

Important Current Affairs September 2021

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Important Days

Date	Day	Theme/Others
September 2	World Coconut Day	
September 4	National Wildlife Day	Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet
September 5	International Day of Charity (declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 2012)	Anniversary of the death of Mother Teresa of Calcutta
September 5	National Teachers' Day	Birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvopalli Radhakrishnan, the first Vice-President and second President of independent India
September 6 to 12	Food Processing Week	Observed by Ministry of Food Processing Industries
September 7	International Day of Clean Air for blue skies	Healthy Air, Healthy Planet
September 8	International Literacy Day (First International Literacy Day was observed in 1967)	Literacy for a human-centred recovery: Narrowing the digital divide
September 9	International Day to Protect Education	Established by a unanimous decision of the United Nations General Assembly in 2020
September 9	Himalayan Day	Contribution Of Himalayas And Our Responsibilities
September 9	World EV Day (First World EV day was observed in 2020)	World EV Day works alongside Green.TV's EV Summit
September 10	World Suicide Prevention Day (1 st celebrated in 2003)	Creating Hope Through Action
2 nd Saturday of September	World First Aid Day (1 st observed in 2000)	'First aid and road safety
September 12	United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation	
September 14	National Hindi Day	Hindi has been used as a literary language since the 12th century
September 15	World Lymphoma Awareness Day	

September 15	International Day of Democracy	Established in 2007 through a resolution passed by the United Nations General Assembly
September 15	National Engineer's Day (UNESCO celebrates World Engineer's Day on March 4)	Birth anniversary of the greatest Indian Engineer, Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya
September 16	International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer (Designated by the United Nations General Assembly)	'Montreal Protocol – Keeping us, our food, and vaccines cool
September 16	Malaysia Day	
September 17	World Patient Safety Day	Safe maternal and newborn care
September 18	World Bamboo Day (Established by the World Bamboo organization)	PlantBamboo: It Is Time To Plant Bamboo
September 18	International Equal Pay Day	First International Equal Pay Day was observed in 2020
September 18	World Water Monitoring Day (It was established in 2003)	valuing water
Third Saturday of September	International Coastal Clean-Up Day	Keep trash in the bin and not in the ocean
Last Week of September	International Week of Deaf People	Celebrating Thriving Deaf Communities
September 21	International Day of Peace	Recovering better for an equitable and sustainable world
September 21	World Alzheimer's Day	Know dementia, know Alzheimer's
September 22	World Rhino Day	Keep the Five Alive
September 23	International Day of Sign Languages (International Week of the Deaf was first celebrated in September 1958)	We Sign For Human Rights (First International Day of Sign Languages was observed in 2018)
September 20-26	Vanijya Saptah	Observed by the Department of Commerce
September 25	Antyodaya Diwas	Birth anniversary of Bharatiya Jana Sangh

		and BJP icon Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya
September 25	World Pharmacists Day	Pharmacy: Always trusted for your health
September 26	International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons	In 2013, the United Nations established the day.
September 26	World Environmental Health Day	Prioritising Environmental Health for healthier communities in the global recovery
Fourth Sunday of September	World Rivers Day	Prioritising Environmental Health for healthier communities in the global recovery
September 27	World Tourism Day	Tourism for Inclusive Growth
September 28	International Day for Universal Access to Information (Designated by the UNESCO General Conference)	The Right to Know – Building Back Better with Access to Information
September 28	World Rabies Day	Rabies: Facts, not Fear
September 29	World Heart Day (1 st celebration took place in 2000)	Use Heart to Connect
September 29	International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste	The day was designated by the United Nations.
September 30	World Maritime Day 2021	Seafarers at the core of shipping's future
September 30	International Translation Day	United in translation

Important Banking News

RBI

RBI to set up five-member panel on NUE licenses

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has set up a **five-member committee** to review applications and give recommendations on **new umbrella entity (NUE) licences**.
- The five-member committee will be **chaired** by RBI chief general manager **P Vasudevan**.
- The New Umbrella Entities will set up their own payment infrastructure to compete with the **National Payments Corp. of India (NPCI)**.
- New umbrella entities are for-profit entities that will be set up to manage payments in the retail space. These private entities can offer a range of retail payment services, including setting up of ATMs, point of sale terminals, Aadhaar-based payments, remittance services and develop newer payment methods.

RBI imposes Rs 25 lakh penalty on Axis Bank for flouting KYC norms

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a monetary penalty of **Rs 25 lakh on private lender Axis Bank** for non-compliance.
- The **penalty** was announced by the central bank on September 1.
- The RBI stated the **fine was imposed for non-compliance** with certain provisions of directions issued by it in Reserve Bank of India — KYC Direction, 2016.
- “The penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in RBI under provisions of **section 47A (1) (c) read with section 46(4) (i) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (the Act)**”.
- “This action is based on the **deficiencies in regulatory compliance** and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with its customers”.

RBI neglects lending curbs on UCO Bank

- The **central bank** uses the **PCA framework** to rein in banks that have breached certain regulatory thresholds in bad loans and capital adequacy.
- **PCA entails curbs on high-risk lending**, setting aside more money on provisions and restrictions on management salary.
- UCO Bank, RBI stated, has provided a written commitment that it would comply with the norms of minimum regulatory capital, net **non-performing asset (NPA)** and leverage ratio on an ongoing basis.
- The **Kolkata-based lender** has also apprised RBI about the structural and systemic improvements it has put in place to help in continuing to meet these commitments.

RBI nods tokenization in Card-on-File services

- In a **move aimed to allow seamless recurring payments**, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has expanded the tokenisation facility from earlier **device-based tokenisation** framework to card-on-file tokenisation (CoFT) services as well, with the explicit consent of the customer.
- It may be pointed out that the RBI has set a December-2021 deadline to prohibit payments aggregators, merchants and service providers like Amazon and Netflix from storing customer card details in their servers.
- Currently, checkout is **faster as customers** are not required to refill their card details for monthly subscriptions. But it won't be like that any longer.
- The **objective** of the RBI's diktat is to create a better security framework for digital transactions.
- In the past, there have been instances of unauthorised use of customer **data, theft, and misuse**.

RBI enhances scope of tokenization to CoFT to ensure security of card data

- In order to ensure security of transaction card data, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** extended the scope of tokenization from device-based tokenization to card-on-file tokenization (CoFT) services.
- This enhancement will block merchants from storing actual card data while online transactions.
- RBI had issued the directive under Section 10 (2) read with Section 18 of Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 (Act 51 of 2007).

Enhanced Features:

- With this, RBI also permitted card issuers (such as Rupay, Visa, and Mastercard) to act as token service providers (TSP).
- RBI also refused to extend its deadline for card tokenization beyond January 1, 2022 means no entity in the card transaction, other than the card issuers or card networks, will store the actual card data.
- Tokenisation of card data shall be done with explicit customer consent requiring Additional Factor of Authentication (AFA) validation by card issuer.
- For transaction tracking and / or reconciliation purposes, entities can store limited data, last four digits of actual card number and card issuer's name in compliance with the applicable standards.

RBI declared Opening of Third Cohort under the Regulatory Sandbox- Theme 'MSME Lending'

- The **Reserve Bank** stated **six entities** have completed the test phase in the '**First Cohort**' under the **Regulatory Sandbox scheme** with retail payments as theme and their products are found viable for adoption by the regulated entities.
- Their **products** mainly deal with offline digital payments, prepaid cards, contactless payment and voice-based UPI.
- **Regulatory sandbox** usually refers to live testing of new products or services in a controlled/test regulatory environment for which regulators may (or may not) permit certain relaxations for the limited purpose of the testing.
- The **entities whose products** have been found meeting the norms set by the RBI in the First Cohort are Nucleus Software Exports (PaySe), Tap Smart Data Information Services (Citycash), Natural Support Consultancy Services (IND-e-Cash), Naffa Innovations (ToneTag), Ubona Technologies (BHIM Voice) and Eroute Technologies (offline payment using SIM).

RBI announces opening of 3rd cohort under RS; 6 entities completed test phase in 1st Cohort & 8 selected for 2nd

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced the opening of the 3rd cohort under the Regulatory Sandbox (RS) on the theme '**MSME Lending**'.
- The theme for 1st cohort (November 2020) was '**Retail Payments**' and 2nd cohort (December 2020) it was '**Cross Border Payments**'.
- The eligible entities can submit their application from October 01, 2021 to November 14, 2021.
- RBI announced that six entities have completed the test phase of the 1st cohort on retail payments including Nucleus Software Exports, Tap Smart Data Information Services Natural Support Consultancy Services, Naffa Innovations, Ubona Technologies, and Eroute Technologies

RBI-MAS to link UPI and PayNow

- On September 14, 2021, in order to ease cross-border payments between India and Singapore the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) are all set for linkage project under which their respective fast payment systems viz. **Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and PayNow will be linked by July 2022.**

RBI imposes Rs 1 Lakh penalty on Kosamba Mercantile Cooperative Bank

- The apex bank has imposed a monetary penalty of **Rs 1 Lakh on the Kosamba Mercantile Co-operative Bank Ltd. located in Kosamba district of Surat**, Gujarat after exercising its power under the provisions of section 47 A (1) (c) read with sections 46 (4) (i) and 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

Subsidiaries of RBI:

- Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (**DICGC**)
- Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (**BRBNMPL**)
- Reserve Bank Information Technology Private Limited (**ReBIT**)
- Indian Financial Technology and Allied Services (**IFTAS**)

RBI Imposed Rs 5 lakh Fine on Kuppam Co-operative Town Bank over Regulatory Violation

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a fine of Rs 5 lakh on Kuppam Cooperative Town Bank, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh, over the violation of provisions of the directions issued by RBI in the Master Circular on Income Recognition, Asset Classification, and Provisioning and Master Circular on Board of Directors for urban co-operative banks.
- The penalty was imposed in the exercise of power vested in RBI under the provisions of Section 47 A (1) (c) read with Section 46 (4) (i) and Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- The RBI imposed a Rs 2.44 lakh fine on Spice Money Limited for non-compliance of provisions of the RBI's master direction on issuance and operation of prepaid payment instruments (PPIs) in India.
- The penalty was imposed in the exercise of the power vested in RBI under the provisions of Section 30 of the Payment & Settlement Systems Act 2007.

RBI announces new rules for securitisation of standard assets, loan transfers

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued a **separate master direction** on the transfer of **loan exposures and securitisation of standard assets**.
- The directions came after taking into account the public comments on draft rules which were issued on June 8 last year.
- The RBI stated that it has been **observing the complicated and opaque securitisation structures** which could be undesirable from the point of view of financial stability.
- "Prudentially structured **securitisation transactions** can be an important facilitator in a well-functioning financial market in that it improves risk distribution and liquidity of lenders in originating fresh loan exposures".

RBI announces WMA Limit for Central Government for (October 2021 to March 2022) at Rs. 50,000 crore

- The **Reserve Bank Of India (RBI)** has decided, in consultation with the Government of India, that the limit for **Ways and Means Advances (WMA)** for the second half of the financial year 2021-22 (October 2021 to March 2022) be **fixed at Rs 50000 crore**.
- The Reserve Bank may trigger fresh floatation of market loans when the Government of India utilises 75 per cent of the **WMA limit**.

- The Reserve Bank retains the flexibility to revise the limit at any time, in consultation with the Government of India, taking into consideration the prevailing circumstances.

About WMA:

- Ways and means advances is a **mechanism used by Reserve Bank of India** under its credit policy to provide to States, banking with it, to help them tide over temporary mismatches in the cash flow of their receipts and payments.
- Ways and means advances are **temporary advances given by the RBI to the States** to tide over any mismatch in receipts and payments.

RBI imposes 2 cr penalty on RBL Bank

- The **Reserve Bank** imposed a penalty of **Rs 2 crore** on private lender **RBL Bank** for deficiencies in regulatory compliances and non-compliance of the provisions of the **Banking Regulation Act**.
- Following **supervisory evaluation** of the RBL Bank, the Reserve Bank raised issues relating to contravention of certain **regulatory directions and non-compliance** with the provisions of the **Banking Regulation Act** concerning opening of five savings accounts in the name of a cooperative bank and composition of the board of directors.
- The RBI later issued a notice to the bank advising it to show cause as to why **penalty** should not be imposed for contravention of and non-compliance with the provisions of its directions and provisions of the Banking Regulation Act.

RBI fixes minimum ticket size to issuance of securitisation notes at Rs.1 crore

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has issued **separate master directions on transfer of loan exposures** and securitisation of standard assets.
- These master directions came **after considering public comments** on draft rules issued on June 8, 2020.
- RBI stated that while complicated and opaque securitisation structures could be **undesirable with the perspective of financial stability**, prudentially structured securitisation transactions can be an important facilitator in a well-functioning financial market as it improves risk distribution and liquidity of lenders in originating fresh loan exposures.

RBI nods lenders to sell fraud loans to Asset Reconstruction Companies

- The **Reserve Bank of India** allowed loan exposures **classified as fraud** to be transferred to **Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs)**.
- This comes in the wake of banks reporting **frauds aggregating Rs.3.95-lakh crore** between FY19 and FY21.
- Stressed loans, which are in default for **more than 60 days** or classified as non-performing assets (NPA), can be transferred to ARCs.
- This shall include loan exposures classified as fraud as on the date of transfer.
- Issuing the guidelines for transfer of loan exposure, including stressed loans, the central bank stated the **transfer of such loans to an ARC**, however, does not absolve the transferor from fixing the staff accountability as required under the extant instructions on frauds.
- Until now, when an account is **declared fraud**, banks had to **set aside 100 per cent** of the outstanding loan as provision.

- Under the new rules, banks can hope to recover a **part of the loan**.
- For ARCs, this will allow them to buy debt cheaper than **regular loan accounts**.

Bank Deposits Grew by 11.9% in FY21 due to Higher CASA growth: RBI

- As per the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) publication of 'Deposits with Scheduled Commercial Banks – March 2021', Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) deposits in FY21 **grew by 11.9 percent year-on-year compared to 8.8 percent in FY20 due to high growth in the Current Account and Savings Account (CASA) deposits**.
- The share of CASA deposits in FY21 **increased to 43.7 percent in March 2021, compared to 41.7 percent in FY20**.
- Private Sector Banks: The share of private sector banks in total bank deposits in FY21 **increased to 30.5 percent from 29.5 percent in FY20**.
- In FY21, the Bank **deposits of non-financial corporations increased by 18.8 percent and their share in total deposits also increased to 16.2 percent**.
- Deposits of Metropolitan bank branches (which accounts for over half of total deposits) increased to 59.6 percent in FY21 compared with 43.2 percent in FY20.

SBI

SBI launches a floating ATM on Dal Lake in J&K's Srinagar

- The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has opened a **floating ATM on Dal Lake** in Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar for the convenience of locals and tourists.
- The floating ATM was inaugurated on August 16 by SBI Chairman Dinesh Khare.
- The bank stated that the ATM, besides fulfilling a long-standing need, will add attraction to the charm of Srinagar.
- "SBI opened an ATM on a Houseboat at #DalLake, Srinagar **for the convenience of locals and tourists**."
- It was **inaugurated by the Chairman, SBI**, on August 16.
- The floating ATM in the popular Dal Lake fulfils a long-standing need and will be an added attraction to the charm of Srinagar".

Asian Development Bank

ADB sanctioned \$150 million loan for urban poor housing project in Tamil Nadu

- **Multilateral funding agency Asian Development Bank** has approved a **\$150 million** (about Rs 1,095 crore) loan for a **sustainable housing project** for the urban poor in Tamil Nadu.
- **The loan to provide access** to inclusive, resilient, and sustainable housing for the urban poor in Tamil Nadu was approved on September 3, 2021.
- The Manila-headquartered funding agency stated **Tamil Nadu is vital to India's economic growth**, contributing 8.54 per cent to the country's gross domestic product (GDP).
- **Economic opportunities have increased rural-urban migration in the state**, which already has one of the highest urbanisation rates in India.

- "Tamil Nadu's housing shortfall accounts for **6.66 per cent** of the national deficit, and when mapped against income levels, low-income households bear most of the shortage," mentioned ADB Principal Safeguards Specialist for **South Asia Ricardo Carlos Barba**.
- The aim is to **provide vulnerable and disadvantaged households access** to inclusive, safe, and affordable housing infrastructure and services.
- Tamil Nadu has a population of **more than 72 million** (7.2 crore), nearly half of which are living in urban areas.

ADB grants \$300 million loan to expand rural connectivity in Maharashtra

- **Indian government and the Asian Development Bank (ADB)** signed a **300 million dollar loan** as additional financing to scale up improvement of rural connectivity to help boost rural economy in Maharashtra.
- The additional financing for the ongoing **Maharashtra Rural Connectivity Improvement Project** will help improve an additional 1,100 rural roads and 230 bridges for a **total length of 2,900 kilometers in 34 districts**.
- The ongoing project with **200 million dollar** financing, approved in August 2019, is already improving and maintaining the condition and safety of 2,100 kilometers of rural roads.
- The signatories to the loan agreement were Additional Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Rajat Kumar Mishra and Country Director of ADB's India Resident Mission, Takeo Konishi.
- With the additional financing, the overall project will improve the condition and safety of **five thousand kilometer of rural roads** and **over 200 bridges connecting rural communities**.
- The new project 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.
- A gender action plan has been **prepared to focus on capacity development of women workers** so that they can benefit from the semiskilled and unskilled labor opportunities.

ADB grants \$112 million loan to improve water supply infrastructure in Jharkhand

- **Asian Development Bank and India** have signed **two separate loans totalling \$412 million for projects** in Maharashtra and Jharkhand.
- For **Maharashtra**, the lender signed an additional loan of **\$300 million** to scale up rural connectivity.
- ADB and the government signed another loan of **\$112 million** for development of water supply infrastructure in **Jharkhand**.
- The **\$112-million loan for Jharkhand** will develop water supply infrastructure and strengthen capacity of urban local bodies for improved service delivery in four towns in the state.
- In these towns, four water plants with a combined capacity of **275 million litres per day** will be established, along with

World Bank

World Bank Group Discontinues Doing Business Report on country investment climates

- The **World Bank Group** has decided to discontinue publication of its **Doing Business report** on country investment climates following allegations of irregularities.
- The decision was taken after a probe of data irregularities allegedly due to pressure by some **top bank officials to boost China's ranking** in 2017 came to light.
- Observing that the trust in the research of the World Bank Group is vital, it stated, **World Bank Group research** informs the actions of policymakers, helps countries make better-informed decisions, and allows stakeholders to measure economic and social improvements more accurately.
- As per the "**Doing Business**" 2020 report, **India had jumped 14 places** to the 63rd position on the ease of doing business ranking.
- India has improved its rank by 79 positions in five years (2014-19).

Other Banking News

Axis Bank ties up with BharatPe for PoS business of Bharat Pe named BharatSwipe

- Private sector lender **Axis Bank** has **tied up** with **BharatPe** to expand its merchant acquiring business in the country.
- Axis Bank will be the acquiring bank for BharatPe's **point of sale (PoS) business**, BharatSwipe, and will provide acceptance of credit and debit cards for merchants associated with BharatPe.
- With over **600,000 PoS terminals** spread across the entire country, Axis Bank is the third largest PoS acquiring bank in the payments acceptance business and processed around Rs 19,000 crore worth of volumes in a month.
- On the other hand, BharatPe's PoS machine BharatSwipe has an **installed base of 100,000 across 16 cities**, processing around Rs 1,400 crore per month.
- **BharatPe** clocked an annualised transaction value of **\$2 billion** on PoS terminals at the end of FY21.
- The company has set a target of \$6 billion in transaction processed value (TPV) by FY22.
- **About BharatPe:**
- **Resilient Innovations Private Limited ("BharatPe")** is a **private company limited** engaged in the business of facilitating a suite of financial services to merchants through its **digital platform**, on software as a service model, and providing **other value-added services** to such merchants.
- BharatPe is solving for **ease of doing business**.
- **Payments** are their **first product** and the plan is to be the utility app for 10 Mn+ offline retailers in India for all their business needs.
- Co - Founded in 2018 by **CEO Ashneer Grover** and **COO Shashvat Nakrani**, BharatPe has its **head office in Delhi**.

DFC and USAID Announce \$55 million Credit Guarantee Programme to Address Economic Impact of COVID-19 in India

- United States (US) International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) in collaboration with United States Agency for International Development (USAID) jointly announced an 8-year sponsor project programme with a credit

guarantee of USD 55 million (~ Rs 400 crores) named '**India Covid Response Programme for Agriculture Transition**' to address the economic impact of COVID-19 in India.

- This initiative will offer customized financial solutions to entities interested in adopting climate-smart and green solutions.
- **Objective is to improve the linkages and increase the income of farmers while having a positive environmental impact.**

Beneficiaries:

- Loans will be provided to **Farmer Producer Organizations(FPO)**, agriculture- technology companies (Ag-tech), **Companies engaged in Clean Energy Sectors of agriculture, women and vulnerable sections in India.**

Google Pay users can take FD benefits of Equitas SFB without a bank account

- **Google Pay** users can take the **benefits of fixed deposit rates** offered by Equitas Small Finance Bank by booking FD on the payments platform without opening a bank account.
- The bank stated it has been offering this **initiative by connecting APIs built by fintech infrastructure provider Setu** for Equitas Bank.
- In an industry-first, consumers can through the **Google Pay app** book high-interest rate FDs fully digitally, without needing to open a savings account with Equitas Bank on its spot integrated with the Google Pay platform.
- The lender informed that customers can **earn returns of up to 6.35 per cent for an FD of one year**, substantially higher than many other savings options.
- As an RBI scheduled commercial bank, deposits in **Equitas** are covered by a deposit guarantee of up to Rs 5 lakh per depositor.
- **To book an FD on Google Pay**, the user will have to search for the Equitas Bank spot under the '**Business and bills**' segment.

PhonePe now launches Pulse to offer data, insights on digital payments

- Fintech major **PhonePe** launched "**Pulse**", a new website that will provide data, insights and trends on digital payments on its platform.
- The company has also launched the **Pulse Report**, an **in-depth study** on the evolution of digital payments over the past five years.
- **PhonePe Pulse website** showcases **more than 2,000 crore transactions** by consumers on an interactive map of India.
- The insights on the website and in the report have been drawn from two key sources, the entirety of PhonePe's transaction data combined with merchant and customer interviews.
- With over 45 per cent market share, PhonePe's data is representative of the **country's digital payment habits**.
- 394.13 crore PhonePe transactions (across UPI, cards and wallets) were clocked in the June quarter, with total payment value at Rs 7.47 lakh crore.
- The average transaction value during the **second quarter was Rs 1,897**.

Federal Bank introduces credit card in association with Visa

- **Federal Bank** launched its credit card in association with Visa.
- The bank is also on course to launch variants of the **Rupay credit card** in association with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**.
- The card, which comes in three variants, is packaged with a range of offers, and is currently being offered to existing customers of the bank.
- Shyam Srinivasan, MD & CEO of the bank, stated, "Our credit card is **completely digital with a 3-click application** approach which would make the card instantly available for use on FedMobile, our mobile banking application.

Account Aggregators set up new framework to access, share financial data

- **Account aggregators** are a set of non-banking financial companies, which work as technology intermediaries between companies seeking financial data of customers (financial information users) and those holding that data (financial information providers).
- **FIPs and FIUs** include banks, non-bank lenders, insurance companies and mutual funds, who require financial information and documents from customer.
- Account aggregators, that **promise to consolidate all your financial data in one place**, allowing you to access services with a few clicks at a time, are closer to becoming a reality.
- At least four banks, including **HDFC Bank Ltd., ICICI Bank Ltd., Axis Bank Ltd. and IndusInd Bank Ltd.**, have started **testing account aggregators services** for a select set of customers, before they open up these platforms to everyone.
- **These banks have allowed access** to over a few thousand users as part of the **beta testing phase**.

Ola Electric ties up with banks and financial institutions for loans to customers

- **Ola Electric** has **tied up** with leading banks and financial institutions, including **HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Kotak Mahindra Prime and TATA Capital**, for providing loans to customers for its S1 electric scooter that will be available for purchase from September 8.
- The **company**, which had last month launched the Ola S1 electric scooter in two variants -- **S1 and S1 Pro** -- at **prices Rs 99,999 and Rs 1,29,999, respectively** (ex-showroom including FAME II subsidy and excluding state subsidies).
- The **banks and financial institutions** that **Ola Electric has tied up include** Bank of Baroda, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, IDFC First Bank, IndusInd Bank, AU Small Finance Bank, Jana Small Finance Bank, Kotak Mahindra Prime, TATA Capital and YES Bank.

SBM Bank partners with OneCard to jointly launch mobile-based credit card

- **SBM Bank** has partnered with **fintech player OneCard** to launch a **mobile-based credit card**.
- With this partnership, the bank stated it aims to cater to the tech-savvy populace who have embraced digital as a natural way of life.
- **OneCard** will leverage **Visa's technology and global acceptance** in this co-branded credit card offering through an app.

- "This **partnership** is in sync with our smart banking mission to build products that meet specific consumer need gaps and provide innovative solutions through state-of-the-art platforms".
- The **mobile-first, credit card** is a significant step towards acknowledging and celebrating the expanding digital ecosystem of the country.

About SBM Bank:

- **State Bank of Mauritius**, is a bank in Mauritius that the Bank of Mauritius, the national banking regulator, has licensed as a commercial bank.
- **SBM** is the **second-largest bank in Mauritius** with a market share of about 25% of domestic banking assets.
- **Headquarters**: Port Louis, Mauritius

HDFC Bank signs pact with National Small Industries Corporation

- **HDFC Bank** has signed a pact with the **National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC)** for **providing credit support** to the **micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME)** sector.
- Under this, the **country's largest private sector** bank will also provide MSMEs with a set of specially-tailored schemes to enhance their competitiveness.
- "**HDFC Bank** has signed a memorandum of understanding with **National Small Industries Corporation to offer credit support to MSMEs across the country**".
- The bank branches will extend support to the **MSME projects** in the areas they are located and to other important industrial sectors across the country.

India Post Payments Bank tie up with LIC Housing to sell home loans

- **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** has joined hands with **LIC Housing Finance** for selling housing finance products of the latter to its 4.5 crore customers.
- Through its robust and extensive network of 650 branches and more than 136,000 banking access points, IPPB will make LIC Housing Finance Ltd's (LICHFL) home loan products accessible to its customer's pan-India.
- Under the **strategic partnership**, credit underwriting, processing, and disbursement for all home loans will be handled by LICHFL, while IPPB will source the loans.
- **IPPB** already distributes **general and life insurance** products through partnerships with insurance companies. Credit products are natural extension for the customers at the last mile.

Bank of India tie-up with MAS Financial Services for co-lending

- State-owned **Bank of India (BOI)** stated it has entered into a co-lending arrangement with MAS Financial Services for **MSME loans**.
- The **tie-up comes on the occasion of the bank's 116th Foundation Day**.
- Co-lending was **introduced by the RBI** to increase the credit flow to the unserved and underserved sector by utilising the nimble-footed NBFC coverage to the informal sector.
- **BOI** will leverage the reach of **NBFC to build an MSME portfolio**.

- **Celebrating Foundation Day across all its 10 national banking group (NBG) offices**, 59 zonal offices, 5,084 domestic and 23 overseas branches, and 5,323 ATMs, Das expressed gratitude to all the stakeholders.

Bank of Baroda ranked first in the MeitY Digital Payment Scorecard for 2020-21

- **Bank of Baroda** announced that the **bank has Ranked #1** with a **total of 86% marks on the scorecard** issued by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**MeitY**) for the month of February and March 2021.
- The scorecard ranks **44 banks** (Public Sector Banks, Private Banks, Foreign Banks, Payments Banks, Small Finance Banks) on various parameters on the digital business.
- This overall rating was **based on multiple factors** where the Bank scored above average.

These factors consist of the following:

- Exceptional growth of digital payment transactions achievement (129% of 137 Cr. Digital transactions target)
- **Achievement of 6 times** the target for merchant acquiring in Rural geography target (16,100)
- **Achievement of 124%** merchant acquiring in North-Eastern States target (6,900)
- **Reduction in average %** of Technical Declines of UPI from 0.59% in FY 2019-20 to 0.29% in FY 2020-21.
- The decline ratio is the 2nd lowest amongst all large banks.
- Reduction in average % of Technical Declines of **Aadhaar Enabled Payment Systems** activation from 0.39% in FY 2019-20 to 0.12% in FY 2020-21.

Karnataka Bank unveiled POS device 'WisePOSGo' for merchant customers

- **WisePOSGo** – a POS device (Point of Sales swiping machine) that processes business payments, was launched by **Karnataka Bank in collaboration with Mswipe Technologies Pvt Ltd.**, for the Bank's merchant customers.
- "This is yet another product in line with our vision of becoming the '**Digital Bank of Future**'.
- This compact, **light weight and user friendly device** will be a game changer and transform the digital payment ecosystem associated with POS machines.

About the device:

- **This device** is an all-in-one swiping machine loaded with advanced **features like contactless payment**, mobile phone, QR Code, Pay by link, Magstripe, barcode scanner, 5 – megapixel camera etc, **The device will support 4G, WiFi, Bluetooth and micro – USB** and can connect through Facebook, YouTube and WhatsApp also.

Bank of Baroda's unveiled digital platform 'bob World'

- State-owned **Bank of Baroda** announced the launch of its digital banking platform '**bob World**', aimed at providing all banking services under one roof.
- The **lender aims** to provide an all-inclusive and seamless virtual banking experience, encompassing all digital banking services less than one roof for the convenience of customers.
- 'bob World' will offer a wide gamut of banking products and services, to be rolled out in phases, under four key pillars -- Save, Invest, Borrow and Shop.
- The pilot of bob World began on August 23, and the application (app) is already being used by **more than 50 lakh users**.

NPCI introduces RuPay credit card stack, 'nFiNi' to enable fintechs to co-create bank sponsored credit cards

- **Fiserv, Inc. (NASDAQ: FISV)**, a leading global provider of payments and financial services technology solutions, has entered into a first-of-its-kind collaboration with **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, which leads the retail payments and settlement infrastructure in India with breakthrough products like **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**, **Bharat Bill Payment System**, and **RuPay**, to enable the launch of 'nFiNi', a ready stack of services that fintechs and banks can use to issue RuPay credit cards.
- **nFiNi will power RuPay cards** by offering access to services through the **NPCI network and FirstVision™** from Fiserv, a **microservices-based platform-as-a-service** with a set of APIs that supports orchestration of the digital user experience, enables push alerts for in-app, mobile messaging app and SMS notifications, simplified integration options, and instant digital card provisioning, allowing customers to transact immediately after being approved for a card.

About NPCI:

- The **National Payments Corporation of India** is the **specialised division** of the Reserve Bank of India which is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
- It was created by the RBI **for operating retail payments and settlement systems** in India.

ICICI Lombard General Insurance ceases to be subsidiary of ICICI Bank post merger with Bharti AXA

- **ICICI Bank stated ICICI Lombard General Insurance** has ceased to be its subsidiary, as shareholding of the bank has **come down to 48 per cent** after the merger of Bharti AXA with the insurer.
- ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company (ICICI Lombard) had on September 8, 2021, allotted equity shares of the company to the eligible shareholders of Bharti AXA General Insurance Company (Bharti AXA).
- The **scheme** of arrangement between **Bharti AXA and ICICI Lombard** came into effect on September 8, 2021.
- Bharti AXA was a **joint venture** between Bharti Enterprises (51 per cent) and French insurer AXA (49 per cent).
- With the **merger** of Bharti AXA with ICICI Lombard, both the former owners of Bharti AXA have exited the non-life insurance business.

Paytm Money introduces wealth and investment advisory marketplace on its platform

- **Digital payments** and financial firm **Paytm** announced that its **wholly-owned subsidiary, Paytm Money**, is launching a wealth and investment advisory marketplace on its platform to offer **curated advisory services and products** to retail investors.
- **Paytm Money** has partnered with start-up WealthDesk to offer investment portfolios called '**WealthBaskets**' as the first step to build up the advisory ecosystem.

South Indian Bank unveiled SIB-OneCard credit card

- **South Indian Bank** has launched the **SIB - OneCard Credit Card**.
- A premium metal card, the **SIB - OneCard** has a unique app-based onboarding process, which is in line with the Bank's vision of digital transformation.

- The internationally valid credit card on the **Visa Signature platform** can be fully controlled through the powerful **OneCard App**.

UCO Bank partners with Fisdom to jointly offer wealth management solutions

- Leading Public Sector Bank, **UCO Bank has partnered with Fisdom**, operated by a wealth-tech start-up Finwizard Technology Pvt. Ltd. to offer wealth management products and services, beginning with mutual funds, through the Bank's **mBanking Plus App** to the Bank's thirty million customers.
- Grand Launch ceremony was held on August 31, 2021, in the presence of Shri Atul Kumar Goel, Hon'ble MD, and CEO of UCO Bank, Shri Ajay Vyas, ED-I and Shri Ishraq Ali Khan, ED-II of UCO Bank, Shri Anand Dalmia, Co-Founder & CBO, and Shri Subramanya SV, Co-founder, and CEO of Fisdom.
- The **agreement** between UCO Bank and Fisdom was executed by Mr. H K Arora, General Manager-OSD, UCO Bank, and Mr. Rakesh Singh, Executive Director, Fisdom.

Visa and Innoviti develop stored value debit card for payments without connectivity

- **Debit card owners** will soon be able to request a **Visa card** from the bank, which can **store up to 2,000 rupees** on the chip itself, allowing them to trade without a connection.
- A proof of **concept for prepaid cards** for offline payments has already been established by Visa in partnership with payment solution company Innoviti.
- The **PoC was carried out in partnership** with YesBank and Axis Bank. Prepaid cards are different from prepaid cards that are approved in the network cloud.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** has asked banks to devise offline **digital transaction solutions** that allow transactions to continue in the event of an inadequate communication infrastructure or network failure.
- **Digital payments** are heavily dependent on mobile networks, and outages can lead to serious transaction failures in the region.
- As **debit cards** are so pervasive throughout India, offline payments using Visa cards are expected to facilitate the transition from cash to digital payments.

India and Singapore jointly to link their Fast Payment Systems – Unified Payments Interface and PayNow

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and the **Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS)** announced a project to link their respective fast payment systems.
- The **linked interface** is expected to be operationalized by July, 2022.
- While India uses **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** as a fast payment method, **Singapore uses the PayNow system**.
- The RBI stated that **UPI-PayNow linkage** will enable users of each system to make instant, low-cost fund transfers on a reciprocal basis without a need to get onboarded onto the other payment system.

PPBL Enabled India's 1st FASTag-based Metro Parking Facility in Partnership with DMRC

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

- PPBL, will facilitate the processing of **all FASTag based transactions for cars with valid FASTag stickers at Kashmere Gate Metro Station.**
- PPBL has also enabled a UPI based **payment solution for 2 wheelers, that enters the parking facility.**
- Paytm Payments Bank became **the first bank in the country to achieve the milestone of issuing one crore FASTags in June.**
- According to NPCI, **over 3.47 crore FASTags** were issued by all banks together till the end of June 2021.
- DMRC partnered with **the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to launch a 100% digital parking plaza with the National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC) FASTag contactless parking solution at Kashmere Gate metro station, Delhi.**

DBS partners with SWIFT for real-time cross-border Payment Tracking

- DBS in partnership with Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications (SWIFT) Global Payments Innovation(gpi) **has launched real-time online tracking for cross-border collections for businesses in India benefitting around 4,000 corporate and small business clients.**
- DBS was **the first bank in Asia to launch outbound payments with end-to-end tracking with SWIFT gpi.**
- **DBS has become the first bank in India and Asia-Pacific to offer this service to its clients.**
- **DBS gpi helps in improving accuracy for intraday credit line needs and provides benefits in supporting credit control.**
- It brings transparency and visibility and improves receivables forecasting and overall cash position.
- This service is available by default and free of charge for all corporate customers via **DBS IDEAL- DBS' online corporate banking portal.**

IRDAI Issues Composite Broking Licence to HIBIPL; Selling & Renewal Of Short-term COVID-19 Insurance Policies Permitted Till March 2022

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) provided a **Composite Broking Licence to Hero Insurance Broking India.**
- **It will allow the firm to offer reinsurance broking and risk management consultancy services to corporate clients.**
- IRDAI Permits Insurers to Sell & Renew short term COVID-19 policies
- The specific health insurance policies are permitted to sell till March 2022.
- The exemptions granted general insurers for issuance of electronic policies as well as dispensing with physical documents and wet signatures have been extended up to end-March 2022.

About Reinsurance broking-

- A reinsurance broker is an intermediary individual or firm who is paid a fee or commission to find and place new business on behalf of both the insured client and insurer

Tamilnad Mercantile Bank opened e-Lobby at Tirumala

- Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (TMB) launched an **e-Lobby at Tirumala for the pilgrims.**
- The manned e-Lobby near to the Tirumala Balaji Bus Stand was **inaugurated by AV Dharma Reddy, Additional Executive Officer Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD).**

- The **24X7 e-Lobby houses an ATM machine**, cash deposit machine, passbook printing facility, cheque deposit kiosk and an information kiosk, all under one roof.
- With this TMB has **51 e-Lobby across India**.
- TMB's Tirupathi branch also handed over loan sanction letters to a few beneficiaries.
- The bank also handed over subscription to Venkateswara Bhakthi Channel run by TTD during the function.

About e-lobby:

- **E-Lobby** is a facility which is now **provided by banks** so that their customers can do their banking transactions as per their convenience **24x7 i.e. without any time restriction**.
- E-Lobby **provides the facility on bank holidays also**.
- It is not possible for many to stand in long queues in banks to get their work done.

SEBI levied Rs 1 lakh fine on Employee of Titan for disclosure lapses

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the regulatory body for securities and commodity market, has levied a monetary penalty of **Rs 1 lakh on Chandan Gupta**, an employee of Titan Company Limited for disclosure lapses, **in violating the insider trading norms**.
- He transacted in the firm's securities on two occasions in the calendar quarter ending on September 30, 2018.
- The total **value traded was more than Rs 10 lakh**.

UNDP, HDFC and Greater Noida Authority Signed a pact for Dry Waste Management Facility in Noida

- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), HDFC Bank and the Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority (GNIDA) signed an agreement to provide facilities to **manage up to 300 metric tonnes of dry waste in Noida, Uttar Pradesh**.
- HDFC Bank is providing financial assistance of **Rs 3 crore in setting up of Material Recovery Facility (MRF) in Greater Noida**.
- The waste management programme is aligned with **"Swachh Bharat Mission" (Clean India Mission), Solid Waste Management Rules 2016 and Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules 2018**.
- **Plastic waste management programme of UNDP** will bring a sustainable Infrastructure to dispose waste material and reuse it for different purposes.
- The Paris Agreement sets out a global framework to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well **below 2°C and pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5°C**.
- This initiative will enhance India's efforts to become a low- carbon economy and achieve Paris Agreement targets.
- **New rules- Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules 2021**
- The manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of the identified single-use plastic will be prohibited **with effect from the 1st July, 2022**.
- The ban will not apply to commodities made of compostable plastic. The permitted thickness of the plastic bags, currently 50 microns, will be increased to 75 microns from 30th September, 2021, and to 120 microns from the 31st December, 2022.

IndusInd Bank & Escorts Ltd Partnered to Offer Finance to Farmers

- **IndusInd Bank** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Escorts Limited** (Escorts Agri Machinery) to **offer financial services to farmers** and to make its range of tractors and farm equipment more accessible.
- The financial services will be provided in the **form of loans or Agri finance solutions**.
- This partnership will encourage the farmers to invest in modern farm machinery to increase their farm productivity and income.
- Escorts aims to provide a transparent and quick mechanism for **farmers to purchase its Agri based products like tractors**.

Punjab & Sind Bank ties up with Indiabulls; PNB to sell its 23% stake from CHOICE

- **Punjab & Sind Bank (PSB)** signed a co-lending alliance with **Indiabulls Commercial Credit and Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited (IHFL)** for MSME (Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises) and Priority Sector Housing Loans.
- PNB is all set to **sell its entire stake (23%)** in its **Canara HSBC OBC Life Insurance (CHOICE)**.
- PNB is the **promoter after the amalgamation of Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC) and United Bank of India (UBI)** in it in April 2020.
- Prior to this amalgamation, **OBC held a 23% stake in CHOICE**.

HSBC initiates UniTransact to simplify cross-border transactions

- **HSBC India** has launched a **digital proposition** aimed at simplifying cross-border transactions.
- Called **HSBC UniTransact**, it **aims to provide seamless integration** of all aspects of transaction banking while minimising manual intervention through the transaction journey.
- It **provides a range of benefits**, including a comprehensive dashboard, real-time status throughout the life-cycle of all the **cross border transactions**, online discrepancy resolution, efficient management of documentation, alerts and notifications and seamless execution.
- “The **launch of HSBC UniTransact** is aimed at unifying all the processes and interactions for our clients in any cross border transaction journey.
- From reducing the **number of touch points** they need to go through, to providing them end-to-end visibility of each transaction, we are confident that UniTransact will create a truly unique world class user experience for our clients”.

Euromoney roped DBS as 'World's Best Bank' & 'World's Best Digital Bank' for 2021

- **DBS** has been named the **world's best bank** by **UK-based financial publication Euromoney**, making it the fourth consecutive year it has gained the accolade from a financial publication.
- The **Singapore-headquartered bank** was also named the world's best digital bank, making it the first time a bank worldwide has held both titles concurrently.
- **DBS received its first global best bank accolade** from New-York based publication Global Finance in 2018, and was also named Global Bank of the Year by Financial Times publication The Banker in the same year.
- In 2019, **Euromoney also named DBS the World's Best Bank**, and in 2020, Global Finance named it the Best Bank in the World.

HDFC Bank ties up with Paytm to offer co-branded credit cards in October 2021

- **HDFC Bank** will work with **Paytm** to offer **co-branded credit cards** on the Visa platform to businesspersons, millennials and others.
- This **tie-up** will see the lender leverage its position as the leading credit card-issuer and its expertise in superior customer engagement to offer services to **Paytm's large customer base of 330 million**, thus enabling a deeper penetration in Tier II and III cities, accelerating the adoption of digital payments.
- The **credit cards** will be launched in October during the festive season to tap into the high consumer demand for credit cards, **equated monthly installments (EMIs)**, and buy now pay later (BNPL) options and the full suite of products will be offered by the end of December 2021.

BoB, BPCL jointly launched international co-branded debit card

- **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** and **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)** have launched an international **co-branded RuPay NCMC Platinum contactless debit card**.
- "This personalised RuPay platinum international debit card comes with various benefits including **5 per cent cashback up to Rs.50 on the first 2 transactions at BPCL outlets**."
- "The **customers** will **also receive 0.75 per cent cashback incentive on fuel transactions** up to maximum Rs.45 per transaction at over 19,000 plus BPCL outlets across India".
- Further, the co-branded debit cardholders can **withdraw up to Rs.50,000 at ATMs, shop for a maximum of Rs.1 lakh from e-commerce portals, and physical outlets using PoS machines**.
- Additionally, cardholders can access RuPay concierge services, domestic airport lounges along with an accidental insurance worth Rs.2 lakh".
- The BoB BPCL RuPay co-branded debit card is powered with the "**National Common Mobility Card (NCMC)**" feature that enables contactless transactions **across all the public transport systems** in the country such as metros, buses, cabs suburban railways, toll, parking, and topping-up FASTags and also for retail purchases.

YES Bank partners with Visa for Credit Cards

- **Yes Bank** has joined hands with Visa to offer a suite of credit cards to its customers.
- It consists of nine credit card variants on the Visa platform covering all segments viz. consumer cards, business cards, and corporate cards across YES First, YES Premia and YES Prosperity.

Highlights:

- The co-branded cards are featured with loyalty programs with un-expired reward points.
- It can also be shared or transferred to Yes bank credit card holders.
- Other benefits include foreign currency markup, airport lounge access and golf course privileges.
- Yes Bank is also set to issue Rupay branded credit cards as the technology integration with NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India) is about to complete.

PayPoint India partnered with BoB to expand Banking Services reach

- **Bank of Baroda (BoB) collaborated with PayPoint India** under which the financial service provider will provide Banking Service through business correspondent (BC) model.
- This will **enable BoB to expand its customer network and geographical spread by utilizing PayPoint's customer service points (CSPs)**.
- This partnership is a part of BoB's new initiative 'BOB NOWW—New Operating model and Ways of Working' which aims to push financial inclusion by expanding customer touch points through digital formats and BC networks.

Federal Bank and OneCard make partnership for mobile-first credit card

- **Federal Bank announced a tie-up with OneCard for a mobile-first credit card** that targets the country's young, tech-savvy population.
- It will target young working professionals aged 23-35, primarily representing the millennials and Gen Z.
- The bank is betting on the **retail portfolio** and anticipates a peak in consumer credit this festive season on the back of an economic revival.

Government forms India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL) for managing bad loans

- After setting up the **National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL)**, the public sector banks (PSBs) have created a step-down asset management company named **India Debt Resolution Company (IDRCL)** with a **capital of Rs 50 crore** along with **three first directors** -- Narayan Keelveedhi Seshadri, Arvind Sadashiv Mokashi, and Anilraj Chellan.
- **PSBs will own 49 per cent of IDRCL**, tasked with the resolution and restructuring of bad loans bought by the NARCL.
- **Mokashi** is a three-decade SBI veteran with extensive experience in banking.
- **Seshadri**, a chartered accountant, has worked with names like Arthur Anderson and KPMG.
- He has been on the board of several companies as an independent director.
- There are plans to attract professionals in the management of affairs of the IDRCL but there is also a possibility of both public and private sector banks dispatching their professionals on deputation to take care of their interests.
- The **past experience of private ARCs** shows that the IDRCL has to attract turnaround professionals and experts to revive the assets.

Utkarsh Small Finance Bank begins its operations in Kerala

- **Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Limited** has announced the inauguration of its first branch in Kerala at Kochi.
- The bank has **600 branches in 201 districts spread across 18 states and 2 Union Territories**.
- Govind Singh, MD & CEO, Utkarsh SFBL, stated, "The city has numerous factors that contribute towards the growth of commerce and trade, and we are in a position to provide banking and financial services to various categories of business and more."
- The **bank is in a position to provide an array of financial products and services to its customers**, including savings and current accounts, fixed deposits and recurring deposits along with various loan products such as housing loans, business loans and loan against property.

RBL Bank & Mastercard Launched #UseBefikar, New Campaign for Seamless Payment Experience

- RBL Bank launched '**#UseBefikar**', a new campaign with Mastercard to provide shopping offers and rewards for the existing cardholders.
- With the **#UseBefikar campaign**, the RBL bank's Mastercard holders can avail of exclusive offers with assured safety and security.

Features of the campaign:

- The campaign is running through a series of videos that aims to resonate with the cardholders at the start of the festive season.
- The videos will be amplified through social media and online promotions.
- The campaign features celebrities like **Riteish Deshmukh, Mirabai Chanu and Vikrant Massey**.
- The campaign highlights the card's offering for everyone, focusing on various categories like health and fitness, e-commerce, online bill payments and food delivery.

