sawant	P.S. Sreedharan Pillai
Gujarat	Vijaybhai R. Rupani	Acharya Dev Vrat
Haryana	Manohar Lal	Bandaru Dattatraya
Himachal Pradesh	Jairam Thakur	Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
Jharkhand	Hemant Soren	Ramesh Bais
Karnataka	Basavaraj Bommai	Thaawarchand Gehlot
Kerala	Pinarayi Vijayan	Arif Mohammed Khan
Madhya Pradesh	Shivraj Singh Chouhan	Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel
Maharashtra	Uddhav Thackeray	Bhagat Singh Koshiyari
Manipur	N. Biren Singh	Najma Heptulla
Meghalaya	Conrad Kongkal Sangma	Satya Pal Malik

Mizoram	Pu Zoramthanga	Dr. Kambhampati Haribabu
Nagaland	Neiphiu Rio	R. N. Ravi
Odisha	Naveen Patnaik	Ganeshi Lal
Punjab	Capt. Amarinder Singh	V.P. Singh Badnore
Rajasthan	Ashok Gehlot	Kalraj Mishra
Sikkim	PS Golay	Ganga Prasad
Tamil Nadu	M.K.Stalin	Banwarilal Purohit
Telangana	K Chandrasekhar Rao	Tamilisai Soundararajan
Tripura	Biplab Kumar Deb	Satyadeo Narain Arya
Uttar Pradesh	Yogi Aditya Nath	Anandiben Patel
Uttarakhand	Pushkar Singh Dhami	Baby Rani Maurya
West Bengal	Mamata Banerjee	Jagdeep Dhankhar
Puducherry (UT)	N Rangaswamy	

#### List of Governors & Administrators

Union Territory	Lt. Governor & Administrator
Andaman and Nicobar Island	Admiral D K Joshi
Chandigarh	V.P. Singh Badnore
Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	Praful Patel
Delhi (NCT)	Anil Baijal
Jammu and Kashmir	Manoj Sinha
Lakshadweep	Praful Patel
Puducherry	Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan (Addl. Charge)
Ladakh	Radha Krishna Mathur

#### Important National News

##### PM Modi initiates Academic Bank of Credit and Artificial Intelligence programme

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** is addressing the policymakers and stakeholders across the country via video conferencing to mark the **completion of one year** of announcing the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**.
- PM Modi has launched **multiple educational initiatives** including the **Academic Bank of Credit** that will **provide multiple entry and exit options for students in Higher education**.
- First-year engineering programmes in regional languages and guidelines for internationalization of higher education.

- Under the ABC, students will be given multiple entry and exit options. This enables students to leave a degree or course and get a corresponding certification and rejoin studies after a certain time and be able to start from where they had left.
- It will also provide students with the flexibility to move between institutes while pursuing one degree or leave a course.
- ABC has been drafted on the lines of the **National Academic Depository - a virtual storehouse**.

#### **National Education Policy:**

- The **National Education Policy 2020**, which was approved by the **Union Cabinet of India on 29 July 2020**, outlines the vision of India's new education system.
- The new policy replaces the previous **National Policy on Education, 1986**.
- The **policy envisages broad based**, multi-disciplinary, holistic Undergraduate education with flexible curricula, creative combinations of subjects, integration of vocational education and multiple entry and exit points with appropriate certification.

#### **Dr Jitendra Singh roll out “Biotech-PRIDE (Promotion of Research and Innovation through Data Exchange) Guidelines**

- **Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh** released “**Biotech-PRIDE (Promotion of Research and Innovation through Data Exchange) Guidelines**” **developed by Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology**.
- Dr Jitendra Singh stated that in a large population of over 135 crore and heterogeneous character of the country, India needs its own exclusive database for Indian Research and Solutions.
- He mentioned, **there is no dearth of talent in the country** and the **indigenous database** will have a huge enabling mechanism for exchange and adoption of data by young scientists and researchers for the benefit of Indian Citizens.
- The Minister informed that in the **last 6-7 Years**, Modi Government has given **huge impetus and priority to Science and Technology and particularly in Space Technology**, where the world is looking up to India for win-win cooperation and collaboration.

#### **Biotech-PRIDE Guidelines:**

- These **guidelines envisage bridging other existing biological datasets/data centres with the IBDC**, which will be called Bio-Grid.
- This **Bio-Grid** will be a **National Repository** for biological knowledge, information and data.
- Also, **Bio-Grid** will be responsible for enabling its exchange, developing measures for safety, standards and quality for datasets and establishing detailed modalities for accessing data.
- These guidelines will be implemented through **Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC)**.
- Currently, **India ranks number 4 amongst the top 20 countries** contributing biological database

### Rajya Sabha passes Coconut Development Board (Amendment) Bill, 2021

- The **Rajya Sabha passed the Coconut Development Board (Amendment) Bill, 2021**, which seeks to create the post of 'non-executive chairman' for the board.
- The **Upper House passed the Bill** after a brief discussion amid protest and sloganeering by the Opposition.
- The Bill seeks to **amend Section 4 of the Coconut Development Board Act, 1979**, and provides for the appointment of a non-executive chairman, a chief executive officer and an ex-officio joint secretary to the Government of India, in-charge of the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture, as member of the board.
- The **Coconut Development Board (Amendment) Bill, 2021**, provides for the appointment of six members instead of the existing four members.

### PM Modi host IPS probationers at SVPNPA

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the **IPS probationers at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVPNPA)**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi while interacting with IPS Probationers, last September, had underlined the importance of **police-public relations**, the **reciprocal attitude of the police** and the public to the expected and performed tasks of the police, and to involve general public relations, community services, and community participation.

#### About SVPNPA:

- SVPNPA, the **premier police training institution in the country** is situated at the historic city of Hyderabad.
- It **trains officers of the Indian Police Service**, who have been selected through an **All India based Civil Services Examination**.

### Health Minister launched National Health Adaptation Plan on Air Pollution

- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, **Shri. Mansukh Mandaviya** presided over the 112th Annual Day celebrations of National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) along with Dr. Bharati Pawar, MoS (HFW).
- At the event, the **Union Health Minister** virtually inaugurated the Whole Genome Sequencing National Reference Laboratory for **Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and BSL 3 Laboratory** along with a PG hostel and Guest House.
- The L3 laboratory complex has five floors and houses 22 **Biosafety level (BSL) II laboratories**.
- Shri Mansukh Mandaviya stated that India has performed better than many other countries in fighting the COVID pandemic.
- He stated that **new dimensions** have been added in the **legacy of 112 years of achievements of NCDC**.
- He encouraged NCDC to strive for further innovations so that not only India but the whole world can benefit from its work.
- The Union Health Minister also underlined that scientists, doctors, officers and staff of NCDC should collectively chart out goals they want to achieve in the coming years.
- The recent COVID-19 pandemic has **highlighted the need of creating vigilance and awareness on Zoonotic Diseases**.

- The Union Health Minister along with MoS(HFW) unveiled.

#### ATL Tinkerpreneur Summer Bootcamp- Highlights

- **NITI Aayog and Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** have successfully completed the two month long, exclusive and digital skills entrepreneurship which is named **ATL Tinkerpreneur summer bootcamp** and was held across India.
- The name derives from the phrase “**allowing students to tinker in the comfort of their homes and become entrepreneurs this summer**” which is a campaign focused on developing an innovative and creative mindset among the participating students.
- Spanning 9 weeks from May 31, 2021 to August 1, 2021, this programme enabled attendees to develop a business idea and create an end-to-end strategy to establish a new business.
- Designed for high school students across the country, the program has seen a breakthrough of **over 9,000 participants (including over 4,000 women) in 32 states and 298 districts of the country.**
- **Bootcamp saw the participation of 820 ATLs, over 50 live expert speaker sessions conducted with over 4.5 lakh views and imparted over 30 digital and business skills.**
- The entire training program was designed to impart innovative thinking as well as to help students move from an idea to a business in a short time, failing and trying again and making the experience of both building solutions and businesses around it.

#### Govt. approves two more new Strategic Oil Reserves

- Under the first phase of the **Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR) programme**, the Government of India through its special purpose vehicle, the **Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserve Limited (ISPRL)**, has set up petroleum storage facilities with a total capacity of 5.33 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) at 3 locations, namely (i) **Visakhapatnam** (1.33 MMT), (ii) **Mangaluru** (1.5 MMT) and (iii) **Padur** (2.5 MMT), and all the storage facilities have been filled with crude oil.
- The petroleum reserves established under Phase-I are strategic in nature and the crude oil stored in these reserves will be used during oil shortage events, as and when declared so by the Government of India.
- Under the second phase of the Petroleum Reserves programme, the government has approved the setting up of two additional commercial-cum-strategic facilities with a total storage capacity of 6.5 MMT underground storage at **Chandikhol (4 MMT) and Padur (2.5 MMT) in July 2021, on PPP Mode.**
- The request for proposal for building these storage facilities is under finalisation.
- An amount of Rs 210 crore was allocated in the budget for the financial year 2020-21 under Phase II for land acquisition, and the same has been disbursed to ISPRL

#### Government introduces digital tools to improve logistics efficiency, sustainability

- The government has launched the **Secured Logistics Document Exchange (SLDE)** along with a Calculator for **GreenHouse Gas Emission** to improve ease of doing business, logistics efficiency, reduce logistics cost, and promote multi-modality and sustainability.
- “These **digital initiatives** have been launched to fill the gap areas where no action has yet been taken either by private players or any of the line ministries”.



#### About SLDE:

- The **SLDE platform** is a solution to replace the present manual process of generation, exchange and compliance of **logistics documents with a digitized**, secure and seamless document exchange system.

#### Lok Sabha passed General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2021

- Lok Sabha passed a **Bill to amend the general-insurance law** and allow the government to offload its stake in state-run insurance corporations, clearing its first hurdle without discussion as Parliament continued to witness pandemonium.
- The **General Insurance Business (Nationalization) Amendment Bill, 2021** seeks to permit the government to cut its stake in prominent state-owned general insurance corporations, helping achieve its divestment targets.
- Divestment refers to the **government's selling of part of its ownership** in state-run corporations.
- The **Bill aims to amend the parent Act**, The General Insurance Business (Nationalization) Act, **1972**.
- Lok Sabha proceedings witnessed disruption by opposition members and had to be adjourned.

#### About Nationalization:

- Nationalization is the **process of transforming privately-owned assets into public assets** by bringing them under the public ownership of a national government or state.
- Nationalization usually refers to private assets or to assets owned by lower levels of government being transferred to the state.

#### Lok Sabha passes Essential Defence Services Bill, 2021

- Lok Sabha passed the **Essential Defence Services Bill-2021** on **August 3** amid protests by Opposition members over allegations of snooping by the government using the Pegasus spyware, and the three farm laws.
- The **Bill replaces an ordinance and seeks to allow the central government** to prohibit the workers of establishments that are engaged in **"essential defence services"** from going on strikes, or the lockouts of such units.

#### Essential Defence Services Bill:

- The **Essential Defence Services Bill** is aimed at preventing the staff of the **government-owned ordnance** factories from going on a strike.
- The Bill mentions that it is meant to "provide for the maintenance of **essential defence services** so as to secure the security of nation and **the life and property of public** at large and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto".

#### Essential defence service:

- The **essential defence services** include **any service in any establishment or undertaking dealing with production of goods or equipment** required for **defence-related purposes** or any establishment of the armed forces or connected with them or defence.
- These also include services that, if ceased, would **affect the safety of the establishment** engaged in such services or its employees.

### Operation Blue Freedom: Team Of Special Forces Veterans

- The government of India has accorded sanction to **Team CLAW** to lead a team of people with disabilities to scale Siachen Glacier.
- It will be a new world record for the largest team of people with disabilities. This expedition is being undertaken as part of 'Operation Blue Freedom'.

### About Operation Blue Freedom:

- **Operation Blue Freedom** was launched in 2019 by **CLAW Global**, a team of former Special Forces Operatives of the Indian Army and the Indian Navy.
- The Operation is a **social impact venture** aimed at rehabilitating people with disabilities through adaptive adventure sports.
- It aims to **shatter the common perception of** pity, charity, and inability associated with people with disabilities and recreates it to one of dignity, freedom, and ability.
- Moreover, their **focus is also to** 'design and implement sustainable large-scale employment solutions' for people with disabilities, especially in the 'Environment conservation and Sustainability' space.

### Unique programme to celebrate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav launched

- The **Culture Ministry** launched a **unique programme** to celebrate **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav on Independence Day** this year.
- The **initiative**, connected with the National Anthem, has been taken up by the Ministry to instill pride and unity among **all Indians**.
- The people have been **invited to sing the National anthem and upload the video on website** [www.RASHTRA GAAN.IN](http://www.RASHTRA.GAAN.IN).
- The compilation of the National **Anthem will be shown live on 15th of August**.
- Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav is being celebrated across the country to **commemorate India's 75 years of Independence**.
- The **initiative** was announced by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi in 'Mann Ki Baat' on 25th of last month as a part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- Mr. Modi stated, it is an effort on part of the Culture Ministry to have a maximum number of Indians singing the National Anthem together.
- **Culture Minister G. Kishan Reddy** hoped that Indians across the world will participate in this event and also called on maximum participation from the youth.

### Eco tourism identified as one of the Niche Tourism areas for development

- **Eco-tourism** has been identified as **one of the niche tourism areas** for development in the country by the Ministry of Tourism.
- The Ministry has recognized **sustainable tourism** as having an enormous potential of fulfilling the SDGs set by India.
- For this, the **Ministry developed a Draft National Strategy** and roadmap for sustainable tourism, with an emphasis on eco-tourism.

#### Key Highlights:

- **Eco Circuit and Wildlife Circuit** are among the 15 thematic circuits identified for development under the Swadesh Darshan concept.
- The Ministry of Tourism has developed a **Draft National Strategy** and roadmap for sustainable tourism with a focus on ecotourism.

#### Eco-tourism policy:

- The **Environment Ministry** earlier established an **Eco-tourism policy** that aims to give livelihood opportunities for local communities, as well as educate visitors and enhance their awareness of nature, as part of the government's commitment to **execute people-centric programmes**.

#### About Swadesh Darshan Scheme:

- Under the **Swadesh Darshan plan**, the Ministry of Tourism is establishing theme-based tourism circuits across the country.
- The **Eco Circuit and the Wildlife Circuit** are two of the fifteen thematic circuits that have been identified for development as part of the scheme.
- The **scheme aims to create jobs** by engaging local communities in active participation and fostering community-based development.

#### Govt has allocated over Rs 756 crore under FAME scheme till June this year

- Government has **allocated over 756 crore rupees** under the **Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles, FAME scheme** till June this year.
- The main objective of the scheme is to encourage Faster adoption of Electric and hybrid vehicles by offering upfront incentives on purchase of Electric vehicles and establishing a necessary charging Infrastructure for electric vehicles.

#### About the scheme:

- The **scheme, launched in 2015, is aimed** at addressing the issue of environmental pollution and fuel security.
- This information was given by the **Minister of State for Heavy Industries Krishan Pal**.
- **Under Phase-1 and 2 of the scheme**, about three lakh 71 thousand Electric and hybrid vehicles were supported with a total incentive of around 634 Crore rupees as on 28th July this year.
- **Under Phase-2 of FAME India Scheme**, one thousand crore rupees is allocated for the development of charging infrastructure in the country.
- He informed that the Ministry has sanctioned two thousand 877 Electric Vehicle Charging Stations amounting to about 500 crore rupees in 68 cities across 25 States and Union Territories under Phase II of the scheme.
- The Minister stated, under Phase-1 of FAME India Scheme, 427 charging stations have been installed.

#### Defence Secretary unveiled website for 75<sup>th</sup> Independence day celebrations

- **Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar** launched a website on the **75th Independence Day Celebrations 2021** (indianidc2021.mod.gov.in) in New Delhi.
- It is a platform to connect Indians from around the world over to **celebrate the National Festival**.

- The **platform is freely accessible** to all and provides updates & information regarding activities centred around the Independence Day Celebrations 2021.
- It encompasses the **entire Indian diaspora** as if they were a part of the celebrations in person.
- The Defence Ministry stated, it is an attempt to engage people of all ages, especially the youth.
- For the first time ever, the platform will live stream the **Independence Day Celebrations** from the majestic Red Fort on 15th of this month in Virtual Reality 360 degree format.
- People can use this feature with or without VR Gadget.

#### About the website:

- The **platform also provides features** like a special IDC Radio, Gallery, Interactive filters, E-books on deeds of Gallantry, 50 years of 1971 victory and Blogs on the Freedom Movement, Wars and War Memorials.
- **Netizens** can also log on to know the information related to the Independence Day event including minute-to-minute programme, route map, parking details, RSVP and details of other activities.
- The programme calendar for all initiatives taken by various ministries to mark the occasion is also available on the platform.

#### AICTE team demonstrates unique tool that translates English language content into 11 Indian languages

- **Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu** witnessed a demonstration by the **AICTE officials** on a unique tool that translates English language content into 11 different Indian languages.
- The Vice President complimented the AICTE team for developing **this innovative tool**.

#### About the Tool:

- The **tool translates English language online courses into** – Hindi, Bengali, Marathi, Telugu, Tamil, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Punjabi, Assamese and Odia. Explaining about the salient features of the tool, Dr. Buddha Chandrasekhar stated, the tool is capable of translating complex formulae, English books, research journals, Government documents and English videos.
- He mentioned, it was his dream to see the **content of various technical and professional courses** in Indian languages.
- He informed, it will benefit many students as **they will be able to access a wide range** of material in Indian languages.

#### Government signs US \$ 250 million loan agreement with World Bank for 2nd phase of Dam Rehabilitation & Improvement Project (DRIP)

- In order to **enhance water security in the country and support sustainable development**, India signed a **USD 250 million loan agreement** with the World Bank for the second phase of the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project to make existing dams safe and resilient across the country.
- This **new scheme will strengthen dam safety initiatives** taken by the government through physical rehabilitation of selected dams by addressing various concerns to improve safety and operational performance, institutional strengthening in various ways, incidental revenue generation for sustainable operation and maintenance of dams.

- The **agreement** was signed by Rajat Kumar Mishra, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance on behalf of the Government of India.
- The Ministry of Jal Shakti was represented by Debashree Mukherjee, Additional Secretary and Junaid Ahmad, country Director, India on behalf of the World Bank as well as official representatives of the states concerned.

#### Power minister R K Singh launches e-certification programme to provide regulatory training

- On Aug 06, 2021, Union Power and New & Renewable Energy Minister **R.K. Singh** launched an e-certification programme "**Reform and regulatory knowledge base for power sector**" on virtually.

#### Purpose :

- To **provide regulatory training to practitioners** from diverse backgrounds.

#### Key people :

- Minister of State for Power **Krishan Pal Gurjar**, Power Secretary **Alok Kumar**, MNRE Secretary **Indu Shekhar Chaturvedi** also presented the event.
- Also, launched a Regulatory Data Dashboard which is an e-compendium of data containing state-wise details of tariff and power discoms (distribution companies) performance,& it had been developed by **IIT Kanpur**.
- The Dashboard would assist benchmarking of the sector performance, over time and across the power sector utilities.
- This would help regulators and policymakers as well as the entities themselves to identify areas for improvement.

#### Ladakh launches month-long water campaign 'Pani Maah' to raise awareness about clean water

- The Union Territory of **Ladakh** has launched a **month-long campaign 'Pani Maah'** to **raise awareness about clean water**.
- The campaign will adopt a **three-pronged** approach
  1. Focussing on water quality testing,
  2. Planning and strategizing water supply,
  3. Seamless functioning of Pani Sabha in villages.
- It will run at the **block** and **panchayat** level in two phases.
- The first phase will run from August 1 to 14 and the second phase will run from August 16 to 30.
- Also the Ladakh government has announced a **reward of Rs 2.5 million** for the first block in each district that achieves the status of 'Har Ghar Jal'.

#### About First Phase :

- The focus will be on Swachhta Sarvekshan and sanitation drives by **Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC)** or Pani Samiti members.
- The water samples will be **collected** from **all identified sources** and **service delivery points** for testing.
- Also it will include **awareness** and **sensitisation** campaigns.

#### About Second Phase :

- It will focus on organising the **pani sabhas, gram sabhas and block level meetings**, and door to door visits for effective communication on water quality and service delivery.

**Note :**

- As per the government data, only **11.75 percent** of rural households in Ladakh have **access to tap water connections**.
- The Pani Maah campaign is expected to expedite the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission in the union territory.

**India's first Heart Failure Biobank starts at SCTIMST in Kerala**

- On Aug 05, 2021, The **first National Heart Failure Biobank (NHFB)** in the country has come up at the **National Centre for Advanced Research and Excellence in HF (CARE-HF)** at the **Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST)**, Kerala.

**Purpose :**

- To study genetic, metabolomics and proteomic markers of health outcomes in **heart-failure patients**.
- The facility will be useful for the research and treatment of post-covid heart failure.

**Keypeople :**

- **Balram Bhargava**, Secretary, Department of Health Research and Director General, Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR), will inaugurate the biobank Virtually.

**About Biobanks :**

- Biobanks can give researchers access to data representing a **large** number of people.
- Biobanks are an important resource of collections of **high-quality biological human samples** that can be used to understand molecular pathways, and to improve the diagnosis, prognosis and treatment of heart failure.
- The specimens include blood, serum and tissue samples obtained during open-heart surgery and peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) and genomic DNA collected from heart-failure patients.
- The biobank activity is **supervised** by a **Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)** with a member from ICMR.

**Note :**

- The Biobank at SCTIMST has already signed an **MOU** with **InStem Bangalore** for collaborative research in **hypertrophic cardiomyopathy**.

**'My Handloom My Pride Expo' Launched at Dilli Haat**

- **Minister of State for Textiles Darshana Jardosh, Minister of State for Commerce Anupriya Patel and Minister of State for Culture Meenakshi Lekhi** visited My Handloom My Pride Expo at Dilli Haat.
- They **interacted with weavers and bought exquisite handloom products**.
- Darshana Jardosh stated, **Handloom sector is a symbol of the country's rich and varied cultural heritage**.
- She informed that the handloom sector directly addresses women's empowerment with over 70 percent of all weavers and allied workers being female.
- She further mentioned that the Government is taking several measures to ensure sustainable development of the handloom sector.

- Anupriya Patel mentioned that handloom is the country's pride and called upon the youth of the country to make handloom their style quotient.
- She noted that the textiles sector is the second largest generator of employment after agriculture and such expos will go a long way in supporting and empowering the weavers.

#### About the Expo:

- The **expo** was **organized by National Handloom Development Corporation** to celebrate the **7th National Handloom Day**.

#### Culture Minister G. Kishan Reddy inaugurates Exhibition on 'Quit India Movement'

- **Union Minister of Culture G Kishan Reddy** inaugurated an exhibition on the **Quit India Movement** in New Delhi which has been organized on its 79th anniversary.
- As part of **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav** being celebrated to **mark 75th years of Independence**, National Archives of India has organised the exhibition.

#### About the Exhibition:

- This exhibition displays the most exquisite collections of memoirs, photographs and other records that bring to life the immense contribution of the movement in achieving independence.
- Mr Reddy stated that the independence struggle is gilded with **golden chapters of unity**, strength and determination and one such proud event was the **Quit India Movement**.
- He informed, the movement stands as a shining example of power of the masses and it will remain so for many more decades to come.
- The Minister also mentioned about India celebrating the 75th year of Independence through events organized under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav **theme**.
- He stated, this is a moment to not only **recognize the contribution of a generation in freeing our nation** from colonial powers but also to recognize those who played a pivotal role in **preserving our civilization heritage**.
- Mr Reddy stated that **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav** celebrates the sentiment of oneness and freedom, as we all together celebrate 75 years of independence.

#### ICMR: Covishield-Covaxin combination works better than 2 doses of same vaccine

- A study by **ICMR** involving **98 people, 18 of whom had inadvertently received Covishield as first dose and Covaxin as the second in Uttar Pradesh**, showed that combining these two Covid-19 vaccines elicited better immunogenicity than two doses of the same vaccine.
- The study also found that **immunisation with combination of Covishield and Covaxin was safe and the adverse effects** were also found to be similar when compared to the same dose regimen.
- The study titled '**Serendipitous COVID-19 Vaccine-Mix in Uttar Pradesh, India: Safety and Immunogenicity Assessment of a Heterogenous Regime**' has been uploaded on medRxiv, a preprint server and is yet to be peer reviewed.



- "This is the first study which reports the effects of **heterogenous prime-boost vaccination** with an adenovirus vectored vaccine followed by an inactivated whole virus vaccine".

#### Twitter in compliance with new IT Rules

- The Centre told the Delhi High Court that **Twitter was prima facie in compliance with the new Information Technology Rules** by appointing a Chief Compliance Officer (CCO), Resident Grievance Officer (RGO) and Nodal Contact Person on permanent basis.
- Justice Rekha Palli, who was hearing a petition alleging non-compliance of IT Rules by the US-based microblogging site, sought an affidavit from the Centre to bring its stand on record within two weeks.

#### About new rules:

- **Chief Compliance Officer, Nodal Contact Person (NCP) and Resident Grievance Officer** have been **appointed** in compliance with the law.
- The court stated that **Twitter's affidavit on its compliance with IT Rules** was finally on record.
- **Senior advocate Sajan Poovayya, representing Twitter**, iterated that the company has appointed permanent officials for the posts of CCO, RGO and NCP.
- The **Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Ethics Code) Rules, 2021** seek to regulate dissemination and publication of content in cyberspace, including social media platforms, and were notified in February by the central government.

#### Finance Ministry unveiled Revenue Deficit Grant of Rs 9,871 cr to 17 states

- The Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance has released **5th monthly installment of Post Devolution Revenue Deficit (PDRD) Grant** of Rs. 9,871 crore to the States on 9th August, 2021.
- **A total amount of Rs. 49,355 crore** has been released to **eligible States as Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant (PDRD) in the current financial year**.
- State-wise details of the grant released this month and total amount of PDRD Grant released to the States in 2021-22 is annexed.
- The Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant is provided to the States **under Article 275 of the Constitution**.
- The grants are released as per the recommendations of the Fifteenth Finance Commission in monthly installments to meet the gap in Revenue Accounts of the States post devolution.

#### About the report:

- The Commission has recommended PDRD **grants to 17 States during 2021-22**.
- The eligibility of States to receive this grant and the quantum of grant was decided by the Commission based on the gap between assessment of revenue and expenditure of the State after taking into account the assessed devolution for the financial year 2021-22.
- The **States recommended for PDRD Grant by the Fifteenth Finance Commission are:** Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

### SC seeks govt's report against recommendations of National Task Force on Oxygen

- The Supreme Court asked the Centre to submit the **action taken report** within two weeks on the recommendations of **court-appointed National Task Force (NTF)** on allocation of oxygen to states and Union Territories amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The top court stated that since the **NTF consists of senior doctors and experts from all over the country**, it is imperative for the Centre to take steps to ensure that recommendations are duly implemented at the policy level to meet any exigencies in present and foreseeable future.

#### About NTF:

- A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and M R Shah posted the matter for further hearing after two weeks and listed it along with the suo motu matter on COVID preparedness.
- The top court noted that the **final NTF report** has been submitted and an interim report of the sub-committee on evaluation of oxygen requirement of national capital has been filed.

### PM declared National Edible Oil Mission-Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) to make India self-sufficient in cooking oils, including palm oil

- As India's import dependency on edible oil continues to rise, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a **Rs 11,000 crore National Edible Oil Mission-Oil Palm (NMEO-OP)** to make India self-sufficient in cooking oils, including palm oil.
- Modi stated while addressing a virtual event on the occasion of release of an installment of PM-KISAN "The government will ensure that farmers get all the facilities, from quality seeds to technology under the mission".
- Modi also mentioned while **India has become self-sufficient in rice, wheat and sugar**, it was not enough as the country is hugely dependent on imported edible oils.

#### About the mission:

- The **Centre has already been running a National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm to boost oilseeds and palm oil production in India** for the last few years with an aim to lower imports.
- The New Mission plans **to increase oil palm cultivation** to 1 million hectares by 2025-26 and 1.7-1.8 million hectares by 2029-30.
- At present, less than 0.5 million hectares is under Oil Palm cultivation in India domestically largely in Andhra Pradesh.
- The domestic palm oil production is targeted to rise by three times to 1.1 million hectares by 2025-26 under the Mission.

### PM Modi to hosts industry on Partnership for Self-Reliance

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the **industry of government and businesses working together for a self-reliant India** at the annual meeting of the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)**.
- The **theme 'India at 75: government and business working together for Aatmanirbhar Bharat'**.
- Modi will be participating via video conferencing.
- **Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister and coordinating minister for economic policies Heng Swee Keat** will address the event as a **special international guest speaker**.

- The theme of Modi's address is the guiding principle for India now to steer its economy out of the devastating impact of the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic.
- The government has in its **FY22 union budget articulated a policy** of calibrating its import policies and tariffs to encourage more value addition in the local economy and to discourage import of finished products.
- Also, global manufacturers are being encouraged to set up factories in India by way of production incentives.

#### First Internet Governance Forum of India held in New Delhi

- **Shri Anil Kumar Jain, the CEO, National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI), Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) and the Chairman of Coordination Committee, India Internet Governance Forum 2021 (IGF),** announced the launch of **India Internet Governance Forum (IIGF) -2021** at **Electronics Niketan, New Delhi**.
- IIGF- 2021 will be planned for three days, starting from 20th October, 2021.
- The **theme** of this year's meeting is **Inclusive Internet for Digital India**.
- The Indian chapter of the United Nations based forum namely Internet Governance Forum has begun.

#### About the forum:

- It's an **Internet Governance policy discussion platform** to bring representatives together from various groups, considering all at par to discuss public policy issues related to the Internet.
- This mode of engagement is referred to as the **multi-stakeholder model of Internet Governance**, which has been the key feature for the Internet's success.
- The Multi Stakeholder concept is well **adopted by IGF (Internet Governance Forum)** under United Nations and by Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN).

#### National Council for Older Persons to welfare of senior citizens

- **National Policy for Older Persons (NPOP)** followed by, a **National Council for Older Persons (NCOP)** was **constituted in 1999** under the **Chairpersonship** of the Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment to oversee implementation of the Policy and advise the Government in the formulation and implementation of policy and programmes for the aged.
- The **goal** of the National Policy is the **wellbeing of older persons**.
- It **aims to strengthen their legitimate place in society** and help older persons to live the last phase of their life with purpose, dignity and peace.
- In **2012**, the NCOP was **reconstituted** in order to encourage more participation from every region and renamed as National Council of Senior Citizens (NCSrC).
- The third meeting of the Council was held on 13 June, 2018.

#### NCSrC involved Schemes/Programmes/Act:

- NCSrC involved Schemes/Programmes/Act for the **welfare of Senior Citizens** being run by various **Ministries/Departments in addition to D/oSJE**.
- Amendments to the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens (MWPSA) Act, 2007.
- Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY).
- Revised Scheme of Integrated Programme for Senior Citizens (IPsC).

- Senior Citizen's Welfare Fund (SCWF).
- Financial Assistance under Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Schemes (IGNOAPS).
- Social Security to Senior Citizens Bridging of Inter-generational Gap.

#### NMHC to be expand as an international tourist destination

- **National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC)** is conceptualized as an **international tourist destination**, dedicated to the **legacy of maritime heritage of India, at Lothal, Gujarat** with various tourist facilities/amenities **such as** National Maritime Heritage Museum, Heritage Theme Park, Maritime Research Institute, landscaping and recreational venues, to attract tourists besides pavilion for each coastal states and union territories to showcase the maritime heritage of India.

#### There have been plans for providing digital tourism:

- Augmented/virtual reality to offer immersive experience of maritime heritage.
- Sound and light shows
- Touch screen kiosks
- Short films on important events related to the Maritime history.

#### PM interacts with women self-help groups (SHGs) under the "Aatmanirbhar Narishakti se Samvad"

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** stated, the amount of effort that should have been put in to economically empower women was not made and asserted that his dispensation is constantly creating an environment in which **women self-help groups** can connect villages with prosperity.
- Participating in the **"Aatmanirbhar Narishakti se Samvad"** (dialogue with self-reliant women), the prime minister interacted with the women self-help groups (SHGs) promoted under the **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)** via video-conferencing.
- He also released capitalization support funds to the tune of **Rs 1,625 crore to over four lakh SHGs**.

#### About the interaction:

- Modi also released **Rs 25 crore as seed money for 7,500 SHG members** under the PMFME (PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises) scheme of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries and Rs 4.13 crore as funds to 75 FPOs (farmer producer organizations) being promoted under the mission.
- The Prime Minister mentioned that to increase the **scope of entrepreneurship among women** and for greater participation in the resolve of AatmaNirbhar Bharat, a major financial support has been given to **more than 4 lakh SHGs on the eve of Raksha Bandhan**.
- **Self help group and Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana** have brought a **new revolution in rural India**.
- He added this movement of women self-help groups has intensified in the last 6-7 years.
- He stated that there are **70 lakh self help groups** across the country which is **more than three times the figure during 6-7 years**.

### Union Minister Bhupender Yadav releases protocol for All India elephant and tiger population estimation in 2022

- Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav released the population estimation protocol to be adopted in the exercise to be taken up for the All India elephant and tiger population estimation in 2022.
- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), for the first time is converging elephant and tiger population estimation, the protocol for which was released on the occasion of World Elephant Day.
- The Union Environment Minister stressed on the involvement of local and indigenous people in the Conservation of elephants and said that a bottom up approach is the way forward, which will also help in minimizing Human-Elephant Conflict as well.

#### About Asian Elephants:

- Asian elephants are listed as "Endangered" on the IUCN Red List of threatened species.
- This has been done as most of the range states except India, have lost their viable elephant populations due to loss of habitats & poaching etc.
- The current population estimates indicate that there are about 50,000 -60000 Asian elephants in the world.
- More than 60 % of the population is held in India.

### DPE rolled out 60<sup>th</sup> annual Public Enterprises Survey

- The Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), Ministry of Finance, Government of India annually brings out the Public Sector Enterprises Survey on the performance of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs).
- The Public Enterprises Survey 2019-20 has been laid in the Lok Sabha on 6th August, 2021 and in the Rajya Sabha on 9th August, 2021 respectively.
- The Public Enterprises (PE) Survey 2019-20 is the 60th in the series.

#### About the Survey:

- PE Survey which is a 100% enumeration of the CPSE universe captures essential statistical data for all CPSEs on various financial and physical parameters.
- PE Survey divides CPSEs into five sectors namely Agriculture, Mining & Exploration, Manufacturing, Processing & Generation, Services, and Enterprises under Construction and further into 21 cognate groups.
- The Survey covers those CPSE's wherein Government of India holds more than 50% equity.
- Subsidiaries of these companies, if registered in India, in which CPSE(s) has more than 50% equity stake are also categorised as CPSEs.
- As per the PE Survey 2019-20 as on 31st March, 2020 there are 256 operational CPSEs.

### MoHUA launches 'SonChiraiya' to market Urban SHG products

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launched a brand and logo called 'SonChiraiya, for marketing the products of urban self-help groups (SHGs).

#### Purpose :

- Helping women to become financially empowered and live a dignified life.

#### Importance :

- It is a significant step of **increasing visibility** and global access for the products made by urban SHG women.
- To link many more such SHG members, with a variety of professionally packaged, hand-crafted ethnic products, reaching the doorsteps of the customers globally.
- Under the aegis of MoHUA , the **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)** has focussed on equipping the urban poor women with adequate skills and opportunities to enable them to promote sustainable micro enterprises.

#### Note :

- The ministry entered into an **MoU** with leading e-commerce portals like **Amazon** and **Flipkart**, with an underlying narrative of women empowerment.
- This MoU has successfully on-boarded over 2,000 products of nearly 5,000 SHG members across 25 states and UTs.

#### India's renewable energy capacity crosses 100 gigawatts

- On Aug 12, 2021, India's renewable energy capacity crossed the milestone of **100 gigawatts (GW)**.
- In that 100 GW , 50 GW is under installation and 27 GW is under tendering
- This will become **4th national in the world** in terms of installed **RE capacity**, **5th in solar**, and **4th in wind** in terms of installed capacity.
- India has set an ambitious target of expanding its installed RE capacity to 450 GW by 2030.
- India has a power generation capacity of 383.73 GW.

#### Note :

- India, as part of the multilateral Paris Agreement to combat climate change, has pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emission intensity of its GDP by 33-35 percent below 2005 levels by 2030, and also switch to non-fossil fuel sources for 40 percent of its total power capacity by 2030.

#### 75th Indian Independence Day 2021

- India is celebrating '**Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav**', marking the completion of a quarter to a century of freedom from British colonial rule.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** unfurled the **national flag at the Red Fort** in New Delhi and addressed the nation.
- It was followed by a series of events organized by the armed forces and security personnel saluting the tricolour with a guard of honour.

#### Highlights of Independence Day:

##### Culture Minister G. Kishan Reddy inaugurates Exhibition - Katha Kranthiveeron Ki to mark 75th yrs of Independence:

- Culture Minister G. Kishan Reddy inaugurated an **Exhibition - Katha Kranthiveeron Ki** to mark the **75th years of Independence** as part of **Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav** at Rabindra Bhawan, New Delhi.

- The Exhibition has on **display more than 100 artworks recognizing unsung heroes like** Alluri Sitarama Raju and Artwork created during Shaheedi Diwas, Champaran Satyagraha and Jallianwala Bagh camp.
- The exhibition is open for public viewing till 30th August from 11.00 AM to 7.00 PM.
- Mr Reddy stated, **unsung heroes of freedom struggle leaders** like Alluri Sitarama Raju and Komaram Bheem have not got the recognition.
- He informed, government will ensure that they are celebrated appropriately.
- The Minister mentioned, it will also ensure that the Shaheedi Diwas, Champaran Satyagraha and the Jallianwala Bagh incident is commemorated appropriately.

#### PM Modi announces nation's progress:

- Addressing the nation from the ramparts of the **Red Fort**, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** noted, India has to move even further.
- The Prime Minister mentioned, we have pledged to celebrate **75 weeks of Amrit Mahotsav, starting 12 March 2021 till 15 August 2023**.
- He stated, **Indian Railways** is also being transformed rapidly as the Nation progresses towards Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- Mr Modi informed, **75 Vande Bharat trains** will connect every corner of India in 75 weeks of Amrit Mahotsav of Independence.
- **100 lakh crore rupees Gatishakti initiative** will bring employment opportunities for youth and help in holistic infrastructure growth.
- The Prime Minister also mentioned, to further increase the developmental progress, we have to focus on our manufacturing and export.
- To give impetus to **Make In India**, we have introduced **PLI scheme** that will help us in increasing the exports.
- Moving forward on the **path of Development**, we have to increase the manufacturing and export.
- **100 per cent villages** should have roads, **100 per cent households** should have a bank account, **100 per cent beneficiaries** should have **Ayushman Bharat card** and 100 per cent eligible persons should have gas connection under Ujjwala scheme.
- To take India to newer heights, Government has passed the **OBC bill**.
- Mr Modi stated, it will provide reservation to the backward classes of the country.
- **SVAMITVA Yojna** is transforming the **lives in rural India** and drone is helping the rural citizens map their land and apply for various schemes or loans online.
- Mr Modi informed, in the coming years, nation will have **to increase the collective power** of the small farmers of the country and they have to be given new facilities.
- Government is trying to **empower these farmers through SVAMITVA Yojana**.
- The Prime Minister noted, it is the dream of Government that small farmers become the pride of the country.
- Under the **Jan Aushadhi Yojana**, the poor and needy are now getting affordable medicines.



- Over **75 thousand Health and Wellness Centres** have been built and we are working on a network of hospitals at the block level.
- Government **has introduced tax reforms** that will give impetus to **Ease of Living and Ease of Doing Business**.
- Setting up of the **National Hydrogen Mission** with the aim of becoming the new global hub of Green Hydrogen and also its largest exporter.
- India has set the goal of **450 Giga Watt of Renewable Energy for 2030**.
- Out of this, the country **has already achieved 100 Giga Watt target** well within schedule.
- Be it **GST- the system that frees** the country from the **tax trap** or **One Rank One Pension** for the military comrades or peaceful resolution of **Shri Ramjanmabhoomi case**, People have seen all this come true in the last few years.

#### 144 Gallantry awards announced for Armed Forces, Police and Paramilitary personnel:

- **President Ram Nath Kovind** has approved **144 Gallantry awards** to Armed Forces, police and paramilitary personnel on the eve of Independence Day.
- **These include** one Ashok Chakra, one Kirti Chakra, 15 Shaurya Chakras, four Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry), 116 Sena Medals (Gallantry), five Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry) and two Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry).
- **ASI of Jammu and Kashmir Police, Babu Ram** has been **posthumously** honoured with **Ashok Chakra** while **Altaf Hussain Bhat** who was serving as a Constable in Jammu and Kashmir police has been **posthumously** honoured with the **Kirti Chakra**.
- Of the **15 Shaurya Chakra awardees**, three have been given the honour posthumously.
- The President has also approved **28 Mention-in-Despatches** to the Army personnel for their significant contributions in different military operations which include three posthumous for '**Operation Rakshak**'.
- Besides, President also approved four awards for conspicuous gallantry and meritorious service to ICG personnel including one Tatrakshak Medal (Gallantry), and three Tatrakshak Medal (Meritorious Service).

#### 75 Vande Bharat Express trains will connect every corner of country in 75 weeks of 'Amrit Mahotsav':

- '**Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav**' is the central government's **initiative to mark 75 years of Independence**.
- It is a **tribute to the freedom fighters** and the struggle that led to the nation.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that in the **75 weeks of 'Amrit Mahotsav'**, which the country is celebrating to mark the journey of 75 years of Independence, the Indian Railways will **launch 75 Vande Bharat trains to connect India's far-flung areas**.
- "During the 75 weeks of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', 75 new Vande Bharat express trains will be launched and will connect every corner of the country," the Prime Minister stated in his August 15 address as he compared the Vande Bharat **initiative** to the **UDAN scheme for flights**.

#### PM Modi sets India's target to become 'energy independent' by 2047

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** announced a **new target** of making India an '**Energy Independent**' nation by the time the **country reaches 100 years of India's independence, in 2047**.

- Addressing the nation from the Red Fort during the annual Independence Day address, Modi lamented that India is not energy independent.
- “India spends **more than Rs 12 trillion annually on energy import**.”
- For India's progress, the country's energy independence is the need of the hour--necessary to make a self-reliant India.
- India has to take a resolution that will become energy independent before the completion of 100 years of independence and for this our roadmap is very clear”.
- Modi stated few months before the country is expected to miss an earlier goal that he had set of a 10 per cent cut in crude **oil import dependence by 2022**. This was announced in **2015**.
- But this target is far from being achieved and the country's import reliance has only risen.
- Instead of cutting imports by 10 per cent, its proportion has continued to rise from 2015.
- Annual domestic crude oil output has fallen to below 30 million tonnes (mt) and total import has risen to 226 mt.
- When Modi had given his earlier import reduction call, domestic crude oil production in 2015-16 stood at 35.5 mt and has fallen to 29.1 mt in 2020-21.

#### Dr. Jitendra Singh released “IndiGau’, India’s first Cattle Genomic Chip

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, **Dr Jitendra Singh** released “**IndiGau’, India’s first Cattle Genomic Chip** for the conservation of pure varieties of indigenous cattle breeds like, Gir, Kankrej, Sahiwal, Ongole etc.
- This indigenous chip was **developed by** the concerted efforts of scientists of **National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NAIB), Hyderabad**, an autonomous institution under the aegis of the Department of Biotechnology.
- Dr.Jitendra Singh stated this is an occasion for **triple Celebrations-Celebration of India’s Cow and Cattle**, Celebration of calibre of India’s Scientists and above all Celebration of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of AtmaNirbhar Bharat.
- This chip will have **practical utility in the Governments schemes** to achieve the goal of conservation of our own breeds with better characters and help towards doubling of farmers’ **income by 2022**.
- He took pride that even Departments like **DBT and NIAB** are contributing to the welfare and income augmentation of farmers.

