

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2021

S. No	Topics	Page No
1	Important Days	2
2	Important Banking News	4
3	Important Financial & Economy Affairs	20
4	Important Business News	24
5	Important State Wise News	31
6	Important National News	48
7	Important International News	69
8	Important Appointments	76
9	Important Awards and Honours	84
10	Important MOU's	92
11	Important Summit & Conference	100
12	Important Defence News	103
13	Important Science and Technology	107
14	Important Environment News	115
15	Important Rankings and Indexes	117
16	Important Books and Authors	126
17	Important Peoples' in News	127
18	Important Mergers and Acquisitions	130
19	Important Web portals and Mobile Apps	131
20	Important Sports News	134
21	Important Obituaries	145

Important Days

Date	Day	Theme/Others
June 1	Global Parents Day or Parents Day (It was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 2012)	Appreciate all parents throughout the world
June 1	World Milk Day (established by the FAO; Celebrated since 2001)	Sustainability in the dairy sector
June 2	Telangana Day (Telangana Formation Day)	Observed annually on 2 June since 2014
June 3	International World Bicycle Day	In April 2018, the United Nations General Assembly the day.
June 4	International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression	It was established on 19 August 1982
June 5	World Environment Day	Reimagine. Recreate. Restore (The global host for the day in 2021 is Pakistan) The purpose
June 5	International Day for the Fight Against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing	UN General Assembly declared the day
June 5	World Day against Speciesism	
June 6	World Pest Day	The first World Pest Day was marked in 2017
June 6	UN Russian Language Day	Established by UNESCO in 2010
June 7	World Food Safety Day	Safe food today for a healthy tomorrow
June 8	World Oceans Day	The Ocean: Life and Livelihoods
June 8	World Brain Tumor Day	
June 9	World Accreditation Day	Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
June 12	World Day Against Child Labour (launched in 2002)	Act now: End child labour

June 13	International Albinism Awareness Day	StrengthBeyondAllOdds
June 14	World Blood Donor Day (It was organized for the first time in 2005)	Give blood and keep the world beating
June 15	World Wind Day	Organised by WindEurope and GWEC. (Denmark is called the country of winds)
June 15	World Elder Abuse Awareness Day	Access to Justice
June 15	International Day of Family Remittances	
June 17	World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought	Restoration. Land. Recovery
June 18	Sustainable Gastronomy Day	
June 18	International Picnic Day	
June 18	Autistic Pride Day	Inclusion in the Workplace: Challenges and Opportunities in a Post-Pandemic World
June 19	National Reading Day (Honouring the father of the 'Library Movement in Kerala', the late PN Panicker)	
June 19	International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict	Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect
June 19	World Sickle Cell Awareness Day	Shine the Light on Sickle Cell
June 19	World Sauntering Day	The best remedy for a short temper is a long walk
June 20	World Refugee Day (It was first established on 20 June 2001)	Together we heal, learn and shine
June 21	International Day of Yoga	Yoga for well-being
June 21	World Hydrography Day	100 years of international cooperation in hydrography
June 21	World Music Day	
June 23	International Olympic Day (It was first celebrated on 23 June 1948)	Stay healthy, stay strong, stay active
June 23	United Nations Public Service Day	Innovating the Future Public Service:

		New Government Models for a New Era to Reach the SDGs
June 25	Day of the Seafarer	Seafarers: at the core of shipping's future (The campaign for Day of Seafarer calls for a "fair future for seafarers")
June 25	World Vitiligo Day	Embracing Life with Vitiligo (Another theme - Patients with vitiligo have the same COVID experience as anybody else and should not fear vaccination)
June 26	International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking	'Share Facts On Drugs, Save Lives (Observed annually on 26 June, since 1989)
June 26	International Day in Support of Victims of Torture	First observed by United Nations General Assembly in 1997
June 27	Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day	MSME 2021: key to an inclusive and sustainable recovery
June 28	National Insurance Awareness Day	
June 29	World Statistics Day	Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)- 2 (End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture)
June 29	International Day of the Tropics	Digital Divide in the Tropics
June 30	World Asteroid Day	
June 30	International Day of Parliamentarism (Marks the day of the establishment of the Inter-Parliamentary Union)	The day was designated in 2018 by the United Nations General Assembly

Important Banking News

RBI

RBI drop the licence of Shivajirao Bhosale Sahakari Bank

- The **RBI** stated it has **cancelled the licence of Shivajirao Bhosale Sahakari Bank, Pune** as the lender **does not have adequate capital and earning prospects**.

- RBI mentioned, Shivajirao Bhosale Sahakari Bank has **more than 98% of the depositors will receive full amount of their deposits from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)**
- The RBI Stated the bank does not have adequate capital and earning prospects and as such, it does not comply with the certain provisions of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.

RBI bi-monthly monetary policy review for June 2021 announced

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** announced its **bi-monthly monetary policy review** as **RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das** in Monetary Policy statement.
- RBI has projected **India's GDP** growth at **9.5 per cent** for the ongoing Financial Year of **2021-2022**.
- RBI has kept **repo rate** unchanged at **4 per cent**, sixth time in a row.
- The RBI **reverse repo** rate or RBI's borrowing rate also remains unchanged at **3.35 percent**.
- **Inflation Target** is at **4 percent**.
- **Marginal Standing Facility Rate** is **4.25%**.
- **Bank Rate** is **4.25%**.
- **Cash Reserve Ratio** is **4%**.
- **Statutory Liquidity Ratio** is **18%**.
- RBI has also maintained an accommodative monetary policy stance to support growth and kept inflation at targeted level, RBI Governor Das disclosed.

Rupee Co-op Bank permitted extension of banking licence

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has extended the bank license of the **Rupee Cooperative Bank** for another **three months until August 31, 2021**.
- As of March 2021, the bank has received a total of **263.93 crore rupees** and increased transactions.
- Earned **70.70 crore** in the **past five years**.
- The bank has been profitable for five years.
- By March 2021, the bank had paid 366.54 crore to **92,602 depositors** under the hardship plan.
- The bank announced in a statement that there were no negative comments in the context of the audit or RBI's annual review.
- Rupee Cooperative Bank that the proposed **merger with Maharashtra Cooperative Bank (MSC Bank)** is awaiting RBI.

RBI imposes penalty on two banks - BoI, PNB totalling Rs 6 crore

- The **RBI imposed a penalty** aggregating to Rs 6 crore on Bank of India and Punjab National Bank **for contravention of norms, including one related to 'Frauds – Classification and Reporting'**.
- A penalty of **Rs 4 crore** has been imposed on Bank of India and **Rs 2 crore** on Punjab National Bank.
- RBI stated the statutory **Inspection for Supervisory Evaluation (ISE)** of Bank of India was conducted with reference to its financial position as on March 31, 2019.
- The bank had also conducted a review and submitted a **Fraud Monitoring Report (FMR)** dated January 1, 2019 pertaining to detection of fraud in an account.

- Examination of the risk assessment report pertaining to the ISE and the FMR revealed non-compliance with/contravention of directions, viz., breach of stipulated transaction limits; delay in transfer of unclaimed balances to DEA Fund; delay in reporting a fraud to RBI and sale of a fraudulent asset.

RBI now increased ATM Interchange Fee from Rs 15 To Rs 17

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** on **June 10** raised the **interchange fee on each financial transaction** at an **Automated Teller Machine or ATM**.
- The bank noted that the last change in interchange fee structure for ATM transactions was in **August 2012**, while the charges payable by customers were last revised in August 2014.
- The RBI has decided to allow an increase in interchange fee per transaction from **Rs 15 to Rs 17** for financial transactions and from **Rs 5 to Rs 6** for non-financial transactions in all centres.

RBI stretch the BBPS scope by August 31, 2021

- The **Reserve Bank of India** stated the scope of **Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS)** will be expanded by August 31 this year by adding '**mobile prepaid recharges**' as a biller category, a move likely to **help millions of prepaid phone subscribers in the country**.

About BBPS:

- **BBPS is an integrated bill payment system** that offers interoperable bill payment service to customers online as well as through a network of agents on the ground.
- **The system will provide multiple payment modes** and instant confirmation of payment.
- BBPS functions under the aegis of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- In **September 2019**, the scope and coverage of BBPS were expanded to include all categories of billers which raise recurring bills (except mobile prepaid recharges) as eligible participants, on a voluntary basis.
- Before that, the facility of payment of recurring bills through BBPS was available only in five segments – direct to home (DTH), electricity, gas, telecom and water.

RBI Imposes Rs.23 Lakh penalty on 3 cooperative banks

- The **RBI** imposed penalties of **Rs 23 lakh on three cooperative banks**, including **Mogaveera Co-operative Bank Limited, Mumbai**, for contravention of various norms.
- A penalty of **Rs 12 lakh** has been imposed on Mogaveera Co-operative Bank Limited, **Rs 10 lakh** on Indapur Urban Cooperative Bank, and **Rs 1 lakh** on The Baramati Sahakari Bank Limited, Baramati.
- Regarding Mogaveera Co-operative Bank, the RBI stated the inspection report of the bank, based on its financial position as on March 31, 2019, revealed that it had **not fully transferred** unclaimed deposits to Depositor Education and Awareness (DEA) Fund and had not conducted annual review of inoperative accounts.
- On **Indapur Urban Cooperative Bank**, the RBI stated inspection report of the bank, based on its financial position as on March 31, 2019, revealed that it had not adhered to the aggregate ceiling on unsecured advances, and did not have process for **periodical review of risk categorization** of accounts.

- Inspection report of **Baramati Sahakari Bank** revealed the bank had exceeded prudential inter-bank (single bank) exposure limit.
- In each case, the RBI added that the penalty **was imposed** due to 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.

SBI

SBI introduced collateral-free “Kavach Personal Loan”

- The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has launched a **collateral-free unique loan offering** – ‘Kavach Personal Loan’.
- The loan covers the expenses of Covid-19 treatment.
- Under this scheme, the bank will **provide loans up to Rs 5 lakh** at an effective **interest rate of 8.5 per cent per annum for 5 years**.
- The bank is also offering a three months moratorium which is included in the 60 months.
- Also, the bank is providing reimbursement of expenses already incurred for Covid related medical expenses under the scheme.
- **Dinesh Khara, Chairman**, SBI, mentioned that the product is being offered under the collateral-free personal loan category.

SBI introduces Aarogyam healthcare business loan

- **State Bank of India (SBI)**, the **country's largest lender**, launched a new healthcare business loan '**Aarogyam**' on June 24, in order to **provide greater support** to the healthcare sector amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- The **new loan product** is specially designed to support the healthcare ecosystem of the country.
- Under this scheme, the new loans can be availed by way of term loan, cash credit, bank guarantee, or letter of credit.
- The loan amount under **Aarogyam** ranges from a **minimum sum of Rs 10 lakh to a maximum of Rs.100 crore** - both for the expansion and the setting up of the new facility, and is **repayable in 10 years**.

SBI funds Rs.3725 Cr for Noida International Airport

- The **Yamuna International Airport Pvt Ltd (YIAPL)** has received the **final credit sanction for Rs 3725 crore** from the **State Bank of India (SBI)** for the development of Noida International Airport (NIA).
- The funding is a crucial milestone for the project as it validates the financial viability of the project while also outlining the next steps for the establishment of the **Noida International Airport**.
- The entire loan of **INR 3725 crore** has been underwritten by **SBI on a door-to-door loan tenor of 20 years**.
- We look forward to working closely with SBI to develop NIA as a **world-class airport in India**.

World Bank

World Bank sanctioned USD125 million financial support for Kerala

- Two years after sanctioning an assistance of **USD 250 million** for the **first phase** of the **Rebuild Kerala Initiative (RKI)**, the World Bank approved **USD 125million** assistance for the second phase.