Federal Bank join hands with NPCI for RuPay credit card

- **Federal Bank** has partnered with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** to launch the '**Federal Bank RuPay Signet Contactless Credit Card**'.
- The card "comes with the **lowest Annual Percentage Rate (APR)** starting from just **5.88% per annum**."
- "The cardholders will **gain access** to a wide variety of offers and deals across categories including travel, food and dining, shopping, sports, entertainment, lifestyle and much more.
- With a range of exciting offers, the card is presently offered to existing customers of the bank.
- Some of other offers included **Amazon Gift vouchers**, reward points, **Buy One Get One (BOGO)** free offer at **INOX**, complimentary membership programs, **complimentary Swiggy vouchers**, complimentary lounge access at Domestic and International airports and more.

Vistara join hands with IndusInd Bank to launch co-branded credit card

- Full-service carrier **Vistara** has partnered with **IndusInd Bank** to launch **co-branded credit card Club Vistara IndusInd Bank Explorer**.
- The **credit card** will offer various benefits such as a complimentary business class ticket, membership of the airline's frequent flyer programme and lounge access.
- Other benefits include rescheduling fee waiver on **direct booking of Vistara flights**, luxury gift vouchers, complimentary movie tickets and dining vouchers, complimentary personal air accident cover, zero currency mark-up on international spends as well as a waiver on fuel surcharge at any petrol pump, among others.
- The **all-new card provides** the cardholders with a complimentary '**Gold**' class membership to Club Vistara (CV), under which they can earn points on every flight and can even redeem their earned CV points to avail flights.

Asiamoney 2021 Poll: HDFC Bank bags most outstanding company in India

- HDFC Bank Ltd. has been voted 'Overall Most Outstanding Company in India,' in a poll conducted by reputed publication Asiamoney.

- The poll, known as **Asia's Outstanding Companies** Poll, is designed to acknowledge listed companies that have excelled in areas such as financial performance, management team excellence, investor relations, and CSR initiatives.
- **HDFC Bank** received the most votes among listed companies in India, leading to the bank being awarded the '**Overall Most Outstanding Company**' in India.
- This is in addition to the bank being voted '**Most Outstanding Company in India – Banking Sector**,' a recognition the bank is humbled to have been honoured with for the **4th consecutive year**, since the inception of the poll in 2018.

Suryoday SFB to discontinue its ATMs from October 1

- **Suryoday Small Finance Bank** has decided to **discontinue its ATMs from October 1**.
- "Due to **operational reasons**, Suryoday Bank ATMs will be discontinued with effect from October 1, 2021".
- Customers can use their **Suryoday Bank debit cards** at ATMs of any other banks to withdraw cash.
- For other banking services, customers can use **Internet and Mobile Banking services**.
- Suryoday SFB has become the **first lender to discontinue ATM services**.

About Suryoday SFB:

- **Suryoday Small Finance Bank** Ltd headquarters is in Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra, India.
- **Baskar Babu** is the Co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer at Suryoday Small Finance Bank

ICICI Bank provide OD Facility to Sellers Registered on Amazon India

- **ICICI Bank** has announced that it has partnered with **Amazon India** to offer **overdraft (OD) facility** upto **Rs 25 lakh** to **individual sellers and small businesses** registered on the e-commerce company's online marketplace, instantaneously and digitally.
- Driven by API integration, the partnership enables sellers to avail an **OD from the Bank** in a process, from application to sanction to disbursement, that is digital.
- Customers of other banks can avail the **facility from ICICI Bank**, if they **are registered as sellers with amazon.in**.
- ICICI Bank has developed this new facility that functions on the back of an **industry-first scorecard** to evaluate credit worthiness of sellers based on their financial profile including Credit Bureau scores.
- It **empowers small businesses and individual sellers** who are '**new-to-credit**' and '**existing MSME borrowers**' to unlock the value of their digital transactions and get access to instant credit.

Benefits of InstaOD:

- **Online loan application:** Sellers registered on **amazon.in** can apply for the OD instantly online through **amazon.in**.
- **Easy process:** The Bank evaluates sellers making the loan approval process easy and quick. This is an improvement over the typical process which demands sellers to go through the tedious paper-intensive process of submitting income tax returns, bank statements and GST returns.
- **Instant sanction and disbursal:** The approved OD amount is instantly sanctioned and disbursed into the seller's current account
- **Pay for what you use:** Sellers only need to pay interest on the amount of OD utilised by them

- **Auto-renewal facility:** The OD is renewable on an annual basis, depending on the repayment track records of the seller.

HPCL partnership with ICICI Bank for Fuel Payments through FASTags

- As an **initiative towards the Digital India movement** and to make monetary transactions seamless, **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)** has collaborated with **ICICI bank** to introduce **FASTag transactions** at all its 19,000 retail outlets across India.
- Customers will now be able to use ICICI bank FASTag to pay for fuel, LPG and lubricants.
- 'This alliance is expected to ensure a quick, **hassle-free and contactless digital payment experience** for customers.
- "The collaboration of ICICI Bank and HPCL further strengthens digital payments for FASTag.
- Such **initiatives** not only bolster Government of India's Digital India campaign but also enhance customer experience for easy payments at **HPCL retail outlets**".
- This facility is now available for all customers through **HP Pay App**.
- With this endeavour, HPCL has become the **first Oil Marketing Company** to integrate payment systems with FASTag.
- Earlier, to make digital payments easy, HPCL had enabled fleet customers payment through **HPCL DriveTrack Plus terminal**, with IDFC Bank FASTag.

NPCI partners with YES Bank to launch RuPay 'On-the-Go' payment solution

- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has **partnered with YES Bank** to launch contactless payments solutions --- **RuPay On-the-Go**.
- This was launched in association with fintech infrastructure partner, **Neokred**, and manufacturing partner- Sessaasai **at the Global Fintech Festival 2021**.
- "RuPay On-the-Go will allow customers to make small and large value transactions from the accessories they wear every day.
- This **innovative wearable payment solution** would redefine the contactless payments space by eliminating the need to carry a physical card and enabling instantaneous payments with a simple 'Tap, pay, go' mechanism".

AU Small Finance Bank signs pact with NABARD

- Private sector **AU Small Finance Bank** signed a pact with the **National Bank for Rural and Development (NABARD)** to **boost ongoing rural development initiatives in Rajasthan**.
- The Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) was signed **in the presence of NABARD Chairman G R Chintala**, Jaideep Srivastava, Chief General Manager, Rajasthan, and Sanjay Agarwal, Managing Director, AU Small Finance Bank.
- The memorandum envisages a **joint initiative to benefit farmers**, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), Self Help Groups (SHGs), rural artisans, agri-entrepreneurs, and agri-startups in the State.
- "This **MoU** between NABARD and AU Bank will provide institutional credit support to the ongoing development schemes in the State, which will lead to further prosperity in the rural areas.

Revision Points

Organizations	Headquarters	President/CEO/Head
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
National Payments Corp. of India	Mumbai	Dilip Asbe
Axis Bank	Mumbai	Amitabh Chaudhry
UCO Bank	Kolkata	Atul Kumar Goel
US International Development Finance Corporation	Washington	Dev Jagadesan
United States Agency for International Development	Washington	Samantha Power
Asian Development Bank	Mandaluyong, Philippines	Masatsugu Asakawa
World Bank	Washington DC	David Malpass
BharatPe	New Delhi	Ashneer Grover
ICICI Bank	Mumbai	Sandeep Bakhshi
Equitas SFB	Chennai	Vasudevan P N
PhonePe	Bengaluru	Sameer Nigam
Federal Bank	Aluva	Shyam Srinivasan
Visa	California	Alfred F Kelly Jr
Ola Electric	Bengaluru	Bhavish Aggarwal
HDFC Bank	Mumbai	Sashidhar Jagdishan
Tata Capital	Mumbai	Rajiv Sabharwal
Kotak Mahindra Bank	Mumbai	Uday Kotak
IndusInd Bank	Pune	Sumant Kathpalia
AU Small Finance Bank	Jaipur	Sanjay Agarwal
Jana Small Finance Bank	Bengaluru	Ajay Kanwal
YES Bank	Mumbai	Prashant Kumar

SBM Bank	Port Louis, Mauritius	Sidharth Rath
OneCard	Riyadh	Anurag Sinha
National Small Industries Corporation	New Delhi	Navin Chopra
India Post Payments Bank	New Delhi	J Venkatramu
LIC Housing Finance	Mumbai	Y Viswanatha Gowd
Bank of India	Mumbai	Atanu Kumar Das
Securities Exchange Board of India	Mumbai	Ajay Tyagi
Bank of Baroda	Vadodara	SL Jain
Karnataka Bank	Mangalore	Mahabaleshwara M. S
ICICI Lombard General Insurance	Mumbai	Bhargav Dasgupta
Bharti AXA General Insurance	Mumbai	Sanjeev Srinivasan
South Indian Bank	Thrissur	Murali Ramakrishnan
Paytm Money	Noida	Vijay Shekhar Sharma
Delhi Metro Rail Corporation	New Delhi	Mangu Singh
DBS Bank	Singapore	Piyush Gupta
Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication	La Hulpe, Belgium	Javier Pérez-Tasso
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	Thoothukudi	K V Rama Moorthy
United Nations Development Programme	New York	Achim Steiner
Escorts Limited	Faridabad	Nikhil Nanda
Punjab & Sind Bank	New Delhi	S Krishnan
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Limited	Varanasi	Govind Singh
Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited	Gurugram	Sameer Gehlaut
RBL Bank	Mumbai	Vishwavir Ahuja
Mastercard	New York	Michael Miebach
HSBC India	Mumbai	Hitendra Dave
Vistara	Gurugram	Bhaskar Bhat
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	Navi Mumbai	Baskar Babu Ramachandran

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd	Mumbai	Mukesh Kumar Surana
PayPoint India	Mumbai	Ketan Doshi
Euromoney	London	Andrew Rashbass
Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited	Mumbai	Arun Kumar Singh

Important Financial & Economy Affairs

Organization	GDP (FY 22)	GDP (FY 23)
ICRA	9%	
OECD	9.7%	7.9%
ADB	10%	7.5%
UNCTAD	7.2% (CY 2021)	
S & P Global Ratings	9.5%	7%
Morgan Stanley	10.5%	
Moody's	9.6% (CY 2021)	

Moody's projects India's GDP growth forecast to 9.6% for CY2021

- **Moody's Investors Service** slashed India's growth projection to **9.6 per cent for 2021 calendar year**, from its earlier estimate of **13.9 per cent**, and stated faster vaccination progress will be paramount in restricting economic losses to June quarter
- In its report titled '**Macroeconomics India: Economic shocks from second COVID wave** will not be as severe as last year's', **Moody's** stated high-frequency economic indicators show that the second wave of COVID-19 infections hit India's economy in **April and May**.
- With states now easing restrictions, economic activity in May is likely to signify the trough.
- "The virus resurgence adds uncertainty to **India's growth forecast for 2021**; however, it is likely that the economic damage will remain restricted to the April-June quarter.
- We currently expect India's real GDP to grow at **9.6 per cent in 2021** and **7 per cent in 2022**".

Morgan Stanley estimates India GDP growth estimate at 10.5% for FY22

- **Morgan Stanley** maintained its estimate of **India GDP growth at 10.5 per cent for FY2022** versus the general consensus of 9.2 per cent.
- **GDP growth** is expected to move into on a **positive territory two-year CAGR** basis from QE September.
- Morgan Stanley, key risks to watch are the pace of vaccination (any slowdown could increase risks) and the trend in Covid-19 cases -- potential re-acceleration, threat from new variants and restrictions on activity.
- **GDP grew 20.1 per cent year-on-year** in the quarter ending June.

- On a two-year CAGR basis, real GDP contracted 4.7 per cent in QE June versus plus 2.3 per cent in QE March.

India's economic growth to 20.1% in first quarter on low base

- **India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** grew **20.1% in the April-June quarter** of this financial year (FY22), due to a low base during the same quarter last year.
- In the same quarter last year, **GDP had contracted by 24.4%** due to the first lockdown being imposed last year during the April-June period.
- Last quarter (January-March of FY21), **India's GDP grew at 1.6%**.
- **"GDP at Constant** (2011-12) Prices in Q1 of 2021-22 is estimated at Rs.32.38 lakh crore, as against Rs.26.95 lakh crore in Q1 of 2020-21, showing a growth of 20.1% as compared to a contraction of 24.4% in Q1 2020-21".

GST collections in August at cross over Rs 1.12 lakh crore

- **GST revenue** remained above **Rs 1 trillion-mark** for the **second straight month in August** at over Rs 1.12 trillion, 30 percent higher than the collection in the **year-ago period**.
- "The gross **GST revenue collected in the month of August 2021** is Rs 1,12,020 crore of which Central GST is Rs 20,522 crore, State GST is Rs 26,605 crore, Integrated GST is Rs 56,247 crore (including Rs 26,884 crore collected on import of goods) and Cess is Rs 8,646 crore (including Rs 646 crore collected on import of goods)".
- The mop up in August is, however, lower than Rs 1.16 trillion collected in July 2021.

S&P Global Ratings forecasts India's GDP for FY22 at 9.50%; FY23 at 7.00%,

- **S&P Global Ratings** cut India's growth forecast for **FY22 to 9.5 per cent** from 11 per cent earlier.
- The **agency** also warned of risk to the outlook from further waves of **COVID-19**.
- S&P stated that the severe second wave that led to local lockdowns in April and May sharply contacted economic activity.
- "We forecast growth of **9.5 per cent** this fiscal year from our March forecast of **11 per cent**".
- **S&P** stated that permanent damage to **private and public sector** balance sheets will constrain growth over the next couple of years.
- For the **next fiscal ending March 31, 2023**, the agency projected India's growth at **7.8 per cent**.
- "Further pandemic waves are a risk to the outlook given that only about **15 per cent of the population** has received at least one vaccine dose so far, although vaccine supplies are expected to ramp up".

UNCTAD predicts Indian economy to expand 7.2% in 2021

- The **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)** has pegged India's economic growth rate to **hit a four-year high of 7.2 per cent for 2021** against a contraction of **7 per cent in 2020**.
- At this rate, India would be the fastest growing economy after China, which is projected to **grow by 8.3 per cent**.
- Calculations are based on **GDP at constant dollars in 2015**.
- **UNCTAD projected India's economy** to outpace all other major economies in the next year even though the growth would be slower, at **6.7 per cent**, than this year's projected figure.

- The report stated India's economy, which shrank by seven per cent in 2020, showed strong growth of 1.9 per cent in the first quarter of Calendar 2021, on the back of the momentum of the second half of 2020 and supported by government spending in goods and services.

About UNCTAD:

- The **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development** was **established in 1964** as an intergovernmental organization intended to promote the interests of developing states in world trade.
- UNCTAD is the **part of the United Nations Secretariat dealing with** trade, investment, and development issues.
- **The organization's goals are to:** "maximize the trade, investment and development opportunities of developing countries and assist them in their efforts to integrate into the world economy on an equitable basis".

ADB projects growth forecast during current fiscal to 10%

- **ADB (Asian Development Bank)** has lowered its forecast for the **current fiscal (ending March 2022)** to **10 per cent** from **11 per cent** while raising the **estimate to 7.5 per cent from 7 per cent** for the **next fiscal** (ending March 2023).
- This is second announcement lowering the growth forecast within 24 hours.
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (**OECD**) cut its projection of **India's economic growth** by 0.2 percentage points to 9.7 per cent for the current financial year.
- Still, this along with **ADB's forecast** is tad better than S&P's RBI's estimate of 9.5 per cent.

OECD predicts India's economic growth forecast at 9.7% for FY22 & 7.9% for FY23

- The **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** cut its projection of India's economic **growth** by **0.2 percentage points to 9.7 per cent for the current financial year**.
- The economy was projected by the grouping of advanced nations to **grow by 7.9 per cent next financial year**, 0.3 percentage point slower than pegged by it earlier.
- If the projections come out to be correct, India's economy would be the fastest growing large economy in both these years.
- It would be followed by China at 8.5 per cent in 2021 and Spain at 6.6 per cent in 2022.
- China is pegged to be slowing down to 5.8 per cent in the next calendar year.

ICRA projects GDP growth of India to 9.00% in FY 2022

- **Ratings agency Icra** revised up its 2021-22 real **GDP** growth estimate for India to 9 per cent from the earlier 8.5 per cent.
- A ramp-up in COVID-19 vaccination, healthy advance estimates of **kharif (summer) crop** and faster government spending were the factors which led to the revision.
- It can be noted that **after the 7.3 per cent** contraction in 2020-21, there were expectations of a higher growth number in 2021-22.
- However, the second wave of COVID-19 infections early into the fiscal year, which spread even in the hinterland, made analysts more circumspect.
- The RBI expects the economy to grow at **9.5 per cent**.

Organizations	Headquarters	President/CEO/Head
Moody's	New York	Raymond W. McDaniel Jr.
Morgan Stanley	New York	James P. Gorman
S&P Global Ratings	New York	John L. Berisford
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	Geneva	Rebeca Grynspan
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development	Paris	General Mathias Cormann
ICRA Ltd	Gurgaon	N. Sivaraman

Important Business News

IMF enhances India's quota of Special Drawing Rights (SDR)

- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has sharply increased its allocation of **Special Drawing Rights (SDR)** to India, in line with the country's existing quota in the fund.
- **SDR** is an **alternate reserve currency** floated by the IMF, which the member countries can freely exchange between themselves instead of relying on currency of any one particular country.
- **IMF** has **increased India's SDR quota to 12.57 billion**, which is equivalent to \$17.86 billion at the latest exchange rate, on August 23.

Amazon india introduces kisan store

- **Amazon India** launched the **Kisan (Farmer) Store**, aligning with Government of India's vision of empowering farmers and leveraging technology to transform the farming sector.
- The store was **launched by** Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.
- With this launch, farmers across the country will have **availability of agriculture inputs like** seeds, farm tools & accessories, plant protection, nutrition and many other agricultural products at competitive prices, with the added convenience of delivery at their doorstep.
- **Farmers can choose to shop on Amazon.in** using any of the **five Indian languages** including Hindi, Telugu, Kannada, Tamil, and Malayalam.
- Farmers can also visit any one of the 50,000+ Amazon Easy stores across the country and avail assisted shopping facility.

About the store:

- The **Amazon Easy store** owners will help farmers browse the selection, identify a product they like, create their Amazon accounts, place orders and checkout to buy.

- Farmers can choose from a selection of thousands of agricultural products from over 20+ brands.
- This **selection is offered by hundreds of Small and Medium Businesses** present across the country.
- Farmers **can opt for Cash on Delivery** as a payment option along with other digital channels like Net Banking, UPI, Amazon Pay, and Debit & Credit Cards.

HPCL unveiled non-fuel retail store 'Happy Shop' in Mumbai

- **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.** unveiled its branded store "**Happy Shop**" In Mumbai, marking its foray into non-fuel retailing.
- Located at the company-owned retail outlet at the upmarket Nepean Sea Road near Malabar Hills, this is the company's latest offering at its "**Club HP**" retail outlet.
- The **store will provide home utility products** including food, toiletries, healthcare products, bakery products, groceries, medicines and more.

Main purpose:

- The **core objective** is to provide a range of good quality daily use products to customers at their convenience.
- **Apart from physical sales from the shop**, order and self-pickup, order and home delivery options will also be available to the customers.
- They will be able to browse the merchandise on **HPCL's HP-Pay App** (available on Play store/App Store).
- **HPCL also launched poWer 100**, Ultra-Premium grade Petrol with an Octane rating of 100 to cater to the growing number of high-end cars and bikes.
- poWer100 provides improved knocking characteristics for high-end engines.
- Its superior combustion properties reduce emissions making it more eco-friendly.

India Today Group initiates Good News Today

- The **India Today Group** has launched **Good News Today (GNT)**, India's first and only good news channel that recognise that the news doesn't just have to be shocking, sensational and stressful.
- **Good News Today** follows the **motto of Acchi Khabar, Sacchi Khabar** -- true stories that foster goodwill and enrich the lives of audiences.
- Even in the negative news stories, there are numerous constructive stories of humanity but they, however, get lost.
- It is only when we focus on what is constructive that we can move the needle of progress forward.
- **GNT invites a sharp focus** on solutions, and celebrates the narratives of the glass half full.
- **About India Today Group:**
- The **India Today Group** is an Indian media conglomerate based in New Delhi, India.
- It **has interests** in magazines, newspapers, books, radio, television, printing and the Internet.
- **Aroon Purie** is the current **chairman** and editor-in-chief and **Dinesh Bhatia** is the current **CEO** of India Today Group.

Zerodha gets approval from Sebi to start mutual fund business

- India's largest broking firm **Zerodha** has received in-principle approval to set up an **asset management company (AMC)** company.

- With this, the discount brokerage joins entities like **Samco Securities and Bajaj Finserv** to get market regulator Sebi's nod for a mutual fund (MF).
- Bajaj Finserv received **in-principle approval from Sebi** to set up the shop in the Rs 35-trillion Mutual Fund (MF) industry.
- The **Indian MF industry** has seen a huge rise in assets, as well as participation from investors, attracting more into the money managing business.
- In the past few months, the Indian MF industry has seen new players like NJ India and Samco Securities setting up shop.

About Zerodha Company:

- **Zerodha Broking Limited** is an Indian financial services company offering retail brokerage, currencies and commodities trading, mutual funds, and bonds.
- Founded in 2010, the company is **headquartered in Bengaluru**.
- **Valued over \$1 billion**, it is the largest brokerage firm in India by active client base.

Flipkart introduces 'Flipkart Boost' for digital-first consumer brands

- **Walmart-owned Flipkart** launched '**Flipkart Boost**', a new programme aimed at helping digital-first consumer brands to grow their business.
- Through a **service fee model**, Flipkart Boost will provide **end-to-end support covering** planning, advertising, cataloguing, logistics, quality control and mentoring to emerging 'Made in India' brands.
- The **Flipkart Boost programme** will shortlist brands based on a set of **pre-decided objective criteria**, which includes their growth potential, sustainable revenue run rate, focus on quality, commitment to building a long-lasting brand, strong product mix and customer orientation.

Paytm Money Partnered with WealthDesk to Launch 'WealthBaskets'

- Paytm's wholly-owned subsidiary, **Paytm Money**, is planning to launch a wealth and investment advisory marketplace on its platform to offer curated advisory services and products to retail investors.
- Paytm Money has partnered with start-up WealthDesk to offer investment portfolios called 'WealthBaskets' as the first step to build up the advisory network.
- A 'WealthBasket' is a custom portfolio of stocks and exchange traded fund created by **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**-Registered investment professionals and users will be able to invest in several Wealthbasket.

Amazon Pay ties up with Kuvera to offer wealth management service for the first time

- **Amazon Pay**, a wholly owned subsidiary of Amazon in partnership with **Kuvera**, Investment platform will **provide wealth management services** to its 50 million customers across India.
- It is the **first ever wealth management tie-up for amazon** across the world.
- Kuvera will offer its **services, products and technology knowledge to Amazon Pay users** in order to **facilitate investments into Mutual funds, Fixed deposits**.

- **Note:** Google with Indian fintech startup Setu has recently announced that it will allow its Indian Customers to open fixed deposits through its digital payments' app Google Pay.

TCS declared largest women recruitment drive 'Rebegin project'

- India's **largest information technology (IT) services** player Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has announced one of its largest recruitment drives for hiring women.
- The **TCS 'Rebegin' project** is aimed at experienced and aspiring women who wish to jump-start their professional journey and make **'The Big Move'**.
- Rebegin is a **TCS Careers initiative** intended to benefit women professionals who have taken a career sabbatical due to family or other pressing commitments to help **them reassimilate into the corporate culture**.
- Overlooked yet capable candidates will now have the opportunity to **apply for TCS open requirements**.

Tata Steel commissioned India's first plant to capture CO2 from blast furnace gas

- Tata Steel commissioned a **5-tonne per day (TPD)** carbon capture plant at its Jamshedpur Works, making it the **country's first steel company** to adopt such a carbon capture technology that extracts **CO2 directly from the blast furnace gas**.
- Tata Steel will reuse the captured CO2 on site **to promote circular carbon economy**.
- This **carbon capture and utilisation (CCU) facility** uses amine-based technology and makes the captured carbon available for onsite reuse.
- The depleted CO2 gas is sent back to the gas network with increased calorific value.
- This **project** has been executed with technological support from Carbon Clean, a global leader in low-cost CO2 capture technology.
- The CCU plant was inaugurated by T.V. Narendran, CEO and MD, Tata Steel, in the presence of company officials and other dignitaries.

Infosys unveiled digital commerce platform Equinox

- IT services major **Infosys** formally launched its **'Equinox' suite of solutions to help enterprises** transform their online and in-store functions and deliver personalised omni channel commerce experiences for B2B and B2C buyers.
- **Infosys Equinox** is a suite of **digital commerce and digital marketing capabilities** that can help any company rapidly transform its online and in-store experiences for a digitally native world.

About Infosys:

- **Infosys Limited** is an **Indian multinational information technology company** that provides business consulting, information technology and outsourcing services.
- The company was founded in Pune and is headquartered in Bangalore.

Ford became the latest US car manufacturer to exit India

- **Ford Motor Co.** will stop making cars in India and record **roughly \$2 billion** in restructuring charges, scaling back significantly in a country that past management saw becoming one of its three biggest markets.
- **Ford will shut down both of its plants in the country**, becoming the latest automaker to exit the market.

- The US automaker will wind down an assembly plant in Gujarat by the fourth quarter, as well as vehicle and engine manufacturing plants in Chennai by the second quarter of next year.

Power Finance Corporation - India's first-ever Euro Green Bond

- **Power Finance Corporation (PFC)**, a non-banking financial company (NBFC) under the power ministry.
- It has issued its maiden 300-million-euro seven-year Euro Bond issuance on 13 September, 2021.
- "This **issuance demonstrates** our commitment for achieving India's renewable energy goals.
- This **bond issuance** would help PFC in diversifying its currency book as well as the investor base".
- The **pricing of 1.841 per cent** achieved was the lowest yield locked in by an Indian Issuer in the Euro markets.

About Green Bond:

- **Climate bonds** are fixed-income financial instruments that have positive environmental and/or climate benefits.
- They follow the **Green Bond Principles** stated by the **International Capital Market Association**, and the proceeds from the issuance of which are to be used for the pre-specified types of projects.
- **Green Bonds are bonds** that are used to **finance new and existing projects** that offer climate change and environmental benefits.
- The majority of the green bonds issued are green "**use of proceeds**" or asset-linked bonds.
- Proceeds from these bonds are earmarked for **green projects** but are backed by the issuer's entire balance sheet.

NPCI partners with Liquid Group

- **NPCI International Payments Limited**, the NPCI's international arm of **National Payments Corporation of India**, announced that it has partnered with Singapore-based Liquid Group **to enable UPI QR-based payments acceptance in 10 North and Southeast Asian markets**.
- The partnership between **NIPL** and **Liquid Group** will enable **BHIM app** users to make UPI QR-based payments at over 2 million merchants progressively across North Asia and Southeast Asia from early 2022.
- Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is an **instant real-time payment (RTP) system**, allowing users to transfer money on a real-time basis, across multiple bank accounts without revealing details of one's bank account to the other party.
- UPI is amongst the **most successful RTP systems globally**, providing simplicity, safety, and security in person to person (P2P) and person to merchant (P2M) transactions.
- In 2020, **UPI enabled commerce** worth USD 457 Billion, which is equivalent to approximately 15% of India's GDP.

IRCTC introduces an airport-style executive lounge at New Delhi railway station

- **IRCTC** has started a **brand new executive lounge** at the New Delhi Railway Station.
- The **facility** that has been set up on the **first floor of platform number** one of the station would be operational round the clock providing the passengers with recliners, entertainment rooms, massage chairs, multi-cuisine buffet, wash-n-change facilities, business centre and even massage chairs.
- People can avail the mentioned facilities, business centre and even massage chairs.
- **People can avail** the mentioned facilities at a **nominal price of Rs 150 plus taxes** for the **first hour with** an additional Rs 99 for every added hour.

Tata Capital introduces 'Loan Against Mutual Funds' Scheme

- **Tata Capital**, the **flagship financial services company** of the Tata Group, has announced the launch of '**Loan Against Mutual Funds**' (LAMF), an industry first end-to-end digital offering.
- Customers can avail quick and **hassle-free loans** ranging from Rs 5 lakh and Rs 2 crores.
- Tata Capital's digital loan offering is provided against a wide range of equity and debt schemes across mutual funds.
- Customers can **avail the loan amount** by marking a lien on the mutual fund units which are managed by various asset management companies.
- Backed by technology and analytics, LAMF is a personalized product to meet the diverse fund requirements of the customer.
- The **loan amount** is customized based on the value of the units in the mutual fund folio and tenure.

KMBL make partnership with IISc will set up AI-ML Centre in Bengaluru

- The **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)** Bangalore announced a **partnership** with **Kotak Mahindra Bank** to set up a state-of-the-art **Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning (AI-ML) Centre** at the IISc campus here.
- Spread across approximately 1,40,000 square feet, the Kotak-IISc AI-ML Centre will offer Bachelor's, Master's and **short-term courses in areas** such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, deep learning, fintech, reinforcement learning, image processing and computer vision.
- The **Centre**, established under KMBL's CSR project on **Education & Livelihood**, will also promote research and innovation in AI and ML and develop the talent pool from across the country to provide cutting-edge solutions to meet the industry's emerging and future requirements.

UK report - India will become 3rd largest importer by 2050

- **India** could become the **world's third-largest importer by 2050**, according to a **report released by the UK's Department of International Trade**.
- With a **5.9 per cent share of global imports by 2050**, the country will become the third-largest importer, following China and the United States.
- At present, India occupies the eighth spot on the list of the largest importing countries with a 2.8 per cent share.
- As per the **Global Trade Outlook report**, the country's position on the list will jump to the fourth position by 2030 with a 3.9 per cent share.

Power Finance Corp set to become India's 11th Maharatna CPSE

- **Power Finance Corp. Ltd (PFC)** is set to become the **11th Maharatna central public sector enterprise (CPSE)**, with an inter-ministerial committee clearing the Navratna last week for this, stated two people aware of the development.
- This comes against the backdrop of the government using power sector lenders such as PFC and REC Ltd to instil financial discipline at **state-owned electricity distribution companies (discoms)**.
- The Maharatna dispensation was ushered in by the Union government for mega CPSEs to become global giants.
- **About Power Finance Corporation:**

- PFC, India's largest non-banking financial company (NBFC) and among the 14 Navratna CPSEs, can invest up to Rs.5,000 crore, or 15% of its net worth, in a single project apart from being granted enhanced powers by the government for undertaking mergers and acquisitions once it gets the Maharatna status.
- Navratna and Miniratna CPSEs can invest up to Rs.1,000 crore and Rs.500 crore, respectively.

Zee Entertainment signs merger deal with Sony Pictures Networks India Private Limited

- On September 22, ZEE Entertainment Enterprises Limited (ZEEL) signed a merger deal with Sony Pictures Networks India Private Limited.
- Zee Entertainment will hold 47.07 percent stake, while Sony India will hold a majority stake of 52.93 per cent in the merged company.
- Puneet Goenka will continue to provide services to the merged company as MD and CEO for a period of 5 years.
- After the deal, promoters of Sony will have the right to appoint the majority of directors to the merged company.
- The merged entity will be a publicly listed company.

Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak launches space start-up Privateer

- Tech giants like Amazon and Virgin Galactic have already reached space and are in a race to start their commercial flights to space.
- It seems that space travel is very promising after looking at other giants trying to create their own private space company.
- Apple co-founder, Steve Wozniak and Ripcord Inc. founder Alex Fielding recently joined this race by announcing their new company, Privateer.
- The founders behind this company claim that it has been created with the aim that helps to "keep space safe and accessible for all humankind."
- "The makers have not revealed much about the details of their upcoming venture and are supposed to release more about it during the 2021 AMOS Tech Conference in Maui, Hawaii."
- The post also had a small teaser showing off the company's aims to make space travel possible for mankind.
- Nothing more has been released about this recent announcement but the community has been filled up with leaks and rumours about Steve Wozniak's upcoming venture.

NASSCOM: Cryptotech industry can create \$184B of economic value in India

- The Indian cryptotech market has the potential to create an economic value addition of \$184 billion by 2030 in the form of investments and cost savings, states a report titled-Crypto Industry in India.
- The report by the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM), in association with an Indian crypto exchange WazirX, stated that the Indian crypto market could generate over eight lakh jobs by 2030.

About Cryptotech industry:

- "Cryptotech industry in India has not only demonstrated a positive impact at the grassroots levels but is emerging as one of the fastest-growing technology sub-sector."

- India provides the **most unique ecosystem** to cryptotech to play a transformative role in strengthening key priority areas such as healthcare, safety, digital identification, trade and finance, and remittances, and help in addressing pandemic-induced challenges.”

Revision Points

Organizations	Headquarters	President/CEO/Head
India Today	Noida	Ashish Bagga
Niti Aayog	New Delhi	Narendra Modi
Zerodha	Bengaluru	Nithin Kamath
Kuvera	Bengaluru	Gaurav Rastogi
International Monetary Fund	Washington	Kristalina Georgieva
Tata Consultancy Services	Mumbai	Rajesh Gopinathan
Infosys	Bengaluru	Salil Parekh
Tata Steel	Jamshedpur	Natarajan Chandrasekaran
Liquid Group	Singapore	Jeremy Tan
Ford	Michigan, United States	Jim Farley
Amazon	Washington, USA	Andy Jassy
IRCTC	New Delhi	Rajni Hasija
NASSCOM	New Delhi	Debjani Ghosh
Apple	California	Tim Cook
Power Finance Corp	New Delhi	Ravinder Singh Dhillon
Virgin Galactic	California	Mike Moses
ZEE Entertainment Enterprises Limited	Mumbai	Punit Goenka

Important State Wise News

Assam

Assam cabinet decides to rename Rajiv Gandhi's name from Orang national park

- The Assam cabinet decided to remove the name of **former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi** from the **Orang National Park**.
- "During a recent interaction between Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and prominent members of the Adivasi and tea-tribe community, they had demanded **removal** of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's name from the Orang National Park".
- Many people from the **Oraon tribe** had settled near the area where the park is now located and the area took its name from them. According to the 2011 census, there are 73,437 Oraon people in Assam.

Centre signed tripartite 'Karbi Anglong' peace accord in Assam

- The Centre signed the tripartite **Karbi Anglong** agreement promising to fulfil all the conditions for development of the Karbi people within the stipulated time.
- The **agreement** was signed in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Union Minister of Shipping and Waterways, Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and the representatives of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council in New Delhi.
- "Signing of the historic **Karbi Anglong Agreement**: Modi government is committed to resolving the decades-old crisis, ensuring the territorial integrity of Assam".
- The **agreement mainly promised to invest Rs.1, 000 crore** by the Assam government for development of the Karbi Anglong area in the next five years, provide reservation for the people of **Karbi for the first time**, rehabilitation for the surrendered militants, setting up of Karbi Welfare Council by the Assam government, supplementing resources of Karbi Autonomous Council by augmenting consolidated fund of the state, along with protection of their language and culture etc.

Assam state Govt announced to form new panel for preparing roadmap to implement Assam Accord of 1985 on identification and deportation of illegal immigrants

- The **Assam government** announced that it will form a committee comprising ministers and members of the **All Assam Students' Union (AASU)** for preparing a roadmap within three months to implement the Assam Accord.
- A **six-year agitation demanding identification and deportation** of illegal immigrants was launched by the AASU in 1979.
- It had culminated with the signing of the **Assam Accord on August 15, 1985**, in the presence of the then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.
- After a meeting between the AASU and **Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma** along with senior ministers of the state government, Implementation of Assam Accord Minister Atul Bora stated both sides decided to **form a committee to implement the pact**.

About the committee:

- The committee will have **three state ministers** and **five members** of the student body.
- This **committee will consider all the clauses of the Assam Accord** and how those can be implemented.
- It will **prepare a roadmap** within the next three months.

Assam govt set up a tea Park at Kamrup district's Chayygaon

- Industries and Commerce minister **Chandra Mohan Patowary** stated **Assam** is setting up a **tea Park at Chayygaon in Kamrup District** which will have rail and port connectivity, cargo and warehouse amenities, processing facilities like tea grinding, blending, packaging and other utility services under one roof.
- Coinciding with **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav of 75 years of Indian Independence**, Tea Board of India; Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India & Industries, State Industries, Commerce and Public Enterprise Department has organized a two-day '**Vaniya Utsav & Mega Export Conclave**' from September 21-22 in Guwahati.

Arunachal Pradesh

Arunachal Pradesh govt launches two schemes to boost agriculture & horticulture produce

- **Arunachal Pradesh** government has launched two ambitious schemes, one in agriculture sector called '**AtmaNirbhar Krishi Yojna**' and the other for horticulture named '**AtmaNirbhar Bagwani Yojna**'.
- The schemes are part of the **AtmaNirbhar program** announced during the Budget session held in February this year.
- A **total amount of 120 crores rupees – 60 crore rupees for each scheme** – has been allocated to the two concerned departments of Agriculture and Horticulture.
- The schemes will immensely benefit farmers and Self Help Groups (SHGs) across the state, and appealed all to get in touch with their respective district administrations to get the details and avail the schemes.
- These two schemes are unique as these are both based on front-ended subsidies.
- Credit link will be provided to the beneficiaries by SBI, Arunachal Pradesh Rural Bank and Arunachal Pradesh Cooperative Apex Bank.

Gol begins work to develop 'Parshuram Kund' in Arunachal Pradesh

- Shri **G. Kishan Reddy** laid the foundation stone for the "**Development of Parshuram Kund, Lohit District, Arunachal Pradesh.**"
- The **project** is **sanctioned** under the Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive' (**PRASHAD**) Scheme of Ministry of Tourism.
- The '**National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive**' (**PRASHAD**) is a Central Sector Scheme with complete financial assistance by the Government of India.
- The **scheme** is launched under the leadership of Prime Minister by the Ministry of Tourism in the year **2014-15** with the vision of **focused** infrastructure development to harness pilgrimage and heritage tourism destinations for its direct and multiplier effect upon employment generation and economic development.

- The **scheme aimed** at infrastructure development to envisage world class infrastructural development of the sites with special emphasis on Tourist Facilities including Tourist Facilitation Centers, way-side amenities Parking, Public convenience, Illumination and Sound and Light Shows.

Chhattisgarh

Chhattisgarh state govt launches 'Millet Mission' to become Millet Hub of India

- Chhattisgarh Chief Minister **Bhupesh Baghel** recently informed that the state will become the millet hub of the country in the coming times.
- He stated that "**Millet Mission**" initiative is aimed at giving the farmers right price for small cereal crops, provide **input assistance**, procurement arrangements, processing and ensure that the farmers get benefit of the expertise of experts.
- "Like minor forest produce, we want to make small grain crops also the strength of Chhattisgarh," mentioned Baghel at an event organised for signing of **MoU** between **Indian Institute of Millet Research, Hyderabad** and the collectors of 14 Chhattisgarh districts under "**Millet Mission**" of the state.

Delhi

Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav unveiled first functional Smog Tower of India, situated at Anand Vihar in New Delhi

- **Shri Yadav** on the occasion virtually inaugurated the **first functional smog tower** in India at **Anand Vihar, Delhi** and expressed hope that the pilot smog tower project will yield fruitful results and supplement the air quality improvement efforts.
- A smog tower is a structure **designed as large/medium scale air purifiers to reduce air pollution**, usually by forcing the air through filters.

About the Tower:

- The **smog tower at Anand Vihar** with a **height of over 20m** is of downdraft type, i.e. polluted air comes in from the top of the tower and clean air comes out of the bottom is intended for localised reduction in air pollution (Particulate Matter).
- The filtration system used in the tower has been designed by University of Minnesota with an expected efficiency of 90%.
- **40 fan units** have been installed to provide a design airflow rate of 1000 m³/sec.
- The tower has been built by **Tata Projects Limited with NBCC (India) Ltd.** as the project management consultant.

Delhi govt introduces 'Business Blasters' programme in govt. schools aimed at developing young entrepreneurs

- Deputy Chief Minister **Manish Sisodia** launched the Delhi government's '**Business Blasters**' programme which aims at developing young entrepreneurs at the school-level by providing students seed money to start a business.
- The programme will be implemented in all Delhi government schools under the "**Entrepreneurship Mindset Curriculum (EMC)**".

- The programme is "Successful as a pilot project", class 11 and 12 students will be provided seed money of Rs 2,000 to start a business.
- This programme, for the **students of classes 11-12**, is going to be the basis of the country's progress.
- Through this, children will not run after jobs, but jobs will come after these children.

Najafgarh – Dhansa Bus Stand section inaugurated on the Grey Line of Delhi Metro

- The **Dhansa Bus Stand – Najafgarh section** on **Delhi Metro's Grey Line** was opened at with Union minister for housing and urban affairs **Hardeep Singh Puri** and Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal inaugurating the stretch through video conference.
- The newly opened **Dhansa Bus Stand station** is an underground facility, and is an extension of the Dwarka-Najafgarh corridor, which is known as the Grey Line.
- Now, the line will have **four stations** -- Dwarka, Nangli, Najafgarh and Dhansa Bus Stop.
- The **stretch between Najafgarh and Dhansa Bus stand** is only 1.2 kilometres long, but it is significant as it will provide the Metro link to at least 50 villages in that area.

Gujarat

Gujarat state govt Works of Rs 1,000 crore under Vatan Prem Yojana

- The **Gujarat government** stated it planned to undertake public welfare projects to the tune of Rs. 1,000 crore jointly with non-resident Gujaratis by December next year under its "**Vatan Prem Yojana**".
- Under the scheme, **Gujaratis** living anywhere in the country and abroad can pick up villages, projects and **agencies** of their choice by making a **monetary contribution of 60 percent**, with **the government contributing the remaining 40 percent**.
- **Donors can contribute** for the construction of classrooms, smart classes, community halls, primary health centres, anganwadi, mid-day meal rooms, store rooms, libraries, gymnasium, CCTV camera surveillance system, crematorium, water recycling systems, and gutter, sewage treatment plants, lake beautification, bus stands, solar street lights, tubewells, and water tanks as part of the scheme.

Gujarat: PM Narendra Modi inaugurates Sardardham Bhavan in Ahmedabad

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated via video conferencing the **Ahmedabad-based Sardardham Bhavan** and, in the same function, also performed the "**Bhoomi Pujan**" of the **Sardardham Phase-II Kanya Chhatralaya (girls' hostel)**.
- The **two establishments**, as their names suggest, are dedicated to the "**Iron Man of India**," Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- Located in **Ahmedabad**, the **largest city** in the western state, the Sardardham Bhavan has state-of-the-art facilities for students, with modern amenities.
- The Kanya Chhatralaya, meanwhile, will house **2000 girls**, irrespective of their economic criteria.

Haryana

India's tallest air purifier tower become operational in Chandigarh

- An **air purification tower**, which is reported to be the tallest in India, became operational at the **Transport Chowk, Sector 26**.
- Standing tall at 24 metres, it was **inaugurated by UT adviser Dharam Pal** to mark the second International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies.
- The purifier has been installed by **Pious Air Private Limited** without any cost to the Chandigarh administration.
- The firm will also **operate and maintain it for five years**.

Haryana first State in Installation of Solar Pumps under PM KUSUM Scheme

- Haryana has become the first state in the country to install off-grid solar pumps under the **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Uttan Mahabhiyan (PM KUSUM)**.
- The implementation of PM KUSUM has provided **an opportunity to the farmers to switch from diesel pumps to solar pumps**.
- This move will lead towards **doubling the farmers income by reducing the input cost of agriculture**.
- Under the PM KUSUM scheme, **the target was to set up 20 lakh standalone solar pumps**, under which, Haryana was given a target of setting up **15,000 pumps with a total cost of Rs 520 crore for the year 2020-21**.
- The state has received more than **42,000 applications online** therefore the new target has increased by setting up **22,000 pumps with a total cost of Rs 844 crore for financial year 2021-22**.
- **About Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Uttan Mahabhiyan (PM KUSUM)**
- The PM-KUSUM scheme was launched by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) to support installation of off-grid solar pumps in rural areas and reduce dependence on grid, in grid-connected areas.

Himachal Pradesh

Himachal Pradesh - first state to administer first dose of Corona vaccine to 100 percent of its eligible population

- **Himachal Pradesh** has achieved a unique distinction of achieving cent percent target of **first dose of Covid-19 vaccination** above the age of 18 years.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has congratulated the State Government and has agreed to virtually address the people of the State on 6th of September.
- He will also interact with few frontline workers, who have done exceptional work in achieving this target.
- Deputy Commissioners, Superintendents of Police, Chief Medical Officers and other senior officers of the state from Shimla Chief Minister **Jai Ram Thakur** stated that health workers would also interact with the Prime Minister and share their views regarding making this vaccination campaign a success.
- **Chief Minister** directed the officers that adequate arrangements should be made for sitting of general public at the venue where the event would be screened.

World's Highest EV Charging Station inaugurated in Himachal Pradesh

- In a bid to **promote a sustainable environment**, the **world's highest electric vehicle** charging station was inaugurated in Kaza of Lahaul and Spiti district in Himachal Pradesh.
- This is the **world's highest electric vehicle** charging station at 500 ft in Kaza.
- It is the first station here.
- If the station gets a **good response**, more stations would be set up.
- It will also help to check vehicular pollution.
- The magistrate further stated that two women drove electric vehicles **from Manali to Kaza** in order to promote a clean and green environment.

Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh

LG RK Mathur inaugurates 2-Day Ladakh Nomadic Festival at Korzok Phu, Changthang, Ladakh

- **Ladakh Lieutenant Governor RK Mathur** inaugurated a **2-Day Ladakh Nomadic Festival** at Korzok Phu, Changthang region of eastern Ladakh.
- The festival is **organised by** Ladakh Cultural Academy in collaboration with Ladakh Tourism Department, aims to bring the distinctive culture of Changthang region on the tourism map of Ladakh.
- Mr Mathur stated UT Administration is striving to bring the world in a calibrated manner to the region.
- He assured them that to speed up developmental initiatives in the region, wildlife related issues will be resolved at the earliest.
- Providing Changthang people modern facilities is one of the priorities of administration.
- **Lieutenant Governor urged the Changthang** youth to make efforts to save the nomadic culture.
- Mr Mathur appealed to take world renowned **Changthang Pashmina** for further development and promotion.
- On the **first day tourists** had the opportunity to witness a nomad's lifestyle in their own environment.

J&K LG Manoj Sinha launches 'Saath' initiative for women

- Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha launched **Rural Enterprises Acceleration Programme** titled '**Saath**' for Self Help Group (SHG) women.
- There are **48000 SHGs in Jammu and Kashmir**.
- Four lakh women are connected to these SHGs.

About the initiative:

- This **Saath initiative** will stress on mentoring and market linkages of products created by these **women**.
- It is an **aim to create 11000 more SHGs** in the coming year.
- This will transform the lives of these women and make them independent and strong in social and financial aspects".

J&K: LG launches Mission 'One Gram Panchayat-One DIGI-Pay Sakhi'

- In order to promote **door to door digital banking and financial services** in remote areas of Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor **Manoj Sinha** launched Mission '**One Gram Panchayat-One DIGI-Pay Sakhi**', at Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) in Pampore.
- Initially, the **DIGI-Pay facility** will be provided in **2000 remote villages of the UT** and in the first phase, **80 women from Self Help Groups** from across Jammu and Kashmir have been selected as DIGI-Pay Sakhis.
- Lieutenant Governor distributed **80 Aadhaar Enabled Payment Systems (AEPs)** among the DIGI-Pay Sakhis under JKRLM.
- He also inaugurated a week-long training program for **Krishi Sakhis and Pashu Sakhis** on sustainable agriculture and livestock management.
- **Three new initiatives of Digi-Pay, Krishi, and Pashu Sakhi** besides several other programs of women empowerment such as Hausla, Tejaswini, UMEED, Rise Together will further accelerate efforts of J&K government in Empowering Women and making them key partner in the development journey of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The Lt Governor outlined that DIGI-Pay Sakhi has introduced financial inclusion within the UT's Self Help Group (SHG) ecosystem, creating much needed financial access points with greater transparency even in the remotest of the areas.