#### WCD Ministry launches 2nd Phase of SAMVAD

- The Union Minister of Women and Child Development, **Smriti Zubin Irani**, on the eve of Independence Day, launched **2nd phase of SAMVAD programme** in **Bengaluru** and **commemorated the successful completion of one year of SAMVAD** - Support, Advocacy & Mental health interventions for children in Vulnerable circumstances And Distress.
- SAMVAD is a National Initiative and Integrated Resource that works in child protection, mental health and psychosocial care.

- **Union WCD Minister, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani** acknowledged **SAMVAD's efforts** in providing coping mechanism for children in **distress by training close to 1 lakh stakeholders** comprising of Child Protection Functionaries, tele-counsellors, educators, law professionals among others.
- She stated that “for the **first time in independent India**, **SAMVAD** will engage with functionaries in Panchayats thereby ushering in a silent revolution in addressing psychosocial challenges amongst vulnerable children”.
- **SAMVAD is slated to begin work with Panchayati Raj systems** to integrate child protection and mental health in aspirational districts across the country to facilitate awareness generation and improve service delivery at the grass root level.

#### Union Minister Dr. Virendra Kumar flags off 'Operation Blue Freedom'

- On the occasion of **75th Independence Day**, Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment **Dr. Virendra Kumar** Participating in a **series of events organised by Dr. Ambedkar International Centre**, a premier autonomous research body mandated to research and provide policy feed to empower marginalised communities and to bring in Socio Economic transformation in the society, Dr. Virendra Kumar flagged off a pioneering expedition '**Operation Blue Freedom**'.
- A team of people with disabilities from across the country undertook an **expedition till Siachen Glacier** to create a **new World Record** for the largest team of people with disabilities to reach the world's highest battlefield.
- Dr. Ambedkar International Centre has supported this world record expedition of people with disabilities to Siachen Glacier as part of its commitment **towards the cause and betterment of Divyanjans of our country**.
- **About the initiative:**
- The team of people with disabilities, **trained by 'Team CLAW'**, a team of Armed Forces veterans, undertook this expedition till Kumar Post (Siachen Glacier) to create a new World Record for the largest team of people with disabilities to reach the **world's highest battlefield**.
- Recently, the Government of India had permitted a team of selected people with disabilities to scale Siachen Glacier.

#### Four new sites in India added to Ramsar list as 'wetlands of International importance'

- These sites are **Thol and Wadhvana from Gujarat and Sultanpur and Bhindawas from Haryana**.
- **Union Environment Minister, Shri Bhupender Yadav** expressed happiness and stated that it is Prime Minister Narendra Modi's special concern for the environment which has led to overall improvement in how India cares for its wetlands.
- With this, the number of **Ramsar sites in India is 46** and the surface area covered by these sites is now 1,083,322 hectares.
- While Haryana gets its **first Ramsar sites**, Gujarat gets three more after Nalsarovar which was **declared in 2012**.

#### Main objective:

- The **aim of the Ramsar** list is “to develop and maintain an international network of wetlands which are important for the conservation of global biological diversity and for sustaining human life through the maintenance of their ecosystem components, processes and benefits”.

- **Wetlands provide a wide range of important resources and ecosystem services** such as food, water, fibre, groundwater recharge, water purification, flood moderation, erosion control and climate regulation.
- They are, in fact, are a **major source of water and our main supply of freshwater** comes from an array of wetlands which help soak rainfall and recharge groundwater.

#### **Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary:**

- Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary, the **largest wetland in Haryana** is a human-made freshwater wetland.
- **Over 250 bird species** use the sanctuary throughout the year as a resting and roosting site.
- The site supports more than ten globally threatened species including the endangered Egyptian Vulture, Steppe Eagle, Pallas's Fish Eagle, and Black-bellied Tern.

#### **Sultanpur National Park:**

- Sultanpur National Park **from Haryana supports more than 220 species of resident, winter migratory and local migratory waterbirds** at critical stages of their life cycles.
- More than ten of these are globally threatened, including the critically endangered sociable lapwing, and the endangered Egyptian Vulture, Saker Falcon, Pallas's Fish Eagle and Black-bellied Tern.

#### **Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary:**

- Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary **from Gujarat** lies on the Central Asian Flyway and more than **320 bird species** can be found here.
- The wetland supports more 30 threatened waterbird species, such as the critically endangered White-rumped Vulture and Sociable Lapwing , and the vulnerable Sarus Crane, Common Pochard and Lesser White-fronted Goose.

#### **Wadhvana Wetland:**

- Wadhvana Wetland **from Gujarat** is **internationally important for its birdlife** as it provides wintering ground to migratory waterbirds, including over 80 species that migrate on the Central Asian Flyway.
- They include some threatened or near-threatened species such as the endangered Pallas's fish-Eagle, the vulnerable Common Pochard, and the near-threatened Dalmatian Pelican, Grey-headed Fish-eagle and Ferruginous Duck.

#### **AIIMS Delhi became first Indian hospital to house fire station inside premises**

- Director Dr Randeep Guleria stated The All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS), Delhi, has become the first hospital in India to house **a fire station inside the hospital premises**.
- Making the announcement at a function to mark the **75th Independence Day**, he informed that the **AIIMS has joined hands with the Delhi Fire Service for the purpose**.
- The fire station, meant for quick response in case of fire emergency, will have its infrastructure developed by the AIIMS, while the fire tender, equipment, and manpower will be managed by the DFS.
- "DFS has joined hand with AIIMS **to open a fire station inside the Hospital to meet any emergency**."
- AIIMS become a **First Hospital in the country** to have fire station on its campus, Infrastructure will be provided by the AIIMS& manpower etc **will be managed by DFS**".

### Govt notified Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021

- **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** to **phase out single use plastic by 2022**, keeping in view the adverse impacts of littered plastic on both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India**, has notified the **Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021**, which prohibits identified single use plastic items which have low utility and high littering potential by 2022.
- **Pollution due to single use plastic items** has become an important environmental challenge confronting all countries.
- India is committed to take action for **mitigation of pollution caused by littered Single Use Plastics**.
- In the **4th United Nations Environment Assembly held in 2019**, India had piloted a resolution on addressing single-use plastic products pollution, recognizing the urgent need for the global community to focus on this very important issue.
- The adoption of this resolution at **UNEA 4** was a significant step.
- The manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of following single-use plastic, including polystyrene and expanded polystyrene, commodities **shall be prohibited with effect from the 1st July, 2022:-**
- earbuds with plastic sticks, plastic sticks for balloons, plastic flags, candy sticks, ice-cream sticks, polystyrene [Thermocol] for decoration;
- Plates, cups, glasses, cutlery such as forks, spoons, knives, straw, trays, wrapping or packing films around sweet boxes, invitation cards, and cigarette packets, plastic or PVC banners less than 100 micron, stirrers.

#### Previous rule:

- The waste management infrastructure in the States/UTs is being strengthened through the Swachh Bharat Mission.
- The following steps have also been taken to strengthen implementation of **Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016** and also to reduce the use of identified **single use plastic items**:
- The States/UTs have been requested to constitute a **Special Task Force for elimination of single use plastics and effective implementation of Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016**.
- A National Level Taskforce has also been constituted by the Ministry for taking coordinated efforts to eliminate identified single use plastic items and effective implementation of Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016.

### National Hydrogen Mission to make India

- Hydrogen is the **latest buzz** for meeting the **world's energy needs**.
- Being the **cleanest form of energy**, it can be produced from a variety of resources, such as natural gas, biomass, and renewable power like solar and wind.
- It can be used in cars, in houses, for portable power and in many more applications.
- **No doubt, it is gaining currency in India** like other places in the world.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a **National Hydrogen Mission**.

#### National Hydrogen Mission:

- "Green Hydrogen is the **future of the world**."

- The setting up of the National Hydrogen Mission with the **aim of becoming the new global hub of Green Hydrogen, and also its largest exporter**".
- The Mission was **first announced in this year's Union Budget in February** and companies have since then queued up to announce projects.
- But neither that announcement nor Modi's speech defined production or capacity targets.
- **Green hydrogen, derived from water electrolysis using renewable energy** such as solar or wind, will replace carbon-emitting fuels used in the refinery to process crude oil into value-added products, such as petrol and diesel.
- Currently, all hydrogen consumed in India comes **from fossil fuels**.
- **By 2050**, three-fourth of all hydrogen is projected to be green -- produced by renewable electricity and electrolysis.
- Hydrogen also helps India meets its **climate commitment**.

#### **PM announces - Rice provided under any scheme will be fortified by 2024**

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** announced that the government will **fortify the rice distributed to the poor via different schemes such as Midday Meal** in a bid to address the problem of malnutrition.
- "Malnutrition and lack of micro-nutrients are affecting the growth of poor children.
- Modi stated in his Independence Day speech Looking at this, it has been decided to fortify the rice given to the poor via different government schemes".
- **Through** ration shops or the Midday Meal scheme, the **rice made available under every government programme will be fortified by the year 2024**.
- **Currently, out of the 15 states** identified for the "Central scheme on fortified rice and its distribution **via a** public distribution system (PDS)", five are implementing it in one district each on a pilot basis.
- Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Chhattisgarh have started distributing fortified rice -- mixed with nutrients -- in their **respective identified district**.

#### **Government has planned to open all Sainik schools to girls**

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** announced that **all Sainik Schools in the country will now be open for girls also**.
- **At present, 33 Sainik schools** are operating in the country.
- During his Independence Day speech, the prime minister mentioned those two-and-a-half years ago, the maiden experiment of admitting girls in Sainik schools was carried out in Mizoram.

#### **About Sainik Schools:**

- **These schools are the brainchild of VK Krishna Menon**, who was the Union defence minister from April 1957 to October 1962.
- Menon conceived this idea in **1961**.
- An All India Sainik School Entrance Examination (AISSEE) is conducted for **admission to Sainik Schools**, which follow the **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) curriculum**.
- **For classes 6 and 9**, students are granted admission on the basis of their performance in the entrance exam.
- **For class 11**, the basis of admission is marks scored in class 10 board exams.



- However, it is to be noted that **67% seats** are reserved for students who are from the **home state of a Sainik School**.
- The remaining **33% students** are admitted from **outside the home state**.
- There is **reservation also on the basis of** Scheduled Castes (15%), Scheduled Tribes (7.5%), Other Backward Classes (27%) and forwards of current and former servicemen (25%).
- **At present**, there are **33 such schools** in the country.
- Uttar Pradesh has three Sainik Schools, while Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha and Rajasthan have **two schools each**.
- These schools are run by the Sainik Schools Society under the Union ministry of defence (MoD).
- As the name suggests, Sainik Schools prepare students for a career in the armed forces.
- Hence students here are called “**cadets**” and have to follow strict rules, which are on the lines of those in military academies.
- As a pilot project, Sainik School in Mizoram’s Chhingchhip began admitting girls from October 2019.
- PM Modi mentioned the school while making the announcement.

#### Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs gave approval to proposals for construction of 16,488 houses

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has approved proposals for construction of 16,488 houses at the 55th meeting of Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee **under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U)**.
- The houses are proposed to be constructed under **Beneficiary-Led Construction (BLC) and Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP) verticals of PMAY-U**.
- With this, the total number of sanctioned houses under PMAY-U has now gone up to over 113 lakh.
- Of them, 85.65 lakh houses have been grounded for construction and more than 51 lakh have been completed and delivered to the beneficiaries.
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs **Durga Shanker Mishra** stated that the demand for sanction has saturated in all States and Union Territories and work should be done expeditiously towards completing all the projects within stipulated time.
- The approval for proposals under Model-2 of Affordable Rental Housing Complexes was also reviewed by the Secretary with five states, namely Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat.

#### About Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana:

- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana is an **initiative** by the Government of India in which affordable housing will be provided to the urban poor with a **target of building 2 crore affordable houses by 31 March 2022**.
- **Launch year:** 2015
- **Launched by** (prime minister): Narendra Modi
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

#### The following individuals and families are eligible for this scheme:

- Economically Weaker Section (**EWS**) – Families with an annual income up to Rs. 3 Lakh.
- Low Income Group (**LIG**) – Families with an annual income between Rs. 3 Lakh and Rs. 6 Lakh.



- Middle Income Group I (**MIG I**) – Families within an annual income between Rs. 6 Lakh and Rs. 12 Lakh.
- Middle Income Group II (**MIG II**) – Families with an annual income between Rs. 6 Lakh and Rs. 12 Lakh.
- Women belonging to EWS and LIG categories.
- Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), and Other Backward Class (OBC).
- In addition to the above, beneficiaries **can avail the benefits** of this scheme by meeting the following **few eligibility criteria** –
- He/she must **not own a house** to fulfil the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana eligibility.
- The **individual must also not avail the benefits of any other housing scheme** by the State or Central Government.

#### **MIB & Jal Shakti Ministers jointly launch Season-2 of 'Rag Rag Mein Ganga'**

- Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur, Jal Shakti Minister **Gajendra Singh Sekhawat** and Minister of State for Jal Shakti **Prahlad Singh Patel** launched **Season-2 of 'Rag Rag Mein Ganga'**.
- The **first episode will be broadcast from 21st of August on Doordarshan**.
- Minister Anurag Thakur mentioned, '**Ramayan**' and '**Mahabharat**' serials were **very popular** among the audience during the lockdown because they connected people with their heritage.
- He stated, '**Rag Rag Mein Ganga**' **Season-1 was also watched by a huge audience**.
- He noted, the right content should be made so that **Doordarshan can grab more eyeballs**.
- The Minister informed that in the **next three to four years Doordarshan will become the most watched channel**.
- He added that the channel will **create the right content** for the platform to bring viewers to Doordarshan.

#### **About the serial:**

- The travelogue, consisting of **26 episodes** is being anchored by a well-known actor, **Rajeev Khandelwal** and will go on air from 21st Aug 2021 every Saturday and Sunday at 8:30 P.M. on DD National.
- **Season-2 of Rag Rag Mein Ganga** will be dedicated to **Arth-Ganga**, the river that laid foundation to expansion of our civilization.

#### **Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurates 'Amrit Mahotsav Shri Shakti Challenge-2021'**

- Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology **Ashwini Vaishnaw** launched the '**Amrit Mahotsav Shri Shakti Challenge-2021**' to encourage technology solutions developed by Women Entrepreneurs that facilitate Women's Safety and Empowerment.
- The **aim is to empower women** to help them achieve their full potential.
- Minister hoped for enthusiastic participation in the Shri Shakti Challenge.
- Mr Vaishnaw stated that the number of incubators and accelerators which is **around 100 at present**, is not sufficient for a country of **over 130 crore population**.
- He noted, the government will be scaling up the network of **incubators and accelerators to phenomenally multiple levels in the next three years**.
- He informed, all of these will be professionally managed and housed in institutions, industries and places where they will add real value.

#### About the Challenge:

- “The Government will be supporting the **start-ups and entrepreneurs** in the most difficult phase, the initial risk phase.
- **Out of 100, even if 20 entrepreneurs** grow to the next level, that will be a great journey for the country.
- A million more entrepreneurs to create more jobs, to make their mark.”
- **“Women have a special intuition** on what might work.
- They are far more focused and multitasking comes naturally to them.
- It is heartening to see that the **Amrit Mahotsav Shri Shakti Challenge 2021** is focusing on tech solutions for women’s safety and empowerment.
- This is extremely important as women will know what the problem is and will solve the problem with technology as an enabler.”

#### MeitY-NASSCOM Women Startup Entrepreneurs Awards:

- MeitY-NASSCOM Women Startup Entrepreneurs Awards is **the first step to recognize and cultivate the entrepreneurial spirit in women** and **inspire the next generation of women** to lead the Indian digital era so as to serve as guiding role models; to encourage promising entrepreneurs who not only contribute to the nation’s economy but also to the social community; And to **provide leadership** and serve as guiding examples for the emerging and young future entrepreneurs.
- From **MeitY, UN Women, Industry and Academia** selected **12 women entrepreneurs as winners**, while **2 women entrepreneurs** were declared as the **Jury Choice Awardees** and one woman entrepreneur was felicitated as a special mention.
- Each winner and Jury Choice Awards were **awarded Rs. 2 Lakh**.

#### Union minister Nitin Gadkari announced New scrappage policy will boost growth of automobile sector

- **Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari** has stated that **Vehicle Scrappage Policy** is a win-win policy for all the stakeholders and for the country.
- The **policy will help** bring down the air pollution which is a major concern for all.
- The **policy will boost** the growth of the automobile sector, export and will bring competitiveness.
- The Minister mentioned, the government wants to **set up at least one scrapping centre** and fitness centre in every district of the country.
- However, more such centres can be opened in big cities.
- The **centres will generate more employment opportunities for the youth**.
- The National Automobile Scrappage Policy unveiled will **benefit all stakeholders** as it will boost manufacturing, create jobs and help **both the Centre as well as state governments in earning up to Rs 40,000 crore each in GST**.

#### National Automobile Scrappage Policy:

- **Under the National Automobile Scrappage Policy**, the Centre has made it mandatory to scrap all state-owned four-wheeler vehicles **older than 15 years**.

- Customers with the scrapping certificate could also receive a waiver on registration fees on the purchase of new vehicles.
- The **policy is being debated and will apply to all vehicles**, including private, commercial and government owned vehicles.
- The scrappage policy is expected to bring a change to the Indian automobile market.

#### A car qualifies for scrappage:

- **Cars eligible for scrapping** must have been registered to the **owner for at least 18 months prior to scrapping** and must be scrapped **60 days before or after the new car is registered**.
- The used car must have a valid NCT certificate or one that expired less than 90 days before being scrapped.

#### Ministry of Textiles to be set up ten more Handloom Design Resource Centres in country

- The **Ministry of Textiles** has stated that **ten more Handloom Design Resource Centres** will be set up in the country with the aim **to build and create design-oriented excellence in the Handloom sector**.
- It will also facilitate weavers, exporters, manufacturers and designers access design repositories for sample and product improvisation and development.
- These **Design Resource Centres** will be set up by National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) at Weavers' Service Centres of Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kannur, Indore, Nagpur, Meerut, Bhagalpur and Panipat.
- The **Ministry has roped in NIFT** keeping in view the fact that it is an in-house organization of Ministry of Textiles of which Handloom also is a part.

#### To promote Handlooms in a big way, Ministry of Textiles has undertaken many new initiatives:

- **10 more Design Resource Centres (DRCs)** are in the process of being set up by **National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) at Weavers' Service Centres (WSCs)** with the **objective to build and create design-oriented excellence in the Handloom Sector** and to facilitate weavers, exporters, manufacturers and designers access design repositories for sample/product improvisation and development.
- The Ministry has roped in NIFT keeping in view the fact that it is an **in-house organization of MoT**, of which Handloom also is a part, and also the expertise of NIFT in fashion and design trends which can be utilized by Handloom Sector for greater market linkage.
- DRCs are being **established by NIFT** in all WSCs in a phased manner, wherein vast inventory of designs and resources will be available for use by exporters, Manufacturers, Designers, Weavers and other stakeholders.

#### Civil Aviation Ministry gave conditional permission to 10 organisations to use drones for various purposes

- The Civil Aviation Ministry gave conditional permission **to 10 organizations**, including Mahindra and **Mahindra, Steel Authority of India (SAIL) and Bayer Crop Science**, to use drones for various purposes.
- **Karnataka** government is **one of the 10 organizations** and it has got the permission to conduct "**drone based aerial survey** for creating urban property ownership records in Bengaluru".

- **Mahindra and Mahindra** has got permission to conduct "**drone-based agricultural trials**" and use drones for precision spraying on paddy and hot pepper crop in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.
- Two organisations -- **Gujarat-based Blue Ray Aviation** and **Telangana-based Asia Pacific Flight Training Academy** -- have been permitted to conduct "remote pilot training using drones".
- The **National Health Mission** in **Mumbai** has also got the permission to conduct experimental BVLOS (beyond visual line-of-sight) drone flights to deliver essential healthcare items in tribal areas of Jawhar in Palghar district of Maharashtra.
- **Gangtok Smart City Development** has got the permission for drone-based aerial survey for its smart city project.
- **Chennai-based Tractors and Farm Equipment Limited** has got the permission to conduct "drone-based aerial spraying" to assess crop health and prevent crop disease.
- The ministry stated **Pune-based Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology** to conduct atmospheric research at five different locations in the country.

#### **NITI Aayog's AIM launches Student Entrepreneurship Program (SEP) 3.0**

- **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** NITI Aayog in collaboration with **La Fondation Dassault Systemes (Dassault Systemes Foundation)** in India launched the third series of the '**Student Entrepreneurship Program**' (SEP 3.0) for the young innovators of **Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL)**.
- The theme of SEP 3.0 is based on the 'Made in 3D - Seed the Future Entrepreneurs Program', conceptualized and rolled out in France by La Main à la Pâte Foundation and La Fondation Dassault Systemes Europe in 2017.
- A team from each school (6 students and a teacher) will be allocated seed funding towards creating pseudo start-up, design and prototype their innovation using 3D printing, prepare marketing campaign, define product pricing and create expansion strategy.
- With this they will receive real feel of '**How a startup works!**'.
- At the end of the program, each school's pseudo startup will participate in a playful competition and present their marketing campaign in front of experts from industry and academia.

#### **About the Program:**

- **SEP3.0** will allow student innovators to work closely with **Dassault Systemes Foundation volunteers** and gain - Mentoring support, Prototyping and testing guidance, End-User feedback, A total of 51 teams from 29 states are selected for the "**Made in 3D - Seed the Future Entrepreneurs Program**" under SEP 3.0.
- Top **20 teams** of ATL Marathon 2019, 10 teams selected by Dassault Systemes Foundation, 10 teams from **Aspirational Districts** and 10 teams from Jammu, Kashmir, Ladakh and North east regions are selected.
- **Out of these 16 schools** will have '**all girls**' teams to motivate them to be future women entrepreneurs and guidance on Intellectual Property Rights, by working as pseudo start-ups through a hands-on and structured program.
- Program will be **interaction opportunities** for students and teachers, between French and Indian schools.

## Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurates Centre for Research & Innovation in Artificial Intelligence set up at IIT-Hyderabad

- The minister of education, **Dharmendra Pradhan**, inaugurated the new infrastructure at IIT Hyderabad on August 18.
- This **new state-of-the-art facility** is part of the campus development project under the broader India-Japan collaboration through the **Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)**.
- "IIT Hyderabad is the first institute in the country to offer a full-fledged BTech in **artificial intelligence** in line with the recommendation of NEP 2020.

### About the Innovation:

- The **unique collaboration between IIT Hyderabad and Japanese** organisations and universities.
- With the **recommendation of NEP 2020**, such collaborations would become more common and further strengthen to achieve the goal of internalisation at home."
- **HTS and IITH** will **together research technologies** that solve problems of the future.
- Both organizations have associated to **provide industry-specific domain training**, remote project mentoring, engineering certificate course, training workshops and hackathons for students of IITH and select employees of HTS.
- The association will **provide industry collaboration for IITH**, an academic environment for Honeywell employees to conduct research, and enable students to upgrade their skills and improve their employment opportunities.

## Union Minister Rajnath Singh to launch 5th edition of Defence India Startup Challenge

- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** will launch **Defence India Startup Challenge (DISC) 5.0** in New Delhi through video conferencing.
- DISC 5.0 will have more challenges than the **first four DISC editions taken together**.
- The launch of DISC 5.0 will be a massive leap towards leveraging the startup ecosystem to develop India's defence technologies, equipment design and manufacturing capabilities.

### About the challenge:

- These **challenges will also encourage startups** to become more attuned to innovative concepts and inculcate the approach of creative thinking in India's budding entrepreneurs.
- Ministry of Defence has earmarked a total one thousand crore rupees for domestic procurement through **Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) initiative** for the financial year 2021-2022.
- Recently, the Defence Minister had approved a **budget of nearly 500 crore rupees** for the **next five years to support over 300 startups** and foster innovation in defence & aerospace sectors.
- It will enable India's defence sector to contribute significantly **towards 5-trillion dollar economy goal by 2025**.

## Delhi high court: Plea to declare PM CARES fund a 'State'

- The **Delhi High Court** asked the Centre to respond to a plea seeking to declare the **Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM CARES Fund)** a 'State' under the Constitution.
- A bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh posted the hearing on the petition filed by Samyak Gangwal, a lawyer, on September 13.

#### About the constitution:

- Mr. Gangwal, represented by senior advocate Shyam Divan, has sought to declare **PM CARES Fund** a 'State' under **Article 12 of the Constitution** to ensure transparency in its functioning.
- Mr Divan stated the court came to the conclusion that the PM CARES Fund is **not 'State' under the Constitution**, usage of the **domain name 'gov'**, the Prime Minister's photograph, State emblem among others has to stop.
- The petition stated that the PM CARES Fund was formed by the Prime Minister on March 27, 2020 to extend assistance to the citizens of India in the wake of the public health emergency — the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- Mr Gangwal has also filed another petition to **declare PM CARES as a 'public authority'** under the Right to Information (RTI) Act.
- Both petitions are being heard together.
- He has challenged a June 2, 2020 order of the **Central Public Information Officer (CPIO), PMO**, refusing to provide documents sought by him **under the RTI Act**.

#### Ministry of Road Transport & Highways Announces Electronic Monitoring and Enforcement of Road Safety

- In a **bid to use technology** to act against those violating traffic rules, the Union ministry of road transport and highways issued a notification amending the **Central Motor Vehicles Rule 1989** for what it called **"Electronic Monitoring and Enforcement of Road Safety."**
- As the name suggests, under these rules, **"electronic enforcement devices"** will be used for issuing challans.
- Ministry of Road transport and Highways has issued notification **G.S.R. 575(E) 11th August, 2021- Rule 167A** regarding Electronic Monitoring and Enforcement of Road Safety.
- The **rules specify** the detailed provisions for placement of electronic enforcement devices (speed camera, closed-circuit television camera, speed gun, body wearable camera, dashboard camera, **Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR)**, **weigh in machine (WIM)** and any such technology).
- State Governments shall ensure that electronic enforcement devices are placed at high-risk and high-density corridors on **National Highways and State Highways** and at critical junctions at least in major cities with more than one million populations and also including the 132 cities as specified in the table given in the rules.
- The electronic enforcement device shall be placed in such a manner so as not to cause any obstruction, **line-of-sight** issues or interruption in traffic flow.

#### CCEA gave nod Rs 77.45 crore package for the revival of state-run North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Ltd (NERAMAC)

- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** approved a **Rs 77.45 crore package** for the revival of state-run **North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Ltd**.
- North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation (NERAMAC) is a central public sector enterprise under the administrative control of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER).
- Information and Broadcasting Minister **Anurag Thakur** stated "CCEA has approved a revival package of Rs 77.45 crore for NERAMAC".



- The **revival package will help NERAMAC to implement various innovative plans** like providing better farming facilities, training to farmers in clusters, organic seeds and fertiliser, post-harvesting facilities to promote the products of north-east farmers in the world market, the minister added.

#### **Benefits:**

- With the **implementation of the revival package**, remunerative price to the farmers of NER of their products will be ensured.
- **Revival package will help NERAMAC** to implement various innovative plans namely providing better farming facilities, training to farmers in clusters, organic seeds and fertilizer, post harvesting facilities in order to promote the products of NE farmers in the world market through participation in events, registration of GI products etc.
- **Revenue of the Corporation** will increase and overheads will **reduce as a result of VRS** and other cost cutting measures and the Corporation will start making profits on sustained basis and its dependency on GoI loan will cease.

#### **Employment generation potential:**

- After the implementation of **revival of NERAMAC**, employment will be generated both directly and indirectly in farming sector, projects and events management sector, logistics, sorting and grading and value addition, entrepreneurship and marketing. It is expected that employment will be generated for **about 33,000 persons**.

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

- The Union Heavy Industries Minister **Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey** inaugurated the country's very **first Solar Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Station** at the Karnal Lake Resort.

#### **About the Solar EV charging station:**

- With the inauguration of the **first solar electric vehicle charging station at the Karnal lake resort**, the **Delhi-Chandigarh Highway has become the first e-vehicle friendly highway in India**.
- The EV charging station at the Karnal lake resort is strategically located at the midpoint of the Delhi-Chandigarh highway and is equipped to cater to all types of E-cars plying currently in the country.
- Further, work is in progress for upgrading the other charging stations on this highway, within a year.

#### **Set up by BHEL under FAME:**

- The network of **Solar-based Electric Vehicle Charging stations (SEVCs)** is set up by **Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)** under the **FAME-1 [Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid) & Electric Vehicles in India]** scheme of the Ministry of Heavy Industries.
- The state-of-the-art charging station at the **Karnal Lake Resort** was virtually inaugurated by the Union Minister of Heavy Industries, in the presence of Arun Goel, Secretary (MHI). Dr. Nalin Shinghal, Chairman & Managing Director, BHEL.

#### **Solar-based Electric Vehicle charging stations inaugurated in Karnal:**

- The **EV charging station at Karnal lake resort**, is strategically located at the midpoint of Delhi-Chandigarh highway, and is equipped to cater to **all types of E- cars** plying currently in the country.
- Further, the company is also working on upgrading the other charging stations on this highway, within this year.



- The establishment of similar EV chargers at **regular intervals of 25-30 kms.**
- on the highway will allay **range-anxiety among Electric Vehicle** users and bolster their confidence for inter-city travel.
- The SEVC stations are equipped with individual grid-connected **rooftop solar plants** that will supply green and clean energy to the charging stations.

#### Govt forms Committee for doubling the production of handlooms

- In a **major boost to the employment-generating textiles sector**, the government constituted an **eight-member committee** to double the production and quadruple the exports of handlooms in three years.
- The **textiles ministry** setup the committee **under Sunil Sethi, Chairman**, Fashion Design Council of India and stated the panel will submit final report **within 45 days**.
- Textiles minister Piyush Goyal has set a target to raise handloom production **from present Rs.60,000 crore to Rs.12,5000 crore** and **increase** handloom exports **from Rs.2500 crore to Rs.10,000 crore** in three years' time.

#### About the committee:

- The **committee will suggest** strategy and policy framework for doubling the production and for improving the quality of handloom products **with the aim of** enhancing income of the weavers and recommend ways for partnering and collaboration of **handloom weaver's agencies with** the designers, buying houses and institutions, organizations and exporters.
- **It will also suggest** measures for **quadrupling exports of handloom products**, recommend ways and means for improving the marketing of handloom products in domestic market, and suggesting measures for improving the input supplies such as raw materials, credit, technology upgrading, skilling, designs etc.
- "The Committee shall be **paid TA/DA** for need based travel in the country.
- The Committee shall **submit** its preliminary recommendations within 30 days and final report within 45 days from the day of constitution the Committee."

#### National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Palm

- The **Union Cabinet** has approved **implementation of the National Mission on Edible Oils - Oil Palm**.
- The Mission **aims** to increase the area **under cultivation for Oil Palm** by an additional **area of 6.5 lakh hectare (ha.)** thereby reaching the **target of 10 lakh hectares in the next 5 years**.
- India is the largest edible oil importer in the world and **imports 133.50 lakh tonnes costing 80 thousand crores**.
- Identifying the NE region as a special focus area, it **aims to reduce import dependency** of palm oil benefitting the oil palm farmers & create employment generation.

#### About Edible Oils:

- **Cooking oil is** plant, animal, or synthetic fat used in frying, baking, and other types of cooking.
- It is also used in food preparation and flavoring not involving heat, such as salad dressings and bread dippings like bread dips, and **may be called edible oil**.

### Rajnath Singh flags off Army's fleet of five trauma care ambulances

- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** flagged off from his residence here a **fleet of five trauma care ambulances** donated to the Army by a non-profit group for deployment in **Jammu and Kashmir**.
- The ambulances have been **donated by Borderless World Foundation** to the Chinari Corps, the Army's strategic unit that guards the **Line of Control (LoC)** in Kashmir.

#### About the ambulance:

- "The ambulances will be **stationed in five sectors** located along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir and will be managed by the Indian Army."
- They will be deployed at **different locations** in Gurez, Machil, Keran, Tangdhar and Uri sectors in Kupwara and Baramulla districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

### Finance Minister to launch National Monetisation Pipeline

- Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** will launch the **National Monetization Pipeline (NMP)** in New Delhi.
- It comprises a four-year pipeline of the **Central Government's Brownfield infrastructure assets**.
- Besides providing visibility to investors, NMP will also serve as a medium-term road map for the asset monetization **initiative** of the government.
- Union Budget 2021-22 laid a lot of emphasis on asset monetization as a means to raise innovative and alternative financing for infrastructure and included a number of key announcements.
- "Monetizing operating public infrastructure assets is a very important financing option for new infrastructure construction."

#### About NMP:

- A **National Monetization Pipeline** of potential Brownfield infrastructure assets will be launched".
- The government has also developed an asset monetization dashboard for monitoring real-time progress of NMP.
- of government departments and ministries. keen on taking over assets The portal has been prepared as the government tries to provide a one-stop shop to investors
- Policy think tank **NITI Aayog** has **finalized** the NMP of potential brownfield infrastructure assets that has been created for a four-year period from financial year **2021-22 to 2024-25**.

### Ministry of Panchayati Raj organize National Webinar on 'Zero Hunger by 2030'

- The **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** is organizing a National Webinar, '**Localization of Sustainable Development Goals and Role of Panchayats – Goal No. 2 – Zero Hunger**' on 23.08.2021.
- The **Webinar** will be **inaugurated by** the Minister of Panchayati Raj, Shri Giriraj Singh and will be graced by the Minister of State for Panchayati Raj, Shri Kapil Moreshwar Patil.
- The day-long Webinar is expected to sensitize the leaders at the grassroots level on India's position in fighting hunger as also they **get information on various schemes**, programmes, initiatives, steps, innovative measures etc. taken by Central and State Governments in the attainment of zero hunger which will help in building their capacity

and enabling them to take actions at the local level for ensuring **hunger-free Panchayat and thereby hunger-free India by 2030**.

#### About the Webinar:

- **Webinar will have four technical sessions** to discuss and deliberate critical issues/subjects like sufficiency of food production & food security, sustainable agricultural production, public distribution, minimization of food production and processing loss, nutritional security and leveraging of technological solutions having bearing on the attainment of **Zero Hunger by 2030** besides the discussions on World vis-à-vis India's position on fighting hunger.

#### FM Nirmala Sitharaman introduces 'Ubharte Sitaare Fund' for export-oriented firms & start-ups

- Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** launched an ambitious '**Ubharte Sitaare Fund**' -USF for export-oriented firms and startups in a program at Lucknow.
- The **Fund aims** at arranging funds for promotion of micro, small and medium companies.
- The **fund** has been **set up by Exim Bank and SIDBI**.
- In her Budget speech last year, Sitharaman had mentioned that MSMEs are vital to keep the wheels of economy moving.
- They also create jobs, innovate and are risk takers.

#### About the scheme:

- This **scheme** will be **successful in Uttar Pradesh** as the state has **highest number of MSMEs**.
- During the last two years union government has **taken several important steps** and the results are showing up now as the country is establishing its place in the world.
- Every district of Uttar Pradesh will **benefit under Ubharte Sitaare Fund**.
- She also appreciated the **one district one product scheme of Uttar Pradesh**.

#### MyGov and UN Women jointly launch Amrit Mahotsav Shri Shakti Challenge 2021 on Women's Safety and Empowerment

- Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, the 75th year of Independence of India, **MyGov under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India** and UN Women have come together to jointly launch the **Amrit Mahotsav Shri Shakti Innovation Challenge 2021** to encourage technology solutions developed by Women Entrepreneurs that facilitate Women's Safety and Empowerment.

#### About the challenge:

- The **aim** is Nari Sashaktikaran that is to empower women to help them achieve their full potential.
- **MyGov is the citizen-centric platform** of the Government of India that empowers people to connect with the Government and contribute towards good governance.
- It is a **unique path-breaking initiative** which was launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji in 2014.
- Government of India under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister is committed to empowering women, and has taken various transformative steps in this direction.

- These include the **MUDRA scheme** for giving interest free loans to the poor, Ujjwala scheme whereby women were given free gas connections to free them from the drudgery of smoke-filled cooking, **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao** to educate the girl child, as well as abolition of triple talaq to give dignity to women.

#### **NITI Aayog and WRI Jointly Launch 'Forum for Decarbonising Transport' in India**

- **NITI Aayog and World Resources Institute (WRI)**, India, jointly launched the '**Forum for Decarburizing Transport**' in India as part of the **NDC-Transport Initiative for Asia (NDC-TIA)** project on 23August.
- The launch was held virtually and inaugurated by **NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant**.

#### **About the project:**

- The **project aims** at bringing down the **peak level of GHG emissions** (transport sector) in Asia (in line with a well below 2-degree pathway), resulting in problems like congestion and air pollution.
- India has a massive and diverse transport sector, which is also the **third most CO2 emitting sector**.
- Data from (IEA, 2020; Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, 2018) suggests that within the transport sector, road transport contributes to more than 90% of the total CO2 emissions.
- **Through various policy measures and initiatives**, the Government of India is continuously working towards the decarbonisation of road transport, with a major focus on the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) in the country.
- NITI Aayog has been at the helm of the **promotion of EVs** and sustainable mobility through the **National Mission on Transformative Mobility and Battery Storage**.

#### **India's Evacuation Mission named as 'Operation Devi Shakti' to carrying out people from Afghanistan**

- **Thousands of Afghans** have been crowding **around the Kabul airport** for nearly a week in a desperate attempt to flee the country fearing the Taliban's brutality.
- India is carrying out the evacuation missions in coordination with the **US and several other countries**.
- India gave **a name to its operation** to evacuate its citizens from war-torn Afghanistan.
- External affairs minister S Jaishankar called it '**Operation Devi Shakti**' and saluted the efforts of Indian Air Force and Air India.

#### **Ministry of Education launches the booklet on One-year New Education Policy (NEP)**

- **Union Education and Skill Development Minister, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan** and **Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Shri Virendra Kumar** jointly launched the **booklet on One-year New Education Policy (NEP) - 2020 Achievement** along **with some major initiatives** of the New Education Policy- 2020 **such as**
  1. NIPUN Bharat FLN tools and resources on DIKSHA;
  2. Virtual School of NIOS; Alternate Academic Calendar of NCERT; and
  3. Release of 'Priya'- accessibility booklet developed by the NCERT and Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.
- **Another important initiative** launched was **"Priya -The Accessibility Warrior"**, which is the outcome of collaborative efforts of Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Department of School Education and Literacy.

#### About the Initiative:

- It provides glimpses into the **world of a girl named Priya** who met an accident and could not walk, due to plastered leg.
- The story depicts how **Priya managed to participate in all activities at school**, and in the process learnt the importance of the accessibility.
- She, therefore takes the pledge of being an accessibility warrior.
- The **comic book is also available** with **Indian Sign Language (ISL)** explanatory videos.

#### Ministry of Jal Shakti introduces 'SUJALAM' Campaign

- The **Jal Shakti Ministry** started a **100-day campaign — Sujalam** — as part of the '**Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav**' (August 25) to create more ODF plus villages by undertaking wastewater management at the village level.
- The effort of the campaign would be directed towards achieving the **Open Defecation Free (ODF)** plus status for villages across the country in an accelerated manner in a short time.

#### About the Campaign:

- "The **campaign** has started from **August 25 2021**, and will continue to **run for the next 100 days**".
- The **aim of the 100-day campaign** is to create more and more ODF plus villages by undertaking wastewater management at the village level particularly through the creation of one million soak-pits and also other greywater management activities.
- The campaign will not only build the **desired infrastructure like soak pits for the management of grey water in villages** but will also aid in the sustainable management of water bodies.
- The **disposal of wastewater** and **clogging of water bodies in the villages** or on the outskirts of the villages remain one of the major problems.
- The **campaign would help** in the management of the wastewater and in turn, would help to revive the water bodies.

#### Ministry of Electronics & IT initiates SAMRIDH programme

- Work towards making **India's Startups and the Startup Ecosystem** the best in the whole world.
- This vision of Prime Minister was also emphasised by Electronics and Information Technology Minister **Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw** stated, "Government will support startups and entrepreneurs in the most challenging phase which is the **initial risk phase** and also stated to serve 1.3 billion people India will scale up the network of incubators and accelerators to phenomenal levels."
- "**Start-up Accelerators of MeitY for product Innovation, Development and growth (SAMRIDH)**" programme, which was launched by Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology so as to **create a conducive platform to Indian Software Product star-ups** to enhance their products and securing investments for scaling their business.

#### About the programme:

- The programme is being implemented by **MeitY Start-up Hub (MSH)**.
- The **initiative** will not only provide the funding support to the startups but will also help in bringing skill sets together which will help them to become successful.

- Reiterating the vision of technology and **energy of youngsters** is a great potential source of energy for inclusive development.

#### Govt replaces UAS Rules with the liberalised Drone Rules, 2021

- In March 2021, the **Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA)** published the **UAS Rules, 2021**.
- They were **perceived by academia**, Startups, end-users and other stakeholders as being restrictive in nature as they involved considerable paperwork, required permissions for every drone flight and very few “free to fly” green zones were available.
- **Based on the feedback**, the Government has decided to repeal the UAS Rules, 2021 and replace the same with the **liberalised Drone Rules, 2021**.
- **Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)**, commonly known as drones, offer tremendous benefits to almost all sectors of the economy like – agriculture, mining, infrastructure, surveillance, emergency response, transportation, geo-spatial mapping, defence, and law enforcement etc.
- **Drones can be significant creators of employment and economic growth** due to their reach, versatility, and ease of use, especially in India’s remote and inaccessible areas.
- In view of its traditional strengths in innovation, information technology, frugal engineering and huge domestic demand, India has the potential **to be global drone hub by 2030**.

#### Government grants to increase of Bank Employees Family Pension to 30% of last salary drawn

- The **Central Government** has approved to increase the **family pension of bank employees to 30 per cent of last salary drawn**.
- This move would make family pension go up to **as much as 30,000 rupees to 35,000 rupees per family of bank employees**.
- This proposal was given by the **Indian Banks’ Association’s proposal** in order to provide relief to families of Bank Employess.
- This was announced by the **Secretary, Department of Financial Services, and Ministry of Finance**.
- **Secretary Debashish Panda** informed that in continuation of the **11th bi-partite settlement** on wage revision of public sector bank employees, which was signed by the IBA with the unions on **11th November last year**, there was a proposal for enhancement of family pension and also the employers’ contribution under the National Pension Scheme.

#### NITI Aayog and Cisco launches Women Entrepreneurship Platform - “WEP Nxt”

- The **Niti Aayog** and the **US-based tech giant Cisco** launched the **next phase of the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)**.
- Titled ‘**WEP Nxt**’, this **next phase of Niti Aayog’s flagship platform** will leverage Cisco’s technology and experience working with **India’s start-up ecosystem** to enable more **women-owned businesses** across the country.
- The **WEP is a first of its kind**, unified access portal that brings together women from different parts of India to realise their entrepreneurial aspirations.

#### **BPR&D and AICTE jointly launches MANTHAN 2021**

- Ministry of Education's innovation cell, **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)** and **Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D)** has jointly launched the **MANTHAN 2021 hackathon**, a unique national initiative to identify innovative concepts and technology solutions for addressing the security challenges of the 21st century faced by the intelligence agencies.
- MANTHAN 2021 will have **two phases**.
- In the **first phase**, participants would submit their concepts against the problem statements which they wish to solve on the portal.
- These **submitted ideas** will be evaluated by group of experts in the field and only the innovative ideas will be selected for the Grand Finale or 2nd round scheduled from 28 November 2021.
- **During the grand finale**, selected participants are expected to build the solution to demonstrate their concepts and prove to the juries that their ideas are technically feasible and more importantly implementable.
- **Best ideas** will be declared winners.

#### **India elected to CA and POC of 27th Universal Postal Union Congress in Abidjan**

- India has been elected to the **Council of Administration (CA)** at **27th Universal Postal Union (UPU)** Congress in Abidjan.
- **India with 134 votes got highest votes in CA elections** from South Asia and Oceania region.
- India was also elected with **106 votes out of 156 countries** to the **Postal Operations Council (POC)** at the 27th UPU Congress in Abidjan.
- External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar has stated India's election to the Council of Administration and the Postal Operations Council of Universal Postal Union is noteworthy.
- They will work with all to strengthen cooperation in the Universal Postal Union.