- A meeting of directors of the Bank held in Washington approved the project proposal from the state government and sanctioned **USD 125 million (approximately Rs 925 crore)**.
- The loan will be under the Programme-for-Results financing scheme, which means the amount will be sanctioned for specific development projects approved by independent evaluators.
- With the World Bank clearance for the project, the route is **also clear** for the USD 125 million loan from **the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank**.
- The **aim** of the **Rebuild Kerala Initiative** is to incorporate disaster risk planning in the master plans of urban and local self-governments and to help make the health, water resources management, agriculture, and works departments more resilient to calamities.

India and WB sign \$32 million loan agreement for Mizoram healthcare project

- The **Government of India, Government of Mizoram** and the **World Bank** have signed a \$32 million **Mizoram Health Systems Strengthening Project** to improve management capacity and quality of health services in Mizoram, particularly for the benefit of under-served areas and vulnerable groups.
- The **project will strengthen** the governance and the management structure of the **Department of Health and Family Welfare (DoHFW)** and its subsidiaries, improve the quality and coverage of services delivered by the state government health systems, and invest in a comprehensive Quality Assurance program which would enable quality certification of health facilities.

About the project:

- A **key focus** will be to strengthen the effectiveness of the **state health insurance programme**; build synergies with the Government of India's **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna (PMJAY)**; and thereby **reduce financial barriers** in accessing hospital services, prevent catastrophic out of pocket expenditure for health by poor families and expand coverage.
- The **Mizoram Health Systems Strengthening Project** will benefit the people across all eight districts of the state.
- It will also benefit health sector staff, specifically at the secondary and **primary levels**, by strengthening their planning and management capacity along with building their clinical skills and competencies.

World Bank sanctioned USD 500 million program to help boost India's MSME sector

- The **World Bank** has **approved** a **USD 500 million program to help boost India's MSME sector**.
- The programme **targets improvements** in the performance of **five lakh 50 thousand MSMEs**.
- Out of some 58 **million MSMEs** in the country, more than 40 per cent lack access to formal sources of finance.
- The **USD 500 million Raising and Accelerating Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) Performance (RAMP)** Program is the World Bank's second intervention in this sector, the first being the USD 750 million **MSME Emergency Response Program**, approved in **July 2020** to address the immediate liquidity and credit needs of millions of viable MSMEs severely impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

ADB

ADB and India sign loan agreement to Sikkim

- The **Asian Development Bank** and the **Government of India** has signed a **\$2.5 million project readiness financing (PRF) loan** to support project preparation and design activities to **upgrade major district roads in Sikkim** that will help improve connectivity to important towns, rural areas, and pilgrimage and tourist destinations in the northeastern state.
- The signatories to the PRF for the proposed Sikkim Major District Road Upgradation Project were Rajat Kumar Mishra, Additional Secretary, and Department of Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Finance, who signed for the Government of India, and Mr. Takeo Konishi, Country Director of ADB's India Resident Mission who signed for ADB.

ADB approves USD 484 million loan with Gol to upgrade road network in Tamil Nadu

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** stated, it has approved a **USD 484-million loan** to improve transport connectivity and road maintenance in the **Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC)** in Tamil Nadu.
- The **CKIC is part of India's East Coast Economic Corridor**, which **stretches from West Bengal to Tamil Nadu and connects India to the production networks of Southeast and East Asia**.
- The project will upgrade about **590 km of state highways** in the CKIC influence areas.
- Climate change adaptation measures will be incorporated in the highway upgrades, including improved drainage, raised road embankments in critical sections, and resizing of bridges and culverts.
- The project will strengthen road safety improvement programmes through advanced technologies for road monitoring and enforcement.
- In addition, **the project will support improved planning capacity of Tamil Nadu's highways** and minor ports department.

Other Banking News

HDFC Bank install mobile ATMs across 50 cities in India

- **HDFC Bank** mentioned it has installed **mobile ATMs across 50 cities in India**, which can be used for **over 15 transactions by customers**.
- The bank stated **These ATMs** have been deployed in various metros and non-metros in view of the restrictions imposed by Covid-19.
- Customers can conduct **over 15 types of transactions using the Mobile ATM**, which will be operational at each location for a specific period.
- The Mobile ATM will cover 3-4 stops in a day.

ICICI Bank became the 1st in Asi-Pacific, 2nd Globally to offer 'SWIFT gpi Instant' Facility

- **ICICI Bank** announced that it has tied up with **SWIFT** to offer a facility that helps overseas partner banks to send instant remittances on behalf of their customers to the beneficiary in India.
- The beneficiary gets the credit to the bank account instantly.

- This makes **ICICI Bank the first bank in Asia-Pacific** and the second globally to offer the facility, called '**SWIFT gpi Instant**', for cross border inward payments.

Key benefits of 'SWIFT gpi Instant':

- Personal remittances of up to **`2 lakh sent through 'SWIFT gpi Instant'** are processed instantly and credited into the beneficiary account held with any bank* in India, via the IMPS network.
- **SCNL Became 1st MFI** in India to Integrate **NPCI's UPI AutoPay**.

Bharti Axa Life Bancassurance Partnership with Shivalik SFB

- To make available **health insurance solutions to Shivalik's customers** across **31 branches**.
- Private life insurer **Bharti AXA Life Insurance** has entered into a bancassurance partnership with Shivalik Small Finance Bank for the distribution of its life insurance products through the bank's pan-India network of branches.
- Bharti AXA Life Insurance will offer its suite of life insurance products, including protection, health, savings and investment plans, to customers of Shivalik Small Finance Bank across its 31 branches and **digital network across the country**.

Federal Bank introduces NR Saving Accounts for Seafarers

- **Federal Bank** has launched a **NR savings account scheme** for the **Seafarer segment**.
- This scheme is curated and crafted for the mariners and offers services clubbed with **digital banking platforms** that allow the mariners to execute banking transactions without being affected by the geo coordinates and time zone differences.
- The scheme is available in both **NRE SB and NRO SB variants**.

NABARD sanctioned Rs.254 Cr for Drinking Water Projects in Odisha

- The **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** has sanctioned **Rs 254 crore** to set up **two mega piped drinking water supply projects** in Odisha under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF).
- The **two mega projects** will come up in the Puri district (covering Brahmagiri and Kru shnaprasad block) and the Jajpur district (covering Badachana and Dharmasala blocks).
- These projects are expected to bring clean and safe drinking water to an 8.78 lakh rural population across 1.37 lakh households in 565 villages of the state on completion.
- The projects will contribute to achieving the goal of providing drinking water to the **rural population by 2022**.

Indian Bank ties up with wealth tech company Fisdom

- **Indian Bank** has partnered with the leading **wealth-tech company Fisdom** to offer a comprehensive suite of wealth management products and services to the bank's ten crore customers.
- **Fisdom's role encompasses** the entire wealth management journey from **origination to fulfilment** and the post-sale service.

- The partnership will focus on enabling large-scale facilitation and distribution of wealth products and services through Indian Bank's network of **6,000 branches** and its digital properties including the mobile banking application and internet banking portal.

Karix Mobile establish WhatsApp Business solution for Axis Bank

- **Tanla Platforms** rose 2.39% to Rs 840 after the company said its subsidiary **Karix Mobile** has deployed a conversational banking solution, **WhatsApp Business**, for **Axis Bank**.
- Karix Mobile is **India's largest CPaaS (Communications Platform as a Service) provider**.
- Using the solution, Axis Bank customers can now start a WhatsApp chat with the bank to conduct frequent banking activities on-the-go.
- All communication on the WhatsApp account is encrypted end-to-end and all sensitive information is safe and secure.

Over 20 lakh customers of other banks log in to ICICI Bank mobile app

- The **ICICI bank** has announced that **over 20 lakh customers** of other banks are now using its '**iMobile Pay**' app.
- The **achievement** is significant as the bank had made the platform available for all only five months ago.
- **ICICI bank was the first to introduce** a mobile banking app in the country in **2008**, called '**iMobile**'.
- The Bank has transformed the app and **renamed** it '**iMobile Pay**' **five months ago** to offer interoperability so that anyone, **including customers of other banks**, can experience the benefits of hassle-free payments and digital banking of **ICICI Bank through this app.**"
- Customers of any bank can start using 'iMobile Pay' by linking their bank account with the app and generating a UPI ID.

NITI Aayog finalize the plan - privatisation of Central Bank, Indian Overseas Bank

- To privatize **two state-run banks** as unveiled by **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** in her Union Budget speech 2021, the Narendra Modi government may soon finalize plans to **sell Centre's stake** in **Central Bank of India and Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)**.
- This is part of the Government's mega privatization initiative which also includes sale of other state-run companies like BPCL.
- NITI Aayog has submitted the names of two public sector banks (PSBs) and one public sector general insurer, which can be sold off under the **government's new privatization policy**, to the Core Group of Secretaries on Disinvestment.

PayNearby tie-up with IndiaFirst Life Insurance Launched– 'Poorna Suraksha' Insurance solutions for Retailers

- **PayNearby** has launched an insurance solution '**Poorna Suraksha**' for its retail community.
- This exclusive and holistic insurance solution will ensure the safety and security of **PayNearby's 15+ lakh retail partners across 17,500+ PIN codes**.
- This cost-effective, three-in-one solution was created in collaboration with IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company Limited (IndiaFirst Life) to protect PayNearby's retailers throughout the **COVID-19 pandemic** and beyond, ensuring they have access to a safety net whenever and wherever they need it.

- **PayNearby's Poorna Suraksha** insurance echoes this philosophy by providing coverage for all areas of insurance - life, health, and disability - at an affordable premium.

Bank of Maharashtra top performer PSU bank in terms of loan, deposit growth

- **State-owned Bank of Maharashtra (BoM)** has emerged as the **top performer** among public sector lenders in terms of loan and deposit growth during the financial year 2020-21.
- The lender recorded **13.45 per cent increase** in gross advances at Rs 1.07 lakh crore in 2020-21.
- It was followed by **Punjab & Sind Bank** which posted 8.39 per cent growth in advances with aggregate loans at Rs 67,811 crore at the end of March 2021.
- When it came to deposit mobilization, BoM with nearly 16 per cent growth was ahead of even the country's largest lender State Bank of India, which recorded 13.56 per cent rise.

HDFC MF introduced banking and financial services NFO

- **HDFC Mutual Fund** has announced the launch of **HDFC Banking and Financial Services Fund**, a **new fund offer (NFO)** for retail investors.
- The new fund aims to invest in banking and financial services sector across segments and **market capitalization** including, banking, broking, asset management, wealth management, insurance, non-banking financial companies (NBFC), and other companies that may be engaged in providing financial services.
- The **fund will invest in companies** which are leaders and/or are gaining market shares due to superior execution, scale, and better adoption of technology.
- The fund will also focus on opportunities in new listings including **pre-IPO participation** in lending, insurance, capital market businesses and fintechs.

Federal Bank expands its partnership with Oracle and Infosys

- **Federal Bank** has expanded its **collaboration with Oracle and Infosys** to provide improved customer experience through **Oracle CX (Customer Experience) platform**.
- The collaboration will focus on creating an integrated **Customer Relationship Management (CRM)** solution across marketing, sales, customer service, and social listening to improve Federal Bank's operations, and to deliver customer experiences across touch points.
- Federal Bank will launch a **360degree view** of the customer portfolio in a single application for its users, to achieve a '**Single Source of Truth**'.
- Oracle will co-innovate by partnering with the ecosystem of Infosys.

Ambuja cement Foundation tie-up with NABARD to skill Rural Youth

- **Ambuja Cement Foundation** has joined hands with **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** for implementation of its **employability** through skill initiative project's second phase.
- The foundation received grant assistance from NABARD under the **Gramya Vikas Nidhi**, a fund created for the development of off-farm sector activities.