First Himalayan Film Festival starts at Leh

- Information and Broadcasting Minister **Anurag Thakur** will inaugurate the **first edition of the Himalayan Film Festival (THFF)**.
- The **festival spanning five days** is being held at Leh, Ladakh from **September 24 to 28**.
- Ladakh is hosting **THFF 2021** as part of the celebrations of '**Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**' for commemorating 75 years of India's Independence.
- The inaugural of the festival will witness the presence of makers and cast of the recently released movie '**Shershaah**', including director **Vishnuvardhan** and **lead actor Siddharth Malhotra**.
- The **five-day festival** also **aims to create an interactive and exposure platform** to promote aspiring local filmmakers and to showcase Ladakh as an attractive film destination.
- The **festival** is being **organised by Leh in collaboration** with the Directorate of Film Festivals under the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and will be held at the Sindhu Sanskriti Kendra at Leh, having digital projection facilities.
- The **5-day festival** will comprise various segments to enthrall the audience and film buffs alike.

Union Minister Anurag Singh Thakur unveiled DD/AIR Transmitters at Hamboting La in Ladakh

- Shri **Anurag Singh Thakur**, Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting dedicated to the nation High Power Transmitters of Doordarshan and **All India Radio at Hamboting La near Kargil in Ladakh**.
- The **10 KW transmitters** are the highest altitude TV and Radio transmitters in the country, located at the height of 4054 metres (about 13,300 ft) above the mean sea level.

- The transmitters at **Leh** are at the altitude of 3501 metres (about 11,450 ft).
- Minister noted that **Hamboting La site** is one of the most difficult locations considering the hostile weather conditions and geographical terrain.
- Shri Anurag Thakur complimented the **team of engineers and workers** for completing the project in such hostile weather conditions.
- The range of the transmitters is **over 50 Kms in radius**.
- Observing that transmitters would cover a population of **about 50,000 in the remote border area of Kargil**, Shri Thakur stated that the number may look small compared to other parts of the country, but it demonstrates the commitment of Government of India to reach each and every citizen in the border areas.
- The Minister also announced that the Ladakhi contribution to DD Kashir will be doubled from 30 minutes to one hour daily from 1st Oct 2021.

Jharkhand

Jharkhand assembly clears Bill for 75% quota for locals in private jobs

- The **Jharkhand Assembly** cleared the **Jharkhand State Employment of Local Candidates in Private Sector Bill, 2021**, which accords **75 percent** of all existing jobs in the private sector with a **monthly salary of up to Rs.40,000 for locals**.
- Once notified, the **Act will make Jharkhand the third state, after Andhra Pradesh and Haryana**, to have passed a law reserving jobs for locals in the private sector.
- The **select committee** of the state assembly had cleared the original bill with some key changes and submitted its report.
- The **Bill was first originally tabled in the assembly** in its budget session in March and was referred to the panel for deeper examination.
- The amended Bill was tabled in the assembly for consideration by labour minister **Satyananad Bhokta** and was passed by the House without any further discussion amid pandemonium due to the continued disruptions of proceedings by BJP legislators.

Karnataka

Karnataka state govt to set up spices park in Chikkamagaluru

- The **state government** has decided to set up a spices park in **Chikkamagaluru district**.
- The **Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB)** will develop the facility on a **10-acre plot** at the earliest.
- The government's decision followed a meeting between Nirani and Union Minister of State for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Shobha Karandlaje in Bengaluru.
- Karandlaje represents Chikkamagaluru in Lok Sabha.
- The union minister requested Nirani to set up a spices park in her district to promote agriculture exports.
- The district is known for **spices apart from coffee**.

Madhya Pradesh now become Karnataka's lead, implements NEP 2020 in State

- **Education and education policy** in the country has undergone a sea change in the past few years in India.
- The Government introduced the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**, with the goal to transform and provide world-class education facilities to students.
- Aligning with the **aim** of the Central Government, Madhya Pradesh, August 26 officially launched NEP 2020 in the State, becoming the second state to do so.
- Prior to it, Karnataka officially implemented the new National Education Policy 2020.

NEP in Madhya Pradesh:

- Chief Minister, **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** while launching the policy in the State, said that the policy will prove beneficial for the generations to come.
- The **aim of education** is to impart knowledge, skills, and values of citizenship & the NEP 2020 has this.
- This policy allows you to study Physics and Chemistry as well as become a scholar of Hindi or Sanskrit."

NEP in Karnataka:

- **Karnataka, August 23**, became the first state in the country to officially implement National Education Policy.
- On the occasion, Karnataka Chief Minister, Basavaraj S Bommai said that NEP shows the foresightedness of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to liberate the education system from silos.

National Education Policy 2020:

- The Union Government launched the **New Education Policy** on July 29, last year, to prepare Indian students for the challenges of the 21st century.
- It the **34-year-old National Policy on Education** framed in 1986.
- PM Narendra Modi has stated that the new education policy is a major milestone in the making of an '**Aatmanirbhar Bharat**'.

Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh ChouhanShivraj Singh Chouhan to inaugurate buildings of 103 newly constructed Anganwadi Centres

- In **Madhya Pradesh**, the **State Government** is organising a **Public Welfare and Suraj Campaign** from **17th September to 7th October** on the occasion of the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- During this **20-day special campaign**, various steps are being taken for the betterment of life of the common people.
- Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will inaugurate the **buildings of 103 newly constructed Anganwadi Centres in 32 districts of the state and 10 thousand nutrition gardens in 52 districts**.
- The Chief Minister will also provide nutrition rights information sheets to the mothers of 10 thousand children who have come to normal nutritional levels after the severe malnutrition in 22 districts.
- Mr Chouhan will distribute Maternity Assistance amounting to five crore rupees to 25 thousand pregnant and lactating mothers under the **Pradhan Mantri Matru-Vandana Yojana**.

- Mr Chouhan will also distribute a scholarship amount of 21 crore rupees to more than 75 thousand students of **Class 6th, 9th, 11th and 12th** under **Ladli Laxmi Yojana**.

Maharashtra

Maharashtra state govt to set up science city named after Rajiv Gandhi in Pune

- **Uddhav Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi** government has a proposal to set up a science innovation city in memory of late **Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi** at **Pimpri-Chinchwad**, the sister city of Pune.
- The **Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi Vigyan Avishkar Nagari** would be spread over 8 acre.
- The project, which has an **outlay of Rs 191 crore**, is expected to come up in the precincts of the famed **Pimpri-Chinchwad Science Park**.
- "It will be ready within the **next five years**. It is intended to create a **scientific outlook** among the students and to prepare future scientists".

Mumbai became first South Asian city to work on climate action plan

- **Iqbal Singh Chahal**, Commissioner of the stated that Mumbai is the first city in South Asia to launch the Mumbai Climate Action Plan, which is rolling in now.
- "This has been **launched** after a lot of **homework** and now we are going to work on this plan and it has a number of **tangible initiatives** which we will be taking on a fortnightly basis and they will be reviewed also".
- **BMC officials** claimed that they were in tune with what the climate experts have to say about the near future and the devastation that could be witnessed in the city if corrective measures aren't put in place.
- "The situation will be completely different in the **next 30 years or so**.
- Hence, our aim is to mitigate and off-set climate change which is lurking.
- Soon **every city, every district and every corporation** will have its own climate action plan.
- Things are moving at a very **fast pace and soon** this action plan will be implemented".

Manipur

Manipur's Sirarakhong Chilli and Tamenglong Orange received GI tag

- Manipur Chief Minister, **N. Biren Singh** has announced that the famous **Sirarakhong Chilli and Tamenglong Orange** have now received the **Geographical Index (GI) tag**.
- He made the announcement while speaking at the inaugural function of the **Van Dhan Vikas Kendra (VDVK) Mela, 2021**, organised by the State Forest Department at GM Hall.
- Prior to the inauguration of the fair, the **Chief Minister** also inaugurated a VDVK Outlet and Extension Centre at Forest Department Head Office, Sanjenthong, where products manufactured by different Vandhan Kendras of the State are showcased and sold.

Nagaland

India's 61st Software Technology park centre inaugurated in Nagaland

- **Nagaland's first and India's 61st Software Technology Park of India (STPI) centre** was inaugurated at the state capital by Union Minister of State (MoS) for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar at the Directorate of Information Technology & Communication (DITC).
- **Prabir Kumar Das**, jurisdictional director of ATPI in Northeast and West Bengal, stated the state-of-the-art STPI centre, covering 18,137 sq ft, in **Kohima** is envisaging to host as a **Centre of Entrepreneurship in IT Applications in Graphic Design**, where start-ups, students and innovators can utilize the facility for research and development of new innovative solutions.

Nagaland gets geographical identification tag for Naga Cucumber

- **Naga cucumbers** are juicy, soft and sweet and are grown completely organically.
- They are low in calories but high in potassium and contain a high level of water & can serve as an alternative to consuming sports drinks.
- Cucumber has been **traditionally cultivated by Naga farmers in their Jhum fields** as a mixed crop mainly during the Kharif season (April –May).
- It is one of the important component crops in the jhum cultivation.
- This is **primarily grown** as a cash crop along with paddy and however, now the **'off-season' cucumbers** from different districts of the **Nagaland especially from Mokokchung district** have gained much popularity within the state and now it has become a trend amongst the farmers in the district.
- Some tribes like Konyak are found to grow cucumber all throughout the year by seed to seed method depending upon the soil type.

Odisha

Odisha government launches e-Receipt 2.0 system for tax payment

- In an effort to enhance electronic payment of taxes and dues easier, the **Odisha government** rolled out a revamped platform.
- In the new system, **e-Receipt 2.0, payment gateway service providers** of Indian Bank and Axis Bank were integrated with the Odisha Treasury portal.
- **Launching the new platform**, Chief Secretary **S C Mohapatra** stated it will provide facilities such as payment through card, UPI ID, QR code and wallet.
- Service legal agreements were signed between the state government and **Indian Bank and Axis Bank for use of payment gateways - Bill desk and CC Avenue.**

Agrarian festival 'Nuakhai' - celebrated in Odisha

- **Nuakhai**, the harvest festival of Odisha is celebrated on **Bhadraba Shuklapakhya Panchami tithi**, the next day of **Ganesh Chaturthi**.
- It has been celebrated to **mark the consumption of the first harvested crops**.
- It is **celebrated by worshiping the Goddess Samaleshwari**, the presiding goddess of Western Odisha.
- The name is derived from 'nua' which means **new** and 'khai' means **food**.
- The festival is also called Nuakhai Parab or Nuakhai Bhetghat.
- It is a festival which **promote mutual harmony and brotherhood**.
- Nuakhai is commonly celebrated in Sambalpur, Bargarh, Jharsuguda, Bolangir, Sundergarh, Sonepur, Kalahandi, Nuapada, Boudh, and the Athmallik Sub-division of Angul.

Punjab

Punjab CM Amarinder launches 'Innovation Mission Punjab' to boost start-up sector

- **Chief Minister Amarinder Singh** launched 'Innovation Mission Punjab' (IMPunjab), a public-private partnership that brings in global investors and experts to catalyze start ups.
- Chief Minister stated that the **Mission will unleash Punjab's growth potential** and create a thriving economy by generating jobs and inviting investment.
- The **Mission** will mobilise a **global pool of ambassadors** and partners for investment, mentorship and market access, informed Amarinder Singh, while adding the mission will also leverage the strength of the Punjabi diaspora, allowing them to partake in this renewed growth story of the state besides running focused programmes to encourage entrepreneurship amongst women.

Rajasthan

India's first emergency landing strip on national highway introduced in Barmer, Rajasthan

- Union ministers **Rajnath Singh** and **Nitin Gadkari** will inaugurate an emergency landing strip at **Gandhav Bhakasar section on National Highway-925 in Barmer, Rajasthan**, for Indian Air Force (IAF) planes.
- **An IAF plane**, carrying the two ministers, will conduct a mock emergency landing on the national highway.
- Singh, the Union defence minister, will also **visit Jaisalmer** where he will interact with IAF personnel.
- This is the **first time that a national highway (NH-925)** will be used for emergency landing of IAF aircraft.
- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has developed a **3-km section of Satta-Gandhav stretch of NH-925A**, as an emergency landing facility (ELF) for the IAF.
- It is part of a newly developed two lane paved shoulder of **Gagariya-Bakhasar and Satta-Gandhav section** having a total length of 196.97 km.
- The project will **cost Rs.765.52 crore** under the Bharatmala Pariyojana.

Rajasthan's Sojat Mehndi and Assam's Judima rice wine gets GI tag

- **Sojat Mehndi from Rajasthan** has received the **geographical indication (GI) tag** from the government, a move that helps growers of this product get a premium price as no other producer can use the name to market similar goods.
- "GI tag for **Sojat Mehndi** is a win-win for farmers, MSME players, artisans and consumers alike if we can leverage it to enhance its exports given its herbal cosmetic and medicinal uses.
- It will contribute to **both employment and revenue**.
- A GI tag is used for an agricultural, natural or **a manufactured product (handicraft and industrial goods)** originating from a definite geographical territory.
- Typically, such a name conveys an **assurance of quality and distinctiveness**, which is essentially attributable to the place of its origin.
- **Judima** is a **homemade rice** wine and is the traditional brew in all of northeast.
- Judima is made from **sticky rice**, which is steamed and mixed with traditional herbs, the wine has a distinct **sweet taste**.
- The whole process takes around one week to be ready.
- Judima word was derived from the words Ju which mean wine and the meaning of Dima is '**belonging to the Dimasa**'.

Sikkim

'Katley' announced as state fish of Sikkim

- The Sikkim government has declared '**Cooper Mahseer**' locally named '**Katley**' as the state fish.
- The official stated the state government has declared **Neolissochilus hexagonolepis** commonly known as Copper Mahseer and locally named as '**Katley**' as a state fish to highlight the importance of the fish and to give emphasis to its conservation measures.
- In **Sikkim**, **Katley** is found in varied altitudes covering entire state predominantly confined in Teesta and Rangit rivers and their tributaries.
- **In the year 1992**, ICAR-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (ICAR-NBFGR), Lucknow had categorized Katley fish as endangered species.
- Later on, **in the year 2014** the fish was also categorized as endangered by the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)".

Tamil Nadu

India's first dugong conservation reserve to set up in Tamil Nadu

- The **Tamil Nadu government** announced plans to set up **India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve** in the Palk Bay on the southeast coast of the state.
- **Dugong or sea cow** is an endangered marine mammal that is facing extinction due to habitat loss, sea pollution, and loss of sea grass.

- In Tamil Nadu, dugong is **found in Gulf of Mannar**, which is a shallow bay area between south eastern tip of Tamil Nadu and western part of Sri Lanka, and at Palk Bay, a semi enclosed shallow area in the same region.
- **Minister of Forests K Ramachandran** stated that in order to protect the species, Dugong Marine Conservation Reserve will be established in the **Gulf of Mannar** and Palk Bay area with community participation.
- The Marine Conservation Reserve will cover an area of 500km in Palk Bay.

TN Assembly passed a bill to dispense NEET exam

- The **Tamil Nadu Assembly** passed a Bill seeking to '**dispense**' with the requirement for candidates to qualify in the **National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET)** for admission to undergraduate medical courses in the State.
- The **Tamil Nadu Admission to Undergraduate Medical Degree Courses Bill, 2021** further sought to provide admission to these courses on the basis of the marks obtained in the qualifying examination [Class XII marks in Tamil Nadu] through "**normalisation methods**", as was done before 2017.
- The Bill, moved by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, contended that admission to medical courses was traceable **to entry 25 of List III, Schedule VII of the Constitution**, and the State was "competent to regulate" the same for the underprivileged social groups.

MGR Railway Station gets powered by solar energy - became the world's largest green railway network

- In a big leap towards becoming the world's largest green railway network, **Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G. Ramachandran Central (DRM) or Chennai Central railway station**, under the South Central Railway (SCR) gets powered by **Solar Energy**.
- The Chennai Railway station has become the first Indian Railway station that meets the **100% day energy requirement target by solar panels** installed on the platform shelters of the station.
- Union Railways Minister **Ashwani Vaishnav** informed that the station has installed a solar power capacity of 1.5 MW, and thereafter all the energy needs at the stations will be met by this solar power.
- SCR is the **first of many Indian Railway zones** that has adopted the concept of '**Energy Neutral**' railway stations.
- The Chennai Railway station is now capable of meeting its 100% energy requirements by solar power commissioned on its **13 station buildings**.
- Along with that, power panels have been installed at various locations and railway stations including the MMC complex, Tambaram, Mambalam, Katpadi, and others.

Solar Powered Railway Stations across India:

- As per a report by the Ministry of Railways, **111 MW solar capacity** has already been installed at rooftops of various stations and administrative buildings by January 2021, such as:
- 3 MW Rooftop Solar plant at **Howrah Railway Stations**
- 1 MW Rooftop Solar at **Katra Railway Stations**
- 3 MW Solar Land-Based Project at **Modern Coach Factory, Raebareli**
- A 1.7 MW pilot solar project for powering the traction network of Indian Railways directly through solar power was commissioned in Bina, Madhya Pradesh in June 2020.

Telangana

India's first bio-brick based building introduced at IIT Hyderabad

- **Agricultural waste** burning is a **significant source of pollution in India**, especially after the harvesting season.
- **Bio-brick** was developed as an alternative and sustainable building material that acts as an alternative to stubble burning.
- **Bio-bricks** or **agro-waste-based bricks** are one such material that can create an alternative building material and create new jobs at the grassroots level. This material has good thermal and sound insulation; it is breathable and helps maintain a comfortable living condition during harsh summer or cold winters.

About the technology:

- This **technology** was developed to counter the **air pollution** caused by stubble burning.
- This **material exhibits excellent thermal insulation** and fire-retardant properties. When used in roofing and wall panelling, it can effectively reduce heat gain by 5 - 6 degrees.
- **Bio-Bricks** are quite economical, farmers can make this material at the site and further reduce the labour costs.
- **Bio-Bricks can also add to the marginal farmers' income** and create a new employment opportunity in the lean period (off-seasons).
- **Bio-Bricks** are found to be **1/8 and 1/10 of weight** for similar volume compared to burnt clay bricks and concrete blocks, respectively.
- Compared to burnt clay bricks, Bio-Bricks will cost about Rs.2 - Rs.3 when mass-produced.
- **Bio-Bricks** has a sustainable material that can reduce dependency and allow villagers to built cost-effective buildings.

'Medicine from the Sky' initiative launched in Telangana for delivery of medicines, vaccine via drone

- Civil aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia launched "a first of its kind" **Medicine from the Sky** project aimed at transporting vaccines and other essential products to remote areas using drones.
- The Medicine from the Sky project will be taken up on a **pilot basis in 16 green zones in Telangana** and later scaled up on the national level based on data.
- "This 'Medicines from the Sky' project will be **taken up in 16 green zones**.
- The data will be analysed for **three months**.
- Along with the health ministry, IT ministry, state government and the Centre will together analyse the data and make

Tripura

FM Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurates the project - 'My Pad, My Right' in Tripura

- In Tripura, Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** inaugurated a project called '**My Pad, My Right**' initiated by **NABARD and NABFOUNDATION** at Killa village in Gomati district on the second and concluding day of her visit to the state.
- The **project aims** to bring livelihood and menstrual hygiene closer to rural women by way of grant, wage support and capital equipment.
- The **Union Minister** also flagged off the **mobile ATM** van of **Tripura State Co-Operative Bank Limited** which will cover all Gram Panchayats and Village Committees of South Tripura District.
- Ms Sitharaman also interacted with women Self-Help Group members under the Micro-Enterprise Development Programme (MEDP) of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development.

Uttar Pradesh

Kushinagar Airport declared as Customs Notified Airport in UP

- The **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)**, has declared **Kushinagar Airport** as a Customs notified airport.
- This would also facilitate **international passenger movements** including that of Buddhist pilgrims.

About Kushinagar Airport:

- Kushinagar Airport is an international **airport situated in Kushinagar**, Kushinagar district in Uttar Pradesh, India.
- It is located in 52 kilometres east from Gorakhpur Airport and 47 kilometres east from Gorakhpur, and 34 kilometres north from Deoria.

Uttar Pradesh Government to set up 'Electronic Park' near Noida

- After **Toy Park, Film City, Medical Device Park and Leather Park**, the Uttar Pradesh government is gearing up to develop an '**Electronic Park**' for electronic devices and accessories along the Yamuna Expressway near Noida.
- The park is expected to **attract an investment of Rs 50,000 crore** and will provide employment to thousands of local youths, according to Arun Vir Singh, the CEO of the Yamuna Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA).
- "The park is likely to be developed in an area of 250 acres either in **Sector 14 or Sector 10** of the YEIDA near Jewar Airport".

Uttarakhand

India's largest open air fernery unveiled in Uttarakhand

- India is **home to a plethora of plant and animal species**.
- The geographical and weather condition of the country is apt for the growth and development of a variety of species.
- The **natural forest of Uttarakhand** has been known to host some of these.
- From unique black-bellied coral snakes to crypto gamic species, the forest is a secret hub for flora and fauna.
- In line with this, India's largest open-air fernery was inaugurated, September 12 in **Uttarakhand's Ranikhet**.

- The **fernery is home to a large number of fern species**, some of which are endemic to the state, some hold medicinal value while some are threatened species that demand care and conservation.
- “This **center has been developed for conservation of fern species** and also to create awareness about their ecological role and promote further research”.

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	Bhupendra Patel	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	La. Ganesan
Meghalaya	Conrad Kongkal Sangma	Satya Pal Malik
Mizoram	Pu Zoramthanga	Dr. Kambhampati Haribabu
Nagaland	Neiphiu Rio	Jagdish Mukhi
Odisha	Naveen Patnaik	Ganeshi Lal
Punjab	Charanjit Singh Channi	Banwarilal Purohit
Rajasthan	Ashok Gehlot	Kalraj Mishra
Sikkim	PS Golay	Ganga Prasad
Tamil Nadu	M.K.Stalin	R. N. Ravi
Telangana	K Chandrasekhar Rao	Tamilisai Soundararajan
Tripura	Biplab Kumar Deb	Satyadeo Narain Arya

Uttar Pradesh	Yogi Aditya Nath	Anandiben Patel
Uttarakhand	Pushkar Singh Dhami	Gurmit Singh
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	Banwarilal Purohit
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

WCD Ministry to celebrate POSHAN Maah across nation in September

- As part of the **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**, Union Ministry of Women and Child Development has decided to celebrate the **POSHAN Maah** across the nation throughout the month of September starting.
- To ensure speedy and intensive outreach, the entire month has been subdivided into **weekly themes** for focused and assimilated approach towards improving Holistic Nutrition.
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development has planned a **series of activities** throughout the month in tandem with the States and Union Territories.
- The **weekly theme** for the activities to be taken up from **1st to 7th September** is – **Plantation Activity as "PoshanVatika**.
- The **theme** for **8th to 15th September week** is Yoga and AYUSH for Nutrition while the theme for the third week is- Distribution of '**Regional Nutrition Kit**' to Anganwadi beneficiaries of High Burdened Districts.
- The **theme** for the **4th week 24th to 30 September** has been named as Identification of severe acute malnourished children and distribution of nutritious food.
- The Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition- **POSHAN** Abhiyaan is Government of India's flagship programme to improve nutritional outcomes for children, adolescent Girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched the programme from Jhunjhunu in Rajasthan on 8 March, 2018.
- Focusing on the aims of **POSHAN Abhiyaan**, the government has announced Mission Poshan 2.0 in the Budget 2021-2022.

Seven Union Ministers to launch Yoga Break mobile

- As a part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations to commemorate **75th Year of Independence**, Union Minister of **Ayush Sarbananda Sonowal**, along with six Union Ministers, will launch the **Yoga Break (Y-Break) mobile application** at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.
- The **5-minute 'Yoga Break Protocol'** consists of a very useful Yoga practices devised to de-stress, refresh and re-focus on work to increase the productivity of individuals at workplace.

About the app:

- The concept of "**Yoga Break** is relevant to working professionals across the world.
- It has been carefully **developed by** eminent experts under a tested protocol.
- The **other dignitaries** joining the launch of **Mobile App** include Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, Law Minister Kiren Rijju, Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur, Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh, Minister of State for Culture Meenaskhi Lekhi and Minister of State for Ayush Dr. Munjpara Mahendrabhai.
- About **600 participants** including eminent Yoga Practitioners, Scholars, Policy Makers, Bureaucrats, Yoga Enthusiasts and Experts of Allied Sciences are going to participate in the launch of the App.

Prez Kovind to award 'President's Colour' to Indian Naval Aviation

- **President Ram Nath Kovind** will **award the President's Colour to Indian Naval Aviation** at the ceremonial parade to be **held at INS Hansa** in Goa on 6th September.
- The President's Colour is the highest honour bestowed on a military unit in recognition of its exceptional service to the nation.
- Indian Naval Aviation came into being with acquisition of the **first Seal and aircraft** on 13th January 1951.
- Currently, Indian Naval Aviation boasts of nine air stations and three naval air enclaves.
- Over the **past seven decades**, it has transformed into a modern, technologically advanced and highly potent force with **more than 250 aircraft comprising Carrier-borne fighters**, maritime reconnaissance aircraft, helicopters and remotely piloted aircraft.
- The **Fleet Air Arm** can support naval operations in all three dimensions and will remain the first responder for maritime surveillance and for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief in the Indian Ocean Region.

ISKCON founder Swami Prabhupada's 125th Birth Anniversary: PM Modi release special commemorative coin

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will release a **special commemorative coin of 125 rupees** and address the gathering on the occasion of the **125th Birth Anniversary of Srila Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada Ji** through video conferencing.
- Union Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy will be present on the occasion.

About Prabhupada:

- Srila Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada founded the International Society for Krishna Consciousness ISKCON commonly known as the “**Hare Krishna movement**”.
- **ISKCON has translated Shrimad Bhagvad Geeta** and other Vedic literature in 89 languages, playing a stellar role in the dissemination of Vedic literature across the world.
- Swami Ji also **established over a hundred temples** and wrote several books, teaching the path of Bhakti Yoga to the world.

Snow Leopard, Black-necked Crane Named State Animal And Bird of Ladakh

- The newly formed **Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh** has declared the **black-necked crane** and **snow leopard** as the **new state bird and animal**.
- Previously, The black-necked crane was the state bird of the former state of J&K, along with Kashmir stag (Hangul) as the state animal.
- The notification in this regard was released by **Shri Radha Krishna Mathur**, Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Ladakh on August 31, 2021.
- The decision was taken keeping in view bifurcation of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh into separate administrative divisions in 2019.

I&B ministry to set up a committee to review Journalist Welfare Scheme

- **The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** constituted a **Committee** to review the **existing guidelines of Journalist Welfare Scheme** and make appropriate recommendations for changes to the guidelines.
- The committee will be headed by Prasar Bharati Board Member Ashok Kumar Tandon.
- The committee will have nine Members from different print and electronic media and an Additional Director General of PIB as members.
- **Director (IP) in the Ministry** will be **Convener of the committee**.
- It will examine the need for revision of quantum of ex-gratia payment in death as well as other cases under Journalist Welfare Scheme.

About the Committee:

- The committee will look into the aspect of differentiation or parity between **accredited and non-accredited journalists for availing benefits under the scheme**.
- It will revise and broad-basing the definition of working journalist for the purpose of the Scheme keeping in view the **Occupational, Safety, Health and Working Condition Code-2010** as well as **Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021**.
- The **committee** will submit its recommendation **within two months**.
- Press Information Bureau will provide secretarial assistance for convening the meeting of committee.

AYUSH Ministry initiates the campaign of distributing Ayush prophylactic medicines

- Continuing its series of activities under the **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**, the **AYUSH Ministry** has launched a campaign of distributing **Ayush prophylactic medicines** and written guidelines on diet and lifestyle in New Delhi.

- The drive was jointly kick-started by Minister for Ayush **Sarbananda Sonowal** and Minister of State for Ayush **Dr. Munjpara Mahendrabhai**.
- In the next one year, the immunity booster medicines and the **guidelines to combat COVID-19** will be **distributed to 75 lakh people across the country**, with special focus on people of 60 years and above and the frontline workers.
- The **kit of Ayurveda prophylactic medicines for COVID-19** contains **Sanshamani Vati**, which is also known as Guduchi or Giloy Ghan Vati and Ashwagandha Ghan Vati.
- The **kit** and the **guidelines** have been **prepared by the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Medicines (CCRAS)**.

India becomes first Asian nation to unveil 'Plastics Pact'

- **UK partners** with India to deliver a circular plastics economy.
- India has become the **first Asian** country to develop a plastics pact, launching a ground-breaking new initiative to bring together leading businesses at a national level to make commitments for building a circular system for plastics.
- The pact is supported by **UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)** and **WRAP**, and endorsed by the British High Commission in India.
- The pact was formally announced on 3 September, at the **CII 16th Sustainability Summit**.
- **Alex applauded** the initiatives and the direction in which the partnership between India and the UK is moving to tackle plastic waste.
- Alex emphasised the **2030 UK-India roadmap established by** Prime Ministers Boris Johnson and Narendra Modi earlier this year.

Government initiates AYUSH AAPKE DWAR campaign to distribute medicinal saplings

- **Ayush Ministry** has launched the campaign **AYUSH AAPKE DWAR** from more than 45 locations across the country.
- The **campaign aims to** distribute medicinal plant saplings to 75 lakh households in one year.
- The medicinal plants include Tejpatta, Stevia, Ashoka, Giloy, Ashwagandha, Lemongrass, Tulsi, Sarpagandha and Amla.
- Minister of State for Ayush Dr Mahendra Munjapara launched the campaign from Ayush Bhawan in New Delhi by distributing medicinal plants to staff.
- Dr. Munjapara appealed to adopt medicinal plants and take care of these as a part of their family.
- Union Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal** launched '**AYUSH AAPKE DWAR**' campaign from Mumbai.
- Union Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal** launched **Ayush Apke Dwar campaign** from Mumbai by distributing medicinal plant saplings to the citizens.
- The **National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB)** and **Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Science (CCRA)**, Ministry of Ayush distributed medicinal saplings and Ayurvedic medicines to the public.

PM Modi's grant rating is 70%, highest among 13 global leaders

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has an **approval rating of 70 per cent**, which is the **highest among 13 global leaders** polled in the **survey conducted by The Morning Consult**.

- PM Modi is ahead of Mexican president Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, US President Joe Biden.
- The **list also includes** Australian PM Scott Morrison, Canada PM Trudeau, UK Prime Minister Boris Jonson, Brazilian President Jaire Bolsonaro etc.
- PM **Modi** had the **highest approval rating** among the thirteen global leaders surveyed last week as well, according to Morning Consult's data. However, in June this year, his approval rating had **dipped to 66 per cent**.
- This was nearly a 20-point dip from August 2019 when his rating stood at 82 per cent.

TRIFED and MEA to set up Atmanirbhar Bharat corners

- MEA and TRIFED to set up **Atma Nirbhar Bharat** corner in 100 Indian Embassies across the World.
- It will promote GI tagged tribal art and craft products besides natural and organic products.
- India enacted Geographical Indication (Registration and Protection Act) 1999 that came into effect from September 15, 2003.

PM Modi inaugurates Shikshak Parv-2021

- On 7th September 2021, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the “**Shikshak Parv-2021**” via video conferencing.
- The Ministry of Education will celebrate the event between 7th September and 17th September 2021.
- The theme of ‘Shikshak Parv-2021’ is “**Quality and Sustainable Schools: Learnings from Schools in India**”.

PM Modi launches five new initiatives for accessible education:

- Indian Sign Language Dictionary (audio and text embedded sign language video for the hearing impaired, in conformity with Universal Design of Learning)
- Talking Books (audiobooks for the visually impaired)
- School Quality Assurance and Assessment Framework of CBSE
- NISHTHA teachers’ training programme for NIPUN Bharat
- Vidyanjali 2.0 portal (platform for non-teaching professionals to contribute to increasing the quality of education in government schools.)

Union Minister of Culture G.K Reddy launches program ‘Bujurgon ki Baat–Desh Ke Saath’

- **G Kishan Reddy**, the Minister of Culture, launched the “**Bujurgon ki Baat-Desh Ke Saath**” program in **New Delhi** on 07th September.
- The program aims to improve the interaction between youth and senior citizens who are aged 95 and up who spent at least 18 years in India pre-independence period.
- The program encourages the country’s youth to record their interactions with such old people who have lived through 75 years of independent India and nearly two decades before that.

Govt constitutes task force & expert committee to prepare road map for coal-based hydrogen production

- The **Ministry of Coal** has constituted a Task Force and Expert Committee to Prepare Road Map for Coal based Hydrogen Production.

- The Task Force will be headed by an Additional Secretary in the Ministry.
- Its duty include identification of role to be played by each stakeholder Ministry, monitoring of activities towards achieving coal based Hydrogen production and setting up sub committees to achieve the same.
- The Expert Committee will be headed by Director General of the Federation of Indian Petroleum Industry, **R.K. Malhotra**.
- Its duty include identifying experts in India and co-opting as members, review of progress in hydrogen technology and also review on-going research projects in Hydrogen technology.

CBDT amends Income-tax Rules

- **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** has amended the **Income-tax Rules to ease authentication of electronic records** submitted in faceless assessment proceedings.
- The Finance Ministry stated electronic records submitted through registered account of the taxpayers in the **Income-tax portal** shall be deemed to have been authenticated by the taxpayer by electronic verification code.
- The move will ease the process of authentication of electronic records in faceless assessment proceedings.
- This simplified process will **also be available to companies and tax audit cases**.
- Earlier, companies and tax audit cases are mandatorily required to authenticate the electronic records by digital signature.

Cabinet nods PLI scheme worth Rs 10,683 cr for textiles sector

- The **cabinet** approved the **production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme** worth **Rs 10,683 crore** for textiles sector with an aim to boost domestic manufacturing and exports.
- The decision was taken in a meeting which was chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi here.
- The cabinet has approved the PLI scheme for textiles for MMF (man-made fibre) apparel, MMF fabrics and ten segments/products of technical textiles with a **budgetary outlay of Rs 10,683 crore**.
- PLI scheme for textiles is part of the **overall announcement of the scheme for 13 sectors** made earlier during the Union Budget 2021-22, with an outlay of Rs 1.97 lakh crore.

About PLI Scheme:

- **PLI scheme for Textiles** will **promote production of high value** MMF Fabric, Garments and Technical Textiles in country.
- The incentive structure has been so formulated that industry will be encouraged to invest in **fresh capacities** in these segments.
- PLI will help further, in **attracting investment in this segment**.

India's first Indigenously Designed High Ash Coal Gasification Based Methanol Production Plant unveiled at BHEL R&D Centre, Hyderabad

- **Methanol** is utilized as a **motor fuel, to power ship engines, and to generate clean power** all over the world.
- **Methanol** is also used to generate **di-methyl ether (DME)**, a liquid fuel that is very similar to diesel — existing diesel engines simply need to be minimally changed to use DME instead of diesel.

- The majority of **worldwide methanol production** is derived from natural gas, which is a relatively easy process.
- Since India doesn't have much of the **natural gas reserves**, producing methanol from imported natural gas lead to outflow of foreign exchange and sometimes uneconomical due to excessive prices of natural gas.

Centre Forms committee to Frame New Law For Drugs, Cosmetics, Medical Devices; Head – Dr VG Somani

- The government has constituted an **eight-member panel** to frame a new law for drugs, cosmetics and medical devices.
- The panel is being headed by **Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI)** Dr VG Somani.
- "The government has decided to constitute a **committee for framing/preparation of the New Drugs, Cosmetics and Medical Devices Bill** so that the New Drugs, Cosmetics and Medical Devices Act can be framed".
- The **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940**, regulates the import, manufacture, distribution and sale of drugs, cosmetics and medical devices.
- This Act is amended **from time to time**.
- The last **amendment** in the Act was made in **2008**.

About The Committee:

- The **Central government has constituted a committee** for framing/preparing new drugs, cosmetics and medical device laws.
- The **eight-member panel**, headed by Drug Controller General of India **V.G. Somani**, is scheduled to submit a draft document by November 30.
- The **other members** of the panel are Rajiv Wadhawan (director, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare), Dr. S.E. Reddy (member) A.K. Pradhan (joint drug controller), drugs controllers of Haryana, Gujarat, Maharashtra and IAS officer NL Meena. The committee is allowed to co-opt member(s) if it requires.

Govt initiates 'Main Bhi Digital 3.0' campaign for Digital Onboarding & Training for street vendors

- **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** in collaboration with the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** launched the pilot drive '**Main Bhi Digital 3.0**' – A special Campaign for Digital On boarding and Training for street vendors under PM SVANidhi scheme across 223 cities in the country.
- It was jointly launched by Housing and Urban Affairs Secretary **Durga Shanker Mishra** and Electronics and IT Secretary Ajay Prakash Sawhney in a virtual event.
- The drive is in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of **Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas**.

About the campaign:

- The **BharatPe, Mswipe, PhonePe, Paytm, Aceware** are participating in this drive to issue **UPI IDs, QR code and provide digital training**. **Digital Payment Aggregators** will handhold the street vendors to bring about enhanced adoption of digital transactions and behaviour change.
- To **promote digital transactions** instruction has been issued to the Lending Institutions to handover a durable QR Code and trains the beneficiaries for conducting digital receipt and payment transactions within a week of disbursement.

- So far, **45.5 lakh** applications have been received.
- Out of these, **27.2 lakh loans** have been sanctioned and 24.6 lakh loans have been disbursed.
- The amount disbursed so far is **2 thousand 4 hundred 44 crore rupees**.
- More than 70 thousand 448 street vendors have repaid their first loan tranche.
- Out of 22.41 lakh digitally on-boarded street vendors, 7.24 lakh street vendors are digitally active and have recorded 5.92 Crore number of digital transactions.

Cabinet nods MoU between ICAI and Chamber of Auditors of Azerbaijan

- **Union Cabinet** has approved the signing of **Memorandum of Understanding** between the **Institute of Chartered Accountants of India** and the **Chamber of Auditors of the Republic of Azerbaijan**.
- **It will help in establishing the Mutual Cooperation** in the areas of Member Management, Professional Ethics, Technical Research, Professional Accountancy Training, Audit Quality Monitoring, Advancement of Accounting Knowledge, Professional and Intellectual Development.
- The **Cabinet also approved** the signing of an MoU on cooperation in the field of Geosciences **between the Joint Stock Company Rosgeologia**, a legal entity incorporated under the laws of the Russian Federation and the Geological Survey of India.

Purpose of MOU:

- The **main objective of this MoU** is to extend **mutual cooperation for technological collaboration** on exploration for deep-seated and concealed mineral deposit, analysis and interpretation of the aero-geophysical data, Joint development of the **Indian Geoscience Data repository** with the **Russian state-of-the-art Information Technology** and; exchange of technology & knowledge in the field of drilling, sampling and laboratory analysis.
- The **Cabinet** also cleared the signing of an **agreement** on the recruitment of Indian citizens to work in the Portuguese Republic between India and Portugal.

MoS Jal Shakti Shri Prahlad Singh Patel inaugurates Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2021

- The Minister of State, Jal Shakti Ministry, **Shri Prahlad Singh Patel** presided over the e-launch of **Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2021** under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) **Phase -II** at an event organized by Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS).
- The **Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS)** will undertake Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2021 countrywide to support acceleration of ODF Plus interventions and increase momentum for improving ODF Sustainability as well as Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) **activities across the villages in the country**.
- DDWS had commissioned Swachh Survekshan Grameen (SSG) on two occasions earlier in 2018 and 2019.
- **About Swachh Survekshan Grameen:**
- **Swachh Survekshan Grameen, 2021** will be launched under the **Swachh Bharat Mission Phase- 2** on 9th September, 2021.
- An **expert agency** has been hired to conduct the Survekshan 2021.
- As **part** of the Survekshan, Villages, Districts and States would be ranked using key parameters.

- The programme will be **launched by** Union Jal Shakti minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and his deputy Prahlad Singh Patel.

Union Govt sets up three BARs to help with tax matters

- The **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** has set up **three Boards for Advance Rulings (BAR)** to offer greater clarity on tax implications of transactions, which in turn will help avoid income tax disputes.
- A CBDT order stated the **provisions to replace the Authority for Advance Rulings (AAR)**, which was set up in 1993, with BAR will come into effect from 1 September.
- A separate CBDT order mentioned out of the **three BARs**, **two** will be in **Delhi** and **one** in **Mumbai**.
- The move to **replace AARs** with BARs seeks to fast-track disposal of cases.
- Appeals against BARs' orders can be filed in the high courts.

Union Minister for Food Processing Industries, Shri Pashupati Kumar Paras along with Minister of State for Food Processing Industries, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel virtually inaugurate 7 Food Processing projects

- The **Union Minister for Food Processing Industries**, Shri Pashupati Kumar Paras and the Minister of State for Food Processing Industries, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, inaugurated 7 food processing projects at **Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu**, through video conferencing here as part of the '**Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**' celebrations.
- The **total cost of these 7 projects** is about **Rs.164.46 crores** and a **grant in aid of Rs. 27.99 crores** has been approved by the Ministry.
- Along with this, 3,100 people will **get direct and indirect employment**, and 16,500 farmers and entrepreneurs will be benefited from these projects.

About Food Processing Industries:

- The **Ministry of Food Processing Industries** is a ministry of the Government of India responsible for formulation and administration of the rules and regulations and laws relating to food processing in India.

Webinar on “POSHAN Abhiyaan – Sahi Poshan Desh Roshan” organized in Chandigarh

- A webinar on “POSHAN Abhiyaan– Sahi Poshan Desh Roshan” was **organised by Regional Outreach Bureau (ROB) & Press Information Bureau (PIB)**, Chandigarh, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India.
- The remarkable **initiative** of '**Poshan Vatika**' amongst Anganwadi workers has further led to awareness generation about importance of balanced diet”.
- Most of the recommendations presented in the Strategy document have been subsumed within the **design of the POSHAN Abhiyaan** and now that the Abhiyaan is launched, **NITI Aayog** has been entrusted with the task of closely monitoring the **POSHAN Abhiyaan and undertaking periodic evaluations**.

About POSHAN Abhiyaan:

- The **Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme** for Holistic Nutrition or **POSHAN Abhiyaan** or National Nutrition Mission, is Government of India's flagship programme to improve nutritional outcomes for children, pregnant women and lactating mothers.

SPI and GIZ Tied up with MNRE to Extend role in Decentralised Renewable Energy

- The **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** tied a partnership with **Smart Power India (SPI)**, an arm of Rockefeller Foundation & Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) to encourage **Decentralised Renewable Energy (DRE)** and Energy Efficiency (EE) innovations.
- The partnership was the part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav in the lines to become Atmanirbhar Bharat.

France Naval Group and India's GRSE Made Collaborations to Offer Surface Ships

- **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd., (GRSE)**, a Mini Ratna Category 1 Defence PSU leading warship building company of India, and Naval Group, European Naval Defence Industry from France signed MoU in the field of offering high-end surface ships which based on the sea-proven "Gowind" design and to fulfil the requirements of India and international naval forces.
- The agreement emphasizes the potential of strategic relations between France and India in the Indo-Pacific region.

MoS Jal Shakti Prahlad Singh Patel launched Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2021

- **Prahlad Singh Patel**, Minister of State(MoS), Ministry of Jal Shakti presided over the virtual launch of **Swachh Survekshan Grameen(SSG) 2021** under **Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) (SBM(G)) Phase- II** during the event organised by the **Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS)**.
- The SBM(G) Phase II is aimed to achieve the goal of comprehensive cleanliness or Sampurna Swachhata by addressing Open Defecation Free (ODF) Sustainability and SLWM issues.

Release of SSG 2021 Protocol, Dashboard and Mobile app:

- Prahlad Singh Patel MoS, Jal Shakti ministry has also released the SSG 2021 Protocol document; SSG 2021 Dashboard and the mobile App for Citizens feedback.

MoHUA Partnered with MeitY to Launch 'Main Bhi Digital 3.0' Campaign

- **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** in association with the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** launched the "**Main Bhi Digital 3.0**" -A special Campaign for Digital Onboarding and Training for street vendors under **Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi)** Scheme on the pilot based in 223 cities in the country.
- It was collectively launched by Housing and Urban Affairs Secretary **Durga Shanker Mishra** and Electronics and IT Secretary **Ajay Prakash Sawhney** virtually.
- The drive is in line with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of "SabkaSaathSabkaVikas"
- Participating agency-BharatPe, Mswipe, PhonePe, Paytm, Aceware are participating in this drive to issue UPI IDs, QR codes and provide digital training.

About PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi)

- It was launched by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) in 2020.
- It empowers Street Vendors for their holistic development and economic upliftment.
- It facilitates capital loan upto Rs 10,000 with interest subsidy of 7% without paying any collateral.
- It provides the facility for street vendors to avail a loan of ₹20,000 and ₹50,000 in the second and third tranches respectively on timely repayment of the loan.

- To encourage digital transactions a cash back up to ₹1,200 on digital transactions at ₹100 per month is provided to the street vendors under the scheme.

India's first Indigenously Designed High Ash Coal Gasification Based Methanol Production Plant at BHEL R&D Centre, Telangana

- India's 1st Indigenously Designed High Ash Coal Gasification Based Methanol Production Plant was inaugurated in Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), R&D centre at Hyderabad, Telangana.
- The project was supported by the Department of Science and Technology with a Rs 10 crore grant.
- The plan has been installed to reduce the dependency on importing foreign oil and to meet the needs of India.
- BHEL produces the Methanol or Dimethyl Ether (DME) which can be used as an alternative liquid fuel for transportation and to power ship engines.
- This will also lower GreenHouse Gas emission.

Prime Minister lays foundation stone of Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh University in UP's Aligarh

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** lauded **Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath** under whose leadership, the former stated, UP was benefitting from a **"double-engine' sarkar,"** referring to the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) governments at the Centre and in the state.
- The **central and UP governments** are working together to develop the state.
- Nation has to fight together all the forces that are against development here.
- Taking a swipe at the opposition **Samajwadi Party (SP)**, which was in power here from 2017, the Prime Minister mentioned that people cannot forget the scams that took place before the BJP came to power.
- He also pointed to **"lawlessness"** that prevailed while the SP was in power.
- However, with **Yogiji in power, criminals** think twice before committing a crime".

Modi Announced Subramania Bharati chair at BHU for Tamil Studies

- PM Modi announced the setting up of the Subramania Bharati **chair in the memory of Legendary Tamil Poet Subramania Bharati at the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) for Tamil Studies.**
- The chair has been established on **the occasion of the 100th death anniversary of Subramania Bharati (11th September 2021).**
- The chair will be recognized in the faculty of arts at Banaras Hindu University (BHU).

Over half of farm households still under debt: NSO Report

- The National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation released a report on **'Situation Assessment of Agricultural Households and Land Holdings of Households in Rural India, 2019'** on **September 10, 2021**
- According to the Report more than half of **India's agricultural households were in debt**, with an average outstanding of **Rs 74,121 in 2018 as compared to Rs 47,000 in 2013, an increase of 57.7%**
- The theme of the survey was **"Land and Livestock Holdings of Households and Situation Assessment of Agricultural Households"** in the rural areas of India.