#### **Ministry of Textiles in partnership with NIFT to launches the project 'INDIAsize'**

- **The Ministry of Textiles along with NIFT**, Delhi and **DesignSmith**, launched the **India Size project at Select City Mall, Saket**.
- India Size is the **National Sizing Survey of India**.
- It is a pan India study over a stratified **sample of more than 25,000 people** that will be used to determine the apparel sizes according to **Indian body types**.
- It will **standardise** the apparel sizes for the **Indian fashion market**.

#### **Purpose of the Project:**

- India has **no size chart**.
- The clothes come in the **'UK' and 'US' sizes**.
- This often leads to the ill-fitting of clothes."
- **14 countries across the globe** have their **own size charts**.
- UK and US sizes are most widely used by clothing companies.



- “The survey is being conducted at **6 cities** across India, Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai, Kolkata and Shillong.
- Due to **geographical diversity**, we need data from across the country”.

#### Election Commission organizes 2-day Consultation Workshop - SVEEP

- The **Election Commission's** two-day **Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation SVEEP** Consultation Workshop ended.
- The **agenda of the workshop** was to review State SVEEP Plans and conduct extensive deliberations on the important aspects of SVEEP for a comprehensive strategy for the forthcoming elections.
- The **Commission also launched** the latest issue of the '**My Vote Matters**'- a Quarterly magazine of the Commission, a document on Online Activities for Electoral Literacy Clubs and a **song booklet** with a compilation of lyrics of motivational SVEEP songs.

#### About the Workshop:

- **Each voter interacts with the election machinery** at two critical stages namely **during enrollment and poll day and the two experiences** must be very pleasant ones.
- The field teams should ensure that the **enrolment process is seamless and polling experience remains hassle-free for the voters**.
- It is imperative that we evaluate our strategy and current interventions at regular intervals, identify critical gaps and address the challenges to devise deliverable action points.
- He emphasised that implementation of the strategy at the ground level is important.
- On the need for a **360-degree SVEEP** – Communication Strategy to ensure that voters have access to all election-related information and our SVEEP strategy must be voter-centric and booth centric.

#### President inaugurates 65-day long Ramayana conclave in Ayodhya

- **President of India Ram Nath Kovind** stated that the values of **Indian tradition and culture** are contained in holy Ramayana and **the human values implied in Ramayana** will always be relevant for the world.
- He stated that Rama belongs to everyone and he is in everyone.
- He was noted at the inauguration of **Ramayana Conclave in Ayodhya**.
- **Ramayana** not just tells about the ways to economic prosperity but also the ways to lead the humanity.
- It also tells how humans should behave with others and tells the relationship between Rulers and the common people also.
- Ayodhya and Ramayana provide cultural power to our relationship with other countries.
- President mentioned that there is no Ayodhya without Rama that is why this place is called Ayodhya because Ayodhya means with whom no one can fight.
- President stated that in this Covid era, our ancient prayer has become relevant which says that all become prosperous and disease free.

### Army Sports Institute, Pune named as "Neeraj Chopra Stadium"

- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** visited the **Army Sports Institute (ASI)**, Pune and renamed the Army Sports Institute stadium as "**Neeraj Chopra Stadium**" to honour Neeraj Chopra for winning the gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics.
- It was accompanied by Chief of Army Staff, **General Manoj Mukund Naravane** and Southern Army Commander, **Lieutenant General JS Nain**.
- The Indian Army's "Mission Olympics" programme was launched in 2001 with an intent to deliver medal-winning performances in the Olympics and other international events.

### Govt launches "Bharat series (BH-series)" registration mark to facilitate seamless transfer of vehicles

- Government has taken a **host of citizen centric steps to facilitate mobility**.
- An **IT based solution for vehicle registration** is one such effort.
- However, **one of the pain points** in the vehicle registration process that needed attention was re-registration of a vehicle while moving to another state.
- Station relocation occurs with both Government and private sector employees.
- Such movements create a sense of unease in the minds of such employees with regard to transfer of registration from the parent state to another state as, **under section 47 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988**, a person is allowed to keep the vehicle for **not more than 12 months in any state** other than the state where the vehicle is registered, but a new registration with the **new state- registering authority has to be made within the stipulated time of 12 months**.
- A passenger vehicle user takes the following steps to **re-register a vehicle**:
  - (i) No Objection Certificate from the Parent State for assignment of a new registration mark in another state.
  - (ii) Assignment of new registration mark after the road tax on prorata basis is paid in the new State
  - (ii) Application for refund of the road tax in the parent State on pro rata basis.
- This provision to **get refund from the parent State** on pro rata basis is a very cumbersome process and varies from one State to another.

### Govt grants NBF-PNBSA as self-regulatory body for news media

- The **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** has officially recognised the **News Broadcasters Federation's (NBF) self-regulatory body**.
- NBF stated that the **granting of official status by the MIB** to the NBF makes the body the only institution of its kind in the entire country to get the accreditation from the government of India.
- "The **NBF's self-regulatory body's emergence** as the sole body to meet all criteria to be granted validation by the Union of India and be the only recognised body regulating the news media sector as on-date once again reiterates the commitment of the **largest news broadcasters body** to the fundamentals of transparency, accountability and strong self-regulation".
- With the NBF's **Professional News Broadcasters Standards Authority ("PNBSA")** being recognised by the government of India, the body is **set to build a robust system** with the highest standards of transparency and accountability, and one that has set an unmatched precedent in the domain of news media vis-a-vis self-regulation.

- **PNBSA** is the **only body in the country** that has successfully demonstrated compliance with national standards in the domain of news media.
- As the only accredited **self-regulatory body for news media**, the PNBSA has undergone rigorous scrutiny.
- "The **NBF has already established** itself as a pillar for news media organisations who have chosen to be members of the body and made it the largest-ever group of news broadcasters in India".

#### Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) completes seven years of successful implementation

- The **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)** completed **seven years** and the **Union Ministry of Finance** stated that over **430 million accounts** have been opened under the scheme as on August 18, 2021.
- The scheme has been acclaimed as "**one of the biggest financial inclusion initiatives in the world**".
- Bank accounts under PMJDY have increased to 43 Crore with total deposits over Rs. 1.46 lakh crore is no doubt, a great landmark in **Government Flagship Programme**.
- Out of the 43.04 Crore PMJDY accounts, 36.86 Crore or 85.6 per cent are operative.
- The total RuPay cards issued to PMJDY account holders rose to 31.23 Crore is another milestone in the PMJDY.

#### About PMJDY:

- **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana** is a financial inclusion program of the **Government of India open to Indian citizens** that **aims to** expand affordable access to financial services such as bank accounts, remittances, credit, insurance and pensions.

#### Union Minister Anurag Thakur launches e-Photo Exhibition "Making of the Constitution" and Virtual Film Poster Exhibition "Chitranjali@75"

- Union minister of information and broadcasting, and youth affairs and sports, **Anurag Thakur** along with Union minister of tourism **G Kishan Reddy** inaugurated the **e-Photo exhibition** namely 'Making of the Constitution' and **Virtual Film Poster Exhibition 'Chitranjali@75'**.
- The programme was organised as **part of the 'Iconic Week'** being celebrated by the Ministry of I&B along with various media units to celebrate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, **aimed at showcasing** the journey of New India and celebrate the contribution of freedom fighters including the '**Unsung Heroes**' of the freedom struggle through massive outreach activities.

#### PM Modi dedicates renovated complex of Jallianwala Bagh Smarak to the nation

- As the **Jallianwala Bagh massacre** marked **102 years**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi **dedicated** a renovated complex of Jallianwala Bagh Smarak **to the nation** through video conferencing.
- Besides this, the Prime Minister also inaugurated museum galleries developed at the Smarak.
- This virtual event was also attended by Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh.
- The Jallianwala Bagh massacre, **also known as the Amritsar massacre**, took place on April 13, 1919.
- A large but peaceful crowd had gathered at the Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar, Punjab, to protest against the arrest of pro-Indian independence leaders Dr Saifuddin Kitchlu and Dr Satya Pal.

#### About Jallianwala Bagh:

- **Jallianwala Bagh** is a historic garden and '**memorial of national importance**' in Amritsar, India, preserved in the memory of those wounded and killed in the **Jallianwala Bagh Massacre** that occurred on the site on the festival of Baisakhi, 13 April 1919.
- It houses a museum, gallery and a number of memorial structures.

#### PFRDA enhances the entry age in National Pension System (NPS) to 70 years

- Making the **National Pension System (NPS)** more attractive for subscribers joining it **after 65 years of age**, the **PFRDA has permitted** them to allocate up to 50 per cent of the funds in equity, besides easing the exit norms.
- The **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** has revised the guidelines on entry and exit following an increase in the maximum age for joining the NPS from 65 year to 70 years of age.
- The **entry age** for NPS has been revised to **18-70 years from 18-65 years**.
- **Any Indian citizen and Overseas Citizen of India (OCI)** in the age group of 65-70 years can also join NPS and continue up to the age of 75 years, according to a PFRDA circular on the revised guidelines.
- It added that those subscribers who have closed their NPS accounts have also been permitted to open a new account as per increased age eligibility norms.
- The maximum equity exposure, however, will be only 15 per cent if subscribers joining NPS beyond the age of 65 years decide to invest under the default '**Auto Choice**'.

#### About National Pension System:

- **National Pension System Trust** is a specialised division of **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority** which is under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Finance of the Government of India.
- The National Pension System is a voluntary defined contribution pension system in India.

#### Benefits of NPS:

- **It is voluntary** - A Subscriber can contribute at any point of time in a Financial Year and also change the amount he wants to set aside and save every year.
- **It is simple** - Subscriber is required to open an account with any one of the POPs (Point of Presence) or through eNPS (<https://enps.nsdl.com/eNPS/>).
- **It is flexible** - Subscribers can choose their own investment options and pension fund and see their money grow.
- **It is portable** - Subscribers can operate their account from anywhere, even if they change the city and/or employment.
- **It is regulated** - NPS is regulated by PFRDA, with transparent investment norms and regular monitoring and performance review of fund managers by NPS Trust.

#### VP M Venkaiah Naidu to initiate digital quiz contest 'Amrit Mahotsav With Khadi'

- Vice President **M Venkaiah Naidu** will launch **digital quiz contest** called **Amrit Mahotsav With Khadi** in New Delhi.
- The Quiz has been designed by Khadi and Village Industries Commission to celebrate Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- The Quiz Contest seeks **to connect the public with the Indian Freedom Struggle**, the sacrifices of freedom fighters and the legacy of Khadi since the Pre-Independence era.
- The Quiz contest will **run for 15 days, with 5 questions** to be placed across all **digital platforms of KVIC** every day.

- To participate in the quiz, one needs **to visit the website** [www.kviconline.gov.in](http://www.kviconline.gov.in).
- The participants will be required to answer all five questions within 100 seconds.
- The quiz will **start at 11 AM every day** and will be **accessible for the next 12 hours**.

#### Revision Points

Portfolio	Union Minister	Constituency
Ministry of personnel, public grievances and pensions	Narendra Modi	Varanasi
Ministry of Defence	Rajnath Singh	Lucknow
Ministry of Home Affairs Ministry of Cooperation	Amit Shah	Gandhinagar
Ministry of Road Transport and Highways	Nitin Gadkari	Nagpur
Ministry of Chemical and Fertilizers Ministry of Health and Family Welfare	Mansukh L. Mandaviya	Palitana
Ministry of Finance & Ministry of Corporate Affairs	Nirmala Sitharaman	Andhra Pradesh
Ministry of Consumer affairs, food and public distribution Ministry of Commerce and Industry Ministry of Textiles	Piyush Goyal (Additional charge)	Maharashtra
Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers welfare	Narendra Singh Tomar	Morena (Madhya Pradesh)
Ministry of Law and Justice	Kiren Rijju	Arunachal West
Ministry of Railways Ministry of communications & Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology	Ashwini Vaishnaw	Odisha
Ministry of Food Processing Industries	Pashu Pati Kumar Paras	Hajipur(Bihar)
Ministry of Social justice and empowerment	Dr. Virendra Kumar	Tikamgarh (Madhya Pradesh ).
Ministry of External Affairs	Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar	RS (Gujarat)
Ministry of Education Ministry of Skill Development and	Dharmendra Pradhan	Haridwar

Entrepreneurship		
Ministry of Tribal Affairs	Arjun Munda	Khunti
Ministry of Women and child Development	Smriti Zubin Irani	Amethi
,Ministry of Science and Technology & Ministry of Earth Sciences	Dr. Jitendra Singh	Udhampur, J&K
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change Ministry of Labour and Employment	Bhupender Yadav	Rajasthan
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports	Anurag Singh Thakur	Hamirpur (Himachal Pradesh)
Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs	Hardeep Singh Puri	Uttar Pradesh
Ministry of Minority Affairs	Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi	Uttar Pradesh
Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Ministry of coal & Ministry of Mines	Prahlad Joshi	Dharwad
Ministry of Culture Ministry of Tourism Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region	G. Kishan Reddy	Secunderabad (Telangana)
Ministry of Animal Husbandry, dairying and fisheries	Parshottam Rupala	Amreli ( Gujarat)
Ministry of Jal Shakti	Gajendra Singh Shekhawat	Jodhpur
Ministry of Heavy Industries	Mahendra Nath Pandey	Chandauli
Ministry of Civil Aviation	Jyotiraditya M. Scindia	Gwalior East (Madhya Pradesh)
Ministry of Steel	Ramchandra Prasad Singh	Bihar
Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)	Sarbananda Sonowal	Majuli

Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises	Narayan Tatu Rane	Kankavli (Maharashtra)
Ministry of Rural Development Ministry of Panchayati Raj	Giriraj Singh	Begusarai

## Important International News

### Peru: Guido Bellido named as new Prime Minister of the country

- **New Peruvian President Pedro Castillo** named a member of his Marxist-Leninist Free Peru Party as **prime minister**.
- Castillo chose Guido Bellido, who hails from the Andean region of Cuzco, to fill the role.
- The **new prime minister holds masters in economics and previously worked for Peru's public statistics agency**.
- The 41-year-old is also an elected congressman.
- Bellido took the oath of office in the south-central city of Ayacucho and spoke in the indigenous Quechua language during the inauguration ceremony.

### Peru commemorates 200th anniversary of its independence on July 28

- On **July 28, Peru will commemorate 200 years of independence** from the erstwhile Spanish Empire.
- This is a momentous occasion in the country's history and Carlos Rafael Polo, Ambassador of Peru to India takes this opportunity to extend his heartfelt and warm greetings to the Government, and the people of this cosmopolitan city of Mumbai; as well as to his fellow Peruvians living in this beautiful city.
- **Peru and India are two nations with a glorious past**, and a forward-looking future, which continue to share cordial and ever-closer ties with each other.
- The **two countries enjoy excellent people-to-people relations, trade ties** that have soared in the past decade, and an active diplomatic connection, both bilaterally and multilaterally.

### First Goods Train on Haldibari-Chilahati rail link leaving for Bangladesh

- The **first goods train carrying stone chips to Bangladesh through the revived Haldibari -Chilahati rail link** will leave from Damdim station of Alipurduar Division in Northeast Frontier Railway, 31 July.
- The train is **expected to reach Bangladesh on 1st August**.
- Haldibari - Chilahati route will **provide a shorter route** for transit of goods into Bangladesh from Assam, West Bengal, Nepal and Bhutan.
- This **rail link will enhance rail network** accessibility to the main ports, dry ports and land borders to support the growth in regional trade and to encourage economic and social development of the region.
- Economic activities of these South Asian countries will also be benefitted from this new rail link.
- The **Haldibari – Chilahati rail link** between India and the then East Pakistan was operational till 1965.
- This was part of the **Broad Gauge main route** from Kolkata to Siliguri during partition.



#### India, China establish hotline in north Sikkim, other operational hotlines are at Chushul and Daulat Beg Oldi in Ladakh

- A hotline was established between Indian Army at Kongra La in North Sikkim and the People's Liberation Army of China at Khamba Dzong in Tibetan Autonomous Region.
- This will further the spirit of trust and cordial relations along the borders.
- **The event coincided with the PLA Day.**
- The Armed forces of the two countries have well established mechanisms for communication at ground commander's level.
- **These hotlines in various sectors will go a long way in enhancing the same and maintaining peace and calmness at the borders.**
- The inauguration was attended by ground commanders of the respective Armies.
- A message of friendship and harmony was also exchanged through the Hotline.

#### Ismail Haniyeh re-elected as leader of Palestinian Islamist group Hamas which rules the Gaza Strip

- Hamas leader **Ismail Haniyeh** has been **re-elected unopposed**
- It will Strengthen his grip over the **Palestinian Islamist group** that controls the **Gaza Strip** after recent clashes with Israel.
- The contest included no known opponent to Haniyeh.
- Considered a **pragmatist**, Haniyeh has been head of Hamas' political bureau since 2017
- He was **recently involved in talks** aimed at bolstering the **Cairo-brokered ceasefire that ended the latest deadly violence between the Jewish state and Hamas.**
- The 11-day conflict in May killed 13 Israelis and 260 Palestinians, including some fighters.
- Hamas won the last legislative elections in Gaza, an impoverished Palestinian enclave of nearly two million, in 2006, delivering a surprise defeat to opponent Fatah.
- A virtual civil war the following year led to the division of Palestine, with Fatah dominating the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank and Hamas ruling the Gaza Strip.
- Due to repeated attacks Israel has blockaded Gaza, while Hamas has been internationally shunned and declared a terrorist group by the European Union and the United States.

#### India, China to hold 12th round of Military-level talks

- To end a 14 months long standoff near LAC, India and china hold another level of high-level military talks on the sidelines of Shanghai Cooperation organisation conference in the Tajik capital Dushanbe on July 14
- India hopes for a positive outcome in this meeting that is being held regarding disengagement in Gogra and Hot Springs.
- This round of dialogue is taking place after an interval of more than three and a half months.
- In this Bilateral meeting foreign Minister Mr. Jaishankar told him that the status quo along LAC is not accepted by India and that comprehensive relations can only develop after the full restoration of peace and tranquility in eastern Ladakh.

- During the latest round of military talks, the two sides discussed ways to proceed with the liberation of Gogra, Hot Springs and Depsang with the broader aim of reducing tensions in the region.

#### Myanmar: Military ruler Gen. Min Aung Hlaing becomes PM in newly formed caretaker govt.

- The State Administration Council of Myanmar has been reformed as **'Caretaker government of Myanmar'** headed by **the Chief of the Myanmar military** Senior General Min Aung Hlaing as the Prime Minister.
- Gen. Hlaing also pledged to hold elections by 2023.
- He said that his administration was ready to work with a future regional envoy appointed by the ASEAN on Myanmar
- The Meeting of ASEAN Foreign Ministers is scheduled to take place between August 2-7 virtually to finalise a special envoy to Myanmar to initiate dialogue between the military government and its opponents.
- Earlier, in April ASEAN had called for immediate cessation of violence and a visit to Myanmar by a regional special envoy.

Myanmar has witnessed regular protests since February against the military government.

- As per Human rights watchdog Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP), 940 people have been killed and 6994 people arrested in protests against the military government as of now.
- **Addl.Info:**
- General Hlaing took over power in Myanmar in February after removing the government headed by the State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi on February 1, a day before the newly elected parliament was set to meet.
- Since then, the State Administration Council has been performing the duties of the government in Myanmar.

#### US imposes Sanctions on Cuban Police Force and Leaders

- **The US administration has imposed sanctions on Cuba's police force and two of its leaders following recent protests on the island against the communist government.**
- **These sanctions were the reactions to actions to suppress peaceful, pro-democratic protests in Cuba that began on July 11.**
- **Thousands of Cubans took to the streets in the largest demonstrations against the Cuban government in decades.**
- The demonstrators were protesting shortages of basic goods, power outages, restrictions on civil liberties and the government's handling of the coronavirus pandemic.

#### Nikol Pashinyan Re-appointed as Armenia PM

- **Nikol Pashinyan** has been re-appointed as **Armenia's Prime Minister** by President Armen Sarkissian.
- Pashinyan's appointment **came after he was re-nominated by the Civil Contract party**, which won a majority of the seats in the June 21 parliamentary elections, reports Xinhua news agency.
- Pashinyan was **first appointed as the prime minister in 2018.**
- He announced he would resign in April to pave the way for the scheduled snap parliamentary elections as well as to solve the tensions between himself, the Armenian Army's General Staff Onik Gasparian and the opposition parties.

### New hotline set up in Sikkim between Indian Army, China's PLA

- A **hotline** was **established between the Indian Army in Kongra La, North Sikkim, and China's People's Liberation Army (PLA)** at Khamba Dzong in the Tibetan Autonomous Region to further the spirit of trust and cordiality between the two forces along the Indo-China border.
- The event, which coincided with **2021's PLA Day on August 1**, happened a day after the 12th round of Corps Commander-level talks between India and China which took place to resolve the 14-month-long Ladakh standoff.
- "The **armed forces of the two countries** have well-established mechanisms for communication at ground commanders' level.

#### About the hotline:

- These **hotlines in various sectors** go a long way in enhancing the same and maintaining peace and tranquility at the borders".
- The inauguration of the **new hotline was attended by ground commanders** of the respective Armies and a message of friendship and harmony was exchanged through the line.

### Ebrahim Raisi takes charge as President of Iran

- Raisi stated he had a comprehensive plan to save the **Islamic Republic** from its **severe economic crisis** as well as the spiking health crisis caused by coronavirus.
- **Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei** endorsed Raisi, his protege, as the next president of Iran.
- Khamenei tried to downplay the low voter turnout, bragging about Iran having a more successful and peaceful transfer of power than other countries.
- **He accused foreign enemies of conspiring to keep the voters away** from the polling booths but tried to save face by saying that the turnout was nevertheless good enough, considering the difficult circumstances, such as the corona virus crisis.
- He also completely ignored the fact that the **majority of eligible voters** boycotted the election because Khamenei's own Guardian Council disqualified all of Raisi's serious challengers.

### Germany - 5<sup>th</sup> Country to sign ISA Framework Agreement

- **Germany became the 5th country** to sign the International **Solar Alliance Framework Agreement** after amendments to it entered into force on 8th January this year, opening its Membership to all Member States of the United Nations.
- **Ambassador of Germany to India Walter J. Lindner** deposited signed copies of the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement with the Ministry of External Affairs, the depositary of the Agreement.
- Signed copies of the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement were handed over to the Additional Secretary (Economic Relations) in the Ministry of External Affairs.

### China unveils new terminal at Lhasa Airport in Tibet

- **China has opened a newly constructed terminal** - stated to be the **biggest in Tibet** - at the provincial capital Lhasa, further expanding the transport infrastructure in the strategic Himalayan region and helping it emerge as a global logistics hub for South Asia.

- **Lhasa Gonggar Airport** opened its **newly constructed Terminal 3** for operations, marking a significant milestone in the remote region's rapid infrastructure development that could **significantly boost passenger and cargo transport**.
- The **airport expansion project** was carried out at a **cost of USD 603 million**, adding that the move would help the region become a global logistics hub for South Asia.
- **Tibet has five airports** including at Nyingchi, Shigatse and Ngari located close to the Indian and Nepal borders.

#### India nods foreign nationals to get Covid-19 vaccine through CoWIN

- **India started the Covid-19 vaccination drive** on January 16, 2021; in the **first phase**, all healthcare workers were eligible to take the shot that was later extended to frontline workers on February 2.
- Gradually, the facility was extended to **citizens above 60 and those above 45 years who suffered from 20-specified co-morbidities**.
- **Foreign nationals residing in India** are now eligible to receive Covid-19 vaccination in India.
- "In a landmark initiative to ensure safety from Covid-19, the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** has taken a decision to allow foreign nationals residing in India to get registered on **CoWin portal** to take the Covid-19 vaccine.
- They can use their passport as identity document for the **purpose of registration on CoWin portal**.
- Once they are registered on this portal, they will get a slot for vaccination".

#### UNICEF India and Facebook collaborate to make a safer online world for children

- Facebook stated it was launching a **one-year joint initiative with UNICEF India** on ending violence against children with a special focus on online safety.
- The company informed the **partnership seeks to create a safe environment for children online as well as offline**, and that it aims to improve the '**resilience**' and '**capacity**' of children to access the digital world safely, increase awareness on violence against children and its impact on children, families, and communities, as well as increase skills of communities and frontline workers to better prevent and respond to violence.
- The **partnership** will include a **nation-wide social media awareness campaign** and capacity building for 100,000 school children on online safety, digital literacy, and psychosocial support.

#### IPCC publishes report titled 'Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis'

- On Aug 09, 2021, The **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change** released the **Working Group I contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report** titled "**Climate Change 2021: the Physical Science Basis**".
- In that report Indian **Ocean was warming** at a rate higher than other oceans.

#### About the Report :

- The report provides the latest assessment of scientific knowledge about the warming of the planet and projections for future warming, and assesses its impacts on the climate system.
- According to the report, warming of Indian ocean will result in a rise in **sea levels** causing more frequent and **severe coastal flooding across low-level areas**.
- In addition to that the report predicts **India** will suffer **more frequent and intense heat waves** as well as increased precipitation in the remaining decades of the 21st century.

- The report provides **five scenarios** for the carbon emissions, it is
- The world will cross the **1.5-degree threshold** in the **2030s** sooner than in previous predictions.
- It will also see **temperatures rise 2 degrees Celsius** above the pre-industrial average.

#### **Mohammad Mokhber - first Vice President of Iran**

- **Iran's new ultraconservative President Ebrahim Raisi** named the chairman of a powerful state-owned foundation **sanctioned by the United States** as his **first vice-president**.
- Mohammad Mokhber, long-rumored by local media to be the top pick for the position, has for years headed the foundation known as Setad, or the Execution of Imam Khomeini's order, in reference to the Islamic republic's founder Ruhollah Khomeini.
- **Raisi**, who **won a June 18 election** marked by record abstention, takes over from moderate Hassan Rouhani.

#### **IPCC's 6th assessment Report: warns against unabated global warming**

- With representatives from nearly **200 countries** at the **United Nations Climate Summit** underway in the United States, the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** the apex referee for scientific evidence on the impact of global warming made public a special report that underlined the dire changes taking place in oceans, glaciers and ice-deposits on land and sea.
- The **Southern Ocean** accounted for 35%–43% of the total heat gain in the upper 2,000 m global ocean between 1970 and 2017, and its share increased to 45%–62% between 2005 and 2017.
- The **'Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate'** was prepared following an IPCC Panel decision in 2016 to prepare three Special Reports and follows the Special Reports on Global Warming of 1.5°C (SR1.5), and on Climate Change and Land (SRCCL).

#### **About IPCC:**

- **IPCC assessments** provide governments, at all levels, with scientific information that they can use to develop climate policies.
- IPCC assessments **are a key input** into the international negotiations to tackle climate change.
- The **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** is an intergovernmental body of the United Nations mandated to provide objective scientific information relevant to understanding human-induced climate change, its natural, political, and economic impacts and risks, and possible response options.
- It was **established in 1988** by the **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** and the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**, with subsequent endorsement by the United Nations General Assembly the same year.
- Membership is open to all member states of the WMO and UN and the IPCC is currently comprised of 195 countries.

#### **WHO Chief Scientist Dr Soumya Swaminathan calls on Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh in Delhi**

- **Chief Scientist WHO Dr Soumya Swaminathan**, currently in India, called on Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh.

- **Dr Soumya**, who is an **eminent medical professional** and former Head of ICMR, discussed with **Dr Jitendra Singh** various aspects of the current COVID pandemic as well as a wide range of other issues.
- Emphasising on the importance of mass vaccination through easy availability and accessibility, Dr Soumya stated, even though the **vaccine may not be able to provide absolute protection against different variants of Virus**, it can certainly reduce the risk of death and complications.
- The Minister informed her that with the **personal intervention** and **day-to-day personal monitoring by Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, India has undertaken the fastest and the largest vaccination drive.
- On the call of Prime Minister Modi, people from all sections of the society are coming forward to cooperate.

#### Afghanistan Prez Ashraf Ghani steps down

- The **Taliban** declared the **war in Afghanistan** was over after terrorists took control of the **presidential palace in Kabul** as **US-led forces** departed and Western nations scrambled to evacuate their citizens.
- **President Ashraf Ghani** fled the country as the Islamist terrorists entered the city, saying he wanted to avoid bloodshed, while hundreds of Afghans desperate to leave flooded **Kabul airport**.
- They have witnessed the fruits of their efforts and their **sacrifices for 20 years**," Mohammad Naeem, the spokesman for the Taliban's political office.

#### WHO creates Advisory Group named "SAGO"

- **The World Health Organization (WHO)** has created a new advisory group named, The International Scientific Advisory Group for Origins of Novel Pathogens, or SAGO.
- The **function of SAGO** will be to systematically study the emergence of future emerging pathogens with pandemic potential.
- WHO has made an **open call for nominations to SAGO** from the member countries, thus providing a transparent foundation for the **new scientific advisory group**.
- The group will also work towards finding the origin of the **SARS-CoV-2 virus**.

#### Malaysia's PM Muhyiddin Yassin resigned

- **Malaysia's Muhyiddin Yassin** has **stepped down as prime minister** after months of political turmoil culminated in the loss of his majority.
- Mr. Muhyiddin's departure comes **less than 18 months** after taking office and will plunge the **country into a fresh crisis amid a worsening pandemic**.
- Political leaders have already begun to jostle for the top post, with **his deputy Ismail Sabri rallying support to succeed Mr. Muhyiddin** and keep the government intact.

#### Zambia Presidential Election 2021: Hakainde Hichilema Won

- **Zambian opposition leader Hakainde Hichilema** has been declared the **winner of the presidential election**.
- Mr Hichilema **defeated** the incumbent, **President Edgar Lungu**, by a landslide - more than a million votes.
- It was **Mr Hichilema's sixth attempt** at winning the presidency.
- His supporters have been celebrating on the streets of the capital, Lusaka.



- Mr Lungu has accepted defeat and congratulated Mr Hichilema.

#### India declared new visa for Afghans

- The **government announced a new category of electronic visa** to fast-track applications from **Afghans who wish to leave the Taliban-controlled country**.
- The new visa category is called "e-Emergency X-Misc Visa".
- Thousands of people, desperate to flee the land-locked nation, have been thronging **capital Kabul's airport**, after the Taliban seized the capital.
- Five people died in chaos - it is not known yet whether by firing by US forces or a stampede.
- **"MHA reviews visa provisions** in view of the current situation in Afghanistan.
- A new category of electronic visa called **"e-Emergency X-Misc Visa"** introduced to fast-track visa applications for entry into India".

#### India in collaboration with UN to launches tech platform for peacekeepers

- **India in collaboration with the UN** launched a **technology platform** to ensure the safety and security of peacekeepers who are operating in increasingly complex and risky environments across the world.
- The launch of the **UNITE AWARE platform** came as India assumed the **Presidency of the 15-nation UN Security Council for the month of August**.
- The project, for which **India has contributed USD 1.64 million**, was launched in the presence of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar here at the UN headquarters.
- **UN peacekeeping "simply cannot" afford** to cede the information advantage to actors determined to undermine prospects for peace by using modern technology to aid their violent cause.

#### About the Platform:

- **UNITE AWARE is a situational awareness software program** which utilizes modern surveillance technology and provides real-time threat assessment to improve the overall security situation of UN Peacekeepers.
- It will help in **increasing situational awareness and provide terrain-related information** to peacekeepers.
- Using the platform, the **entire peacekeeping operation** can be visualized, coordinated, and monitored on a real time basis.
- It **can record data on critical incidents and events** follow daily operational activities. Using the platform, peacekeepers can access live video and satellite imagery.
- It can also provide early warning in a volatile environment.
- India has developed it in **partnership with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Operational Support**.

#### President Ram Nath Kovind grants credentials from four envoys in virtual ceremony

- **President Ram Nath Kovind** accepted credentials from **four envoys in a virtual ceremony**.
- High Commissioner of **Nigeria** Ahmed Sule, Ambassador of **Austria** Katharina Wieser, Ambassador of **South Korea** Chang Jae-bok and Archbishop Leopoldo Girelli, Apostolic Nuncio of the Holy See **presented their credentials**.



- Mr Kovind congratulated the **envoys** on their appointment and conveyed his good wishes to them for a successful tenure in India.
- He noted that **India enjoyed close ties with all the four countries** and shared a common vision of peace and prosperity.
- India's engagement at the **United Nations and other multilateral fora** has resulted in mutually beneficial partnership.
- India remains committed to a just and equitable global order, keeping in mind interests of the developing countries and under-represented.
- The Ambassadors and High Commissioners conveyed good wishes to the President on behalf of their leaderships and reiterated the commitment of their leaders to work closely to strengthen their ties with India.

#### **President-Designate - Alok Sharma , UN Conference of Parties (COP), visits India**

- **President-Designate of 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) Alok Sharma** welcomed Prime Minister **Narendra Modi's** global leadership in setting up the **International Solar Alliance**.
- Sharma held several meetings and discussions with government leaders, including Prime Minister Modi, Foreign Minister S Jaishankar, Union Minister Prakash Javadekar, businesses and civil society leaders during his **two-day visit to New Delhi**.

#### **About the meet:**

- During the meet, Prime Minister Modi and Alok Sharma discussed India-UK collaboration on climate change issues and improving global resilience.
- Prime Minister **Modi** reiterated **India's commitment to the Paris Agreement** and to work constructively for the successful outcome at COP26.
- Sharma also lauded PM Modi's address at the **Climate Ambition Summit in December 2020**.
- They agreed that progress on making sure the most vulnerable countries were able to adapt to the impacts of climate change was critical and that to do this governments must meet their climate finance commitments.

#### **Ismail Sabri Yaakob sworn in as new Prime Minister of Malaysia**

- **Former Deputy Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob** was appointed as the **new Prime Minister of Malaysia**.
- Malaysia's **King Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah** appointed **Ismail Sabri** as the **new Prime Minister** of the country.
- He will **succeed Muhyiddin Yassin**, who resigned after losing majority support in the lower house of parliament.

#### **About Sabri:**

- **Ismail Sabri, 61**, is a veteran politician of the **United Malays National Organization (UMNO)** and has served in Muhyiddin's cabinet as defense minister before being appointed as deputy prime minister in July.

#### **External affairs minister slams China for terror stand at UNSC**

- In China, India told the UN Security Council that countries should not place **"blocks and holds"** without any reason **on requests to designate terrorists**, warning that any double standards and distinctions between terrorists would be made only at "our own peril".

- The **international community** holds a collective view that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations must be condemned.
- There **cannot be any exception or justification** for any act of terrorism, regardless of motivations behind such acts”.

#### About his addressing:

- **Jaishankar**, President of the UN Security Council, chaired the **UNSC Briefing on Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Acts**.
- Jaishankar **alluded to his remarks** to the Council made in January this year when he had proposed an eight-point action plan aimed at collectively eliminating the scourge of terrorism.

#### Sweden: World's First fossil-free steel manufactured in the country

- Swedish green steel venture **HYBRIT**, that it had made the '**world's first** customer delivery of steel produced without using coal.
- The steel was made using **Hydrogen Breakthrough Iron making Technology**, which uses 100% fossil-free hydrogen instead of coal and coke.
- The venture has started delivering the **fossil-free steel to the Volvo Group** as part of its trial run.

#### About the Project:

- Development for the Hybrit project, which was **set up in 2016** and is owned by SSAB, energy firm Vattenfall and LKAB, a mining and minerals group.
- Both Vattenfall and LKAB are owned by the Swedish state.
- The idea underpinning Hybrit is to use **“100% fossil-free hydrogen”** rather than coal and coke in steel production.

#### World's tallest observation wheel 'Ain Dubai' to be opened in UAE

- The **world's largest and tallest observation wheel** will **open in the UAE** on October 21;
- This will be the **newest monument to join Dubai's lengthy line of record-breaking attractions**.
- Ain Dubai would carry guests to a **height of 250 metres**, about double the height of the London Eye, from which they will be able to experience a breathtaking view of Dubai's stunning skyline.
- Ain Dubai, **located on Bluewaters Island**, is the newest addition to Dubai's long list of world-record-breaking attractions.

#### About the Wheel:

- It will provide over **19 customised experiences** against the background of the Dubai skyline, ranging from dining in the sky to exclusive celebration packages to business and event options.
- It will provide experiences **ranging from one round of about 38 minutes to two rotations of about 76 minutes**.
- Visitors can also use its private cabin, which offers complete privacy.
- Birthdays, engagements, marriages, and corporate celebrations will all have their **own special celebration packages**.
- The private cabins can be customised to accommodate a variety of events, ranging from intimate gatherings to cultural celebrations to pamper **VIP visitors**.

### Bangladesh Telecom Regulatory Commission bans PubG, Free fire apps

- The **Bangladesh Telecom Regulatory Commission (BTRC)** has ordered the **Department of Telecommunication (DoT)** to **ban** internet games like **PubG and Freefire**.
- The action follows an instruction by the High Court of Bangladesh to shut down the dangerous and harmful apps and softwares on the internet for three months.
- In order to **fully shut down an app or website, internet gateways**, as well as broadband and mobile operators will be required to take further action on the instruction of the DoT.
- The process of shutting down other harmful apps such as **TikTok, Bigo Live and Likee** has also been started.
- BTRC is evaluating and reviewing which apps were to be brought under this list.
- However, despite shutting down these apps, they can still be accessed through the use of **Virtual Private Network (VPN)** services for which further action will be required.
- The High Court order came in response to a **petition filed in June citing the harmful effects** of these apps on children and young people.
- It **creates a violent mindset** among teenagers and damages the culture and value of the country.

### Dubai sets up specialised court to combat money laundering

- **Dubai Courts** announced the establishment of a specialised court, focused on combating money laundering, within the **Court of First Instance and Court of Appeal**.
- The move, under the directives of His Highness **Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum**, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, is in line with the UAE leadership's vision to strengthen the integrity of the financial system.
- It follows the establishment of the Executive Office of the **Anti-Money Laundering & Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT)** by Sheikh Mohammed to oversee the implementation of the UAE's National AML/CFT Strategy and National Action Plan (NAP).
- The **Executive Office reports to the UAE's Higher Committee** overseeing the implementation of the country's National AML/CFT Strategy chaired by Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.
- The **new court will support Dubai's efforts** to tackle financial crimes, including money laundering, as part of the UAE's wider endeavour to combat crime.

### Pakistan receives \$2.75 billion from IMF

- **Pakistan** received **\$2.75 billion** from the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** under a **Special Drawing Rights (SDR) programme** to **support low-income countries** hit by the corona virus.
- The funds, **part of a \$650 billion** global programme, will shore up Pakistan's foreign reserves, under pressure from a rise in the current account deficit and falling remittances from workers based abroad.
- Pakistan has reported **more than 1.1 million corona virus cases** and more than 25,000 pandemic-related deaths.

### Iran appointed former Roads Minister as head of nuclear agency

- Iran's president appointed a new director of the country's nuclear department, state TV reported, replacing the nation's most prominent nuclear scientist with a minister who has no reported experience in nuclear energy but ties to the defence ministry.
- Iran's newly elected hard-line **President Ebrahim Raisi** chose **Mohammad Eslami**, a 64-year-old civil engineer who previously oversaw the country's road network, to lead Iran's civilian nuclear program and serve as one of several vice presidents.
- **He succeeds Ali Akbar Salehi**, a US-educated scientist who was a key player during the years of intense international diplomacy that led to Tehran's now-tattered 2015 landmark nuclear deal with world powers.

### Revision Points

Country	Capital	Currency	Head
Peru	Lima	Sol	Guido Bellido
Bangladesh	Dhaka	Taka	Abdul Hamid
Palestine	Ramallah/East Jerusalem	Pound	Mahmoud Abbas
China	Beijing	Renminbi	Xi Jinping
Myanmar	Naypyitaw	Kyat	Win Myint
UK	London	Pound Sterling	Boris Johnson
Armenia	Yerevan	Dram	Nikol Pashinyan
Iran	Tehran	Rial	Ebrahim Raisi
Germany	Berlin	Euro	Frank-Walter Steinmeier
Afghanistan	Kabul	Afghani	
Zambia	Lusaka	Kwacha	Hakainde Hichilema
Nigeria	Abuja	Naira	Muhammadu Buhari
Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur	Ringgit	Ismail Sabri Yaakob
Sweden	Stockholm	Krona	Stefan Löfven
UAE	Abu Dhabi	Dirham	Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan
Maldives	Male	Rufiyaa	Ibrahim Mohamed Solih
USA	Washington Dc	Dollar	Joe Biden
Italy	Rome	Lira	Mario Draghi
Tajikistan	Dushanbe	Somoni	Emomali Rahmon
Indonesia	Jakarta	Rubiah	Joko Widodo
Russia	Moscow	Ruble	Vladimir Putin

Pakistan	Islamabad	Rupee	Arif Alvi
Vietnam	Hanoi	Dong	Nguyễn Xuân Phúc
Bahrain	Manama	Dinar	Salman
Australia	Canberra	Dollar	Scott Morrison
Kazakhstan	Nur-Sultan	Tenge	Askar Mamin
Philippines	Manila	Peso	Rodrigo Duterte
Thailand	Bangkok	Baht	Prayut Chan-o-cha
Mongolia	Ulaanbaatar	Tugrug	Ukhnaagiin Khürelsүkh
Germany	Berlin	Euro	Frank-Walter Steinmeier
Switzerland	Bern	Franc	Guy Parmelin
South Korea	Seoul	Won	Moon-Jae-in
The Netherlands	Amsterdam	Euro	Mark Rutte
Denmark	Copenhagen	Krone	Mette Frederiksen
Singapore	Singapore city	Dollar	Halimah Yacob
Canada	Ottawa	Dollar	Justin Trudeau
Qatar	Doha	Riyal	Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al Thani
Mexico	Mexico city	Peso	Andrés Manuel López Obrador
France	Paris	Franc	Emmanuel Macron
Hungary	Budapest	Forint	János Áder
Jamaica	Kingston	Dollar	Andrew Holness
Portugal	Lisbon	Euro	Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa
Poland	Warsaw	Zloty	Andrzej Duda
Kenya	Nairobi	Shilling	Uhuru Kenyatta
Brazil	Brasilia	Real	Jair Bolsonaro
Sri Lanka	Sri Jayewardenapura Kotte	Rupee	Gotabaya Rajapaksa

## Important Appointments

### National Appointments

Name of the Person	Designation	Predecessor/Others
Deepak Das	Controller General of Accounts	Under the Department of Expenditure
S.N. Ghormade	Deputy Chief of Naval	G Ashok Kumar
Mini Ipe	Managing Director, Life Insurance Corporation	She was the first woman Zonal Manager (In-charge) of LIC and headed SCZO, Hyderabad.
Upendra Tripathy	Advisor-cum-working president and chairman of executive committee of Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya Sangathan	The status and rank of Minister of State.
Gulshan Rai	Advisory Board Member, the Internet and Mobile Association of India	
Rama Kirloskar	Joint Managing Director, Kirloskar Brothers Limited	
Prakash Chandra	Non-Executive (Part Time) Chairman of RBL Bank	
Jawhar Sircar (Former chief executive of Prasar Bharati)	Member of Rajya Sabha	
Dhriti Banerjee	Director of the Zoological Survey of India	She co-authored the document titled, " The Glorious 100 women's Scientific Contribution in ZSI
Bhagat Singh Koshyari	Lokayukta of Maharashtra	Justice M L Tahaliyani
Ram Subhag Singh	Chief secretary, Himachal Pradesh	Anil Kumar Khachi
Rajiv Gauba	Cabinet Secretary	Extended for one year
Rekha Sharma	Chairperson, National Commission for Women	Got three year extension

Kamlesh Kumar Pant	Chairperson, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority	
B.D. Mishra	additional charge of Governor of Mizoram	He is also the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh.
Sudhir Kumar Saxena	Secretary (Security), Cabinet Secretariat	Secretary (Security) is the administrative head of the Special Protection Group.
Nadir Godrej	Chairman, Godrej Industries Limited	Adi Godrej
Priyanka Chopra Jonas	Chairperson of Jio MAMI Film Festival	Unanimously nominated by MAMI's Board of Trustees
Nitin Chugh	Managing Director and CEO of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	Appointed for 3 years
Lalit Kumar Chandel	Government of India nominee director on the board of Bank of Maharashtra	Hrisheekesh Arvind Modak
Shanti Lal Jain (For a period of 3 years) (He is the Executive Director of Bank of Baroda)	Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Indian Bank	Padmaja Chunduru
NK Singh(15th Finance Commission chairman)	President, Institute of Economic Growth	Dr Manmohan Singh
Nakul Chopra	Chief Executive, Broadcast Audience Research Council	Sunil Lulla
Apurva Chandra	Secretary of information and broadcasting ministry.	Amit Khare
T M Bhasin	Chairman, Advisory Board for Banking and Financial Frauds	Appointed by Central Vigilance Commission
La Ganesan	Governor, Manipur	Najma Heptulla
Abhay Kumar Singh	Joint Secretary, Ministry of Cooperation	
Sandeep Bakhshi	MD & CEO, ICICI Bank	Reappointed till October 3, 2023
Carol Furtado	Officer on special duty, Ujjivan	



	Small Finance Bank	
Hitendra Dave	CEO, HSBC India	Appointed for 3 years
Ajay Kumar	Executive Director, Reserve Bank of India	He looks after the departments of currency management, foreign exchange, and premises.
Bhola Singh	Chief, Coal India	
Mansukh Mandaviya	Chairperson of Stop TB Partnership Board.	Appointed till 2024
Neeraj Bansal	Chief executive officer of Dighi Port Ltd, a unit of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd	He is the former deputy chairman and chairman in-charge of Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust
Sunjay J Kapur (SONA Comstar Chairman)	President, ACMA	Appointed for a two-year term.
Justice M.S. Ramachandra Rao	Acting Chief Justice to perform the duties of the Chief Justice, Telangana HC	
Banwarilal Purohit	In-charge of Governor of Punjab	He is the Governor of Tamil Nadu
Pramod Kumar Meherda	Managing Director, National Food Security Mission	
Rajnish Kumar	Non-executive director, HSBC Bank	

#### International Appointments

Name of the Person	Designation	Predecessor/Others
Louis van Gaal	New manager of the Netherlands	
John Abraham	India Ambassador for Eurosport India's Motorsport property - MotoGP.	Eurosport's campaign – "MotoGP, Race Lagate Hai".