- The project will provide skill training across 19 locations for two years in 12 trades. It has already reached over 4,000 youth despite the pandemic.

About Ambuja Cement:

- **"Established in 1993**, Ambuja Cement Foundation is a grassroots pan-India implementing organization that harnesses **the power of partnerships –between communities, Government and other like-minded corporates and NGOs** – to help solve pressing community problems and to foster prosperity.
- For the past 25 years, ACF has created significant impact.

Skill Training for Rural Youth (STRY)

- Offer modular **skill training opportunities to rural youths** that applies to farmers and farm-women, depending on their local needs.
- Create a team of skilled human resources to perform both farm and non-farm operations.

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank unite with MoEngage

- **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank** stated it has collaborated with **customer engagement platform MoEngage** to drive digital banking experiences in the unserved and underserved regions of the country.
- The **main aim of this collaboration** is to build a vast presence of the bank for connecting with customers in these regions through multiple digital touch points.
- The **partnership**, it added, will foster holistic customer experience across all organic channels, like the website, app, email, text message, social media and branches to drive business growth.

Navi General Insurance launches EMI-based health insurance

- **Bengaluru-based Navi General Insurance** has introduced a **monthly subscription (EMI) based insurance product** instead of paying the annual premium upfront to make health insurance affordable.
- Navi General Insurance is a **wholly owned subsidiary of Sachin Bansal-led Navi Technologies**.
- The insurance policies can be purchased at EMIs starting as low as INR 240 per month.
- Navi offers health insurance cover ranging from INR 2 Lakh to INR 1 Cr for individuals and families.
- The company claims that it has a claim settlement ratio of 97.3% and a network of 10,000+ cashless hospitals across 400+ locations in India.

ICICI Bank launches digital banking solutions "ICICI STACK" for Corporates

- **ICICI Bank** launched '**ICICI STACK for Corporates**', a comprehensive set of **digital banking solutions** for corporates and their entire ecosystem including promoters, group companies, employees, dealers, vendors and all other stakeholders.
- It provides **customized digital banking services to companies** in over 15 leading industries- such as financial services, IT/ITES, pharmaceuticals, steel to name a few - and their entire ecosystem.
- These services can further be tailor-made for companies within an industry.
- **ICICI Bank** has opened eight ecosystem branches- five in **Mumbai and three in Delhi NCR**.
- It plans to launch another four in this financial year.

- The bank has its **own web-based platform**, which facilitates instant approval and disbursement of loans for channel partners.

Godrej Housing Finance introduces 'design your EMI' home loan product

- **Godrej Housing Finance (GHF)** has released a '**design your EMI**' home personal loan product to enable consumers to customize their **equated monthly installments (EMIs)**.
- This is aimed at optimising their cash flows and brings down the price tag of dwelling ownership.
- **Manish Shah, MD & CEO, Godrej Housing Finance** explained EMIs can be customized to go well with customers' requirements a buyer might want to get started with a smaller sized EMI and little by little boost it or start off with a larger EMI (given that charges are down in Covid-19 instances) and normalize it.

Google Pay support debit cards tokenization with SBI, IndusInd, HSBC and Federal Bank

- **Google Pay app** will now support debit card payments by SBI, IndusInd Bank and Federal Bank and credit cards by IndusInd Bank and HSBC.
- **Prior to this**, tokenization was available with Kotak Mahindra Bank, SBI Cards and Axis Bank in India.
- Online merchants like **Myntra, Yatra, Dunzo and many others** can also make use of this feature.
- To use this feature, the user's phone must be **Near-field communication (NFC) capable**.
- To enable this **tap and pay feature**, users will have to do a one-time setup by entering their card details and generating an OTP.
- After registration, users can use this feature to make payments at any NFC-enabled terminal.

Federal Bank joined with Infosys for Oracle CX implementation

- **Federal Bank** has expanded its strategic collaboration with **Oracle and Infosys**, to offer an enhanced customer experience through **Oracle CX (Customer Experience) platform**.
- The **partnership** will be creating a comprehensive integrated **Customer Relationship Management (CRM)** solution across marketing, sales, customer service, and social listening to strengthen Federal Bank's operations, and to deliver connected, data driven, and intelligent customer experiences across all touch points.
- Federal Bank will be unveiling a **360degree view of the customer portfolio** in an application in a bid to achieve a '**Single Source of Truth**'.
- According to the lender, these services will help improve productivity and customer satisfaction.

LIC CSL introduced Prepaid Gift Card on IDBI Bank's Rupay Platform

- **LIC Cards Services Ltd (LIC CSL)** has launched a contactless prepaid gift card '**Shagun**' in collaboration with **IDBI Bank** on the **RuPay platform**.
- The **purpose of this card** is to **expand the gift card market** with an intent to **promote cashless ways** of gifting and present a **wide range of end-use choices** and in future foray into the market of e-gift cards.
- Shagun card, in the initial phase, will be available to LIC and its subsidiaries for official use.
- The card will be used to facilitate awards and special rewards during official conferences and functions.

- The **Shagun gift card offers customization** in the form of flexible loading of **any amount ranging from Rs 500 to Rs 10,000**.
- With the **wide acceptability of RuPay**, the Shagun gift card can be used at millions of merchant outlets and e-commerce websites in India to diversify spending options on the card.

PhonePe introduces a new wallet auto top-up feature

- Digital payments company PhonePe has launched **India's first Wallet Auto Top-up feature using UPI e-mandates** for its customers.
- This allows PhonePe customers to make multiple payments using their Wallet, without having to top up their wallet balance manually each time, saving a lot of time and effort.

Benefits of using Wallet Auto Top-up:

- **This feature** will help the PhonePe customers in setting up a **UPI e-mandate once**, after which PhonePe will **automatically top up their wallet balance when it drops below a minimum level**.
- Much higher transaction **success rate** since users don't have to load their wallet each time the balance drops to zero.

IDFC First Bank Launched COVID-19 Relief program – 'Ghar Ghar Ration'

- **IDFC FIRST Bank** has announced the launch of **"Ghar Ghar Ration" Program**, an Employee-funded program for its **low-income customers** whose livelihoods are affected by COVID-19.
- The Bank also announced a comprehensive program for the families of employees who unfortunately lost their lives due to COVID-19, and a number of other social response initiatives aimed at controlling the spread of the virus.

'Ghar Ghar Ration' Program:

- **"Ghar Ghar Ration"** is a unique program where **employees have contributed from their personal income** to set up a **Customer COVID Care Fund** to provide relief to **50,000 COVID affected low-income IDFC FIRST Bank customers**.
- Employees of the Bank contributed one day to one month's salary for the purpose.
- The program involves supply of ration kits to such 50,000 low-income customers whose livelihood have been impacted by the pandemic.
- Employees are procuring **ration kits comprising 10 kg rice/flour, 2 kg dal (lentils), 1 kg sugar and salt, 1 kg cooking oil, 5 packets of assorted spices, tea and biscuits and other essentials needed to support a small family for about a month**.

Employee COVID Care scheme 2021:

- The Bank has also launched a comprehensive Employee COVID Care Scheme 2021 to **support the families of employees who have lost their lives due to COVID-19**, with retrospective effect from the start of the pandemic.
- Group Term Life of **4 times Total Fixed Pay or Rs. 30 lakh**, whichever is higher
- **Salary** credits to continue for **nominee for 2 years**
- **Home loan waiver limit at Rs. 25 lakh** for any casualty before June 30, 2021.
- Extension of **Mediclaim insurance** of employee's family for 24 months
- **Scholarship up to Rs. 10,000 monthly to 2 children till graduation**

- **Employment to Spouse on merit**
- Skill Training entitlement of Rs. 2 Lakh for spouse who don't avail of the employment opportunity or are not eligible
- **Funeral expense** up to INR 30,000
- **Relocation Assistance** to family of Rs. 50,000
- Pro-rata Bonus Payout for period served this year
- Personalized Financial Advisory for affected family
- **Salary Advance** up to Rs. 3 Lakh at 0% ROI for 24 months for employees to meet unexpected expenses in case someone in their family is infected.

IndusInd Bank introduces "Indus Easy Credit" – a digital lending platform

- **IndusInd Bank** announced the launch of '**Indus Easy Credit**', a comprehensive **digital lending platform** that enables customers to meet their financial requirements from the comfort of their homes.

'Indus Easy Credit' platform:

- With this, both existing **as well as non-IndusInd Bank customers can instantly avail personal loans or credit cards** on a single platform in a completely paperless and digital manner.
- '**IndusEasyCredit**' offers a fully digital end to end process that leverages the power of India's public digital infrastructure - 'India Stack' **to offer personal loans and credit cards in a paperless, presence less and cashless manner.**
- The stack leverages more than 35 interfaces to digitally verify KYC and employment information as well as analyse bank statements.

ICICI Bank introduces cardless EMI facility

- Private lender **ICICI Bank** launched a **Cardless EMI facility** for its customers to **use at retail stores**.
- The lender stated the facility enabled **pre-approved customers to buy gadgets or home appliances**, by using **one's mobile phone and PAN card, in the absence of cards**.
- "Customers can convert the **high-value transactions into easy, no-cost monthly installments** by simply putting their registered mobile number, PAN and OTP (received on mobile number) on the PoS machine at the retail outlets".
- **ICICI Bank** stated the facility, launched in a **tie-up with Pine Labs**, would be available across the pan-India outlets of Croma, Reliance Digital, My Jio Stores and Sangeetha Mobiles.
- Through the Cardless EMI facility, ICICI Bank's pre-approved customers would be able to purchase electronics from brands such as Carrier, Daikin, Dell, Godrej, Haier, HP, Lenovo, Microsoft, Motorola, Nokia, Oppo, Panasonic, Toshiba, Vivo, Whirlpool and MI.

SBM Bank and Paisabazaar jointly Launched – Step Up Credit Card

- **Paisabazaar.com**, India's largest lending marketplace and Credit Score platform, and **SBM Bank India**, the youngest universal Bank, announced the launch of **Step Up Credit Card** – a credit builder product designed for consumers with limited access to formal credit, due to ineligible credit score.

- A key part of **Paisabazaar's long-term growth strategy** is building neo-lending products with partners, to meet specific consumer need gaps.
- These innovative products would drive inclusiveness, by enabling underserved segments to access credit and over the long-term, strengthen the lending ecosystem.
- The **Step Up Credit Card**, built in partnership with **SBM Bank India**, is the **first product to be launched under Paisabazaar's neo-lending strategy**.

Kotak Mahindra Bank introduces 'Pay Your Contact' service

- **Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMBL)** has announced the launch of **'Pay Your Contact'** an innovative feature on KMBL's **mobile banking app** that uses the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI) platform** and allows customers to **send money or make payments** to any of their contacts across all payment apps simply by entering the beneficiary's **mobile number**.
- With **'Pay Your Contact'**, KMBL customers **no longer need to remember or obtain the bank account number or IFSC code or remember UPI IDs to send money or make payments**.
- The **'Pay Your Contact'** feature is interoperable across all payment apps and is available on both Android and iOS.
- "The other key issue that **'Pay Your Contact'** addresses are that of interoperability.
- Given the immense popularity of UPI in the Indian market, almost every Indian with a bank account has a **UPI ID**.
- With **'Pay Your Contact'** customers can now transfer funds easily to any **UPI-linked bank account** across payment apps with just a mobile number to identify their beneficiary".

Afthonia Lab & YES Bank make partnership to support Fintech Companies

- **Afthonia Lab ties up with Yes Bank** Startup incubator Afthonia Lab announced a tie-up with private sector lender Yes Bank to empower fintech companies.
- The **tie-up** will allow the incubator's portfolio companies to develop APIs in a sandbox environment and let them experiment with radical ideas to test solutions real time.
- The **partnership** will also **support the efforts to Innovate and inject new ideas** to transform the financial sector of India.