- This is data based on the 77th round of survey of more than 45,000 such households conducted January 1-December 31, 2019.

IIT-Bombay launches 'Project Udaan'

- With an aim to break the language barrier that many students face when they join institutes of higher education, **IIT-Bombay launched 'Project Udaan', that enables translation of textbooks and other study material related to engineering and other streams.**
- The virtual inauguration was attended by Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, Dr. Krishnaswamy Vijay Raghavan.
- Prof. Ganesh and his team have built an Artificial Intelligence-based translation ecosystem, **which can help translate engineering textbooks and learning materials in one-sixth the time it would take for a team consisting of domain and linguistic experts working manually.**
- According to a press release, **translation of text books in other educational domains will be taken up in due course.**

Niti Aayog initiates 'Shoonya' programme to promote zero-pollution delivery vehicles

- **Niti Aayog**, a public policy think-tank along with **Rocky Mountain Institute(RMI)** launched an initiative **"Shoonya"** to promote zero-pollution delivery vehicles by working with consumers and industry.
- Delhi Issues **Complete Ban on Storage, Sale and Bursting of Diwali Firecrackers Over Pollution Concerns.**
- **Main purpose of Initiative:**
- The **aim of the Shoonya initiative** is to accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) in the urban deliveries segment and create consumer awareness about the **benefits of zero-pollution delivery.**
- A **total of 30 companies including** Mahindra Electric, Tata Motors, Zomato, Ashok Leyland, Sun Mobility, Lightning Logistics, Big Basket, Bluedart, Hero Electric, and Swiggy attended the kick-off meeting chaired by Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant.

Vice President, PM Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to jointly launch Sansad TV

- **Vice President of India and Rajya Sabha Chairman, M. Venkaiah Naidu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will jointly launch Sansad TV** at the Main Committee Room, Parliament House Annexe on 15 September, 2021.
- The launch date **coincides** with the **International Day of Democracy.**
- In February, 2021, the decision **to merge Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TV** was taken and the CEO of Sansad TV was appointed in March, 2021.
- Sansad TV programming will primarily be in **4 categories** – functioning of Parliament and democratic institutions, governance and implementation of schemes/policies, history and culture of India and issues/interests/concerns of contemporary nature.

About Sansad TV:

- Sansad Television is an Indian government television service, which **broadcasts programming of the two Houses of Indian Parliament and other public affairs programming.**

- It was formed in March, 2021 by amalgamating the existing house channels, Lok Sabha TV and the Rajya Sabha TV.

India leases Dornier aircraft to Mauritius to enhance maritime security

- On 13th September India handed over Indian Navy's Dornier aircraft to Mauritius on lease as part of Vision SAGAR (**Security and Growth for All in the Region**) for enhanced maritime security of the Indian Ocean region (IOR).
- Under Line of Credit (LOC), India and Mauritius exchanged the contract for the purchase of a new Dornier aircraft
- **India unveiled Vision SAGAR in 2015.**
- Through Vision SAGAR, India seeks to increase its relation with maritime neighbours to deepen economic, security cooperation and build their maritime security capabilities.

Highlights of US climate envoy John Kerry's visit to India from Sep 12-14

- On September 12-14, 2021 - The **United States (US) Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry** was on a two day visit to India.
- The purpose of the visit was to meet with Government of India counterparts and private sector leaders to discuss efforts **to raise global climate ambition and also to speedup India's clean energy transition.**
- During his visit, India-US the **Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue (CAFMD) was also launched.**
- Bilateral meet was held where both sides discussed wide range of climate issues relating to Conference of the Parties (COP26), Climate Ambition, Climate Finance, Global Climate Initiatives including International Solar Alliance (ISA), Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM4C).

Union minister Nitin Gadkari launched 'iRASTE' Road Safety Project to Reduce Road Accidents

- The Union Minister for Road Transport, Nitin Gadkari launched ' **iRaste- a two year pilot project** in Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- It is a collaborative project, developed by **Intel India, International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad (IIIT-H), Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) – Central Road Research Institute (CRRI), Mahindra and Mahindra and Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC).**
- Objective: – To enhance road safety and reduce road accidents in Nagpur.

iRASTE

- It uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology to provide better results.
- The **initiative will bring down 50 percent of road accidents.**
- **Later it will be extended to other cities as well.**
- **About International Road Federation (IRF)**
- Headquarters- Geneva, Switzerland

Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) Inaugurated at MCL of 1st of Its Kind in CIL

- In Coal India Ltd. (CIL) under the Ministry of Coal, an innovative Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) was inaugurated at Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd (MCL) to remotely monitor automated systems.
- The portal named "**Vihangam**" was created by a Mumbai-based start-up of drone manufacturing, robotics and automation.

- Designed by the MCL's Innovation Cell and the Department of E&T
- Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) will enable real-time monitoring of coal mines with the use of drones.

NITI Aayog Launches Report titled 'Reforms in Urban Planning Capacity in India'

- **NITI Aayog** has launched a **report** on measures to ramp up urban planning capacity in India.
- The report, titled '**Reforms in Urban Planning Capacity in India**', was released by NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Chief Executive Officer Amitabh Kant and Special Secretary Dr. K. Rajeswara Rao.
- The report has been **developed by NITI Aayog**, in consultation with concerned ministries and eminent experts in the domain of urban and regional planning.
- The report presents a condensed outcome of the extensive deliberations and consultations conducted over a period of nine months.
- In the coming years, urban India will power the **growth of the Indian economy**.
- He added that urban challenges, including town planning, need greater policy attention in the country.
- **NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant** emphasized that urbanization is the driving force of the Indian economy and the country has reached a turning point in its transformation.
- It will be half urban in a couple of decades.
- Greater synergies among the public and private sectors and education institutions will provide a massive boost towards making Indian cities more liveable, competitive and sustainable.

Cabinet grants 100% FDI under automatic route in Telecom Sector

- The **Union Cabinet** approved a relief package for the **telecom sector** that includes a four-year moratorium on payment of statutory dues by telecom companies as well as allowing 100 per cent foreign investment through the automatic route.
- **Nine structural reforms** for the telecom sector were **approved**.
- The definition of AGR, which had been a major reason for the stress in the sector, has been rationalised by excluding non-telecom revenue of telecom companies.
- AGR refers to revenues that are considered for payment of statutory dues.

About FDI:

- A **foreign direct investment** is an investment in the form of a **controlling ownership in a business** in one country by an entity based in another country.
- It is thus distinguished from a foreign portfolio investment by a notion of direct control.
- Generally, **FDI takes place when an investor establishes foreign business operations** or acquires foreign business assets, including establishing ownership or controlling interest in a foreign company.

Cabinet approves Rs 26,058 crore PLI Scheme - Automobile Industry and Drone Industry

- The **Union Cabinet** approved a **production linked incentive (PLI) scheme** of Rs 26,058 crore for the automobile sector and drone industry.

- The PLI scheme **for auto sector** is expected to bring in investments of over Rs 42,500 crore in five years and lead to incremental production of over Rs 2.3 lakh crore.
- The scheme will **incentivise emergence of global supply chain** for advanced automotive technologies in India and will enable the country to leapfrog to environmentally cleaner electric vehicles and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles.
- "The PLI scheme for auto sector envisages overcoming the cost disabilities to the industry for manufacture of advanced automotive technology products in India.
- The **incentive structure will encourage industry to make fresh investments** for indigenous global supply chain of advanced automotive technology products".
- The scheme is expected **to create additional employment opportunities for over 7.5 lakh people**.

Ministry of Defence forms High Level Expert Committee for a comprehensive review of NCC; Chairman: Shri Bajjayant Panda

- **The Ministry of Defence** has constituted a **High-Level Expert Committee** for a comprehensive review of the National Cadet Corps (NCC).
- The committee's effort will be to make NCC more relevant in changed times.
- The Terms of Reference of the Committee broadly provide for suggesting measures which can empower NCC cadets to contribute more effectively towards nation building and national developmental efforts in various sectors.

About the Committee:

- The **committee** will propose measures for gainful engagement of its **Alumni for betterment** of the organisation as a whole.
- Former Member of Parliament **Bajjayant Panda** will **head the committee**.
- **Cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni**, former Minister Colonel (Retd) **Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore**, industrialist **Anand Mahindra** among others is **members of the committee**.

NITI Aayog's AIM in collaboration with ISRO & CBSE launches ATL Space Challenge 2021 for Indian school students

- **National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)**, in collaboration with the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** and **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)** launched the **Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL) 'Space Challenge 2021'** for all school students across the country.
- The ATL has aligned with the **World Space Week 2021(4-10 October)** at global level to celebrate the contribution of space science and technology
- The objective of the program is to **Enable school students to create innovations for space technology**.
- Theme: ATL Space Challenge 2021 aligns with this year's theme of celebrating 75 years of India's independence **"Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav"**
- It is being conducted for all the school students, mentors and teachers across the country. Those who do not have ATL labs are also associated with the challenge.
- The challenge is the students from class 6-12 to innovate and to solve digital space technology problems.

About Atal Innovation Mission (AIM):

- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is a flagship initiative set up by the NITI Aayog to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country.

MoT sanctions Rs 200 cr for tourism development in NE region

- A Memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been signed between Ministry of Tourism (MoT) and Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) to promote domestic tourism and development of new tourism products at two-day Conference of Tourism and Culture Ministers of North Eastern States
- It was held in Guwahati, Assam on September 13 and 14 Under the **'Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive' (PRASAD) scheme.**
- Union Minister for Tourism G Kishan Reddy sanctioned **Rs 200 crore for the tourism** development in the North Eastern Region.
- **Rs 68,020 crore had allocated to north eastern states** in the Union budget of 2021-22 for the development of North Eastern Regions.

Some of the Notable initiatives:

- **Around 16 projects were sanctioned** by the Ministry for the region under Swadesh Darshan Scheme.
- Projects includes **In Manas Wildlife Circuit and Tezpur Heritage Circuit.**

Addl.Info:

- Swadesh Darshan Scheme focuses on the integrated development of theme-based tourist circuits.
- PRASAD Scheme aims at integrated development of pilgrimage destinations in a prioritised, planned, and sustainable manner in order to provide a complete religious tourism experience.

MoA&FW signs 5 MOUs with private companies to initiate pilot projects for Digital Agriculture

- Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) has been signed **between Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, and 5 private companies at KrishiBhavan, New Delhi** for pilot projects.
- The companies are CISCO, Ninjacart, Jio Platforms Limited, ITC (formerly India Tobacco Company Limited) Limited and NCDEX e-Markets Limited (NeML).
- The above MoUs are on the lines of **the Digital agriculture mission** that has been initiated for 2021 -2025 by the Central government for projects based on new technologies.

VIL Partners with APSDMA & Celltick to introduce India's 1st Cell Broadcast Based Public Warning System

- Vi (Vodafone-Idea) has partnered with the Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority and Celltick to launch the **first cell broadcast-based Public Warning System** to alert citizens on a real-time basis on disasters.
- Celltick's state-of-the-art **Cell Broadcast Entity (CBE)** and its Cell Broadcast Center (CBC) will deliver emergency warning alerts on Vi's network in the state.
- **Vi is the first telecom service provider** in the state to support the Common Alerting Protocol-compliant Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS).
- This would enable alerts in real-time based **on location prior to, during or post-disaster.**

- **IPAWS is a World Bank-aided project and AP** now joins countries like USA, Canada, Japan, Australia, Israel and South Korea in deploying the system.
- The new system would enable the state government to automate the alerting process and disseminate geo-tagged alert messages in real-time with minimal manual intervention.

NSO unveiled All India Debt & Investment Survey

- The **National Statistical Office (NSO)**, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has conducted the **latest survey** on All India Debt & Investment Survey during the period January – December, 2019 as a part of **77th round of National Sample Survey (NSS)**.
- The **main objective** of the survey on Debt & Investment was to collect **basic quantitative information** on the assets and liabilities of the households as on 30.6.2018.
- Besides, the survey gathered information on the amount of capital expenditure incurred by the households during the **Agricultural Year 2018-19 (July-June)**, under different heads, like residential buildings, farm business and non-farm business.
- The **present survey** was spread over the entire Indian Union and data were collected in two visits (Visit 1: January-August, 2019 and Visit 2: September - December, 2019) from the same set of sample households.
- The **survey was spread over** 5,940 villages covering 69,455 households in the rural sector and 3,995 blocks covering 47,006 households in the urban sector.
- **The following indicators were generated from the survey of All India Debt & Investment:**
- **Average value of Assets (AVA):** The average value of all the physical and financial assets owned per household as on 30.06.2018.
- **Incidence of Indebtedness (IOI):** The percentage of the indebted households as on 30.06.2018.
- **Average amount of Debt (AOD):** The average amount of cash dues as on 30.06.2018 per household.
- **Average Fixed Capital Expenditure** by the households during 01.07.2018 to 30.06.2019

Ministry of Law and Justice unveiled “Ek Pahal” campaign for Justice Delivery at doorstep

- As the nation celebrates “**Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav**”, the Department of Justice launched the “**Ek Pahal**” drive across the country from **17th September till 2nd October** to encourage mass registration under Tele-Law.
- The medium of **Tele Law** effectively provides pre-litigation advice / consultation to beneficiaries by Panel Lawyers through a huge network covering 51,434 Common Service Centres in 50,000 Gram Panchayats in 633 districts across 34 States and UTs.
- With registration login of **5480 beneficiaries** this login drive registered **138% increase over daily average registration of beneficiaries**.
- More than 25000 banners in regional languages were displayed at CSC.
- A **Pan-India Special Campaign for creating Legal Awareness** was launched by **NALSA** through its country-wide organisational framework on 17th September 2021.

- The **highlights of this campaign include** deployment of 185 Mobile Vans and other vehicles to show-case films and documentaries on Access to Justice programme, holding of 4100 Legal Aid Clinics to give pre-litigation / legal advice to common citizens with the help of 37,000 Panel Lawyers and Para-Legal Volunteers besides holding awareness programmes at the village level on legal aid in **672 districts**.

MyGov introduces Planetarium Innovation Challenge for Indian start-ups and tech entrepreneurs

- MyGov India has launched the **Planetarium Innovation Challenge for Indian start-ups and tech entrepreneurs**.
- The **challenge** aims to bring together the **tech firms and Start-ups** (based out of India) with the potential to build indigenous planetariums system software using latest technologies including Augmented Reality (AR), Virtual Reality (VR) and Merged Reality (MR).
- Inspired by the **Chandrayaan launches**, Indian Space Research Organization conducted the ISRO Quiz Competition-2019 in collaboration with MyGov where several schools, parents and enthusiastic mentors made it memorable through their active participation.

About the challenge:

- **Planetarium Innovation Challenge** was launched by **MyGov India** last week.
- The **Registration** is open till **10th of October**.
- The **challenge invites applications from** start-ups and tech entrepreneurs to develop state-of-the-art technology for our Planetariums.
- There is an **opportunity for Planetariums in India** to deploy new technologies (Augmented Reality, Virtual Reality and Merged Reality), especially for smaller cities and rural areas, all Made in India.
- The Innovation Challenge is open to experts from all domains of Planetarium Technology at <https://innovateindia.mygov.in>.
- The **first winner, second winner and third winner** under the contest will get the cash prizes of **five lakh, three lakh and two lakh** rupees respectively.

IIT Delhi researches develops device that can generate electricity through water droplets to power small electronic devices

- **IIT Delhi researchers** have designed and fabricated a device that can generate electricity from water drops, raindrops, water streams, and even from ocean waves using "**Triboelectric Effect**" and "**Electrostatic Induction**".
- The **device** is called "**Liquid-solid Interface Triboelectric Nanogenerator**".
- The generated electricity can be stored in batteries for further use.
- The device has a very simple structure consisting of **specially designed nanocomposite polymers** and contact electrodes and can generate **a few Milliwatt (mW) powers**, which is sufficient to power small electronic devices like watches, digital thermometers, radio frequency transmitters, healthcare sensors, pedometers.
- When compared to **conventional methods**, such as the use of the piezoelectric effect, the present device can generate significantly more electricity.

- Prof. Neeraj Khare from the Department of Physics and his group at the Nanoscale Research Facility (NRF), IIT Delhi, have been working on harvesting electrical energy from to be wasted mechanical vibrations using the triboelectric effect.
- The group has filed an Indian patent on the various aspects of the use of ferroelectric polymer for harvesting mechanical energy including the present device

About Triboelectric effect:

- “**Triboelectric effect** is a known **phenomenon for a long time**, and in this effect, charges are generated when two surfaces are in friction.
- The **best example** is sparkling lights when we **move the blankets/jackets**.
- It is only lately that it has been extensively investigated as a practical alternative for energy harvesting”.

Centre forms GoM for better implementation of schemes meant for SC, ST, OBC, minorities, women

- The **Centre** has **constituted a group of ministers (GoM)** chaired by **Rajnath Singh** for better implementation of various **welfare schemes** meant for **SC, ST, OBC, minorities and women**, and the panel met for the first time.
- The development comes ahead of the **assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh** and some other states early next year.
- Education Minister and the BJP's Uttar Pradesh in-charge Dharmendra Pradhan is a member of the GoM.

Committee members:

- Union ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Arjun Munda, Kiren Rijiju and Virendra Kumar **are also part of the panel**.
- The **broader objective** of the GoM is to work for empowerment and prosperity of backward classes and minorities

Cabinet Approves government Guarantee of upto Rs 30600 Crore to back Security Receipts to be issued by NARCL

- The Cabinet had approved a government guarantee of up to **Rs 30600 crore** to back security receipts to be issued by National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL).
- **NARCL** proposes to **acquire stressed assets** of about Rs. 2 Lakh crore in phases within extant regulations of RBI.
- It intends to acquire these through **15% Cash and 85% in Security Receipts (SRs)**.
- The following frequently asked questions explain various aspects regarding **Central Government guarantee** to back Security Receipts issued by National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited for acquiring of stressed loan assets.
- **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)**, strengthening of **Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest (SARFAESI Act)** and Debt Recovery Tribunals, as well as setting up of dedicated Stressed Asset Management Verticals (SAMVs) in banks for large-value NPA accounts have brought sharper focus on recovery.

Niti Aayog tie-up with ISRO,CBSE to launch 'Space Challenge'

- "Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), Niti Aayog in **collaboration** with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)** successfully launched the **ATL Space Challenge 2021** for all school students across the country”.

- This challenge has been designed for all the school students, mentors and teachers across the country who not only are associated with **schools having Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) labs but for all the non-ATL schools as well.**
- This is to ensure that **students of classes 6 to 12** are given an open platform where they can innovate and enable themselves to solve digital age space technology problems.
- The ATL Space Challenge 2021 aligns with the **World Space Week 2021** which is being observed **from October 4-10 each** year at the global level in order to celebrate the contributions of space science and technology.

Govt to cover 36 thousand Villages under PM Adarsh Gram Yojna announced by the Union Tribal Minister

- The Union Tribal Affairs minister Arjun Munda announced to start **Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojna (PMAGY)** covering **36 thousand villages across the country.**
- Villages **with 50 percent tribal population will be given priority.**

Objective:

- It aims to provide **'Housing for All' by 2022, by providing financial assistance to beneficiaries.**
- Integrated development of villages having population of Scheduled Castes (SC) people is more than 50%.
- Taking up identified activities that are not covered under the existing Central and State Government Schemes, through 'Gap-filling' funds from the centre.
- In October, 2018, the Scheme was revised to bring focus on important and critical monitorable socio-economic indicators under 10 domains namely, Drinking Water & Sanitation, Education, Health & Nutrition, Social Security, Rural Road and housing, Electricity and clean fuel, Agricultural practices etc., financial inclusion, Digitization, Livelihood and Skill Development.

About Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY)

- Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY) has been implemented since 2009-10 to enable an area-based development approach for Scheduled Caste persons.

Addl.Info:

- 1,700 tribal villages in Assam will be covered under PMAGY and converted into modern villages.
- It would benefit around 60,000 people.
- 184 Van Dhan Kendra will be set in Assam.

Ashwini Vaishnaw launched Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana (RKVY) under PMKVY from New Delhi

- Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Ministry of Railways launched **Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana (RKVY) under the aegis of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)** from Rail Bhavan, New Delhi.
- The program curriculum has been developed by Banaras Locomotive Works, Uttar Pradesh.
- The program envisions empowering youth viz. **50000 candidates with industry relevant skills over a period of three years** under the Apprentices Act 1961 through 75 Railway training institutes with free of cost.

IRCTC Launched India's 1st Indigenous Luxury Cruise Liner

- Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) started **India's first indigenous luxury cruise liner on 18th September 2021.**
- IRCTC has partnered with Cordelia Cruises, **operated by Waterways Leisure Tourism Private Limited to promote and market India's 1st luxury cruise.**
- The cruise will sail to national and international destinations like **Goa Diu, Lakshadweep, Kochi and Sri Lanka**

Devusinh Chauhan Launched Commemorative Stamp on 515th Birth Anniversary of Rao Jaimal Rathore

- **Devusinh Chauhan, Union Minister of State (MoS), Ministry of Communications launched a commemorative postal stamp to honour Rao Jaimal Rathore on his 515th birth anniversary.**
- This commemorative stamp was launched in the run-up to the **celebration of 75th Azadi ka Amrit Mohatsav in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir(J&K).**
- Rao Jaimal Rathore, a Rajput warrior general of Chittorgarh, fought against the Mughal army during its siege from 1567 to 1568.

Recommendations of 45th GST Council Meeting held at Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

- **The 45th meeting of GST (Goods & Service Tax) Council was held at Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, under the chairmanship of the Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Ministry of Finance.**
- The Council has made the various recommendations related to extension of existing concessional GST rates on certain COVID-19 treatment drugs, reduction of GST rates on various other medicines, revision and clarification of GST rates of various Goods and Services, several measures relating to GST Law & Procedures, etc.
- The existing concessional GST rates (till 30th September, 2021) **on Covid-19 treatment drugs extended to December, 31 2021.**
- From **January 1, 2022, food delivery apps will collect and deposit 5% GST** with the government, in place of restaurants, for deliveries made by them.
- This will not affect the end consumer.
- There is an increase of **12/18% to 18% GST rate on Cartons, boxes, bags, packing containers of paper, and kinds of pens from 12/18% to 18%.**

About GST (Goods & Service Tax):

- It is an indirect tax which has **replaced various indirect taxes** in India such as the excise duty, VAT, services tax, among others.

It has 3 components:

- **CGST (Central Goods and Services Tax)** – tax collected by the Central Government on an intra-state sale.
- **SGST (State Goods and Service Tax)** – tax collected by the state government on an intra-state sale.
- **IGST (Integrated Goods and Services Tax)** – tax collected by the Central Government for an inter-state sale.

NCW initiates Country-Wide Capacity Building & Personality Development Program for Women Students

- In an **endeavour to make women independent and employment-ready**, the National Commission for Women has launched a country-wide **capacity building and personality development program for women Undergraduate and Post graduate students**.
- The Commission is collaborating with Central and State universities for organizing sessions on Personal Capacity Building, Professional Career Skills and Digital Literacy and Effective Use of Social Media to prep women students for entering the job market.
- NCW launched its **first program** in collaboration with the **Central University of Haryana**.
- NCW, through this course will help the students at every step of their employment including resume making and facing interviews and prepare them to face all the challenges with confidence”.

About the course:

- The **course will focus on learning and applying the use of** intuitive, logical and critical thinking, communication and interpersonal skills to enhance employability.
- The course has been divided into **three categories**; Personal Capacity Building, Professional Career Skills and Digital Literacy and Effective Use of Social Media.

The objective of the sessions:

- The **Personal Capacity Building session** would **help** students enhance skills such as time management, stress management, and communication.
- The **Professional Career Skills session** will **focus** on identifying career opportunities, building resume and presentation skills and empower women students in exploring career opportunities for themselves considering their innate strengths and weaknesses.
- The **third session on Digital Literacy and Effective Use of Social Media** aims to generate awareness among women on safe usage of internet and social media platforms.

Sarbananda Sonowal flags off dwarf container train from JNPT to Kanpur

- On Sep 20, 2021, Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways **Sarbananda Sonowal** virtually flagged off the dwarf container train service from **Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT)**.
- This is the first consignment of laden dwarf containers from the dwarf container depot (DCD) at the port was moved by a train to **ICD Kanpur**.
- The commencement of dwarf container train services from JNPT is a pivotal step towards streamlining the rail movement of EXIM cargo via double-stacked dwarf containers.
- The dwarf containers are port-friendly and can be manufactured in India at a cost-efficient price point.
- The Low height of dwarf container loaded on trailers can pass through rural, semi urban and urban roads, through limited height subways and level crossing in electrified sections.

DGCA and EASA signed an Agreement for Safety, Environment protection Standards

- **The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) signed an agreement** to work on an arrangement through which they will set common safety and environmental protection standards.
- Objective: To promote cooperation, understanding of each other's regulatory systems. It will also promote an exchange of aeronautical products, services and personnel.

About the Agreement

- **The manufacturing organisation has the right of access to the approved design data relevant for production purposes.**
- The manufacturing organisation cooperates with the organisation responsible for the type design in assessing information on the design, manufacture, and operation of the aircraft engine.

Union Minister Piyush Goyal Launches National Single Window System for Investors and Businesses

- **Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal Speaking at an event in New Delhi on the soft launch of the National Single Window System, he said this is a big step towards Ease of Doing Business and a giant leap towards making India truly Aatmanirbhar.**
- Mr. Goyal said this will not only enable Ease of Doing Business, but also Ease of Living.
- This is a result of the need for a single window of contact between businesses and the government. The Minister said the platform will be a one-stop-shop for investors and businesses.
- **He added that the government does not want new startups to face the issues that businesses used to face earlier.**
- He said the Centre wants India to become the most preferred investment destination

DEA secretary-led panel to firm up sustainable finance road map

- The **government has constituted a task force** under economic affairs secretary **Ajay Seth** to firm up a sustainable finance road map for India, a senior government official told Financial Express.
- The **task force will recommend ways to strengthen** the resilience of the country's financial sector against risks emanating from various climates and environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues.
- It will lay out ways to **grow sustainable finance in India** and set a clear time frame for their implementation.
- **As part of this initiative**, a survey is also being undertaken with the help of the United Nations Development Programme (India) to assess climate and ESG resilience in India's financial sector.

About Sustainable Financial Roadmap:

- The Roadmap for a Sustainable Financial System **aims to support** the achievement of a financial system that integrates sustainability into its **operations** — including the full costing of positive and negative externalities — leading to a reorientation of the flow of resources toward more inclusive and sustainable activities.
- **It proposes an integrated approach** to accelerating the transformation toward a sustainable financial system that can be used by all financial sector stakeholders and bring policy cohesiveness across ministries, central banks, financial regulators, and private financial sector participants.

Ministry of Education set up a National Steering Committee for the Development of National Curriculum Frameworks

- The **Union education ministry** constituted a **12-member national steering committee** to develop the new national curriculum framework (NCF) in line with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**.
- The committee will be **headed by K Kasturirangan**, who had also led the NEP 2020 drafting committee.
- The **national curriculum framework** serves as a guideline for syllabus, textbooks, teaching and learning practices in the country.
- India is currently following its fourth national curriculum framework that was published by the NCERT in 2005.
- Officials at the education ministry stated the timeline for the development of new framework is three years.

About the Committee:

- “The **Committee** will discuss different aspects of these four areas keeping in focus all the recommendations of NEP 2020 for proposing curriculum reforms.
- All the **national curriculum frameworks** would also reflect upon the implications of situations such as COVID-19 pandemic on respective areas for future”.

Centre notifies Rs 400 crore Scheme for “Promotion of Medical Device Parks” to support the medical devices industry

- In a bold move that would make India '**Aatmanirbhar**', the Centre has taken a **key initiative** to support the medical devices industry to reach its potential in the coming years under the "**Promotion of Medical Device Parks**" scheme.
- As per the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, the **objectives** for the promotion of Medical device parks include easy access to standard testing and infrastructure facilities through the **creation of world-class common infrastructure facilities** for increased competitiveness that will result in a significant reduction of the cost of production of **medical devices** leading to better availability and affordability of medical devices in the domestic market and reaping the benefits arising due to optimization of resources and economies of scale.
- The Medical Devices Parks to be developed **under the scheme** will provide **common infrastructure facilities** at one place thereby creating a robust ecosystem for the medical device manufacturing in the country and also reducing the manufacturing cost significantly.

PM Modi to roll out National Digital Health Mission

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will be announcing a nationwide rollout of the **Pradhan Mantri Digital Health Mission** on September 27.
- Under this mission, a **unique digital health ID** will be provided to the people.
- Union Health Minister **Mansukh Mandaviya** has stated that the unique digital health ID will contain all the health records of the person.

About the Mission:

- The **health ID card** is created with details like **Aadhar and mobile number** for generating a unique ID for each individual.
- The **National Digital Health Mission** is currently in its pilot phase across the union territories of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and Daman and Diu, Ladakh, Lakshadweep, and Puducherry.

Supreme Court launches FASTER (Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records) System

- The Supreme Court has given its nod for **e-transfer of orders** to jails through the **FASTER** system for **quick prisoner release**.
- “It is proposed that the **e-authenticated copies of the record** of proceedings/orders, digitally signed by the authorised officer may be transmitted through **FASTER** [Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records] system to the **duty-holders** of the justice system,”

About FASTER system:

- FASTER is an **acronym** form **Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records**.
- The system is meant to ensure that under trials are not made to wait for days on end behind bars **to be released because the certified hard copies of their bail orders** took time to reach the prison.
- It is conceived for **delivery of orders** to concerned prisons, District Courts, High Courts, as the case may be, for instantaneous delivery of orders passed by apex court through a secure communication channel.
- The process to **develop the FASTER system** began with the CJI's observations in court on July 16 this year.

India signs Pact for construction of Social Housing Units in Maldives

- EXIM (Export Import) Bank of India completed its agreement with Fahi Dhiriulhun Corporation Limited (FDC) of Maldives to provide a Buyers **Credit of ~\$228 million for the construction of 4000 Social Housing Units in Hulhumale' Phase II**.
- The construction will be undertaken by India's **National Buildings Construction Company (NBCC) and JMC Projects (India)**.
- A total of 2800 units of 3 bedrooms and 3 toilets, and, 1200 units of 2 bedrooms and 2 toilets will be constructed under this.

India Virtually Hosted 1st India-UK Consular Dialogue

- India virtually hosted **the 1st India-United Kingdom (UK) Consular Dialogue**.
- **The Indian delegation was led by Devesh Uttam, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs and the UK delegation was led by Jennifer Anderson, Director Consular Services, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.**
- India-UK Consular Dialogue is a part of the India-UK 2030 Roadmap, in which both countries discussed ways to strengthen people-to-people contacts between them.
- In May 2021, **India and UK have adopted 'Roadmap 2030' at the India-UK Virtual Summit 2021, for elevating relations between the two countries to 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership'.**
- The next round of the Consular Dialogue was **scheduled to be held in 2022, in London.**

MyGov Launches Planetarium Innovation Challenge for Start-ups, Tech Entrepreneurs

- In September 2021, MyGov India, under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), launched the **'Planetarium Innovation Challenge' for Indian start-ups and tech entrepreneurs.**

- **Objective:** To enable the tech firms and startups in India to build an indigenous planetarium system software using the latest technologies (**Augmented Reality, Virtual Reality, and Merged Reality**).
- The winners could get an opportunity to know the latest advancements under Planetarium along with cash prizes.
- MyGov was launched on **26th July 2014 as a Citizen Engagement Platform** which collaborates with multiple Government bodies/ Ministries to engage with citizens for policy formulation.

DAHD signs deal with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to support livestock

- As a part of on-going celebrations of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) signed a multi-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to support India's livestock sector. Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Minister Parshottam Rupala signed the deal**

Objective:

- To support the nation's food and nutritional security and protect the economic wellbeing of small-scale livestock producers.
- The Gates Foundation will provide technical assistance to the department to ensure sustainable growth and prosperity of India's livestock sector.
- As a part of the partnership National One Health platform will be established with an aim.

National One Health

- To improve coordination, productivity, and support livelihoods of small-scale producers.
- It allows tracking and resolution of animal and human health challenges and will prevent possible infection and disease outbreaks.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi initiates Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission

- Almost a year after it was implemented on pilot basis in **six Union Territories**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission** for the entire country.
- It involves creation of not just a **unique health ID** for every citizen, but also creation of digital healthcare professionals and facilities registry.
- The **digital initiative** has the "potential of bringing a revolutionary change in India's healthcare facilities.

About the Mission:

- Ayushman Bharat–Digital Mission will now connect digital health solutions of hospitals across the country with each other.
- Under this, **countrymen will now get a digital health ID**.
- The health record of every citizen will be digitally protected.
- Through the **digital health ID**, the patient himself and the doctor can also check old records if needed.
- Not only this, there will also be **registration** of colleagues like doctors, nurses, paramedics.
- The hospitals, clinics, labs, medicine shops in the country, all these will be registered. That is, this digital mission will bring every stakeholder related to health together, on a single platform".

- The **initiative** will create a seamless online platform to access treatment records, and enable faster and effective treatment.

MoHUA introduces convergence of DAY-NULM and PMFME to support Micro Food Processing Units of Urban SHGs

- To **support** micro food processing units of urban self helps groups (SHGs), the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) **launched a convergence scheme** between **PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME)** and the **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)** schemes.
- The convergence was launched as a part of "**Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**" celebrations of the ministry.
- **MoHUA Secretary Durga Shanker Mishra**, while launching the convergence scheme, stated helping and grooming SHG members involved in **micro-entrepreneurship activities** will make them financially empowered and help their families live a dignified life.
- MoHUA is implementing a **flagship scheme** named DAY-NULM, which has mobilised over 61 lakh urban poor women into SHGs and their federations.
- As **DAY-NULM has already signed MoUs with Amazon and Flipkart** for sale of "**SonChiraiya**" products made by SHGs on marketplace, this initiative will further add number of products on-boarded on e-commerce portals.
- All out efforts will also be made to get all such **SHGs registered for FSSAI** in time bound manner,"

Ministry of Tourism will organize 'NIDHI 2.0' & 'India Tourism Statistics

- The **Ministry of Tourism** is organizing an event to celebrate "**World Tourism Day 2021**" on **27th September 2021** in New Delhi, which has been designated by the **UNWTO as a day to focus on "Tourism for Inclusive Growth"**.
- Speaker of Lok Sabha, Shri **Om Birla** will be chief guest of the event.
- India is in unlocking phase and domestic tourism has re-started slowly and steadily.
- The Covid-19 pandemic has had an immense **socio-economic impact** worldwide and gradual increase in the domestic tourism will help for recovery and growth in many folds of the society.
- Tourism has the potential to contribute to **inclusive growth by creating opportunities** for all different groups, ethnicity, religion and across sectors such as agriculture, arts & crafts etc., services to contribute and benefit from economic growth.
- Celebrated every September 27 around the world, the purpose of World Tourism Day (WTD) is to foster awareness among the international community on the importance of tourism and its social, cultural, political and economic value.
- **NIDHI 2.0** (National Integrated Database of Hospitality Industry) and '**India Tourism Statistics – At a Glance, 2021**' will be launched.

Union Sports Minister Shri Anurag Thakur lays foundation stone of ZPEO

- Union minister for information and broadcasting, youth affairs, and sports, Anurag Thakur laid foundation stone of **zonal physical education office (ZPEO)** and **zonal playfield** and inaugurated **PMGSY road at Kichpora Kangan**.
- The minister visited Kichpora Kangan where he laid foundation stone of ZPEO and development of zonal level playfield approved at **Rs.1.14 crore**.

- The central government has earmarked **Rs.200 crore under the PM Development Plan for development of playfields and indoor stadiums.**
- Rs.33 crore more was **approved** for preparing synthetic turfs, hockey and football grounds in J&K.
- The minister also visited Kangan and inaugurated the **1.5km PMGSY road constructed** at the cost of Rs.136.67 lakh at **Bonibagh Kangan** connecting Bonibagh Bala habitation to the highway.

Centre enhances existing foreign trade policy (FTP) till March 2022

- The government announced it is extending the existing **foreign trade policy (FTP)** by six months till March 31, 2022.
- "The existing **Foreign Trade Policy 2015-2020**, which is valid up to September 30, 2021 is extended up to March 31, 2022".
- Previously, the FTP (2015-20) had been extended until September 30 this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Foreign Trade Policy provides guidelines pertaining to imports and exports in India.
- Ministry of Commerce under the Government of India announces **Export-Import Policy** every five years.

About FTP:

- The **Foreign Trade Policy (FTP)** was introduced by the Government to grow the Indian export of goods and services, generating employment and increasing value addition in the country.
- The Government, through the **implementation of the policy**, seeks to develop the manufacturing and service sectors.

MCA enhances the tenure of Company Law Committee by 1 year; Head- Rajesh Verma

- The **government has extended by one year** the tenure of the **Company Law Committee**, which was constituted back in 2019.
- The tenure of the panel, which was set up by the **corporate affairs ministry** in September 2019, was extended last year also.
- The **committee** has the mandate for examining and making recommendations to the government on various issues related to implementation of the **Companies Act and the Limited Liability Partnership Act.**
- The **committee** was constituted as part of the government's efforts to promote ease of living by providing ease of doing business to law abiding corporates, to foster improved corporate compliance for stakeholders at large and to address emerging issues having an impact on the working of companies.

Govt sets up GoM to rationalise GST rates - Headed by Karnataka CM

- The government has started the **process of reworking the GST rate slab structure**, after repeated pleas by many stakeholders.
- The Centre has now set up a **Group of Ministers**, headed by Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj S Bommai.
- Another GoM has been set up to recommend ways for GST System Reforms.
- Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra **Ajit Pawar will head this ministerial panel.**
- The first GoM will review the current rate structure of GST, including special rates and recommend rationalisation measures, including merger of tax rate slabs, required for a simpler rate structure in GST, says a BusinessLine report.

- The GoM will also review the **current tax slab rates**.
- The current GST structure has four main rates—**5%, 12%, 18% and 28%**.
- Special rates of **0%, 0.25%, 1% and 3%** are applicable on certain items.
- GST also has provision of cess at the rate **between 1% and 25%**.
- Stakeholders have been demanding restructuring the slabs by merging either 12 and 18 or 5 and 12.

Hardeep Singh Puri launches 7th edition of Swachh Survekshan in New Delhi

- Housing and Urban Affairs Minister **Hardeep Singh Puri** launched the **seventh consecutive edition** of **Swachh Survekshan** in New Delhi.
- It is the **world's largest urban cleanliness survey** conducted by **Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban**.
- Designed with People First as its driving philosophy, **Swachh Survekshan 2022** is curated towards capturing the initiatives of cities for the overall welfare and well-being of frontline sanitation workers.
- The survey, flavoured with the **Azaadi@75 spirit**, will also give priority to the voices of senior citizens and young adults alike and reinforce their participation towards upholding the cleanliness of urban India.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the **catalyst** for converting the vision of the Mahatma Gandhi into reality by leading from front and converting it into a peoples' movement.
- Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 and **AMRUT 2.0** will be launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on **1st of October**.

About Swachh Survekshan:

- **Swachh Survekshan** is an **annual survey** of cleanliness, hygiene and sanitation in cities and towns across India.
- It was launched as part of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, which **aimed to make India clean and free of open defecation by 2nd October 2019**.
- The **first survey** was undertaken in **2016** and covered 73 cities; by 2020 the survey had grown to cover 4242 cities and was stated to be the largest cleanliness survey in the world.

Government enhances the income limit of disabled dependents for family pension to 30% of last drawn pay

- **The Ministry of Defence**, Government of India has taken a decision to enhance the income criteria for grant of **family pension to children/siblings suffering** from mental or physical disability.
- Accordingly, such **child/sibling** shall be eligible for family pension for life, if his/her overall income from sources other than family pension remains less than the entitled family pension at ordinary rate i.e **30% of the last pay drawn by the deceased** government servant/pensioner concerned plus the dearness relief admissible thereon.
- The financial benefit in such cases shall accrue with effect from **08.02.2021**.
- Presently, the disabled child/sibling is eligible for family pension if overall monthly income of disabled child/sibling from sources other than family pension is **not more than Rs. 9,000/-** along with dearness relief thereon.

Union Agriculture Minister introduces Amul Honey

- Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched '**Amul Honey**', a new product developed by **Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd (GCMMF)** along with National Bee Board.
- Tomar stated the government is promoting bee-keeping among small farmers to double their income.

- About Rs 500 crore budget has been set aside for this purpose.
- The **National Bee Board** was established to undertake several activities. For instance, five major laboratories and 100 mini-honey testing labs are being established to check the quality of honey.
- Tomar informed that there are **86 per cent small farmers in the country**.
- In order to **increase the income of these small farmers**, it is necessary to connect them with other dimensions of agriculture like beekeeping.
- The minister stressed on the need to **improve local honey standards** to the global level and promote export.

It has three Mini Missions:

- **Mini Mission-I:** Under this Mission, thrust will be given on production and productivity improvement of various crops through pollination assisted by adoption of scientific beekeeping.
- **Mini Mission-II:** This Mission will concentrate on post harvest management of beekeeping/ beehive products including collection, processing, storage, marketing, value addition, etc with a thrust to develop requisite infrastructural facilities for these activities
- **Mini Mission-III:** This Mission will concentrate on research & technology generation for different regions/states/agro-climatic and socio-economic conditions.

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 Entrepreneurship	Dharmendra Pradhan	Haridwar
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

BRICS Film Technology Symposium to open avenues for cooperation and growth in the film business – I&B Minister

- **Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur** stated that India is a **pivotal power** in Asia and as member of the **BRICS consortium**; it would like to play a crucial role to **strengthen ties** among the member countries.
- Organising the first ever **BRICS Film Technology Symposium** is a step in this direction to bring the people from all member states together.
- Addressing the virtual inauguration of **BRICS Film Technology Symposium, organized by FICCI**, jointly with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and FTII, Mr. Thakur informed, through the medium of films, art and culture India has also open avenues for cooperation which will be supporting development and growth in the film business.
- **India** takes pride in organising first ever BRICS Film Technology Symposium as a part of the special event planned in the run-up to BRICS summit to be held in India.
- Under the chairmanship of India, aim to promote institution building to further deepen, sustain and institutionalise **BRICS cooperation**.
- It is important to win the hearts and minds of the people from **all BRICS nations** and a **film symposium** is an event which brings together one and all through the medium of cinema technology.

New Development Bank grants UAE, Bangladesh and Uruguay as a new member

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

- The **NDB Board of Governors** initiated the negotiation to expand its membership in 2020.
- It has now approved the **United Arab Emirates, Uruguay and Bangladesh** as its **first new member countries**.
- Membership of **Bangladesh** to NDB has paved way for a new partnership at a momentous time of **50th anniversary of its independence**.
- The membership in the NDB is an important step forward in meeting the development vision of **Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina**.
- After approval of the Board, the country is required to complete its domestic processes and deposit the instrument of accession.
- Since the beginning of its operations, NDB has approved **about 80 projects totalling a portfolio of USD 30 billion**.
- Projects in areas such as transport, water and sanitation, clean energy, digital infrastructure, social infrastructure and urban development are within the scope of the Bank.

Indian Navy gifted two Mobile Oxygen Plants to Bangladesh

- **India has gifted two mobile medical oxygen plants to Bangladesh** to support the country's fight against COVID-19.
- The **Indian Navy Ship Savitri** carrying two plants arrived at **Chattogram harbour in Bangladesh**.
- Working together as close partners INS Savitri arrived at Chattogram harbour on **02 Sep 2021** and was ceremonially received by #Bangladesh authorities.
- Ship carries **2 Mobile Oxygen Plants as a gift from people of India to people of Bangladesh** to support the fight against **#COVID19**.
- INS Savitri left Visakhapatnam with two 960 LPM Medical Oxygen Plants (MOP), one each for Bangladesh Navy and Dhaka Medical College, and will reach Chittagong on September 2.

About INS Savitri:

- INS Savitri, is an **indigenously built Offshore Patrol Vessel of the Indian Navy** under the Eastern Naval Command based at Visakhapatnam.

Australia, Malaysia, Singapore and South Africa jointly introduces CBDC Scheme

- **Australia, Malaysia, Singapore and South Africa** have decided to **jointly test multiple central bank digital currencies** that facilitate cross-border transactions.
- **"Project Dunbar"** will create prototype platforms that could eventually handle multiple central bank digital currencies (CBDCs) in order to enable **cheaper and faster transactions** between institutions and central banks for the private and public sector.
- "Enhancing cross-border payments has become a **priority for the international regulatory community** and something that we are very focused on in our domestic policy work".
- This is **part of the G20 roadmap** that aims to improve cross-border payments.
- More countries around the world are advancing their efforts to develop their **own central-bank digital currencies**, which would offer a centralized, official alternative to decentralized crypto currencies such as bit coin or ether, or privately issued stable coins such as tether or US coin.

Canadian City Burnaby - Observe September 5 As Gauri Lankesh Day

- The **Canadian city of Burnaby** has declared September 5 as "**Gauri Lankesh Day**", as a tribute to the dead journalist on her death anniversary, her sister Kavitha Lankesh.
- "I have received a proclamation (**from Burnaby about observing Gauri Lankesh Day**)".
- Hurley noted that Gauri laid down her life in 2017 in her fight against repression and for human rights and Canadians of Indian heritage commemorates her death on September 5 every year.

ILO issued its World Social Protection Report 2020-22

- The **International Labour Organization (ILO)** will issue its **World Social Protection Report 2020-22: Social protection at the crossroads** – in pursuit of a better future 1 September.
- This flagship report gives a **global overview of recent developments in social protection systems**, including social protection floors, and covers the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Based on new data, it offers a broad range of global, regional and country statistics on social protection coverage, the benefits provided and related public expenditure.
- The **report also identifies protection gaps and sets out key policy recommendations**, including in relation to the targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Afghanistan: Mullah Hasan Akhund appointed PM of new Taliban govt, Mullah Baradar to be his deputy

- **Mullah Mohammad Hasan Akhund** will lead the interim Taliban government in Afghanistan
- The group's co-founder Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar has been appointed as his deputy
- Former President Ashraf Ghani escaped the country after Taliban seized control on August 15.

El Salvador becomes first country to adopt bitcoin as legal tender

- **El Salvador** has become the first country in the world to accept Bitcoin as legal tender.
- The government of El Salvador claimed that the move will give many citizens of the country access to bank services for the first time.
- Trading in cryptocurrency will help the country save around \$400 million in fees that is levied by banks and financial institutions on the money sent home by emigrants.
- El Salvador had bought its first 400 Bitcoins.

Cuba becomes 1st country to vaccinate children from the age of two against Covid-19, its Abdala and Soberana vaccines not approved by World Health Organization

- **Cuba** became the first country in the world **on September 6, 2021**, to **vaccinate toddlers** with the COVID-19 vaccine.
- The children in Cuba from the age of 2 are being vaccinated with home-grown jabs which are not recognized by the **World Health Organisation (WHO)**.
- Cuba with a population of 11.2 million people aims at vaccinating all its children.
- The move is significant before the government decides to reopen the schools that have been closed since the outbreak of the COVID-19 in March 2020.