#### Resignation/Retirement

Name of the Person	Designation
Kumar Mangalam Birla	Non-Executive Chairman of Vi
Amarjeet Sinha	Advisor in the Prime Minister's Office
Adi Godrej	Chairman, Godrej Industries

#### Union Govt to appointed three commissions to reform higher education sector

- The **Union government** unveiled the **draft of a bill to replace higher education regulator University Grants Commission (UGC)** with a Higher Education Commission.
- The new commission to be **established through an Act** will not have grant-making authority, will promote reduced inspection system and will focus more on quality outcome at universities and colleges.
- **Human resource development (HRD) minister Prakash Javadekar**, who claimed this is a key education reform.
- **Its board will have** senior bureaucrats from the ministries of HRD, skills and entrepreneurship, and science and technology, in a way ending the monopoly of HRD ministry in regulating higher education.

#### Nagaland bags 7 National Awards under Van Dhan Yojana Scheme

- Nagaland has **bagged seven prestigious national awards** in the **Van Dhan Vikas Yojana (VDVY)** and **Minimum Support Price (MSP) schemes** for exemplary performance in various categories.
- The VDVY and MSP for Minor Forest Produce (MFP) scheme **focus on farmers' entrepreneurship programmes** through processing, packaging, branding and marketing of locally available products.
- **Nagaland topped in three categories** -- Best Survey, Best Training and the most number of Van Dhan Vikas Clusters (VDVKCs) established, The North-eastern state also secured third positions in Best Sales Generated at **Rs 115,86,000** and Innovation and Creativity.
- It got the **two other awards for a couple of ideas**: supply of gooseberry wine by a multipurpose society and that of mushroom by Nagaland Beekeeping & Honey Mission.
- Under the VDVY Scheme, Nagaland has 206 clusters comprising 2,805 self-help groups and 61,800 beneficiaries throughout the state.

#### N. S. Vishwanathan Panel constituted on Urban Co-operative Banks

- A **Reserve Bank**-appointed committee has suggested a **four-tier** structure for the **urban cooperative banks (UCBs)** depending upon the deposits and prescribed different capital adequacy and regulatory norms for them based on their sizes.
- The RBI committee informed that UCBs can be split into four categories -- **Tier-1** with deposits up to Rs 100 crore; **Tier-2** with deposits between Rs 100-Rs 1,000 crore, **Tier-3** with deposits between Rs 1,000 crore to Rs 10,000 and **Tier-4** with deposits of over Rs 10,000 crore.
- It has suggested that the minimum **Capital to Risk-Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR)** for them could **vary from 9 per cent to 15 per cent** and for Tier-4 UCBs the Basel III prescribed norms.

- The **RBI panel** has also prescribed separate ceilings for home loans, loan against gold ornaments and unsecured loans for different categories of UCBs.

#### **DFS decided to Three MDs and ten EDs of various PSU banks get term extensions**

- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** has accepted the proposal of the **Department of Financial Services (DFS)** to extend the tenure of **three managing directors and chief executive officers (MDs and CEOs) and ten executive directors (EDs)** of public sector banks.
- The ACC has approved the extension of tenure of **S S Mallikarjuna Rao, MD and CEO of Punjab National Bank**, until January 31, 2022, when he is due for superannuation.
- The appointments panel has also approved a **two-year extension for Atul Kumar Goel, MD and CEO of UCO Bank as well as A S Rajeev, MD and CEO of Bank of Maharashtra.**
- The DFS had written to the **Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT)** suggesting the extension of tenure of MDs and EDs of public sector banks to ensure stability and continuity at state-owned lenders amid the pandemic even as the Banks Board Bureau identifies new candidates for the role of bank chiefs.
- The ACC has also approved a two-year extension to **Bank of Baroda ED Ajay K Khurana, ED of Canara Bank A Manimekhalai and P R Rajagopal, Bank of India ED.**
- Terms of **Sanjay Kumar and Vijay Dube (Punjab National Bank), Gopal Singh Gusain and Manas Ranjan Biswal (Union Bank of India), Vikramaditya Singh Khichi (Bank of Baroda), Shenoy Vishwanath Vittal (Indian Bank), and Alok Srivastava (Central Bank of India)** as EDs have been approved for an extension until their age of superannuation.

#### **9 new Supreme Court judges takes oath**

- **Nine new judges, including three women**, would be administered oath of office as judges of the Supreme Court by **Chief Justice of India (CJI) N V Ramana.**
- It is for the **first time in the history of the top court when nine judges** would be **taking oath** of office at one go and the swearing-in ceremony would be held in the auditorium of the Supreme Court's additional building complex.
- With the swearing-in of the **nine new judges**, the **strength of the Supreme Court would rise to 33, including the CJI, out of the sanctioned strength of 34.**
- The **nine new judges** who would be administered oath of office as top court judges includes -- **Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka** (who was the Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court), **Justice Vikram Nath** (who was the Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court), **Justice Jitendra Kumar Maheshwari** (who was the Chief Justice of the Sikkim High Court), **Justice Hima Kohli** (who was the Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court) and **Justice B V Nagarathna** (who was a judge of the Karnataka High Court).
- Besides them, **Justice C T Ravikumar** (who was a judge of the Kerala High Court), **Justice M M Sundresh** (who was a judge of the Madras High Court), **Justice Bela M Trivedi** (who was a judge of the Gujarat High Court) and **Justice P S Narasimha** (who was a senior advocate and former Additional Solicitor General) would also be administered oath of office by the CJI.

- Justice **Nagarathna** is in line to become the **first woman CJI in September 2027**.
- Three out of these nine new judges** -- Justices Nath and Nagarathna and Narasimha -- are in line to become the CJI.

**Govt sets up panel to develop technological platform for streamlining revenue litigation; appointed Head as - Ashish Shiradhonkar**

- The Centre informed the **Supreme Court** that it has constituted a committee which will be 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.
- A bench of Justices **DY Chandrachud and M R Shah** was informed by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that the committee will complete its work in three months and will have members from revenue department, CBDT and CBIT.
- The bench termed it is a good step and stated **Shiradhonkar is the backbone of the e-court project** and hopefully this will streamline the Centre's litigation in taxation matters.
- "Shiradhonkar will be **number one in the committee** and hopefully we will see this platform soon".
- The bench informed that now it can say that things are moving in the right direction and listed the matter after three months.

### Important Awards and Honours

Winner	Prize	Awarded By/Theme/Purpose
Cyrus Poonawalla	Lokmanya Tilak National Award for 2021	Founder-chairperson of the Pune-based Serum Institute of India
Anand Radhakrishnan (Best Painter/Multimedia Artist)	Will Eisner Comic Industry Award	Shares the award with UK-based colourist John Pearson
Sai Life Sciences	Golden Peacock National Training Award 2021	It received Golden Peacock National Quality Award in 2020.
Kasturba Hospital, Manipal	IMC RBNQ Efficiency Excellence Trophy 2020	From IMC Ramkrishna Bajaj Nationwide High quality Award Belief, Mumbai
Chitkara University, Patiala	District Green Champion for the AY 2020-21	By the Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Education (MGNCRE), Ministry of Education
DBS	Most Innovative in Digital Banking , in its 2021 Innovation in Digital Banking Awards	By Financial Times publication

P. Shanmuga Priya	Kalpna Chawla Award for Courage and Daring Enterprise	Awarded by Tamil Nadu govt
Dr. M. Lakshmanan, Professor of Eminence, Bharathidasan University	Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam award (In the field of non- linear dynamics in Theoretical Physics)	Awarded by Tamil Nadu govt
Mohammad Azam (Karimnagar district) (Social Activist)	National Youth Award (Presented by Anurag Thakur)	Highest award conferred on youths in India by the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs for outstanding service in the field of social service and fall in the 18-29 years age group
Prabha Varma	Padmaprabha Literary Award	Selected by a panel headed by M. Mukundan
Manipal Academy of Higher Education	District Green Champion	Recognized by Mahatma Gandhi National Council for Rural Education
Jack Foley	KM Anthru International Literary Award	
Dr Yashodhara Mishra	Sahitya Akademi Award 2020	For her work in Odia (Book - 'Samudrakula Ghara')
Sri Basavaliga Pattaddevaru	Sri Basava International Award	Selected by Karnataka govt
Amit Rohidas	Biju Patnaik Sports Award	Awarded by Odisha government
National Thermal Power Corporation	Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Energy Leader Award-2021.	
Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project (India assisted Bhutan project)	Brunel Medal	By London-based Institution of Civil Engineers
Andhra Loyola College, Vijayawada	National Award for environmental best practices and conducting Swachh programmes	Announced by Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Education
Satej Patil	Rajiv Gandhi IT award	Maharashtra's minister of state for

		Information and Technology
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#### C.R. Rao Gold Medal award winners announced

- **The Indian Econometric Society (TIES)** Trust has conferred the inaugural Prof CR Rao Centenary Gold Medal (CGM) to two distinguished Indian scholars — **Dr Jagdish Bhagwati and Dr C Rangarajan**.
- Dr Bhagwati is a professor of economics, law and **international relations at Columbia University and Director of the Raj Centre on Indian Economic Policies**.
- Dr Rangarajan is the **former chairman, Economic Advisory Council** of the Prime Minister and former governor, Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

#### About the award:

- The **award has been constituted by the TIES to commemorate the contribution of Prof Rao**, who is the founder president of the Society, and is the doyen of mathematical statistics.
- He **celebrated his 100th birthday on September 10 last year**.
- The award will be presented once in two years to an Indian or Indian-origin scholar for her/his lifetime contributions to the fields of theoretical and applied aspects of quantitative economics, and official statistics.

#### 'Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation' award for 2021 honoured to 152 officers

- As many as **152 police officers in the country** have been conferred with the '**Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation**' for 2021 for their high professional standards of investigation of crime.
- The Union Home Ministry, stated the awardees include 28 women police officials from across the country.
- This **medal** was constituted in 2018 with the **objective** to promote high professional standards of investigation of crime and to recognise such excellence in investigation by investigating officers.
- The 'Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation' for 2021 has been awarded to 152 police personnel.
- Among the personnel receiving these awards, **15 are from the CBI, 11 each from Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra Police, 10 from Uttar Pradesh, nine from Kerala and Rajasthan, eight from Tamil Nadu, seven from Bihar, six each from Gujarat, Karnataka and Delhi Police**.
- **Five police officers are from** Telangana, four each from Assam, Haryana, Odisha and West Bengal while the remaining are from the other states and U.T.s.

#### Union Govt. announces winners of Prime Minister's Shram Awards (PMSA) for 2018 comprising Shram Bhushan, Shram Vir/Shram Veerangana and Shram Shree/Shram Devi Awards

- The **Government of India** announced the **Prime Minister's Shram Awards (PMSA)** for the year 2018.
- These awards are to be **awarded to 69 workers** employed in the Departmental Undertakings & Public Sector Undertakings of the Central and State Governments and Private Sector Units **employing 500 or more workers in recognition** of their distinguished performance, innovative abilities, outstanding contribution in the field of productivity and exhibition of exceptional courage and presence of mind.

- This year the Prime Minister's Shram Awards are given in three categories namely Shram Bhushan Awards which carry a cash prize of Rs.1,00,000/- each, Shram Vir/Shram Veerangana Awards which carry a cash prize of Rs. 60,000/- each and Shram Shree/Shram Devi Awards which carry a cash prize of Rs.40,000/- each.

#### About the award details:

- For the year 2018, four (4) nominations for the Shram Bhushan Awards, twelve (12) nominations for Shram Vir/Shram Veerangana awards and seventeen (17) nominations for Shram Shree/Shram Devi Awards have been selected.
- While the total number of Shram Awards conferred this year is thirty three (33), the number of workers receiving the Awards is sixty nine (69) as some of the awards have been shared by workers and/or teams of workers consisting of more than one worker.
- Out of the total awardees, forty nine (49) workers are from the public sector while twenty (20) workers are from the private sector.
- The awardees include eight (8) women workers.

#### President Kovind confers Shaurya Chakra awards to gallant defence personnel

- President Ram Nath Kovind has conferred the Shaurya Chakra on the Air force officers, Wing Commander Varun Singh Flying who is a pilot in a Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Squadron for the act of exceptional gallantry.
- Air Force Officer Group Captain Perminder Antil who is the Commanding Officer of a Su-30 MKI Squadron since January 2020 has also been conferred with Shaurya Chakra.
- For the act of exceptional courage, Air Force Officer Squadron Leader Deepak Mohanan and Wing Commander Uttar Kumar have been conferred with the Vayu Sena Medal (Gallantry).

#### Bengaluru girl's agri startup bags award

- Bengaluru girl Manasa Gonchigar is one of the 10 young winning entrepreneur teams of the agri-enterprise challenge S.O.L.V.E.D (Social Objectives-Led Volunteer Enterprise Developed), who were felicitated by Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi.
- The 25-year-old's team won the challenge for her startup company PureScan AI — a technology startup that helps players in the food supply chain, and also assists them in making informed decisions on food safety.
- This year, the International Youth Day theme focused on transforming food systems.

#### About the invention:

- Manasa stated TNIE that her company is preparing an optical device — Afla Scan — which does rapid aflatoxin assessment of maize, chillies and peanuts.
- "Aflatoxin can easily affect crops and has shown high presence in peanuts, maize, dry fruits and sunflower.
- This contributes to immunosuppressive health effects of the body, leading to stunted growth and malnutrition".

#### Union Minister Piyush Goyal confers National Intellectual Property Awards

- Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal conferred the National Intellectual Property Awards at an virtual event in New Delhi.



- Minister stated, technology and ideas are the twin engines of growth, **Intellectual Property Rights IPR** is the fuel that powers them and **this award not only recognizes the innovative ideas of individuals and institutions but also serves as an inspiration for others.**
- He informed there is need to bring an Intellectual Property revolution for Inclusive Progress in the nation and strengthening IPR laws.
- He mentioned it **will boost** job creation, quality, competitiveness and manufacturing.
- The Minister stated that **powered by** Intellectual Property, India can be the Innovation Powerhouse of the world.
- Mr Goyal noted that Intellectual Property Rights actually translates into **India's progress in real-time** and extend Intellectual Property Right to India's Prosperity Right.

#### **National Intellectual Property (IP) Awards:**

- National Intellectual Property (IP) Awards **are conferred every year by Office of Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks (CGPDTM), Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, to recognize and reward the **top achievers**, comprising individuals, institutions, organizations, enterprises, police units and other legal entities, for IP creation, commercialization and enforcement, which has contributed towards strengthening IP eco-system in the country and encouraging creativity and innovation.

#### **Odisha CM grants cash awards to hockey stars**

- The **men's team won a bronze**, 41 years after it **won a medal in the Moscow Olympics**, while the women's hockey team reached the semi final for **the first time**.
- The **Odisha government signed a Rs.100 crore deal with Hockey India in 2018** to sponsor both the teams for the next five years.
- The men's and women's hockey team of India that put up a sterling performance at the recent Tokyo Olympics landed in Bhubaneswar to a **grand felicitation by Odisha government**.
- **CM Patnaik** felicitated four men and women hockey players of the state and gave them cash awards.
- He gave cheques of **Rs.2.5 crore each to Indian men's hockey team vice-captain Birendra Lakra** and defender **Amit Rohidas** and **Rs.50 lakh each to Deep Grace Ekka and Namita Toppo of women's team**.

#### **Odisha Hockey Team:**

- The **Odisha Hockey Team** represents Odisha in the national field hockey championships of Hockey India.
- **Hockey Odisha and Hockey Gangpur Odisha** are member units of Hockey India.
- The Odisha Hockey Team has maintained its dominance **in field hockey in India being the most successful team** of Hockey India Championships.
- **Home ground:** Biju Patnaik Hockey Stadium, Rourkela; Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar

#### **Kerala Sahitya Akademi awards announced**

- **Malayalam writers Sethu and Perumbadavam Sreedharan** has been hounoured with **Kerala Sahitya Akademi fellowships for the year 2020**.

- The fellowships **comprise** a purse of **Rs 50,000**, a **gold locket**, a **shawl** and a **memento** along with **special membership of the Akademi**.
- Actor and former MP Innocent's book '**Irinjalakkudakku Chuttam**' was selected as the best book in the satire genre.
- K R Mallika, K K Kochu, Mambuzha Kumaran, Sidharthan Paruthikkad, Chavara K S Pilla and M A Rahman were selected for the **lifetime achievement** award by the Akademi.
- The award is meant for writers above 60 years for their contribution to Malayalam literature.

**Awards in various categories include:**

- **Poetry:** O P Suresh (Taj Mahal)
- **Novel:** P F Mathews (Adiyalapretham)
- **Short story:** Unni R (Vanku)
- **Drama:** Sreejith Poyilkkavu (Dwayam)
- **Literary criticism:** P Soman (Vailopilly Kavitha Oru Idathupaksha Vayana)
- **Knowledge literature:** T K Anandhi (Marxisaum Feminisavum Charithraparamaya Visakalanam)
- **Biography:** K Reghunathan (Mukthakantam VKN)
- **Travelogue:** Vidhu Vincent (Daivam Olivil Poya Naalukal)
- **Translation:** Anitha Thampi (Ramalla Njan Kandu) and Sangeetha Sreenivasan (Upekshikapetta Divasangal)
- **Children's literature:** Priya A S (Perumazhayathe Kunjithalukal)

**The endowments awards were also announced by the Akademi.**

- P Narayana Menon was selected for **I C Chacko award**, Professor J Prabhash and T T Sreekumar for **C B Kumar award**, V Sishupala Panicker for **K R Namboothiri Award**, Chithira Kusuman for **Kanakasree Award**, K N Prasanth for **Geetha Hiranyan award**, Kesavan Veluthattu and V Vijayakumar for **G N Pilla award** and M V Narayanan for **Kuttiapuzha award**.
- Geethu S S won the Thunchan memorial **essay writing competition** of the Akademi.

**Sports Minister confers National Youth Awards for 2017-18 and 2018-19 to 22 awardees**

- Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, **Shri Anurag Singh Thakur** conferred the **National Youth Awards 2017-18 and 2018-19** at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.
- Commemorating the **International Youth Day 2021**, **ten** young winning **entrepreneur teams of the agri-enterprise challenge S.O.L.V.E.D 2021** (Social Objectives-Led Volunteer Enterprise Development) were also felicitated by Shri Anurag Thakur.
- "This year the International Youth Day theme **focuses on transforming food systems**; youth engagement is key to this transformation.
- Agri-Tech innovations led by the youth are driving new emerging trends in this sector.
- The success of such a global effort will not be achieved without the meaningful participation of young people.
- The Government under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi has prioritised various initiatives towards professional education, skilling, startup funding for our young citizens.

- **Aim** of the award is make India's youth the world's largest skills.
- **Objective** in conferring the awards has been to motivate young persons to achieve excellence."

#### About the award:

- Total **22 National Youth awards** were given in individual and organisations categories.
- Total **14 awards** were given for NYA 2017-18, which includes 10 awards in individual category and 4 awards in Organization category.
- Total **8 awards** were given for NYA 2018-19 which includes 7 awards in individual category and 1 award in Organization category.
- The award comprises of a medal, a certificate and a **cash prize of Rs 1, 00,000/-** to individual and a cash prize of **Rs. 3, 00,000/-** to organization respectively.

#### MeitY-NASSCOM Start-up Women Entrepreneur Awards 2020-21 in partnership with UN Women announced

- MeitY-NASSCOM Women Startup Entrepreneurs Awards is **the first step to recognize and cultivate the entrepreneurial spirit in women and inspire the next generation of women** to lead the Indian digital era so as to serve as guiding role models; to encourage promising entrepreneurs who not only contribute to the nation's economy but also to the social community; And to **provide leadership** and serve as guiding examples for the emerging and young future entrepreneurs.
- From MeitY, UN Women, Industry and Academia selected **12 women entrepreneurs as winners**, while **2 women entrepreneurs** were declared as the **Jury Choice Awardees** and one woman entrepreneur was felicitated as a special mention.
- Each winner and Jury Choice Awardees were **rewarded Rs. 2 Lakh**.

#### Indian Film Festival of Melbourne Awards 2021 conferred

- The winners of the **Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) 2021** were announced, **August 20**, in a **virtual award ceremony due to the novel coronavirus pandemic**.

#### Winners:

- Suriya, Samantha Akkineni, Vidya Balan and Manoj Bajpayee won top honours at the film festival.
- While **Suriya won the Best Performance Male (Feature)**, **Samantha won the Best Performance Female (Series)**.
- **Suriya** was last seen in director Sudha Kongara's **Soorarai Pottru**, which released on Amazon Prime Video. At the IFFM 2021, he won the Best Performance Male (Feature) for his realistic performance.
- **Samantha** was ecstatic after winning the Best Performance Female (Series) for **her role as Raji in The Family Man 2**. Directed by Raj and DK, the web series features Manoj Bajpayee, Samantha and Priyamani in important roles.
- Director Sudha Kongara Prasad's **Soorarai Pottru** won the **Best Film award**.
- Suraj Venjaramoodu and Nimisha Sajayan's **The Great Indian Kitchen**, directed by Jeo Baby, **won the Equality in Cinema (Feature)**.
- **Vidya Balan** won the **Best Performer Female (Feature)** for **Sherni**, while **Manoj Bajpayee** won the **Best performer Male (Series)** for **The Family Man 2**.

- Malayalam filmmaker **Sanal Kumar Sasidharan** won the **IFFM 2021's Disruptor Award**.

#### About Indian Film Festival of Melbourne:

- The **Indian Film Festival of Melbourne** was founded in 2012.
- It is a State Government of Victoria funded **annual festival** based in Melbourne.
- It is **presented by Film Victoria**, and the provider is chosen through a tender process.
- The **current tender provider is Mind Blowing Films**, run by Mitu Bhowmick Lange.
- **Awards:** Best of Indian cinema

#### EASE Reforms Index Award 2021 conferred

- **Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman** unveiled the fourth edition of the **Public Sector Bank (PSB) Reforms Agenda 'EASE 4.0'** for 2021-22 - tech-enabled, simplified, and collaborative banking.
- She unveiled the annual report for the **PSB Reforms Agenda EASE 3.0 for 2020-21** and participated in the awards ceremony to felicitate best performing banks on **EASE 3.0 Banking Reforms Index**.

#### Award details:

- **SBI, BoB Union Bank of India** win top honours.
- **State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda and Union Bank of India** has won the awards for **best performing banks for PSB Reforms EASE 3.0 based on the EASE index**.
- **Indian Bank** won the award for the best improvement from the baseline performance.
- **SBI, BoB, Union Bank of India, Punjab National Bank and Canara Bank** won the top awards in different themes of the PSB Reforms Agenda EASE 3.0.

#### 65 schools across Andhra Pradesh bags sports excellence award

- Commissioner of School Education **Vadrevu Chinaveerabhadru** and State School Games Secretary **G Bhanumurthy** have stated **School of Sports Excellence awards** will be presented to the institutions that fared well in sports in 2019-20 academic year.
- The **awards** will be **presented on August 29** to mark the occasion of **National Sports Day**.
- Presentation ceremonies will be organised in all the district headquarters.
- **65 schools**, five each from every district, have been selected for the awards.
- Schools in the **first place** in district-level will be awarded **Rs10,000**, a memento and certificates.
- Those in the **second spot will be given 8,000**.

#### Odia actor Anant Mahapatra, dancer Kumkum Mohanty bags Kabi Samrat Upendra Bhanja Samman

- The **Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi** under the Odia Language, Literature and Culture Department announced various awards for the year **2019 and 2020**.

#### List Of Awardees for 2019

- Kabi Samrat Upendra Bhanja Samman: **Anant Mahapatra (Acting & Direction)**

#### Akademi Awards:

- **Acting** (2 nos.) Nabakishore Acharya, Sakhigopal, Puri & Mamata Mohanty, Bhubaneswar

- **Playwright:** Sudhakar Nanda, Bhadrak
- **Direction:** Harihar Mishra, Bargarh
- **Theatre Art** (Manchakala): Prabhas Chandra Mishra, Bhawanipatna
- **Folk music** (Loka Sangeet): Radhashyam Sahusharma, Ganjam
- **Lokabadya:** Shankar Pradhan, Balangir
- **Folk Dance** (Lokanrutya): Kalucharan Sahu, Bhanjanagar, Ganjam
- **Folk play** (Lokanatya): Karna Gouda, Koraput
- **Instrumental music** (Anaddha Tala) for Mardala: Jagannath Kuanr, Bhubaneswar
- **Instrumental music** (String instrument) for Violin: Kailash Patra, Cuttack
- **Odissi Dance:** Ratikanta Mohapatra, Bhubaneswar
- **Odisha vocal music:** Chandramani Lenka, Puri
- **Sunanda Samman** (Hindusthani Vocal Music): Dr. Raghunath Sahu, Bhubaneswar
- **Sugam Sangeet:** Tansen Singh, Bhubaneswar
- **Sarada Prasanna Samman** (Gitikabita): Binod Ku Pasayat, Sambalpur

For the year 2020:

- Kabi Samrat Upendra Bhanja Samman: **Smt. Kumkum Mohanty, Odissi Dance**

**Akademi Awards:**

- **Acting** (2 nos): Sushila Nayar, Bargarh and Bijay Ku Pattnaik, Gangpur, Ganjam
- **Playwright** (Natyarachana): Bhaskar Ch Mohapatra, Rourkela
- **Direction:** Subodh Pattnaik, Bhubaneswar
- **Stage art** (Manchakala): Prabhat Maharana, Bhubaneswar
- **Folk music** (Loka Sangeet): Navin Kanhar, Balangir
- **Lokabadya:** Kishore Ch. Pradhan, Puri
- **Folk Dance** (Lokanrutya): Narayan Maharana, Bhanjanagar, Ganjam
- **Lokanatya:** Nirmala Ch Rout, Bhadrak
- **Instrumental music** (Ananddha Badya) for Tabla: Sarat Ku Pani, Bhubaneswar
- **Instrumental music** (Sushira Badya) for Flute: Nityananda Mohapatra, Kamakhyanagar, Dhenkanal
- **Odissi Dance:** Gajendra Panda, Ganjam
- **Odissi Vocal music:** Raghunath Mohapatra, Paralakhemundi, Gajapati
- **Sunanda Samman** (Hindusthani Vocal music): Bandita Ray, Cuttack
- **Sugam Sangeet:** Bibhudhendra Das, Bhubaneswar
- **Sarada Prasanna Samman** (Gitikabita): Alekh Padhihari, Bhubaneswar Anant Mohapatra (Acting & Direction) and Kumkum Mohanty (Odissi Dance) to receive the Akademi's highest honour- Kabisamrat Upendra Bhanja Award for 2019 and 2020, respectively.

## Important MOU's

### Indian Bank signs MoU with IIT Bombay

- **State-owned Indian Bank** entered into a **memorandum of understanding (MoU)** with the **Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE)**, **IIT Bombay** - an **initiative** of Indian Institute of Technology - for extending exclusive credit facility to startups and small businesses.
- **SINE, IIT Bombay**, supports the MSME sector by providing joint research and development arrangements and technical and financial support for incubation and acceleration of high-end technology products.
- **Indian Bank** stated startups require funds to expand and grow, and one of the most common problems they face is maintaining positive cash flow.
- Under the MoU, **SINE, IIT Bombay** will **identify the start-ups** and MSMEs based on their credentials and past experience and will refer the list of such members who require financial assistance to the bank.

### CII enters into agreement with SII

- **Confederation of Indian Industry, CII**, has entered into an agreement with **Serum Institute of India (SII)** to **speed up the vaccination program** in partnership with industry including health care providers.
- The vaccination drive will target communities in the country's **small towns and rural areas to increase the coverage**.
- **CII and SII partnership** will ensure to connect hospitals and corporates to fast track vaccination which is necessary for post pandemic growth of the country.
- **SII CEO Adar Poonawala**, partnering with industry will help in reaching out to the communities in the hinterlands within a short period of time.

### Union cabinet approves MoU between IIST and Delft University

- The **Union Cabinet** chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has **approved** the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between **Indian Institute of Space science and Technology (IIST)** and **The Delft University of Technology (TU Delft)**, for carrying out the Academic programmes and Research activities involving students and faculty members in each institution signed on April 09, 2021 and May 17, 2021 at respective institutes and exchanged by email.

#### Details of MoU:

- **Students exchange programme:** The Parties may exchange students at undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral level.
- The Parties will mutually discuss and decide the areas of studies and credits to be pursued under the scheme.
- Both parties agree the Practicum exchange programme for degree training should follow the educational system and regulations of the hosting partner.
- **Dual Degree/Double Degree programme:** The Parties may develop specialized curriculum to be pursued by students for award of either undergraduate or postgraduate degree, which will be in addition to the initial degree to be awarded by the home Institute.

- **Internships and project work:** The Parties may design and develop research of engineering project assignments which will be pursued by students during their stay both short term and long term, in the partner institute.
- **Faculty exchange:** The Parties may consider a Faculty exchange programme during which their faculty member will offer courses in the partner institute, for which the course contents will be developed jointly.
- **Joint Research:** The faculty members of both parties may identify the joint research programme in common areas of interest with defined duration.

#### APEDA signs MOU with University of Agriculture Science, Bangalore

- To boost agricultural and processed food products exports especially from Karnataka, the **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with University of Agricultural Science (UAS) Bangalore.
- The key areas of cooperation include developing technologies **jointly with APEDA for advance alertness**, efficient & precision farming for enhancing quality exports; diversifying the export basket, destinations and boost high-value agri exports by establishing Brand India globally by increasing **agri-exports from Karnataka under Agri Export Policy (AEP)** announced by Government of India in 2018.

#### About MOU:

- The **collaborations between APEDA**, which **functions under the Ministry of Commerce & UAS**, will also help in strengthening forward and backward linkages, participations in international exhibitions and fairs, branding and marketing, establishment of market intelligence cell, and developing traceability systems.
- The **APEDA and UAS, Bangalore** will also facilitate participation of farmers, entrepreneurs, exporters and other stakeholders to promote agri-businesses & exports, **including B2B & B2C fairs** to be organized in India and abroad and also mutually cooperate in market development and traceability in millets and millet products, fresh fruits like Mango, vegetables, jaggery, processed fruits and vegetables.
- Promotion and hand-holding of **Farmer Producer Organizations / Farmer Producer Companies** and linking them with international markets will also be the part of the agreement between APEDA and UAS.

#### BDL signs MoU with UP

- Hyderabad-based missile and ammunition manufacturers **Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (EIDA)**.
- BDL is the country's sole **Defence Public Sector Company**, manufacturing missiles and underwater weapons for the armed forces.
- As part of its diversification and expansion strategy, **BDL announced the establishment of a manufacturing unit** in the Uttar Pradesh Defence Corridor in Jhansi.
- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in presence of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Chairman and Managing Director of BDL Commodore Siddharth Mishra in Lucknow.

#### India for implementing MoU with Bangladesh



- **India** has emphasized the **implementation of the recently-signed memorandum of understanding (MoU)** with **Bangladesh** over **disaster management**, resilience and mitigation on a priority basis.
- “We must implement the recently-concluded **MoU** in the field of disaster management, resilience and mitigation on a priority basis”.
- Bangladesh and India signed a number of MoUs **to enhance cooperation in various sectors**, including disaster management, resilience, and mitigation during Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to Bangladesh in March this year.
- Dr Jaishankar expressed confidence that these mechanisms will **help the two countries remain better prepared to face such challenges in the future**.

#### **GIFT City and India Insurtech Association signed an ink pact**

- **India Insurtech Association (IIA)**, a not-for-profit body promoting tech-driven insurance ecosystems in India inked a **memorandum of understanding (MoU)** with **International Financial Services Centre at GIFT City, (GIFT-IFSC)** to collaborate on building thought leadership in the field of insurance and promoting GIFT City for Indian and foreign insurance companies.
- To **raise awareness about GIFT IFSC**, the collaboration will organize events, information series, seminars, and conferences.
- The **two institutions** will also research regulatory **sandbox projects for GIFT IFSC**, which will benefit insurtech start-ups, re-insurance businesses, politicians, service providers, and individuals.

#### **About the GIFT city:**

- **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City** is an Under-construction business district **near Ahmedabad** in Gujarat, India.
- The **purpose of setting up the GIFT City** is to develop a world class smart city that becomes a global financial hub with the development of an International Financial Services Centre (IFSC).
- GIFT City is **central business hub** with state-of-the-art infrastructure and a first of its kind development in India.

#### **Delhi board of school education signed MoU with International Baccalaureate**

- Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has recently announced that the government has signed a **MoU** between the **Delhi Board of School Education and International Baccalaureate (IB)**, paving the way for students from government schools to access educational facilities of the highest level.
- CM Kejriwal stated the International Baccalaureate board is present all over the world and that it is every parent's dream to send their children to IB-affiliated schools.
- This **agreement will make sure that students in Delhi government schools receive a quality education**.

#### **About the MOU:**

- With the signing of this MoU, **government school students will get access to international level of educational facilities**.
- In **India**, there are **two types of education systems -- one for the rich and one for the poor**.
- While the rich send their children to private schools, the poor send their wards to government schools.

- The **biggest schools of the world and the country** where the **richest of rich kids** go to study dream of getting an **affiliation of the IB**, as their pedagogy is of the highest international standards.
- **They have collaborated** with the governments of America, Canada, Spain, Japan and South Korea among other developed countries.
- All the students coming to **DBSE schools** will get education of **international standard**.

#### BBCI and IIT Guwahati signed an MOU on cancer research

- The **B Borooah Cancer Institute (BBCI)** and **Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for research collaborations.
- The **MoU** was signed following a virtual meeting between **BBCI director Dr Amal Chandra Kataki** and **IITG director Prof T G Sitharam** along with other faculties from both the institutes.
- Higher incidence of cancers of gallbladder, oesophagus, nasopharynx, lung and stomach among both men and women of North East India cannot solely be explained by existing evidence available in the western literature.

#### About the research center:

- **North East Center for Biological Sciences and Healthcare Engineering (NECBH)** was **established at IIT-Guwahati** in 2018 with a vision to foster the development of biological research in the region.
- The mission of **NECBH-outreach** is to raise the **quality of research** in biological sciences and healthcare engineering in the entire North-Eastern India.
- The **outreach programme** intends to provide an exposure and training to the researchers in the NE region to the latest advances in modern day biological research and healthcare engineering.

#### India, USA sign agreement

- **Indian and American bodies** have signed an **agreement** on monsoon data analysis and cooperation to improve weather forecasts in the region.
- The **agreement** was signed by **India's National Institute of Ocean Technology Director G A Ramadass** and the **US Assistant Administrator** for Research and Acting Chief Scientist Craig McLean of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
- The two bodies would enhance technical cooperation in the development of the **Research Moored Array for African-Asian-Australian Monsoon Analysis and Prediction (RAMA)** and the **Ocean Moored buoy Network in the northern Indian ocean (OMNI)** for improving weather and monsoon forecasts between NOAA and India's Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- The **agreement** is a follow up to the memorandum of understanding signed between the Ministry of Earth Sciences and NOAA last October for Technical Cooperation in Earth Observations and Earth Sciences.

#### NHA Signed MOU with IIT Delhi to strengthen India's response to Covid crisis

- **Recognizing the role of innovations to strengthen India's response to COVID-19 crisis** and preparedness for emerging healthcare needs, **the National Health Authority has signed an MoU with the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi.**

- Through **this partnership**, the National Health Authority (NHA) will be a technical collaborator on the US Agency for International Development (USAID)-supported **SAMRIDH Healthcare Blended Financing Facility**.
- **IIT Delhi** serves as the **hosting entity** for **SAMRIDH**.
- **This initiative** is implemented by a **Technical Support Unit** managed by **IPE Global**.

#### About SAMBRIDH:

- **SAMRIDH Healthcare Blended Financing Facility** aims to catalyze **market-based health solutions** to improve access to affordable and quality healthcare services for low-income and vulnerable communities, particularly for **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)** beneficiaries.
- SAMRIDH has mobilized a capital pool of more than USD 100 million from private sector and development funders.

#### Indian Bank signs MoU with Paralympic Committee

- **Public sector Indian Bank** stated it has signed a **memorandum of understanding (MoU)** with **Paralympic Committee of India (PCI)** as one of the banking partners of the Paralympic Games **scheduled** to commence from **August 24** in **Tokyo, Japan**.
- "The bank, through its year-long association with PCI, will **provide financial assistance to support the paralympic athletes** to prepare for the sports events in domestic as well as global platforms for a year".
- **PCI President Deepa Malik** stated that the resources from the bank would be used to meet the requirements of the **para athletes** ranging from their training, nutrition and equipment, among others.
- **Timely financial aid** for the sportspersons would encourage them to focus on their efforts to win for the country.

#### Bangladesh to sign MoU with China for COVID vaccine co-production on Aug 16

- The government of **Bangladesh** will sign an MoU for the co-production of the **COVID 19 vaccine** with **China**.
- **Health Minister Zahid Maleque**, **Foreign Minister Dr A K Abdul Momen** and the **Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Li Jiming** are scheduled to attend the MoU signing ceremony in **Dhaka**.
- Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen has stated that the MoU will be signed between the Chinese company **Sinopharm** and the local company **Incepta Pharmaceuticals Ltd**.
- He informed Incepta will bring in the **material in bulk from China** and undertake the bottling, labeling and finishing of the vaccine locally which will make the price relatively cheap.
- Earlier, a consignment of 1 million doses of **the Sinovac COVID vaccine** gifted by China arrived in Bangladesh.
- This was the fourth consignment of the Sinovac vaccine **from China received by Bangladesh**.
- Bangladesh has fully vaccinated over 5.22 million people with both doses of the COVID 19 vaccine while more than 15.31 million people have received one dose of the vaccine till 12 August.

#### Tata Motors partners with Bank of Maharashtra

- **Homegrown auto major Tata Motors** stated it has **partnered with Bank of Maharashtra** to offer retail financing st for its passenger vehicles.
- Under the partnership, **Bank of Maharashtra will provide loans to Tata Motors' customers** at an interest rate starting from as low as **7.15 per cent linked with Repo Linked Lending Rate (RLLR)**, subject to certain conditions.

- Besides, the scheme will offer a **maximum of 90 per cent financing on the total cost of the vehicle** (on-road pricing) for various individuals like salaried employees, self-employed people, professionals, businessmen, and agriculturist.
- On the other hand, a **maximum of 80 per cent financing** can be availed on the cost of the vehicle by corporate clients.
- The **partnership with Bank of Maharashtra** is aimed at offering special finance schemes to support to the company's customers in these tough times, it added.

#### Disaster Management MoU between India and Bangladesh

- The Union Cabinet Chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the **MoU on cooperation in the field of Disaster Management, Resilience and Mitigation** signed between India and Bangladesh in March this year during the visit of Prime Minister Modi to Bangladesh.
- The **MoU seeks to put in place a system** so that both the countries benefit from the Disaster Management mechanisms of each other.

#### About the MOU:

- It will help in **strengthening the areas** of preparedness, response and capacity building in the field of Disaster Management.
- The **MoU envisages** that India and Bangladesh will extend mutual support to each other at the time of large scale disaster in the field of relief, response, reconstruction and recovery.
- Both the countries will also exchange relevant information, remote sensing and other scientific data.
- They will also share best practices in the field of disaster response, recovery, mitigation, capacity building for ensuring resilience, etc.
- **According to the provisions of MoU** India and Bangladesh will extend cooperation in the field of advanced information technology, early warning systems, remote sensing and navigation services and expertise for disaster preparedness, response and mitigation and more towards real time data sharing.

#### UK to start negotiations for trade agreement with India

- The **UK government** is looking at wrapping up a quick **"interim" trade deal** with India, which could see tariffs slashed on products like Scotch whisky before a full agreement is in place.
- The **Department for International Trade (DIT)** is looking to start formal negotiations with India before the end of this year, after an initial consultation period finishes in two weeks' time.
- Britain will try to strike an interim agreement that would allow for **free trade between the two countries under the terms of a World Trade Organization** charter.
- Indian producers of things like rice could get **greater access to the UK market under the interim deal**.

#### Centre & ADB signed an ink pact to expand Bengaluru metro network

- The **Government of India** and the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** signed a **\$500 million loan** to expand the metro rail network in Bengaluru with the construction of two new metro lines totaling 56 km in length.

- The **signatories to the agreement for Bengaluru Metro Rail Project** were Rajat Kumar Mishra, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Finance who signed for the Government of India, and Takeo Konishi, Country Director of ADB's India Resident Mission who signed for ADB.
- "The **new metro lines** will further strengthen safe, affordable and green mobility in Bengaluru, having a positive impact on enhancing quality of life, sustainable growth in **urban habitat and livelihood opportunities**."
- "The project supports urban transformation of **Bengaluru City** into a more livable and sustainable city through support to urban public transport and urban development with concepts of **transit-oriented development (TOD) and multi-modal integration (MMI)**".
- "The project will bring various benefits including road de-congestion, better urban livability and environmental improvement."

#### Tourism Ministry signs MOU with MakeMyTrip, Ibibo

- The **Ministry of Tourism** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **MakeMyTrip (India) Private Limited** and **Ibibo Group Private Limited** as part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen the hospitality and tourism industry in the aftermath of the coronavirus pandemic.
- The Ministry of Tourism has already signed **MoUs with EaseMyTrip, Cleartrip and Yatra.com**.

#### About the MOU:

- "The **primary objective of this MoU** is to provide an extensive visibility to accommodation units, which have self-certified themselves on SAATHI (System for Assessment, Awareness and Training for the Hospitality Industry) on the OTA platform.
- The **MoU** also outlines both parties to encourage units to register on NIDHI and thereby on SAATHI and encourage local tourism industry with appropriate safeguards for curbing spread of COVID-19.

#### Assam govt signs MoU with banks, MFIs

- The **Assam government** signed a **memorandum of understanding (MoU)** with **38 microfinance institutions (MFI)** and banks to give relief to poor women borrowers.
- Waving off the microfinance loans of women was a **poll promise** of the ruling BJP.
- "With a view to providing succor to poor women borrowers who are not able to return the loan amount of MFIs, the **Finance Department of the Government of Assam** signed an **MoU** with MFIs for implementation of **Assam Micro Finance Incentive and Relief Scheme (AMFIRS), 2021**".
- Chief Minister **Himanta Biswa Sarma**, who was present, described the **MoU as historic**.