About the partnership:

- Under this partnership, the **Afthonia Lab's portfolio** startups will **develop APIs in a sandbox environment**, enabling the startups to experiment with **innovative ideas and test their solutions in real time**.
- This will also provide a safe and secure environment for the Afthonia Lab entrepreneurs to test their ideas and **provide an opportunity for Yes Bank** to transform the Indian Banking Industry.
- This collaboration will ensure that business has access to mentors from both the global network of Afthonia and Yes Bank.

About Afthonia Lab:

- "**Afthonia as an incubator** creates an **insight-forward ecosystem** to address gaps most startup founders face while navigating blindly through the traditional Indian financial industry.
- Afthonia **creates a safe-to-experiment environment for innovators**, complete with insights and interventions from seasoned thought leaders, so that you can **ideate, experiment, evolve and eventually succeed**."

Clovia makes Partnership with Alliance Insurance Launched– “Women’s Cancer Shield” Insurance Policy

- **Women’s personal care brand, Clovia** in partnership with **Alliance Insurance** launched a tailor-made insurance policy, “**Women’s cancer shield**” for breast cancer female patients.
- The partnership involves **Clovia** as the medium of making insurance reach out to consumers through its platform while Alliance Insurance as the insurance partner to facilitate the breast cancer insurance policy.
- In India, **a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer** every four minutes.
- With breast cancer accounting for **14 percent of cancers in Indian women**, this initiative aims to reinforce awareness for the ailment.

About the Policy:

- The company will **provide insurance policy cover of INR 25,000 to female customers** in the age group of **18-65 years** on a purchase of a certain value from Clovia’s website.
- The **insurance policy** comes with **lifelong renewals** and can be claimed in case of being diagnosed with breast cancer; however, this is not applicable for pre-existing treatments.
- The policy tenure covers a time of one year with a mandatory waiting period of **90 days for the policy** to be used.
- This cover will be **eligible for both minor stages of breast cancer and also major stages of breast cancer**, the company added.

Axis Bank uses AWS to accelerate digital transformation

- **Private sector lender Axis Bank** has selected **Amazon Web Services (AWS)** to accelerate its digital transformation program.
- As part of a **multi-year agreement**, Axis Bank will use AWS to build a portfolio of **new digital financial services** and **modernize core banking applications, reducing** costs by nearly a quarter, in the process.
- As part of a multi-year agreement, Axis Bank will draw on the breadth and depth of AWS services, including containers, database, and compute, to build a portfolio of new digital financial services to bring advanced banking experiences to customers, including online accounts that can be opened in under six minutes and instant digital payments, helping the **bank increase customer satisfaction by 35% and lower costs by 24% .**
- The bank will **also use Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud (Amazon EC2), a web service** that provides secure, resizable compute capacity in the cloud, Axis Bank will scale workloads on demand to support 10 million daily real-time payments **through India’s Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**, ensuring reliability and consistent performance.

Ujjivan SFB Make partnership with LoanTap

- **Ujjivan, a Finance Bank** has tied-up with **LoanTap** a digital lender providing loan options to the salaried segment of customers.
- This is part of Ujjivan SFB’s **API banking initiative**, through which **over 150 APIs** are available offering fast and secure tie-ups for digital lending and digital liabilities, payments etc. to FinTechs.
- This **collaboration** aims to extend the **bank’s services to its customers via LoanTap’s fast and convenient platform.**

Revision Points

Organizations	Headquarters	President/CEO/Head
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	Paris	Audrey Azoulay
Rupee Cooperative Bank	Pune	Sudhir Pandit
Baramati Sahakari Bank	Pune	Sunil Sathe
Bank of India	Mumbai	P R Rajagopal
Centrak Bank of India	Mumbai	Pallav Mohapatra
Indian Overseas Bank	Chennai	Partha Pratim Sengupta
Axis Bank	Mumbai	Amitabh Chaudhry
PayNearby	Mumbai	Anand Kumar Bajaj
Reserve Bank of India	Mumbai	Shaktikanta Das
State Bank of India	Mumbai	Dinesh Kumar Khara
World Bank	Washington DC	David Malpass
Asian Development Bank	Manila, Philippines	Masatsugu Asakawa
National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development	Mumbai	Dr. G.R. Chintala
IndusInd Bank	Pune	Sumant Kathpalia
Google Pay	California	Sundar Pichai
Godrej Housing Finance	Mumbai	Manish Shah
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	Bengaluru	Ajay Kanwal
Navi General Insurance	Bengaluru	Mr Sachin Bansa
HSBC India	Mumbai	Surendra Rosha
YES Bank	Mumbai	Prashant Kumar
Alliance Insurance	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Thakkar Shashikant
Punjab National Bank	New Delhi	S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao
HDFC Bank	Mumbai	Sashidhar Jagdishan
Federal Bank	Aluva, Kerala	Shyam Srinivasan
ICICI Bank	Mumbai	Sandeep Bakhshi
Life Insurance Corporation	Mumbai	MR Kumar
PhonePe	Bengaluru	Sameer Nigam

IDFC First Bank	Mumbai	V Vaidyanathan
SBM Bank	Port Louis	Deepak Shimpi
Paizabazaar	Gurugram	Naveen Kukreja
Kotak Mahindra Bank	Mumbai	Uday Kotak
Indian Bank	Chennai	Padmaja Chunduru
HDFC Mutual Fund	Mumbai	Milind Barve
Bank of Maharashtra	Pune	AS Rajeev
National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)	Mumbai	Dilip Asbe

Important Financial & Economy Affairs

Organization	GDP – FY 23	GDP - FY 22
Moody's Investors Service	7.9%	9.3%
OECD		9.9%
SBI		7.9%
World Bank	7.5% (CY 2022)	8.3% (CY 2021)
CRISIL		9.5%
ICRA		8.5%
Moody's Investors Service	7% (CY 2022)	9.6% (CY 2021)
S & P Global Ratings		9.5%

Moody's predicts India GDP growth at 9.3 per cent in FY22

- Moody's Investors Service pegged India's GDP growth at **9.3 per cent** in the current fiscal ending **March 2022** and **7.9 per cent** in FY23.
- "The reimposition of lockdown measures along with behavioural changes on fear of contagion will curb economic activity, but we do not expect the impact to be as severe as during the first wave.
- "We expect a decline in economic activity in the **April-June quarter**, followed by a rebound, resulting in real, inflation-adjusted **GDP growth of 9.3 per cent** in the fiscal year ending March 2022 and **7.9 per cent in fiscal 2022-23**".
- India's economy contracted by **7.3 per cent** in **fiscal 2020-21**.

OECD forecasts India's Growth projection for FY22 to 9.9%

- The **Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** cut its growth projection for India for **FY22 to 9.9% from 12.6%** estimated in March, as the second wave of coronavirus infections has paused economic recovery in **Asia's third largest economy**.

- OECD mentioned that while India is projected to be the fastest-growing G20 economy in 2021, it will also be the one which is the furthest away from its pre-crisis GDP trend.
- The OECD has revised up its growth projections across the world's major economies since its last **full Economic Outlook in December 2020**.
- It now sees global GDP growth at 5.8 % this year (compared with 4.2% projected in December), helped by a government stimulus-led upturn in the United States, and at 4.4% in 2022 (3.7% in December).

SBI Economists predicts GDP Growth Estimate in FY22 to 7.9%

- The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has **revised India's growth outlook downwards for the current financial year**.
- The latest **SBI** Ecowrap report has projected a 7.9 percent growth for India's GDP, down from its previous projection of 10.4 percent growth.
- The SBI Ecowrap noted that the real GDP for FY21 in the provisional estimates has been revised upwards to **Rs 135.13 lakh crore** from **Rs 134.09 lakh crore** as per the second advance estimates.
- Thus, for FY21 the real GDP growth was registered at -7.3 percent against the earlier SBI estimate of -8.0 per cent.

World Bank projects India to growth forecast at 8.3 per cent in 2021

- **The World Bank projected** India's economy to grow at **8.3 per cent in 2021 and 7.5 per cent in 2022**, even as its recovery is being hampered by an unprecedented second wave of the COVID-19, the largest outbreak in the world since the beginning of the deadly pandemic.
- The Washington-based global lender released Global Economic Prospects, noted that in India, an enormous second COVID-19 wave is undermining the sharper-than-expected rebound in activity seen during the **second half of Fiscal Year 2020/21**, especially in services.

CRISIL predicts India's GDP Growth for FY22 to 9.5%

- **Domestic credit ratings agency Crisil** has revised India's real GDP growth projection for **2021-22** downwards to **9.5 percent from 11 per cent** estimated earlier.
- The downward revision has been attributed to the decline in **private consumption and investments** following the second wave of Covid-19.
- Crisil further stated that in its base case of 9.5 per cent growth, the pre-pandemic levels will be achieved some time after September, while in the pessimistic scenario of eight per cent growth, quarterly GDP would surpass the pre-pandemic level only in the December 2021 quarter.

ICRA predicts India's GDP growth in FY 22 at 8.5%

- **Credit rating agency ICRA Ratings** projected India's gross domestic product (GDP) to grow at **8.5 percent** in **FY 2021-22**.
- In FY21, India's GDP contracted 7.3 per cent.
- ICRA expects GDP growth to exceed GVA growth by **120 bps**, based on expectations related to the value of taxes on products and subsidies on products in FY22.

India's agriculture exports grow by 17.34% in 2020-21

- India's export of agricultural and allied products in **2020-21 grew by 17.34 per cent to USD 41.25 billion**, and this **growth momentum** is expected to be sustained in the current fiscal.
- **Commerce Secretary Anup Wadhawan** stated huge growth has been seen in the export of cereals, non-basmati rice, wheat, millets, maize and other coarse grains.
- The **largest markets for India's agricultural products** are the **US, China, Bangladesh, UAE, Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Nepal, Iran and Malaysia**.
- Exports of only agricultural products (excluding marine and plantation products) increased by 28.36 per cent to USD 29.81 billion in 2020-21 as compared to USD 23.23 billion in 2019-20.
- "Agriculture Exports have performed well during 2020-21".

Exports of India's organic farm products raised 51% in 2020-21

- **Exports of India's organic farm products** surged **51 percent** in 2020-21 **beating Covid induced hiccups** in the supply chain.
- **Commerce Secretary, Anup Wadhawan** stated that outbound shipments of organic products hit **1,040 million dollars** last fiscal compare with **689 million dollars** a year before.
- Farm exports raised over 17 percent last fiscal to 41.25 billion dollars.
- Even in volume terms, exports of organic products grew at 39 per cent to 8 lakh 88 thousand 179 tonnes last fiscal.
- The **key organic products** that were shipped out include oil cake and meals, oil seeds, cereals, millets, spices and condiments, tea, medicinal plant products, dry fruits, sugar, pulses and coffee.

India's retail inflation reaches 6.3% in May

- **India's** retail inflation raced to **6.3% in May**, breaching the upper limit of the central bank's inflation target for the first time in six months and bringing further pressure on an economy whipped **by the second wave of covid-19 infections**.
- **Aditi Nayar, chief economist at ICRA Ratings**, mentioned core retail inflation, which excluded volatile food and fuel items, rose to an 83-month high of 6.6% in May and is expected to remain above 5% throughout FY22.
- **Sunil Kumar Sinha, principal economist at India Ratings and Research**, stated it is still too early to say if retail inflation will remain in excess of 6% on a sustained basis given the high base of last year.