Greece govt. creates Climate Crisis and Civil Protection Ministry

- The **Greek government** announced that it is creating a ministry for climate change after a record-breaking summer of deadly heat.
- The huge fires, fanned by temperatures of 47.1 °C, led to thousands of people losing their homes.
- The Ministry for Climate Change and Civil Protection could provide its infrastructure in the event of extreme weather events like heat waves.

Yoshihide Suga step down as Japan's prime minister

- Japanese Prime Minister **Yoshihide Suga** stated in a surprise move he would step down, setting the stage for a new premier after a one-year tenure marred by an unpopular COVID-19 response and sinking public support.
- Suga, who **took over after Shinzo Abe** resigned last September citing ill health, has seen his approval ratings drop below 30% as the nation struggles with its worst wave of COVID-19 infections ahead of a general election this year.
- Suga did not capitalise on his last major achievement - hosting the Olympics, which were postponed months before he took office as corona virus cases surged.

World's largest plant capturing carbon from air unveiled in Iceland

- The **world's largest plant** designed to suck **carbon dioxide** out of the air and turn it into rock has started running.
- The plant, named Orca after the Icelandic word "**orka**" meaning "**energy**", consists of four units, each made up of two metal boxes that look like shipping containers.
- **Constructed by** Switzerland's Climeworks and Iceland's Carbfix, when operating at capacity the plant will draw 4,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide out of the air every year.

Om Birla Addressed the 5th World Conference of Speakers of Parliament 2021 in Vienna, Austria

- The Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla participated in the conference, organized by **the Austrian Parliament, Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the United Nations (UN)**.
- The **5th World Conference of Speakers of Parliament (5WCSP) 2021 was held in Vienna, Austria** from September 7-8, 2021.
- Austrian Parliament is the first national parliament in history to co-host the World Conference of Speakers of Parliament.
- **The theme of the Conference:** Parliamentary leadership for more effective multilateralism that delivers peace and sustainable development for the people and planet.
- The Conference was **held 5 years once**, the Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament was held in **2015 in New York, United States**.

Nepal hosted the 74th session of WHO-SEARO - Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar Addressed

- Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar, Minister of State (MoS), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) addressed **the 74th session of the World Health Organization South-East Asia Regional Office (WHO-SEARO)** through a virtual conference and he represented India.
- The 74th session WHO SEARO was **organized by Nepal from 6th to 10th September 2021**.

- The meet also focuses on the inclusion of **treating non-communicable diseases** including **mental health and other programmes at the primary health care level**.
- **South-East Asia** comprises **one-fourth of the world's population**.
- The Region has been prioritizing the **elimination of measles and rubella by 2023**.

Report of Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar:

- MoS Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar emphasized on the measures and strategies planned to build back better **to achieve Universal Health Care and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)** related to health and to strengthen health system resilience for the future.

Orca'- World's Largest Plant Capturing Carbon Dioxide from Air Starts in Iceland

- The **World's Largest Plant to Capture Carbon Dioxide (CO₂)** from air, '**Orca**' Starts Operating in Iceland.
- It was started by a **Swiss startup Climeworks AG** in partnership with Icelandic carbon storage firm Carbfix.
- The Plant will suck in CO₂ and store it underground in the form of rock.
- The plant can capture up to **4,000 tons** of CO₂ per year.

About the Orca plant:

- The '**Orca**' refers to the Icelandic word '**Orka**' meaning '**energy**'.
- The plant consists of eight large containers similar in looks to those used in the shipping industry, which employ high-tech filters and fans to extract CO₂.

India and US launch the Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue

- **India** and the **United States of America (USA)** have launched the "**Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue (CAFMD)**".
- The **dialogue** was formally launched by **Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Shri Bhupender Yadav** and **Mr. John Kerry, U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate (SPEC)**, at an event held in New Delhi.
- "**India and the United States** are natural partners with shared values and our agenda encompasses all major pillars of our strategic priorities - including defence, security, energy, technology, education and healthcare," stated the Environment Minister emphasizing on the deep ties shared by the two mature and vibrant democracies.
- The **US Climate envoy** lauded India's leadership role in demonstrating how economic development and clean energy can go hand in hand and stated that urgent Global Climate Action is the need of the hour.
- He stressed that **India and US** are working towards speedier deployment of clean energy.

US, UK and Australia declared new partnership "AUKUS"

- In a **development termed historic and a game-changer**, the **US, the UK and Australia** announced a **trilateral security partnership** called **AUKUS** that will enable Canberra to deploy nuclear-powered submarines in the Indo-Pacific in a major challenge to China and its claims in the region.
- US President **Joe Biden**, UK Prime Minister **Boris Johnson** and Australian Prime Minister **Scott Morrison** launched the alliance in a joint virtual appearance.

About AUKUS:

- The AUKUS pact will strive over the **next 18 months to equip Australia** with nuclear propulsion technology, which the United States has shared only with the United Kingdom under a decades-old arrangement put together in the face of the threat from the then Soviet Union.
- Australia's **nuclear-powered submarines**, when they deploy, will be armed with conventional weapons only and not nuclear weapons.

Trilateral Security Partnership:

- Prime Minister Scott Morrison of Australia, **a member of the Quad and other multilateral groups** in the region, also sought to convey continued salience of these formations for Australia.
- "The **AUKUS** will also enhance our contribution to our growing network of partnerships in the Indo-Pacific region: ANZUS (Australia, New Zealand and the US); our Asean friends; our bilateral strategic partners, the Quad; Five Eyes (US, UK, Australia, Canada and New Zealand) countries; and, of course, our dear Pacific family."

BLS International partners with NHA to process Ayushman Bharat cards

- **The National Health Authority (NHA)** has authorised **LS International**, an **IT Service Management** for digital processing of '**Ayushman Bharat cards**' under **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)**.
- The beneficiaries can go for **cashless & paperless access to health services** in Hospitals through this card, covered under AB-PMJAY.
- Under AB-PMJAY, Indian government provides a health insurance cover of **upto Rs 5 lakhs per family per annum**.

ASEAN India Economic Ministers Consultation co-chairs India and Brunei, Ensures support for Post Pandemic Efforts

- The **18th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)- India Economic Ministers Consultation** organized under the chairmanship of Anupriya Patel, and H.E. DatoDr. Amin Liew Abdullah, Minister of Finance and Economy, Brunei Darussalam.
- The meeting was virtually **co-chaired by India and Brunei**.
- Participants– It was attended by the Economic Ministers of all 10 ASEAN countries- **Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam**.

Supports to Farmers keeping the World away from SDGs: Report released by FAO, UNDP & UNEP

- **Agencies of the United Nations (UN)** have called for a **sweeping review of global support to farmers** that are making the planet warmer and also keeping it away from attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.
- This is ahead of the **Food Systems Summit** that will take place September 23, 2021.
- Three UN agencies — Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UN Development Programme (UNDP) and UN Environment Programme (UNEP) — **released** A multi-billion-dollar opportunity: Repurposing agricultural support to transform food systems.
- The **report analysed countries' support to farmers** and the consequent adverse impacts on food prices, environment, global warming and farmers, specifically smallholders.

- Support to farmers by countries has been a contentious issue in the regime of the World Trade Organization, putting the developed and developing countries at loggerheads.
- The **contemporary food production system** has always been a cause of concern due to its high greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Incumbent PM Stefan Yanev to lead an interim administration in Bulgaria elections

- **Bulgarian President Rumen Radev** has reappointed **incumbent caretaker premier Stefan Yanev** to lead an interim administration until a new government is formed, the official state gazette has shown.
- The **European Union's poorest member state** will hold its third parliamentary elections this year on November 14, after inconclusive polls in April and July failed to produce a government.
- Radev, who is running for re-election in a presidential vote also set for November 14, dissolved parliament and re-appointed most of the interim ministers who took office in May after almost a decade of political dominance by **former centre-right Prime Minister Boyko Borissov**.
- The **new interim government** will have to **submit a national plan to Brussels** on how it plans to use **more than 6 billion euros** from the EU's corona virus recovery fund and shield the country from an upsurge of new infections and the possible arrival of migrants from Afghanistan.

WEF to host 5 day Davos annual meet in Jan 2022

- The **World Economic Forum** stated its **next annual meeting** will be held in the Swiss ski resort town of Davos in January 2022, making it the **first major** in-person congregation of the world leaders in almost two years since the deadliest pandemic hit the world.
- The **WEF's 2020 Davos annual meeting** was the last such summit before the COVID-19 pandemic virtually shut down the entire world while the **Geneva-based organisation** for international public-private cooperation had to skip to skip its yearly congregation in 2021 due to safety and health concerns posed by the deadly virus that was **first detected in China** in December 2019 before it became a global pandemic by February-March period last year.
- The **meeting** will focus on **accelerating stakeholder capitalism**, harnessing the technologies of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and ensuring a more inclusive future of work.
- The **Annual Meeting 2022** will be the first global leadership event to set the agenda for a sustainable recovery.

Putin's United Russia Party won parliamentary majority

- Ruling United Russia party, which supports **President Vladimir Putin**, has **won** a bigger than expected parliamentary majority despite unease over living standards.
- With over 99 per cent of ballots counted, the Central Election Commission stated United Russia has **won nearly 50 per cent of the vote**, with its nearest rival, the Communist Party, taking just under 19 per cent.
- The scale of the victory means United Russia will have more than two-thirds of deputies in the 450-seat State Duma lower house of parliament.
- This will enable it to continue to push through laws without having to rely on other parties.

Piyush Goyal Addresses the G-33 Virtual Informal Ministerial Meeting; Hosted by Indonesia

- Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs & Food & Public Distribution and Textiles **Piyush Goyal** addressed the G-33 Virtual Informal Ministerial Meeting.
- Objective of the meeting is to discuss **the 'Agricultural Priority Issues of G-33' and the Way Forward for the 12th Ministerial Conference (MC-12) scheduled to be held from 30th November to 3rd December 2021.**

About G-33

- Total Member Countries – 47
- The grouping is called **Friends of Special Products in agriculture.**
- **It is a coalition of developing countries.**
- It was established in the **Cancun ministerial conference, Doha Round of WTO.**
- The G33 has proposed special rules for developing countries at WTO negotiations, like allowing them to continue to restrict access to their agricultural markets.

About Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) :

- **The Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) is a WTO treaty** that was negotiated during the **Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)** and formally **ratified in 1994 at Marrakesh, Morocco.**

Highlights of MoS MEA Meenakshi Lekhi visit to Portugal and Spain

- From September 12-17, 2021 the Minister of State (MoS) **Meenakshi Lekhi**, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) visited Portugal and Spain to enhance bilateral ties with the two countries.
- **Visit to Spain:**
- She called on the Spanish Foreign Minister, Jose Manuel Albares and had consultations with the Secretary of State for International Affairs, Ms. Pilar Cancela Rodriguez.
- **Cooperation with the Cervantes Institute of Spain along with cooperation in Film making, Sports and Science and Technology was also discussed.**

Visit to Portugal:

- **Agreement on Indian Citizens Recruitment Signed**
- On September 12-14 of 2021 she visited Portugal where a bilateral agreement on the recruitment of Indian citizens was signed after the review meeting of bilateral relations with her counterpart, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Francisco Andre.
- **With this pact, Portugal becomes the first European country with which India has signed a dedicated agreement on labour mobility.**
- This is also the **first agreement signed by Portugal outside the EU.**
- The agreement will strengthen the socio-economic aspect between both nations as it sets out the procedures for recruitment of Indian workers and professionals in Portugal.

Justin Trudeau won 3rd term as Prime Minister of Canada

- Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau** won a **third term** in **Canada's snap election** but fell short of regaining the majority he was seeking, faced with relying on smaller parties in another fragmented parliament.
- While **Trudeau** is likely to be able to pursue **his left-leaning agenda** with the backing of other parties in parliament, he lacks the broad-based support from voters needed to govern alone.
- For a **second straight election**, his party lost the popular vote to the Conservatives and won only because of a strong showing in Toronto, Montreal and other cities.
- With more than 90% of polls reporting, the Liberals had just 31.8% of the national vote.
- That would be the lowest share for any governing party in the nation's history.
- The Conservatives stood at 34.1%.

Iran - 9th member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

- At the end of the **21st Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)**, held in the **Tajik capital Dushanbe**, the leaders of the **eight main members of the organisation** agreed to change the membership of the Islamic Republic of Iran from an observer member to a full member and signed the relevant documents.
- Accordingly, the technical process of Iran becoming **one of the main members of the organisation** has begun and Iran will henceforth cooperate and interact with member countries as the **main member** of the important regional organisation.

India chairs the 6th BRICS YSF and BRICS tax authorities' virtual meet

- India chairs the 6th BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) Young Scientist Forum (YSF) for the year 2021.
- The event was **hosted by the Department of Science & Technology (DST)**, in collaboration with the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru (NIAS).
- The forum represented the four areas such as Health care, Energy, Cyber and Innovations.
- **Sanjay Bhattacharyya of India, Secretary (CPV&OIA) & BRICS Sherpa delivered a keynote address at BRICS Young Scientist Forum.**
- India recently chaired the 13th BRICS Summit with the theme BRICS@15: Intra-BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus.

Krishan Pal Gurjar attends 15th East Asia Summit ;Anupriya Patel attended 9th EAS-EMM

- 15th East Asia Summit Energy Ministers Meeting with the theme '**We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper**' was held virtually.
- Minister of State for Power, Krishan Pal Gurjar attended the meet on behalf of India and provided a brief status of the Indian energy transition plans, policies, challenges and efforts towards decarbonisation.
- The meeting aimed at coordinating efforts of ASEAN countries in pursuing the goal of energy security and energy transition to benefit the people of the region.
- India confirmed **that ASEAN is a region of great importance.**

- Engagement with ASEAN has been and will remain a critical element of India's 'Act East' policy and strategy.
- India is looking forward to an early outcome on the TRIPS Waiver proposal for vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics.
- Considering the encouraging trend, WTO had also revised its projection for global trade **volume growth in 2021 to 8% compared to the 7% earlier.**
- India is a part of **the "Supply Chain Resilience Initiative"** launched in September, 2020.

Bangladesh to form e-commerce regulatory body: Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi

- The **Bangladesh government** will set up an **e-commerce regulatory body** to monitor the sector properly.
- Commerce Minister **Tipu Munshi** stated that the government will enact a **detailed e-commerce** law also to regulate this sector.
- The **announcement** comes after a major e-commerce company of Bangladesh allegedly cheated consumers worth **hundreds of crores** taka.
- The Minister assured that **legal action will be taken against the company** who cheated consumers.
- Law ministry has been asked to suggest the ways to solve the issue.
- Companies like Evaly and Alesha Mart spent a huge amount of money on advertisement and sponsorships.
- Every company must obtain a unique Business Identification Number (BIN) from the commerce ministry, reports the official news agency BSS.

Statue of Bitcoin founder Satoshi Nakamoto unveiled in Hungary

- **Bitcoin's pseudonymous creator Satoshi Nakamoto's first statue** was unveiled in Budapest, Hungary.
- Although the **legendary creator's identity** is still a mystery to the world, the bronze statue acknowledges the immense contribution to the disruption of traditional currency.
- It has been put on display at **Graphishop Park, Budapest.**
- The sculpture is the bust of a person wearing a hoodie that has the **Bitcoin (BTC) logo** engraved on it.
- The face has been sculpted with vague features to represent Satoshi Nakamoto's anonymity.
- A video features a crowd of people surrounding **the statue** and clicking photos and videos during the ceremony.
- The **unveiling ceremony** saw the presence of Andras Gyorfi, the co-founder of the "Statue of Satoshi" project and editor of crypto news site Kripto Akademia, and Debreczeni Barnabas, CEO of Hungarian crypto exchange Shinrai.
- Both of them addressed the crowd at the ceremony.

Somalia hosts first public film-screening in 30 years

- **Somalia** has hosted its **first movie** screening in **30 years** under heavy security as the conflict-ravaged country hopes for a cultural renewal.
- The **event** was held at the **National Theatre of Somalia**, which has a history that reflects the tumultuous journey of the Horn of Africa nation.
- It has been **targeted by suicide bombers** and used as a base by warlords – and until it had never screened a Somali film.

- **Mogadishu** was home to many cinema halls during its cultural heyday, and the National Theatre – built by Chinese engineers as a gift from Mao Zedong in 1967 – hosted live concerts and plays.
- But the **seaside capital** fell silent after civil war erupted in 1991.

WHO tightened its global air quality norms for first time since 2005

- The **World Health Organization** tightened its global air quality guidelines in its **first revision since 2005**.
- The organization stated **air pollution** is one of the "**biggest environmental threats to human health**", "**Clean air is fundamental to health**".
- "Compared to **15 years ago**, when the **previous edition of these guidelines was published**, there is now a much stronger body of evidence to show how air pollution affects different aspects of health at even lower concentrations than previously understood".
- Under the guidelines, the **WHO lowered recommended exposure levels** to key pollutants including ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide and particulate matter.
- They were adjusted to account for the latest evidence that shows the health effects from exposure.
- The study found particulate matter "**equal or smaller than 10 and 2.5 microns (µm) in diameter**" is particularly dangerous, having the ability to travel deep into either the lungs or the bloodstream.

About WHO:

- The World Health Organization is a **specialized agency** of the United Nations responsible for international public health.
- The WHO Constitution states its **main objective** as "the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health".

Bangabandhu-Bapu digital exhibition begins in Dhaka

- The **Bangabandhu-Bapu digital exhibition** was opened for public viewing in Dhaka.
- Education Minister of Bangladesh Dr. Dipu Moni, State Minister for Culture K.M. Khalid and High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Vikram Doraiswami **opened the exhibition at the Shilpkala Academy in Dhaka**.
- The **exhibition showcases** in a thematic manner the **lives of the father of the nation of Bangladesh** Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi.
- The **exhibition has been specially curated by the two governments** to commemorate the Mujib Boarsho, **birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib** and **150 years of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi** as well as the **golden jubilee of India-Bangladesh bilateral relations**.

UNICEF's Fed to Fail? Report: No improvement in young children's diets over past decade

- In accordance with the **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)** report titled '**Fed to Fail? The crisis of children's diets in early life**', two in every three children between 6–23 months didn't get the nutritious diet needed for healthy growth and the COVID-19 pandemic could make the situation much worse.
- This report was released ahead of the United Nations Food Systems Summit on September 23, 2021 in New York, United States (US).

Basis of Analysis:

- The report examined the **UNICEF Global Database on Infant and Young Child Feeding** for the status, trends, **inequities and barriers to nutritious diets of children aged 6–23 months.**
- This database has collated data from 607 nationally representative surveys conducted in 135 countries, **representing more than 90% of all children under 2 years.**
- UNICEF has estimated that globally, more than half of children **under the age of 5 with wasting are younger than 2 years of age.**
- This amounts to **around 23 million children.**

COVID-19 Slow down the Development Towards SDGs – The 3rd Assessment Report of FAO

- According to the report of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations(UN) titled '**Tracking progress on food and agriculture-related SDG indicators 2021**', COVID 19 has set back progress towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) enshrined in the UN's Agenda 2030, undermining the decades of development efforts.
- It focuses on **eight SDGs, which were adopted at the UN summit in New York in 2015.**
- It's **FAO's 3rd assessment this time.**
- According to the report, the COVID-19 pandemic has increased the burden of chronic hunger.
- It has **pushed around 83 to 132 million people into hunger in 2020.**
- COVID-19 has disrupted the food supply in society, around 14 percent of all food has been lost.
- The new report coincides with the **recent UN Food Systems Summit, which aims to raise global awareness and spur actions to transform food systems, eradicate hunger, reduce diet-related diseases, and heal the planet.**

WMO Report 'United in Science 2021': COVID-19 has not Slowed Climate change

- The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) released a report on the latest climate science information named '**United in Science 2021**'.
- As per the report, the COVID-19 caused **only a temporary decline in carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions in 2020.**
- Whereas the concentrations of major greenhouse gases – CO2, methane (CH4) and nitrous oxide (N2O) in the **atmosphere continued to increase in 2020 and the first half of 2021.**
- Global Climate in 2017- 21: **The global average surface temperature for the period from 2017–2021 is among the warmest on record, estimated at 1.06 °C to 1.26 °C above pre-industrial (1850–1900) levels.**
- Sea level rise: **Global mean sea levels rose 20 cm from 1900 to 2018 and at an accelerated rate of 3.7+0.5 mm/year from 2006 to 2018.**

WHO announced new Global Air Quality Guidelines

- The World Health Organization (WHO) announced new stringent Global Air Quality Guidelines (AQGs) **to assess the effects of air pollution and its health impact.**
- Earlier, **WHO issued guidelines in 2005.**
- Yet many countries did not reach 2005 AQGs.

- Even lower levels of air pollutions have impact on health and climate change In the new AQGs thresholds was set for six key air pollutants — particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10), ozone (O3), nitrogen dioxide (NO2), sulphur dioxide (SO2) and carbon monoxide (CO).
- Bangladesh, Pakistan and India have recorded the highest air pollution levels with regard to the 2005 WHO guidelines.

Revision Points

Country	Capital	Currency	Head
UAE	Abu Dhabi	Dirham	Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan
Bangladesh	Dhaka	Taka	Abdul Hamid
Uruguay	Montevideo	Peso	Luis Lacalle Pou
Australia	Canberra	Dollar	Scott Morrison
Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur	Ringgit	Malaysia
Singapore	Singapore City	Dollar	Lee Hsien Loong
South Africa	Bloemfontein	Rand	Cyril Ramaphosa
Canada	Ottawa	Dollar	Justin Trudeau
Afghanistan	Kabul	Afghani	Mullah Mohammad Hassan Akhund
El Salvador	San Salvado	US Dollar	Nayib Bukele
Cuba	Havana	Peso	Miguel Díaz-Canel
Greece	Athens	Euro	Katerina Sakellaropoulou
Japan	Tokyo	Yen	Yoshihide Suga
Iceland	Reykjavik	Krona	Guðni Th. Jóhannesson
Austria	Austria	Euro	Alexander Van der Bellen
Nepal	Kathmandu	Rupee	Bidhya Devi Bhandari
USA	Washington D.C	Dollar	Joe Biden
UK	London	Pound Sterling	Boris Johnson
Myanmar	Nay Pyi Taw	Kyat	Min Aung Hlaing
France	Paris	Euro	Jean Castex
Finland	Helsinki	Euro	Sanna Marin
Thailand	Bangkok	Baht	Prayut Chan-o-cha
Vietnam	Hanoi	Dong	Pham Minh Chinh
Philippines	Manila	Peso	Rodrigo Duterte
Laos	Vientiane	kip	Phankham Viphavanh

Indonesia	Jakarta	Rupiah	Joko Widodo
Netherlands	Amsterdam	Euro	Mark Rutte
Portugal	Lisbon	Euro	António Costa
Brunei	Bandar Seri Begawan	Dollar	Hassanal Bolkiah
Cambodia	Phnom Penh	Reil	Hun Sen
Bulgaria	Sofia	Lev	Stefan Yanev
Russia	Moscow	Ruble	Mikhail Mishustin
Spain	Madrid	Euro	Pedro Sánchez
Portugal	Lisbon	Euro	António Costa
Iran	Tehran	Rial	Ebrahim Raisi
Hungary	Budapest	Forint	János Áder
Somalia	Mogadishu	Shilling	Mohamed Abdullahi Farmaajo
Morocco	Rabat	Dirham	Aziz Akhannouch
Algeria	Algiers	Dollar	Abdelmadjid Tebboune
China	Beijing	Renminbi	Xi Jinping
South Korea	Seoul	Won	Moon Jae-in
Switzerland	Bern	Franc	Guy Parmelin
Ireland	Dublin	Euro	Micheál Martin
Oman	Muscat	Rial	Qaboos bin Said
Poland	Warsaw	Zloty	Mateusz Morawiecki
Germany	Berlin	Euro	Angela Merkel
Bhutan	Thimphu	Ngultrum	Frank-Walter Steinmeier
Denmark	Copenhagen	Krone	Mette Frederiksen
Yemen	Sanaa	Rial	Maeen Abdulmalik Saeed
New Zealand	Wellington	Dollar	Jacinda Ardern
Pakistan	Islamabad	Rupee	Imran Khan
Italy	Rome	Euro	Jacinda Ardern
Norway	Oslo	Krone	Erna Solberg
Colombia	Bogota	Peso	Iván Duque Márquez
Czech republic	Prague	Koruna	Andrej Babiš

Important Appointments

National Appointments

Name of the Person	Designation	Predecessor/Others
Vartika Shukla	CMD, Engineers India Ltd	
Pankaj Kumar Singh	BSF Director General	
Sanjay Arora	Indo-Tibetan Border Police Director General	
Raul Rebello	Chief Operating Officer, Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Ltd	Rajnish Agarwal
Rajwinder Singh Bhatti	ADG Border Security Force	
J B Mohapatra	Chairman, Central Board of Direct Taxes	
Atul Bhatt	Chairman and Managing Director, Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd	
PPK Ramacharyulu	Rajya Sabha secretary general	Desh Deepak Verma
Gaurav Sharma	Group Chief Technology Officer, Poonawalla Fincorp	
Rani Rampal and cricketer Smriti Mandhana	Brand Ambassadors, Equitas Small Finance Bank	
Rohit Soni	Chief Financial Officer, Adani Transmission Limited	
Arun Kumar Singh	Chairman and Managing Director, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd	
Rajnish Kumar	Economic Advisor, Andhra Pradesh government	
Harsha Bhupendra Bangari	Managing Director, EXIM Bank of India	
S.L. Tripathy	Chairman-cum-Managing Director, United India Insurance Company Limited	
S Ramesh	Managing Director, Bharat Petro Resources Limited	General Manager in Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited
V Ramkrishana Gupta	Chief Financial Officer, Bharat	N Vijayagopal

	Petroleum Corporation Limited	
Vivek Sagar	Deputy Superintendent of Police, Madhya Pradesh	Won bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics
Satish Parekh (Ashoka Buildcon Managing Director)	President, International Road Federation	Subhmay Gangopadhyay
Banwarilal Purohit	Governor of Punjab	
RN Ravi	Governor of Tamil Nadu	Banwarilal Purohit
Lieutenant-General Gurmit Singh	Governor of Uttarakhand	Baby Rani Maurya
V. Vaidyanathan	MD & CEO, IDFC First Bank	
G.S. Pannu	President of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal	Presently posted as Vice- President at ITAT
Neeraj Chopra	Brand Ambassador, Tata AIA Life Insurance	
GC Murmu	Chairman, Assembly of Asian Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI)	For a period of 2024 to 2027 (India will host the 16th assembly of ASOSAI in 2024)
Nirlep Singh Rai	Chairman & Managing Director, National Fertilizers Ltd	
Kabir Suri (Co-Founder & Director, Azure Hospitality)	President, National Restaurant Association of India	Anurag Katriar
Sameer Sharma	Chief Secretary of the government of Andhra Pradesh	
Atul Kumar Goel for	MD & CEO, Punjab National Bank (Recommended)	SS Mallikarjuna Rao
Bhupendra Patel	Gujarat Chief Minister	Vijay Rupani
Sardar Iqbal Singh Lalpura	Chairman, National Commission for Minorities	
Vijay Goel	Vice Chairman of Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti	
Rahul Dravid	Brand Ambassador of Piramal Realty	
Justice Venugopal	Acting Chairperson of National Company Law Appellate Tribunal	S J Mukhopadhaya

Raja Randhir Singh	Acting president of Olympic Council of Asia	Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah
Vinod Kannan	CEO of Vistara Airlines	Leslie Thng
Indu Malhotra (Former Supreme Court judge)	DDCA Ombudsman cum Ethics Officer	
Rohit Sharma	TAGGSTER Brand Ambassador	
Kriti Sanon	Fossil's brand ambassador for India	
Amit Saxena	CTO, RBI Innovation Hub	He is the Global Deputy CTO of State Bank of India
Alka Nangia Arora	Additional charge of the post of Chairman cum Managing Director, National Small Industries Corporation	
Pankaj Tripathi	Brand Ambassador, Fino Payments Bank	
Raninder Singh	President, National Rifle Association of India	
Kunwar Sultan Singh	Secretary General, National Rifle Association of India	
Randeep Mann	Treasurer, National Rifle Association of India	
Kailash Satyarthi	Appointed as one of 17 SDG Advocates by UN	
Rajiv Aggarwal	Head of Public Policy, Facebook India	Ankhi Das
Hussan Lal	Principal Secretary to Punjab CM Charanjit Singh Channi	
Air Marshal VR Chaudhari	Chief of Air Staff, Indian Air Force	RKS Bhadauria
Rajiv Bansal (Served as Financial Advisor to the Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry)	Secretary to the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation	Pradeep Singh Kharola
T S Venkateswaran	Chief Risk Officer, Coromandel	

	International	
Debabrata Mukherjee	Chief of Audit Bureau of Circulations	
Gurbirpal Singh	34 th Director General of National Cadet Corps	
GC Murmu	External auditor of International Atomic Energy Agency	For a period of six years from 2022 to 2027
Atul Chaturvedi	President, Solvent Extractors' Association (SEA) of India	
C K Ranganathan (CavinKare Chairman & Managing Director)	President of All India Management Association (For a period of one year)	Harsh Pati Singhania, JK Paper Vice Chairman & Managing Director
Aveek Sarkar	Chairman of Press Trust of India (For a two-year-term)	He is the Editor Emeritus and Vice Chairman of the Ananda Bazar Group of Publications
Munish Sharda	Group Executive and Head, Bharat Banking, Axis Bank	

International Appointments

Name of the Person	Designation	Predecessor/Others
Jim Lanzone	Chief Executive, Yahoo	
Mullah Mohammad Hassan Akhund	Acting Prime Minister, Afghanistan	
Aziz Akhannouch	Prime Minister of Morocco	Appointed by the Moroccan King Mohammed VI
Prativa Mohapatra	India MD and VP, Adobe	
Pawan Goenka	Chairperson, Indian National Space Promotion Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe)	
Joshna Chinappa	Brand Ambassador, ASICS	
Virat Kohli	Athlete Investor & Brand Ambassador of Hyperice	
Gordon Brown (Former	Ambassador for Global Health	Appointed by the WHO Director-

British Prime Minister)	Financing of World Health Organization	General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Stefan Yanev	Caretaker Prime Minister, Bulgaria	Boyko Borisov
Magnus Carlsen	Global Brand Ambassador, Mastercard	

Resignation/Retirement

Name of the Person	Designation
Baby Rani Maurya	Uttarakhand Governor
Vijay Rupani	Gujarat Chief Minister
Amarinder Singh	Chief Minister, Punjab
R N Ravi	Governor, Nagaland

Google chooses 2 Indian women entrepreneurs for its academic programme

- **Google** has reintroduced a major focus on **health-tech after 2020**, and **two Indian start-up founders** have been selected for **Women Founders Academy - Monika Mehta of Zealth-AI and Laina Emmanuel of BrainSightAI**.
- They both are tackling different difficulties in healthcare.
- The Women Founders Academy, a 12-week programme provides founders with training to improve their leadership abilities, establish great teams, and handle their specific growth requirements.

Govt appointed 10 merchant bankers for managing IPO of LIC

- The **government** has **appointed** 10 merchant bankers including **Goldman Sachs (India) Securities, Citigroup Global Markets India**, and Nomura Financial Advisory and Securities India to manage the mega initial public offering of country's largest insurer LIC.
- Other selected bankers include SBI Capital Market, JM Financial, Axis Capital, BofA Securities, JP Morgan India, ICICI Securities, and Kotak Mahindra Capital Co Ltd.
- "Government has **finalised** the book running lead managers and some other advisors for the IPO of LIC".

Amal Clooney appointed as special adviser to ICC prosecutor

- **British human rights lawyer Amal Clooney** was named as one of 17 special advisers to the **new chief prosecutor** of the **International Criminal Court**.
- Clooney was appointed as an adviser on the Darfur region of Sudan, where prosecutors allege that government forces and militias backed by Khartoum carried out a campaign of genocide.
- Other advisers focus on topics including crimes against children, gender persecution, sexual violence and slavery.

About ICC:

- The **International Criminal Court** is an intergovernmental organization and international tribunal that sits in The Hague, Netherlands.
- The **ICC prosecutes individuals**, not groups or States.
- Any individual who is alleged to **have committed crimes** within the jurisdiction of the ICC may be brought before the ICC.

Nobel Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi appointed as one of 17 SDG Advocates by UN

- United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has **appointed 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Advocates**, ahead of the 76th General Assembly.
- Nobel Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi, STEM activist Valentina Munoz Rabanal, Microsoft President Brad Smith and K-pop superstars Blackpink were named in the list.

About Kailash Satyarthi

- He is a child rights activist.
- **Founder of Bachpan Bachao Andolan**
- **Received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014.**
- His role as SDG advocate is to focus on protecting and promoting the rights of children around the world.

Atul Chaturvedi reappointed as President of Solvent Extractors' Association (SEA) of India

- **Atul Chaturvedi**, Director of Adani Wilmar Ltd, Ahmedabad, has been **reappointed** as the **President of Solvent Extractors' Association (SEA) of India for 2021-22.**
- The **annual general meeting (AGM)** of SEA of India, which was held in Goa recently, appointed Chaturvedi and other office-bearers for 2021-22.
- **The AGM also appointed zonal chairmen and deputy chairmen for 2021-22.**
- **Central Zone:** Vijay Shrishrimal, Managing Director of Itarsi Oils & Flours Pvt Ltd, Mumbai, (Chairman); and Gulrez Alam, Director (Business Development) of ABIS Exports (India) Pvt Ltd, Rajnandgaon, (Deputy Chairman).
- **West Zone:** Haresh S Vyas, Managing Director of Royal Castor Products Ltd, Mumbai, (Chairman); and Bhavin J Chhatrala, Managing Director of Castorgirnar Industries Pvt Ltd, Junagadh, (Deputy Chairman).
- **South Zone:** V Neethi Mohan, Director of Vaighai Agro Products Ltd, Madurai, (Chairman); and Praveen Mehta; Executive Director of Abhay Solvents Pvt Ltd, Koppal, (Deputy Chairman).
- **North Zone:** Pawan Kumar Agarwal, Director of SP Solvent Ltd, Rudrapur, (Chairman); and Kishan Kumar Agarwal, Director of Ram Niwas Flour Mills Pvt Ltd, Lucknow, (Deputy Chairman).
- **East Zone:** Sushil Kumar Agarwal, Director of Pragati Agri Products (P) Ltd, Kolkata, (Chairman); and Rajendra Kumar Jain of Pancham Marketiers Pvt Ltd, Kolkata, (Deputy Chairman).

Important Awards and Honours

Winner	Prize	Awarded By/Theme/Purpose
Basant Kumar Misra (Odisha)	International Lifetime Achievement Award in Neurosurgery'	He is the first Indian to get this honour
Chandigarh Railway Station (for providing high-quality, nutritious food to passengers)	5-star 'Eat Right Station' certification	By Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
Alejandro Prieto (Mexico)	Bird Photographer of the Year	
Larsen & Toubro Technology Services, Mumbai (1 st Prize) & Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (8 th rank)	Association for Talent Development (ATD) 2021 BEST Award (Among 71 org)	Honored by the Association for Talent Development
Binodini Debi (Odia Thespian)	Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Yuva Pratibha Samman	At 27th Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra (GKCM) Award Festival
Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd	Dun & Bradstreet – Corporate Award 2021	Best Growth Performance-Power.
Hyderabad International Airport	CII 'National Energy Leader' & Excellent Energy Efficient Unit	At the 22nd National Award Ceremony for 'Excellence in Energy Management'
Shailendra Singh	Behler Turtle Conservation Award	For bringing three critically endangered turtle conservation species back from the brink of extinction
Namita Gokhale	Seventh Yamin Hazarika Woman of Substance Award	Organised by a collective of women professionals from the year 2015
Delhi International Airport Limited	CII 'National Energy Leader' and 'Excellent Energy Efficient Unit'	At the 22nd National Award ceremony for 'Excellence in Energy Management'

Trichy Golden Rock Workshop	Energy Efficient Unit Award	Presented by the Confederation of Indian Industry
Ayaan Shankta (Mumbai)	2021 International Young Eco-Hero	For environment project
International Crops Reaserch Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)	Africa Food Prize for 2021	For improving food security in sub-Saharan Africa
Mathematician Anand Kumar	Swami Brahmanand Award 2021	Education through his "Super 30" initiative,
Susanna Clarke	Women's Prize for Fiction 2021	For her novel "Piranesi"
Bhanumati Gheewala (Nurse of Sir Sayajirao General Hospital of Vadodara)	National Florence Nightingale Award 2021	
National Institute of Open Schooling	UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize 2021	For enabling education of persons with disabilities through technology-enabled inclusive learning materials
National Mineral Development Ltd. (NMDC), under Ministry of Steel	Rajbhasha Keerthi Puraskar award	It secured hird prize in the category of Undertakings situated in "C" region for the year 2019-20.
Digital Media in the Telangana Government	Public Relations Council of India (PRCI)'s Chanakya Award for the Year 2021	Dileep Kontham, Director of Digital Media
Ranganatha Ramachandra Rao	Sahitya Akademi Prize for Translation-2020	For his work Om Namo
SV Sarasvati (Deputy director-General of Military Nursing Service (MNS) for 2020)	National Florence Nightingale Award 2020	
Bangladesh's PM Sheikh Hasina	SDG Progress award	Organised by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network
Fairooz Faizah Beether of Bangladesh	2021 Changemaker Award	For her work promoting good health and well-being by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka	Global Goalkeeper Award	
Government e Marketplace	Winner of Best Use of Digital Technology	At the CIPS Excellence in Procurement Awards 2021
Tamma Srinivasa Reddy	Recognition of Photographic Achievement (ROPA) Excellence distinction	From the Photographic Society of America for the year 2020
NHPC's 510 MW Teesta-V Power Station, Sikkim	2021 IHA Blue Planet Prize	
Andhra Pradesh	Tour and Travels Association's Best Tourism Policy Award	
Jeel Albena Association for Humanitarian Development, a Yemeni humanitarian organization	2021 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award	UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, announced the laureate.

Two Indian Beaches bags International Blue Flag Certification

- The **two beaches to receive the certification** this year are **Kovalam** in Kerala and **Eden** in Puducherry.
- The **Kovalam beach in Chennai and Eden beach in Puducherry** have now been awarded the prestigious "Blue Flag" certification, an international eco-level tag taking the number of such beaches in the country to 10.
- **"India has now 10 International blue flag beaches** with the addition of Kovalam and Eden beaches this year and recertification for **8 beaches which got the tag in 2020**.
- The **Foundation for Environment Education (FEE), Denmark**, which accords the Blue Flag certification, has also given re-certification for eight nominated beaches - Shivrajpur-Gujarat, Ghoghla-Diu, Kasarkod and Padubidri-Karnataka, Kappad-Kerala, Rushikonda- Andhra Pradesh, Golden-Odisha and Radhanagar- Andaman and Nicobar, which were awarded the Blue Flag certificate last year.
- **These eight beaches** got the Blue Flag certification on **October 6, 2020**.

Ramon Magsaysay Award 2021 - list of names announced

- Bangladesh vaccine scientist **Dr. Firdausi Qadri** and Pakistan micro financier (economist) **Mohammad Amjad Saqib** has been included in the list of **five people** to be awarded this year's **Ramon Magsaysay Award**.
- The **names of the winners** of the **Ramon Magsaysay Award, considered Asia's Nobel Prize**.
- Among the awardees is **Dr. Firdousi Qadri** of Bangladesh and **Saqib** of Pakistan, as well as Philippine fisheries and community environmentalist **Roberto Ballon**, American citizen **Steven Munsu**, who works for humanitarian work and help refugees, and Indonesian watch dog for investigative journalism.

- The **winners will be formally awarded** the Magsaysay Award during the **November 28** event at the Ramon Magsaysay Centre in Manila.

Anonymous Myanmar photographer bags major photojournalism award

- A **Myanmar photographer** won the **top award** (Sept 4) at **photojournalism's biggest annual festival** for his coverage of the troubled nation's pro-democracy protests and bloody military crackdown.
- The **photographer**, who remained unnamed for security reasons, scooped the Visa d'Or for News, the most prestigious award handed out at the Visa Pour L'Image festival in Perpignan, south-western France.
- **Mr Mikko Takkunen**, the **Asia photo editor** for **The New York Times**, collected the prize on behalf of the **photographer**.
- Myanmar has been in turmoil since the military seized power in a Feb 1 coup, with near-daily protests and a huge civil disobedience movement.

President Ram Nath Kovind conferred National Award for Teachers-2021

- President **Ram Nath Kovind**, September 5, presented the **national teacher award to 44 teachers** on the occasion of Teachers' Day.
- The beginning of **Shikshak Parv-2021** under the Ministry of Education.
- The programme will be held in online mode and continue till September 17.

About National Award to Teachers:

- The **purpose of National Award to Teachers** is to celebrate the **unique contribution** of some of the finest teachers in the **country and to honor those teachers** who through their commitment and industry have not only improved the quality of school education but also enriched the lives of their students.

MSME Tool Room CITD, Hyderabad won Patent for "Anaar" (Fireworks) making Machine

- The **MSME Tool Room, Hyderabad, Central Institute of Tool Design (CITD)** has obtained a patent for the invention entitled "**AUTOMATIC MACHINE FOR THE PRODUCTION OF CONICAL SHAPED FIREWORKS**" for 20 years from the 10th November, 2015.
- Central Institute of Tool Design signed an **MOU** with M/s. Standard Fireworks Pvt. Ltd., (SFPL), Sivakasi and finalized orders worth Rs11.49 crore for machines for automation processes for **various firework projects**.
- SFPL initially had placed an **order worth Rs300 lakh** for filling up of flower pots and packing, chakkar filling and chakkar winding.
- As a first project, **CITD has taken up for Module-1** (consisting of flower pot chemical filling and packing).
- The total project consists of 10 different stations like paper cutting & pasting, chemical filling, washer insertion & ramming, mud filling & sealing etc.
- The **aim of project is to automate the entire above process** for relieving human fatigue and to save human from hazardous environment.
- The entire process is minimal human intervention.
- Hence, it is safe for humans to handle the machine in Fireworks Industry.

QCI launches country's first S.K. Joshi Laboratory Excellence Award

- QCI launched the **Prof. S.K. Joshi Laboratory Excellence Award** virtually amidst eminent dignitaries from Government & Industry.
- This is country's **first-of-its-kind Laboratory Excellence Award**.
- This Award has been instituted to promote Laboratory Quality and performance improvement in the country.
- The award has been incepted to ensure the laboratory's commitment to achieve excellence in providing high precision testing and calibration services in line with the prevalent national/international quality systems legislations, including Health, Safety & Environment.
- This **award** will be **open to all currently operational Laboratories pertaining to Testing, Calibration & Medical including their Proficiency Testing Providers & Reference Material Producers** located in India.

President Kovind conferred National Florence Nightingale awards to nursing personnel

- The **President** stated that it was the **unrelenting support** provided by the nurses, which has helped us in fighting the Covid-19 pandemic.
- It is **only because of their sustained efforts** that we have achieved the distinction of vaccinating a sizeable portion of our population.
- The milestone of vaccinating one crore-plus people in a single day in India was possible only because of their dedication and untiring efforts.
- The President noted that **nurses in India** are adapting themselves for innovative and challenging roles.
- The government has launched the '**Midwifery Service Initiative**' to create a new cadre of midwives.
- They would be called **Nurse Practitioner Midwife (NPM)** who would be equipped with the requisite knowledge and competencies.
- With the help of this initiative, health services would be able to reach the women of the last rung of the society.

NTPC won six awards at PRCI conclave

- The **National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)**, Ramagundam, bagged six awards in various categories at the **15th Annual Global Communication Conclave**, organised by the Public Relations Council of India (PRCI) in Goa.
- The **awards were presented by Goa Arts and Culture Minister Dr Govind Gaude**, in the presence of NTPC's Executive Director (HR) MSD Bhatta Mishra, PRCI chairman emeritus & chief mentor MB Jayaram and PRCI national president Dr T Vinay Kumar.

2021 Emmy Award Winners List Announced

- Unlike last year's mostly virtual ceremony, this year in 2021, the **Primetime Emmy Awards went back to an in-person event**.
- Apple TV+ show **Ted Lasso** was the hot **favourite** with most nominations, 13.
- It went on to clinch 4 trophies, including three acting awards and 1 win for Outstanding Comedy Series.

- The Crown, which went in with **11 nominations**, **proved to be the big winner** — with **7 wins**, including Outstanding Drama Series, and awards for directing, writing, and four acting awards for Tobias Menzies, Olivia Colman, Josh O'Connor and Gillian Anderson.

Winners at 73rd Primetime Emmy Awards:

- Outstanding **Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series**: Hannah Waddingham as Rebecca Welton on Ted Lasso
- Outstanding **Supporting Actor in a Comedy Series**: Brett Goldstein as Roy Kent on Ted Lasso
- Outstanding **Supporting Actress in a Limited or Anthology Series or Movie**: Julianne Nicholson as Lori Ross on Mare of Easttown
- Outstanding **Supporting Actor in a Limited or Anthology Series or Movie**: Evan Peters as Det. Colin Zabel on Mare of Easttown
- Outstanding **Writing for a Drama Series**: Peter Morgan for The Crown
- Outstanding **Directing for a Drama Series**: Jessica Hobbs for The Crown
- Outstanding **Supporting Actress in a Drama Series**: Gillian Anderson for The Crown
- Outstanding **Supporting Actor in a Drama Series**: Tobias Menzies as Prince Philip for The Crown
- Outstanding **Writing for a Variety Series**: Last Week Tonight with John Oliver
- Outstanding **Variety Talk Series**: Last Week Tonight with John Oliver
- Outstanding **Variety Sketch Series**: Saturday Night Live
- Outstanding **Writing for a Comedy Series**: Hacks
- Outstanding **Directing for a comedy series**: Hacks
- Outstanding **Lead Actor in a Comedy Series**: Jason Sudeikis for Ted Lasso
- Outstanding **Lead Actress in a Comedy Series**: Jean Smart for Hacks
- Outstanding **Competition Program**: RuPaul's Drag Race
- **Governors Award**: Debbie Allen
- Outstanding **Directing for a Limited or Anthology Series or Movie**: The Queen's Gambit
- Outstanding **Writing for a Limited or Anthology Series or Movie**: Michaela Coel for I May Destroy You
- Outstanding **Lead Actress in a Limited or Anthology Series or Movie**: Kate Winslet for Mare of Easttown
- Outstanding **Lead Actor in a Limited or Anthology Series or Movie**: Ewan McGregor for Halston
- Outstanding **Lead Actress in a Drama Series**: Olivia Colman for The Crown
- Outstanding **Lead Actor in a Drama Series**: Josh O'Connor for The Crown
- Outstanding **Variety Special (Live)**: Stephen Colbert's Election Night 2020
- Outstanding **Comedy Series**: Ted Lasso
- Outstanding **Drama Series**: The Crown
- Outstanding **Limited or Anthology Series**: The Queen's Gambit

8 writers named for Sahitya Akademi Fellowship

- The general council of National Academy of Letters aka **Sahitya Akademi** was met under the chairmanship of its president Dr Chandrashekhar Kambar where the highest honour, the **Sahitya Akademi Fellowship** was announced for **8 writers**.