#### Poonawalla Fincorp signed MoU with Institute of Company Secretaries of India

- **Poonawalla Fincorp Limited (Formerly Magma Fincorp Limited)**, has signed an **MoU** with **Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI)** to provide **collateral-free term loans** to **ICSI** members as well as its employees.
- The **scheme** will benefit **over 65,000 ICSI members** across the country.
- The **scheme offers** an attractive interest rate, zero prepayment charges and host of other attractive benefits.

- This is a unique offering covering company secretary's professionals across the country powered by a **completely digital** and **100% paperless process** along with E-Agreement and E-NACH for fully online offering.
- In line with the **company's objective** of providing hassle-free loans to professionals to meet their financial needs, the company has planned for similar such tie-ups.
- It **demonstrates its irrefutable support** towards nation-building while creating opportunities of growth and development of professionals and entrepreneurs.

#### India & Maldives signed inks pact on mega Greater Male Connectivity Project

- In one of the **major connectivity initiatives abroad**, India will commence the **Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP)** -- the largest-ever infrastructure project -- in the Maldives.
- India will **grant \$100 million** for the project besides a **line of credit worth Rs 400 million**.
- "A contract between AFCONS and Government of the Maldives was signed for construction of **Greater Male Connectivity Project**."
- "This is a **flagship project** of President Solih's presidency.
- It will be an enduring symbol of the **India-Maldives partnership**.
- It is the **largest infrastructure project** to be executed in the country.
- This **project will connect** business, people, and industry."
- **GMCP** will include the construction of a **6.74 km long bridge and causeway link** which will connect the capital city Male with adjoining islands of Villingli, Gulhifalhu and Thilafushi.

#### Important Summit & Conference

#### BRICS Counter Terrorism Working Group 6th meeting held virtually July 28-29 under India's Chairmanship

- The **6th meeting of the BRICS Counter Terrorism Working Group (CTWG)** was held virtually on **28-29 July 2021** under the Chairship of India. Mr. Mahaveer Singhvi, Joint Secretary for Counter Terrorism, Ministry of External Affairs chaired the meeting.
- Senior counter terrorism officials from **all BRICS countries** participated in the meeting.
- The **main outcome** of the **Working Group meeting** was the finalization of the **BRICS Counter Terrorism Action Plan** containing specific measures to implement the BRICS Counter Terrorism Strategy adopted by BRICS Leaders in 2020.

#### About the Action Plan:

- The **Action Plan is aimed** at further strengthening result oriented cooperation between BRICS countries in areas such as preventing and combating terrorism, radicalization, financing of terrorism, misuse of internet by terrorists, curbing travel of terrorists, border control, protection of soft targets, information sharing, capacity building, international and regional cooperation etc.
- The **BRICS Counter Terrorism Action Plan** is one of the key deliverables during India's Chairship of BRICS and will be adopted at the meeting of BRICS National Security Advisors scheduled next month.

### Italy hosts G20 Culture Ministers' Meeting

- The first **G20 Culture Ministers Meeting** was held in **Rome, Italy**.
- The meeting began at the Colosseum.
- The culture ministers of the 20 largest economies in the world and 40 high-level cultural delegations attended the meeting.
- The meeting was attended by the Italian Prime Minister, Mario Draghi, the Minister of Culture, Dario Franceschini, and the Director General of UNESCO, Audrey Azoulay.
- OECD, UNESCO, the Union for the Mediterranean, the Council of Europe, ICOM, ICCROM and ICOMOS, Interpol, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the World Customs Organization (WCO) took part in the meetings.
- July 30, conference was held at Palazzo Barberini, the museum houses the collection of ancient Italian art

### Points discussed in the conference:

- Protect and promote the cultural and creative sector as an engine for balanced growth which is also sustainable.
- Protect cultural heritage from risks, including natural disasters, environmental degradation and climate change, sabotage and looting, and illegal traffic in cultural property.
- Promote digital and technological transformation in the cultural and creative fields.
- Develop the capacity through training to face the complexity of the contemporary world and the challenges of the cultural sector.
- Joint Statement on Climate Change through Culture.

### Addl.Info:

- Italy assumed the rotating presidency of the G20 2021 in December last year and will host the G20 Leaders' Summit in Rome on October 30 and 31.

### G20 Culture Ministers' Meeting : Union Minister Meenakashi Lekhi leads Indian delegation

- On July 30, 2021, On behalf of the **Government of India**, **Meenakashi Lekhi**, Hon'ble Minister of State for Culture of India participated in the **G20 Culture Ministers' Meeting**
- The **two day** meeting hosted by **Italy** on July 29 & 30, 2021, during their ongoing Presidency of G20 in 2021.

### Highlights of the Meeting :

- During the G20 meeting the Discussion was held on **Protection of Cultural Heritage**; Addressing the Climate Crisis through Culture; Building Capacity through Training and Education; Digital Transition and New Technologies for Culture; and Culture and Creative Sectors as drivers for growth.
- Meenakashi Lekhi, explained the various measures taken by India to develop the culture and creative sectors like the One District One Product scheme of Government of Uttar Pradesh, Tourism circuits, promotion of Yoga and Ayurveda etc.
- Finally, the G20 Ministers of Culture **adopted the G20 Culture Working Group Terms** of Reference.

### India takes over UNSC Presidency for August



- India has assumed the **Presidency** of the **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** for the month of **August**.
- This is the **first presidency** for India during its 2021-22 tenure as a non-permanent member of the UNSC.
- India will organise three high-level signature meetings **focussing** on **maritime security, peacekeeping, and counter-terrorism**.
- India will also **coordinate** important **meetings** on a range of issues.

#### DRDO inaugurated 2nd IEEE International Conference On Range Technology

- On Aug 05, 2021, The **2nd Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) International Conference on Range Technology (ICORT-2021)** was inaugurated by the Chairman DRDO Dr G Satheesh Reddy.
- The conference has been **organised by Integrated Test Range (ITR) Chandipur**, a laboratory of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- The event has speakers from across the globe, who will present their technological achievements in multiple subjects related to Tests and Evaluation of defence systems.

#### Key People :

- Former Scientific Advisor to the Defence Minister **Dr Avinash Chander** ( Chief Guest ), Director General (Missiles & Strategic Systems) **Dr BHVS Narayana Murthy**; ex-DG, DRDO MSR Prasad; Director ITR Chandipur HK Ratha also Participated in that event.

#### About the Conference :

- The conference is a very effective platform for all the Range Technology enthusiasts to interact with each other and stay updated with **recent developments in relevant fields**
- More than **250 technical articles** were submitted by experts on the relevant subjects, out of which 122 articles have been selected by a specialised technical committee.
- A virtual industrial exhibition is also being held in which more than 25 industries and organisations from India and abroad will display their products and technologies.

#### Kiren Rijju to attends 8th SCO Meeting of Ministers of Justice

- On Aug 06, 2021, The Union Law Minister **Kiren Rijju** attended the **eighth meeting** of Ministers of Justice of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** On virtually.

#### Keypeople :

- The Minister of State for Law & Justice, Prof SP Singh Baghel also attended the meeting.

#### About the meeting :

- The **three days'** meeting was **hosted by Tajikistan**.
- The meeting was **chaired** by Tajikistan's Justice Minister, **MK Ashuriyon**.
- The Ministers of (Law and) Justice and senior officials and experts from the Ministries of Law & Justice of 'India, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan' participated in the meeting.

- In that meeting, Kiren Rijju highlighted the initiatives taken by the Government of India for **providing affordable and easy access to justice for all**.
- Further it will deliberate on areas of cooperation and the role of coronavirus laws in the pandemic, providing free legal aid to citizens in accordance with national legislation, the role of ministries of law and justice in countering corruption and other allied areas of cooperation and assistance in legal services.

#### PM Modi Chairs UN Security Council Debate

- On Aug 09, 2021, Prime Minister of India, **Narendra Modi** becoming the **first India PM** chaired the **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** open debate via video conferencing.
- **Theme** of the debate : '**Enhancing Maritime Security – A Case for International Cooperation**'.
- India assumed the rotating Presidency of the United Nations Security Council for August 2021, taking over from France.
- The debate focuses on the ways to effectively counter **maritime crime and insecurity**, and **strengthen coordination** in the **maritime domain**.
- India will organize two more meetings during its presidency, on peacekeeping and counterterrorism.

#### For maritime security, Modi expressed 5 basic principles:

- 1) Free maritime trade sans barriers so as to establish legitimate trade.
- 2) Settlement of maritime disputes should be peaceful and on the basis of international law only.
- 3) Responsible maritime connectivity should be encouraged.
- 4) Fourth is the need to collectively combat maritime threats posed by non-state actors and natural calamities.
- 5) Preserve the maritime environment and maritime resources.

#### Note :

- This is India's **tenth tenure** at the UN Security Council. So far it has been President of the body nine times: June 1950, September 1967, December 1972, October 1977, February 1985, October 1991, December 1992, August 2011, and November 2012.

#### India to host first Internet Governance Forum in October 2021

- On Aug 09, 2021, The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** announced that India will host the **first Internet Governance Forum** in the country for three days beginning October 20, 2021.
- **Theme** of Internet Governance Forum is "**Inclusive Internet for Digital India**" & the meeting scheduled from October 20-22, 2021.
- The **3-day event** will conduct over 25 workshops in domains such as Digital Economy, Digital Governance, Trust, Security, Stability, Sustainability.

#### Objective :

- To generate discussions about policy formation related to the **Internet**.
- The forum will also become a starting point for identifying something that retards or halts the free movement and progress of Internet policies and trying to resolve this one by one.

- The Indian Internet Governance Forum will work towards bringing various stakeholders together from different groups, considering all at par to discuss public policy issues related to the Internet.

#### About India Internet Governance Forum:

- The Indian Internet Governance Forum (IGF), is the Indian version of the **United Nations-based 'Internet Governance Forum (IGF)'**, held annually since 2006.

#### Note :

- **India** is the **second-largest** broadband subscription country in the world and also has the **highest** data consumption per user per month.

#### 28th ASEAN Regional Forum Ministerial Meeting 2021 : MoS Rajkumar Ranjan Singh led India's delegation

- On Aug 06, 2021, to the **28th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Foreign Ministers Meeting**, the Minister of State for External Affairs **Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh** led India's delegation.
- The Meeting was held virtually under the Chairmanship of **Brunei Darussalam**.

#### About the Meeting :

- The member countries exchanged views on international and regional issues, and future direction of the ARF.
- Dr. Singh presented India's perspectives on the **Indo-Pacific**, the **threat of terrorism**, importance of UNCLOS in the maritime domain and cyber security.
- The ARF Ministers adopted a Joint Statement on Promoting the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) Agenda.

#### PM Modi addresses Investor Summit in Gujarat

- On Aug 13, 2021, Prime Minister Shri **Narendra Modi** addressed the Investor Summit in **Gujarat** via video conference.
- The Summit is being organized to invite investment for setting up vehicle scrapping infrastructure in **Ahmedabad**.

#### About Investor Summit :

- The Investor Summit was organized by the **Gujarat government** and the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways**.
- During the summit PM Modi launched the **National Automobile Scrappage Policy**.

#### About Vehicle Scrapping Policy:

- The policy invites investment for setting up vehicle scrapping infrastructure under the **Voluntary Vehicle-Fleet Modernization Program**.

#### Objective :

- To phase out unfit and polluting vehicles in an environment-friendly manner.
- This will reduce pollution, create job opportunities and boost demand for new vehicles & achieve better fuel efficiency.
- The policy intends to create scrapping infrastructure in the form of Automated Testing Stations and Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facilities across the country.

#### Note :

- The Gujarat government has joined hands with auto major Tata Motors for setting up a vehicle scrapping facility in Ahmedabad.

#### India Organize IBSA Tourism Ministers' Meet

- On August 12, 2021, **India** organized the **IBSA (India, Brazil and South Africa)** Tourism Ministers' meeting through Virtually.

#### Key People :

- The IBSA Tourism Ministers' Meet **chaired** by the Union Minister of Tourism of India, **Shri G. Kishan Reddy**.
- Gilson Machado Neto, Minister of Tourism of the Federative Republic of Brazil and Fish Amos Mahlalela, Deputy Minister of Tourism of the Republic of South Africa , Fish Amos Mahlalela, attended video conferencing under India's IBSA Chairship.

#### About the Meeting :

- The IBSA is a **trilateral**, developmental initiative between India, Brazil and South Africa to promote South-South cooperation and exchange.

#### Aim :

- To strengthen relations between the member countries for **economic development and promote tourism cooperation** among the member states and recognized the importance of strengthening cooperation in tourism to overcome the impact of Covid 19 pandemic on the tourism sector.
- The important aspect of the meeting was the adoption of the IBSA Tourism Ministers Joint Statement, an outcome document on cooperation and promotion for speedy recovery of travel and tourism.

#### CEC inaugurates 11th Annual Meeting of FEMBoSA for 2021

- Chief Election Commissioner of India & Chairman of FEMBoSA, **Sushil Chandra** inaugurated the **11th Annual meeting of the Forum of the Election Management Bodies of South Asia (FEMBoSA)** for the year 2021 Virtually.
- It was hosted by the **Election Commission of Bhutan**.
- **Theme** of the meeting : 'Use of Technology in Elections'.
- Along with India, delegations from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka participated.
- Shri Sushil Chandra, CEC, virtually handed over the Chairmanship of FEMBoSA to **H.E. Dasho Sonam Topgay**, Chief Election Commissioner of Bhutan .

#### Note :

- The **10th FEMBoSA** meeting was held in **New Delhi on 24 Jan. 2020**.

#### Union Minister Piyush Goyal chairs 5th meeting of BRICS Industry Ministers

- On Aug 18, 2021, The Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, **Shri Piyush Goyal** chaired the **5th BRICS Industry Ministers Meeting** through video conferencing under the Chairship of India.
- **Theme for BRICS 2021** : BRICS@15: Intra BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus for its Chairship.

- The Industry Ministers of BRICS Countries **Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa** attended the meeting.

#### About the Meeting :

- During the meeting the BRICS ministers called for the need to adopt emerging new technologies, recognising it as an important tool for modernisation and transformation of industry, and promotion of economic growth.
- Also expressed their intention to collaborate with the New Development Bank (NDB).
- At the end of the meeting the ministers committed to work together as a group, share best practices and move ahead in a positive and constructive manner to achieve the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

#### Aarogya Dhara- 2.0 to mark the completion of 2 Cr treatments under AB-PMJAY

- **Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare** chaired the event **Aarogya Dhara- 2.0** to mark the completion of **2 Cr** treatments under **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)**.
- With the completion of more than 2 crore hospital admissions landmark, treatments worth **approximately Rs 25,000 crore** have been provided till date through a growing network of 23,000 public and private empaneled hospitals to patients across 33 States/UTs in the country since the launch of the scheme on 23rd September 2018.

#### The following key initiatives were also launched on the occasion:

- **Adhikar Patra**: to be issued to the beneficiaries during their hospital admissions for treatment under PM-JAY scheme to make them aware about their rights so that they can claim free and cashless healthcare services upto Rs 5 lakhs under the scheme.
- **Abhinandan Patra**: a 'thank you note' to be issued to the beneficiaries during their discharge after the treatment under PM-JAY for availing the **benefits of AB PM-JAY scheme**.
- The **Abhinandan Patra** is also accompanied by a feedback form to be filled in by the beneficiary regarding the service they received under the scheme.
- **Ayushman Mitra**: Another **key initiative** launched which provides an opportunity to all citizens to contribute to the vision of Ayushman Bharat by helping eligible people to get their Ayushman Cards created and bring them under the ambit of the scheme.
- This can be done by logging in to <https://pmjay.gov.in/ayushman-mitrato> create Ayushman Mitra ID which can then be shared with eligible people.
- While getting Ayushman Cards and while availing treatments under the scheme the Ayushman Mitra ID can be shared by **beneficiaries to CSC/empaneled hospital**.

#### Arjun Ram Meghwal participates in 18th Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Culture Ministers' meeting

- On Aug 18, 2021, Minister of State for Culture, **Arjun Ram Meghwal** participated in the SCO Culture Ministers Meeting hosted by **Tajikistan** during their ongoing Chairship of SCO in 2021 through virtual mode.
- During the meeting, discussion was held on the development of cultural and humanitarian cooperation, prospects for cooperation in the field of culture within the SCO, including in the post-pandemic period and importance of cultural cooperation within the SCO, which has enormous potential for strengthening inter-state understanding.

#### NITI Aayog & WRI Jointly Launch 'Forum for Decarbonizing Transport' in India

- On Aug 23, 2021, Indian government's think-tank **NITI Aayog**, in collaboration with **World Resources Institute (WRI)**, launched the **Forum for Decarbonising Transport in India**.

**Aim :**

- To bring down the peak level of GHG emissions (transport sector) in Asia (in line with a well below 2-degree pathway), resulting in problems like congestion and air pollution.
- The NDC Transport Initiative for Asia (TIA 2020-2023) is a joint programme of seven organisations that will engage China, India, and Vietnam in promoting a comprehensive approach to decarbonizing transport in their respective countries.

**Ajit Doval To Chair 11th BRICS NSA Virtual Meeting**

- On Aug 24, 2021, India's National Security Advisor **Ajit Doval** hosted the **11th Meeting** of the **BRICS High Representatives Responsible for National Security** through video conferencing.

**Keypeople :**

- Secretary of the Security Council of Russia Gen Patrushev, Chinese Politburo Member Yang Jeichi, South African Deputy Minister of State Security Ncediso Goodenough Kodwa and Gen Augusto Heleno Ribeiro Pereira, Minister of State and Head of the Institutional Security Cabinet of the Presidency of Brazil attended the high-level meeting.
- The meeting adopted and recommended the BRICS counter-terrorism action plan for consideration.
- During the meeting, discussed the Afghanistan scenario, and developments in **Iran, West Asia** and the **Gulf region**.
- The **15th** BRICS Summit is scheduled to be held in **September 2021**.
- The BRICS meeting of NSA is an important platform for the **five countries** to strengthen political security cooperation.

**Spices Board & Embassy of India, Bangkok Organized an International Buyer Seller Meet (IBSM)**

- The **Spices Board** in association with the **Embassy of India, Bangkok** organized an **International Buyer Seller Meet (IBSM)** and a webinar.
- It brings together the Indian spice exporters, leading spice importers in Thailand, trade associations, chamber of commerce, leading supermarket chains, departmental stores etc.
- It brought together over **240 exporters** from India and 60 plus importers from Thailand.

**Smriti Irani addresses 1st ever G20 ministerial conference on women's empowerment held in Italy**

- On Aug 26, 2021, The first-ever **G20 ministerial conference on Women's Empowerment**, was held at **Santa Margherita Ligure, Italy** in a hybrid format.
- On behalf of **India**, The Union Minister of Women & Child Development, **Smt. Smriti Irani** addressed the meeting.
- The Conference was **chaired** by Italian Minister for equal opportunities and family, **Elena Bonetti**.
- The discussion was based on two specific areas:
  - STEM, financial and digital literacy, environment and sustainability
  - Labour and economic empowerment and work-life balance.
- Smriti Irani has reaffirmed India's commitment towards addressing gender and women centric issues through mutual cooperation.

### Union Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar chairs 11th meeting of Agriculture Ministers of BRICS countries

- On Aug 27, 2021, Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare **Shri Narendra Singh Tomar** chaired the **11th Meeting of BRICS Agriculture Ministers**.
- Theme** : “BRICS Partnership for Strengthening Agro Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition Security”.
- During the meeting, the Agriculture Minister highlighted the efforts made by India in preserving the agro-biodiversity by establishing and maintaining the **National Gene banks** for plants, animals, fish, insects and agriculturally important microorganisms at different respective Bureaus.
- BRICS Agricultural Research Platform has been created to **promote cooperation in agricultural research** and innovations and its implementation.

#### Note :

- United Nations has declared the year **2023** as the **International Year of Millets**

### ECI organizes 2 day SVEEP Consultation Workshop

- The **Election Commission of India** organized a **two-day SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) Consultation Workshop** on August 25-26, 2021.

#### Objective :

- To review State SVEEP Plans & conduct extensive deliberations on the important aspects of SVEEP for a comprehensive strategy for the forthcoming elections.

#### About SVEEP Programme :

- Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation program is the flagship program of the Election Commission of India for **voter education & awareness**, spreading voter awareness and promoting voter literacy in India..
- To build an inclusive & participative democracy by encouraging all eligible citizens to vote and make an informed decision & ethical choice.
- To reach out to new voters through a personalized letter from the Commission when sending out their Voter ID Cards.
- The package would include a Voter Guide for new voters along with a congratulatory letter and a pledge for ethical voting.

#### Revision Points

Conference/Summits	Venue/Host Country	Chaired By/Theme/Addressed By/Others
Two-day SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) Consultation Workshop	Organized by Election Commission of India	
11th meeting of Agriculture Ministers of BRICS countries	Chaired by Narendra Singh Tomar	BRICS Partnership for Strengthening Agro Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition



		Security
The first-ever G20 ministerial conference on Women's Empowerment	Santa Margherita Ligure, Italy	Chaired by Elena Bonetti.
International Buyer Seller Meet		Organized by Spices Board & Embassy of India, Bangkok
11th Meeting of the BRICS High Representatives Responsible for National Security	Hosted by Ajit Doval	
18th Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Culture Ministers' meeting	(Virtual) Tajikistan	Participated by Arjun Ram Meghwal
5th meeting of BRICS Industry Ministers	Chaired by Piyush Goyal	BRICS@15: Intra BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus
11th Annual meeting of the Forum of the Election Management Bodies of South Asia (FEMBoSA)	Hosted by the Election Commission of Bhutan	Use of Technology in Elections
IBSA (India, Brazil and South Africa) Tourism Ministers' meeting	Virtual	Chaired by G. Kishan Reddy
Investor Summit	Gujarat	Organized by the Gujarat government and the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
28th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Foreign Ministers Meeting	Virtual	Chaired by Brunei Darussalam
First Internet Governance Forum	Hosted by India	Inclusive Internet for Digital India
6th meeting of the BRICS Counter Terrorism Working Group	Chaired by Mahaveer Singhvi	The first G20 Culture Ministers Meeting was held in Rome.
G20 Culture Ministers' Meeting	Virtual	Meenakashi Lekhi leads Indian delegation
G20 Culture Ministers Meeting	Rome, Italy	
2nd Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) International Conference on Range Technology	Organised by Integrated Test Range (ITR) Chandipur	Inaugurated by Dr G Satheesh Reddy

8th SCO Meeting of Ministers of Justice	Tajikistan	Prof SP Singh Baghel also attended the meeting
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## Important Defence News

### 36th edition of CORPAT between India and Indonesia Navies begins

- On 30 and 31 July 2021, the **36th edition of CORPAT** between **India and Indonesia navies** was held in the **Indian Ocean region**.
- Indian Naval Ship (INS) **Saryu**, an indigenously built Offshore Patrol Vessel & Indonesian Naval Ship **KRI Bung Tomo** is undertaking **coordinated patrol (CORPAT)**.
- The exercise is held as a '**non-contact, at sea only**' exercise in view of COVID-19 pandemic.
- It highlights the **high degree of mutual trust and confidence, synergy and cooperation between the two friendly navies**

#### Aim :

- To keep the Indian Ocean Region **safe and secure for commercial shipping, international trade and conduct of legitimate maritime activities**.

#### Note :

- India and Indonesia have been conducting the Coordinated Patrols along the **International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL)** since 2002 **twice a year**.

### INS Khanjar becomes the first INS to call at heritage coastal port of Gopalpur

- Indian Naval Ship Khanjar becomes the **first Indian Navy ship** to call at the **heritage coastal port of Gopalpur in Odisha**.
- It is the **two-day visit** which concluded on 02 Aug 21.
- It was organised as part of Aazadi ka Amrit Mahotsav as well as Swarnim Vijay Varsh celebrations to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Independence and 50th anniversary of the 1971 War.

#### Aim :

- To **enhance ties and spread awareness** with the local populace on aspects of coastal security and maritime operations.
- During the visit, officers discussed aspects related to berthing facilities for OTR of Naval ships and security overview of port infrastructure.

### India's first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier, INS Vikrant, sets out on sea trials

- On Aug 04, 2021, India's **first indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC) Vikrant** set out on its maiden sea trials for **making military equipment within India**.

#### About INS Vikrant :

- INS Vikrant, also known as **Indigenous Aircraft Carrier 1 (IAC-1)**, is the **first aircraft carrier** to be built in India.
- The **44,000-tonne carrier** was built at the state-owned **Cochin Shipyard in Kochi, Kerala**.
- Built at a cost of **Rs 23,000 crore**, the carrier is expected to be fully operational by the second half of 2022.

- Vikrant is the largest and most complex warship ever to be designed and built in India.
- The trials will be conducted over an extensive period under all conditions before the warship is accepted as “**proven at sea**”.
- It will include take-off and landing of **Russian MiG 29K fighter jets**.
- It has been designed by the **Navy's Directorate of Naval Design**.
- It has a top speed of **28 knots (52 kmph)** and a cruising speed of 18 knots with an endurance of about 7,500 nautical miles (13,650 km).
- Around **550 Indian firms**, including about **100 MSMEs**, have been providing various services for the construction of the warship.
- It has 14 decks with 2,300 compartments for a crew of around 1,700.

#### About Sea trials :

- Sea trials is a general term referring to a series of rigorous, underway tests to confirm that the ship's hull, mechanical and electrical and other systems function as required.

#### Note :

- At present, India's **only operational aircraft carrier** is **INS Vikramaditya**.

#### 12th edition of India-Russia joint military training Exercise INDRA 2021 begins in Volgograd, Russia

- The **12th edition of Indo-Russia joint military exercise INDRA 2021** will be held at **Volgograd, Russia** from 1 to 13 August to **enhance interoperability between the two armies**.

#### Aim :

- To facilitate joint training between Indian and Russian forces to jointly plan and **conduct counter-terror operations** under the **United Nations mandate**.

#### About the Exercise INDRA 2021 :

- The exercise will involve **250 personnel from both countries**.
- It will **build mutual confidence and interoperability** between both Armies, as well as allow for the exchange of best practices.
- Also it will **enhance security cooperation** and would contribute to deepen India- Russia long-standing bond of friendship.

#### Chief of Staff of US Army General James C McConville visits India

- US Army's Chief of Staff, **General James C McConville** is on a **two-day** visit to **India**.
- He called on Indian Army Chief **MM Naravane** and discussed issues of mutual interest & various key aspects of bilateral defence and security cooperation between both sides.

#### About James C McConville :

- James C McConville serves as the **40th chief of staff of the Army**.
- He previously served as the **36th vice chief of staff of the Army**.
- Prior to that, he served as the Army's Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel (G1).

#### About MM Naravane :

- MM Naravane is the **current** and **27th Chief of the Army Staff**.
- He served as the **40th Vice Chief of Army Staff**.
- In 2019, he was awarded the **Param Vishisht Seva Medal**.

#### IAF chief RKS Bhadauria visits Israel to enhance military ties

- Indian Air Force chief Air Chief **Marshal RKS Bhadauria** visits **Israel** to discuss the **military ties** and **cooperation between two countries**.
- During the meeting, they also discussed enhancement in the depth and scope of bilateral exchanges between the two Air Forces.

#### Recent News :

- On August 1, Air Chief **Marshal Bhadauria** called on Major General Ibrahim Nasser M. Al Alawi, Commander UAE Air Force and Air Defence (UAE AF & AD).

#### Indian - UAE Navies Undertakes Naval Exercise 'Zayed Talwar 2021' Off Abu Dhabi Coast

- On Aug 08, 2021, **India** and the **United Arab Emirates (UAE) Navies** carried out a naval exercise '**Zayed Talwar 2021**' Off Abu Dhabi Coast.
- It is a **bilateral naval exercise**, and was **designed** to **enhance interoperability** and **synergy** between the two navies.
- The Indian Navy deployed warship **INS Kochi** and two Sea King MK 42B helicopters.
- The UAE deployed Baynunah class guided missile corvette, Al Dhafra and an AS-565B Panther helicopter.

#### Indian Army contingent to participate in International Army Games at Russia

- The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** has announced that **101-member contingent** of the **Indian Army** will participate in **International Army Games 2021**
- This is the **seventh edition** of the International Army Games, 2021 & it is scheduled to be held in Russia from **August 22 to September 4**.
- The competition will be held in **eleven countries**.
- Over **280 teams from 42 countries** will compete in the game to show their combat skills, professionalism and determination to win.
- The Indian contingent will participate in Army Scout Masters Competition (ASMC), Elbrus Ring, Polar Star, Sniper Frontier and Safe Route games.
- India had also co-hosted the games in 2019 and had stood first in Army Scouts Master Competition in Jaisalmer.

#### Aim of International Army Games, 2021 :

- To promote military to military cooperation while building upon the best practices of participating nations.

#### India, Saudi Arabia To Carry Out First-Ever Naval Exercise Al-Mohed Al-Hindi 2021

- On Aug 09, 2021, **India** and **Saudi Arabia** are all set to conduct their **first-ever naval exercise Al-Mohed Al-Hindi 2021**
- **INS Kochi**, the flagship destroyer of the Indian Western Naval Fleet, arrived at Port Al-Jubail

- The warship reached to Saudi Arabia after carrying out a naval exercise with the UAE Navy off the coast of Abu Dhabi.

#### About the Exercise :

- The exercise is taking place amid rising tension in the Gulf region after a drone attack on a merchant tanker off Oman killed a British national and a Romanian citizen.
- The UK and the US pointed fingers at Iran for the attack on MV Mercer Street, operated by an Israeli-owned firm.
- In December 2020, Army Chief Gen **MM Naravane** visited the UAE and Saudi Arabia in a first-ever visit by a head of the Indian Army to the two important Gulf countries.

#### About INS Kochi :

- INS Kochi is the **second ship of Kolkata-class** stealth guided-missile destroyers.
- It was built for **Indian Navy** under the code name **Project 15A**.
- The ship was constructed by **Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL)** in Mumbai and commissioned to Indian Navy service in September 2015.

#### ITBP Inducts Two Women Officers In Combat for first time

- For the **first time**, the **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** inducted **two women** officers **Prakriti** and **Diksha** who have been **commissioned as combatised officers**.
- They are posted as **Assistant Commandants** in ITBP battalions, after completing their training at the ITBP Academy in Mussoorie.
- Uttarakhand Chief Minister **Pushkar Singh Dhami** and ITBP director general **S S Deswal** inducted the two women officers as Assistant Commandants, the entry-level officer rank in the paramilitary.
- During the event, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) force released the first-ever book on its history titled **"History of ITBP"**.

#### India successfully test fires Nirbhay missile off Odisha coast

- On Aug 11, 2021, The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully test-fired **1,000-km range Nirbhay cruise missile** from **Chandipur** testing facility in **Odisha**.
- ITCM Nirbhay missile was equipped with a Made-in-India Manik turbofan engine

#### About Nirbhay missile :

- Nirbhay is **India's first Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile (ITCM)**.
- It is a Long-range, all-weather, subsonic cruise missile.
- It can use both conventional and nuclear weapons of 200 to 300 kilograms.
- The missile can be launched from multiple platforms.
- The missile has a length of 6 metres, width of 0.52 metres, a wingspan of 2.7 metres and weighs about 1500 kg.
- Nirbhay is a subsonic missile, flying at a **speed of 0.7 to 0.9 Mach**

#### Note :

- The Nirbhay missile was first test fired from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur on March 12, 2013.

- It was tested for the ninth time.

#### Ex-Malabar 2021: Quad Navies to undertake

- The **Quad navies** will be conducting the **annual Malabar naval exercises**, from August 21, off the **coast of Guam**, in the Indo-Pacific.
- The harbour phase of the Malabar naval exercises is scheduled on August 21-24.
- While the sea phase of the annual exercise will be held on August 25-29.

#### Objective :

- To increase the interoperability of naval powers of the **four QUAD countries (India, US ,Japan, Australia )**.
- Indian Navy will be represented by two surface combatants led by Guided Missile Destroyer INS Ranvijay and Frigate INS Shivalik along with maritime reconnaissance aircraft P8I, ASW helicopters and special forces

#### Note :

- The **last Malabar exercise** off the coast of Guam was held in **2018** with Japanese, Indian and US Navy participating in the advanced naval war games.

#### Indian Navy takes part in US Navy-led SEACAT exercises

- On Aug 10, 2021, The **Indian Navy** participated in the **U.S. Navy-led Southeast Asia Cooperation and Training (SEACAT)** military exercise in **Singapore**.
- It was **organised** by the **U.S. Navy**, in Hybrid format.

#### Aim :

- To enhance the **interoperability** and shared **maritime security** concerns and preserve rules-based international order.
- To foster enhanced cooperation between Southeast Asian countries by incorporating standardized training, tactics and procedures when faced with crises, contingencies or illegal activities in the maritime domain.

#### About the Exercise :

- This is the 20th edition of the exercise & the exercise involves approximately 400 personnel and 10 ships.
- The military exercise also included navies of 20 other partner nations.
- Other countries participating in the exercise include Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, Canada, France, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Maldives, New Zealand, Philippines, South Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, United Kingdom and Vietnam.

#### Note :

- SEACAT was held for the first time in **2002**.

#### Pakistan Army successfully test fires surface-to-surface ballistic missile - Ghaznavi

- On Aug 12, 2021, the **Pakistan Army** successfully test-fired a nuclear-capable surface-to-surface **ballistic missile Ghaznavi**.
- The Ghaznavi missile has a range up to **290 kilometres**.
- Pakistan's **National Development Complex** has been designed and developed.

- The test-fire was also aimed at ensuring the operational readiness of **Army Strategic Forces Command (ASFC)** and re-validating technical parameters of the weapon system.
- The Ghaznavi missile has been tested in both day and night modes.
- The Missile is capable of carrying both nuclear as well as conventional warheads.

#### **INS Tabar Participates in Exercise Konkan 2021 in Portsmouth, UK**

- **INS Tabar** is participating in the bilateral **Exercise Konkan 2021** between the **Indian Navy** and **Britain's Royal Navy** in **Portsmouth, UK**.

##### **Purpose :**

- To **enhance** the **interoperability, synergy** and cooperation between both navies.
- The harbour phase of the exercise, during which several professional interactions, sharing of best practices and harbour drills were also conducted.

##### **About Exercise Konkan :**

- It has been held every year since **2004** between the Indian and British navies.

##### **About INS Tabar :**

- INS Tabar is the **third of the Talwar-class frigates** of the Indian Navy.
- **Commanding Officer (CO)** : Captain Mahesh Mangipudi .

#### **Indian Navy And Vietnam People's Navy Conducts Bilateral Maritime Exercise At South China Sea**

- On Aug 18, 2021, The **Indian Navy** carried out a **bilateral maritime exercise** with the **Vietnamese Navy** in the **South China Sea** as part of maritime cooperation between the two countries.

##### **Aim :**

- To consolidate the strong bond shared by the two navies and strengthen India-Vietnam defence relations.
- From **India**, **INS Ranvijay** and **INS Kora** took part in the exercise and from the Vietnam People's Navy (VPN), frigate **VPNS Ly Thai To(HQ-012)** participated in the drill.

#### **Army organises 400 Km "JAZBAA-E- TIRANGA" Relay Marathon in J&K**

- A **400 Km "JAZBAA-E- TIRANGA" Relay Marathon**, Organized by **Army** in the Union Territory of **Jammu and Kashmir**.
- The event was **flagged off by Major General Rajeev Puri**, General Officer Commanding (GOC), Ace of Spades Division, who led the relay, followed by other military personnel.
- More than 300 troops took part, carrying the Indian Tricolour all along the Line of Control (LoC).

#### **INS Kochi to participate in Maritime Partnership Exercise in Bahrain**

- Indian Naval Ship **INS Kochi** will participate in the **four-day Maritime Partnership Exercise** at **Manama** in **Bahrain**.
- Prior to that a coordination and operational planning conference was also held between the Indian and the Bahrain Navy teams.

##### **About INS Kochi :**



- INS Kochi (D64) is the **second ship of the Kolkata-class** stealth guided-missile destroyers built under the code name Project 15A for the Indian Navy.
- It was constructed by **Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL)** in **Mumbai**.

#### Defence Minister Launches Defence India Startup Challenge 5.0

- On Aug 19, 2021, Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** launched **Defence India Startup Challenge (DISC) 5.0** under Innovations for **Defence Excellence – Defence Innovation Organisation (iDEX-DIO)** in New Delhi through video conferencing.

#### About DISC 5.0 :

- DISC 5.0 is a reflection of the Government's resolve of creating an '**Atma Nirbhar**' defence sector.
- DISC underlined the importance of creating a strong, modern & well-equipped military and an equally capable & self-reliant defence industry.
- iDEX is playing a crucial role by providing a platform wherein the Government, Services, think tanks, industry, startups and innovators can work together to help the defence & aerospace sectors reach full potential.
- It Provides the new direction to defence innovation and capabilities by highlighting the potential of India's science, technology and research.
- Under the Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020, earmarked **₹1,000 crore** for domestic procurement through iDEX for financial year 2021-2022
- The Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence has approved a budgetary support of Rs. 498.80 crore for iDEX for the next 5 years from 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- The iDEX initiative was launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in 2018 to achieve self-reliance and foster innovation & technology development in defence and aerospace sectors.

#### Navies of India & Australia signs Joint Guidance for the Australia- India Navy to Navy Relationship document to boost naval ties

- On Aug 18, 2021, Chiefs of the **Indian and Australian navies** signed a **Joint Guidance for the Australia- India Navy to Navy Relationship' document**.
- The signing ceremony was held via video conference between Navy **Chief Admiral Karambir Singh**, and **Admiral Michael J Noonan**, Chief of Navy, Australian Navy.
- The document is aligned to the '2020 Comprehensive Strategic Partnership' **agreed** to by **prime ministers** of the two nations, and aims to ensure a shared approach to regional and global security challenges.
- Comprehensive Strategic Partnership', Mutual Logistics Support Agreement, conduct of trilateral Maritime Security Workshop and RAN participation in Exercise MALABAR are significant milestones which underline the role played by both Navies in bolstering this relationship in recent times.

#### About Joint Guidance :

- The Joint Guidance would serve as a **guideline document to showcase the intent** of both the Navies to work together bi/ multi-laterally.

- The broad scope of the guidance is focussed on developing mutual understanding, cooperating for regional security, collaborating in mutually beneficial activities and to develop interoperability.
- The document also promotes **peace, security, stability and prosperity in the Indo – Pacific region**.
- The highlights of the document include close cooperation in regional and multilateral fora, including Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS), Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and Expert Working Groups subordinate to the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus framework.

#### 5th edition of Indo-Kazakhstan joint training exercise KAZIND-21 Begins August 30

- **Fifth edition of Indo- Kazakhstan Joint Training Exercise, KAZIND-21** will be conducted at **Aisha Bibi in Kazakhstan**, from August 30 to September 11.
- The Indian Army contingent represented by a battalion of The Bihar Regiment consists of a total of 90 personnel led by a Contingent Commander & the Kazakhstan Army will be represented by a company group.

#### About the Exercise :

- The Exercise will provide an **opportunity** to the **Armed Forces of India and Kazakhstan** to train for Counter Insurgency/ Counter-Terrorism operations in the mountainous.
- It will **boost the bilateral relations** between India and Kazakhstan.
- It will strengthen mutual confidence, interoperability and enable sharing of best practices between the Armed Forces of India and Kazakhstan.
- It is part of military diplomacy and to strengthen the growing strategic relation with Kazakhstan.

#### 2nd edition of India-Qatar bilateral maritime exercise 'Zair-Al-Bahr' in Persian Gulf

- From August 9-14, 2021, The **Indian Navy** and **Qatar Naval Force** successfully conducted the **second edition** of the bilateral maritime exercise "**Zair-Al-Bahr**" in the **Persian Gulf**.

#### Aim :

- To further strengthen the maritime exchanges between the two countries and enhance maritime security in the region.
- The naval exercise consisted of a **three-day harbour phase** and a **two-day sea phase** edition.
- In the sea phase of the exercise, Indian Navy Stealth Frigate INS Trikand, QENF Missile Boats of Barzan and Damsah class, Fast-Attack Crafts of MRTP 34 class and Rafale Fighter Aircraft participated.

#### Lockheed Martin bags USD 328 million Indian contract to support C-130J aircraft fleet

- **Lockheed Martin** has been awarded a **328.8 million US dollars, five-year** contract from the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**.
- **Purpose :**
- To provide dedicated and **comprehensive support** for the IAF's fleet of 12 C-130J-30 Super Hercules Aircraft.
- Through this Follow On Support II (FOS) contract, Lockheed Martin teams manage the programme, logistics and engineering support elements necessary to sustain the IAF's C-130J fleet

#### About C-130J Super Hercules Aircraft :

- Lockheed Martin is the **original equipment manufacturer (OEM)** of these planes.

- The Government of India announced its purchase of six C-130J Super Hercules airlifters via a Foreign Military Sale with the U.S. Air Force in 2008.
- All aircraft were delivered on or ahead of schedule between 2010 and 2011. India received additional C-130Js in 2017 and in 2019.
- The IAF's C-130J Super Hercules have a highly integrated and sophisticated configuration primarily designed to support India's special operations requirement.
- Also it is used to support a variety of critical missions, including humanitarian aid, airlift, natural disaster support, and search and rescue operations.

#### India & Philippines Conducts Maritime Exercise in South China Sea

- On Aug 23, 2021, **India** carried out a **naval exercise** with the **Philippines navy** in the eastern parts of the **South China Sea** as the **West Philippine Sea**.
- Two Indian Navy ships, **INS Ranvijay (Guided Missile Destroyer, D55)** and **INS Kora (Guided Missile Corvette, P61)** & the **BRP Antonio Luna (Frigate, FF 151)** of the Philippine Navy carried out a Maritime Partnership Exercise.

#### Aim :

- To further strengthen bilateral collaboration in the maritime domain towards a collective aim of ensuring a stable, peaceful and prosperous **Indo-Pacific**".

#### Indian Navy participates in Multilateral Maritime Exercise Malabar

- Indian Naval Ships **Shivalik** and **Kadmatt** are participating in the **annual Exercise MALABAR-21** from 26 – 29 August 2021 along with the **US Navy (USN)**, **Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF)** and the **Royal Australian Navy (RAN)**.

#### Aim :

- To **enhance interoperability**, gain from best practices and develop a common understanding of procedures for **Maritime Security Operations**.
- Malabar series of maritime exercises **commenced** in **1992** as an **IN-USN Exercise**.
- In 2015, JMSDF joined Malabar as a permanent member & the 2020 edition witnessed participation of the Royal Australian Navy.
- 2021 marks the 25th edition of Ex Malabar, being hosted by USN in the Western Pacific.

#### First batch of MMHG handed over to Indian Army

- The **Indian Army** has received the **first batch** of locally manufactured **Multi-Mode Hand Grenades (MMHG)** manufactured by **Economic Explosives Limited (EEL)** in the presence of Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** in **Nagpur**.
- It has been **designed** by the transfer of technology from Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)'s **Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory**.

#### Keypeople :

- Chief of the Army Staff General **M M Naravane**, Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO **Dr G Satheesh Reddy** and Director General, Infantry Lt Gen A K Samantra also present.

#### About MMHG :

- MMHG features a distinctive design and can be used in both **defensive** (fragmentation) and **offensive** (stun) modes.
- It has a highly **accurate delay time, very high reliability** in usage and safe for carriage.
- MMHG will replace Grenade No 36 of First World War vintage design.

#### Note :

- Earlier, in Oct 2020, The EEL had signed a contract with the **Ministry of Defence** to supply **10 lakh modern hand grenades** for the Indian Army and Indian Air Force.