PAN will be in 'INOPERATIVE' status if not linked before June 30, 2021

- Under the new Income Tax Rules, it is **mandatory** to link PAN with your Aadhaar number **before June 30, 2021**.
- The PAN cards which are **not linked to Aadhaar** would **become useless and declared "inoperative"** and the KYC status will also become invalid.
- The deadline to link the **Permanent Account Number with your Aadhaar number** is nearing.
- According to **Clause 41 of Section 139AA of the Income Tax Act**, "If a person fails to intimate the Aadhaar number, the permanent account number allotted to such person shall be made inoperative after the notified date in the manner as may be provided by rules."

About Income Tax Department:

- The **Income Tax Department** is a government agency undertaking **direct tax collection** of the Government of India.
- It functions under the **Department of Revenue of the Ministry of Finance**.
- The Income Tax Department is headed by the **apex body Central Board of Direct Taxes**.

Moody's predicts India's Growth Forecast for 2021 to 9.6%, 2022 at 7%

- **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 said faster vaccination progress will be paramount in restricting economic losses to June quarter.
- Moody's mentioned in the report that, "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% in 2021 and 7% in 2022**.
- "Indian economy contracted by **7.3 per cent in fiscal 2020-21** as the country battled the first wave of COVID, as against a **4 per cent growth in 2019-20**".

S&P Global Ratings cut India's FY 22 GDP Growth Forecast to 9.5%

- **S&P Global Ratings** cut India's growth forecast for the current fiscal to **9.5 percent**, from **11 percent** earlier, and warned of risk to the outlook from further waves of COVID pandemic.
- The agency lowered the growth outlook, saying that a severe second COVID-19 outbreak in **April and May** led to **lockdowns** imposed by states and sharp contraction in economic activity.
- "S&P forecast growth of **9.5 per cent** this fiscal year from our **March forecast of 11 per cent**".
- Stating that permanent damage to private and public sector balance sheets will constrain growth over the next couple of years, it projected India's growth at 7.8 per cent in the next fiscal ending March 31, 2023.

India tie up with Russia as 4th biggest foreign exchange reserves holder

- **India's foreign exchange reserves** crossed **\$600** for the **first time**.
- As on June 4, the foreign exchange reserves stood at **\$605 billion**, almost tying with Russia as the fourth largest reserve holder in the world.
- While **India's forex reserve** was \$605.008 billion, Russia's was \$605.2 billion.
- It took just about a year for the **reserves to rise by \$100 billion**, which has generally been the pace of accumulation since **Shaktikanta Das** became the governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in November 2017.

GST collections crossed at Rs 1.03 lakh crore for May 2021

- **MS Mani, senior director, Deloitte India** stated, "**Collections above Rs 1 lakh crore** pertaining to the transactions in the month of **April 21** indicates that the economic impact of the lockdowns has been much lower than expected".
- He added that a close watch is required on the next month's collections to determine the extent of the impact on **GST collections for FY 22**.
- Gross GST revenue collected in the month of May 2021, Central GST is Rs 17,592 crore, State GST is Rs 22,653 crore, integrated GST is Rs 53,199 crore (including Rs 26,002 crore collected on import of goods) and Cess is Rs 9,265 crore (including Rs 868 crore collected on import of goods).

Revision Points:

Organizations	Headquarters	President/CEO/Head
S &P Global Ratings	New York	Douglas L. Peterson
Moody's	New York	Raymond W. McDaniel Jr.
OECD	Paris	Mathias Cormann
CRISIL	Mumbai	Ashu Suyash
ICRA	Gurgaon	N Sivaraman

Important Business News

Jio and Google Cloud to make long term strategic relationship for implementing 5G Technology

- **Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited (Jio)**, a subsidiary of **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)**, and **Google Cloud** are embarking on a comprehensive, **long-term strategic relationship** with a goal of powering 5G in enterprise and consumer segments nationwide.
- In addition, Reliance will also take advantage of **Google Cloud's scalable infrastructure**, thereby enabling its retail business to **achieve better operational efficiency**, modernization and scale for growth, and deliver better performance and experiences to the customers.
- To further **Jio's mission to digitise India** with faster and better connectivity, Google Cloud will provide a complete **end-to-end Cloud offering for fully-automated lifecycle management** of Jio's 5G network and services.
- Jio and Google Cloud will collaborate to bring a portfolio of **5G edge computing solutions** to help industries address real business challenges.
- Jio will explore building **new services across** gaming, healthcare, education, and video entertainment sectors.

ZebPay introduced india's first crypto based lending platform

- **One of the oldest crypto companies in India, ZebPay**, launched a new lending platform for crypto asset exchange.
- **ZebPay** will offer both open and fixed-term lending using the platform.
- Only Bitcoin, Ethereum, Tether and Dai tokens will be accepted at first.
- The company says that the platform is a **"first of its kind" crypto lending model** in India and will allow users to lend their **cryptocurrency to ZebPay**, earning interest on the same.
- The company stated **"The ZebPay Lending Platform** generates returns on users' crypto investments if they lend select **cryptos** thus, providing an opportunity to earn a passive income by adding on to the returns gained from rise in crypto prices".

TCS launches its first European innovation centre in Amsterdam

- **Tata Consultancy Services** has launched **TCS Pace Port Amsterdam**, a co-innovation and advanced research center designed to help customers successfully navigate their growth and transformation journeys.
- Bringing together an ecosystem of partners from academia, government institutions, **start-ups and technology providers**, TCS Pace Port Amsterdam will serve as a hub for **TCS teams** to co-innovate with European customers, guiding them through the discovery, definition, refinement and delivery phases of innovation.

Number of startups grants by DPIIT reaches 50,000

- As many as **50,000 startups** have been recognized by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**.
- **Startup India is a flagship initiative** of the government launched on **January 16, 2016**.
- The initiative is intended to **catalyze a startup culture** and build a strong and inclusive ecosystem for innovation and entrepreneurship in India.
- Maharashtra, Karnataka, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat have the largest number of these entrepreneurs.

Lenskart Foundation introduces Covid-19 relief helpline

- **Lenskart Foundation** has launched a **Covid-19 relief helpline** that allows users to message their requirement of medicines, injections, oxygen support, and lab tests, said the eyewear company about its philanthropy initiative.
- The **WhatsApp chat-based helpline** at **892-947-6589** provides information on what to do if diagnosed with Covid-19, using inputs from a **panel of doctors**.
- The Foundation claimed it has received more than **200 requests** from Delhi-NCR, Bengaluru, Chennai, Kolkata, apart from states like Jammu, Punjab and Uttarakhand.
- It has helped over **100 people** recover from Covid-19 or come out of danger.

Wipro and Finastra Partnered to Help Digitalize Banks in the Asia-Pacific

- **The IT major announced a partnership with Finastra** to help corporate banks across Asia Pacific accelerate their digital transformation.
- The companies will create a unique offering that combines Wipro's comprehensive services catalogue with Finastra's **front-to-back trade finance** and cash-management solutions.
- **Harpreet Arora, vice president of BFSI Domain & Consulting Head** stated, this partnership is in line with our continued efforts to strengthen our presence in Asia-Pacific and drive digital transformation.

Bill Gates and EU assures \$1 billion boost for green technology

- The European Commission stated **The European Union and an energy investment programme founded by Bill Gates** plan to raise up to **\$1 billion** to roll out the low-carbon technologies Europe is betting on to meet its climate change goals.
- The **partnership** would see Gates-founded Breakthrough Energy use private capital and philanthropic funds to match funding provided by the EU.
- The aim is to together provide up to **820 million euros, or \$1 billion, from 2022 to 2026**.

Facebook India unveiled Tech Scholars Programme for Law Students

- **Facebook India** stated it has **launched** a new initiative to provide **students** from leading **law** schools in the country a platform for research and mentorship on topics related to **technology law** and policy.
- The **Facebook India Tech Scholars (FITS) programme** has **Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co** as a knowledge partner.
- "The programme **aims** to provide students from select leading law schools in the country a platform for **research and mentorship on topics** related to technology law and policy.
- The first edition of the **FITS programme** will offer eight law students an opportunity to work on a research project with **leading Indian think tanks** that will also extend mentorship support to the students".

Flipkart introduces QR-code based pay-on-delivery option for consumers

- **Flipkart**, India's homegrown **e-commerce marketplace** has launched a **contactless, QR-code-based payment facility** for **all its pay-on-delivery shipments**.
- The payment method not only ensures greater safety for consumers at a time when they are looking to **minimize personal contact**; but also addresses the trust deficit that many consumers might face.
- Consumers who earlier opted for cash on delivery can now use this facility, **scan the QR code** attached to their purchase and **make a digital payment** for their order **through any UPI app** at the time of delivery.

Web aggregator Policybazaar got insurance broking licence approval from IRDAI

- Leading web aggregator **Policybazaar** mentioned it has **got approval from regulator IRDAI** to undertake **insurance broking**, a development that will help the company augment business and expand bouquet of services.
- With this development, the company will surrender its web aggregator licence to Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) and undertake business including insurance aggregation under the broking umbrella.

Flipkart begins drone delivery pilot for vaccines, drugs in Telangana

- E-commerce firm **Flipkart** stated it has **partnered with the Telangana government** to lead a consortium tasked with the development and execution of drone deliveries of medical supplies to remote areas under the '**Medicines from the Sky**' project.
- Flipkart stated it will utilize learnings from its **tech-enabled supply chain to deploy drones** and enable deliveries of **medical supplies**.
- These efforts will be complemented with technologies such as **geo-mapping**, routing of shipments and track and trace of location it has developed over the years.

First time India Exports GI Tagged 'Jardalu' Mangoes to UK

- **India exported** the **first commercial consignment** of Geographical Indications (GI) certified '**Jardalu**' mangoes from Bhagalpur, **Bihar**, to the **United Kingdom** giving a possible boost to the potential of farm **exports** from the eastern region.
- **APEDA** has been initiating measures to boost mango exports from the non-traditional regions.

- A week-long Indian mango promotion programme was organized in Bahrain where **16 varieties** of the fruit including **three GI certified** Khirsapati & Lakshmanbhog (West Bengal) and Jardalu (Bihar) were displayed at super stores of importer Al Jazeera group.

TRAI introduced TV channel selector portal for DTH and cable TV subscribers

- The **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** launched a **TV Channel Selector web portal** for consumers who could not access its mobile phone app of the same name due to **lack of a smartphone**.
- The TV Channel Selector App for Smartphone was launched on June 25 last year that enabled users to check their subscription, modify it, view all channels provided by their cable operators and choose channels of interest under a regulatory framework notified in December 2018.
- The **portal will help subscribers** "get optimized solutions and the best combination of user selected channels/bouquets at the same or less price".

Facebook initiates 'Report it, don't share it!' campaign

- **Facebook** has kicked off a **new initiative** to **keep children safe on the internet**.
- Given that more and more kids are using the internet for both online classes and entertainment, protecting them is the first and the most important thing.
- The **'Report it, don't share it' campaign** is being helmed by the social media giant in **collaboration with Aarambh India Initiative, Cyber Peace Foundation, and Arpan**.
- The **main idea** behind the initiative, as the name suggests, is **to encourage people to report abusive or harmful content, and not share it**.

The Trade Desk started its operations in India and appointed Tejinder Gill as General Manager

- Global advertising technology major, **The Trade Desk** announced the **launch of operations in India** and stated it has **appointed Tejinder Gill as the Country General Manager**.
- The company, which offers a **self-service cloud-based platform** that **allows ad buyers to create, manage, and optimize digital advertising campaigns across formats and devices**, is **targeting digital marketers in India** and helping them capture fast-growing opportunities.