The eminent writers selected for the same areas follows:

- **Ruskin Bond** – He has written over 300 short stories, essays and novels and more than 30 books for children besides several other works.
- **Vinod Kumar Shukla (Hindi)**- With 20 published books including poetry collections, novels, and short stories to his credit, he is a member of the General Council of Sahitya Akademi.
- **Sirshendu Mukhopadhyay (Bengali)**- He is a novelist and short story writer.
- **Mundanat Leelavathy (Malayalam)**- She is an eminent writer, literary critic, and educationist with more than 60 published books to her credit.
- **Dr. Bhalchandra Nemade (Marathi)**- He has around 15 published books which have won him honours as the Padma Shri, Sahitya Akademi Award, Jnanpith Award, etc.
- **Dr Tejwant Singh Gill (Punjabi)**- He an eminent writer and scholar who has written 25 books and has translated works of Punjabi poetry, drama and fiction into English and Garcia Marquez's "One Hundred Years of Solitude" into Punjabi.
- **Swami Rambhadracharya (Sanskrit)**- A spiritual leader and Sanskrit scholar, Swami Rambhadracharya is the recipient of a number of awards including five gold medals at the All-India Sanskrit Conference, Sahitya Akademi Award etc.
- **Indira Parthasarthy (Tamil)**- A writer and scholar, he has more than 40 published books to his credit including plays, novels, collection of short stories and anthologies of novellas.

Union Education and Skill Development Minister Dharmendra Pradhan presents Kaushalacharya Awards 2021

- Union Education Minister and Skill Development Minister, Dharmendra Pradhan presented the Kaushalacharya Awards for 2021 virtually on the occasion of Vishwakarma Jayanti (17th September).
- The Award was given to 41 skill trainers for their excellent contribution to the skill ecosystem
- The 41 trainers are belonged to various initiatives and training programmes of Skill India— Directorate General of Training (DGT), Apprenticeship, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) and Entrepreneurship.
- Awards for vocational training under **Industrial Training Institute (ITI)** were also presented.
- Five candidates also got the award under the apprenticeship category while two candidates got award under the trainer's category from DGT for non- engineer category.

President Ram Nath Kovind to confer National Service Scheme (NSS) Awards for 2019-20 to 42 Awardees

- The President of India, Shri **Ram Nath Kovind** presented the **National Service Scheme Awards** for the year 2019-20 in a virtual ceremony (September 24, 2021).

- Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports **Shri Anurag Thakur** and Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports **Shri Nisith Pramanik** attended the ceremony from Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, New Delhi.
- The National Service Scheme (NSS) Awards for the year 2019-20 have been given to **42 awardees in 3 different categories like University/ +2 Councils, NSS Units and their Programme Officers and NSS Volunteers**.
- The edifice of a human life is often **built on** the foundation of student life.
- Although learning is a **life-long process**, but basic personality development starts during the student life.
- That is why he considers **NSS a visionary scheme** through which students get an opportunity to serve the society and country during their school and college days itself.

11 Scientists bags 2021 Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prizes

- The **names of 11 scientists**, who received the **country's highest science award Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize** for science and technology 2021, were announced during the 80th foundation day of the **Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)**.
- The prize is given to Indian scientists below the age of 45 for outstanding research in **seven fields**—Biology, Chemistry, Environment Science, Engineering, Mathematics, Medicine and Physics.
- For Biological Sciences, **Dr Amit Singh**, department of microbiology and cell biology, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, and **Dr Arun Kumar Shukla**, department of biological sciences and bioengineering, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, were awarded.
- In chemical sciences, two researchers from the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bengaluru, **Dr Kanishka Biswas** from the International Centre of Materials Science and **Dr T Govindaraju**, from the Bio-organic Chemistry Laboratory, announced as recipients.
- For Earth, Atmosphere, Ocean and Planetary Sciences, **Dr Binoy Kumar Saikia** from Coal and Energy Research Group, CSIR North East Institute of Science and Technology, Jorhat, was named recipient.
- **Dr Debdeep Mukhopadhyay**, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, received the award under the engineering sciences category.
- In the mathematical sciences category, **Dr Anish Ghosh**, school of mathematics, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, and **Dr Saket Saurabh**, The Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai, were announced winners.
- The award for medical sciences went to **Dr Jeemon Panniyammakal**, Achutha Menon Centre for Health Science Studies, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram, and **Dr Rohit Srivastava**, department of biosciences and bioengineering, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay.
- **Dr Kanak Saha**, from Pune's Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, received the award for physical sciences.

About Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prizes:

- The **Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize** for Science and Technology is a science award in India given annually by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research for notable and **outstanding research**, applied or fundamental, in biology, chemistry, environmental science, engineering, mathematics, medicine, and Physics.

75 Divyangjan honoured with Hunarbaaz Awards

- The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad under the auspices of the Ministry of Rural Development presented **Hunarbaaz Awards** to **75 differently-abled candidates from 15 states**.
- The **award ceremony** was organised to commemorate **Antyodaya Diwas** that marks the birth anniversary of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya and also as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

About the awards:

- The awards have been designed for those candidates who were trained through **Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)** and **Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETI)** schemes of the Ministry in various trades, then got placed and worked in the organizations for more than one year or were successfully settled in the trade of their choice as self-employed.

Revision Points

Organization	Headquarters	Head/CEO/MD
World Health Organization	Geneva	Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
World Meteorological Organization	Geneva	David Grimes
United Nations	New york	António Guterres
United Children's Emergency Fund	New york	Tore Hattrem
Association of Southeast Asian Nations	Jakarta, Indonesia	Lim Jock Hoi
World Economic Forum	Cologny, Switzerland	Peter Brabeck-Letmathe
United Nations Development Programme	New York	Achim Steiner
United Nations Environment Programme	Nairobi, Kenya	Inger Andersen
Food and Agriculture Organization	Rome	Qu Dongyu
BLS International Services Ltd	New Delhi	Nikhil Gupta
New Development Bank	Shanghai	Marcos Prado Troyjo
National Health Authority	New Delhi	Vipul Aggarwal
Engineers India Ltd	New Delhi	Vartika Shukla

Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Ltd	Mumbai	Anish Shah
Central Board of Direct Taxes	New Delhi	J B Mohapatra
Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd	Visakhapatnam	Atul Bhatt
Poonawalla Fincorp	West Bengal	Adar Poonawalla
Equitas Small Finance Bank	Chennai	Vasudevan P N
Adani Transmission Limited	Ahmedabad	Anil Kumar Sardana
EXIM Bank of India	Mumbai	Harsha Bhupendra Bangari
Bharat Petro Resources Limited	Mumbai	S Ramesh
United India Insurance Company Limited	Chennai	S.L. Tripathy
International Road Federation	Geneva	Satish Parekh
IDFC First Bank	Mumbai	V. Vaidyanathan
Income Tax Appellate Tribunal	Mumbai	G.S. Pannu
Assembly of Asian Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions	Vienna	GC Murmu
National Fertilizers Ltd	Noida	Nirlep Singh Rai
National Restaurant Association of India	New Delhi	Kabir Suri
National Commission for Minorities	New Delhi	Sardar Iqbal Singh Lalpura
Vistara Airlines	Gurgaon	Vinod Kannan
National Small Industries Corporation	Delhi	Alka Nangia Arora
Fino Payments Bank	Mumbai	Rishi Gupta
National Rifle Association of India	New Delhi	Raninder Singh
Coromandel International	Secunderabad	Sameer Goel
International Atomic Energy Agency	Vienna	Rafael Mariano Grossi
Solvent Extractors' Association (SEA) of India	Mumbai	Atul Chaturvedi
All India Management Association	New Delhi	C K Ranganathan

Press Trust of India	New Delhi	Aveek Sarkar
Adobe India	Noida	Prativa Mohapatra
Yahoo	California	Jim Lanzone
Life Insurance Corporation	Mumbai	BC Patnaik (One of the MDs)
International Criminal Court	Hague, The Netherlands	Judge Joan E. Donoghue
Sustainable Development Solutions Network	New York	Jeffrey Sachs
Confederation of Indian Industry	New Delhi	TV Narendran
Quality Council of India	New Delhi	Adil Zainulbhai;
NTPC Ltd	New Delhi	Gurdeep Singh

Important MOU's

NMCG partners with SAIARD

- **Mr. Rajiv Ranjan Mishra**, Director General, **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** Mr. Hitesh Vaidya, Director, National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) and Dr. Biswajit Roy Chowdhary, **Chairman, South Asian Institute for Advanced Research and Development (SAIARD)**, NMCG signed an Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with SAIARD to create an academic platform to engage young students as well as develop a research and capacity building hub to support regional development in the eastern region.
- Both **NMCG and SAIARD** will work together to create and enhance capacity building on integrated river basin management, with a focus on geospatial technology in riverine ecosystems.
- With the signing of this MoU, SAIARD **will also henceforth be considered as the regional capacity building center for NMCG** in the eastern region.

The areas of collaboration include:

- **To conduct studies pertaining** to diverse thematic areas in the field of integrated river basin management with an emphasis on management of water, wastewater and integrated urban water management for the development of sustainable practices for rejuvenation of river and water systems.
- **To provide support** in policy making for the development of riverine areas and river sensitive urban planning
- **To provide support** in the preparation of river data base
- **To develop** a capacity building programme on geospatial technology and other areas for NMCG and other stakeholders to support internship and research
- **To develop** a dedicated GIS application-based river research center in the eastern and north-eastern region
- **To develop** a digital river library, river museum and online news portal

MeitY's NeGD signed MoU with National Law Universities

- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's (MeitY)** National **e-Governance** Division (NeGD) signed a memorandum of understanding with National Law University, Delhi and National Law Institute University in Bhopal to establish a Cyber Lab for the '**Online Capacity Building Programme on Cyber Law, Crime Investigation, and Digital Forensics**'.
- The **goal is to provide** Police Officers, State Cyber Cells, Law Enforcement Agencies, Prosecutors, and Judicial Officers with the necessary skills to deal with Cyber Forensics cases efficiently and effectively while adhering to global best practices, standards, and guidelines, as per Indian Cyber Law.
- Through its Learning Management system, NeGD, in cooperation with NLIU Bhopal, has taken the initiative to offer a **nine-month online PG diploma to 1,000 officials** (LMS).
- Learners can use the application to learn on the go at any time and from anywhere.
- The **first batch** began in **November 2020**, with 579 people accepted into the programme.

India inks MoU with Nepal

- **India and Nepal** signed a memorandum of understanding for the **reconstruction of 14 cultural heritage and 103 health sector projects** damaged by the devastating 2015 earthquake in the country.
- These projects will be reconstructed at a **cost of 420 crore Nepalese Rupees** (USD 36 million).
- The **Indian Embassy and the Central Level Project Implementation Unit (Building) of National Reconstruction Authority** signed the **MoUs** for the reconstruction of 14 cultural heritage projects in Lalitpur, Nuwakot, Rasuwa and Dhading districts and 103 health sector projects in Lalitpur, Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Sindhupalchowk, Ramechhap, Dolakha, Gulmi, Gorkha and Kavre districts.
- They were signed by both sides in the presence of Karun Bansal, First Secretary (Development Partnership and Reconstruction) of the Indian mission and Shyam Kishore Singh, Project Director, CLPIU (Building), Nepal.

India and US signed Project Agreement

- **India and the US** have inked an **agreement for cooperation** in the development of **air-launched unmanned aerial vehicles (ALUAVs)**, which could in the future lead to **joint manufacture of artificial intelligence-enabled drone swarms** capable of being launched from aircraft to overwhelm an adversary's air defence systems.
- The **two countries** will work to **co-develop the ALUAV prototype** at an initial cost of \$11 million each (total \$22 million) under the overall framework of the bilateral Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI), which has largely failed to deliver the goods since being launched in 2012.

TANGEDCO inks pact with IREDA

- **IREDA** has entered into a pact with **TANGEDCO** for providing technical expertise in developing of renewable energy projects and raising of funds.
- The memorandum of understanding (MoU) was **signed by IREDA Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) Pradip Kumar Das** and **TANGEDCO CMD Rajesh Lakhoni** in the presence of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin.

- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd (IREDA) stated "it has **signed a MoU** with the Tamil Nadu Generation & Distribution Corporation Limited (TANGEDCO), for providing its technical expertise in developing Renewable Energy projects and fund raising."
- **Under the MoU**, IREDA will extend its **technical expertise to TANGEDCO** for renewable energy project development, bid process management, and implementation support.
- **IREDA will also assist TANGEDCO** in debt raising through developing financial models, underwriting services for the proposed debt requirement, and conducting pre-market surveys and road shows to generate interest amongst prospective investors.
- There are huge opportunities for the **development of renewable energy in Tamil Nadu**.
- **TANGEDCO is planning 20,000 MW of solar power projects**, with adequate battery storage, **3,000 MW** of pumped storage hydro electric project, and **2,000 MW** of gas-based power plant for efficient renewable integration.

Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) signs pact for providing reliable power supply to security forces operating in remote, Naxal-affected and high-altitude areas

- The **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)** has signed a pact for providing reliable and sustainable power supply to security forces operating in remote, Naxal-affected and high-altitude areas.
- The MoU between the Navratna PSU BEL and the SFC Energy-AG, Germany, and FC TecNrgy Pvt Ltd (FCTec), signed recently will ensure cooperation in addressing the emerging requirement of sustainable energy to the security forces through supply of hydrogen and fuel cells.
- The partnership aims to jointly address the off-grid power needs of the country, including mission critical requirements of the security forces and a range of additional applications through highly proven and customised green energy solutions based on fuel cells

All India Institute of Ayurveda signed MoU with Western Sydney University to appoint Ayurveda Chair

- **All India Institute of Ayurveda under Ministry of Ayush** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding, MoU** in coordination with **Western Sydney University Australia**, in virtual mode to appoint an Academic Chair in Ayurveda.
- The **MoU** was signed by Professor Tanuja Nesari, Director, All India Institute of Ayurveda and Vice-Chancellor and President, Western Sydney University, Australia, Professor Barney Glover.
- The **new Academic Chair** will undertake **academic and collaborative research activities in Ayurveda**.
- It includes herbal medicine and yoga as well as design academic standards and short-term and medium-term courses and educational guidelines.
- This Chair will also **conduct** workshops, seminars and conferences on Ayurveda.
- The Ayurveda Academic Chair will be based at Western Sydney University's NICM Health Research Institute, located on the West mead campus, with tenure for a period of three years.
- The appointment of the chair is jointly funded by the Ministry of Ayush and Western Sydney University and anticipated to commence early in 2022.

Coal India Ltd inks MoU with Dept of Sports for betterment of sports infrastructure

- **Coal India Limited** has signed an **MoU** with **Department of Sports** in New Delhi for betterment of sports infrastructure in the country.
- Under the MoU, Coal India Limited, under its **Corporate Social Responsibility program** will contribute 75 crore rupees towards the National Sports Development Fund.
- The fund will be used for construction of three large hostels meant for sports persons.
- **These hostels will be constructed at** Lakshmibai National Institute of Physical Education, Gwalior and Sports Authority of India's centres at Bhopal and Bengaluru with a combined capacity of 350 sports persons.
- The **initiative** is seen as a significant step towards reaping the sports atmosphere created through recent success in Olympics and Paralympics where India finished with the best ever medal tally.
- The **MoU signing ceremony** was held in the presence of Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Thakur and Coal Secretary, Dr. Anil Kumar Jain.
- Coal Ministry stated, these hostels will benefit talented athletes directly by creating a conducive eco-system through focused training under national level coaches.
- The project will be completed by 2023 for which **Coal India Limited has already released 25 crore rupees**.

India jointly with Denmark to launch Centre of Excellence on Offshore Wind

- **Union Minister for Power and New and Renewable Energy R. K. Singh** met **Denmark's Minister** for Climate, Energy and Utilities **Dan Jørgensen** in New Delhi.
- Mr Singh underlined to the Danish side that **energy transition towards green** is an important part of India's policy.
- He pointed out that Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Independence Day speech has set a target of 450 Giga Watt of Renewable Energy capacity by 2030.
- The Minister went on to say that India's whole renewable energy portfolio is already at 146 GW.
- He stated that India is the **only G-20 country** whose actions are in consonance with the **Paris Climate agreement** with regard to global rise in temperature.
- Discussing the potential of green energy, the Minister said that India is looking at making Ladakh and islands such as Andaman Nicobar and Lakshadweep green in energy including transport.
- **The two Ministers jointly launched 'Centre of Excellence on Offshore Wind'** as part of the Green Strategic Partnership.

OneWeb & Hughes Network System Signed MoU to Distribute Satellite Services in India & US

- Bharti group backed **OneWeb and United States (US) company Hughes Network System** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** in a session at **Satellite 2021** in Maryland, US for Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite service in India and US.
- It is a strategic agreement for distributing satellite service networks in India to large enterprises, small and medium businesses, government, telecoms and Internet Service Providers (ISPs) in the rural and remote parts of the country.

About the Agreement:

- EchoStar, the parent company of Hughes, is an investor in OneWeb, building its initial constellation of 648 LEO Satellites. Service will be soon started in this year of 2021 to the Arctic region including Alaska, Canada and the United Kingdom.
- OneWeb and Hughes will collaborate to expand the distribution of Satellite Network at global level, with Hughes offering OneWeb's low-latency, high-speed connectivity for markets such as enterprise, government, commercial aviation and maritime, cellular backhaul, and community Wi-Fi hotspots.
- By late 2022, OneWeb will be offering its high-speed, low latency connectivity services, globally

India, US agree to collaborate on Emerging Fuels during US-India SCEP 2021

- The Ministerial meeting of the **United States (US)-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP) 2021** held virtually was co-chaired by Union Minister **Hardeep Singh Puri**, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas with the US Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm to launch the revamped U.S.-India SCEP.
- During this, **both nations have agreed to expand their energy partnership by adding the emerging fuels to the list of areas of cooperation as a 5th pillar.**
- The other four pillars of cooperation in this list are power and **energy efficiency, oil and gas, renewable energy and sustainable growth.**
- **Objective – to provide financial and water security and doubling farmers income**

IIT Kanpur signs MoU with Indian Air Force for academic collaboration

- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur and Indian Air Force (IAF) Signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for **Collaboration in the field of Academics and Research in the domain Aerospace Technology and for the establishment of Chair of Excellence and Research Scholar Program (RSP) for Indian Air Force Officers at the IAF Headquarters, New Delhi**
- The Chair of Excellence will **promote teaching, research and technology development in Aerospace Technologies, Aircraft Structural Integrity, Aircraft Health Monitoring, and other allied subjects in the fields of Aeronautics and Aviation.**
- It will provide research **grant to Ph.D scholars of Aerospace Engineering of IIT Kanpur working in these areas.**
- The qualified serving officers from the **IAF will be eligible for direct admission to Ph.D, M.Tech and eMasters Programmes at IIT Kanpur.**

Skyroot Aerospace is the first Space startup to formally tie-up with ISRO

- **Skyroot Aerospace, a Hyderabad-based Space technology startup,** has become the first private company to formally enter into an agreement with ISRO and is set to **benefit from the latter's expertise and access facilities to test and qualify its small rocket** ahead of launch next year.
- The **agreement** was signed by R Umamaheswaran, scientific secretary at **ISRO and chairman at Interim IN-SPACE Committee,** and Pawan Chandana, CEO of Skyroot Aerospace.

- “The Framework **MoU** will allow the company to **undertake multiple tests** and access facilities at various ISRO centers and avail the technical expertise of **ISRO for testing and qualifying** their Space launch vehicle systems and subsystems”.

NITI Aayog Partners with Byju's to educate children in 112 aspirational districts

- **Byju's and NITI Aayog** have partnered together to provide free access to tech-driven learning programmes to children from India's 112 aspirational districts.
- **Aspirational district** represent **India's most developmentally challenged districts** in terms of access to health and nutrition; education; agriculture and water resources; basic infrastructure; and financial inclusion and skill development.
- **Under the project**, a dedicated working group will focus on creating knowledge, innovation, and strategy support system.
- It will also actively **monitor and evaluate programme** implementation to enable efficacy and ensure better scope of delivery.

MoU Signed between TRIFED and Big Basket

- The **Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Shri Arjun Munda** has stated, "The government is taking up ambitious transformational programmes which will prove to be **game-changer for the tribal livelihoods** in times to come".
- **Two major initiatives** for boosting tribal livelihoods, one with the signing of **MoU between TRIFED and Big Basket** and the **other of MoU between TRIFED and PurtyAgrotech of Jharkhand** in New Delhi.
- The MoU between TRIFED and Big Basket is **for the promotion and sale of** the natural Van Dhan products through the Big Basket platform while MoU between TRIFED and Purty Agrotech **will promote** the art of growing pearls among other tribal entrepreneurs across India and tap the potential of this market.

Consumer Affairs Ministry signed MoU with CSC

- The **Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD)** under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs stated it has inked an **MoU with CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd (CSC)** to increase the business opportunities and income of fair price shops (FPS).
- The **MoU** has been signed to look at possibilities to enable interested fair shop dealers to be able to offer services similar to those given by **CSCs through the Digital Seva Portal**.
- “For enabling **FPSs to work as a CSC Service Centre**, CSC has been advised to identify feasible activities like utility bill payments, PAN application, passport application, Election Commission Services etc. to facilitate the consumer and simultaneously provide additional income to the FPSs”.
- **CSC will tie up with the individual State Government** for signing up of bilateral **MoUs** for providing interested FPS dealers access to Digital Seva Portal (DSP) for delivery of CSC services.
- CSC has **also committed** to undertake sharing of technical know-how and capacity building.

ICRISAT, UN body signed MoU on nutrition and food security

- The **United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)** and the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (**ICRISAT**) have partnered on programmes and research to improve food, nutrition security and livelihoods in India against the impacts of climate change.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) was **signed by** Bishow Parajuli, WFP India Representative and Country Director, and Dr Jacqueline Hughes, Director General, ICRISAT.
- **WFP and ICRISAT** will work jointly to promote research, advocacy and raising awareness on traditional nutritious crops, undertaking food and nutritional security analysis and adaptation strategies, among other engagements, as part of the MoU.

Federal Bank signed agreement with Ashok Leyland for vehicle finance

- **Federal Bank**, India's leading Private Sector Bank signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**), with **Ashok Leyland**, flagship of the Hinduja Group, the **second largest commercial vehicle manufacturer** in India with their complete range of BS6 vehicles.
- The MoU was **Signed by** Harsh Dugar Group President, Federal Bank and Gopal Mahadevan Whole Time Director and CFO, Ashok Leyland.
- This MoU will enable both Federal Bank and Ashok Leyland to offer **customised financial solutions** to their customers.
- The Bank will work towards catering to the customers' needs **through Commercial Vehicle loans** with easy monthly repayment plans best suited for the customers.
- Moreover, the bank will leverage technology for enhancing customer experience.
- Federal Bank with its '**Digital at the Fore and Human at the Core**' mantra aims to become the Most Admired Bank of every stakeholder and the signing of the MoU with Ashok Leyland is a step towards this end.

IGL and SDMC signed MoU to Establish Waste to Energy Plant

- **Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL)** inked an **MOU** with the **South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC)**, (27/09/2021) to establish a waste to energy plant in Delhi.
- The primary objective of the MoU is to **convert Municipal Solid Waste into Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG)** to be used as fuel for running vehicles.

About the MoU:

- The **MoU** signed between **Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL)** and **South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC)** is an extension of the Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) initiative that aims to achieve the target of establishing 5,000 CBG plants by 2023-24 with a production capacity of 15 MMTPA.
- The **Waste-to-energy plant** to be established in Delhi under the **MoU** is expected to produce approximately 4,000 kg CBG/ per day to cater to expected vehicular demand under CNG.

India, Bhutan sign a ink pact for Joint Development of Small Satellites

- **India** signed the **implementing arrangement** on the **joint development of a small satellite for Bhutan**.

- The **agreement** was inked by **Indian Space Research Organisation's Scientific Secretary R Umamaheswaran**, and Director, Department of Department of Information Technology and Telecom, Bhutan, **Jigme Tenzing**, in a virtual signing ceremony.
- The **joint development** was envisioned during the state visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Thimphu in 2019.
- "Space sector cooperation is an exciting new area of bilateral partnership between India and Bhutan".
- The **ongoing interactions** between **ISRO centres and Belgium companies**, mainly in the area of supplying systems and components and the avenues for expanding space relations between India and Belgium in view of space reforms announced by Government of India, were discussed during this meeting.

India & Oman ink pact to boost maritime security cooperation

- On Sep 27, 2021, The **Indian Navy** & the **Royal Navy of Oman** inked an agreement for exchange of white shipping information and to **boost maritime security cooperation in reflection of growing cooperation between the two sides**.
- White shipping information refers to exchange of relevant advance information on the identity and movement of commercial non-military merchant vessels.
- It was signed by Chief of Navy Staff Admiral **Karambir Singh** and his Omani counterpart **Admiral Saif bin Nasser bin Mohsen Al-Rahbi** in Muscat.
- It would facilitate information exchange on merchant shipping traffic.
- The information would be exchanged between the Indian Navy's Information Fusion Centre and the MSC (Maritime Security Centre), Oman, and contribute to enhanced maritime safety and security in the region.
- Both navies have been participating in the biennial maritime exercise Naseem Al Bahr since 1993.
- This exercise was last conducted in 2020 off the Goa coast and the next edition is scheduled in 2022.

Important Summit & Conference

India Hosts 8th Meeting of Agricultural Experts of BIMSTEC Countries

- On Aug 31, 2021, **India** hosted the **8th Meeting** of Agriculture Experts of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Countries in **New Delhi** through Virtually.
- **Dr Trilochan Mohapatra**, Director General of Indian Council of Agricultural Research chaired the daylong meeting.
- **Dr. Thanda Kyi**, Deputy Director General, Department of Planning, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Republic of the Union of Myanmar Co-Chaired the Meeting.
- During the Meeting, the discussions were held on transformations that are happening in the agriculture and food systems globally.
- The cooperation in the areas of high impact transboundary diseases of livestock and poultry; aquatic animal diseases and biosecurity in aquaculture and digitalization to promote precision farming was also discussed in the meeting.
- Addressing biosafety and biosecurity concerns and promoting digital agriculture along with the trade of technologies for developing resilient agriculture, food systems and value chains

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Virtually Addresses 6th Eastern Economic Forum 2021

- On Sep 03, 2021, Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi addressed** the plenary session of the **6th Eastern Economic Forum (EEF)**, organised in **Vladivostok, Russia** Virtually.
- Petroleum Minister **Hardeep Singh Puri** will lead an official and business delegation to Russia.
- The Petroleum Minister will have meetings with Energy Minister of Russia Nikolay Shulginov to review bilateral energy cooperation in the energy sector and with the Russian Minister for Development of Far East and Arctic Alexei Chekunkov to discuss the collaboration between Indian and Russian companies in that region.
- Along with the Russian Minister of Energy, the Petroleum Minister will co-chair India-Russia Business Dialogue, on the sidelines of EEF.

Krishan Pal Gurjar Chairs the 6th BRICS Energy Ministers Meeting 2021

- Union Minister of State for Power and Heavy Industries, **Krishan Pal Gurjar** chaired the **6th BRICS Energy Ministers Meeting 2021** under the **Chairship of India**.
- He also launched the BRICS Energy Report 2021, BRICS Energy Technology Report 2021 and BRICS Energy Research Directory 2021.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chairs 24th meeting of Financial Stability and Development Council

- Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs **Nirmala Sitharaman** chaired the **24th meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)** in **New Delhi**.
- The meeting deliberated on the various mandates of the FSDC, Financial Stability, Financial Sector Development, Inter-regulatory Coordination, Financial Literacy and Financial Inclusion.

Nirmala Sitharaman chaired 24th meeting of Financial Stability and Development Council

- **Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** chaired the **24th meeting** of the **Financial Stability and Development Council, FSDC** in New Delhi.
- The meeting deliberated on the various mandates of the FSDC, Financial Stability, Financial Sector Development, Inter-regulatory Coordination, Financial Literacy and Financial Inclusion.
- During the meeting, **it was noted** that there is a need to keep a continuous vigil by Government and all regulators on the financial conditions.
- The **Council also discussed issues relating to management of stressed assets**, strengthening institutional mechanism for financial stability analysis, financial inclusion, and framework for resolution of financial institutions and internationalization of Indian Rupee and pension sector related issues.

MoS Health Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar addresses 74th WHO-SEARO

- On Sep 07, 2021, Minister of State for Health **Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar** represented India at the **74th Session of World Health Organization- South East Asia Regional Office (WHO-SEARO)** through video-conference.
- During the Conference, Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar highlighted the key measures and strategies planned to 'build back better' to achieve universal healthcare and health related sustainable development goals and to strengthen health system resilience for the future.

Air Chief Marshal Bhadauria Attends Pacific Air Chiefs Symposium 2021 (PACS-21)

- Air Chief Marshal **RKS Bhadauria**, Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) attended the **Pacific Air Chiefs Symposium 2021 (PACS-21)** at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, **Hawaii** from 30 Aug to 02 Sep 21.
- Bhadauria was nominated as the Dean for the Symposium.
- The event was attended by Air Chiefs from countries in the Indo-Pacific region.
- The theme of the event was “**Enduring Cooperation towards Regional Stability**”.
- Participation in PACS 2021 provided an opportunity for enhancing mutual understanding and deepening of relationships.
- Keynote addresses on topics ranging from aspects of Regional Security and the significance of Air Domain Awareness, to cooperation amongst Air Forces for Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Operations.

India to host G-20 summit in 2023; Piyush Goyal to be the Sherpa for G20

- The **government** appointed commerce and industry minister **Piyush Goyal** as **India's Sherpa for the G20**.
- Goyal is also India's minister for consumer affairs, food & public distribution, and textiles besides being the Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha.
- G20 is a major international grouping that brings together 19 of the world's major economies and the European Union, with its members accounting for **more than 80% of global GDP, 75% of global trade and 60% of global population**.

About G20:

- Prime Minister Narendra **Modi** has been leading **India's representation** at **G20 Summits since 2014**.
- **India** has been a **member** of the G20 **since** its inception in **1999**.
- India will be holding the G20 Presidency from 1 December 2022 and will convene the G20 Leaders' Summit in 2023 for the first time.
- The **next G20 Summit** is scheduled for October 30-31, 2021 under **Italian Presidency**.
- **India** will be **part of the G20 Troika** (preceding, current, and incoming G20 Presidencies) from December 1, 2021 till November 30, 2024,

First ever India-Japan High Level Policy Dialogue on Environment

- The **First India-Japan High Level Policy Dialogue** was held virtually on **7th September 2021** between **Mr. Bhupender Yadav**, Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India and Mr. KOIZUMI Shinjiro, Minister of the Environment of Japan, and discussed issues on Air Pollution, Sustainable Technologies and Transports, Climate Change, Marine Litter, Fluorocarbons, COP 26, etc.
- Mr. Bhupender Yadav acknowledged the importance of **Indo-Japan bilateral cooperation on environment** and appreciated efforts made by Japan in bringing new technologies in India.
- He also highlighted the **achievements made India** in tackling climate change under the leadership of our Hon'ble Prime Minister.

- Mr. Yadav stated that **India and Japan may explore strengthening bilateral cooperation** especially on circular economy and resource efficiency, low carbon technology, green hydrogen, etc.

Prime Minister chairs 13th BRICS Summit

- Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** chaired the **13th BRICS Summit** virtually.
- The theme of the Summit, **BRICS@15: Intra-BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus**.
- It is under the motto of 'Build-back Resiliently, Innovatively, Credibly and Sustainably'.
- President Jair Bolsonaro of Brazil, President Vladimir Putin of Russia, President Xi Jinping of China, and President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa also Participated in the Summit.

India has highlighted four priority areas for its presidency of BRICS:

- Reform of the multilateral system,
- Counter-terrorism cooperation,
- Using digital and technological tools to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), Enhancing people-to-people exchanges.
- At the conclusion of the Summit, the leaders adopted the 'New Delhi Declaration'.

Note :

- This was the **third time** that India hosted the BRICS Summit.
- Prior to this India held the Presidency of the BRICS in 2012 and 2016.
- In addition to that, this is the second time that Prime Minister Modi has chaired the BRICS Summit (Previously chaired the Goa Summit in 2016).

India-Australia hold first ever 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue in New Delhi

- On Sep 11, 2021, The **first-ever 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue** between **India** and **Australia** was held at the **Hyderabad House** in **New Delhi**.
- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** and External Affairs Minister **Dr. S. Jaishankar** is leading the Indian side in the Dialogue.
- Meanwhile, Australian Foreign Minister **Marise Payne** and Defence Minister **Peter Dutton** are leading the Australian delegation.

Aim :

- To further ramp up overall defence and strategic cooperation including in the Indo-Pacific amid China's increasing military assertiveness in the region.

Purpose :

- To strengthen Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in the **Indo-Pacific** region.
- In the India-Australia 2+2 dialogue **Afghanistan crisis** will be on the top of the agenda & also other matters relating to **economic security, climate, cyber, supply chains, critical technology**, and exploring new areas in Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- India has a 2-2 Ministerial level meetings framework with very few countries, including the **USA** and **Japan**.

India–Africa Defence Dialogue to be held alongside every DefExpo

- To further strengthen existing ties between African countries and India, New Delhi has proposed to institutionalise **India–Africa Defence Dialogue** by holding it during successive DefExpos.
- It is the second India-Africa Defence Dialogue hosted by the Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** on the sidelines of DefExpo-2022 in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.
- A decision has been taken to make Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA) as the knowledge partner for the India-Africa Dialogue.

Theme of the dialogue :

- India – Africa: Adopting Strategy for Synergizing and Strengthening Defence and Security Cooperation’.
- The foundation of India–Africa defence relations are based on the two guiding principles namely ‘**SAGAR**’, ‘**Security and Growth for All in the Region**’ and ‘**Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**’, **The World is One Family**.
- It will give both sides to explore new areas of convergence in areas including **maritime security, cyber security, counter terrorism, capacity building and training**.
- It will assist in providing necessary support for enhanced defence cooperation between India and Africa.

Note :

- The **first-ever India Africa Defence Ministers Conclave (IADMC)** was held in **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh** in conjunction with DefExpo on 6 February 2020, and was **co-organised** by the **Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of External Affairs**.

India Plans first-ever Global Buddhist Conference in November 2021

- India plans to host the **first-ever Global Buddhist Conference** on **November 19 and 20, 2021**, in **Nava Nalanda Mahavihara campus, in Nalanda, Bihar**.
- The event is being planned by the **Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)**.
- The conference will be organised under the overall framework of the flagship event of the Ministry of Tourism.
- In the run-up to the event, four regional conferences will be organised in Indian states : Telangana, Saranath in northern Uttar Pradesh (UP), Sikkim’s Gangtok and Dharamshala in Dehradun, and abroad : Japan, South Korea, Thailand, Cambodia.

About the Global Buddhist Conference :

- Global Buddhist Conference focuses on making India the center of Buddhism, by promoting Buddhist activities, like academic, cultural, seminars, and people traveling for festivals like Buddha Purnima, Vesak.
- The ICCR has announced an award for the promotion of Buddhist studies which will be given on November 21 in Delhi by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi & the award carries a cash reward of \$20,000. a plaque and a gold-plated medallion.

3-day Indian Army Chief’s Conclave begins in Delhi

- The **8th edition of the Indian Army Chief’s Conclave**, a gathering of serving and former Chiefs of Army Staff of the Indian Army, will be **organised at New Delhi** from September 16-18.

- The highlight of the three-day event will be the **invite extended** to former Chiefs of the Nepali Army, who were also Chiefs of the Indian Army.
- The **Conclave** is a forum for the **exchange of ideas between the old guard and the current leadership** of the Indian Army.
- It will involve discussions on the rapid transformation of the Indian Army, self-reliance through **Atmanirbhar and Make in India initiatives** in defence manufacturing and skilling of the Indian soldier to fight modern wars.

Krishan Pal Gurjar attends 15th East Asia Summit Energy Ministers Meeting

- Union Minister of State for Power **Krishan Pal Gurjar** attended the **15th East Asia Summit Energy Ministers Meeting** along with other senior officials of the Ministry from the Indian side.

Theme :

- We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper.

Aim :

- Coordinating efforts of ASEAN countries in pursuing the goal of energy security and energy transition that will benefit the people of our region.
- The meeting provided a brief status of the Indian energy transition plans, policies, challenges and efforts towards decarbonisation.

PM Modi to address 21st Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit virtually

- On September 17, 2021, Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi**, addressed the **21st Meeting** of the Council of Heads of State of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)**, in hybrid format in **Dushanbe, Tajikistan**.
- The meeting was **chaired** by **H.E. Emomali Rahmon**, the President of Tajikistan.
- At Dushanbe, **India** was represented by External Affairs Minister, **Dr. S. Jaishankar**.
- This was the first SCO meet which took place in a hybrid format and the fourth summit in which India participated as a full-fledged member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).
- The SCO Summit was followed by an Outreach session on Afghanistan between SCO and the Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO).
- During the meeting, Narendra Modi highlighted the problems caused by growing radicalisation and extremism in the broader SCO region, which runs counter to the history of the region as a bastion of moderate and progressive cultures and values.
- Also, the leaders reviewed the organization's activities over the past two decades and discussed the state and prospects of future cooperation.

National Conference on Agriculture for Rabi Campaign 2021

- **National Conference on Agriculture for Rabi campaign 2021-22** held through video conferencing.

Aim :

- To protect and support farmers, several steps have been taken to make an 'Aatmanirbhar Kisan'.

- To ensure supply of critical inputs and facilitate adoption of innovative technologies with a view to enhancing production and productivity of crops.

Objective :

- To review and assess the crop performance during the preceding crop season and fix crop-wise targets for Rabi season in consultation with State Governments, ensure supply of critical inputs and facilitate adoption of innovative technologies with a view to enhance production and productivity of the crops.
- The priority of the government is to increase production of oilseeds and pulses.
- The Centre has set a target of foodgrains production at 307.33 million tonnes.
- The targets for rice, wheat, coarse cereals and pulses have been set at 121.10 million tonne, 110 million tonne, 51.21 million tonnes and 25 million tonnes. For oilseeds, the target is 38.4 million tonnes in the current crop year.

PM Modi Leaves For 3-Day Visit To The US

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has embarked on a **three-day** visit to the **United States** from September 22 to 25.

Purpose :

- To strengthen the Indo-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership and consolidate ties with Japan and Australia.
- He will address the UN General Assembly and attend the Quad Summit as well as hold a bilateral meeting with US President Joe Biden at the White House.
- This is Prime Minister Modi's first visit abroad beyond the neighbourhood since the Covid-19 pandemic outbreak.
- He is accompanied by a high-level delegation consisting of National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and senior officials including Shringla.
- PM Modi and President Biden are expected to discuss ways to stem radicalisation and combat terrorism.
- They are also expected to discuss ways to bolster defence, trade ties, security collaborations and clean energy partnership among others
- PM Modi and Biden will discuss the current regional security situation following the recent developments in Afghanistan.
- PM Modi will also hold business interactions during his US visit from September 22-25.

India Hosted First India-United Kingdom Consular Dialogue

- On Sep 22, 2021, **India** hosted the **first India-United Kingdom (UK) Consular Dialogue** through video conferencing.
- The Indian delegation was led by **Shri Devesh Uttam**, Joint Secretary (CPV), Ministry of External Affairs and the UK side was led by **Ms Jennifer Anderson**, Director Consular Services, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office.
- At this inaugural Consular Dialogue, discussed ways to further strengthen people-to-people contacts between the two countries.
- As part of the India-UK 2030 Roadmap, the two countries also discussed ways to facilitate consular access and early resolution of consular grievances including through systematic information sharing and cooperation on visas, extradition cases and mutual legal assistance.

- India-UK 2030 Roadmap also envisages enhanced defence and security cooperation, robust trade, investment and technological collaboration.

PM Narendra Modi addresses 76th UNGA

- On Sep 25, 2021, Prime Minister of India **Shri Narendra Modi** addressed the **76th session** of the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** in **New York**.
- He was the first world leader scheduled to address the UNGA session, which commenced at 6.30 pm Indian Standard Time (IST).
- The **theme** of the 2021 was 'building resilience through hope to recover from Covid-19, rebuild sustainably, respond to the needs of the planet, respect the rights of people, and revitalise the United Nations'.
- Prior to this, PM Modi had addressed the UN General Assembly in 2019.
- During the address, PM spoke on various global issues such as the Covid-19 pandemic, the need to combat terrorism focusing on Afghanistan and Extremism, and the need to strengthen the United Nations.
- About 109 heads of state and government will address the General Debate in person while nearly 60 are expected to deliver speeches through pre-recorded video statements.

Defence Ministry Signs Deal With Spain For Acquisition Of 56 C-295MW Aircraft For IAF

- On Sep 24, 2021, The Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed a contract with **Airbus Defence and Space, Spain**, to acquire **56 C-295MW** transport aircraft worth **₹20,000 crore** for the **Indian Air Force**.
- The MoD has also signed an Offset Contract with M/s Airbus Defence and Space through which M/s Airbus will discharge its offset obligations through direct purchase of eligible products and services from Indian Offset Partners.
- Under the deal, Airbus Defence and Space will work with Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) to jointly execute the project.
- The first 16 aircraft in the deal will be delivered in fly-away condition.
- The subsequent 40 aircraft will be manufactured and assembled by the **Tata Advanced Systems (TASL)** in India as part of an industrial partnership between Airbus and TASL.
- The induction of C-295 MW will be a significant step towards modernisation of the transport fleet of the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- It is a transport aircraft of 5-10 tonne capacity with contemporary technology that will replace the ageing Avro transport aircraft of IAF.
- The aircraft is capable of operating from semi-prepared strips and has a rear ramp door for quick reaction and para dropping of troops & cargo.
- It will give a major boost to the tactical airlift capability of IAF, especially in the Northern and North-Eastern sector and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Union Minister Anurag Thakur addresses Summit for Information and Democracy

- Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting **Shri Anurag Thakur** addressed the **Summit for Information and Democracy** on the sidelines of the UNGA organised at the Consulate General of **France, New York**.

Objectives :

1. Defending and promoting access to free, pluralistic and reliable information, an essential aspect of freedom of opinion and expression.
 2. Debating the Forum's recommendations, fostering their implementation and supporting upcoming work.
 3. To Create of an International Observatory on Information and Democracy responsible for analysing global information trends
 4. Launching a civil society coalition (around 50 NGOs) linked to the Forum, to promote the Partnership's principles with States and the public through awareness-raising and advocacy;
 5. Fostering ties between the International Partnership for Information and Democracy and international organizations
- The International Partnership for Information and Democracy was launched in New York on 26 September 2019, in the framework of the Alliance for Multilateralism.
 - It has been signed to date by 43 States,

Aim :

- To promote freedom of opinion and expression and access to free, pluralistic and reliable information.

Union Minister Amit Shah addresses first 'National Cooperative Conference' in New Delhi

- On Sep 25, 2021, Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** (First minister of co-operation of India) addressed **India's first cooperative conference** at the **Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium** in **New Delhi**.
- The conference was **organised** jointly by the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO), National Cooperative Federation of India, Amul, Sahakar Bharti, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (**NAFED**), Krishak Bharati Cooperative (**KRIBHCO**).
- Minister of state of cooperation BL Verma and International Cooperatives Alliance (Global) president Ariel Guarco also participated in the conference.

About the Conference :

- To provide a platform for accelerating and strengthening Indian cooperatives on the global stage.
- The Conference will share the government's vision and outline the roadmap for the development of the Cooperative sector.
- It will play a significant role in Indian cooperatives on the global stage and work towards realising Prime Minister Modi's vision of '**Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas**'.
- Over **2,100 representatives** from different states and various cooperative sectors across the country participated in the conference.

4th India-US Health Dialogue held in New Delhi

- On Sep 27, 2021, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare **Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar** addressed the inaugural session of the **4th Indo-US Health Dialogue**, held in **New Delhi**.

- The **US delegation** for the dialogue is **led by Ms Loyce Pace**, Director, Office of Global Affairs at U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Key People :

- Ms. Michelle McConnell, Director, Asia and Pacific, Office of Global Affairs at U.S. Dept. (HHS), Dr. Mitchell Wolfe, Ms Diana M. Bensyl, Rajesh Bhushan, Union Health Secretary, Dr Renu Swarup, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, Dr Balram Bhargava, Director General, Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) and Secretary, Health Research were also present.

About the Dialogue:

- The two-day dialogue will be used as a forum to deliberate on the many ongoing cooperation in the health sector between the two countries.
- The topics for deliberations will include areas pertaining to the strengthening of epidemiological research and surveillance and vaccine development.
- A Memorandum of Understanding was finalized between the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of the Republic of India and the United States Department of Health and Human Services in the field of health, covering issues such as health safety and security; Communicable diseases and non-communicable diseases; health system; and health policy.

India's FM Nirmala Sitharaman to be chief guest at Global FinTech Fest 2021

- India's Finance Minister **Smt Nirmala Sitharaman** is the **Chief Guest** at the World's Largest Virtual FinTech Fest - **Global FinTech Fest (GFF)**, scheduled for 28-30 September.
- The **theme** of the event is "**FinTech: Empowering a Global Digital Economy**".
- The event is presented by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India, and **organised by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and Fintech Convergence Council (FCC) of Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI).**
- The World Bank and United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) are the institutional partners of the summit.
- Over 20,000 delegates from over 3,500 unique companies and over 115 countries will participate at the Summit.

Revision Points

Organization	Headquarters	Head/CEO/MD
Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency	New Delhi	Pradip Kumar Das
TANGEDCO	Chennai	Rajesh Lakhoni
Bharat Electronics Limited	Bengaluru	Vinay Kumar Katyal
Coal India	Kolkata	Pramod Agrawal
Hughes Network System	Maryland, USA	Pranav Roach
Skyroot Aerospace	Hyderabad	Pawan Kumar Chandana

ISRO	Bengaluru	K Sivan
Byju's	Bengaluru	Byju Raveendran
Big Basket	Bengaluru	Hari Menon
CSC e-Governance Services India	New Delhi	Dinesh Kumar Tyagi
United Nations World Food Programme	Rome	David Beasley
International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics	Patancheruvu	Dr Jacqueline d'Arros Hughes
Ashok Leyland	Chennai	Vipin Sondhi
Indraprastha Gas Limited	New Delhi	A K Jana
Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative	New Delhi	B S Nakai
National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India	New Delhi	Bijender Singh,
Amul	Anand	R.S. Sodhi
National Cooperative Federation of India	New Delhi	S N Sharma
Internet and Mobile Association of India	Mumbai	Ajit Mohan
United Nations Capital Development Fund	New York	Preeti Sinha
Fintech Convergence Council	Mumbai	Naveen Surya

Important Defence News

Indian Naval Ship Conducts Maiden Maritime Partnership Exercise With Algerian Navy

- On Aug 29, 2021, The **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Tabar** participated in a Maritime Partnership Exercise with the **Algerian Navy ship 'Ezzadjer'** off the Algerian coast, in the **Mediterranean Sea**.

Objective :

- To enhance interoperability, understand the concept of operations followed by each other, and open the possibility of increasing interaction and collaboration between the two navies in the future.

- As part of the exercise, diverse activities including coordinated manoeuvring, communication procedures and steam past were undertaken between the Indian and Algerian warships.

Indian Navy and BEL sign contract for naval anti-drone system

- The **Indian Navy** has signed a **contract** with **Navratna Defence public sector unit (PSU) Bharat Limited (BEL)** for the supply of the first indigenous comprehensive **Naval Anti Drone System (NADS)**, with both 'hard kill' and 'soft kill' capabilities.
- The NADS system is **developed** by **India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and manufactured by BEL.
- It is the first fully indigenously developed anti-drone system to be inducted by the Indian Navy.
- The NADS system is capable of instantly identifying and jamming micro drones and uses a laser-based kill mechanism against targets.
- The NADS uses the help of radar, electro-optical/infrared (EO/IR) sensors and radio frequency (RF) detectors to detect and jam the micro drones.