#### Indian Pavilion inaugurated at Army 2021 in Moscow

- The **India Pavilion** at the **International Military Technical Forum – ARMY 2021** has been organised in **Moscow, Russia** from August 22 to 28, 2021, at Patriot Expo, Kubinka Air Base and Alabino military training grounds.
- It has been organised by the **Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation** since 2015.
- It is the **7th edition** of the annual International Military-Technical Forum.
- The Indian pavilion is being represented by **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Bharat Dynamics Ltd. (BDL), Goa Shipyard Limited, BEML and Ordnance Factory Board.**
- ARMY 2021' was inaugurated jointly by Mr. Raj Kumar, Secretary-Department of Defence Production and Mr. Bala Venkatesh Varma, Ambassador of India to Russia.
- The International Military and Technical Forum 'ARMY' is the world's leading exhibition of armament and military equipment and the authoritative platform for discussing innovative ideas and developments for the armed forces by various foreign exhibitors, delegations and visitors.

#### China, Pakistan, Thailand, Mongolia to hold military exercise

- The **militaries of China, Pakistan, Mongolia and Thailand** will take part in a multinational peacekeeping exercise named "**Shared Destiny-2021**".
- The exercise will be held in **China** in the month of **September 2021**.

#### NSG commandos undertake counter-terrorist drills 'Gandiv'

- The **third edition** of the week-long annual exercise called '**Gandiv**' launched by the **National Security Guard (NSG)** from August 22 to August 28.
- Gandiv was the name of **Arjuna's bow in Mahabharata**.

#### Aim :

- Enhancing the counter-terror skills of the state administration, police, anti-terrorist squads and also creating awareness among the public.
- The drills are aimed to "**validate the planning parameters**" of the commando pressure within the occasion of a terrorist assault, hijack of a plane or hostage state of affairs.
- It was held at multiple cities in **Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat** and the national capital region by NSG to check its response time and reaction to hostage and hijack-like situations.

### Defence minister Rajnath Singh Commissions Indigenously built ICGS 'Vigraha'

- On Aug 28, 2021, Union defence minister **Rajnath Singh** commissioned the **L&T built Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) ICGS Vigraha** into the **Indian coast guard**.
- The commissioning ceremony took place in **Chennai, TamilNadu**, and it was witnessed by Tamil Nadu chief minister MK Stalin and army chief Manoj Mukund Naravane among others.
- The ship will be based in **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh** and operate on the eastern seaboard under the Operational and Administrative Control of the Commander, Coast Guard Region (East).
- The ICG, with this ship joining the fleet, will have 157 ships and 66 aircraft in its inventory.

#### About ICGS Vigraha :

- The ICGS Vigraha, is the **seventh** and final ship in the series of **Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs)**, the agreement for which was signed in **2015**.
- The ICGS Vigraha is about 98 metres long, 15 metres wide, has 3.6 metres draught, with 2,140 tonnes displacement and a range of 5,000 nautical miles.

### India and Germany conducts joint maritime exercise in Gulf of Aden

- On Aug 26, 2021, Navies of **India** and **Germany** conducted a joint exercise in the **Gulf of Aden**.
- The Indian Navy was represented by the frigate "**Trikand**" while the German Navy was represented by the frigate "**Bayern**".

#### Aim :

- To enhance **interoperability** and exchange of best practices between the navies of the two countries in maritime domain.
- The exercise included cross deck helo (helicopter) landings and visit board search and seizure operations.

### MDS bags Indian Navy contract worth Rs 1,349.95 cr

- On Aug 27, 2021, **Mahindra Defence Systems Limited (MDS)** had bagged a contract worth **₹1,349.95 crore** for manufacturing of **Integrated Anti-Submarine Warfare Defence Suite (IADS)** for modern warships of the **Indian Navy**.
- Mahindra Defence would be supplying **14 IADS Systems** for the Indian Navy warships.
- The system will enhance the anti-submarine warfare capability of the Indian Navy.

#### About IADS :

- IADS is a **high-end underwater equipment** that uses the latest technology.
- It is designed to detect and protect warships from underwater threats.
- It is a versatile system capable of operations from all sizes of warships - **small, medium, and large**.
- The complex array of sensors in water undertakes surveillance and provides inputs for signal processing and analysis.
- The warship then employs methods to neutralise the underwater threats

## Important Science and Technology News

### Joint mission of ISRO-NASA "NISAR Satellite" to be launched in 2023

- Earth Sciences Minister Jitendra Singh stated The **ISRO-NASA joint mission NISER (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) satellite**, aimed at **making global measurement of land surface changes** using advanced radar imaging, is proposed to be launched in early 2023.
- "NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISER) has **not** been launched yet. NISER is proposed to be launched in **early 2023**".
- It is a **dual-band (L-band and S-band)** radar imaging mission with the capability of full polarimetric and interferometric modes of operation to observe minor changes in land, vegetation and cryosphere.
- NASA is developing **L-band SAR** and associated systems while ISRO is developing S-band SAR, spacecraft bus, the launch vehicle and associated launch services.

#### About ISRO:

- The **Indian Space Research Organization** or is the national space agency of India, **headquartered in Bengaluru**.
- It operates under the Department of Space which is **directly overseen by the Prime Minister of India**, while Chairman of ISRO acts as executive of DOS as well.

### IIT Madras researchers develops AI tool NBDriver to study cancer causing mutations

- To detect cancerous mutations in the body, **Researchers** from **Robert Bosch Centre for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (RBCDSAI)**, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras, have developed a machine learning model on an **Artificial Intelligence** tool named **NBDriver (neighbourhood driver)**.
- The study, funded by the **Department of Biotechnology**, government of India,
- It was published in the peer-reviewed journal **Cancers**.

#### About NBDriver :

- In that AI algorithm will **spot changes in cells** that can cause cancer.
- By looking at the neighbourhood, or context, of a mutation in the genome, will identify harmful "driver" mutations and distinguish them from neutral "passenger" mutations.
- NBDriver is used to **differentiate between passenger and driver mutations** using the features derived from the neighbourhood sequences of somatic mutations.
- NBDriver could **accurately identify 85%** of the rare driver mutations from patients diagnosed with Glioblastoma Multiforme (GBM).

### Russia launches Nauka science module to International Space Station

- **Russia** successfully launched the **Multipurpose Laboratory Module** called **Nauka** to the **International Space Station** atop a **Proton-M rocket** from **Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan**.

#### About Nauka :

- It is the **20-metric-ton (22-ton)** module & it is set to dock at the ISS in automatic mode on July 29.

#### Purpose of the Launch :

- Intended to **provide more room for scientific experiments and space for the crew.**

**Note :**

- Nauka was **initially** scheduled to go up in **2007**, but it had been repeatedly delayed because of **technical problems**.
- In **1998**, Russia launched the station's **first** module, **Zarya** & the **last** module is **Rassvet**, which arrived at the station in **2010**.

#### **NASA selects SpaceX for Jupiter moon mission**

- The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** has selected SpaceX for the **Europa Clipper mission** to conduct detailed investigations of **Jupiter's moon Europa**.
- Europa Clipper mission, scheduled to launch in **October 2024** on a Falcon Heavy rocket from the **Kennedy Space Center** in **Florida** & it will **arrive** in orbit around Jupiter in **April 2030**.
- The **total value** of the contract is about **\$178 million**.
- Jupiter's moon Europa is approximately **390 million miles (630 million kilometres)** from Earth and the journey is expected to take more than **five years**.

**About the Mission :**

- The mission will **investigate** whether **Jupiter's icy moon** has conditions suitable for life.
- It will **produce high-resolution images of Europa's surface**, determine its composition, look for signs of recent or ongoing geological activity
- Also it measures the **thickness of the moon's icy shell**, **searches for subsurface lakes**, and **determines the depth and salinity of Europa's ocean**.

#### **Indian Air Force inducts Rafales into Eastern Air Command**

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has formally **inducted Rafale aircraft** into **101 Squadron** of the **Eastern Air Command (EAC)** at the **Hasimara Air Force Station (AFS)** in **West Bengal**.
- The induction event has been done in the presence of **Air Chief Marshal, R.K.S Bhadauria**
- The **101 Squadron** is the second Indian Air Force squadron to be equipped with the Rafale aircraft.
- In **September 2020**, the Rafale aircraft were inducted into the **17 "Golden Arrows" Squadron**.
- The multi-role Rafale jets, built by French aerospace major **Dassault Aviation**.
- Presently India has received 26 of the 36 Rafale aircraft,

**Note :**

- **India** signed an inter-governmental agreement with **France** to procure **36 aircraft** at a cost of **Rs 59,000 crore**.

#### **IIT-Roorkee launches 7 new academic programmes**

- The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee** has introduced **seven new academic programs** for the **academic session 2021-2022**.
- The seven new programmes are in select areas of **engineering, architecture, economics and management** along with specialisation in **data science** and **artificial intelligence**.

**Purpose :**



- To address the **rising demand** for **new-age technologies**.
- To help students and working professionals add value to their respective fields.
- The Programmes are **inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary** and also in line with **National Education Policy 2020**.
- The programmes, which include **six postgraduate degree programmes** and **one five-year integrated programme**.
- The seven new programs include MTech in Artificial Intelligence and MTech in Data Science, MDes in Industrial Design, MIM (Masters in Innovation Management) under the Department of Design, online MTech in Microelectronics and VLSI, five -year integrated program in MS Economics, and MTech in Dam Safety and Rehabilitation.

#### Ordnance Factory launches high tech carbine TriCa

- The **Ordnance Factory Tiruchirappalli (OFT)** launched a new weapon called **TriCa (Trichy Carbine)** ; it is a **mini version** of the **Trichy Assault Rifle (TAR)**.
- The weapon was **launched** by **Sanjay Dwivedi, IOFS, general manager, OFT**.

#### Key People :

- Shri Rajiv Jain, Addl. General Manager , Shri A.K. Singh, Addl. General Manager, Shri V.Gunasekaran, Jt. General Manager and Shri S. Krishnaswamy, Jt. The General Manager was present.

#### About TriCa :

- TriCa is a **high-tech & low sound carbine**.
- It is the **7.62 X 39mm portable weapon** launched on the carbine platform & It is a compact automatic weapon.
- TriCa **weighs 3.17kg** (including the magazine) and is **lighter compared** to the assault rifles.
- It has an **effective range of 150 to 175m**.
- It was developed by the **in-house research and development unit** of the Ordnance Factory.
- It was designed for the crews of infantry combat automatic weapons designed for the crews of infantry combat vehicles, helicopters, paratroopers, state police force and special operation forces.
- TriCa has a **special muzzle booster** which helps in hiding the flash and mitigating the sound when fired.
- It can use **ammunition and magazines** as well as the interchangeable parts of general assault rifles.

#### European Space Agency launches Eutelsat Quantum revolutionary reprogrammable Satellite

- The **world's 1st commercial reprogrammable satellite Eutelsat Quantum'**, launched by **European Space Agency (ESA)** into space aboard **Ariane 5 rocket** from **French Guiana**.
- It has been developed under a European Space Agency collaboration with satellite operator Eutelsat and industry-leading manufacturer Airbus & Surrey Satellite Technology.

#### About the satellite :

- It is a new generation of **flexible software-defined satellites**.
- It can respond in near **real-time** for a plethora of potential applications.
- It is the **3.5-tonne satellite**, & it had **8 communication beams**.
- The satellite is also ideal for monitoring and aiding in emergencies and **disaster recovery scenarios**.
- The satellite will operate in geostationary orbit for its lifespan of **15-years**.

### ISRO Presents SATNAV Policy – 2021: Effective development of India's satellite navigation sector

- The draft of the **Indian Satellite Navigation Policy – 2021 (SATNAV Policy – 2021)** has been presented on the official website of the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** for public consultation.

#### Objective :

- To address the growing demands of space-based navigation and timing applications, with the view of self-sustenance in areas of commercial, strategic, and societal applications to maximize the socio-economic benefits.
- To ensure the continuous availability of free-to-air navigation signals for civilian uses and secured navigation signals for strategic uses in the defined coverage area.
- To focus on technology development for enhancing the navigation satellite systems

### Google launches new bug bounty platform

- As it celebrated the **10-year anniversary** of its **Vulnerability Rewards Program (VRP)**, **Google** launched a new bug bounty platform **bughunters.google.com**.
- The program led to a total of 11,055 bugs found, 2,022 rewarded researchers and nearly \$30 million in total rewards.

#### About bughunters.google.com :

- The platform will make it **easier for vulnerability hunters** to submit issues with a single intake form for vulnerabilities related to **Google, Android, Chrome, and Play Store**.
- Also provides greater emphasis on **research and education**, making it easier for hunters to publish their bug reports in order to share their knowledge.

#### Recent News :

- Recently, Google parent **Alphabet** launches a new company **Intrinsic**, to build software for industrial robots.

### US approves sale of Harpoon Joint Common Test Sets to India worth \$82 million

- The **United States** has approved the **sale of Harpoon Joint Common Test Set (JCTS)** and related equipment to **India** for an estimated cost of **\$82 million**.
- It also includes Harpoon Intermediate Level maintenance station; spare and repair parts, support, and test equipment; publications and technical documentation; personnel training; US Government and contractor technical, engineering, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and programme support.
- In that, the **principal contractor** will be The **Boeing** Company, St. Louis, Missouri.
- It will improve India's capability to meet current and future threats.
- Also it will help strengthen the bilateral strategic ties and improve the security of a major defensive partner in the Indo-Pacific region.

#### About Harpoon :

- Harpoon is an all-weather, over-the-horizon, **anti-ship missile** system.
- It has a low-level, sea-skimming cruise trajectory with active radar guidance.
- The Harpoon missile is the world's most successful anti-ship missile and is in service with the armed forces of more than 30 countries.

### Indonesia's Mount Merapi erupts with bursts of lava, ash

- **Indonesia's** most volatile volcano **Mount Merapi** ( Literally Known as **Fire Mountain** ) erupted on the densely populated island of **Java**.
- It is the **2,968-meter** (9,737-foot) peak located near **Yogyakarta**.
- It spews smoke and ash high into the air and sends streams of lava and gasses down its slopes.
- Merapi's last major eruption in 2010 killed 347 people.
- This eruption sent hot ash 1,000 meters (3,280 feet) into the sky, and the searing clouds of gas traveled up to 3 kilometers (1.8 miles) down its slopes several times.

### ISRO launches INS-2B Bhutanese satellite into space by December 2021

- **Indian Space Research Organization** is set to launch a **INS-2B Bhutanese satellite** in **December 2021**.
- The development of the INS-2B satellite of Bhutan is being underway by four Bhutanese engineers who are being trained by ISRO.
- The event was organised by the Indian embassy in Bhutan as part of India's **75th year of Independence – 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'**.

#### About the Indo-Bhutan space cooperation :

- India and Bhutan have been engaged in space cooperation with a ground Earth station for **South Asia Satellite (SAS)** that was inaugurated in **Thimphu, Bhutan**.
- The SAS was launched by India in **2017**.

### ISRO To Launch Its Most Advanced Geo-Imaging Satellite GISAT-1 on August 12

- On Aug 12, 2021, **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** is set to **launch** its most advanced geo-imaging satellite, the **Earth observation satellite (EOS) - GISAT-1** from the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC)** at **Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh**.
- Isro's **GSLV-F10** rocket will put the **Gisat-1**, codenamed **EOS-3**, into the geo-orbit.
- The **GISAT-1** will be the country's **first sky eye or earth observation satellite** to be placed in geo-stationary orbit.

#### About GISAT-1 :

- **Gisat-1** will be placed **36,000 km above the Earth** in the geostationary orbit.
- The **2,268 kg GISAT-1** would provide a **real-time image** of a large area of the region of interest at frequent intervals.
- It will also enable quick monitoring of **natural disasters, episodic events, and any short-term events**.
- The Satellite will allow better monitoring of the subcontinent, including its **borders** with **Pakistan** and **China**, by imaging the country 4-5 times a day.

### ISRO: Countdown for launch of EOS-03 satellite begins

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** announced the **countdown** for the launch of the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle-F10 **EOS-03** mission from the second launch pad of **Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota**.
- This is the **fourteenth** flight of **GSLV**.

#### About GSLV F10 EOS-03 :

- The launch is tentatively scheduled on August 12, 2021, subject to weather conditions.
- EOS-03 is a state-of-the-art agile Earth observation satellite that will be placed in a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit by GSLV-F10.
- The satellite will reach the final geostationary orbit using its onboard propulsion system.
- A **4 metre diameter Ogive-shaped** payload fairing is being flown for the first time in this GSLV flight.

#### ISRO Chairman Dr. K. Sivan inaugurates 'Health QUEST Study

- Secretary, DOS and Chairman of ISRO **Dr K Sivan**, inaugurated the '**Health QUEST study** (Health Quality Upgradation Enabled by Space Technology of ISRO)' through videoconferencing.
- The event was **co-organised** by **Association of HealthCare Providers India (AHPI)** and **Society for Emergency Medicine in India (SEMI)**.
- It would be undertaken by **20 private hospitals** across India.

#### Aim :

- To **upgrade the healthcare system standards** in the country in line with the ISRO quality standards and best practices.

#### Objective :

- To strive towards **reducing human errors** and achieve zero defect and quality service in the emergency and intensive care units of hospitals.
- ISRO will share its procedures and practices of Quality Assurance mechanism with the study team for setting the parameters to establish health care quality standards.

#### ISRO's Chandrayaan-2 orbiter detects water molecules on lunar surface

- **Chandrayaan-2**, ISRO's second lunar mission, has detected the presence of **water molecules on the moon**.
- A research paper revealed that the Chandrayaan-2 orbiter confirmed the presence of water molecules (**H<sub>2</sub>O**) and **hydroxyl (OH)** on the surface of the moon.
- The instrument can operate between the wavelength of **0.8 to 5 micrometre**.
- The data was collected by the Imaging infrared spectrometer (IIRS), developed by **Ahmedabad-based Space Applications Centre (SAC)** of ISRO from the electromagnetic spectrum obtained from the lunar surface.
- The initial data analysis from IIRS clearly demonstrates the presence of widespread lunar hydration and unambiguous detection of OH and H<sub>2</sub>O signatures on the Moon between 29 degrees north and 62 degrees north latitude".
- The findings were published in the journal Current Science.

#### About Chandrayaan-2 :

- Chandrayaan-2 was launched on **July 22, 2019**, from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, **Sriharikota**.

#### Aim :

- To mapping the variations in lunar surface composition, as well as locating and studying the surface of the Moon for the presence of water.

#### ISRO's GSLV-F10 fails to place EOS-3 into earth's orbit

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**, **GSLV-F10** failed to place **Earth Observation Satellite (EOS-03)** into earth's orbit.
- The launch took place from the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh**.

#### About EOS-03 :

- The EOS-03, formerly known as the **Geo Imaging Satellite-1 or GISAT-1**, is a geo imaging or Earth observation satellite.

#### Objective :

- To provide near **real time imaging** of a large region of interest at frequent intervals for quick monitoring of natural disasters such as cyclones and floods, apart from real-time monitoring of crops, forest cover and water bodies.

#### Reasons for Failure :

- Due to a **technical anomaly** observed in the **cryogenic stage**, Isro's **GSLV-F10/EOS-03** mission could not be fully accomplished.

#### IIT, Bombay & Kasturba researchers develops novel method using infra-red technology

- Researchers at the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay** have developed a novel method of using **infra-red technology** to **rapidly test** which **patients** are most at risk of becoming severely unwell from Covid-19.
- The study was published in the **journal Analytical Chemistry**.
- This study is a collaborative effort between **IIT-B, Kasturba Hospital in Mumbai**, **QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute** in Australia and **Agilent Technologies India**.
- It was primarily **funded** by **India's Science and Engineering Research Board**, the Government of India, and a grant from the IIT.
- Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Professor **Sanjeeva Srivastava**, has confirmed that there is a correlation between a person's **blood chemical signature** and becoming severely unwell with COVID-19.
- The test was performed with **85 percent accuracy**.
- It is a quick and cost effective test & also it helps in triaging patients, especially at hospitals facing high volumes of COVID-19 patients.

#### HAL's aircraft Hindustan-228 successfully Carries out LSTT & Ground Run

- **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** successfully carried out the **Ground Run** and **Low Speed Taxi Trials (LSTT)** of the **Hindustan-228 (VT-KNR)** aircraft in **Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh**.

#### Purpose :

- For **DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation)** 'Type Certification'.
- The type certification will also enable HAL to get the international certification for the aircraft.

#### About Hindustan-228 :

- The Hindustan-228 is a **19-seat multirole utility aircraft**.
- It is built for various applications such as VIP transport, passenger transport, air ambulance, flight inspection roles, cloud seeding, and recreational activities like Para jumping, aerial surveillance, photography and cargo applications.
- To assist the Government of India's Regional Connectivity Scheme (UDAN), the Division has begun producing Hindustan-228 aircraft.

#### About UDAN Scheme :

- In October 2016, the Ministry launched the '**Ude Deshka Aam Naagrik**' (UDAN) Regional Connectivity Scheme to make air travel more accessible to residents in regional cities.
- This is a first-of-its-kind programme in the world to use a market-based mechanism to promote regional connectivity.

#### DRDO Develops Advanced Chaff Technology To Protect Indian Air Force Jets

- **Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)** has developed an **advanced chaff technology** to safeguard fighter aircraft of the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** against threats.
- Defence Laboratory Jodhpur, a DRDO laboratory developed the advanced Chaff material and chaff cartridge-118/I in collaboration with **High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL)**, a Pune based laboratory of DRDO, meeting qualitative requirements of IAF.

#### About Chaff :

- Chaff is a critical defence technology used to protect fighter aircraft from hostile radar threats.

#### Importance :

- Very less quantity of chaff material deployed in the air acts as decoy to deflect enemy's missiles for ensuring safety of the fighter aircraft.

#### IIT-M develops India's first indigenous motorised wheelchair NeoBolt

- **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M)** has developed **India's first indigenous** motorised wheelchair vehicle, **NeoBolt**, that can be used even on uneven terrains.
- NeoBolt was developed by a team led by **Sujatha Srinivasan**, Department of Mechanical Engineering, IIT Madras,
- It has been commercialised through a start-up called 'NeoMotion'.

#### About NeoBolt :

- NeoBolt has a maximum speed of **25 kmph** and travels up to **25 km per charge**.
- The wheelchair will be available to users at an approximate price of **₹55,000**.
- It is powered by a **Lithium-Ion Battery** and can travel up to 25 km per charge.
- It empowers wheelchair users with a convenient, safe and low-cost mode of outdoor mobility when compared to cars, auto-rickshaws or modified scooters.

#### Note :

- Nearly 95 percent of all wheelchairs sold in India are 'one-size-fits-all,' which restricts mobility, damages health, and lowers self-confidence, NeoBolt is developed to overcome these issues.
- Around 3 lakh wheelchairs are sold annually in India, of which 2.5 lakh are imported.

- **CEO of NeoMotion** : Mr. Swostik Sourav Dash

#### **Gol & BRICS Group to Setup Network of Genomic Surveillance and Study the Overlap of SARS-CoV-2 with tuberculosis**

- The **Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology**, Government of India in collaboration with **BRICS countries** is implementing **SARS-CoV-2 NGS-BRICS consortium** and multi centric programme to study the impact of severe COVID-19 conditions on **TB patients**.
- The consortium is an interdisciplinary collaboration to advance COVID-19 health-relevant knowledge and to contribute to improvements in health outcomes.
- This collaborative study is expected to provide valuable co-morbidity data pertaining to pulmonary TB patients with or without COVID-19.

#### **NIAB & NCCS notified as central drugs lab for testing**

- The **National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NIAB) Hyderabad** and **National Centre for Cell Science (NCCS), Pune**, for upgradation as **Central Drug Laboratories (CDLs)**.
- The funding support was provided under the PM-CARES funds.

#### **Purpose :**

- Establish more facilities to regulate the testing of COVID-19 vaccines for quick release of vaccine batches for prevention and treatment of COVID-19 infection.
- The two facilities are expected to test approx. **60 batches** of vaccines per month.

#### **Pakistan successfully test-fires Fatah-1**

- On Aug 24, 2021, **Pakistan** successfully test fired the indigenously developed guided multi-launch rocket system **Fatah-1**, capable of precisely delivering conventional warheads deep into **enemy territory**.
- This was the **second flight** of Fatah-1, after its first launch in January 2021.
- The Fatah-1 weapon system can hit targets up to a range of **140 km**.
- It is a variant of the guided MLRS family, usually with an extended range of up to 150km.

### **Important Environment News**

#### **Delhi University researchers discover new species of frog Minervarya Pentali in Western Ghats**

- A group of **Delhi University (DU)** researchers has named a **new species** of frog **Minervarya Pentali** from the **Western Ghats**.
- It has been named after **former DU Vice-Chancellor and plant geneticist Deepak Pental**.
- The frog belongs to the **family Dicroglossidae**.
- The findings have been published in an article titled 'DNA Barcoding and Systematic Review of Minervaryan Frogs of Peninsular India: Resolution of a Taxonomic Conundrum with Description of a New Species' in the international journal **Asian Herpetological Research**.

#### **Research Team :**



- The study has been conducted over a period of **ten years** on the genus **Minervarya frogs** and has been named **Minervarya pentali**.
- The team includes the Delhi University researchers S D Biju and Sonali Garg.
- This study and its authors were supported by the University of Delhi, the Department of Science and Technology of the Government of India, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research of the Government of India, the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund of the United States, and Global Wildlife Conservation of the United States.

#### Special Features :

- The new species was identified based on multiple criteria, such as **external morphology, DNA and calling pattern**.
- Minervarya Pentali as a distinct species, have **differences** in their **physiological, genetic and crying patterns**.
- It is the **tiniest** among the others in its family.

#### Note :

- This new species is **endemic** to the **southern Western Ghats**.
- It has been found from wayside vegetation at multiple localities in Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

#### All India Elephant & Tiger population estimation Protocol

- On the Occasion of World Elephant Day 2021, **Environment, Forest and Climate Change minister Bhupender Yadav** released the **all India Elephant and Tiger population estimation protocol**.
- For the First time the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** is converging elephant and tiger population estimation.
- The protocol will be adopted in the exercise, which will be taken up for All India elephant and tiger population estimation in 2022.
- The programme also witnessed release of the fourth edition of the quarterly newsletter "**Trumpet**" of the Elephant Division.

#### About World Elephant Day 2021 :

- World Elephant Day 2021 is Celebrated in **Aug 12, 2021**.
- In 2021, it was celebrated at **Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi**.

#### Three new species of wild balsam reported from Kerala

- Researchers from **Kerala** have identified three new species of **wild balsam** were named
  1. **Impatiens achudanandanii**
  2. **Impatiens shailajae**
  3. **Impatiens dani**
- The new species belonging to the genus **Impatiens** which comes under family **Balsaminaceae** were spotted in the Western Ghats region of southern Kerala and the Idukki district.
- Plants of this genus are popular as '**Kasithumba**' or '**Sheema Thumba**' in Malayalam.

#### About the Research team :

- The plants were identified by **S. Arya**, who is doing research under the guidance of Dr V S Anilkumar, Associate Professor at Botany department in University College in Thiruvananthapuram.

#### About *Impatiens achudanandanii* :

- *Impatiens achudanandanii* is a straggling, glabrous herb.

#### About *Impatiens shailajae* :

- *Impatiens shailajae* belongs to the section *Tuberosae*, and was found along steep slippery cliffs in the deep forest.
- Both *Impatiens achudanandanii* & *Impatiens shailajae* named after **VS Achuthanandan** and **KK Shailaja** as an honour to their contributions in environmental protection and for containing Nipah/COVID-19 virus outbreaks in Kerala.

#### About *Impatiens danii* :

- *Impatiens danii* is a **10-20 cm** tall plant with a white flower which sports a yellow blotch on the throat.
- It is named **after Dr Mathew Dan**, Principal Scientist at Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute in Thiruvananthapuram.

#### Rare orchid species found in Uttarakhand

- For the first time, A rare orchid species ***Cephalanthera erecta* var. *Oblanceolata*** has been discovered in the Mandal area of **Uttarakhand Chamoli district** by the state forest department.
- This terrestrial orchid was found at an altitude of **1870 meters** in the **humus-rich Rhododendron-Oak forest**.

#### Research Team :

- This discovery was made by a team of Range Officer **Harish Negi** and Junior Research Fellow **Manoj Singh**.
- A research paper on this novel addition to Indian flora has been published in the six-monthly journal of the Botanical Survey of India (BSI)- 'Nelumbo.'

#### Note :

- As per the analysis of the Botanical Survey of India, *Cephalanthera erecta* var. *Oblanceolata* is an **endangered species of orchid**.

#### About *Cephalanthera erecta* var. *Oblanceolata* :

- *Cephalanthera* represents a **small group of terrestrial orchids** with about **19 taxa**, attributed mainly to Europe, North America, and temperate parts of Asia.

#### A New species of algae discovered on Andaman and Nicobar islands

- A team of marine biologists from the **Central University of Punjab, Bathinda**, has discovered a new species of marine green algae named ***Acetabularia jalakanyakae*** from **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**.
- It was named after the Sanskrit word '**Jalakanyaka**' meaning the 'goddess of oceans' or 'mermaid'.
- This discovery was described in an article in the **Indian Journal of Geo-Marine Sciences**.

#### About *Acetabularia jalakanyakae* :

- It has **caps** with intricate designs as if they were **umbrellas** of a mermaid.
- The plant consists of a **single gigantic cell** with a nucleus.

#### Note :

- The largest and most complex marine algae are called **seaweeds**

#### About Algae :

- Algae are the source of more than half of the world's oxygen through photosynthesis & they turn carbon dioxide into biomass and release oxygen.

#### A new plant of *Brachystelma* identified in Tumakuru, Karnataka

- A new plant of the ***Brachystelma* R.Br.** The species has been found in **Tumakuru, Karnataka** and it has been named after the district.
- The findings were published in '**RHEEDEA** Journal of the Indian Association for Angiosperm Taxonomy'

#### About *Brachystelma tumakurense* :

- *B. tumakurense* comes from a tuber and belongs to the **Apocynaceae** family (a family of flowering plants).
- *Brachystelma* R.Br. is the second largest genus in the tribe Ceropegieae with over 116 species distributed in the old-world tropics.
- They are slender stemmed with a brilliant display of colours in their flowers, especially in their corolla and coronal structures.
- It is mainly distributed in Peninsular India in dry hill ranges.

### Important Rankings and Indexes

#### Fortune Global 500 list : Seven Indian Companies Feature ; topped by Walmart of US

- On August 02, 2021, **Fortune's Global 500 list**, **Seven Indian companies** were found.
- Globally, **Walmart** has **topped** the list with a revenue of **USD 524 billion** for the **eighth consecutive year** and the **16th time since 1995**.
- Billionaire **Mukesh Ambani's** oil-to-telecom conglomerate Reliance Industries Ltd **slipped 59 places** to rank **155th position** with revenues of nearly **\$63 billion**.
- On the other hand **China** has dominated this year's list for the **highest number of companies** featuring in the list at **143**, including those from Taiwan & this is followed by the U.S. with 122, and Japan with a total of 53, respectively.

#### Top 10 Global Companies in the list are as follows:

1. Walmart (US) - USD 524 billion
2. State Grid (China) - USD 384 billion
3. Amazon.com (US) - USD 280 billion
4. China National Petroleum (China)
5. Sinopec (China)
6. Apple (US)
7. CVS Health (US)
8. UnitedHealth Group (US)
9. Toyota Motor (Japan)

10.Volkswagen (Germany)

**List of Seven Indian Companies :**

1. Reliance Industries -155
2. State Bank of India – 205 ( second straight year of SBI improving its ranking )
3. Indian Oil – 212
4. Oil & Natural Gas – 243
5. Rajesh Exports – 348
6. Tata Motors – 357
7. Bharat Petroleum – 394

**About Fortune Global 500 :**

- It is an annual ranking of the top 500 corporations worldwide as measured by **revenue**.
- The list is compiled and published annually by Fortune magazine.
- Companies are ranked by total revenues for their respective fiscal years ended on or before March 31, 2021.

**Global Youth Development Index : India Ranks 122nd among 181 countries**

- On Aug 10, 2021, a new **Global Youth Development Index** was released by the **Commonwealth Secretariat** in **London**.
- According to that index **India** is ranked **122nd** measuring the condition of young people across **181 countries**.
- **Singapore** was ranked **first** in this index, followed by Slovenia, Norway, Malta and Denmark respectively.
- Meanwhile, the countries with the least development of youth include Chad, Central African Republic, South Sudan, Afghanistan and Niger.
- The top **five improvers** from 2010 to 2018 were **Afghanistan, India, Russia, Ethiopia, and Burkina Faso**, with an **average score increase of 15.74 percent**.

**About the Global Youth Development Index :**

- The index ranks countries between **0.00 (lowest)** and **1.00 (highest)** according to the **developments in youth education, employment, health, equality and inclusion, peace and security, and political and civic participation**.
- The 2020 Global Youth Development Index reveals that the **conditions of young people** have improved around the world by 3.1 per cent between 2010 and 2018.
- Overall, the index shows advances in youth's participation in peace processes and their education, employment, inclusion and health care since 2010.
- It looks at 27 indicators including literacy and voting to showcase the state of the world's 1.8 billion people between the ages of 15 and 29.
- In that Index **Sweden** was **first** in **education**, **Luxembourg** was first in **inequality and inclusion**, **Indonesia** was first in **political and civic participation**, and **Singapore** was first in **employment, health, and peace and security**.

**Skytrax's top 100 airport list : Doha's Hamad International Airport tops**

- The **Hamad International Airport in Doha, Qatar**, has been named the “**Best Airport in the World**” in the **2021 Skytrax World Airport Awards**.

#### The World's Top 10 Airports of 2021:

1. Hamad International Airport in Doha, Qatar
2. Tokyo Haneda Airport
3. Singapore Changi Airport
4. Incheon International Airport in Incheon, South Korea
5. Narita International Airport in Tokyo
6. Munich Airport in Munich, Germany
7. Zurich Airport in Switzerland
8. London Heathrow Airport in England
9. Kansai International Airport in Osaka, Japan
10. Hong Kong International Airport in China

#### Indian Airports in the List are :

- The **Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport** in New Delhi has found place among world's top 50 best airports in 2021 Skytrax World Airport Awards.

Airport Name	Ranking in 2021	Ranking in 2020
Delhi airport	45	50
Hyderabad airport	64	71
Mumbai airport	65	52
Bangalore airport	71	68

#### Note :

- **Delhi airport CEO** : Videh Kumar Jaipuria

#### About Skytrax World Airport Awards :

- The Skytrax World Airport Awards are voted for by **customers** in a **global airport customer satisfaction survey**.
- The awards are based on the World Airport Survey questionnaires completed by over 100 nationalities of airport customers during the 6-month survey period.
- The Skytrax World Airport Awards list is compiled by **UK-based Skytrax** & the Survey was conducted from August 2020 until July 2021.

#### Number Of Billionaires In India came down From 141 to 136

- The **number of billionaires in India** came down to **136** in 2020-21 **from 141** in 2019-20, based on the gross total income declared in the income tax return.

- In FY 2018-19, the number of individuals with a gross total annual income of more than Rs 100 cr is 77.
- As per the information available with **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)**, there is no legislative or administrative definition of the term billionaire under direct taxes. Wealth tax has been abolished with effect from 01.04.2016 and, therefore, CBDT does not any more capture information about complete wealth of an individual taxpayer

#### CSE transparency index : Odisha & Telangana pollution control board tops

- **State Pollution Control Board of Odisha & Telangana** has been **ranked No-1 in Transparency Index rating**, according to the **Center for Science and Environment(CSE), New Delhi**.
- The performance of all 31 state pollution control boards and pollution control committees operating in the country from 2016-2021 was taken into the assessment process,
- Out of that only **17** have **scored 50%** or above in terms of Transparency.

#### 17 States :

- Odisha, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Goa, Karnataka, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan.

#### CSE transparency index :

1. Odisha state pollution control board - 67 % Transparency
2. Telangana state pollution control board - 67 % Transparency
3. TamilNadu state pollution control board - 65.7 % Transparency
4. Madhya Pradesh state pollution control board - 64 % Transparency
5. West Bengal state pollution control board - 62 % Transparency
6. Goa state pollution control board - 60.6 % Transparency

#### Dr Bibek Debroy unveils : 'Quality of Life for Elderly Index' 2021

- The **Quality of Life for Elderly Index** was released by **Dr Bibek Debroy**, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM).
- The Index has been created by the **Institute for Competitiveness (IFC)**.
- The Health System pillar observes the highest national average, **66.97** at an all-India level, followed by 62.34 in Social Well-being.
- Financial Well-being observes a score of 44.7, which is lowered by the low performance of 21 States across the Education Attainment & Employment pillar, which showcases scope for improvement.

#### State-wise Rankings:

- **Rajasthan** and **Himachal Pradesh** are **top-scoring** regions in Aged and Relatively Aged States, respectively.
- **Chandigarh** and **Mizoram** are top-scoring regions in **Union Territory** and North-East States category.

#### About the Index :

- The report identifies the regional patterns of ageing across the Indian states and assesses the overall ageing situation in India.

- This index measures the core domains of Economic, health, and social well-being of older people and provides the in-depth situation of elderly people in India.
- The Index framework includes four pillars: Financial Well-being, Social Well-being, Health System and Income Security, and eight sub-pillars.

#### **Hurun Global 500 List: Apple tops, Reliance Industries is India's most valued company**

- According to the **Hurun Global 500 Most Valuable Companies list 2021**, Globally, **Apple** was ranked the **most valuable company**, up 15 percent to \$2.4 trillion.

#### **World's top six valuable companies in Hurun Global 500 List :**

1. Apple
  2. Microsoft
  3. Amazon
  4. Alphabet
  5. Facebook
  6. Tencent.
- From **India Reliance Industries tops** (USD 188 billion) ranked at 57 on Hurun's top 500 companies.
  - There are a total 12 Indian companies in this list.
  - **Microsoft** is **second** while **Amazon** is second in the list.
  - Country-wise, the **USA tops** the list with 243 companies, followed by **China** 47, **Japan** 30 and the **UK** 24.
  - Meanwhile **India** is ranked **9th with 12 companies**.
  - **Wipro, HCL Technologies** and **Asian Paints** were the **new Indian entrants** among the top 500 companies in the world.

#### **Note :**

- **Chairman and Chief Researcher, Hurun India** : Rupert Hoogewerf
- **MD and Chief Researcher, Hurun India** : Anas Rahman Junaid

#### **About Hurun Global 500 :**

- Hurun Global 500, published by **Hurun Research Institute**.
- The Hurun Research Institute released the Hurun Global 500, a list of the 500 most valuable non-state-controlled companies in the world ranked according to their value, defined as market capitalization for listed companies and valuations for non-listed companies.
- The cut-off date for the latest list was **15 July 2021**.

#### **2021 Global cryptocurrency adoption index : India ranks second Position**

- Out of **154 Countries** **India** has been ranked **second** in terms of **crypto adoption** in the **2021 Global Crypto Adoption Index** by blockchain data platform Chainalysis.

#### **Aim of the index :**

- To highlight the countries with the greatest cryptocurrency adoption by retail investors.

#### **Top 3 in 2021 Global cryptocurrency adoption index :**



1. Vietnam - with a index score of 1
  2. India - with a index score of 0.37
  3. Pakistan - with a index score of 0.36
- The worldwide crypto adoption grew by **880 percent** between June 2020 and July 2021.
  - The **US** and **China's** ranking dipped from **sixth** to eighth and from **fourth** to thirteenth respectively.( due to falling P2P volumes in the two countries compared to worldwide volumes)
  - The ranking was based on **three metrics including peer-to-peer (P2P)** exchange trading volume and value received.

#### ARWU Ranking 2021: Harvard bags 1st rank Globally & IISC Bangalore Top Institute in India

- On 17th August, 2021, **Shanghai Ranking Consultancy** released the **Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) 2021**.
- The Shanghai Ranking Consultancy, is one of the premier and globally recognized rankings of **Higher Educational Institutes**.

#### Global top 10 Universities :

1. Harvard University
  2. Stanford University
  3. Cambridge University
  4. MIT
  5. University of California
  6. Princeton University
  7. University of Oxford
  8. Columbia University
  9. California Institute of Technology
  10. University of Chicago
- In the top 10 list, **eight** universities are from the **US**, while two are from the UK.

#### Top Indian Institutes :

1. IISc Bangalore (Rank 401-500)
  2. University of Calcutta (Rank 601-700)
- ShanghaiRanking's Academic Ranking of World Universities considers university that has any Nobel laureates, fields medalists, highly cited researchers, or papers published in nature or science, quality of education, quality of faculty, research output, per capita performance among other parameters

#### About ARWU :

- ARWU is one of the annual publications of world university rankings.
- It presents reviews of about **1,000 universities** and educational institutes from all over the world.
- The league table was originally compiled and issued by Shanghai Jiao Tong University in **2003**.
- Since 2009, ARWU has been published and copyrighted annually by Shanghai Ranking Consultancy.

- ARWU is regarded as one of the three most influential and widely observed university rankings, alongside QS World University Rankings and Times Higher Education World University Rankings

#### **HDFC Life releases latest Life Freedom Index 2021 report**

- One of India's leading private life insurance companies, **HDFC Life**, released the latest findings of its **Life Freedom Index (LFI) study**.
- The Life Freedom Index (LFI) enables the measurement of '**financial freedom**' of consumers across **four key segments: Proud Parents, Wisdom Investors, Young Aspirants and Smart Women**.
- Four sub-indices: Financial Awareness Index, Financial Planning Index, Financial Sufficiency and Adequacy Index, and Financial Liberty Index.
- The latest 2021 LFI study was conducted along with NielsenIQ across **14 cities** (including Metros, Tier 1 and Tier 2) with 1987 respondents.
- In 2021, the Life Freedom Index has seen a **drop of 4.8 points** vis-a-vis that of 2019 indicating the impact of COVID-19.
- Nuclear families have been the most impacted with an LFI drop of 10.5 points while joint families have been stable.
- The top three concerns for the future - economic slowdown, job insecurity and fear of debt due to lack of income.
- Financial awareness has increased during the last two waves.
- Familiarity with term insurance has increased by 11 points.

#### **EIU's Safe Cities Index 2021: Copenhagen tops, New Delhi ranks 48th**

- **Copenhagen** has been named the **world's safest city** among 60 global cities, in **Safe Cities Index 2021**, released by the **Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)**.
- Copenhagen scored **82.4 points** out of 100 & **Yangon** is at the **bottom** of the index, as least safe city, with a score of **39.5**.

#### **World's top 10 Safest cities :**

1. Copenhagen
  2. Toronto
  3. Singapore
  4. Sydney
  5. Tokyo
  6. Amsterdam
  7. Wellington
  8. Hong Kong
  9. Melbourne
  10. Stockholm
- From India, **New Delhi** is placed at **48th** position with a score of **56.1**, while **Mumbai** is at **50th** place with a score of **54.4**.

- Cities score on a scale of 0 to 100 where score denotes the safety in following manner:
- 0-25 – Low Safety
- 25.1-50 – Medium Safety
- 50.1-75 – High Safety
- 75.1-100 – Very High Safety

#### About Safe Cities Index 2021 :

- The EIU's Safe Cities Index 2021 ranked **60 cities** to get a better picture of **global urban safety**.
- The Index was first released in **2015**.
- In 2021, cities are ranked based on **76 indicators** of security across **five broad pillars**,
  1. Digital
  2. Health
  3. Infrastructure
  4. Personal
  5. Environmental (new addition for the year 2021 )

#### India ranks second in Global Manufacturing Risk Index 2021, China tops : Cushman & Wakefield Report

- **India** has been ranked as the **second-most** sought-after manufacturing destination in **Global Manufacturing Risk Index 2021**.
- In that index **China** remains at number **one** position.
- The **US** is at **third** position, followed by Canada, Czech Republic, Indonesia, Lithuania, Thailand, Malaysia and Poland.
- In 2020 MRI, China and the United States retain the top two positions & India is placed third position.
- The rise in the rank for India is ascribed to the country's working conditions and competitiveness in terms of value & it indicates the growing interest shown by manufacturers in India as a preferred manufacturing hub over other countries, including the US and those in the APAC region.
- The annual Global Manufacturing Risk Index (MRI) report was released by the **US-based property consultant Cushman & Wakefield**.