The Trade Desk:

- **'As an omnichannel platform**, The Trade Desk enables marketers to reach relevant audiences across different devices, including computers, mobile devices, tablets, and connected TV, and engage with them meaningfully along their **entire digital journey'**.
- Through the company's data-driven capabilities, marketers can access a marketplace of premium advertising inventory across a wide range of websites, apps, podcasts, and streaming OTT platforms.
- Gill stated **'The Trade Desk** is here to bring the much-needed data-driven decisioning and transparency to India's digital advertising ecosystem, offering marketers a credible choice where they can tap into the immense opportunities of the open internet'.

Wipro Partnership with World Economic Forum for New Work Standards initiative

- **Wipro** announced that it has joined the **World Economic Forum's Partnership for New Work Standards initiative** to establish a healthy, resilient and equitable future of work.
- This **initiative aims** to co-create new frameworks, shape forward-thinking people policies and utilize tools and technologies to collectively build human-first work standards, with people at the **heart of business**.
- Wipro has invested in its workforce, developed new ways of working, and created a more relevant and inclusive post-pandemic work environment to seamlessly transition to a sustainable future of work.
- The company is also undertaking **initiatives to support and equip** its people with dedicated programs for physical, social, financial and mental well-being.

Airtel partnership with Tata Group for 'Made in India' 5G network solutions

- **Bharti Airtel and Tata Group** announced a strategic partnership **for implementing 5G network solutions** for India.
- The **announcement** underscores a push for indigenous 5G solutions in India, as the **world's second-largest telecom market** gears up for **fifth-generation mobile networks** that would enable connecting virtually everything together including machines, objects, and devices at ultra-high speeds.
- Tata Group has developed **"O-RAN (Open Radio Access Network)** based Radio and NSA/SA (Non-Standalone/standalone) Core and has integrated a totally indigenous telecom stack, leveraging the Group capabilities and that of its partners".
- This will be available for commercial development starting **January 2022**.
- These **'Made in India'** 5G products and solutions are aligned to global standards and interoperate with other products based on standard open interfaces and those **defined by the O-RAN Alliance**.

CII-IGBC jointly launches Green High-Speed Rail Rating System

- The **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)-Indian Green Building Council** has launched the IGBC Green High-Speed Rail Rating System during an exclusive session with the **National High-Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL)**.
- IGBC appreciates and acknowledges the **excellent leadership** of Achal Khare, Managing Director, NHSRCL in opening new perspectives on how **Indian High-Speed Rail project** can become a green role model.
- The **rating system** was **launched online by Khare and V Suresh, Chairman, IGBC**.
- The session was attended by officials of NHSRCL, IGBC and industry leaders & experts of the transit sector.
- Suresh mentioned, "The **IGBC Green HSR rating system** is a first-of-its-kind in the world and exclusively developed to address the sustainability aspects of **High-Speed Rail (HSR) projects**."
- The rating system is developed aligning the requirements with the **UN Sustainable Development Goals**".

India's Largest solar carport inaugurated by Tata Power at Pune

- Indian utility **Tata Power** has **partnered with sister company** and automobile manufacturing firm **Tata Motors** to develop India's largest behind-the-meter solar energy carport.
- The **6.2MWp solar carport in Chikhali, Pune**, is located at a car plant owned by **Tata Motors** and will **produce above 86,000KWh of energy** and reduce 7,000 tons of carbon emissions per annum.

- The solar plant covers 30,000 square meters of land and has been constructed under **efforts by Tata Motors** to promote the use of clean energy in car manufacturing.

SBI Card and Fabindia jointly launched Co-Branded Contactless Credit Card

- **SBI Card** has joined hands with lifestyle retail chain **Fabindia** by launching **contactless co-branded credit cards** to cater to the **premium segment customers**.
- SBI Card mentioned The **new co-branded contactless credit card** combines the best in class rewards points on retail spends with the value back on varied spending categories, thus addressing overall spending needs of premium cardholders.
- The card is designed with curated benefits and privileges to offer a rewarding shopping experience to its premium customers.
- The card comes in two variants - Fabindia SBI Card SELECT and Fabindia SBI Card.

Microsoft unveiled its 'Windows 11' version

- **Microsoft** has **officially unveiled Windows 11**, a **new iteration of Windows** that promises a host of visual upgrades, as well as new behaviours to the basic OS experience.
- The **new Windows 11** will be released as a build for **Windows Insiders** next week.
- Microsoft is also introducing Snap layouts to help users with **multitasking on Windows 11**.
- The new generation of Windows will also be more **touch-friendly**.
- Team integration is coming directly to Windows 11.
- Users will be **able to video call anyone**; it will not matter if the other user is on a different device, even a Mac.
- **Android apps will also be coming to Windows 11**.

About Windows 11:

- Windows 11 is a major release of the Windows NT operating system, announced on **June 24, 2021**, and developed by Microsoft.
- Expected to be released in late 2021, it is the **successor to Windows 10**, released six years earlier.
- **OS family:** Microsoft Windows
- **Developer:** Microsoft Corporation
- **Programming languages:** C, C++, C#, Assembly language

NSDC tie-up with WhatsApp to launch Digital Skill Champions programme

- The **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)**, apex body to manage Central backed **Skill India** or the **National Skills Development Mission of India campaign** has announced a tie-up with global digital platform, **WhatsApp**, to launch the '**Digital Skill Champions Program**' to train youth on digital skills, and make them employment ready.

About the programme:

- Under this programme, school and university **students** would be coached to **imbibe digital and online skills** that would culminate with WhatsApp and NSDC awarding a '**Digital Skill Champions**' certification to these students.

- “It **aims to empower youth** with new-age skills to make them employable and more productive in their work environment”.
- Under the programme to be conducted digitally, WhatsApp will conduct sessions for **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra trainers** about the **WhatsApp Business app**.
- The training will cover modules on leveraging the **WhatsApp Business app** and to make small business entrepreneurship '**aspirational**'.

Google, Amazon, Microsoft take top spots as India's most attractive employer brands: REBR Survey 2021

- **Technology giant Google India** has emerged as the **most 'attractive employer brand'**, followed by Amazon India and Microsoft India, says a survey.
- According to the findings of **Randstad Employer Brand Research (REBR) 2021**, Google India scored high on financial health, strong reputation, and attractive salary and benefits parameters -- the top three Employee Value Proposition (EVP) drivers.
- **Amazon India** emerged as the **runner-up**, followed by Microsoft India.
- **Others in the top 10 most attractive employer brands** in India for 2021 include Infosys Technologies at fourth place, **Tata Steel** (5th), **Dell Technologies Ltd** (6th), **IBM** (7th), **Tata Consultancy Services** (8th), **Wipro** (9th), and **Sony** (10th).

Revision Points

Organizations	Headquarters	President/CEO/Head
Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited	Mumbai	Atul Kansal
Tata Consultancy Services	Mumbai	Rajesh Gopinathan
European Union	Brussels, Belgium	Von der Leyen
Facebook	California	Mark Zuckerberg
Flipkart	Bengaluru	Binny Bansal
Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority	Hyderabad	Subhash Chandra Khuntia
World Economic Forum	Cologny, Switzerland	Professor Klaus Schwab
Bharti Airtel	New Delhi	Gopal Vittal
Indian Green Building Council	Hyderabad	Vasudevan Suresh
SBI Card	Gurugram	Rama Mohan Rao Amara
National Skill Development Corporation	New Delhi	Manish Kumar
WhatsApp	California	Will Cathcart
Google	California	Sundar Pichai

Amazon	Seattle	Andy Jassy
Sony	Tokyo	Kenichiro Yoshida
Dell Technologies Ltd	Texas	Michael S. Dell
Tata Steel	London	Henrik Adam
Infosys	Bengaluru	Salil Parekh

Important State Wise News

Andhra Pradesh

STPI reports Andhra Pradesh tops new job creation under IBPS scheme

- The **India Business Process Outsourcing Promotion Scheme (IBPS)** launched by the Centre has facilitated expansion of several IT and BPO companies in tier-II and III cities across the country.
- Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) stated that, Under this **IBPS Scheme, Andhra Pradesh** is the **highest in employment generation** by creating 12,234 new jobs followed by Tamil Nadu at 9,401 while remaining was spread across Punjab, Odisha, Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Bihar.
- **Tamil Nadu** has become the **second State** in new job generation.
- STPI, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, is the executing agency for India BPO Promotion Scheme.

Andhra Pradesh Governor releases Special Postal Cover - IndiaPost on Yoga Day

- **Andhra Pradesh Governor Biswa Bhusan Harichandan** has released a **Special Postal Cover** brought out by **India Post** on the occasion of International Yoga Day at a programme held in Raj Bhavan.
- Governor Biswa Bhusan Harichandan stated, **Yoga** is a **5,000-year-old tradition originated in our country** that combines physical, mental and spiritual pursuits to achieve harmony of the body and mind.
- Mr Harichandan mentioned that on December 11, 2014, the United Nations General Assembly declared **21st of June as the International Day of Yoga** at the behest of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and was chosen as the International Day of Yoga, which is the **Summer Solstice and longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere and has a special significance in many parts of the world.**

Andhra Pradesh govt Launches SALT programme

- **Andhra Pradesh** has started a programme to transform **foundational learning in government schools** for which the **World Bank** has approved a **loan of 250 million dollars.**
- The **main objectives** of the programme called **Supporting Andhra's Learning Transformation (SALT)** are strengthening foundation schools and providing training and skill development to teachers.
- The **five-year programme** is result-oriented with the **WB releasing funds** after key goals are achieved.
- The government has converted all **Anganwadis** into pre-primary schools and attached them to the nearest schools.
- Minister Suresh stated the **two years of pre-primary school** would be considered as part of primary education.

Assam

Assam govt announced its seventh national park with Dehing Patkai

- The Government of Assam has notified Dehing Patkai as a National Park.
- Assam Minister for Environment and Forest, Parimal Suklabaidya stated, "Raimona and Dihing Patkai National Parks have been formally notified, adding to Assam's total tally of National Park (NP) to 7.
- Assam has become the second state in the country to have the highest number of NPs.
- The newly created NPs will help to boost conservation efforts and provide fillip to tourism and agriculture sectors."

Assam CM initiated the scheme Sishu Seva Achoni for COVID-19 Orphans

- Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced the Mukhyamantri Sishu Sewa Achoni scheme which will provide relief to children who have lost their parents due to Covid-19.
- As per this scheme, those children who have lost both their parents and are being looked after by their extended family members will be entitled to Rs 3,500 financial aid per month.
- Children below the age of 10 years without any family support will be provided shelter at child care institutions.
- They will have access to the required education facilities.

World's 1st GM rubber sapling planted in Assam

- World's First GM Rubber Developed at the Kerala-based Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII), the sapling was planted by Rubber Board chairman and executive director KN Raghavan at the board's farm in Sarutari near Guwahati.
- The GM rubber plant, the first of its kind developed exclusively for the northeast, is expected to thrive in the climatic conditions of the region.
- The plant, which has additional copies of gene MnSOD (manganese containing superoxide dismutase) in it, is expected to revolutionize natural rubber production in India.
- The plant was developed at the Kerala-based Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII) after years of research at its biotechnology laboratory and is expected to grow under the climatic condition of the northeast.
- KN Raghavan, Chairman and Executive Director of the Rubber Board stated that the genetically modified rubber plant, the first of its kind developed exclusively for this region, is expected to grow well under the climatic conditions of the mountainous northeastern region.

Raimona Became Assam's 6th National Park

- Raimona in Assam's Kokrajhar district was declared as the state's sixth national park.
- Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma made an announcement in this regard on the occasion of World Environment Day.
- The state's Environment and Forest Department has issued a notification declaring Raimona as a national park.
- The chief minister mentioned a process was on to also convert the Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary into a national park.