Indian Army contingent to participate in Exercise ZAPAD 2021 in Russia

- The **Indian Army** contingent will participate in the multinational military exercise, '**ZAPAD 2021**', at **Nizhny in Russia** from 3-16 September.
- ZAPAD 2021 is a **13-day exercise** and will end on September 16, 2021.

Aim :

- To military and strategic ties amongst the participating nations and boosting anti-terror cooperation.
- More than a dozen countries from Eurasia and South Asia will also participate in the exercise.
- In all, 17 countries are participating in ZAPAD including Mongolia, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, Russia, India and Belarus.
- Pakistan, China, Vietnam, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Uzbekistan and Sri Lanka are observers at the exercises.

Gujarat to host 12th Defence Expo-2022 in Gandhinagar

- The **Gujarat** Government will host **12th Defence Expo-2022 in Gandhinagar** from March 10 to 13, 2021.

Aim :

- To achieve '**Aatmanirbharta**' in defence and reach USD 5 billion defence exports target by 2024.

Objective :

- To make India a major destination of land, naval, air & homeland security systems and defence engineering.
- About 100 countries are expected to participate in this biannual event.
- On Sep 02, 2021, Raksha Mantri Shri **Rajnath Singh** and Gujarat Chief Minister **Shri Vijay Rupani** jointly reviewed the **preparations of DefExpo-2022, at Kevadia, Gujarat.**
- The Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the Department of Defence Production and Gujarat Government in this regard.

Indian Army to procure over 100 'SkyStriker' drones

- **Indian Army**, the force has signed a contract to procure over **100 armed drones** called "**SkyStrikers**" from Bengaluru-headquartered **Alpha Design**-led joint venture (JV) with Israel's Elbit Security Systems (ELSEC).
- The contract is estimated to be around **Rs 100 crore**.
- Sky Striker is a cost-effective 'loitering munition' capable of carrying long-range penetration strikes.
- It is also referred to as a 'suicide drone' as it crashes into the target with explosives. '**Suicide drones**' are autonomous systems that can independently locate, acquire and strike operator-designated targets with a **5 kilogram** warhead that is installed inside the fuselage.

Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise 28th edition of 'SIMBEX-2021' Concludes

- The **three-day long 28th edition of Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise SIMBEX** concluded.
- The **Indian Navy** was represented by **Guided Missile Destroyer INS Ranvijay** with a ship borne helicopter, ASW Corvette INS Kiltan and Guided Missile Corvette INS Kora and one P8I Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft.
- **Participants** from the Republic of Singapore Navy included one **Formidable Class Frigate, RSS Steadfast**, embarked with an **S-70B naval helicopter**, one Victory Class Missile Corvette, RSS Vigour, one Archer Class Submarine and one Fokker-50 Maritime Patrol Aircraft.
- **Four F-16 fighter aircraft** of the Republic of Singapore Air Force also participated in the exercise during the Air Defence Drills.

About SIMBEX:

- Initiated in 1994, **SIMBEX** is the Indian Navy's longest uninterrupted bilateral maritime exercise with any foreign navy.
- Sustaining the continuity of this significant engagement despite the challenges of the ongoing pandemic further underscores the strength of bilateral defence ties between both countries.

4th edition of Bilateral exercise between Indian Navy & Royal Australian Navy begins – AUSINDEX

- The **4th edition of AUSINDEX**, a bilateral navy exercise between the **Indian Navy** and the **Royal Australian Navy** has begun from September 06, 2021 and will continue up to September 10, 2021.
- Indian Navy task group comprising vessels **Shivalik and Kadmatt**.
- It focuses on **developing deeper understanding** and **cooperation** between the Indian Navy (IN) and the Royal Australian Navy (RAN).
- The Exercise includes complex surface, sub-surface and air operations between ships, submarines, helicopters and long-range maritime patrol aircraft (MPA) of the two participating navies.
- The exercise will provide an opportunity for both Navies to further bolster inter-operability, gain from best practices and develop a common understanding of procedures for Maritime Security Operations.

Indian Navy to launch 1st nuclear missile tracking ship : INS Dhruv

- On Sep 10, 2021, India's first nuclear-missile tracking ship **INS Dhruv** was commissioned from **Visakhapatnam** in **Andhra Pradesh**.

- It has been Built by the Hindustan Shipyard in collaboration with the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and the **National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO)**.
- With this India will join an elite list of countries that presently consists of only France, the US, the UK, Russia, and China, who possess and operate such vessels.

About INS Dhruv :

- The INS Dhruv could provide early warning of attacks by ballistic missiles launched from **Pakistan and China**.
- Dhruv is India's first naval vessel that is capable of tracking nuclear missiles at a long range.
- It has a displacement of more than **10,000 tonnes**, length of 175 metre, beam of 22 metre, draught of 6 metre and can attain a speed of 21 knots.
- It is powered by two imported 9,000 kilowatt combined diesel and diesel (CODAD) configuration engines and three 1200 kilowatt auxiliary generators.
- It is equipped with the capability to map ocean beds for research and detection of enemy submarines.
- It would play a key role in advancing India's presence in the Indo-Pacific region.
- It will also help in monitoring the flight trajectories and telemetry data of the Agni land-based missiles and 'K' series of submarine-launched ballistic missiles launched by India during trials.

Indigenously-Developed Tejas Light Combat Aircraft-Mk2 To Be Launched 2022

- Indigenously-Developed **Tejas Light Combat Aircraft-Mk2** to be Launched in **August 2022** & the first flight in early 2023.
- LCA-Mk2 is a single-engine multirole fighter designed by **Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA)** and **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**.
- The Tejas Mk2 is a 4.5 generation aircraft with enhanced range and endurance.
- It is 1,350 mm longer featuring canards and can carry a payload of 6,500 kg compared to 3,500 kg the LCA can carry.
- It will also be equipped with a multi-sensor data fusion system including an active electronically scanned array radar, infrared search and track, and a missile approach warning system.
- The configuration for the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)-Mk2 has been frozen and steel cutting is expected to begin soon.
- It is the first time an onboard oxygen generation system is also being integrated into the aircraft.

INS Tabar conducts Maritime Partnership Exercise with Sudanese Navy

- On Sep 10, 2021, **Indian Navy** and **Sudanese Navy** carried out a **bilateral maritime exercise** in the **Red Sea off the Sudanese coast**.
- INS Tabar and two Sudanese Navy ships- **Almazz and Nimer**- participated in this maiden exercise with the Indian Navy.
- The exercise involved multiple activities covering a wide range of naval operations.

- It included co-ordinated maneuvering, replenishment at sea drills, helo operations, operations for interdicting suspect vessels at sea and communication procedures.
- The exercise enhanced interoperability between the two navies significantly and widened the scope for combined operations against common maritime threats in the future.
- The exercise culminated with a '**Steam Past**' between ships of the navies, as per naval customs.

DRDO handed over MRSAM to IAF; India's 1st Emergency Landing Facility of IAF Plane on NH inaugurated on NH925, Rajasthan

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** handed over the first deliverable **Firing Unit (FU)** of **Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM)/"Barak-8"** System to **Indian Air Force (IAF)** at Air Force Station, **Jaisalmer** in **Rajasthan**.
- MRSAM (IAF) is an advanced network centric combat Air Defence System developed by **DRDO** in collaboration with **Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI)**, and **PPP (Public Private Partnership)** in Indian industry.
- The Union Ministers **Rajnath Singh** and **Nitin Jairam Gadkari**, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) inaugurated a 3-km emergency landing strip or Emergency Landing Facility (ELF) at Satta-Gandhav stretch on National Highway 925 in Barmer, Rajasthan for IAF planes.
- NH-925 is India's first national highway to be used as ELF of IAF aircraft.
- The ELF strip has been developed by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) in association with IAF

India participates in SCO 'Peaceful Mission' military exercise in Russia

- The **Indian military contingent** participated in the **6th edition of Exercise SCO Peaceful Mission 2021** at **Russia** in the **Orenburg Region** of South West Russia from September 13 to 25, 2021.

Aim :

- To foster close relations between SCO member states and to **enhance abilities** of the **military leaders to command multi-national military contingents**.
- It is a landmark event in military interactions and **global cooperation to counter-terrorism**.
- It comprises an all arms combined force of **200 personnel** to include 38 personnel from the Indian Air Force is participating in the exercise Peaceful Mission-2021.
- The exercise will enable sharing of best practices between the Armed Forces of SCO nations.
- It will provide an opportunity to the Armed Forces of SCO Nations to train in Counter-Terrorism Operations in an urban scenario in a multinational and joint environment.

Scope :

- Professional interaction, mutual understanding of drills & procedures, establishment of joint command & control structures and elimination of terrorist threats.

South Korea successfully test fires submarine-launched ballistic missile

- On Sep 15, 2021, **South Korea** successfully test-fired an indigenously developed **submarine-launched ballistic missile**.

- With this, South Korea became the first country without nuclear weapons to develop such a system.
- Other countries that have tested or developed SLBMs, including the United States, Russia, China, Britain, France, North Korea, and India, have typically designed them to carry nuclear weapons.

15th edition of Indo – Nepal Joint Military Training Exercise Surya Kiran to commence from Sept 20

- The **15th Edition of Indo-Nepal** joint military training 'Exercise Surya Kiran' is commencing from **September 20** at **Pithoragarh** in **Uttarakhand**.
- During the exercise, the Indian Army and Nepali Army would share their experiences of various counter-insurgency operations over a prolonged period in their respective countries.
- Also both the Armies would familiarise themselves with each other's weapons, equipment, tactics, techniques and procedures of operating in a counter-insurgency environment in mountainous terrain.
- The exercise is part of an initiative to develop interoperability and sharing expertise between the two nations & it will help in improving bilateral relations and further strengthen the traditional friendship between the two nations.
- The **last edition** of 'Exercise Surya Kiran' was conducted in **Nepal** in **2019**.

India, Indonesia bilateral maritime exercise 'Samudra Shakti' begins in Sunda Strait

- On September 20, 2021, The **third edition** of the **India** and **Indonesia** bilateral maritime exercise '**Samudra Shakti**' began in the **Sunda Strait, in Indonesia**.
- The three day exercise will conclude on September 22, 2021.
- The Sunda Strait lies between the Indonesian islands of Java and Sumatra.
- The Indian Navy deployed its two frontline warships **Shivalik** and **Kadmatt** for the third edition of the exercise 'Samudra Shakti'.
- **KRI Bung Tomo, KRI Malahayati**, and maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft CN-235 are representing the Indonesian Navy.

Aim :

- To strengthen the bilateral relationship, enhance mutual understanding and interoperability in maritime operations between the two navies.

Indian army to procure 118 main battle tanks Arjun Mk-1A worth Rs 7523 crore

- On Sep 23, 2021, The **Ministry of Defence** placed an order with **Heavy Vehicles Factory, Avadi in Chennai** for supply of **118 Main Battle Tanks, MBTs Arjun Mk-1A** for the **Indian Army**.
- The order, worth **Rs 7,523 crore**, will provide further boost to the 'Make in India' initiative in the defence sector and is a big step towards achieving the '**Aatmanirbhar Bharat**' (self-reliant India) goal.
- The MBT Mk-1A is a new variant of Arjun Tank designed to enhance firepower, mobility and survivability, infused with 72 new features and more indigenous content from the Mk-1 variant.
- The production order to the Heavy Vehicles Factory will open up a large avenue in defence manufacturing for over 200 Indian vendors including MSMEs, with employment opportunities to around 8,000 people.

- It has been designed and developed by Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (CVRDE), along with other laboratories of DRDO within two years (2010-12).

Defence Ministry Signs Deal With Spain For Acquisition Of 56 C-295MW Aircraft For IAF

- On Sep 24, 2021, The Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed a contract with **Airbus Defence and Space, Spain**, to acquire **56 C-295MW** transport aircraft worth **₹20,000 crore** for the **Indian Air Force**.
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- Under the deal, Airbus Defence and Space will work with Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) to jointly execute the project.
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- The subsequent 40 aircraft will be manufactured and assembled by the **Tata Advanced Systems (TASL)** in India as part of an industrial partnership between Airbus and TASL.
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- It is a transport aircraft of 5-10 tonne capacity with contemporary technology that will replace the ageing Avro transport aircraft of IAF.
- The aircraft is capable of operating from semi-prepared strips and has a rear ramp door for quick reaction and para dropping of troops & cargo.
- It will give a major boost to the tactical airlift capability of IAF, especially in the Northern and North-Eastern sector and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

India Conducts Successful Maiden Flight Test of New version of Akash Prime Missile off Odisha Coast

- On Sep 27, 2021, The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** conducted a successful maiden flight test of a new version of Akash Missile – '**Akash Prime**' from **Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha**.
- Akash Prime is equipped with an indigenous active **Radio Frequency (RF)** seeker for improved accuracy as compared to the existing Akash System.
- It will ensure more reliable performance under low temperature environments at higher altitudes.
- The successful flight test proves the competence of DRDO in design and development of world class Missile systems.
- It will further boost the confidence of the users (Indian Army and Indian Air Force).

North Korea tests new hypersonic missile - Hwasong-8

- On Sep 28, 2021, **North Korea** successfully tested a new hypersonic missile called **Hwasong-8**.
- It is headed by major military powers to deploy the advanced weapons system.
- It is to increase the nation's capabilities for self-defence.
- The missile was one of the "five most important" new weapons systems laid out in its five-year military development plan.

- This was the country's third missile test in a month.
- Previously, it tested a new type of cruise missile, as well as a new train-launched ballistic missile system.

HAL, Alliance Air ink pact for aircraft supply to Arunachal Pradesh

- **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**, signed a lease agreement with **Alliance Air Aviation Ltd** for the supply of **two Civil Dornier-228 aircraft** for regional operations in Arunachal Pradesh.

Aim :

- Boost to India's **Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)**.
- The deal papers were signed in Bengaluru by **Apurba Roy** of HAL and **Arun Kumar Bansal** of Alliance Air.

About HAL Do-228 :

- The HAL Do- 228 is an aircraft well-suited for operations in northeast India.
- It has the capability of short take-off and landing and can land and take-off from semi-prepared runways.
- This is a 19-seat multirole utility aircraft 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.

Important Science & Technology News

ISRO successfully tests propulsion system of Gaganyaan service module

- On Aug 28, 2021, The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** successfully conducted the first hot test of the **system demonstration model (SDM)** of the Gaganyaan service module propulsion system.
- The test was conducted in the ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), **Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu** for a duration of **450 seconds**.
- The service module propulsion system consists of five main **440 N engines** and **sixteen 100 N thrusters** to create a reaction control system.
- The Service Module (SM) Propulsion System consists of a unified bipropellant system consisting of 5 nos. of 440 N thrust engines and 16 nos. of 100 N Reaction Control system (RCS) thrusters with MON-3 and MMH as Oxidizer and Fuel.

Indian Government launches QSim to aid quantum computing research in India

- India's first **Quantum Computer Simulator (QSim) Toolkit** was launched by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity)**.
- The development of the QSim toolkit is a collaborative effort of **IISc** (Indian Institute of Science) **Bangalore**, **IIT** (Indian Institute of Technology) **Roorkee** and **C-DAC** (Centre for Development of Advanced Computing).
- It will allow developers, scientists, and students to research advancements in quantum computing in the country.
- Quantum Simulators are devices that allow scientists to study quantum effects, which are otherwise difficult to study in a lab.

- The QSim toolkit allows researchers and students to write and debug quantum code that is essential for developing quantum algorithms.

IIT Ropar develops plant-based air purifier machine “Ubreathe Life”

- Scientists of **Indian Institutes of Technology, Ropar & Kanpur**, and **Faculty of Management Studies of Delhi University** have jointly launched a **living-plant based air purifier** named “Ubreathe Life”.
- It will boost the air purification process in **indoor spaces**, such as **hospitals, schools, offices** and **Homes**.
- Ubreathe Life has been developed by the **IIT Ropar** incubated startup, Urban Air Laboratory.
- It has been incubated at IIT Ropar, which is a designated iHub - **AWaDH (Agriculture and Water Technology Development Hub)** by the Department of Science and Technology.
- It is the world's **first, state-of-the art ‘Smart Bio-Filter’** that can make breathing fresh.

Working Nature of Ubreathe Life technology :

- The Ubreathe Life technology works through **air-purifying natural leafy plants**.
- The room air interacts with leaves and goes to the soil-root zone where maximum pollutants are purified.
- Ubreathe Life effectively improves indoor air quality by removing particulate, gaseous and biological contaminants while increasing the oxygen levels in the indoor space through specific plants, UV disinfection and a stack of pre-filter, charcoal filter and HEPA (high efficiency particulate air) filter fitted in a specially designed wooden box," .

SpaceX Launches Ants, Avocados, Robot to Space Station

- A **SpaceX** shipment of **ants, avocados** and a human-sized robotic arm rocketed toward the **International Space Station**.
- The Dragon is carrying more than **4,800 pounds (2,170 kilograms)** of supplies and experiments, and fresh food including avocados, lemons and even ice cream for the space station’s seven astronauts.
- The Girl Scouts are sending up ants, brine shrimp and plants as test subjects, while University of Wisconsin-Madison scientists are flying up seeds from mouse-ear cress, a small flowering weed used in genetic research.

New Generation Aircraft Hansa developed by CSIR-NAL makes maiden flight

- **Hansa New Generation (NG)** aircraft, designed and developed by **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Aerospace Laboratories (CSIR-NAL), Bengaluru**, successfully made its maiden flight from **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) airport**.
- The aircraft was flown by test pilot **Captain Amit Dahiya** to an altitude of **4,000 feet** and gained a **speed of 80 knots** for about 20 mins.

About Unique Features of Hansa-NG :

- Hansa-NG is a glass cockpit with cabin comfort, highly efficient digitally controlled engine, electrically operated flaps, long-endurance, low acquisition, and low operating cost.
- The aircraft will be certified within the **next four months**.

C-DoT launches lab to develop pan-India disaster alert system

- State-run telecom research and development organisation **C-DoT** has launched a lab to design and develop pan-India integrated alert system for **disaster management** at the occasion of its 38th Foundation Day.
- It was administered by the **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** for effective disaster management, public alerting and hazard notification in emergency situations.
- C-DOT has been running a pilot for the system to send alerts to people at the time of Cyclone Yaas in affected areas as well as for Covid-19 to manage isolation zones in selected states.

China launches Earth observation satellite Gaofen-502

- **China** successfully launched Earth observation satellite **Gaofen-502** into space from the **Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center** in northern Shanxi Province on a Long March 4C carrier rocket.

Purpose :

- To **monitor environmental protection efforts** and boost its natural resources surveillance.
- It was **Developed** by the **Shanghai Academy of Spaceflight Technology** based on its SAST3000 satellite platform.
- It was the **387th** flight mission of the Long March carrier rocket series.
- Gaofen-5 02 is a hyperspectral satellite that will be used for environmental monitoring, helping to improve the country's hyperspectral observation capacity of the atmosphere, water and land.

South Korea Test-Fires submarine Ballistic Missile

- For the first time, **South Korea** has successfully test-fired a **submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM)**.
- It was conducted by the **new Dosan Ahn Chang-ho submarine**
- With this, South Korea became the **8th country** & it is the first country without nuclear weapons to develop such a capability.
- SLBMs have been developed by seven other countries, including the **United States, Russia, China, Britain, France, India** and **North Korea**.
- The missile is believed to be a variant of the country's **Hyunmoo-2B**, with a range of about **500km**.

Researchers Discover Earth's Northernmost Island Off Greenland

- **The island was discovered by a group of 6 scientists**, working with the Arctic Station research facility in Greenland, who set out to collect the samples from Oodaaq island, which was discovered by a **Danish survey group in 1978**.
- This island was revealed by the movement of the ice.
- The researchers proposed to name the island "**Qeqertaq Avannarleq**", which means 'the northernmost island' in Greenlandic.

Note:

- To qualify as an island, the piece of land has to remain above sea level at high tide.

About the island:

- The newly discovered island measuring **around 30 by 60 metres in size is the closest point of land to the North pole**.
- It is **made up of mud from the ocean and rock soil from the glaciers**.
- The island is **located 780 metres northwest of Oodaaq**.

British-based OneWeb launches 34 satellites in global internet service push

- British-based firm **OneWeb** launched **34 satellites** into orbit from **Kazakhstan's Baikonur cosmodrome**.
- OneWeb plans to launch a total of 648 low earth orbit satellites to roll out a high-speed global internet connection including to the most remote corners of the world.
- OneWeb resumed satellite launches in December after emerging from bankruptcy protection with **\$1 billion** in equity investment from a consortium of the British government and India's **Bharti Enterprises**.
- It has received further financing from Bharti as well as investment from Eutelsat Communications and Japan's Softbank.

SpaceX launches 51 Starlink internet satellites

- On Sep 14, 2021, **SpaceX** launched its first full stack of **51 Starlink broadband satellites** on a **Falcon 9 rocket** from Space Launch Complex 4E at **Vandenberg Space Force Station** in **California**.

Aim :

- To provide high-speed internet access to users around the world, and as a means to help fund its deep-space ambitions.
- The service is targeted to users in rural or remote areas that have little to no connectivity.
- It is the 22nd Falcon 9 mission for SpaceX so far in 2021.
- The satellites have laser crosslinks that allow Starlink satellites to communicate with each other, reducing the constellation's reliance on Earth.
- SpaceX began satellite launches in November 2019 and opened its \$99 per month beta programme for select customers around a year later.
- The company aims to launch around 30,000 Starlink satellites into orbit, and expand its user pool to millions of customers.

SpaceX Launches 4 Amateurs On Private Earth-Circling Trip

- **SpaceX's** first private flight has been launched **4 Amateurs On Private Earth-Circling Trip** at **Kennedy Space Center, in Cape Canaveral, in Florida**.
- 38 year old **Jared Isaacman** sponsored the trip & he is leading the flight.
- Joining Isaacman on the trip dubbed Inspiration4 is **Hayley Arceneaux**, 29, Also along for the ride are sweepstakes winners **Chris Sembroski**, 42, a data engineer in Everett, Washington, and **Sian Proctor**, 51, a community college educator in Tempe, Arizona.
- **Arceneaux** became the **youngest American in space** and the **first person** in space with a prosthesis, a titanium rod in her left leg.
- It was the **first time** a spacecraft circled **Earth with an all-amateur crew and no professional astronauts**.
- The Dragon capsule's two men and two women are looking to spend three days going round and round the planet.
- The Dragon capsule aimed for an altitude of **357 miles (575 kilometers)**, just beyond the Hubble Space Telescope.

UNESCO declares world's first 5-country biosphere reserve in 'Amazon of Europe'

- On September 15, 2021, **UNESCO**, designated **Mura-Drava-Danube (MDD)** as the world's first 'five-country biosphere reserve.

Aim :

- To revitalise **25,000 km** of rivers and protect 30 percent of the European Union's land area by 2030.
- The biosphere reserve covers **700 kilometres** of the **Mura, Drava and Danube rivers** and stretches across **Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary and Serbia**.
- The total area of the reserve, a **million hectares** in the so-called '**Amazon of Europe**', makes it the largest riverine protected area on the continent.
- The reserve is home to floodplain forests, gravel and sand banks, river islands, oxbows and meadows.
- It is home to continental Europe's highest density of breeding white-tailed eagle (more than 150 pairs), as well as endangered species such as the little tern, black stork, otters, beavers and sturgeons.
- It is also an important annual resting and feeding place for more than 250,000 migratory birds.

ISRO develops reusable GSLV Mk-III launch vehicle

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** is working on technologies that will enable it to land the GSLV Mk-III launch vehicles vertically.
- This will enable the space agency to reuse the GSLV Mk-III, thus helping it save money.
- With this technology, ISRO seeks to recover the first and second stages of the launch vehicle.
- The vehicle would be to rework its three stages, the second liquid stage with a semi-cryo stage, and the terminal cryo stage, C-25, will be converted into C-32.

About GSLV Mk-III :

- The Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III (GSLV Mk III), is a three-stage medium-lift launch vehicle developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- It comprises two solid strap-ons, a core liquid booster as well as a cryogenic upper stage.
- It was designed to carry 4-tons of satellites into the Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) as well as 10 tons to Low Earth Orbit (LEO).

China Launches Tianzhou 3 Cargo Spacecraft to Support Tiangong Space Station

- China has successfully launched **its third Unmanned Cargo Aircraft (UCA)** named **Tianzhou-3** or **Heavenly vessel** from the **Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site** in the southern province of Hainan, China, with help of the **Long March-7Y4 rocket**.
- Objective: **Tianzhou-3 will deliver fuel to the under-construction space station of China, Tiangong and will bring back three astronauts who have been there for almost three months.**
- The Tiangong space station will be completed by 2022 and with its completion, China will become the first country to own a space station.

Key Points:

- **Tianzhou-3 was successfully** docked with the core Tianhe module of the space station.
China plans to launch two additional core modules for the space station- Wentian and Mengtian- on Long March 5B rockets.
- The space station once completed, will give competition to ISS (International Space Station), which was constructed by the United States (US), Russia and Japan.
- China was restricted from participating in the ISS by the US.

Lunar Crater Named After Black Arctic Explorer Matthew Henson

- The **International Astronomical Union** has named a crater at the Moon's south pole after the Arctic explorer **Matthew Henson**.
- Matthew Henson was a Black man who in 1909 was one of the first people to stand at the very top of the world.
- The proposal to name the crater after Henson came from Jordan Bretzfelder, an Exploration Science summer intern with the Lunar and Planetary Institute, in Houston.

About Matthew Henson :

- Matthew Henson was born in **Maryland** in 1866.
- Henson was an experienced explorer and skilled as a carpenter and craftsman. He was on the front lines of almost a dozen Arctic expeditions organized by Robert Peary over the course of 18 years, including the one that ultimately reached the North Pole.

SpaceX's Inspiration4 amateur astronauts return to Earth after 3 days

- The **four amateur astronauts** who went on a private space trip this week landed safely back to Earth after orbiting the planet for three days.
- The Inspiration4 crew left on a SpaceX capsule from Florida & the Spacecraft splashed down successfully in the Atlantic Ocean.
- In that Inspiration4 crew **Mr Isaacman**, Commander of the flight, & he was joined by three strangers he had selected - geoscientist and former Nasa astronaut candidate **Sian Proctor**, 51; physician assistant and childhood bone cancer survivor **Hayley Arceneaux**, 29; and aerospace data engineer and Air Force veteran **Chris Sembroski**, 42.
- The four amateur astronauts travelled to an altitude of 357 miles (575 kilometres) above the surface of the Earth, which is much further and deeper into space than the International Space Station (ISS).

US successfully flight tests Raytheon hypersonic weapon

- The **Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency of the United States** has successfully tested a **Raytheon hypersonic weapon** – an air-breathing hypersonic weapon, the next generation of arms that rob adversaries of reaction time and traditional defeat mechanisms.
- Hypersonic weapons travel in the upper atmosphere at speeds of more than five times the speed of sound, or about 6,200 kilometers (3,853 miles) per hour.
- The missile, built by Raytheon Technologies, was released from an aircraft seconds before its Northrop Grumman scramjet.

- In July 2021, Russia had successfully tested a Tsirkon(Zircon) hypersonic cruise missile.

Important Environment News

Assam's Deepor Beel Wildlife Sanctuary as eco-sensitive zone

- On August 25, the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change notified** the eco-sensitive zone of the **Deepor Beel Wildlife Sanctuary** on the south-western edge of **Guwahati, Assam**.
- The notification specified an area “to an extent varying from **294 metres to 16.32 km**” as the eco-sensitive zone, with the total area being **148.9767 sq. km**.

About Deepor Beel Wildlife Sanctuary :

- Deepor Beel is one of the largest freshwater lakes in Assam and the State's **only Ramsar site** besides being an Important Bird Area.
- The wetland of Deepor Beel constitutes a unique habitat for aquatic flora and avian fauna.
- About **150 species of birds** have been recorded in the sanctuary, Besides these, **12 species of reptiles, 50 species of fish, six species of amphibians** along with 155 species of aquatic macro-biota have been recorded in the sanctuary.

India's 1st dugong conservation reserve to be in Tamil Nadu

- **India's first Dugong conservation reserve** will be **built in Tamil Nadu** for the conservation of Dugong.
- The reserve is spread over an **area of 500 km** in **Palk Bay** on the southeast coast of Tamil Nadu.

About Dugong :

- Dugong (Sea Cow) is the State animal of Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- It is a marine animal that has been classified as **vulnerable** to extinction on a global scale by the **World Conservation Union (IUCN)**.
- They are found in the **Gulf of Kutch, Gulf of Mannar, Palk Bay, and Andaman & Nicobar Islands**.
- It is the only **herbivorous mammal** that is strictly marine and is the only extant species in the family **Dugongidae**.

New species of gecko found in Goa

- Researchers from **Department of Zoology Goa University** and the **Thackeray Wildlife Foundation, Mumbai**, have discovered a new species of **gecko** in **Goa**.
- It is commonly called the **Goan slender gecko**.
- The species of the Hemiphyllodactylus genus has now been given a scientific name, **Hemiphyllodactylus goaensis**.
- The new species is the first member of the genus to be described from the northern Western Ghats region as well as Goa state.
- Also it is only the **second Indian** Hemiphyllodactylus known from < 100 m above sea level.
- It was found from two localities in Goa – two in north Goa at Goa University campus and one in south Goa at Chandor.

- The research was led by **Akansh Khandekar** of the Thackeray Wildlife Foundation and Dikansh Parmar studying at the Goa University.

About the gecko :

- It is the **smallest** known species of that genus with a maximum length of **32 mm**.

New Species of Hybodont Shark From Jurassics of Jaisalmer, Rajasthan

- Teeth of new species of **Hybodont Shark** of the Jurassic age have been reported for the first time from **Jaisalmer, Rajasthan** by a team of officers from the **Geological Survey of India (GSI)**.
- A new species named by the research team as **Strophodusjaisalmerensis**.
- The genus Strophodus has been identified for the first time from the Indian subcontinent and is only the third such record from Asia, the other two being from Japan and Thailand.
- The discovery was made by a team of officers comprising Krishna Kumar, Pragya Pandey, Triparna Ghosh and Debasish Bhattacharya from the Geological Survey of India (GSI), Western Region, Jaipur.
- Finding has been published in Historical Biology, a Journal of Palaeontology of International repute
- Prof. Dr. Sunil Bajpai, Head of the Department, Department of Earth Sciences, IIT Roorkee, who is a co-author of this publication, played a significant role in the identification and documentation of this important discovery.

About Hybodont Shark :

- Hybodont Sharks have been reported for the first time from the Jurassic rocks (between 160 and 168 million years old) of the Jaisalmer region of Rajasthan.
- Hybodonts finally became extinct at the end of the Cretaceous time 65 million years ago.
- The new species has recently been included in Shark references.com, an international platform operating in association with International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Species Survival Commission (SSC), and Germany.

Important Rankings and Indexes

Hurun India Future Unicorn List 2021 : India becomes the world's third largest startup ecosystem, Top- USA

- The **Hurun Research Institute** released the **Hurun India Future Unicorn List 2021**, India is the **third largest Unicorn ecosystem** in the world.
- The **USA** is on **top** followed by China.
- This is a list of the most valuable private equity or venture capital-funded companies in India founded after 2000, ranked according to their latest funding round valuation.
- According to the list, The **USA** has **396** and **China** has **277** unicorns while **India** has **51** unicorns.
- **Zilingo** is the **top unicorn** in the ranking in India with a funding of USD 310. The headquarters of Zilingo is in Singapore.
- **Bengaluru** is the **top Indian city** in terms of number of Unicorns headquartered in a city. Bengaluru has 31 unicorns followed by Mumbai which has 12 unicorns.

Times World University Ranking 2022: University of Oxford tops, three Indian institutes in top 400

- Three **Indian educational institutes** have found place in the **top 400 list of Times World University Rankings 2022**.

Top 5 Indian educational institutes in the top 400 list :

1. IISc Bangalore – 301-350 bracket
 2. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar – 351-400 bracket.
 3. 351-400: JSS Academic Higher Education and Research
 4. 401-500: IIT Indore
 5. 501-600 Alagappa University
- Globally, the **University of Oxford tops** the ranking for the sixth consecutive year.

Top Five Universities :

1. University of Oxford, UK
 2. California Institute of Technology, US
 3. Harvard University, US
 4. Stanford University, US
 5. University of Cambridge, UK
- The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2022 include more than **1,600 universities** across **99 countries and territories**.

IIT Madras Retains Top Spot in Overall Category of NIRF India Ranking 2021 list

- **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** has retained the top spot among institutes all over India whereas **Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru** was the best among research institutions as per the Ministry of Education's **National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) rankings**.
- Eight IITs and two national Institutes of Technology (NITs) have figured in the top 10 engineering institutions in the country as per the **sixth edition of the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)**.
- Union Education Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan** announced the rankings on September 9.
- This list can be accessed on the official **NIRF website – nirfindia.org**.
- **These rankings are released under various categories** like engineering, pharmacy, management, overall, research, law, university, ARIIA (Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements), medical, college, and architecture.
- **Education ministry** has allotted these rankings on the basis of teaching, peer perception, graduation outcome, research and professional practice, learning and resources, outreach and inclusivity.

About NIRF:

- The **National Institutional Ranking Framework** is a methodology adopted by the Ministry of Education, Government of India, to rank institutions of higher education in India.
- The **Framework was approved by the MHRD** and launched by Minister of Human Resource Development on 29 September 2015.

Union Minister Releases FSSAI Report on State Food Safety Index 2020-21

- On September 20, 2021, The Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare **Mansukh Mandaviya** released the **third State Food Safety Index (SFSI)** of the **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** to measure the performance of States/UTs across five parameters of food safety.
- He also flagged off 19 Mobile Food Testing Vans (Food Safety on Wheels) to supplement the food safety ecosystem across the country & With this the total number of such mobile testing vans has reached 109.

Five Parameters :

- Human resources and institutional data,
 - Compliance,
 - Food testing facility,
 - Training and capacity building
 - Consumer empowerment.
- He felicitated nine leading States/UTs based on the ranking for the year 2020-21 for their impressive performance.
 - The states and UTs are classified into three categories: large states, small states and union territories.

Top three state in larger states category :

- Gujarat
- Kerala
- Tamil Nadu

Among smaller states category :

- Goa
- Meghalaya
- Manipur

Among UTs :

- Jammu & Kashmir
- Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- Delhi

India becomes Dubai's second-biggest trading partner : China Tops

- India has emerged as **Dubai's second biggest trading partner** with a **total volume of 38.5 billion dirhams** in the **first half of 2021**.

Rank	Country	Trade Volume in first half of 2021
1	China	86.7 billion dirham
2	India	Increased by 74.5% year-on-year to 67.1 billion dirhams

3	US	32 billion dirhams
4	Saudi Arabia	30.5 billion dirhams
5	Switzerland	24.8 billion dirham

- The five largest trading partners had a combined share of 241.21 billion dirhams, up 30.34% from 185.06 billion dirhams in H1 2020.
- Gold topped the list of commodities in Dubai's H1 external trade at 138.8 billion dirham (19.2 percent of Dubai trade), followed by telecoms at 94 billion dirham (13 per cent).
- Diamonds came third in the list at 57.3 billion dirham (8 per cent), followed by jewellery at 34.1 billion dirham (4.7 per cent), and vehicle trade at 28 billion dirham (4 percent).
- Dubai's non-oil external trade surged 31 per cent in the first half of 2021 to reach 722.3 billion dirham.
- Exports grew 45 per cent year on year in H1 2021 to 109.8 billion dirham from 75.8 billion dirham.

Important Schemes List

Punjab govt Launches 'Mera Kaam Mera Maan' Scheme to Help Unemployed Youth

- The **Punjab Cabinet** gave nod to a new scheme which will help the unemployed youth in the state to hone their skills and increase their chances of getting a job.
- These youngsters will be given **short-term skill training free of cost** under the "**Mera Kaam Mera Maan (MKMM)**" scheme of the state government.
- The cabinet, which met here under the chairmanship of **Chief Minister Amarinder Singh**, has decided to roll out the scheme from the current fiscal on a pilot basis for construction workers and their wards.
- A **target of 30,000 beneficiaries** has been proposed, at a **cost of Rs.90 crore**, to be covered under this pilot project.
- The scheme also **provides an employment assistance allowance of Rs.2, 500 per month** for a period of 12 months from the start of the training course, which will be conducted at Punjab Skill Development Mission training centers.

Govt adds dairy products under TMA scheme

- The **government** widened the **scope of the Transport and Marketing Assistance (TMA) scheme for specified agriculture products** by including dairy products in its purview and increasing the rates of assistance.
- Enhanced assistance under the **revised scheme** is expected to help Indian exporters of agricultural products to meet rising freight and logistics costs.
- Under the TMA, the government **reimburses a certain portion** of freight charges and provides assistance for the marketing of agricultural produce. It was launched in 2019 to boost exports of such commodities to certain countries in Europe and North America.

- The scheme has been **extended till March 31, 2022**.

Govt Enhanced the Scope of TMA Scheme for Agri Exports Including Dairy

- The Government of India has enhanced the scope of the **Transport and Marketing Assistance (TMA)** for specified **agriculture products schemes by including dairy products under its purview and increasing the rates of assistance**.
- The rates of assistance have been increased by **50% for exports by sea and 100% through the air**.
- The revised TMA for specified agriculture products scheme for exports is effected on or after **1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022**.
- **The existing scheme** will remain in operation for exports effects **up to March 31, 2021**.

IIM Ahmedabad Adjudged as Best B-School in India: QS Global MBA Rankings: Global 2022

- **The QS Global MBA Rankings: Global 2022**, released by **Quacquarelli Symonds(QS)**
- As per the report the **Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad, Gujarat was declared as the best business school(B-school) in India**.
- The IIM Ahmedabad has achieved the 46th rank on the list which features around 280 business schools from across the globe.
- **Stanford Graduate School of Business, Stanford, California, United States of America(USA) topped the list**.
- IIM Bangalore (ranked 50) and IIM Ahmedabad are the only Indian Institutes among the top 50.
- **Harvard Business School and Penn (Wharton)**, jointly secured the **2nd Rank**.

About Quacquarelli Symonds (QS):

- CEO– **Nunzio Quacquarelli**
- Headquarters– **London, England**
- Founded – **1990**

QS World University Rankings:

- **Business Masters Rankings 2022** ranks the Masters in Business Analytics, Masters in Finance, Masters in Management, Masters in Marketing and Masters in Supply Chain Management.

Climate Change to Force 216 million People to Migrate from their Countries by 2050: World Bank report

- On 13th September 2021, the World Bank released the updated Groundswell report **“Groundswell Part 2: Acting on Internal Climate Migration”**
- As per the report, Climate Change could force more than 216 million people from across 6 regions(**South Asia; Latin America; Sub-Saharan Africa; East Asia and the Pacific; North Africa; and Eastern Europe and Central Asia**) to migrate from their own countries by 2050.
- It also states the various paths for the nations to address the major factors that cause climate-driven migration.
- The updated report has included **3 new regions(Eastern Europe and Central Asia, North Africa and East Asia and the Pacific)** to provide a “global estimate” of the potential migration.

PM Modi, Mamata Banerjee, Adar Poonawalla features in Time Magazine's '100 most influential people of 2021' list

- On September 15, 2021, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, West Bengal Chief Minister **Mamata Banerjee** and Serum Institute of India CEO **Adar Poonawalla** were named among the **world's 100 most influential people of 2021** by **TIME magazine**.
- Narendra Modi has been named for the fifth time since coming in power in 2014 (2014, 2015, 2017, and 2020).
- Globally, the list includes US President Joe Biden, US Vice President Kamala Harris, former US President Donald Trump, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Duke and Duchess of Sussex Prince Harry and Meghan, and co-founder of the Taliban Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar.
- The list also includes tennis player Naomi Osaka, Russian opposition activist Alexei Navalny, music icon Britney Spears, executive director of the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council Manjusha P. Kulkarni, Apple CEO Tim Cook, actor Kate Winslet and the first African and first woman to lead the World Trade Organization Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala.

Global Innovation Index 2021 : Top- Switzerland, India ranks 46th position

- India has been ranked at **46th place** with a **score of 36.4** in the **Global Innovation Index 2021** released by **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)**.
- Switzerland** has **topped** in the Global Innovation Index.
- Meanwhile, **China** and **Pakistan** were ranked **12th** and **99th** positions.
- India has climbed 2 spots from last year's ranking & It takes second place in the lower middle-income group.

Top 5 countries :

Rank	Country	Score
1	Switzerland	65.5
2	Sweden	63.1
3	United States of America	61.3
4	United Kingdom	59.8
5	Republic of Korea	59.3

About Global Innovation Index 2021 :

- The Global Innovation Index 2021 captures the innovation ecosystem performance of **132 economies** and tracks the most recent global innovation trends.

Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2021 : Mumbai, Bangalore, London Named amongst World's high Startup Hubs

- According to a comprehensive ranking of international startup hubs, in the **Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2021**, **London**, **Mumbai** and **Bangalore** have featured among the **world's top startup hubs** compiled by **Startup Genome**.
- Bangalore-Karnataka** ranks **23rd** globally while **Delhi** comes in at **36th** in the top list.

- Mumbai maintained its first position in the Emerging Ecosystems ranking (ecosystems in earlier stages of growth that have high potential to be global performers in the future), outperforming other fast-growing ecosystems in areas of funding, performance, market research, and talent.

Top 5 Global Startup Ecosystem :

Rank	City
1	Silicon Valley
2	New York
3	London
4	Beijing
5	Boston

- The research shows that Indian startups raised USD 12.1 billion in the first half of this year & as of August 2021, India has produced 24 unicorns in 2021.

Important Books and Authors

Authors/Released by	Books
Anurag Thakur presented to M Venkaiah Naidu	Reflecting, Recollecting, Reconnecting
Angelina Jolie & Amnesty International with Geraldine Van Bueren QC	Know Your Rights: and Claim Them
Tamannaah Bhatia & Luke Coutinho	'Back to the Roots
Uday Bhatia	Bullets Over Bombay: Satya and the Hindi Film Gangster
Dheera Khandelwal (released by Manohar Lal)	Haryana Environment and Pollution Code
Utpal K. Banerjee	Gita Govinda: Jaydeva's Divine Odyssey
BJP MP Subramanian Swamy	Human Rights and Terrorism in India
Jhumpa Lahiri	Translating Myself and Others
Dr Prabhleen Singh	Shining Sikh Youth of India
Kaveree Bamzai	The Three Khans: And the Emergence of New

	India
Chetan Bhagat	400 Days
Ranjit Rae	Kathmandu Dilemma: Resetting India-Nepal Ties
Amitav Ghosh	Jungle Nama
Vijay Gokhale	The Long Game: How the Chinese Negotiate with India
Nirupama Menon Rao	The Fractured Himalaya: How the Past Shadows the Present in India-China Relations
Indra Nooyi (Published by Hachette India)	My Life in Full: Work, Family and Our Future
Kulpreet Yadav (Published under Penguin Random House's "Veer" imprint)	Battle of Rezang La

Important Peoples' in News

Dorje Angchuk becomes first Indian to be inducted as Honorary Member of the International Astronomical Union

- A **Ladakh-based engineer** has become the only **Indian Honorary Member of the International Astronomical Union**, along with ten others from around the world, joining a **select list of 20 international experts**.
- Dorje Angchuk of the **Indian Institute of Astrophysics**, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Govt. of India, is also the **first Indian to bag the position** in the prestigious body.
- This **honour** is meant to officially recognise those individuals who have significantly contributed to the progress of astronomical research and culture in their country.
- This recognition by the **International Astronomical Union** is for 'his passionate promotion of astronomy in the Ladakh region, through his excellent astrophotography'.
- Angchuk is the Engineer in charge of the **IIA's Indian Astronomical Observatory in Hanle, Ladakh**.
- But his involvement in astronomy is much more than that.

South African cricketer Dale Steyn announces retirement from all forms of cricket

- On Aug 31, 2021, The South Africa pacer **Dale Steyn**, announced his **retirement** from **all forms of cricket** ending his 20 year long cricket journey.
- Steyn had retired from Test cricket in 2019.

About Dale Steyn :

- Dale Steyn is fondly known as '**Steyn Gun**' among fans.
- He has represented South Africa in **93 Tests, 125 ODIs and 47 T20I**.
- He last played for South Africa in T20 vs Australia in February 2020.

- In the Indian Premier League, Steyn represented **Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB)**, **SunRisers Hyderabad**, **Deccan Chargers**, and **Gujarat Lions**.

Adidas named Mirabai Chanu for its 'Stay in Play' campaign

- **German footwear and accessories major Adidas** stated it has roped in **Tokyo Olympic Silver-medalist Mirabai Chanu** as the face of its **"Stay in Play"** campaign for its latest product innovation designed to keep more menstruating women in sports.
- The **new TechFit Period Proof tights**, featuring an absorbent layer to help protect against leaks when worn with a tampon or pad.
- **Such innovations showcase Adidas'** commitment to encourage and support women in sport.
- Adidas found that teenage girls are dropping out of sport at an alarming rate, with one of the key reasons being fear of period leakage.
- Using these insights, the brand set out **to create a product that helps athletes stay in sport** throughout their cycle by giving them an added layer of protection".

Ramesh Narayan to be honoured as AFAA Hall of Fame

- **Ramesh Narayan** will be inducted into the **Asian Federation of Advertising Associations (AFAA) Hall of Fame** at the AdAsia 2021.
- He has been president of the Rotary Club of India.
- Raymond So, chairman AFAA, stated, "Ramesh Narayan is a legend who has the ability to look past what's **'good enough'** and focus on making everything 'better than it has to be'.
- He is known for his **integrity and truthfulness**.
- He is a **true leader** who generously gave his time to build a better future for the advertising industry and social causes.
- Ramesh is a gentleman and role model."

Zimbabwe star Brendan Taylor announces retirement from international cricket

- On Sep 13, 2021, Former Zimbabwe captain and wicketkeeper-batsman **Brendan Taylor** announced **retire** from **international cricket** during the 3rd and final ODI against Ireland.
- His last international match will be against Ireland hosted in Belfast.
- He played 34 Tests, 204 ODIs and 45 T20Is.
- Brendan Taylor has scored 6677 runs in ODIs, 2320 runs in Tests and 934 runs in T20is.
- He is just 112 short of former Zimbabwe batsman Andy Flower's national record of 6786.

Sri Lanka fast bowler Lasith Malinga announces retirement from all forms of cricket

- On Sep 14, 2021, Veteran Sri Lanka cricketer **Lasith Malinga** announced his **retirement from all forms of cricket**.
- The 38-year-old had already retired from Test cricket in 2011 and then from the ODIs in 2019.
- He **last played** a T20I match for **Sri Lanka in March 2020 against West Indies in Pallekele**.
- Malinga played 30 Test matches, 226 ODIs and 84 T20Is for Sri Lanka, picking up 546 wickets.

CISF woman Geeta Samota - 'fastest Indian' to summit 2 peaks

- CISF official **Geeta Samota** successfully scaled **Mount Kilimanjaro**, the **highest peak in Africa**.
- Indian High Commissioner to Tanzania Binaya Pradhan stated that this, the 31-year-old became the **"fastest Indian"** to summit two peaks located in Africa and Russia.
- Earlier this month, Sub Inspector **Geeta Samota** had scaled Mount Elbrus in Russia, the highest peak in Europe.