#### About global Manufacturing Risk Index:

- It assesses the most advantageous locations for global manufacturing among **47 countries** in **Europe, the Americas and Asia-Pacific (APAC)**.
- The rankings in the report are determined based on four key parameters,
  1. The country's capability to restart manufacturing,
  2. Business environment (availability of talent/labour, access to markets),
  3. Operating costs,
  4. Risks (political, economic and environmental).

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

- **NITI Aayog**, released the first edition of the **North-Eastern Region District Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Index and Dashboard 2021–22**.
- It is designed and developed by NITI Aayog in collaboration with the **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER)** with technical inputs from the United Nations Development Programme.
- **East Sikkim** with a score of 75.87 has **topped** the NER District SDG Index 2021-22 followed by Gomati, **North Tripura** (score 75.73) & **West Tripura** amongst 103 districts in the ranking.

#### About the Index :

- The Index measures the performance of the districts of the **eight States** of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura on the SDG and their corresponding targets, and ranks the districts based on the same.
- The index offers insights into the **social, economic, and environmental status** of the region and its districts in their march towards achieving the SDGs.

#### 2021 Global DeFi Adoption Index : US Tops, India ranks 6th Position

- In the **2021 Global DeFi Adoption Index**, **India** was ranked **sixth** in terms of **DeFi adoption**, with an index score of **0.59** by blockchain data platform **Chainalysis**.
- The **US** showed the highest DeFi adoption **topped** the ranking with an index score of 1 , followed by Vietnam, Thailand, China and the UK out of 154 countries.
- According to the Chainalysis data, grassroots cryptocurrency adoption generally is highest in emerging markets.
- The DeFi Adoption Index is made up of three component metrics: On-chain cryptocurrency value received by DeFi platforms weighted by PPP per capita; total retail value received by DeFi platforms; and individual deposits to DeFi platforms.

#### Rabobank 2021 Global Dairy Top 20 Report : Top- Lactalis, Amul ranks 18th

- In **Rabobank's 2021 Global Top 20 Dairy Companies** list, French-based dairy company **Lactalis** has **topped** as the world's largest dairy company with a turnover of **US \$23.0 billion**.
- Meanwhile, India's **Amul, Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF)** has ranked **18th** in the list.
- In 2020, Amul was placed at 16th spot.

### Important Schemes List

#### HDFC Bank introduces 'Dukandar Overdraft Scheme'

- **India's largest private lender HDFC Bank** launched an overdraft facility for small retailers in partnership with the **government's e-governance services delivery arm CSC SPV** that enables government schemes and services through common service centres (CSCs).
- The **'Dukandar Overdraft Scheme'** by HDFC Bank is aimed at helping shopkeepers and merchants ease their cash crunch.

- Retailers operating for a minimum of three years are eligible for the scheme by providing a six months bank statement from any bank.
- **HDFC Bank** will approve an **overdraft limit from a minimum of Rs 50,000 to a maximum of Rs 10 lakhs**.
- Importantly, HDFC Bank won't seek collateral security, business financials, and income tax returns from retailers who apply for the scheme.

#### Assam: start rolling out benefits under One Nation One Ration scheme

- **Assam** will start rolling out benefits under the **One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) scheme**.
- State's Food, Civil Supply and Consumer Affairs Minister **Ranjeet Kumar Dass** stated that over **2 crore 50 lakh families** would be benefited under this scheme.
- The Minister urged the beneficiaries to come forward and get their ration cards **linked with their Aadhaar**.

#### About the scheme:

- The **ONORC is a flagship scheme** of the Central government that allows eligible beneficiaries to avail food grains they are entitled to under the **National Food Security Act** from any fair price shop across the country.
- Principal Secretary of the department Bishwaranjan Samal stated, **all fair-price shops** will be provided with **e-PoS machines** needed under ONORC within the **next three to four months**.

#### Manipur CM launched COVID-19 Affected Livelihood Support Scheme

- Manipur Chief Minister **N Biren Singh** launched **COVID-19 Affected Livelihood Support Scheme** to provide assistance to those who had been severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in the State.
- The **scheme was launched by Singh** at a function held at Imphal.
- **Chief Minister** stated that the **applications were invited for the scheme** through a proper survey at the district levels and added that a total of 22,336 applications had been received so far.
- Out of the applications received, 7,943 had been verified, and of **this first installment of Rs 2500** would be distributed to 6,276 applicants bearing a total amount of around Rs 1.56 crore.
- He stated that the **second installment for the same** would be disbursed within September this year.
- He further stated that **around 6,000 applicants** had been **identified for Start-Up Scheme**, which was put on hold for some period due to the pandemic.

#### PM to unveil Ujjwala-2 scheme from UP

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will launch **Ujjwala 2.0 (Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana - PMUY)** by handing over **LPG connections at Mahoba in Uttar Pradesh** on August 10.
- The Prime Minister will interact with beneficiaries of the Ujjwala scheme in video conferencing and will also address the nation.
- **Ujjwala 1.0 launched in 2016**, the target was set to provide LPG connections to five crore women members of BPL households.
- Subsequently, the **scheme was expanded in April 2018** to include **women beneficiaries** from seven more categories: SC/ST, PMAY, AAY, Most backward classes, tea garden, forest dwellers, Islands.

- Also, the **target** was revised to **eight crore LPG connections**.
- "This target was achieved in **August 2019**, seven months ahead of the target date".

#### Government announces 'Prime Minister Gatishakti Scheme' for holistic infrastructure growth and employment:

- PM Modi stated the **Gatishakti plan** will help local manufacturers turn globally competitive and also develop possibilities of new future economic zones.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a **Rs.100 lakh crore Pradhan Mantri Gatishakti National Master Plan**, which he stated will create employment opportunities for the country's youth and help in a holistic infrastructure growth while addressing the **nation on its 75th Independence Day**.
- "PM Gatishakti Plan, a **100 lakh crore national infrastructure master plan**, which will make a foundation for holistic infrastructure and give an integrated pathway to our economy".
- "Gatishakti will help local manufacturers turn globally competitive and also develop possibilities of new future economic zones.
- The **Rs.100 lakh crore Gatishakti initiative** will bring employment opportunities for youth and help in holistic infrastructure growth".

#### Textile Ministry approved Samarth Scheme for Capacity Building

- **Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector (SAMARTH)** was approved towards addressing the skill gap in textile sector and also to supplement the efforts of textile industry in providing gainful and sustainable employment to the youth.

The **objectives of Samarth** are as follows:

- **To provide** demand driven, placement oriented **National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF)** compliant skilling programmes to incentivize and supplement the efforts of the industry in creating jobs in the organized textile and related sectors, covering the entire value chain of textiles, excluding Spinning and Weaving
- **To promote skilling and skill upgradation** in the traditional sectors of handlooms, handicrafts, sericulture and jute
- **To enable provision** of sustainable livelihood either by wage or self-employment to all sections of the society across the country

#### Govt extends payment deadline for "Vivad Se Vishwas scheme" till September 30

- The **government extended by a month the deadline for making payments** under the **direct tax** dispute resolution scheme Vivad Se Vishwas till September 30.
- The **scheme provides for settlement of disputed tax**, interest, penalty or fees in relation to an assessment or reassessment order on payment of 100 per cent of the disputed tax and 25 per cent of the disputed penalty or interest or fee.
- The taxpayer is granted immunity from levy of interest, penalty and institution of any proceeding for prosecution for any offence **under the Income Tax Act** in respect of matters covered in the declaration.

- "Considering the difficulties being faced in **issuing and amending Form no 3**, which is a prerequisite for making payment by the **declarant under Vivad se Vishwas Act**, it has been decided to **extend the last date** of payment of the amount (without any additional amount) to **September 30, 2021**".
- The ministry had in June extended the deadline for making payments under the **scheme till August 31**.
- However, taxpayers have the option to make payments till October 31, with an additional amount of interest.

### Important Books and Authors

Authors/Released by	Books
Michael Anthony Holding	Why We Kneel, How We Rise (Published by Simon & Schuster limited)
Kunal Basu	In An Ideal World (Published by Penguin Random House India)
Captain Ramesh Babu (Released by Vice Admiral R. Hari Kumar & Vice Admiral Narayan Prasad CMD Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited)	My Own Mazagon (Published by Indus Source Books)
Luciano Wernicke	The Most Incredible Olympic Stories (Published by Niyogi Books)
Sanjay Gubbi	Leopard Diaries – the Rosette in India (Published by Westland)
Ramesh Narayan	A Different Route to Success' : It Could Be Yours (Published by Notion Press)
Manan Bhatt	Balakot Air Strike: How India Avenged Pulwama (Published by Garuda Prakashan)
Rudrangshu Mukherjee	A Begum and A Rani : Hazrat Mahal & Lakshmibai in 1857 (Published by Penguin House)
Brisha (Launched by Shabana Azmi)	The Year That Wasn't – The Diary of a 14-Year-Old Jain (Published by Vitasta Publishing Pvt Ltd)
Sudha Murty (Illustrations by Priyanka Pachpande)	How The Earth Got Its Beauty (Published by Penguin Random House imprint Puffin)
Anuradha Roy	The Earthspinner (Published by Hachette India)
Rijula Das	A Death in Shonagachhi (Published by Picador India)
Edited by Shri K.J. Alphons (Released by	Accelerating India: 7 Years of Modi Government



Venkaiah Naidu)	(Published By OakBridge Publishing Pvt. Ltd)
Jaideep Hardikar (Published by HarperCollins India)	Ramrao: The Story of India's Farm Crisis
Rochona Majumdar (Published by Columbia University Press)	Art Cinema And India's Forgotten Futures: Film And History in the PostColony
Written by historian Bimal Prasad and authored by Sujata Prasad	The Dream of Revolution: A Biography of Jayaprakash Narayan (Published by Penguin Random House India)
Manreet Sodhi Someshwar	Lahore: Book 1 of the Partition Trilogy (Published by HarperCollins India)
Major General Rajpal Punia & co-authored by Damini	Operation Khukri (Published by Penguin Random House India & republished in Hindi by Rajkamal Prakashan)
Boria Majumdar & Kushan Sarkar	Mission Domination: An Unfinished Quest (Published by Simon & Schuster Publisher India Private Limited)
Subhadra Sen Gupta (Released by Puffin Books)	Let's Go Time Travelling Again (Illustrations by Tapas Guha)
Vishram Bedekar	Battlefield (Translated from the Marathi original Ranaangan by Jerry Pinto)
Ritu Menon (Published under the imprint 'Women Unlimited)	Address Book: A Publishing Memoir in the time of COVID
Ajitabha Bose (published by his own venture (Ajitabha Publishers)	The Kapil Sharma Story
Presented by KJ Alphons (Published by OakBridge Publishing house)	Accelerating India: 7 Years of Modi Government
Tanushree Podder (Published by HarperCollins)	An Invitation to Die: A Colonel Acharya Mystery

### Important Peoples' in News

#### Bulgari appointed Priyanka Chopra as its global brand ambassador

- Bulgari has added **Priyanka Chopra Jonas** as one of its brand ambassadors.
- The actress-producer will support the **Roman high jewellery house** in the amplification of its brand around the world, with a particular focus on the themes of women empowerment, diversity and inclusion.

- The company stated India holds a special place in the hearts at **Bvlgari**, since it doesn't only offer a continuous source of inspiration, but that it provides them with some of the **most precious gems of nature** to craft our creations, from jewellery to fragrances, says Bvlgari chief executive officer Jean-Christophe Babin.

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

- 33 year old **Sri Lanka** left-arm fast bowling all-rounder **Isuru Udana** announced his **retirement** from **international cricket** effective immediately.
- Udana played **21 ODIs (18 wickets )** and **35 T20Is** for Sri Lanka, taking **45 wickets across both the formats**.
- He was also **part** of the **Royal Challengers Bangalore in IPL 2020**, conducted in the UAE.

#### **MS Dhoni becomes the first brand ambassador of HomeLane**

- Home interiors brand **HomeLane** has appointed **Mahendra Singh Dhoni** as an **equity partner** and **brand ambassador** with a **3 year strategic partnership**.
- HomeLane plans to add 25 new Tier II and Tier III cities over the next 2 years and has earmarked Rs 100 crores in marketing spends to support this aggressive expansion.
- With the approaching cricket and festive season, HomeLane and MS Dhoni are partnering on a revolutionary new campaign that will premiere during the next IPL season.

#### **England's James Anderson Becomes Third Highest Wicket-Taker in Test Cricket**

- **England's James Anderson** Becomes **Third Highest Wicket-Taker** in Test Cricket.
- He surpassed India's Anil Kumble, who took 619 test wickets.
- He achieved this huge feat **after KL Rahul** knocked one to wicket-keeper Jos Buttler.
- The 40-year-old achieved this feat on **Day 3** of the first Test between England and India.

#### **RBI appointed Neeraj Chopra for banking fraud awareness campaign**

- A **public awareness campaign** is being run by the **Reserve Bank of India** to warn people of **digital banking frauds**.
- The **RBI** has roped in **Neeraj Chopra**, **Olympic gold medalist** for this campaign.
- **Neeraj Chopra**, stated, "**RBI says not to share your OTP, CVV, ATM Pin** with anyone, change your online banking passwords and pins from time to time and if you lose your ATM card, credit card then block it immediately".
- After winning the country a gold medal at the **Tokyo Olympics 2020**, Neeraj Chopra was warmly welcomed at the airport in Delhi.
- He brought home the **first Olympic gold in athletics**.

#### **Nepal's cricketer Paras Khadka retires from international cricket**

- **Paras Khadka**, the face of **Nepali cricket**, has **retired from international cricket**.
- Khadka **first represented Nepal** in the **Asian Cricket Council U-15 tournament in 2002** and made his debut for Nepal's senior team in 2004 in the Intercontinental Cup in Malaysia.
- He also captained Nepal from **2009 to 2019**.

**About Khadka:**

- Khadka, an **all-rounder**, led team **Nepal's elevation** from a **Division 5 team**, the lowest tier of international cricket, in **2010** to its status as an one-day international (ODI) nation, the **highest tier, in 2018**—a rare achievement for any country in such a short period.
- Apart from **Nepal**, **Afghanistan is the only other country** to climb up the rungs of the International Cricket Council (ICC) ladder in such a short time.

#### Cashify appointed Rajkummar Rao as first brand ambassador

- **Cashify**, a **re-commerce marketplace** that **sells and buys used smart phones and other electronic gadgets**, announced that it has **appointed Rajkummar Rao as its first brand ambassador**.
- The actor has signed a multi-year contract with the company and **he will promote the products across digital media platforms through campaigns** and promotional activities exclusively for the smartphone buyback category.
- The company stated the partnership is expected to give a strong face to the **brand's philosophy as Rao personifies** the brand ethos, which is reliability, responsiveness, approachability, and dynamic personality.

#### About Casify:

- **Cashify** completes this process by **first buying the mobile phone and carrying out any small repairs** that may be needed.
- The **old phones are then sold across India** to customers looking to buy a second-hand phone or to businesses that give out phones to their employees.

#### Unmukt Chand, India's U-19 World Cup-winning captain, announces retirement

- Former India U-19 World Cup-winning captain **Unmukt Chand** has announced his **retirement** from Indian cricket.
- Chand had started his domestic career with Delhi in 2010 and went on to play for the team for 8 seasons.
- Chand had made an **unbeaten 111**, leading a tense victory over Australia in the 2012 U-19 World Cup final in Townsville, Australia.
- The 28-year-old, who also led India A as well as Delhi and Uttarakhand in domestic cricket, had represented Mumbai Indians, Delhi Capitals and Rajasthan Royals in the IPL.
- Chand finishes his 'Indian cricket' career with 3379 runs in first-class cricket, 4505 runs in List A cricket and 1565 runs in T20s.

#### Amway India appointed Mirabai Chanu as brand ambassador for Amway, Nutrilite range

- **Amway India** has appointed **Olympian Saikhom Mirabai Chanu** as the brand ambassador for its **Nutrilite range of products**.
- Chanu will spearhead the company's campaigns focused on **its foundation** range such as Nutrilite Daily, Omega and **All Plant Protein** amongst others, across platforms.
- The association with the **Olympic medalist** is in line with **Amway's focus** on consolidating its health and nutrition category, especially targeting women and youth in the country.

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

- Uttarakhand Chief Minister **Pushkar Singh Dhami** has appointed Team India's hockey player **Vandana Katariya** as the brand ambassador of the state's Department of Women Empowerment and Child Development.
- The announcement was made at a programme organized to felicitate the recipients of the Tilu Rauteli Award and the Anganwadi Workers Award.
- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami earlier announced a cash reward of **Rs 25 lakh** to Vandana Kataria for her stellar performance at the Tokyo Olympics.

### **USWNT's Carli Lloyd, announces international retirement**

- On Aug 16, 2021, Two-time World Cup winner 39 year old **Carli Lloyd**, one of women's soccer's greatest players, announced her **retirement**.
- She will retire from international play after the USWNT fall friendlies and from club play at end of the NWSL season.
- Recently in the Tokyo Olympics, Lloyd scored the last of her **128 international goals** when she netted a brace in the United States' 4-3 defeat of Australia in the **bronze-medal** match.

#### **About Carli Lloyd :**

- Carli Lloyd is an **American professional soccer player** who plays as a midfielder or forward for NJ/NY Gotham FC in the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) and the United States national team.
- Lloyd, who served as **US women's national team captain**.

### **PR Sreejesh to be appointed as brand ambassador of Kerala adventure tourism**

- Olympian **P.R. Sreejesh** will be made **brand ambassador of adventure tourism in Kerala**.
- The feasibility of operating a solar boat in Muziris would be probed.
- **Minister for Public Works and Tourism P.A. Mohammed Riyas** stated the immense tourism potential of Kadamakudy will be tapped as part of which road connectivity is being improved.
- **Varapuzha-Kadamakudy road** that was resurfaced using BMBC and developed with a walkway and parking space.

#### **About P.R. Sreejesh:**

- **Parattu Raveendran Sreejesh** is an Indian professional field **hockey player** who plays as a goalkeeper and former captain of the Indian national team.
- He plays in the **Hockey India League** for Uttar Pradesh Wizards.

### **World Photography Day (August 19): Biopic of Raghu Rai to be streamed by Films Division on its website & YouTube channels**

- On the occasion of **World Photography Day on 19 August, 2021**, a biopic of acclaimed photographer-photo journalist, **Raghu Rai** will be streamed by Films Division on its website and YouTube channels.
- The film titled "**Raghu Rai : Hearing Through the Eyes**" (29Min/ Suvendu Chatterjee) portrays a journey through the inner and outer world of the legendary photographer.
- The **film wades through an intertwined passage** of photographs, personal narratives and world views that combine in the process of the making of a maestro and his life.

- The **Raghu Rai biopic will be streamed on** <https://filmsdivision.org/> 'Documentary of the Week' section and on <https://www.youtube.com/user/FilmsDivision> on 19th August, 2021, for 24 hours.

#### Delhi govt appointed Sonu Sood as brand ambassador for 'Desh ke Mentors' Programme

- **Arvind Kejriwal and Sonu Sood**, in which Kejriwal, "Sonu Sood has agreed to become the brand ambassador of our 'Desh Ke Mentors' programme which will be launched soon."
- **Sonu Sood** has been appointed as the **brand ambassador** of the Delhi government's '**Desh Ke Mentors**' initiative.
- **Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)** chief announced that his government would soon come up with "**the most progressive**" film policy in India that would provide a massive boost to the entertainment industry.

#### Indian cricketer Stuart Binny announces retirement from all forms of cricket

- On Aug 30, 2021, Indian cricketer **Stuart Binny** announced his **retirement** from all forms of cricket.
- The all-rounder had represented the Men in Blue in **six Tests, 14 ODIs and three T20Is**.
- He scored a total of 459 runs and had picked up 24 wickets.
- Stuart Binny was born in **Bangalore**
- He played for the Rajasthan Royals in the Indian Premier League.
- Binny is the current Indian record holder for best bowling spell in an ODI, as he claimed 6 wickets for 4 runs against Bangladesh in 2014.

### Important Acquisitions & Mergers

#### Razorpay acquires TERA Finlabs bags third firm

- Business payments and financial services startup **Razorpay** has acquired artificial intelligence (AI)-based risk analysis platform **TERA Finlabs**, marking its **third acquisition** since its inception.
- Razorpay will leverage the acquisition for its **small and medium enterprise (SME)**-based lending business, Razorpay Capital, which was launched in **2019**.
- Previously, Razorpay had acquired **Thirdwatch**, it helps reduce Return-to-Origin or RTO fraud losses in e-commerce in 2018, and **Opfin** - a payroll management software company in 2019.

#### CCI approves acquisition of Bikaji Foods International Limited by Lighthouse Funds

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approves **acquisition** by **Lighthouse India Fund III, Limited (Fund III)** and Lighthouse India III Employee Trust (Lighthouse Employee Trust) of Bikaji Foods International Limited (Target) under Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002.
- The Proposed Combination involves acquisition of **additional 2.727%** of equity shareholding in the Target by Fund III and Lighthouse Employee Trust.
- Currently, Lighthouse Funds has **7.472%** equity shareholding in Bikaji through one of its funds.

#### About Lighthouse Funds :

- Lighthouse Funds is a **US based company** and acts as the sponsor and controls private equity funds that make investments in consumer companies in India.

- Till now, it has raised **three private equity funds** that are domiciled in Mauritius.
- Fund III is one of these three funds and Lighthouse Employee Trust is a trust settled in India.

#### Adani Group acquires 49% stake in MBCPNL

- On Aug 16, 2021, a wholly-owned subsidiary of **Adani Enterprises Ltd (AEL)**, **Adani Road Transport Ltd (ARTL)**, has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire **49 percent stake** of **Maharashtra Border Check Post Network Ltd (MBCPNL)** a Subsidiary of **Sadbhav Infrastructure Project (SIPL)** an option to acquire additional stake.
- The Acquisition at an Enterprise Value of **Rs 1,680 crore** implying an attractive EBITDA multiple of 7x.

#### Govt to sell up to 25% stake in National Seeds Corporation via IPO

- The **government of India** will sell up to **25 percent stake** in **National Seeds Corporation (NSC)** through an **initial public offering (IPO)**.
- The **Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM)** has invited bids from merchant bankers and legal advisors for working on the proposed IPO
- The government has set a disinvestment target of **₹1.75 lakh crore** for 2021-22 (April-March).
- So far, it has raised about **₹8,368 crore** by selling stake in **Axis Bank, NMDC Ltd and Housing and Urban Development Corp (HUDCO)**.

#### About National Seeds Corporation:

- The public sector company comes under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**, and produces certified seeds of nearly 600 varieties of 60 crops.
- Till March 31, 2020, the company's net worth : Rs 646 crore.

#### Rakesh Jhunjhunwala picks up 1.59% stake in Canara Bank

- Ace investor **Rakesh Jhunjhunwala** has picked **2,88,50,000 shares** or **1.59 percent** minority stakes in **Canara Bank** via the **qualified institutions placement (QIP)**.
- A total of seven investors have been allotted more than 5% of the equity offered in the QIP issue they are LIC 15.91%, BNP Paribas Arbitrage 12.55%, Societe Generale 7.97%, Indian Bank and ICICI Prudential Life Insurance 6.37% each, Morgan Stanley Asia (Singapore) Pte-ODI 6.16% of the shares issued in QIP and Volrado Venture Partners Fund II subscribed to 6.05%.

#### IDBI Bank now to divest its entire 19.18% stake in ARCIL

- **IDBI Bank** stated its board has okayed a proposal to divest its **entire stake of over 19 per cent** in **ARCIL**.
- The decision was taken at a meeting of the board of directors.
- The board has approved the proposal for sale of **IDBI Bank's entire holding of 6,23,23,800 fully paid-up equity shares** constituting 19.18 per cent of the total equity share capital of **Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd (ARCIL)**.
- In June this year, IDBI Bank had invited bids from interested parties for the takeover of its stake in the asset reconstruction company.
- Incorporated in 2002, ARCIL is **owned by SBI, IDBI, ICICI and PNB**, besides strategic foreign investors such as **Avenue Indian Resurgence Pte Ltd**.

- Since its inception, ARCIL has resolved over **Rs 78,000 crore** worth of non-performing assets acquired from domestic banks and financial institutions.

### **Important Web Portals and Mobile Apps**

#### **Uttarakhand discovers India's first earthquake early warning mobile app - Uttarakhand Bhookamp Alert**

- On Aug 04, 2021, **Uttarakhand** Chief Minister **Pushkar Singh Dhami** launched the **country's first early warning mobile application**, named '**Uttarakhand Bhookamp Alert**',
- It has been developed by the **Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority (USDMA)** and the **Indian Institute of Technology-Roorkee**.

**Note :**

- **Uttarakhand** is the **first state** to make such an app which is aimed at **strengthening public safety**.

#### **About Uttarakhand Bhookamp Alert app :**

- The application uses an Earthquake Early Warning (EEW), a **real-time earthquake information system** that can **detect the onset of the earthquake**.
- The app will send **early warning messages** to people before the earthquake.
- It also helps to tell the location of people trapped inside a structure following an earthquake.
- The mobile app can **detect the information** regarding the occurrence of an earthquake, as well as the expected time of arrival and intensity at the tremor location to prevent any loss of life.
- It is compatible with **both Android and iOS platforms**.

#### **Union Minister Virendra Kumar launches PM-Daksh portal & PM Daksh mobile app**

- On Aug 07, 2021, Social Justice and Empowerment Minister **Dr Virendra Kumar** launched **PM-DAKSH Portal** and **PM-DAKSH Mobile App**, to make the skill development schemes accessible to the target groups.
- It has been developed by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in collaboration with NeGD, under the Department Of Electronics And Information Technology.

#### **About PM-Daksh :**

- 'PM-DAKSH' - Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi (PM-DAKSH) Yojana.
- PM- DAKSH Portal is available at **<http://pmdaksh.dosje.gov.in>** while 'PM-DAKSH' Mobile App is available in Google play store.
- It is being implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment from the year 2020-21.
- Through PM DAKSH, the youth of the target groups will now be able to avail the benefits of skill development training programmes more easily.
- Under this , eligible target groups are being provided skill development training programmes on
  1. Up-skilling/Reskilling
  2. Short Term Training Programme
  3. Long Term Training Programme



#### 4. Entrepreneurship Development Program (EDP).

- These training programs are being implemented through Government Training Institutes, Sector Skill Councils constituted by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and other credible institutions.

#### Features of the Portal :

- It gives all information related to skill development at one place for Scheduled Castes, Backward Classes and Safai Karamcharis.
- Provides Facility to register for the training institute and program of their interest.
- Facility to upload desired documents related to personal information.
- Facility to register the attendance of the trainees through face and eye scanning during the training period.
- Monitoring facility through photo and video clip during training etc.

#### Note :

- Under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, three Apex Corporations - National **Scheduled Castes** Finance and Development Corporation, National **Backward Classes** Finance and Development Corporation and National **Safai Karamcharis Finance** and Development Corporation- are functioning.

#### SIDBI launches 'Digital Prayaas' app

- In order to facilitate loans to aspiring entrepreneurs from the bottom of the pyramid, many of whom are **new to the bank (NTB)**, **Small Industries Development Bank of India**, the principal financial institution engaged in the promotion, financing and development of **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** has launched the programme '**Digital Prayaas' an App** based **end to end digital lending tool platform** resulting in loan sanction accorded by the end of the day.
- Further, to cater to the aspiring youths in the urban area, SIDBI has also tied up with a major aggregator viz., **BigBasket**, to on board its delivery partners across the country and provide loans at an affordable interest rate for purchase of **environment friendly e-Bikes and e-Vans**.

#### About the App:

- The **Digital Prayaas App** is set to digitize the **Know-Your-Customer (KYC)** process and the process of e-signing and e-stamping of various documents.
- The **on boarding of borrowers including e-KYC** and Sanction based on the credit score and analytics based on the algorithms shall get done on an end-to-end basis digitally.

#### Union Bank provide Rs 30 crore loans to support MSMEs

- Amid the pandemic, as many businesses were forced to shut down, **Union Bank of India is providing various financial schemes to micro, small and medium enterprises to provide support** so they can re-establish themselves.
- The bank has given immense support to industries and businesses by **sanctioning substantial Covid-19 relief loans**.
- It will discuss The present situation of the various businesses in the district including rice mills, spinning mills, weaving mills, cold storages, oil mills, stone crushing **units of MSMEs**.

### HCL Foundation launches 'My e-Haat' portal

- On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of Independence Day, the corporate social responsibility arm of HCL Technologies, **HCL Foundation**, launched an online portal, '**My e-Haat**' virtually.

#### Purpose :

- To **empower artisans** and **strengthen the value chain** of the **handicraft** sector in the country.

#### About My e-Haat :

- My E-Haat portal will enable artisans and primary producers to list and showcase their products to conduct their business, thereby **minimizing the informal intermediaries** and often long supply chains.
- The platform will also provide options for quality check mechanism, price determination, promotion, marketing, and grievance redressal, hand holding on procurement of raw material, product designing & training, financial inclusion, and market connect.
- The portal would help in bringing the talent of skilled craftsmen from across the country to the world & also it will increase their recognition, appreciation and remuneration.
- Also the platform will offer e-payment options, Cash on Delivery (COD) and integrated logistic support in addition to the real time product tracking.
- Currently over **30 partners** with over **600 products** from **eight states** are listed on the portal

### Ministry Of Social Justice And Empowerment Launches TAPAS

- The **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** has launched an **online portal Training for Augmenting Productivity and Services**, or **TAPAS**.
- TAPAS has been **developed** by the **National Institute of Social Defence (NISD)**, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

#### Purpose :

- To provide **filmed lectures/courses** and **e-study material** in the **field of social defence**.

#### Presently there are 5 courses under TAPAS:

1. Drug (Substance) Abuse Prevention
2. Geriatric/Elderly Care
3. Care and Management of Dementia
4. Transgender Issues
5. A comprehensive course on Social Defence Issues.

#### About TAPAS :

##### Objective :

- Introducing the course modules is to impart training and **enhance the knowledge** and **skills** for the capacity building of the participants.
- To provide access to lectures by subject experts, study material and more, but in a manner that it supplements the physical classroom without compromising on the quality of teaching.

- The course can be taken up by anyone and is **free of cost**.

#### KVG Bank unveiled FRUITS portal

- The Dharwad-headquartered **Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB)**, in association with the Karnataka government, has launched '**Farmer Registration and Unified Beneficiary Information System**' (FRUITS) portal.
- Inaugurating the portal in **Dharwad**, **Niraj Kumar Verma, Chief General Manager of Nabard**, stated the FRUITS portal is the **first of its kind in the country** where in the land and other details of all the farmers in the State are being captured.
- In this **latest initiative by the Karnataka government**, all the farmers will be registered and given a FRUITS ID (FID) number.
- Using this number, the financial and lending institutions can access the land details of farmers as well as their borrowings and take a quick decision on lending to them depending on their requirements.
- Appreciating **KVGB for accepting the FRUITS pilot project**, he hoped that all financial institutions will be on boarded to the portal soon so as to have a single data source of farmers.

#### J&K Lt Governor Manoj Sinha introduces PROOF App

- The **central government** is working in a bid to **bring more transparency and accountability** to the system.
- Recently, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha in the same regard launched the **PROOF 'Photographic Record of On-site Facility' app**.
- This application will help in uploading geo tagged photographs while preferring bills in the concerned treasuries against the budget allotted through the **BEAMS application**.
- It will monitor and timely complete projects in time duration.

#### About the App:

- In this application details of all projects with complete geo-tagged photographs shall now be available for the public through the **EMPOWERMENT portal**.
- The Office of Lt. Governor stated that no bills shall be entertained in the treasury unless **photographs of projects are uploaded**.
- "Bringing more transparency & accountability in the system, the details of all the projects with complete geo-tagged photographs shall now be available for the public through the EMPOWERMENT portal."

#### Amitabh Bachchan Becomes India's First Celebrity Voice For Amazon's Alexa

- Indian cinema icon **Amitabh Bachchan** has become **India's First Celebrity** to lend his voice for **Amazon's Alexa**.
- Alexa users will have to pay **Rs 149 (\$2)** for the first year to add Amitabh Bachchan's voice to the device. (Starting the second year, the annual price will move to \$4.)
- His voice will be available both in English and Hindi language.
- The feature initially arrived in the US with the voice of American actor and producer Samuel L. Jackson in 2019.

#### Note :

- In 2020, Amazon acquired Bachchan's "**Gulabo Sitabo**" movie rights for streaming globally on Prime Video.

#### About Amazon's Alexa :

- Amazon's Alexa is a **virtual assistant AI technology** developed by Amazon.
- It is first used in the Amazon Echo smart speaker and the Echo Dot, Echo Studio and Amazon Tap speakers developed by Amazon Lab126.
- It is capable of voice interaction, music playback, making to-do lists, **setting alarms**, streaming podcasts, playing audiobooks, and providing weather, traffic, sports, and other real-time information.

#### Kotak Mahindra Bank launches DIY repayment platform - 'Neo Collections'

- Kotak Mahindra Bank has **partnered** with **fintech firm Credits Solutions** to launch a digital repayment platform called '**Neo Collections**' which is a Do It Yourself Digital Repayment Platform for missed loan repayments.
- The digital repayment platform is powered by **artificial intelligence (AI)** and **machine learning (ML)**.

#### Objective :

- To make repayments for outstanding loans more convenient for the customers.

#### About Neo Collections :

- The platform is intuitive, using contextualised and optimized customer interactions, allowing Kotak to drive intelligent customer engagement for superior collections success at lower cost.
- It provides a customized and **non-intrusive experience** to help customers seamlessly manage their dues on their own.
- It analyzes historical and also live customer interaction data, and deploys sophisticated behavioural models for creating individual customer-level personas that take into account the unique choices of each customer.
- It also determines the best course of action by providing personalized repayment plans or payment resolution options in line with the internal credit guidelines of Kotak Mahindra Bank.

#### Geological Survey of India develops GSI Mobile App (Beta Version)

- The **Geological Survey of India (GSI)** has developed **GSI Mobile App (Beta Version)**.

#### Purpose :

- To create more **awareness** about its activities among the public and make its presence felt digitally.
- Draw the attention of the student community towards the subject of geology and its importance in nation building.

#### About GSI Mobile App :

- Through the App , people will become more enlightened about **various facets of GSI activities**.
- It is also in line with the Digital India campaign initiated by the Central Government.
- The App is available for **Android platform** as of now and can be downloaded from Google Play Store.

#### BPCL develops AI enabled chatbot 'URJA'

- **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL)** has developed an AI-enabled chatbot, **Urja**.

#### Purpose :

- To provide its customers an interface for a seamless **self-service experience** and **faster resolution of queries/issues**.

#### About Urja :

- Urja is the first in the country's oil and gas industry.

- URJA has been launched under the Project **Anubhav of BPCL**.
- Now, it supports **13 languages**.

#### **Jammu & Kashmir Government activates online grievance redressal portal**

- To address the grievances of the **Kashmiri migrants**, the government of **Jammu and Kashmir**, has launched an **online grievance redressal portal**.
- With this J&K became the **first UT** to put in place such a portal for migrants.

#### **About the Portal :**

- The portal can be accessed at JK government's official website: '**Relief & Rehabilitation (M)**' ([www.jkmigrantrelief.nic.in](http://www.jkmigrantrelief.nic.in)).
- It will deal with issues and concerns related to the land and properties of the migrants of J&K, including correction of encroachments, trespassing and alienation by way of fraud or distress, etc.
- All district magistrates will be required to dispose of the property-related grievances received via the online forum in a fixed time frame under the Public Services Guarantee Act, 2011.

#### **Union Minister Jitendra Singh launches New Portal under Bhuvan "Yuktdhara"**

- In Aug 23, 2021, The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for the Ministry of Science and Technology, **Shri Jitendra Singh** launched a new Geospatial Planning Portal under Bhuvan named "**Yuktdhara**".

#### **Purpose :**

- To enable planning of new MGNREGA assets using Remote Sensing and GIS based information.
- The Yuktdhara portal has been jointly **developed** by **ISRO** and the **Ministry of Rural Development**.

#### **About Yuktdhara :**

- The platform will serve as a repository of assets (Geotags) created under various national rural development programmes i.e. MGNREGA, Integrated Watershed Management Programme, Per Drop More Crop and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana etc., along with field photographs.
- It would ensure quality of plan and enable a long term monitoring of the assets created over the years.

#### **BharatPe introduces P2P lending app '12% Club'**

- **BharatPe** has entered **peer-to-peer (P2P)** lending with its product '**12% club**', which will allow consumers to **not only earn 12 per cent interest** on the funds they invest but also borrow at an **interest rate of 12 per cent**.
- The **fintech company** has partnered with central bank approved **non-banking finance companies** to offer this product to consumers and is aiming to achieve an investment **asset under management (AUM)** of \$100 million and a lending AUM of \$50 million by March 2022.
- Consumers on the '**12% Club**' app can invest their savings anytime by choosing to **lend money through BharatPe's partner P2P NBFCs**.
- Additionally, **consumers can avail of collateral-free loans of upto Rs 10 lakhs on the '12% Club' app** for a tenure of three months, as per their convenience.
- There are **no processing charges or pre-payment charges** on the consumer loans.

### Centre Launches E-Shram Portal : A database for unorganised sector workers

- On Aug 26, 2021, Minister for Labour and Employment, **Shri Bhupender Yadav** launched **e-Shram Portal-National Database for Unorganised Workers**.

#### About E-Shram Portal :

##### Aim of the portal :

- To register **38 crore unorganised workers**, such as construction labourers, migrant workforce, street vendors and domestic workers.
- All registered unorganised workers will be provided accidental insurance coverage through **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)** for a year.
- The sanctioned amount is **Rs 2 lakh** for accidental death and permanent disability and Rs 1 lakh in case of partial disability.
- Upon registration on the eSHRAM Portal, the worker will get an eSHRAM card with a **unique 12 digit Universal Account Number (UAN)** and will be able to access the benefits of the various social security schemes through this Card anywhere anytime.
- It will help the Ministry of Labour and Employment for building a national database of unorganised workers is central to the effort towards formalisation of the Indian workforce.

### Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur launches FIT India Mobile App

- On Aug 29, 2021, On the occasion of the second anniversary of the Fit India Movement, the Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, **Shri Anurag Singh Thakur** launched the **Fit India Mobile Application** at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, **New Delhi**

#### About FIT India Mobile App :

- The Fit India App is **free** and **available in English & Hindi** on both the Android and the iOS platforms.

#### Objective :

- To empower every Indian to check their fitness level based on a set of age specific fitness tests and get specific recommendations on how to improve their fitness level through physical activities including yoga protocols.

#### Unique Features of the app :

- Fitness** score, animated videos, activity trackers and 'my plan' catering to individual specific needs.
- Currently, the Fit India Movement is also conducting **Fit India Freedom Run 2.0** in celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of India's Independence.

#### Note :

- The **Fit India Movement** was launched on **29th August 2019** by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** with the vision of making India a Fit and Healthy Nation.

#### Revision Points

Applications/Web portals	Launched By/Developed By
--------------------------	--------------------------

FIT India Mobile App	Anurag Singh Thakur
e-Shram Portal	Bhupender Yadav
Yuktdhara	Jitendra Singh
URJA	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd
GSI Mobile App	Geological Survey of India
Neo Collections	Kotak Mahindra Bank
PROOF	Manoj Sinha
FRUITS	Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank
TAPAS	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
My e-Haat	HCL Foundation
Digital Prayaas App	SIDBI
PM-Daksh portal & PM Daksh mobile app	Dr Virendra Kumar
Uttarakhand Bhookamp Alert	Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami

## Important Sports News

### Cricket

#### West Indies Captain Stafanie Taylor, Bangladesh All-Rounder Shakib Al Hasan named Player of the Month awards for July 2021

- On Aug 11, 2021, All-rounder and captain of the **West Indies women squad Stafanie Taylor** and **Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan** were named as the winners of the **ICC Player of the Month Awards for July 2021**.
- Stafanie Taylor was nominated for the award alongside teammate Hayley Matthews and Pakistan's Fatima Sana.
- Stafanie has made 175 runs with a strike rate of 79.18 and took three wickets with an economy rate of 3.72.
- Shakib Al Hasan scored 96 unbeaten runs as Bangladesh defeated Zimbabwe by three wickets in the second ODI at the Harare Sports Club.

### Football

#### United States Crowned 2021 CONCACAF Gold Cup in Football

- On Aug 01, 2021, The **U.S. Men's National Team** was crowned champion of the **2021 Concacaf Gold Cup** in football after **defeating Mexico 1-0** in extra time.
- Now, The USA has won the Concacaf Gold Cup in 1991, 2002, 2005, 2007, 2013, 2017 and 2021 & this is the **seventh Gold Cup title**.
- In that American football player **Turner** was named **Best Goalkeeper** of the event.
- At the end of the tournament following awards were given :
- Golden Ball Award:** Héctor Herrera (Mexico)



- **Golden Boot Award:** Almoez Ali (Qatar)
- **Golden Glove Award:** Matt Turner (United States)
- **Young Player Award:** Tajon Buchanan (Canada)
- **Goal of the Tournament:** Bobby Decordova-Reid of Jamaica
- **Fighting Spirit Award:** Bryan Tamacas (El Salvador)
- **Fair Play Award:** United States

#### About CONCACAF Gold Cup :

- The CONCACAF Gold Cup is the main association **football competition** of the men's national football teams governed by CONCACAF the football ruling body in **North America, Central American, and the Caribbean**
- The Gold Cup is held **every two years**.

#### Others

#### Hockey India launches player-oriented web-based platform Heroes Connect

- **Hockey India (HI)** has launched its **own player-oriented web-based engagement platform**, the '**Heroes Connect**'.
- **About 'Heroes Connect :**
- The Platform will create a **detailed database** of the **players** who have represented the country in **both men and women's game**.
- It has been designed to **encourage former and current Indian international Hockey players** to initiate constructive discussions around the sport.
- These profiles consist of general details of a player, matches played for the Indian team, duration of career, tournaments played, year of retirement, memorable career moments, awards won, social media profile and photographs of the player.

#### France judoka Clarisse Agbénégou wins second Olympic gold in Women's Judo

- 28 years old judoka **Clarisse Agbénégou (France)** won the **gold medal** in the **women's -63 kg weight** class by **defeating Slovenian Tina Trstenjak** in the final.
- **Italy's Maria Centracchio** and **Catherine Beauchemin-Pinard of Canada** were awarded bronze medals.
- Judoka Clarisse Agbénégou gives France its **second Olympic gold medal**
- **Note :**
- Now, The French team have won **six medals** in the Tokyo Olympics, including two gold (Agbénégou and Romain Cannone in epee), two silver (Amandine Burchard and Sarah-Léonie Cysique, both in judo) and two bronze (Manon Brunet in sabre and Luka Mhkeidze in judo).
- **Romain Cannone** won France's **first gold medal** of the Games on July 25, beating Gergely Siklosi of Hungary 15-10 in the men's épée final.
- judoka **Clarisse Agbénégou** was **silver medalist** at the **2016 Summer Olympics** in **Rio de Janeiro**

#### Tokyo 2020: PV Sindhu wins badminton bronze

- On August 01, 2021, Indian badminton player **PV Sindhu** defeated China's He Bingjiao to win the **bronze medal** in women's singles event at the Tokyo Olympics.
- With this she became the **first Indian woman** and the **only second Indian athlete** to win **two Olympic medals** in individual events.
- This is **India's second medal** at the **Tokyo Olympics 2020**.

**Note :**

- Sindhu was also the **first Indian badminton player** to win a **Silver medal** at the Olympics.
- She becomes the **fourth player to win women's singles medal** in consecutive games

**2021 Hungarian Grand Prix : Esteban Ocon wins**

- On Aug 01, 2021, **Alpine's Esteban Ocon** won the **Hungarian Grand Prix 2021**, held at Hungaroring in **Mogyoród, Hungary**.
- This is the **maiden F1 race win for Esteban Ocon**.
- **Sebastian Vettel** (Aston Martin-Mercedes/Germany) came **second** followed by **Lewis Hamilton** (Mercedes-Great Britain) finished **third**.
- With this win Lewis Hamilton took the Formula One championship lead from Max Verstappen.
- In 2020, Esteban Ocon achieved his first podium in Formula One by finishing second at the 2020 Sakhir Grand Prix

**Indian women's hockey team qualifying for Olympic Games semifinals for first time**

- For the **first time**, the **Indian women's hockey team** defeated **three time championship Australia** in the **quarter-final** of the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.
- The team **will play Argentina** in the **semi-final** on August 4.
- After a gap of 49-years, Indian men's hockey team also entered the Olympic semi-finals.
- Drag-flicker Gurjit Kaur rose to the occasion when it mattered and converted India's lone penalty corner in the 22nd minute to surprise the Australians.
- Indian Women Team is **led by Rani Rampal**.
- India's best performance in the Olympics came way back in the **1980 Moscow Games** where they finished fourth out of six teams.