Bihar

Bihar declared 33 % reservation for girls in engineering, medical college

- **Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar** took a major decision with the announcement of a **33% reservation** for girls in **engineering and medical colleges of the state**.
- The Chief Minister mentioned that at least one-third of the seats in the enrollment in engineering and medical colleges of the state should be reserved for girl students as **it would increase the number of girl students**.
- He stated it would be a unique thing and would motivate the girl students towards pursuing higher and technical education.

Chhattisgarh

Chhattisgarh: Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launches Indus Best Mega Food Park at Raipur

- **Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Narendra Singh Tomar**, virtually inaugurated the **Indus Best Mega Food Park**, along with **Bhupesh Baghel, Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh**, and in presence of **Rameswar Teli, Union Minister of State for Food Processing Industries**.
- Tomar stated that the **Mega Food Park** will ensure value addition, longer shelf life for farm produce, better price realisation for farmers, excellent storage facility and will provide an **alternate market for farmers** in the region.
- The Park will also provide direct and indirect employment to about **5,000 persons** and **benefit about 25,000 farmers** in the CPC and PPC catchment areas.

Delhi

Delhi Govt Launched 'Jahan Vote, Wahan Vaccination Campaign

- With the aim to vaccinate all people above 45 years against COVID-19 in Delhi within the next four weeks, **Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal** launched '**Jahan Vote, Wahan Vaccination**' campaign.
- Kejriwal stated, "We are starting a 'Jahan Vote, Wahan Vaccination' campaign.
- Under this campaign, we will tell people to visit their designated polling stations to get vaccinated.
- **Main objective** is within four weeks if there is no shortage of vaccines, all the people **above 45 years of age** will be vaccinated in Delhi.

Gujarat

Gujarat govt gives tax exemption on cinema halls, multiplexes, gyms from paying property tax

- **The Gujarat government** announced a complete waiver of **property tax** for cinema houses, multiplexes and gyms **from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022** in view of the pandemic.
- The decision was taken during a working committee meeting chaired by the **chief minister Vijay Rupani**.

- These institutions will **also be exempted from fixed charges** in electricity bills and will be required to pay the bills based on actual electricity consumption.

Gujarat govt initiates the policy for electric vehicles for next four years

- The Gujarat government announced '**Gujarat Electric Vehicle Policy 2021**' to promote use of electric vehicles in the state.
- **Chief Minister Vijay Rupani** stated it **aims to bring at least 2 lakh electric vehicles** on the state roads in the next four years.

About the policy:

- The **policy aims** to make Gujarat a hub for EVs and related components, encourage investments in electric mobility and reduce vehicular pollution.
- It is estimated that around **1.10 lakh electric two-wheel vehicles, 70,000 three-wheelers and 20,000 four-wheelers** will be used in the state in the next four years following the implementation of this policy, Rupani said.
- The **state government will provide a subsidy up to Rs 20,000 on purchase of an electric two-wheeler, Rs 50,000 for three-wheeler and Rs 1,50,000 on purchase of a four-wheeler.**
- The **subsidy** will be transferred **directly to the bank accounts** of owners through direct benefit transfer.

PM Modi inaugurates Zen Garden and Kaizen Academy at AMA, Ahmedabad

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will inaugurate a **Zen garden** and Kaizen Academy in **Gujarat's Ahmedabad**.
- The **virtual event** can be watched live on the **Ahmedabad Management Association's YouTube channel**.
- A joint endeavour of the Japan Information and Study Centre at AMA and **Indo-Japan Friendship Association (IJFA)** in Gujarat, '**Zen-Kaizen**' at AMA seeks to showcase several elements of Japanese art, culture, landscape and architecture.
- It has been supported by Japan's **Hyogo International Association (HIA)**.

Zen Garden:

- A traditional Zen garden, **known as karesansui**, is a **minimalist dry landscape** comprised of natural elements of rock, gravel, sand and wood, with very few plants and no water.
- **Man-made components** include bridges, statuary and stone lanterns, with an enclosing wall or fence to separate the space from the outside world.

Gujarat CM launched India's 1st Fenton Catalytic Reactor Wastewater Treatment Plant

- **Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani** virtually inaugurated the **country's first Fenton Catalytic Reactor**, an advanced industrial wastewater treatment plant, at Vatva industrial area of the city.
- With **30 MLD** (million litres per day) capacity, **Fenton Catalytic Reactor** has been set by the Green Environment Services Co-operative Society Limited (GESCSL) in its premises in Vatva GIDC at a **cost of Rs 70 crore**.
- Rupani stated the plant will cater to **at least 700 industrial units**, mostly engaged in manufacturing of chemicals and dyes, at Vatva industrial area.

- At present, **Gujarat has 35 common effluent treatment plants (CETPs)** having a combined capacity to treat **750 million litres of industrial wastewater per day**, he said, adding that the government plans to set up another 19 CETPs in the near future.

About Fenton treatment:

- **Fenton** is an **effective advanced treatment process**.
- Fenton was mainly used to treat wastewater by radical oxidation and flocculation.
- **H₂O₂** is catalyzed by **ferrous ions** to decompose into HO· and to trigger the production of other radicals, which can fully **oxidize organic matters**.

Goa

Goa CM introduced solar-based electrification programme for rural households

- **Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant launched solar-based electrification programme for rural households** in the state.
- This **project** will bring **electricity** through renewable energy to areas in **Goa** where grid connectivity is not feasible.
- "With a focus on delivering clean, affordable, and reliable energy to all, **Pramod Sawant, Chief Minister of Goa**, inaugurated a solar-based electrification programme for remote rural households in Goa".
- The solar PV-based home lighting systems for households was inaugurated only two days after the agreement was signed between **Convergence Energy Services Ltd (CESL)** and **Goa Energy Development Agency (GEDA)**.

Goa becomes First Rabies-Free state in India

- **Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant** announced that the **state has not had a single case of rabies** in Goa in the past **three years**.
- Goa AM mentioned that the state has achieved **5.40.593 vaccination against rabies in dogs**.
- The government has also **educated nearly one lakh people in preventing dog bite** and has set up 24-hour rabies surveillance.
- Along with an emergency hotline and rapid response team for the dog-bite victims.
- The campaign in Goa has now **vaccinated around 90,000 dogs per year** and has been beneficial to both humans and dogs.
- However, through effective campaigns, dogs are not only protected against the disease but also are not seen as a threat.

Mission Rabies Project:

- Sawant stated that the **Mission Rabies organization** has been working with all the political leaders, panchayats to create awareness.
- Following which, Goa has now become the first state in India to become rabies-free.

- **Project Mission Rabies** started back in **2013** of its sister charity **Worldwide Veterinary Service** and became a registered charity in 2015.
- The aim is to eliminate human-canine mediate rabies death by **2030**.

Haryana

Haryana Governor approves 'The Haryana Recovery of Damages to property Act'

- **Governor of Haryana, S N Arya**, approved the **Haryana Recovery of Damages to Property Bill**.
- According to the bill (now act), any damage created to people's shops, houses, vendor carts, government offices, buses, vehicles and other such public property will be recovered from protestors.
- The "**Haryana Recovery of Damages to Property During Disturbance to Public Order Bill, 2021**" was passed in March 2021, a move similar to Uttar Pradesh government which had passed the "**Uttar Pradesh Recovery of Damages to Public and Private Property Act, 2020**."
- The Recovery of damages to properties will be made by the person causing disturbances to public order by any assembly, lawful or unlawful such as riots and violent disorder.

Haryana declared Rs 5,000 one-time aid for labourers, shopkeepers hit by pandemic

- The **Haryana government** announced a **one-time payment of Rs 5,000 each** to **small shopkeepers, construction workers, auto-rickshaw drivers and unorganized labourers** who have faced financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown.
- BPL families who have lost a family member in the **18-50 age group** to COVID-19 will be given an ex gratia of **Rs 2 lakh each**, Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar announced at a media briefing here on the occasion of his government completing **600 days in office**.
- The chief minister also announced a host of other benefits, including waiver of property tax and reduction in electricity bill in the first quarter of 2021-22.

Himachal Pradesh

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari laid foundation stones of several road projects in Himachal Pradesh

- **Union minister Nitin Gadkari** inaugurated and **laid foundation stones** of road projects worth **Rs 6,155 crore** in Himachal Pradesh through video conferencing from **Manali in Kullu district**.
- The projects included the **39-km-long Parwanoo-Solan section of the NH-22**, constructed at a **cost of Rs 1,303 crore**.
- On this occasion, **Gadkari** stated roads are prerequisite for the overall development of any nation.
- Better roads in Himachal Pradesh will go a long way in tourism promotion, he added.
- Chief Minister **Jai Ram Thakur** mentioned that the state has a road network of **40,000 kilometres** but a lot more needs to be done.

Ladakh Lt Governor initiates YounTab scheme for students to encourage digital learning

- **Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh RK Mathur** launched the **YounTab scheme** for students and distributed **12,300 tablets** among them virtually in Leh.
- The **YounTab scheme** is an initiative of the Department of School Education with technical support by the Information Technology Department under which 12,300 tablets with **preloaded online and offline content**, including textbooks, video lectures and online class applications, would be **distributed to government school students from Class 6th to 12th**.
- "This scheme is not only associated with pandemic but is an attempt for long term technology infusion in the education system," further informed that the existing telecom companies have agreed to **install additional towers**.

Weyan became the First Village to Vaccinate 100% Adult Population

- A remote hamlet in the **Bandipora district of Jammu and Kashmir** has become the first village in India to vaccinate all its adult population against the novel coronavirus.
- "**Weyan, a village in district Bandipora (J&K)** has become the first village in the country, where the entire population above 18 years has been vaccinated".
- Due to the difficult terrain of the area, the vaccinators had walked **18 km on foot** to reach the village.

Ladakh LG decided All jobs in Ladakh reserved for Residents

- In a **major decision** that could bring joy to the **residents of frontier Ladakh region**, the Union Territory (UT) administration has reserved all government jobs for the locals.
- Though the rules to define the criteria of such locals are yet to be framed, it shall come into force from the date of its publication in the **official gazette**.
- The new recruitment rules were announced by **Ladakh's Lieutenant Governor R K Mathur**.
- "**No person shall be qualified for appointment to the Service unless the person is a Resident of Union Territory of Ladakh**," read the **Union Territory of Ladakh Employment (Subordinate) Service Recruitment Rules, 2021**.

Ladakh Celebrates Two days Hemis Festival

- **Marking the birth of Guru Padmasambhava, Hemis Festival** is not only **one of the most important Buddhist celebrations** in Ladakh but is also the most popular festival amongst tourists.
- Held in one of the **most-visited monasteries** in Ladakh, Hemis Gompa, the festival is a two-day event that is celebrated on the **10th day of the fifth month of Tibetan Calendar, which is the month of June/July in Gregorian calendar**.
- **On this popular festival** in Ladakh, **Cham Dance and other traditional dances are performed** in Hemis Monastery on the beats of drums and cymbal and on the tunes of long pipe like Tibetan music instrument.
- On both days, giant thangkas (**Buddhist paintings**) are unfurled for the public.
- In fact, **every 12th year**, the **largest thangka in Ladakh** is unfurled in Hemis on the first day of the festival for the public to see.