World's oldest living twins honoured - 107-year-old Japanese sisters

- On September 1, sisters **Umeno Sumiyama and Koume Kodama** turned **107 years and 300 days** old, officially breaking the record for the **world's oldest living identical twins**.
- The Japanese siblings are also the **oldest identical twins** to have ever lived.
- They were the **third and fourth of 11 siblings**.
- Previously, Kin Narita and Gin Kanie, also sisters from Japan, held the title of oldest living identical twins.
- At the time of Narita's death in January **2000**, the pair were **107 years and 175 days** old.
- Kanie died the following March, at age 108, notes Hanako Montgomery for Vice.

England all-rounder Moeen Ali announces retirement from Test cricket

- On Sep 27, 2021, 34-year-old **England spin-bowling all-rounder Moeen Ali** announced his **retirement** from **Test cricket**.

About Moeen Ali :

- Moeen Ali was born in 18 June 1987, **Birmingham, West Midlands, England**
- He made his Test debut in 2014 and has played **64 Tests matches**.
- He scored five centuries and took **195 wickets**, including a top score of 155 not out and **five five-wicket hauls**.
- He was part of the England squad that won the 2019 Cricket World Cup.
- On 8 September 2020, in the third Twenty20 International (T20I) match, Ali captained England for the first time in a T20I match.
- He won Warwickshire's NBC Denis Compton Award in both 2004 and 2005 and Worcestershire's NBC Denis Compton Award in 2009.

Important Acquisitions & Mergers

Competition Commission Clears T S Rajam Rubbers And Dhinarama Mobility's Stake Acquisition In TVS Supply Chain Solutions

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has approved the acquisition of **additional shareholding** in **TVS Supply Chain Solutions Pvt Ltd** by **TS Rajam Rubbers Pvt Ltd** and **Dhinarama Mobility Solution Pvt Ltd**.
- The acquisition has been approved under **Section 31(1)** of the Competition Act, 2002.
- The proposed transaction will be carried out through a secondary purchase from CDPQ Private Equity Asia Pte. Ltd. (CDPQ).
- Both T S Rajam Rubbers and Dhinarama Mobility Solutions are owned and controlled by the T S Rajam family.

- The T S Rajam Family members are the promoters of the target (TVS Supply Chain Solutions).

Kotak Mahindra Bank sells 20 crore shares in Airtel Payments Bank for Rs 295 cr

- **Kotak Mahindra Bank** will sell **20 crore** shares held in **Airtel Payments Bank (APBL)** for a cash consideration of **₹294.8 crore** to **Bharti Enterprises Ltd.**
- KMB acquired for ₹200 crore invested in trenches during calendar years 2016 and 2017.
- The Bharti Enterprises has received no objection from the RBI to enable execution of the proposed transaction which is expected to be completed by September 15, 2021.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank does not require any governmental or regulatory approvals for the proposed transaction.

RIL arm acquires 2.28 cr shares of Strand Life Sciences for Rs 393 crore

- **Reliance Strategic Business Ventures Limited (RSBVL)**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited, has acquired **2,28,42,654 equity shares of Rs 10** each from **Strand Life Sciences Private Limited** for **Rs 393 crore**.
- The company will make another investment worth Rs 160 crore by March 2023.
- The total investment will translate into about **80.3 percent** of equity share capital in Strand on a fully diluted basis.

Hdfc life to acquired Exide life insurance

- In **one of the biggest deals** in the insurance space, private sector life insurer HDFC Life announced it was acquiring a **100 per cent stake** in **Exide Industries-promoted Exide Life Insurance** for Rs 6,687 crore, in a bid to enhance its proprietary channel.
- The acquisition will add **about 40 per cent to HDFC Life's agency business** and 30 per cent to its agent base.
- Of the Rs 6,887 crore, Rs 725 crore will be in cash and the balance by issuing 87.02 million equity shares of the company at Rs 685 per share to Exide Industries.
- The **acquisition** will augment the embedded value of HDFC Life by approximately 10 per cent and take its assets under management to over Rs 2 trillion.

LIC bought 3.9% stake in Bank of India via open market acquisition

- State-owned **Bank of India** stated **LIC** has picked up **nearly 4 per cent equity shares** of the bank through an open market transaction a day earlier.
- LIC has picked up nearly 3.9 per cent (15,90,07,791 shares) of the bank through open market acquisition on September 2, 2021.
- Before the latest acquisition of shares in the bank, LIC held over a 3.17 per cent stake in the state-owned bank.
- The bank informed that **LIC's stake in Bank of India has now increased to 7.05 per cent**, equivalent to 28,92,87,324 shares.

Amicus Insurance Brokers to merge with First Policy Insurance Brokers

- India-based **First Policy Insurance Brokers** has completed the acquisition of **Amicus Insurance Brokers** which helps consolidate its position in the market.
- An in-principle approval for this transaction was granted by the insurance regulator, **Insurance Regulatory and Development Association of India (IRDAI)** on 5th August 2021.

- The merger process needs to go through a few more closure formalities, as specified in the Companies Act.
- The merger will contribute to 40 per cent growth in our revenue.
- Under the agreement, Jitendranath Nayer, chairman of Amicus Insurance Brokers, will join First Policy's board of directors.

Indian edtech unicorn Byju's acquires online exam preparation platform Gradeup

- The world's most valuable edtech company, **Byju's** acquired online exam preparation platform **Gradeup**.
- Gradeup will be rebranded as **Byju's Exam Prep**.
- It will cater to over 150 exams across 25 categories covering government jobs and PG entrance exams such as IAS, GATE, CAT, bank PO/ clerk, defence and UGC-NET.

CCI Approved Acquisitions – Inflow by Savex; ONGC Tripura Power Company Limited by GAIL & Indiabulls AMC by Groww

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approved the acquisition of **100% equity share capital** of Inflow Technologies Private Limited (Inflow) by **Savex Technologies Private Limited (Savex)**.
- **GAIL to acquire 26% stake in ONGC Tripura Power Company from IL&FS group entities:**
- CCI approved the acquisition of **26% equity share capital** of ONGC Tripura Power Company Limited by GAIL (India) Limited from Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS) group entities under Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002.
- The stakes are acquired from IL&FS Energy Development Company Limited and IL&FS Financial Services Limited.
- **Groww acquires 100% Stake in Indiabulls AMC & Indiabulls Trustee:**
- CCI has approved the acquisition of 100% shareholding of (Indiabulls AMC) and Indiabulls Trustee Company Limited (Indiabulls Trustee) by Nextbillion Technology Private Limited, doing business as Groww.

Kotak Mahindra Bank to acquire 9.98% stake in KFin Technologies for Rs 310 cr

- **Kotak Mahindra Bank** will acquire a **9.98 percent** stake in KFin Technologies for **Rs 310 crore**.
- As part of the transaction, the private sector lender will subscribe to **1,67,25,100 equity shares** in KFin Technologies.
- The stake acquisition is expected to conclude by the end of October 2021.

CCI approves Adani Ports' acquisition of 10.40% stake in Gangavaram Port limited

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has approved the proposed acquisition of **10.4%** of equity shareholding of **Gangavaram Port Limited (GPL)** by **Adani Ports and Special Economic Zones Limited (APSEZ)**.
- The consideration for the proposed acquisition of a 10.4% equity stake of GPL is ₹644.78 crore.

Carlyle arm sells 3.4% stake in SBI Cards for Rs 3,267 crore

- **CA Rover Holdings**, part of the Carlyle Group, **sold 3.4% stake** in **SBI Cards and Payment Services Ltd** for **₹3,267 crore** through open market transactions.
- The shares were sold at an average price of Rs 1,021.05.
- CA Rover Holdings is a subsidiary of the Carlyle Group.
- CA Rover Holdings held a 6.5 per cent stake in SBI Cards as a public shareholder at the end of June 2021.

IndusInd Bank Acquired 4.79% Stake in McLeod Russel India

- The IndusInd Bank has **acquired a 4.79% stake in debt-laden McLeod Russel India Limited(MRIL)** by involving **pledged shares for recovery of its dues**.
- The bank, in accordance with the invocation of the pledge of shares, **acquired 5000000 equity shares of MRIL**.
- MRIL, the leading bulk tea manufacturer in India, **is a flagship company of the BM Khaitan group**.

Background:

- The equity shares of McLeod Russel held **by Ichamati Investments were pledged with IndusInd bank for securing the outstanding dues of MRIL**.
- The IndusInd bank invoked the pledged shares to recover its due from MRIL.

Additional info:

- In June 2021, IndusInd bank **acquired 7067500 equity shares of MRIL forming 6.77%** paid-up equity share capital of MRIL, by invoking pledged shares for recovery of its dues.
- By the end of the first quarter of this fiscal, the promoter shareholdings in MRIL stood at **10.07%**.
- The other financial creditors of MRIL include Indian Bank, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, UCO Bank, Punjab National Bank, Yes Bank, RBL Bank and Standard Chartered Bank.

Important Web Portals and Mobile Apps

IIT Madras Develops Online platform e-Source to Tackle e-Waste

- **IIT Madras** is developing an online platform called **e-Source** to tackle e-waste by linking various stakeholders in the **formal and informal sectors**.
- The Platform will serve as an online marketplace for **Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)** and facilitate a formal supply chain between various stakeholders (buyers and sellers).
- The initiative is being headed by the **Indo-German Centre for Sustainability (IGCS)**.

Note :

- Currently, the world annually generates **53.6 million tonnes** of e-waste, which is expected to double in the next 16 years.
- Only **5 percent** of e-waste is **recycled** responsibly in **India**.

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav introduced PRANA portal to regulate air pollution in 132 cities

- **Air, water, and land** are **three important aspects** that need to be conserved for life to sustain on Earth.
- Union Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, **Bhupender Yadav**, on September 7, **launched PRANA**.
- **PRANA** meaning '**Life**' in **Sanskrit**, is a portal for regulation of air pollution in 132 cities across the country.
- The Union Minister also dedicated the **first functional smog tower of India**, installed in Anand Vihar in New Delhi to the country.
- Union Environment Minister stressed that **technological solutions are important tools for air quality management** in the short and medium-term.
- He asked stakeholders to contribute to achieving cleaner air and healthier lives for all.

- **The air pollution portal: PRANA**
- **PRANA** or the **Portal for Regulation of Air-pollution in Non-Attainment** cities under the National Clean Air Programme (**NCAP**) would support tracking of the physical and financial status of city air action plan implementation.
- It would also **disseminate information on air quality** to the public while also providing comprehensive information related to NCAP programme details, progress, city action plans, implementation updates by city/state/ national level agencies, air quality data, and trends, etc.
- The **portal** (prana.cpcb.gov.in) **has a national dashboard** that has interactive points on 7 thematic areas of city air action plans, PM10 performance, ambient air monitoring network, public grievance redressal portal, graded response action plans, and more.
- It is intertwined with the **Government's goal** for sustainable utilization, protection, and conservation of public goods and the environment.

National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)

- **National Clean Air Programme**, a mid-term, five-year action plan was **launched in 2019** by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- **This comprehensive initiative**, in **partnership with** various Ministries and States, aims to improve air quality at the city, regional and national levels and is a focused and time-bound effort to implement various sectoral policies, strengthen monitoring and enhance public participation in **more than 100 cities for effective air quality management**.

Union Govt launches portal for National Livestock Mission

- Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying, **Parshottam Rupala**, on September 6, **launched the portal for National Livestock Mission (NLM)**.
- With the portal, the Government aims to increase the effectiveness and ensure transparency in the implementation of the scheme.

National Livestock Mission Portal:

- The **NLM portal is developed by the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** in collaboration with the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
- The online **portal aims to** enable a customized workflow between State Implementing Agency (SIA), lenders, and Ministry as **required under the National Livestock Mission**.
- The **portal** was launched during the national level meeting with **all State Animal Husbandry/Veterinary Ministers** convened by Union Minister Parshottam Rupala.

National Livestock Mission:

- The **National Livestock Mission**, an **initiative** of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, was introduced in 2014-15, with the objective of sustainable development of the livestock sector.
- The livestock sector in the country has been growing at a compound **annual growth rate of 8.15% from 2014-15 to 2019-20**.

Special livestock package:

- During the meeting, the Union Minister also highlighted the special livestock sector package to all State Ministers which was announced by the Government in **July 2021 for the next 5 years** with an outlay of Rs. 9,800 crore leveraging a total investment of Rs. 54,618 crore.

LIC launches mobile app 'Pragati'

- On Sep 17, 2021, **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)** launched a new mobile app "**PRAGATI**" for its **Development Officers**.

About "PRAGATI" :

- "PRAGATI" - **Performance Review Application, Growth And Trend Indicator**.
- Pragati' is a comprehensive mobile application which gives various information which are updated in near real-time about the performance of their agency force in critical areas of business performance like Premium collection, agency activation, prospective MDRT / centurion agents etc.apart from monitoring their team on activities such as usage of agents mobile apps and NACH validations.
- There is also a calculator to measure their cost ratio.

Government Launches Elder Line (Toll-Free No- 14567)

- The **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** launched The **first pan-India toll-free helpline number (14567)** for **senior citizens**.
- Tata Trusts** and **National Stock Exchange (NSE) Foundation** are the technical partners for "Elder Line".

Aim :

- To provide free information and guidance on pension and legal issues, extend emotional support, and intervene in cases of abuse.

About the Platform :

- The platform will allow senior citizens to connect and share their concerns, get information and guidance on problems that they face on a day-to-day basis.
- So far, 17 states have opened the Elder line in their respective geographies.

Revision Points

Apps	Launched by
Elder Line	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
PRAGATI	Life Insurance Corporation
PRANA	Union Minister Bhupender Yadav
Portal for National Livestock Mission	Union Minister Parshottam Rupala

Important Sports News

Cricket

Joe Root & Eimear Richardson named ICC Players of the Month for August 2021

- England captain **Joe Root** has been voted the **ICC Men's Player of the Month for August 2021**.
- Meanwhile, Ireland's **Eimear Richardson** has bagged the **ICC Women's Player of the Month for August 2021**.

About Joe Root :

- Root was voted the ICC Men's Player of the Month for August for his consistent performances in the Test series against India that was the part of the next cycle of the ICC World Test Championship (WTC).
- Root scored 507 runs in three Tests against India in August.

About Eimear Richardson :

- Richardson won the Player of the Tournament award for her superb performance with the bat and the ball, starting off against Germany.

MS Dhoni mentor for Team India at T20 World Cup

- BCCI announced **MS Dhoni** as the **mentor** of the **Indian national team** for the **T20 World Cup**.
- MS Dhoni announced his retirement from international limited-overs cricket on August 15, 2020.
- He **last played** for India in the **2019 ICC World Cup semi-final against New Zealand**.
- He became the only international captain to have won all three major ICC tournaments - the 2007 ICC T20 World Cup, the 2011 ICC World Cup and also the 2013 ICC Champions Trophy.

About T20 World Cup :

- The 2021 ICC Men's T20 World Cup is scheduled to be the seventh ICC Men's T20 World Cup tournament held in the **United Arab Emirates and Oman from 17 October to 14 November 2021**.
- India announced a 15-man squad for the T20 World Cup and named 3 stand-by players.

India leads in Test Series against England

- India lead in the 5-match Test Series against England by **winning 2 of the 4-matches played and drawing the 1st match**, that was held between 4th August and 6th September 2021, in England.
- The Fifth match of the series was cancelled due to COVID-19 outbreak among 4 of the Indian crew members.
- **Jasprit Bumrah becomes Fastest Indian to take 100 Test wickets**
- **Virat Kohli broke** the long-standing record of **Sachin Tendulkar** to become the **fastest to score 23,000** international runs in Cricket during this series.

Virat Kohli steps down as T20 captain, to remain captain for ODI/ Test formats

- Indian skipper Virat Kohli has announced that **he will step down as the T20 captain of the Indian cricket team** after the men's T20 World Cup in Dubai in October 2021.
- He will remain the captain for the ODI and Test formats.

ICC launches T20 World Cup anthem

- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** launched the **T20 World Cup anthem** for the **ICC T20 World Cup 2021**.

- The anthem is **composed** by Indian music director **Amit Trivedi**.
- The anthem is launched in collaboration with ICC's global broadcast partner Star Sports, the film premieres worldwide on Thursday across ICC, BCCI, and Star Sports' social media handles.
- It features avatars of Indian captain Virat Kohli, Afghanistan's Rashid Khan, West Indian skipper Kieron Pollard and Australian ace Glenn Maxwell.

About ICC T20 World Cup 2021 :

- The ICC T20 World Cup 2021, scheduled to be held in the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** and **Oman** from **October 17 to November 14**, was launched by the International Cricket Council (ICC).
- It is to be the **seventh** ICC Men's T20 World Cup tournament.

Rohit Sharma Becomes First Player To Score 1000 Runs : IPL 2021

- Mumbai Indians (MI) captain **Rohit Sharma** became the **first player** in the IPL to **score 1000 runs against Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR)** in the third over of MI's innings which was bowled by spinner Varun Chakaravathy at the **Sheikh Zayed Stadium, Abu Dhabi**.
- Sunrisers Hyderabad's Australian opener David Warner is second in the list with 943 runs against Punjab Kings.
- Rohit now has 1015 runs against KKR at an average of 46.13 and strike rate of 132.16, including six fifties and one hundred.

Others

Noisiel International Open 2021: Indian Grandmaster P Iniyen wins

- Indian Grandmaster **P Iniyen** won the **Noisiel International Open 2021 Chess Tournament** in **Noisiel, France**.
- He won a trophy and **€1200** as his prize for winning the Classical tournament.
- Iniyen scored a double triumph at 6th Noisiel International Open as he won both **Classical** and **Blitz** events.
- He scored **eight points from nine rounds** in the Classical event after securing the top prize in the Blitz section.
- Iniyen (Elo rating 2506) finished half a point ahead of higher-rated GM Yuri Solodovnichenko of Ukraine (Elo 2561) who secured 7.5 points, while French International Master Kambrath Yannick took third place.
- A total of **174 players** from nine countries across the world participated in three Open tournaments from **23rd to 28th August** at Noisiel.

Tokyo Paralympics: Indian shooter Singhraj Adhana wins bronze medal

- On Aug 31, 2021, Indian shooter **Singhraj Adhana** won the **bronze** medal in the **P1 Men's 10m Air Pistol SH1** final in Tokyo Paralympics 2020.
- He clinched the medal with **216.8 points** and with this, India's medal tally stands at **8** & this was second shooting medal for India at the ongoing Paralympic Games after Avani Lekhara's historic gold in rifle shooting.
- China's **Chao Yang** won the **gold** medal with a Paralympic record total of **237.9 points** while Yang's compatriot **Xing Huang** clinched **silver** with **237.5 points**.

Tokyo Paralympics : Men's High Jump (T63) Mariyappan Thangavelu wins silver, Sharad Kumar bronze

- On Aug 31, 2021, In the men's high jump T63 event, Indian paralympic high jumpers **Mariyappan Thangavelu** and **Sharad Kumar** won a **silver** and **bronze** respectively at the Tokyo Paralympics 2020.
- Thangavelu cleared the **1.86m** mark while Sharad Kumar cleared **1.83m**.
- United States of America's **Sam Grewe** clinched **gold** after successfully jumping the 1.88m mark.
- So far, India have won **two gold, five silver** and **three bronze** medals at the Tokyo Paralympics.

Tokyo Paralympics 2020 : India's Praveen Kumar clinches Silver In Men's High Jump T64 Final

- On Sep 03, 2021, Indian para-athlete **Praveen Kumar** clinched a **silver** medal in the **men's high jump T64** event at **Tokyo Paralympics**.
- The 18-year-old Kumar, set a new Asian record with a **2.07m jump**.
- **Great Britain's Jonathan Broom-Edwards** won the **gold** medal with a jump of 2.10m.
- **Maciej Lepiato of Poland** won **bronze** with a jump of 2.04m.
- Praveen is India's fourth medallist in men's high jump at Tokyo Games after Nishad Kumar, Mariyappan Thangavelu, and Sharad Kumar.
- Praveen Kumar born on 15 May 2003 in Noida, **Uttar Pradesh**
- With this India's total medal tally in the ongoing Games has increased to 11
- Shooter Avani Lekhara and javelin thrower Sumit Antil have won gold in Tokyo Paralympics 2020,
- Praveen is India's sixth silver medallist after paddler Bhavina Patel, javelin thrower Devendra Jhajharia, discus thrower Yogesh Kathuniya, and high jumpers Thangavellu and Nishad.
- Javelin thrower Sundar Singh Gurjar, high jumper Sharad Kumar and shooter Singhraj have won bronze.

Tokyo Paralympics 2020 : Avani Lekhara wins bronze in 50m rifle 3 positions SH1

- 19 Year old Indian Para shooter **Avani Lekhara** won bronze in the **women's 50m rifle 3 positions SH1** event with a score of **445.9**.
- Lekhara was the **first Indian woman** to win a Paralympic gold and also she is the first Indian woman to win two medals in the same Games edition.
- China's **Zhang Cuiping** won **gold** with a Paralympic Record score of **457.9**, while Germany's **Natascha Hiltrop** took **silver** with a score of **457.1**.
- With this India's total medal tally in the ongoing Games has increased to **12** (two gold, six silver and Four bronze medals).
- **Earlier** Lekhara had also won **gold** with a score of 249.6 in the women's **10m air rifle standing finals (SH 1)**.
- Prior to her, **Joginder Singh Sodhi** was the only Indian to win multiple medals in the same edition of the Games & he had won one silver and two bronze medals in the 1984 Paralympics.

Tokyo Paralympics 2020 : Archer Harvinder Singh clinches Bronze In Men's Individual Recurve

- On Sep 03, 2021, 31-year old India's **Harvinder Singh** won the **bronze** medal in the **men's individual recurve event** at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics.
- He has become India's first ever archer to win a medal in the Paralympics.

- So far, India has won 13 medals at the Tokyo Paralympic Games 2 gold, 6 silver and 5 bronze medals.

Tokyo Paralympics : Manish Narwal wins Gold in 50m Mixed Pistol (SH1)

- On Sep 04, 2021, 19-year-old Indian para-shooter **Manish Narwal** won the **gold** medal with a score of **218.2 points** in the **P4 – Mixed 50m Pistol SH1** final at Tokyo Paralympics 2020.
- He clinched India's **third** gold at the ongoing Paralympics
- Meanwhile, India's **Singhraj Adhana** clinched the **silver** medal **216.7 points**.
- Earlier Singhraj Adhana won a bronze medal in the P1 Men's 10m Air Pistol SH1 event.
- The Russian Paralympic Committee's (RPC) **Sergey Malyshev** won the bronze medal.
- In the Tokyo Paralympics, India has won a **total 15 medals** so far which include, **three Gold, seven Silver** and **five bronze medals**.

Tokyo Paralympics: Shuttlers Pramod Bhagat won gold, Manoj Sarkar won bronze in men's singles SL3 category

- **World number one** shuttler in the **men's SL3 category**, **Pramod Bhagat** won the **gold medal** in the Men's Singles SL3 category, beating Great Britain's Daniel Bethell in the final.
- Meanwhile, **Manoj Sarkar** defeated Japan's **Daisuke Fujihara** to win the **bronze medal**.
- In Men's Singles SL4 category, **Suhas Yathiraj** booked his spot in the gold medal match thereby assuring India of yet another medal by beating Indonesia's Fredy Setiawan 21-9 21-15 in 31 minutes.
- Tarun Dhillon, however, lost to Lucas Mazur in a hard-fought semifinal clash that lasted for 63 minutes.
- Tarun lost the match 16-21, 21-16, 18-21.
- **Navdeep** finished **fourth** with a best throw of 40.80 in the Javelin throw F41 final.

About Pramod:

- **Pramod Bhagat** is an **Indian professional Para-badminton player** from Vaishali district, Bihar.
- He is currently ranked world number one in **para-badminton men's singles SL3**, and won a gold medal at the 2020 Summer Paralympics in Men's singles SL3.

About Manoj Sarkar:

- **Manoj Sarkar** is the current **World no.1 Para-badminton player** in the SL-3 Classification.
- He has **won a silver medal** in the BWF Para-Badminton World championships, 2017 in the singles event.
- He is supported by the **GoSports Foundation** through the Para Champions Programme.

Max Verstappen wins Dutch Grand Prix 2021

- On Sep 05, 2021, **Max Verstappen** won the **formula one Dutch Grand Prix 2021**.
- **Lewis Hamilton** (Mercedes-Great Britain) & **Valtteri Bottas** (Mercedes-Finland) finished **second & third** respectively.
- The victory was Verstappen's seventh of the season.

About Dutch Grand Prix 2021 :

- The 2021 Dutch Grand Prix was a Formula One motor race held on 5 September 2021 at the **Circuit Zandvoort**.
- It was the thirteenth round of the 2021 Formula One World Championship and the first Dutch Grand Prix to take place since 1985.

Tokyo Paralympics 2020 : Krishna Nagar Wins Gold, Suhas L Yathiraj wins silver in Badminton

- India's **Krishna Nagar** won **gold** in the men's singles SH6 category at the Tokyo Paralympics 2020.
- He defeated **Hong Kong's Chu Man Kai** 21-17, 16-21, 21-17 in the final.
- He had been ranked world number 2 in para-badminton men's Singles SH6.
- This is **India's second gold** in **badminton** & it is India's **fifth gold medal** at the Tokyo Paralympic Games.
- Also, India's **para-shuttler Suhas L Yathiraj**, won a **silver medal** in the men's singles SL4 category (badminton) of the Tokyo Paralympics
- He lost to **Lucas Mazur (France)** 21-15, 17-21, 15-21 in the final.

India secures 19 medals at the Tokyo Paralympic Games 2020

- India** has secured a total of **19 medals** (includes **5 gold**, **8 silver** and **6 bronze medals**) at the Tokyo Paralympic Games 2020.
- India is placed at **24th position** in the overall medal tally out of a total of 162 nations.
- Prior to this, India had won a total of 12 Paralympics medals, since making its first appearance at the Paralympics in 1968, till the 2016 Rio. This included:
 - 1972 Heidelberg – 1
 - 1984 Stoke Mandeville/New York – 4
 - 2004 Athens – 2
 - 2012 London – 1
 - 2016 Rio de Janeiro – 4

List of Medal Winners of Tokyo Paralympics 2020 :

Name	Event	Sport	Medal
Sumit Antil	Men's Javelin Throw – F64	Athletics	Gold
Pramod Bhagat	Men's Singles SL3	Badminton	Gold
Krishna Nagar	Men's Singles SH6	Badminton	Gold
Manish Narwal	P4 – Mixed 50m Pistol SH1	Shooting	Gold
Avani Lekhara	R2 – Women's 10m Air Rifle Standing SH1	Shooting	Gold
Yogesh Kathuniya	Men's Discus Throw – F56	Athletics	Silver
Nishad Kumar	Men's High Jump – T47	Athletics	Silver
Mariyappan Thangavelu	Men's High Jump – T63	Athletics	Silver

Praveen Kumar	Men's High Jump – T64	Athletics	Silver
Devendra Jhajharia	Men's Javelin Throw – F46	Athletics	Silver
Suhas Yathiraj	Men's Singles SL4	Badminton	Silver
Singhraj Adhana	P4 – Mixed 50m Pistol SH1	Shooting	Silver
Bhavina Patel	Women's Singles – Class 4	Table Tennis	Silver
Harvinder Singh	Men's Individual Recurve – Open	Archery	Bronze
Sharad Kumar	Men's High Jump – T63	Athletics	Bronze
Sundar Singh Gurjar	Men's Javelin Throw – F46	Athletics	Bronze
Manoj Sarkar	Men's Singles SL3	Badminton	Bronze
Singhraj Adhana	P1 – Men's 10m Air Pistol SH1	Shooting	Bronze
Avani Lekhara	R8 – Women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions SH1	Shooting	Bronze

Top 5 Countries :

Rank	Country	No.of Medals
1	China	207 (including 96 gold medals) fifth consecutive time
2	Great Britain	124 (including 41 golds)
3	United States	104 (including 37 golds)
4	Russian Paralympic Committee	118 (including 36 golds)
5	Netherlands	59 (including 25 golds)

130th edition of Durand Cup kicks off in Kolkata

- The **130th** edition of the **Durand Cup** kicked off at the **Vivekananda Yubabharati Krirangan** in **Kolkata, West Bengal**.
- The tournament is jointly organized by the **Eastern Command of the Indian Armed Forces** and the **Government of West Bengal**.

- West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee inaugurated the tournament & State's Sports Minister Arup Biswas was also present at the event.
- 16 teams will participate in this edition of the oldest club football tournament in Asia while two renowned clubs of Kolkata, East Bengal and Mohun Bagan are not participating.

Tokyo Paralympics 2020: Avani Lekhara leads Indian contingent at closing ceremony

- 19-year-old shooter **Avani Lekhara**, led India's contingent at the **Closing Ceremony of Tokyo Paralympics** as the **flag-bearer**.
- A total of 11 members of the Indian contingent attended the Closing Ceremony.
- Avani Lekhara, became the **first Indian woman** to win two Paralympic medals, (gold and bronze medals).
- The Indian contingent finished their campaign at the Paralympic Games at an all-time high by securing a total of 19 medals which includes 5 gold, 8 silver, and 6 bronze medals.

Note :

- **Shot-putter Tek Chand** was India's flag-bearer for the Paralympics **opening ceremony**.

About Tokyo Paralympics 2020:

- Tokyo Paralympics 2020 is a major international multi-sport parasports event governed by the **International Paralympic Committee**.
- It was the 16th Summer Paralympic Games and was held in Tokyo, Japan between 24 August and 5 September 2021.
- It featured 539 medal events across 22 sports.
- A total of **54 para-athletes** from India across **nine sports disciplines** were featured in the Paralympic Games.

Asian Youth & Junior Boxing Championships 2021 : India Bags 39 Medals Including 14 Golds

- India Clinched **39 medals** including **14 gold** at the **ASBC Asian World Youth and Junior Championships 2021** in Dubai.
- India earned **20 medals** (**six gold, nine silver and five bronze**) in the **youth category**, and **19 medals** (**eight gold, five silver, and six bronze medals**) in the junior category.
- It was the first time both youth and junior events were organised together.
- A total of fifteen countries of boxers take part in the youth events.
- **Kazakhstan topped** the medal's tally with eleven gold medals, while **Uzbekistan** stood **second** by clinching eight youth titles.
- **India** bagged the **third** position with six gold medals.

Guinness World Records - Ronaldo for most goals scored

- **Cristiano Ronaldo** became the highest-scoring man in the international football history with his 110th goal for Portugal.
- The **Portugal** captain scored in the 89th minute against Ireland in a World Cup qualifier, moving ahead of former Iranian striker Ali Daei.

- He added a second — another header — minutes later in the 2-1 victory.
- Earlier in the game, he had a penalty saved in the 15th minute.
- **Ronaldo** was honoured by Guinness World Records on his achievement.

2021 Formula One Italian Grand Prix: Daniel Ricciardo wins title

- On Sep 12, 2021, **Australian-Italian Daniel Ricciardo (McLaren)** won the **Formula One Italian Grand Prix 2021 title**.
- The victory was McLaren's first since 2012 and Ricciardo's first since he was at Red Bull in 2018.
- **Lando Norris** came **second** & **Valtteri Bottas** came **third** in the F1 race.
- The top two championship contenders Max Verstappen (Red Bull) and Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes) crashed out due to collision.

About 2021 Italian Grand Prix :

- The 2021 Italian Grand Prix was a Formula One motor race held at **Autodromo Nazionale Monza**.
- It was the **14th round** of the 2021 Formula One World Championship and the second Grand Prix in Italy of the season.

2021 US Open men's singles Tennis Title : Daniil Medvedev wins

- On Sep 12, 2021, **Daniil Medvedev** defeated world number one **Novak Djokovic** in straight sets, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4, to win the US Open 2021 men's singles final.

US Open 2021 women's singles title : British tennis player Emma Raducanu wins

- On Sep 12, 2021, In the **2021 US Open women's singles final title**, 18-year-old **Great Britain's** tennis player **Emma Raducanu** defeated **Canada's Leylah Annie Fernandez** to win the title in 6-4, 6-3, held at the **Arthur Ashe Stadium, New York** .
- Raducanu created history by becoming the first-ever qualifier and the first British woman since 1977 to win a Grand Slam.
- Raducanu came into the U.S. Open ranked **150th** in the world.

Complete List of Winners of 2021 US Open Tennis Title :

1. Men's single – Daniil Medvedev
2. Women's single – Emma Raducanu
3. Men's double – Rajeev Ram / Joe Salisbury
4. Women's double – Samantha Stosur / Zhang Shuai
5. Mixed Doubles – Desirae Krawczyk / Joe Salisbury

IOC Suspends North Korea From Beijing Olympics until end of 2022

- **North Korea** has been **suspended** from the **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** until the end of 2022 as punishment for refusing to send a team to the Tokyo Games citing the COVID-19 pandemic.
- IOC president Thomas Bach stated that the North Korean Olympic Committee would not receive financial aid during the suspension.

Note :

- **North Korea** was the **only country** that had not sent athletes to Tokyo Olympics 2020 which was held in July-August 2021.

Eight esports included in medal events at 19th Asian Games 2022

- **Eight electronic sports (esports)** are included in the medal events at the **19th Asian Games 2022** which are going to be held in **Hangzhou, China**.
- The games will start from September 10, 2022 and continue till September 25. The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) announced the titles for the debut of esports.
- It includes eight medal events and two demonstration games.
- **List of esports:**
- HearthStone, League of Legends, PUBG Mobile Asian Games Version, Street Fighter V, Arena of Valor Asian Games Version, Dota 2, Dream Three Kingdoms 2, EA SPORTS FIFA branded soccer games.

Pankaj Advani Wins Asian Snooker Championship Title 2021

- **Pankaj Advani** of India won the **Asian Snooker Championship 2021** by **defeating Amir Sarkhosh** in **Doha, Qatar**.
- He won in the best of 11 frames final.
- He has won this title for a **second consecutive time**.
- Yasin Merchant (1989, 2001), Alok Kumar (2004), Aditya Mehta (2012) were the other Indians who won the championship.

About ACBS Asian Snooker Championship :

- The ACBS Asian Snooker Championship is the premier non-professional snooker tournament in Asia.
- The event series is sanctioned by the **Asian Confederation of Billiard Sports** and started in **1984**.

Punjab's Harmilan Kaur Bains breaks 19-year-old record to win 1500m title : 60th National Athletics Championships

- On Sep 16, 2021, **Harmilan Kaur Bains** of **Punjab** has created a new national record in the **women's 1500m race** by clocking **4:05.39 seconds** to bag the **gold** in the women's 1500m event, at the **60th National Open Athletics Championships** in **Warangal**.
- The 20-year-old Harmilan **erased** the mark set by **Sunita Rani (4:06.03)** at the 2002 Asian Games & she also broke OP Jaisha's meet record of 4:11.83 (2006).

Raja Rithvik becomes India's 70th GM

- 17 Year old **R Raja Rithvik** has become India's 70th and latest chess Grandmaster.
- He achieved this GM title in the **Vezerkepzo** Grandmaster Chess Tournament at **Budapest, Hungary**.
- He is a native of **Warangal**, Rithvik has been undergoing advanced coaching at RACE Chess Academy under reputed coach N.V.S. Rama Raju.
- **Pune's Harshit Raja** became **India's 69th GM** last month.

Beijing 2022 Launches Official Slogan: "Together for a Shared Future"

- The **Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics** unveiled its official motto, "**Together for a Shared Future**", during a ceremony at the city's Capital Museum, Beijing
- **Cai Qi**, the President of Beijing 2022, was joined by Beijing Mayor Chen Jining and Governor of Hebei province **Xu Qin** at the event.
- Athlete representatives Yang Yang and Long Yun were also present at the motto reveal.
- The motto demonstrates unity and a collective effort, embodying the core values and vision of the Olympic Movement and the goal of pursuing world unity, peace and progress, as well as the vision of the Paralympic Games, especially making for an inclusive world.
- The Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics are scheduled to take place from February 4 to 20, followed by the Winter Paralympics from March 4 to 13.

GM D. Gukesh of India Clinches Norway Chess Open 2021

- In the **Norway Chess Open 2021** Masters section, India's Grand Master **D Gukesh** won his **second consecutive tournament**.
- Gukesh scored an unbeaten **8½/10** and finished a full point ahead of the competition to win the tournament.
- Meanwhile, **Iniyar** secured sole **second position** with 7½/10 points, finishing a half point ahead of top seed Dmitrij Kollars (Germany) and Valentin Dragnev (Austria).

About D. Gukesh :

- Gukesh was born on 29 May 2006 in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**.
- He won the Under-9 section of the Asian School Chess Championships in 2015 and the World Youth Chess Championships in 2018 in the Under 12 category.
- He won **five gold medals** at the 2018 Asian Youth Chess Championships.
- He is the third-youngest person in history to qualify for the title of Grandmaster, which FIDE awarded him in March 2019.

Pankaj Advani Clinches 6Reds Snooker World Cup 2021

- On September 21, 2021, Star Indian cueist **Pankaj Advani** defeated Babar Masih of Pakistan to clinch the **IBSF 6-Red Snooker World Cup 2021 final**, held in **Doha, Qatar**.
- This is Advani's **24th world title** & It is also his second back to back major International championships win in a week.

About Pankaj Advani :

- Pankaj Advani was born in **Pune, Maharashtra, India**.
- He is a 23 time world champion & he has won the IBSF World Billiards Championship 15 - times, the World Team Billiards Championship 1 - time, the IBSF World Snooker Championship (15 Reds) 3 - times, (6 Reds) 2 - times, the IBSF World Team Cup 1 - time and the IBSF World Team Championship - 1 time.
- In 2019, Pankaj also became the only player who won the titles in all forms of billiards, snooker, 6Reds, and 10 Reds competitions.
- He is the winner of the last Asian Snooker Championship held in 2019.

Hockey Men's Junior World Cup 2021 to be hosted by India in Bhubaneswar

- Odisha Chief Minister, **Shri Naveen Patnaik** announced the **FIH Men's Hockey Junior World Cup 2021** will be hosted by **Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.
- He also launched the logo for the prestigious event.
- Minister for Sports and Youth Services, Government of Odisha, Tusharkanti Behera, FIH President Dr Narinder Dhruv Batra and Hockey India Secretary General Rajinder Singh also present the event.
- The event will feature hosts and the defending champions India, South Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, South Africa, Egypt, Belgium, England, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, USA, Canada, Chile and Argentina.
- The 2023 FIH Men's World Cup will be co-hosted by Bhubaneswar and Rourkela, both cities in Odisha.

Magnus Carlsen Wins 2021 Norway Chess

- GM **Magnus Carlsen** won the **9th edition of EY Norway Chess 2021** beat Ian Nepomniachtchi.
- He won for the third time in a row, and the fourth in total.
- **Alireza Firouzja** finished **2nd** & **Richard Rapport** came **3rd** in the 2021 Norway Chess.

About 2021 Norway Chess :

- Norway Chess is a 6-player double round-robin.
- It was held from Sep 07, 2021, to 17, 2021, in Stavanger, Norway.

Lewis Hamilton Clinches the Russian Grand Prix 2021

- **Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain)**, has won the **F1 Russian Grand Prix 2021**.
- He has become the first Formula One driver to win 100 races with victory.
- **Max Verstappen** (Red Bull – Netherlands) came **second** while **Valtteri Bottas** (Mercedes-Finland) came **third** in the Russian Grand Prix 2021.
- It was Hamilton's fifth win of the season and his first since the British Grand Prix in July.

About Russian Grand Prix 2021 :

- The 2021 Russian Grand Prix is officially known as the Formula 1 VTB Russian Grand Prix 2021.
- It was a Formula One motor race, held on 26 September 2021 at the Sochi Autodrom.
- It was the 15th round of the 2021 Formula One World Championship & it was the tenth running of the Russian Grand Prix, and the eighth held in Sochi

Howzat Fantasy Sports Platform Signed Cricketer Suresh Raina as Brand Ambassador

- Howzat Fantasy Sports Platform, a product of **Junglee Games** has signed former Indian international cricketer Suresh Raina as its brand **ambassador to promote its brand among sports lovers across India**.
- With this partnership with Suresh Raina, **Howzat aims to attract cricket fans to the platform and become the most rewarding fantasy sports app in India**.
- The brand is already endorsed by former Indian international cricketers Yuvraj Singh and Irfan Pathan.
- Howzat fantasy sports platform launched in 2019 is owned and operated by Howzat Private Limited.

Indian Archer Abhishek Verma Elected to World Archery Athletes Committee

- Indian Compound Archer and Arjuna Awardee Abhishek Verma, **3-time world cup gold medalist**, has been elected to the **Athletes Committee of World Archery**, the international federation for the Olympic sport of archery.
- He has been elected **for a term of 4 years till 2025**.
- The Compound women's world champion **Natalia Avdeeva (Russia)** was also elected to the Athletes Committee for **4 years till 2025**.

Athletes Committee:

- Chair– Naomi Folkard(Great Britain)
- Members– **Crystal Gauvin(USA); Sjef van den Berg(Netherlands); Abhishek Verma(India); Natalia Avdeeva(Russia)**

Jyothi Surekha Vennam wins silver in World Archery Championship 2021

- **Jyothi Surekha Vennam** has bagged a **silver medal** in the women's compound event at the ongoing **World Archery Championship** in Yankton.
- She lost to the Colombian archer Sara Lopez, 146-144 in the Finals.

2021 Archery World Championships : India finish with three silver medals

- Indian compound archers won **three silver medals** at the **2021 World Archery Championships**.
- The three silver medals were won in the **Women's Compound Individual, Women's Compound Team and Compound Mixed Team competitions**.

List of Silver Medalists in 2021 Archery World Championships :

- Women's Compound Individual : Jyothi Surekha Vennam
- Women's Compound Team : Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Muskar Kirar and Priya Gurjar
- Compound Mixed Team : Abhishek Verma and Jyothi Surekha Vennam

Note :

- Vennam Jyothi Surekha of Vijayawada became the **first Indian woman archer** to win three silver medals at a world championship.

About 2021 Archery World Championships :

- The 2021 World Archery Championships was held from **20 to 26 September 2021** in Yankton, South Dakota, United States.

Union Minister Anurag Thakur flags off second edition of 'Ultimate Ladakh Cycling Challenge at Leh, Ladakh

- Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, **Anurag Thakur** flagged off the **second edition of Ultimate Ladakh Cycling Challenge** at **Leh, Ladakh** at **11000 feet** above the sea level.
- It is a part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mohatsav' and 'Fit India Movement'.
- It has been organised by **Ladakh police** in coordination with **Cycling Federation of India**.
- Member of Parliament Jamyang Tsering Namgyal and CEC Tashi Gyalsen also participated.

Sania Mirza-Shuai Zhang wins Ostrava Open women's doubles title

- On Sep 26, 2021, India's Tennis veteran, **Sania Mirza** and Chinese partner **Shuai Zhang** won the **women's double's title at the 2021 Ostrava Open WTA 500** tournament in **Czech Republic**.
- The second seeded Indo-Chinese duo defeated the third seeded pair of American Kaitlyn Christian and New Zealander Erin Routliffe 6-3 6-2.
- This is former World No.1 Sania's 43rd WTA doubles title.

About Ostrava Open :

- The Ostrava Open is a tennis tournament organised for female professional tennis players, and part of the WTA tour.

US Wins 2021 Ryder Cup Golf Tournament

- The **United States** clinched the **2021 Ryder Cup** with a score of **19-9** after defeating Team **Europe**.
- This was the largest margin of victory in a Ryder Cup since 1967.

About Ryder Cup :

- The Ryder Cup is a **biennial men's golf competition** held between teams from **Europe** and the **United States**.
- The 43rd Ryder Cup Matches were held in the **United States** from September 24–26, 2021, on the Straits course at **Whistling Straits, Haven, Wisconsin**.

Western Naval Command Sailing Championship 2021 conducted at Mumbai

- The **Western Naval Command Sailing Championship 2021** was conducted at **Indian Naval Watermanship Training Centre (INWTC), Mumbai** from **23 to 26 September 2021**.
- A total **59 personnel** from **seven teams** Participated.
- The championship was conducted in seven different classes of boats, namely, Laser (Standard), Laser (Radial), Laser (Bahiya), Enterprise, Bic-Nova, 29-er and J24.
- The overall champions were the Mumbai Area team while the runners up were the Fleet B team.

Static Points

Organization	Headquarters	Head/CEO/MD/Founders
Hindustan Aeronautics Limited	Bengaluru	Sajal Prakash
Alliance Air Aviation Ltd	Mumbai	Vineet Sood
SpaceX	California	Elon Musk
Zilingo	Singapore	Ankiti Bose, Dhruv Kapoor
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India	New Delhi	Rita Teatota
World Intellectual Property Organization	Geneva	Daren Tang
International Cricket Council	Dubai	Greg Barclay
Board of Control for Cricket in	Mumbai	Sourav Ganguly

India		
Adidas	Herzogenaurach, Germany	Kasper Rørsted
Competition Commission of India	New Delhi	Ashok Kumar Gupta
Airtel Payments Bank	New Delhi	Anubrata Biswas
Hdfc life	Mumbai	Vibha Padalkar
Exide life insurance	Bengaluru	Kshitij Jain
Amicus Insurance Brokers	Kochi	K.V. Satheesh Kumar
First Policy Insurance Brokers	Pune	Ashok Jain
GAIL	New Delhi	Shri Manoj Jain
Oil and Natural Gas Corporation	New Delhi	Subhash Kumar
Groww	Bengaluru	Lalit Keshre
SBI Cards and Payment Services Ltd	Gurugram	Rama Mohan Rao Amara
IndusInd Bank	Pune	Sumant Kathpalia
McLeod Russel India	Kolkata	Aditya Khaitan
Tata Trust	Mumbai	Srinath Narasimhan
National Stock Exchange	Mumbai	Girish Chandra Chaturvedi

Important Obituaries

Name	Field
Vasoo Paranjape	Former Mumbai cricketer
Syed Ali Shah Geelani	Hurriyat Founder & Veteran Kashmiri separatist leader
Sidharth Shukla	Bigg Boss 13 winner & television actor
Chandan Mitra	Former Rajya Sabha MP and senior journalist
Jacques Rogge	Former International Olympic Committee President
Jean-Pierre Adams	Former French footballer
Keshav Desiraju	Former Union Health Secretary
Rajni Kaul	Indian media personality
Oscar Fernandes	Senior Congress leader and former Union minister
Sonal Shukla (Sonal Ben)	Women's rights activist
Aziz Hajini	Kashmiri writer & former secretary of Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages

Bhabani Roy	India footballer and Mohun Bagan captain
Yuriy Sedykh	Two-time Olympic hammer gold medallist
Casimir Oye Mba	Former Gabonese Prime Minister
Abdelaziz Bouteflika	Algeria's ex-president
Manorama Mohapatra	Odia litterateur, social worker and journalist
Thanu Padmanabhan	Theoretical physicist and recipient of Padma Shri
Jimmy Greaves	Former England Footballer
Mahant Narendra Giri	President of the Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad
Yudhvir Singh Dadwal	Former Commissioner of Delhi Police & Governor of Arunachal Pradesh
Ramanuj Prasad Singh	Former Hindi Newsreader of All India Radio
Kamla Bhasin	Women Rights Activist, Poet and Author