**Note :**

- **Odisha**, being the **cradle of hockey**, is also the **only state** that is **promoting a national game** in the entire country to help India regain its dominance in global hockey.

**Tokyo Olympics 2020 : Italy's Marcell Jacobs & Jamaica's Elaine Thompson-Herah Wins 100m title**

- On Aug 01, 2021, **Italy's 26 year old Lamont Marcell Jacobs** won the **men's 100 metres gold** at the Tokyo Olympics.
- Jacobs is the **first Italian** to win the 100 metres Olympic title & he achieved the feat in **9.80 seconds**.
- Fred Kerley of the United States won the silver in 9.84 seconds while Andre de Grasse of Canada won the bronze in 9.89 seconds.
- In the **Women's Category**, **Elaine Thompson-Herah** of Jamaica won the **women's 100 metres title** in **10.61 seconds**.

- Jamaica's **Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce** won the **silver** in 10.74 seconds and **Shericka Jackson** of Jamaica won the **bronze** medal in 10.76 seconds.

#### Tokyo Olympics 2020 : Germany's Alexander Zverev wins men's singles tennis gold

- On Aug 01, 2021, **Germany's tennis ace Alexander Zverev** (24 years old) beat Russian Karen Khachanov 6-3 6-1 to **win the men's singles gold medal** at the Tokyo Olympics.
- The world number five, who has yet to win a Grand Slam title.
- He defeated Khachanov in 79 minutes to become the **first German man to win singles Olympic gold**.
- He became only the **second German to win Olympic singles gold**, matching Steffi Graff's achievement at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

#### Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur launches Paralympic theme song "Kar De Kamaal Tu"

- On Aug 03, 2021, Union Sports Minister **Anurag Thakur** launched the **Paralympic theme song "Kar De Kamaal Tu"** in **New Delhi**.
- The song is **composed and sung** by divyang cricket player **Sanjeev Singh**, from Lucknow.

#### Key People :

- Secretary (Sports) Ravi Mittal, Joint Secretary (Sports) LS Singh, President of Paralympic Committee of India, Deepa Malik, Secretary-General Gursharan Singh, and Chief Patron Avinash Rai Khanna were also virtually present on this occasion.

#### Tokyo Olympics 2020 : India's Boxer Lovlina Borgohain bags bronze medal

- On Aug 04, 2021, 23 year old Indian boxer **Lovlina Borgohain** bagged the **women's 64-69kg boxing bronze medal** at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.
- Borgohain lost 0-5 to reigning world champion **Busenaz Surmeneli of Turkey** in the Olympic semifinals.
- This is **India's third medal** of the ongoing Tokyo Olympics after Vijender Singh (2008) and MC Mary Kom (2012).

#### Note :

- Lovlina Borgohain became only the **second Indian female boxer** after MC Mary Kom (bronze at London 2012) to win an Olympic medal.
- **Vijender Singh** is the **only Indian men's boxer** with an Olympic medal bronze at Beijing 2008.

#### About Lovlina Borgohain :

- Lovlina Borgohain hails from the Golaghat district of **Assam**.
- She has become the **first woman** from **Assam** to **qualify** for the **Olympics** and the second boxer to represent the country after Shiva Thapa.

#### Tokyo Olympics : 2020 Yulimar Rojas wins women's triple jump gold sets new world record

- In **2020 Tokyo Olympics**, **Yulimar Rojas of Venezuela** wins **women's triple jump gold**.
- Yulimar Rojas **jumped 15.67 metres** on her final & sixth jump which smashed the previous record of 15.50m was set by Ukraine's Inessa Kravets in 1995 in Sweden.
- With this win she set a new world record & this is the **first world record of olympics athletics** programme.

- **Portugal's Patricia Mamona** won **silver** with a national best of 15.01 m.
- The **bronze** went to **Spain's Ana Peleteiro**, who also broke the national record with 14.87m.

#### 2020 Tokyo Olympics: Indian Men's Hockey team wins bronze medal

- In the **Tokyo Olympics 2020**, **Indian Men's Hockey team** won the **bronze medal** after **defeating Germany 5-4**.
- It is the **country's first Olympic medal in hockey** since winning the gold medal in the 1980 olympics in Moscow.
- **Simranjeet Singh** scored **two goals** for India at the Oi Hockey Stadium, while Hardik Singh , Harmanpreet Singh and Rupinder Pal Singh were the other goal getters for India.
- This is **India's third bronze medal** at the Olympics & the other two came in 1968 Mexico City and the 1972 Munich Games.
- So far in the Olympics Indian Hockey team won **eight gold medals** in the years 1928, 1932, 1936, 1948, 1952, 1956, 1964, 1980.

#### 2020 Tokyo Olympics: Ravi Kumar Dahiya clinches silver medal for India in men's 57kg freestyle wrestling category

- **Ravi Kumar** became the **second Indian wrestler to clinch Olympic silver** after losing his 57kg final to Russian two-time defending world champion Zaur Uguev.
- This is **India's second silver and fifth medal overall at the Tokyo Olympics**.
- Ravi Kumar joined the legendary Sushil Kumar to become only the second Indian wrestler to win Olympic silver.
- **Sushil** had settled for **silver** in the **2012 London Olympics**.
- Ravi Kumar was trailing 0-2 in the first round before he bounced back to level the score but the round ended with Uguev ahead 4-2.
- Uguev then raced to a 7-2 lead before Ravi Kumar fought back with 2 more points but couldn't overturn the 3-point deficit in the end and lost the bout, but not without giving the Russian a tough fight.

#### Mohammad Rizwan breaks record for most T20I runs in a single calendar year

- **Pakistan's wicketkeeper-batsman Mohammad Rizwan** has **surpassed Paul Stirling's record** to claim the record for **scoring the most runs in T20 internationals** in a single calendar year.
- With his knock **of 46 runs against West Indies**, the right-handed opener now has amassed 752 runs in 2021 in 15 matches (14 innings), at a staggering average of 94.00 while striking at 140.03.
- Mohammad Rizwan has **slammed 7 fifties and 1 century this year**.
- Ireland's Paul Stirling previously held the record when he aggregated 748 runs in 20 innings at an average of 41.55 in 2019.
- Ireland's Kevin O'Brien (729 in 2019) and the Netherlands' Maxwell O'Dowd (702 in 2019) follow the list.
- India's Shikhar Dhawan (689 in 2018) and Virat Kohli (641 in 2016) are next in the tally.

#### Mohammad Rizwan's achievements 2021:

- Mohammad Rizwan indeed **stands a chance to become the first batsman** to notch up 1000 T20I runs in a single year.

- **Pakistan play two more matches against West Indies and host England** for a couple of T20Is just before the T20 World Cup, where they will be playing at least 5 games in the Super 12 stage.
- Mohammad Rizwan, who recently attained the **seventh position on ICC's T20I** batting ranking, could potentially reach the 1000-run mark this year.
- The **29-year-old smashed 197 runs**, including his best of 104\*, in 3 matches against South Africa at home; then followed it up with 147 against the same opposition away.
- The **right-hander plundered 186 runs** in Zimbabwe and **176 in England in 3-match series each**.

#### AFI decides 7th August to be named "Javelin Throw Day" to honour Neeraj Chopra

- The **Athletics Federation of India (AFI)** decided to name **August 7** as 'Javelin Throw Day' in India to **honour Neeraj Chopra's first historic Olympic gold**.
- It is an attempt to **attract more youth towards the sport**
- The javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra won the **gold medal** in men's javelin throw at a distance of **87.58m** in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics on August 7.
- This is India's first-ever gold medal in athletics in the history of the Olympics.
- The 23-year-old Neeraj is India's second individual Olympic gold medallist after Abhinav Bindra

#### PM Modi invites entire Indian Olympics contingent to be Guests at Independence Day

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will invite the **entire Indian Olympics contingent** to the Red Fort as special guests for the Independence Day event on August 15 this year, sources have confirmed.
- He will also **personally meet with the athletes and interact with all of them around that time**.
- Modi will also invite all the athletes who are part of the contingent over to his residence and have an interaction with them.
- Wishing him **good luck**, Modi had held a virtual interactive session with **iconic boxer MC Mary Kom, badminton ace PV Sindhu, talented shooters Saurabh Chaudhary, Elavenil Valarivan and veteran table tennis player A Sharath Kamal** before they left for Tokyo.

#### Labhanshu Sharma bags Bharat Kesari Wrestling Dangal for Uttarakhand

- Indian Wrestler **Labhanshu Sharma** bagged the **Bharat Kesari Wrestling Dangal 2021** organised in Tamil Nadu.

#### About Labhanshu Sharma :

- Labhanshu Sharma is an Indian wrestler, world peace activist.
- In the International Wrestling competitions, he won **2 gold medals** and **1 silver medal** & at the national level he also won **10 medals** & State level **15 gold medals**.
- He also won the **title of Bharat Kesari for Uttarakhand**.
- In **2015** He was the **National Bravery Award winner** after saving two individuals from drowning in river Ganga in Rishikesh.

#### 2021 FIDE World Cup : Poland's Jan-Krzysztof Duda beats GM Sergey Karjakin

- On Aug 05, 2021, 23-year-old **Jan-Krzysztof Duda** of **Poland** won the **2021 FIDE World Cup** after beating GM **Sergey Karjakin** in the finals at a score of 1.5/0.5.

**Note :**

- Jan-Krzysztof Duda became the **first Polish** chess player to win the World Cup and qualify to the FIDE Candidates.
- He finished the tournament undefeated & won USD 88,000 & Karjakin USD 64,000 & both ( Jan-Krzysztof Duda & Sergey Karjakin ) qualified for the 2022 FIDE Candidates Tournament.
- GM **Magnus Carlsen** came **third** in the tournament after defeating GM Vladimir Fedoseev to score 2-0 with a earning USD 48,000.

#### Tokyo Olympics 2020 : Neeraj Chopra Clinches Gold in Men's Javelin Throw

- On Aug 07, 2021, 23-year-old India's javelin thrower **Neeraj Chopra** won a **gold medal** in **men's javelin throw** at the Tokyo 2020 Games.
- Neeraj Chopra threw **87.58m** in his second attempt to claim the yellow medal.
- Czech Republic's **Jakub Vadlejch** won **silver** and fellow Czech **Vitezslav Vesely** won **bronze** to complete the podium.
- In Tokyo Olympics 2020, this is the **first gold medal** for India and the 7th medal overall.

#### 2020 Tokyo Olympics : Bajrang Punia wins bronze medal in men's 65 kg Wrestling

- On Aug 07, 2021, In **men's freestyle 65kg wrestling**, Indian wrestler **Bajrang Punia** won the **bronze medal** at Tokyo Olympics 2020.
- He defeated **Kazakhstan's Daulet Niyazbekov 8-0**.
- Punia won the **sixth** medal for India , and the fourth bronze for the nation In the Tokyo Olympics 2020.
- He is the **second Indian** to bag a medal in this Olympics after **Ravi Kumar Dahiya**.

**Note :**

- KD Jadhav** was the **first Indian wrestler** to win an Olympic medal at the **1952 Helsinki Games**.
- He became the first Indian athlete to win 2 individual Olympic medals.

#### Overview of 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics Games

- The **2020 Tokyo Olympics Games** is the international multi-sport event held from **July 23 to August 08, 2021** in **Tokyo, Japan**.
- In the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, the **United States** has topped the overall with **113 medals**, which includes **39 Gold, 41 Silver** and **33 Bronze Medal**.
- Followed by China, with 88 medals, which includes 38 Gold, 32 Silver & 18 Bronze medals.

Country	Total Medals ( Gold, Silver, Bronze )
United States	113 ( 39, 41, 33)
China	88 (38, 32, 18)

Japan	58 ( 27, 14, 17)
Great Britain	65 ( 22, 21, 22)
Team ROC (the Russian Olympic Committee)	71 (20, 28, 23)

#### About India in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics :

- **India** remains **48th** position in the medal table out of **86 countries**, winning **7 medals** comprising **1 Gold, 2 Silver** and **4 Bronze Medals**.

#### Indian Medal Winners List :

##### Gold

1. Neeraj Chopra – Men's Javelin

##### Silver

1. Mirabai Chanu – Women's 49kg Weightlifting
2. Ravi Dahiya – Men's Freestyle 57kg Wrestling

##### Bronze

1. Lovlina Borgohain – Women's Welterweight boxing
2. PV Sindhu – Women's Singles Badminton
3. Bajrang Punia – Men's 65kg Freestyle Wrestling
4. India men's hockey team – Bronze

- In that Tokyo Olympics 2020 MC Mary Kom, and men's hockey team skipper, Manpreet Singh, were flag-bearers for the Indian contingent at the opening ceremony.
- At the closing ceremony of the event, Bronze-medalist Bajrang Punia was the flag-bearer.

#### 2020 Tokyo Olympics: Peres Jepchirchir wins women's marathon

- **Kenya's Peres Jepchirchir** won the **women's marathon** at **2020 Tokyo Olympics** claiming a one-two in sweltering conditions in Japan's northern city of Sapporo.
- Jepchirchir beat world record holder Brigid Kosgei in the closing stages to win in two hours 27 minutes 20 seconds.
- **Brigid Kosgei** was **second** & American **Molly Seidel** took **bronze** in the women's marathon.

#### About the race :

- The race was run at midnight and the temperature still hit 88 degrees (31 C).
- It led to nearly 30 runners not getting to the finish line as Chepngetich captured gold.
- This was the **10th edition** of the Women's marathon at the Olympics.

#### Union Minister Anurag Thakur launches Fit India Freedom Run 2.0 on August 13 across India

- On Aug 13, 2021, Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports **Anurag Singh Thakur** will launch the Nationwide programme of **Fit India Freedom Runs 2.0** as part of the celebration of "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav-India@75".



#### Objective :

- To encourage people to take up fitness activities such as running and sports in their daily lives and get freedom from obesity, laziness, stress and diseases.
- To reach more than **7.50 crore** youth and citizens across the country and make them take part in the run.
- Fit India Freedom Runs will be organized in **744 Districts**, and **30,000 educational institutions** across the country.
- The programmes will be held in **75 districts** and at **75 villages** in each district till 2nd October 2021.

#### Key activities of Fit India Freedom Run 2.0 :

- Pledge
- Rendering of National Anthem
- Cultural functions at venues,
- Creating Awareness among Youth Volunteers to participate
- Organize similar Freedom Runs

#### 130th Edition of Durand Cup Football Tournament to be held in Kolkata from Sept 5

- **Asia's oldest** and **world's third oldest** football tournament, **Durand Cup's 130th Edition**, is scheduled to be held at **Kolkata** between September 05 to October 03, 2021.
- **Sixteen teams** from across the country, including four from the Services will participate in the tournament.

#### About Durand Cup :

- Durand is a domestic football competition in India, **organised** by the **Durand Football Tournament Society (DFTS)** and the **Indian Army**.
- The prestigious tournament was held for the **first time in 1888**, at **Dagshai, Himachal Pradesh**.
- It is **named after Mortimer Durand**, the then Foreign Secretary of British India from 1884 to 1894
- **Founded** : 1888
- **Current champions**: Gokulam Kerala FC; (1st title)
- The winning team is presented with three trophies, the President's Cup, the Durand Cup and the Shimla Trophy.
- Mohun Bagan and East Bengal are the most successful teams in the history of the Durand Cup winning it sixteen times each.

#### ICC to impel for cricket's inclusion in in Los Angeles Olympics 2028

- The **International Cricket Council** has confirmed it will campaign for the **inclusion** of the sport at the **2028 Los Angeles Olympics**.
- Also, The ICC was formed as an Olympic Working Group which will work on making the game part of the Olympics starting from 2028.
- The sport will feature in the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games in 2022, which shapes as a perfect showcase for what the sport can bring to the Olympics, as well as being a momentous occasion on its own.

#### World Athletics Rankings 2021: Neeraj ranked World No. 2

- Gold medallist **Neeraj Chopra** has accomplished number **2 rank** in the **World Athletics ranking 2021** after winning the **gold medal in Tokyo**.
- The 23-year-old athlete Chopra has been ranked second with a **score** of **1315**.
- He is only behind **German athlete Johannes Vetter** who has a 1396 score.

#### Men's Javelin World Athletics Rankings :

Place	Athletes	Score
1	Johannes Vetter	1396
2	Neeraj Chopra	1315
3	Marcin Krukowski	1302
4	Jakub Vadlejch	1298
5	Julian Weber	1291
6	Keshorn Walcott	1267
7	Andrian Mardare	1265
8	Vitezslav Vesely	1260
9	Anderson Peters	1259
10	Aliaksei Katkavets	1240

#### About Neeraj Chopra :

- On August 7, 2021, **Neeraj Chopra** became **India's first athlete** to win a gold in track and field in the Olympics.
- He threw the javelin to a distance of **87.58m** to win the gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics 2020.
- He is the **Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO)** in the Indian Army.
- Also ,he is the first track and field athlete who won IAAF World U20 Championships.
- He is one of only two Indians to have won an individual Olympic gold medal after **Abhinav Bindra**
- He is the youngest-ever Indian gold medalist in an individual event and the only one to have won gold in his Olympic debut.
- Neeraj had 143,000 followers on Instagram before the Olympics but now has a staggering 3.2 million, making him the most followed track and field athlete in the world.

#### Tokyo Paralympic Games -India sends 54-member contingent

- On Aug 12, 2021, The **54-member Indian contingents** were given a formal send-off by Youth Affairs and Sports Minister **Anurag Thakur** in virtual format.

- 54 para-sportspersons will compete across **9 sports disciplines** including Archery, Athletics (Track and Field), Badminton, Swimming, Weight Lifting among others.
- This is the biggest-ever contingent India is sending to any Olympics.

#### Key People :

- Minister of Tourism **Shri G.K Reddy**, and MoS External Affairs and Culture **Smt Meenakshi Lekhi** were also present at the event.

#### About 2020 Summer Paralympics Games :

- The 2020 Summer Paralympics Games are scheduled to be held in **Tokyo, Japan from August 24 to September 05, 2021**.
- It is an international multi-sport event for athletes with disabilities governed by the International Paralympic Committee.

#### World Archery Youth Championships 2021 : India Win 3 Golds In Compound Events

- **2021 World Archery Youth Championships, India won 3 gold medals** in the compound cadet women's and men's and mixed team events in **Wroclaw, Poland**.
- The archers have also secured **1 silver** and **1 bronze** medals in the individual competitions.
- The Indian women beat Turkey 228-216 in the final for the gold.
- Meanwhile, India's cadet men's team of Kushal Dalal, Sahil Chaudhary and Nitin Apar defeated the USA 233-231.

#### About World Youth Archery Championships :

- The World Youth Archery Championships is an international archery competition, which has been held in alternate years since 1991.

#### World Archery Youth Championships 2021: Komalika Bari Becomes Junior Recurve World Champion

- In **World Archery Youth Championships 2021**, **Komalika Bari** became the new **under-21 recurve world champion** in **Wroclaw, Poland**.
- Komalika clinched two gold medals including one with Parth Salunkhe in junior mixed team.

#### About Komalika Bari :

- In 2019, she won the **U-18 title in Madrid**.
- She became the **second Indian woman** after Deepika Kumari to claim both the U-21 World Championship and the U-18 title.

#### 20-year-old Harshit Raja becomes India's 69th Chess Grandmaster

- **Harshit Raja**, the 20-year-old youngster from Pune Maharashtra, has become the **69th Grandmaster** of India in Chess after drawing his game against Dennis Wagner at the Biel Masters Open 2021.

#### About Harshit Raja :

- Harshit Raja won **silver** in **U-13 National Chess Championship** in Jamshedpur in 2014
- He won gold in the **SGFI Nationals** held in Tamil Nadu in 2014.
- He represented India in the World Youth Chess Championship U-14 in Greece, 2015.

- In 2016, he was honoured with '**Best Upcoming Player**' in Maharashtra Chess League in Pune.
- Raja became an International Master in 2017.

#### Indian Grandmaster Raunak Sadhwani wins Spilimbergo Open chess 2021

- The 15-year old Young Indian Grandmaster **Raunak Sadhwani** **19th Spilimbergo Open chess tournament** by draw in the ninth and final round against GM Adam Kozak of Hungary.
- Sadhwani (Elo 2579) remained undefeated in the tournament, notching up five wins and four draws.

#### About Raunak Sadhwani :

- Raunak Sadhwani achieved the title of Grandmaster at age 13.
- He is the 9th youngest player in history and the 4th youngest Indian to become a Grandmaster.
- Raunak was U-10 Commonwealth Champion in 2015 in New Delhi.
- In July 2021, he won the **40th St Veiter Jacques Lemans Open 2021**.
- Raunak Sadhwani is the **65th Grandmaster of India**.

#### Note :

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

#### Spilimbergo Open chess 2021 :

- The Chess Tournament was held from **11th Aug to 15th Aug 2021** in **Spilimbergo, Italy**.

#### German GM Alexander Donchenko wins International Chess Festival "RTU Open 2021"

- Germany's **Alexander Donchenko** won the title of **International Chess Festival "RTU Open 2021"** with **7.5 points** from nine rounds in **Riga, Latvia**
- Followed by the **second** place is the Grand Master of India **Narayanan S.L** and in the **third** place is the international master from **Lithuania Tomas Laurušas**.

#### Note :

- **Director of RTU Sports Center** : Egons Lavendelis.

#### About Alexander Donchenko :

- Alexander Anatolyevich Donchenko is the son of Anatoly Donchenko , an international master.
- Donchenko earned his international master title in 2012 and his grandmaster title in 2015.
- He is the **No.3** ranked German player as of August 2021.

#### World Archery Youth Championships: India Clinches 15 medals

- The **Indian** contingent won **15 medals** at the **World Archery Youth Championships 2021** in **Wroclaw, Poland**.
- With 15 medals ( 8-Gold, 2-Silver, 5- Bronze ) India stands top, followed by **France & Mexico** second & third place respectively.

#### About World Archery Youth Championships :

- Two classes have been contested at the Youth World Championships:
- Junior (under 20)
- Cadet (under 17)

- There are events in cadet and junior categories using the recurve and compound bows.

#### Odisha Government To Sponsor Indian National Hockey Teams For 10 More Years

- Odisha Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** announced that the Odisha Government extended sponsorship of **Indian National Hockey Teams** by another **10 years** after the current sponsorship ends in 2023.

#### Purpose :

- Recognition of their achievement and their potential to be the top teams in the world.
- In **2018**, Odisha had signed a **₹100 crore** deal with Hockey India for sponsoring the men's and women's teams for 5 years after Sahara India withdrew after getting entangled in legal issues.

#### U20 World Athletics Championships 2021

- On August 18, The **U20 World Athletics Championships** began in **Nairobi, Kenya** will conclude on August 22.
- India have named 27 athletes for the five-day meet at Kasarani Stadium.
- The event was originally scheduled for 2020.

#### About U20 World Athletics Championships :

- The World Athletics U20 Championships is a biennial world championships for the sport of athletics organised by the World Athletics, contested by athletes in the under-20 athletics age category.
- Anneisha McLaughlin-Whilby is the most successful athlete at the championships, winning one gold and four silver in individual and relay sprinting events between 2000 and 2004.

#### Indian 4x400 quartet clinches bronze in World Athletics U20 Championship

- The **Indian 4x400m mixed relay team** clinched the **bronze medal** with a timing of **3:20.60 seconds** at the **World Athletics U20 Championships** in **Nairobi, Kenya**.
- The team consisted of **Bharat Sridhar, Priya Mohan, Summy and Kapil**.
- The **Nigerian** team won the **gold medal** with a championships record of 3:19.70, while the **Polish quartet** won the **silver medal** with a season's best timing of 3:19.80.
- This is **India's fifth medal** at the Athletics U-20 World Championships & with this bronze India have now won medals at four successive Athletics U-20 World Championships.

#### About World Athletics U20 Championships :

- The World Athletics U20 Championships is a biennial world championships for the sport of athletics organised by the **World Athletics**, contested by athletes in the under-20 athletics age category.

#### Manika Batra, Sathiyen Gnanasekaran Clinch 2021 WTT Contender Mixed Doubles Title In Budapest

- India's **Manika Batra** and **Sathiyen Gnanasekaran** won the **mixed doubles title at the 2021 WTT Contender** event in **Hungary's Budapest**.
- Manika and Sathiyen beat **94th ranked** Hungarian pair Dora Madarasz and Nandor Ecseki 3-1 in the final.
- With this win they became the **first Indian table tennis players** to win a WTT Contender title.

#### About Manika Batra :

- As of November 2020, she is the **top-ranked female table tennis player** in India

- Manika Batra ranked **62nd** in the world as of July 2021.
- She won **three medals at the 2015 Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships**.
- In the 2016 South Asian Games, she won three gold medals.
- At the 2020 Summer Olympics, Batra reached the **third round** of the women's singles event, becoming the first Indian paddler to reach the third round at the Olympics in a singles event

#### Karnataka makes panel to pick 75 players for Paris Olympics 2024

- The **Karnataka** government has drafted a high-level committee to select **75 promising athletes** for the upcoming **Paris Olympics 2024**.
- It is the initiative comes under Chief Minister **Basavaraj Bommai's 'Amrith Sports Adoption'** programme.
- Youth empowerment and sports minister **K.C. Narayana Gowda heads** the committee along with senior officials and the head of the Karnataka Olympic Association.
- The **eight-member** committee also has three sports personalities in the form of Arjuna awardees, hockey player **V.R. Raghunath**, badminton player **Anup Sridhar**, and swimming coach **Nihar Ameen** who is a Dronacharya awardee.
- The 75 selected sports persons will be awarded **Rs 5 lakh** towards expenses such as training, supplements, and sports kit.

#### U20 World Athletics Championships : Shaili Singh wins Silver medal in Long Jump

- 17-year-old Long jumper **Shaili Singh** won the **silver** medal at the **U-20 World Athletics Championships** in **Nairobi** with a 6.59 metre jump.
- **Maja Askag** of Sweden won the **gold** with a jump of 6.60m.
- Ukraine's **Mariia Horielova** took the **bronze** medal.
- It was India's **second silver medal** & also India's **3rd medal** at the U20 World Athletics Championships in Nairobi.
- Earlier in the competition, India's **Amit Khatri** won **silver** in men's 10km race walk & India also won a **bronze** in the 4x400m mixed relay.

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

- **Princepal Singh** is the **first Indian** to be part of an **NBA title-winning team**.
- He is part of the Sacramento Kings which clinched the 2021 NBA Summer League crown.
- The 6-foot-9 forward made history by being the first Indian to be part of a championship roster at any level of the NBA.
- The Kings dominated the championship game against the Boston Celtics, clinching the title with a 100-67 win.

#### World U20 Athletics Championship 2021: Amit Khatri Clinches Silver In Men's 10,000m Race Walk

- India's **Amit Khatri** has won the **silver medal** in the **men's 10,000 m race walk** at the **World Athletics U20 Championships** in **Nairobi**.
- It is **India's second medal** at the World U20 Athletics Championship.
- He finished the race with a timing of **42 minutes 17:94 seconds**.

- **Haristome Wanyoyi** won the **gold** medal with a timing of 42:10.84s & the **bronze** medal won by **Paul McGrath** of Spain with a timing of 42:31.11s.
- Earlier Amit had set a new national U-20 record in 10km race walking & he won the title at the 18th National Federation Cup with a time of 40:40.97.

#### 2020 Tokyo Paralympics: Tek Chand To Be India's Flagbearer For Opening Ceremony

- On Aug 24, 2021, Indian shot-putter **Tek Chand** was the **flag-bearer** for the Indian contingents at the **opening ceremony** of Paralympics in **Tokyo**.
- **Earlier**, High-jumper **Mariyappan Thangavelu** was named India's official flag-bearer for the opening ceremony, but was replaced after coming in close contact with a COVID positive person during their flight to Tokyo.
- Mariyappan Thangavelu has been quarantined along with five other athletes including discus thrower Vinod Kumar, who has also withdrawn from the ceremony.
- India will be represented by **54 para-athletes**, the biggest ever contingent in the history of the Games, representing nine different disciplines.
- So far, India have bagged **12 medals** in Paralympics history - four gold, four silver, and four bronze.

#### AICF and Chess Association of India joins hands

- On Aug 21, 2021, **All-India Chess Federation (AICF)** and **Chess Association of India** announced they have **joined hands** to **administer the sport in India**.
- It is for both at the **national level** and at the **state level** the opposing sections have now merged under the guidance of the federation.
- To address all the concerns of every member and bring everybody together for the sake of the sport.

#### India GM Erigaisi wins chess tourney in Portugal

- The 17-year old Indian Grandmaster **Arjun Erigaisi** II Terras de Trás-os-Montes Chess Open in **Bragança Portugal**.
- He secured **8.5 points** from nine rounds (posting eight wins and settling for a draw) to finish clear winner in the field comprising over 140 players.
- A total of **five Indians** participated in the tournament.
- The Chennai-based **Gukesh's** gained **17.7 Elo** points in **2nd** place by winning 8 games & 1 losing match against GM Arjun Erigaisi.
- **Moksh Amit Doshi** was the next best Indian performer as he finished **15th** with six points.

#### Indian Grandmaster GM Sethuraman wins Barcelona Open 2021

- Indian Grandmaster **SP Sethuraman** won the **Barcelona Open chess tournament title** in **Barcelona, Spain**.
- Sethuraman collected **7.5 points from nine rounds** to emerge winner on the basis of a better tie-break score after **Daniil Yuffa** of Russia also finished level with the Indian player.
- He remained unbeaten through the nine rounds, winning six matches and drawing three.
- Meanwhile, Indian GM **Karthikeyan Murali** finished **third** in the tournament. (Murali won six games, drew two & lose 2 matches)



- **Chithambaram** took the **fifth** spot while Arjun Kalyan (6.5 points) ended ninth, followed by **Visakh** in **10th** place.

#### About SP Sethuraman :

- Sethuraman hails from **Chennai**, TamilNadu.
- Sethuraman won the **2004 Asian under-12 championship** in Singapore and the 2009 **world U16 championship** in Antalya.
- In 2014, Sethuraman won the team **bronze medal**.
- In 2016 he won the **Asian Chess Championship** in Tashkent

#### Sathiyar Gnanasekaran wins ITTF Czech Open title 2021

- Indian table tennis player **Sathiyar Gnanasekaran** beat Ukraine's Yevhen Pryschchepain straight sets 11-9, 11-6, 11-6, 14-12 to claim the men's singles title at the **ITTF Czech International Open in Olomouc in Czech Republic** held from 21 to 25 aug 2021.
- This is only his **third ITTF Challenger title** following triumphs in **Belgium Open 2016** and **Spanish Open 2017**.
- Earlier, **Sathiyar Gnanasekaran** had paired up with compatriot **Manika Batra** to win the **mixed doubles title** at the WTT Contender in Budapest.

#### Tokyo Paralympics: Avani Lekhara wins gold in shooting

- Indian paralympic shooter **Avani Lekhara** won country's first gold medal in shooting at the Tokyo Paralympics in the **women's 10m air rifle standing SH1 event**.
- Avani Lekhara is India's first woman to win a Paralympic Gold Medal.
- Lekhara, 19, won the **gold medal** with a total score of **249.6** in the final.
- **China's Cuiping Zhang** won **silver** with 248.9 and **Ukraine's Iryna Shchetnik** took **bronze** with a total of 227.5.
- Lekhara became the **fourth Indian athlete** to win a **gold medal** at the Paralympics after swimmer **Murlikant Petkar** in 1972, javelin thrower **Devendra Jhajharia** in 2004 and 2016 and high jumper **Thangavelu Mariyappan** in 2016.

#### Tokyo Paralympics: India's Bhavinaben Patel wins silver in table tennis

- On Aug 29, 2021, In table tennis, 34-year-old Indian paddler **Bhavinaben Patel** clinched the **silver medal** at **2020 Paralympic Games** at Tokyo in the women's singles summit clash.
- This is the **first medal** for India at the ongoing Tokyo Paralympic Games 2020 and 13th overall.
- She lost the Gold medal match 3-0 to China's Zhou Ying in the women's singles class 4 final.

#### Note :

- Patel is the **first table tennis player** ever to win a medal at the Paralympics for India and the **second female athlete** after PCI chief **Deepa Malik** to achieve the feat. Malik had won silver at Rio 2016 in women's shot put.

#### Tokyo Paralympics: India's High Jumper Nishad Kumar wins silver medal

- On Aug 29, 2021, 23-year-old High jumper **Nishad Kumar** clinched a **silver medal** in the **men's high jump T46/47** event at the **Tokyo Paralympics 2020**.
- He made a jump of **2.06m**, and in doing so created an Asian record.
- With this win, it is a **second medal** for India at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics

- **USA's Roderick Townsend** won **gold** with a jump of **2.15m** & **Dallas Wise** won **bronze** with a jump of **2.06 m**.
- India's **Rampal Chahar** finished at the **fifth spot** with a jump of **1.94m**.

**Note :**

- Nishad Kumar became the **second Indian** to win a medal at the 2020 Summer Paralympics **after Bhavina Patel** when he clinched a silver in the T47 category high jump event

#### **Belgian Grand Prix: Red Bull's Max Verstappen 'Wins' the Rain-affected Grand Prix**

- Red Bull's **Max Verstappen** emerged as the **winner** of **Belgian Grand Prix**.
- The Belgian Grand Prix was stopped due to rain and only **two laps** were completed.
- The winner was decided based on progress made in these two laps.
- **George Russell, Williams** came **second** and **Lewis Hamilton, Mercedes** came **third**.

**List of Top 10 Positions :**

1. Max Verstappen, Red Bull – 12.5 points
2. George Russell, Williams – 9 points
3. Lewis Hamilton, Mercedes – 7.5 points
4. Daniel Ricciardo, McLaren – 6 points
5. Sebastian Vettel, Aston Martin – 5 points
6. Pierre Gasly, AlphaTauri – 4 points
7. Esteban Ocon, Alpine – 3 points
8. Charles Leclerc, Ferrari – 2 points
9. Nicholas Latifi, Williams, 1 points
10. Carlos Sainz, Ferrari, 0.5 points

- The **next round of the 2021 F1 World Championship** is the Dutch Grand Prix at **Zandvoort** on September 5.

#### **Tokyo Paralympics : India's Sumit Antil wins gold medal in Javelin throw**

- On Aug 30, 2021, India's **Sumit Antil** won **gold medal** with a World Record throw of **68.55m** in javelin throw F64 at 2020 Summer Paralympics.
- **Michal Burian** of Australia won the **silver** medal (66.29m), & **Sri Lanka's Dulan Kodithuwakku** won the **bronze** medal.
- This is the second gold medal for India at the ongoing Tokyo Games and now the total medal tally of India has reached 7.
- Earlier, Shooter Avani Lekhara, won a gold medal in women's 10m Air Rifle SH1 with a world record score of 249.6 at the Paralympic Games.

**About Sumit Antil :**

- Sumit hails from Sonapat in **Haryana**.
- In 2019, at the World Para Athletics Grand Prix in Italy, he broke the world record in the F64 category enroute to winning the Silver medal in the Combined Event.
- He won a silver in the F64 javelin throw at the 2019 World Championships in Dubai.

### Tokyo Paralympics: Devendra Jhajharia wins silver, in men's javelin throw event

- On Aug 30, 2021, India's **Devendra Jhajharia** won **Silver medal** in the men's javelin throw – F46 final event with a new World record throw of **68.55m**.
- This is Jhajharia's **third Paralympic medal** having won gold at Athens 2004 and Rio 2016.
- Meanwhile, **Sundar Singh Gurjar** won the **bronze** medal, with a season-best throw of **62.58**.
- Currently, India's total medal tally at the Paralympics 2020 Games is seven.

#### Note :

- Devendra Jhajharia is the **first Indian Paralympics player** to win two gold medals at the Paralympics.

### Tokyo Paralympics 2020: India's Yogesh Kathuniya Wins Silver in Discus Throw F56

- 24 year old, Indian discus thrower **Yogesh Kathuniya** clinched the **silver medal** with a throw of **44.38m** in the **Men's Discus Throw Final (F56)** at the Tokyo Paralympics.
- **Batista dos Santos** from Brazil took **gold** with a throw of **45.59m** and **L. Diaz Aldana** from Cuba bagged **silver** with **43.36m**.
- With this Yogesh Kathuniya's medal is also India's 4th confirmed medal at the Tokyo Paralympics.

#### About Yogesh Kathuniya :

- Yogesh Kathuniya, hails from **New Delhi**.
- He sets a World rank 3 in Men's Discus Throw F56 Category.
- He won a **Bronze** medal in the **World Para Athletics Championship, Dubai 2019**.
- He won 2 Gold medals in 2019 Handisport Open, Pari & he won Gold medal in Indian Grand Prix, Bangalore 2019.

### Revision Points

Organizations	Headquarters	President/CEO/Head
Economist Intelligence Unit	London	Robin Bew

HDFC Life	Mumbai	Vibha Padalkar
Apple	California	Tim Cook
Microsoft	Washington DC	Satya Nadella
Tencent	Shenzhen	Cayman Islands
Reliance	Mumbai	Mukesh Ambani
Toyota Motor	Aichi, Japan	Kiichiro Toyoda
Volkswagen	Berlin, Germany	Herbert Diess
United Heath Group	Minnesota, USA	Andrew Witty
Sinopec	Beijing	Fu Chengyu
Walmart	Bentonville, United States	Doug McMillon
State Grid	Japan	Shu Yinbiao
National Institute of Animal Biotechnology	Hyderabad	Dr. Subeer S. Majumdar
National Centre for Cell Science	Pune	Manoj Kumar Bhat
Defence Research & Development Organisation	New Delhi	G Satheesh Reddy
Hindustan Aeronautics Limited	Bengaluru	Shri R. Madhavan
Google	California, USA	Sundar Pichai
European Space Agency	Paris, France	Josef Aschbacher
Ordnance Factory Board	Kolkata	C S Vishwakarma
National Aeronautics and Space Administration	Washington DC	Steve Jurczyk, Bill Nelson
Mahindra Defence Systems Limited	Mumbai	Devendra Bhatnagar
Bharat Dynamics Ltd	Hyderabad	Siddharth Mishra
Goa Shipyard Limited	Goa	Bharat Bhushan Nagpal
BEML Ltd	Bengaluru	D K Hota
Economic Explosives Limited	Nagpur	Anil Kumar Jain
Election Commission of India	New Delhi	Sunil Arora
World Resources Institute	Washington DC	Ani Dasgupta
Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers	New Jersey	Dr.Chanakya Kumar Jha
Poonawalla Fincorp Limited	West Bengal	Adar Poonawalla
Institute of Company Secretaries of India	New Delhi	Nagendra D. Rao

MakeMyTrip	Gurugram	Rajesh Magow
Ibibo Group	Gurugram	Ashish Kashyap
Central Board of Direct Taxes	New Delhi	Pramod Chandra Mody
Serum Institute of India	Pune	Cyrus Poonawalla
Tata Motors	Mumbai	Guenter Butschek
Bank of Maharashtra	Pune	AS Rajeev
Indian Bank	Chennai	Shanti Lal Jain
NASSCOM	New Delhi	U. B. Pravin Rao
International Financial Services Centre at GIFT City	Gujarat	Tapan Ray
Hockey India	New Delhi	Narinder Batra
World TeamTennis	California	Carlos Silva
All-India Chess Federation	New Delhi	Sanjay Kapoor
Razorpay	Bengaluru	Harshil Mathur
Sadbhav Infrastructure Project	Ahmedabad	Shashin V. Patel
Maharashtra Border Check Post Network Ltd	Mumbai	Ganesh Shigvan
Adani Group	Ahmedabad	Gautam Adani
National Seeds Corporation	New Delhi	Vinod Kumar Gaur
HCL	Noida	C Vijayakumar
Geological Survey of India	Kolkata	R.S. Garkhal
Zoological Survey of India	Kolkata	Dhriti Banerjee
Kirloskar Brothers Limited	Pune	Rama Kirloskar
Internet and Mobile Association of India	Mumbai	Amit Agarwal
Khadi and Village Industries Commission	Mumbai	Vinai Kumar Saxena
CISCO	San Jose	Chuck Robbins
Indian Council of Medical Research	New Delhi	Balram Bhargava
All India Council for Technical Education	New Delhi	Anil Sahasrabudhe
NTPC Ltd	New Delhi	Gurdeep Singh
Bharat Biotech	Hyderabad	Krishna Ella
Border Roads Organisation	New Delhi	Rajeev Chaudhary
National Centre for Disease Control	New Delhi	Dr Sujeet Kumar Singh

National Institute of Animal Biotechnology	Hyderabad	Dr. Subeer S. Majumdar
World Resources Institute	Washington DC	Ani Dasgupta
Steel Authority of India	New Delhi	Soma Mondal
Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority	New Delhi	Supratim Bandyopadhyay
ISRO	Bengaluru	Kailasavadivoo Sivan
Universal Postal Union	Bern, Switzerland	Masahiko Meteko
BharatPe	Bengaluru	Ashneer Grover
Punjab National Bank	New Delhi	S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao
Vodafone Idea	Gandhinagar	Ravinder Takkar
Godrej Industries	Maharashtra	Nadir Godrej
HSBC Bank	London	Rajnish Kumar
National Food Security Mission	New Delhi	Pramod Kumar Meherda
Automotive Component Manufacturers Association	New Delhi	Sunjay J Kapur
Stop TB Partnership Board	Geneva	Mansukh Mandaviya
Coal India	Kolkata	Bhola Singh
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	Bengaluru	Nitin Chugh
ICICI Bank	Mumbai	Sandeep Bakhshi
National Commission for Women	New Delhi	Rekha Sharma
National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority	New Delhi	Kamlesh Kumar Pant
World Health Organization	Geneva	Dr Patrick Amoth
Institute of Economic Growth	New Delhi	NK Singh
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change	Geneva	Hoesung Lee
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime	Vienna, Austria	Ghada Fathi Waly
Union Bank of India	Mumbai	Rajkiran Rai G
United Nations Children's Fund	New York	Henrietta H. Fore
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	Paris	Audrey Azoulay

### Important Obituaries

Name	Field
Man Kaur (Patiala, Punjab) (Miracle Mom from Chandigarh)	Six-time world masters championship gold medallist & multiple Asian Masters Championship medallist
Padma Sachdev	Dogri poet and Padma Shri awardee
Shankar Subramaniam Narayan	Olympian footballer
Anupam Shyam	Actor
P.S. Banarji (Kerala)	Cartoonist, sculptor and folk singer
Kasargod Patnashetti Gopal Rao	War hero Commodore
Balaji Tambe	Renowned Ayurvedacharya
Saranya Sasi	Malayalam actress
Gopal Bhengra	Former international hockey player
Gerd Muller (Germany)	Footballer (Bomber der Nation)
Chinmoy Chatterjee	Former India defender
Mian Bashir Ahmed	Gujjar leader and Padma Bhushan awardee
Maki Kaji	Creator of puzzle Sudoku
O.M. Nambiar	Athletics Coach & Sprint queen
Kalyan Singh	Former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister
Syed Shahid Hakim	Olympic footballer and former National coach/ Chief project director at Sports Authority of India
O Chandrasekharan	Former Indian football team captain and Olympian
BV Nimbkar	Agricultural scientist and recipient of Padma Shri award
Ted Dexter	Former England Test captain
Naushad	Renowned Kerala chef and film producer
Pt Subhankar Banerjee	Indian classical musician and tabla player
Buddhadeb Guha	Bengali writer
Ed Asner	US television actor & winner of a record seven Emmy awards