Highlights of Hemis Festival:

- Cham Dance
- Unfurling of Thangkas (Buddhist paintings)

Karnataka

Karnataka state Health Dept introduces 'doctors ride towards village side' programme

- In Karnataka, the **Health Department** has launched **Doctors ride towards village side** programme.
- Under this scheme, the Government provides **necessary logistic support for the teams led by medical students to visit villages and provide better healthcare during the pandemic.**
- **MBBS final year students**, BSc Nursing, BDS, MDS, Ayush graduating doctors are deputed to rural areas to carry out Covid tests.
- A team of medical students, nurses, ASHA and Anganwadi workers **visit door to door to identify vulnerable members of the family and carry out tests.**

PM Modi to launch Bengaluru Suburban railway project: Karnataka CM

- Karnataka CM announced that **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** would lay the **foundation stone** for the **Bengaluru Suburban Rail project within the next three months.**
- **Special train** from **Bengaluru Cantonment station** to **Heelalige station** to inspect two doubling projects and the Suburban Rail Project, the CM stated that the Centre had given the green signal to go in for external borrowings to the **tune of Rs 7,400 crore for the Rs 15767 crore project.**
- The project is being implemented by **K-RIDE (Karnataka Rail Infrastructure Development Enterprises)**, a special purpose vehicle jointly set up by the state and Centre.
- Both will share **20 percent each of the project cost** and the rest would be through borrowings.

About Karnataka:

Kerala

National Ayush Mission to organize 12-hour virtual Yoga Session 'Yogathon' in Kerala

- **Kerala** will celebrate **International Day of Yoga** virtually by organizing various events.
- **National Ayush Mission** will organize a 12-hour virtual Yoga Session '**Yogathon**' in the state.
- **Quiz competitions and essay competitions** on the **theme** Yoga will also be organized for school students.
- The mission also plans to broadcast yoga classes for children in collaboration with the **Victer's Channel** run by Kerala General Education Department.
- The **Field Outreach Bureau** under the ministry of information and broadcasting will also organize webinars and virtual Yoga sessions in connection with the International Yoga Day.

Kerala govt Launches 'Knowledge Economy Mission'

- The **State government** has launched the **Knowledge Economy Mission** to bring the ongoing efforts to provide employment to the educated and support '**knowledge workers**' under a single programme.
- It was spearheaded by Kerala Development and Innovation Strategic Council (K-DISC) and that they will submit a comprehensive project report before July 15.
- State CM stated that, "At the heart of the initiative is a comprehensive **digital platform for educated youngsters** which **help them upskill, enhance knowledge and empower them to face the challenges of ever-changing job market**".
- The chief minister mentioned this **digital platform** will create a great opportunity for those who took a break from work and jobless to connect with global employers.
- The digital platform was developed in **collaboration** with the Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology (formerly IIITM-K).

Madhya Pradesh

Madhya Pradesh state govt to introduced 'Yuva Shakti Corona Mukti Abhiyan'

- In Madhya Pradesh, '**Yuva Shakti Corona Mukti Abhiyan**' means free from corona with the help of a youth power campaign will be launched to make people aware about the COVID pandemic.
- Madhya Pradesh is now at number 26 in the country in terms of corona infection.
- At the same time, on the basis of the suggestions received from the various **Crisis Management Committees**, a new guide line will be issued in the state by June 15.
- In the **Yuva Shakti Corona Mukti Abhiyan**, **college teachers and around 16 lakh students** will be made aware of corona infection by learning Covid appropriate behavior and vaccination.
- This **campaign** will be run by the Higher Education and Technical Education Department in collaboration with the Public Health and Family Welfare Department.
- A **mobile app** has also been developed for effective **real time online monitoring of the campaign**.

Maharashtra

Maharashtra govt apply MAPS to provide employment and training to youth of state

- The **Maharashtra government** has decided to implement the **Maharashtra Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (MAPS)** with the objective of providing employment and training to the youth of the state.
- Under this Scheme, in the current year, **apprenticeship opportunities** will be provided to **1 lakh youth in various industries and establishments in the state**.

- Maharashtra Skills Development, Employment and Entrepreneurship Minister **Nawab Malik** informed that New Maharashtra Apprentice Promotion Scheme is being implemented to provide employment and self-employment opportunities and experience to the youth who have passed at least **10th standard** in the state.

About Maharashtra Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme:

- The scheme aims to provide employment and training to **5 lakh** well-educated unemployed youth in the **next five years**.
- “Under this scheme, the trainees will be entitled to get **75 percent** of the scholarship payable to them or a maximum of **Rs 5,000** whichever is less”.
- “The apprenticeship scheme will be implemented in **715 businesses**.”

'Project Mumbai' delivers free food to more than 55 lakh people in last 6 months under 'Khana Chahiye' programme

- Various NGOs are making an enormous contribution in the **fight against COVID pandemic** through different initiatives and '**Project Mumbai**' is one of them.
- The NGO has not only helped common people but has also helped Corona Warriors by giving **tiffins to the doctors from nine hospitals in Mumbai**.
- They have also distributed more than two lakh PPE kits and masks to the doctors in Mumbai.
- **Helplines** were started by Project Mumbai for the counseling of common people who were facing the issues of mental stress.

Khana Chahiye programme:

- The NGO **has provided free food to more than 55 lakh people** in the **last six months under** its Khana Chahiye programme.
- They **have also provided free** foodgrain and medicines to needy senior citizens.

Maharashtra cabinet gave nod to Amendments for Protection of “Heritage Trees”

- An **amendment to the Maharashtra (Urban Areas) Protection and Preservation of Trees Act, 1975** to bring in the concept of “**heritage trees**” was approved in a meeting of the Maharashtra Cabinet.
- It is expected to come into force by way of ordinance.
- The Cabinet also green-lighted the formation of the **Maharashtra Tree Authority**, which will take all decisions regarding protection of trees.
- It will have responsibility related to protection and conservation of trees, including “**heritage trees**”.
- “The **Act will focus** on increasing tree cover in urban areas.
- Protecting existing trees along with preserving those having cultural importance is the need of the hour.
- Principal Secretary (Environment) Manisha Mhaikar stated, It is critical that development is carried out in a sustainable manner ensuring conservation of nature”.

Nagaland

Nagaland govt sanctioned Rs 2,000 each to bank accounts of all building, other construction workers

- **Nagaland Government** has announced the **approval for transfer of 2,000 rupees each** to the bank accounts of **all the Building and Other Construction Workers**.
- The amount will be debited from the state's Cess Fund.
- The State Department of Labour stated, owing to the present pandemic situation and the **continuing lockdown**, there has been a **huge displacement of daily wage workers** taking place all over the country, especially the construction workers.
- Therefore, in order **to assist such workers and their families**, and as per the instructions of the Central Government to provide adequate financial assistance to such identified categories of workers, the State Government will be **depositing an amount of 2,000 rupees each to the beneficiaries registered under the State Labour Department**.

Odisha

Odisha govt initiates doorstep delivery service for oxygen concentrators

- The **Odisha Government** has launched a **doorstep delivery service for oxygen concentrators**.
- **Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik** stated that this will further strengthen the state's preparedness against present and future waves of covid-19.
- The **home delivery service for Oxygen concentrators** will be available in 5 major cities of the state in the first phase.
- The facility is also available at the **Odisha COVID dashboard app** for Android and iOS operating systems.
- Additional Chief Secretary (Health) **PK Mohapatra** mentioned that the municipal corporations will monitor the requirement and delivery of the concentrators.

Odisha welcomes agricultural year through 'Raja Parba' Festival

- **Raja Parba, a 3-day festival** celebrating **womanhood** is being celebrated across **Odisha**.
- During this period, it is believed that **Mother Earth menstruates and prepares herself for future agricultural activities with the arrival of monsoon**, stated by Odisha Tourism Development Corporation (OTDC), chairperson S Mishra.

About the festival:

- The **festival is synonymous with varieties of cakes (pithas)**.
- Odisha Tourism Development Corporation (OTDC) launched a **special programme named 'Pitha on Wheels'**.
- "Due to COVID-19, we're celebrating Raja Parba with a very low key.
- As women don't work during these **3 days 7 vehicles of 'Pitha On wheels'** will reach people's doorstep in Bhubaneswar," she added.
- **Different kinds of pithas such as 'Poda Pitha', 'Manda', 'Kakara', 'Arisha', 'Chakuli' and 'Chandrakala'** have been made available on 'Pitha on Wheels' (kiosks on wheels).
- These vehicles selling traditional cakes have been stationed in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Sambalpur.

Odisha state govt Launched e-Learning methods for students: e-Pathshala, e-Mulyankan

- After launching **YouTube lessons** for college kids of **Class IX and X**, the state authorities launched **e-Pathshala and e-Mulyankan** amenities maintaining in thoughts disruption of lessons in the course of the ongoing pandemic.
- These **on-line platforms** will profit college students, academics and district training officers (DEOs).
- These e-learning amenities have been created as long-term resolutions for any tough scenario, **stated college and mass training minister Samir Ranjan** Sprint after launching the platforms.

e-Pathshala:

- The **e-Pathshala** is a **web-based studying platform** that has repositories of e-contents within the type of paperwork, audios and movies.
- The e-contents will help completely different areas of on-line studying like self-learning, on-line lessons, assignments, assessments and analysis of the learners' progress.

e-Mulyankan:

- The **e-Mulyankan** platform is **designed to behave as a digital financial institution of apply exams** and mannequin query in order that the scholars can apply for examinations.
- The academics can conduct exams, mock examinations and closing examinations by the e-Mulyankan platform.

About Odisha:

- **Odisha** (formerly Orissa), an **eastern Indian state on the Bay of Bengal**, is known for its tribal cultures and its many ancient Hindu temples.
- The capital, Bhubaneswar, is home to hundreds of temples, **notably the intricately-carved Mukteshvara**.
- The **Lingaraj Temple complex**, dating to the 11th century, is set around sacred Bindusagar Lake.
- The **Odisha State Museum** is focused on the area's history and environment.

Odisha Govt make Partnership with UN WFP to Empower Women SHGs

- The government of **Odisha** and the **United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)** has joined hands to **improve household food and nutritional security** by strengthening livelihood initiatives, reaching thousands of state-supported **Women's Self-Help Groups (WSHGs)**.
- A statement quoted **WFP Country Director** in India, **Bishow Parajuli** mentioned that the partnership for achieving nutritional security in Odisha focused on empowerment, livelihood and incomes of women.
- The **partnership, effective till December 2023**, will also be focusing on improving the linkage of women's groups with government procurement systems, increasing awareness on entitlements, building capacity of women's groups, and developing monitoring tools and undertaking evaluations to improve functioning of the groups.

Punjab

Punjab govt launched "Udaan Scheme" to provide sanitary pads

- **Punjab Social Security Minister Aruna Chaudhary** launched the women-empowerment oriented '**Udaan Scheme**' on the occasion of **International Menstrual Hygiene Day**, under which sanitary pads of **Rs 40.55 crore** would be distributed **free of cost** annually to **needy women and girls**.
- Chaudhary stated the **main objective of the scheme** is to protect women and girls from menstrual hygiene related diseases and spread awareness about menstrual hygiene.
- At the launch ceremony, a total of one lakh packets of sanitary pads were distributed at all **1,500 online locations** as well as at **anganwadi centres** in the state.

Punjab Cabinet gave nod to Create SPV for Surface Water Supply Scheme

- The **Punjab cabinet** gave its **nod** for the creation of a **special purpose vehicle (SPV)** for operations and maintenance of large multi-village surface water supply schemes across the state.
- The move is aimed to ensure supply of potable water on a long term sustainable basis in rural areas of water quality affected districts.
- This **SPV -- Punjab Rural Water (Utility) Company** -- under the Water Supply and Sanitation department will be a utility company.
- The cabinet, chaired by **Chief Minister Amarinder Singh**, also accorded approval to open an account in the name of the SPV, with seed money of **Rs 25 crore allocated from the World Bank funds (64 per cent) and state budget (36 per cent)**, to support its functioning in the initial five years, it said.

Punjab CM formally inaugurated recently announced district Malerkotla

- **Punjab chief minister Capt Amarinder Singh** virtually inaugurated **Malerkotla** as the **23rd district of the state** and laid the foundation stone of **development projects worth Rs 548 crore** in Malerkotla city.
- Amarinder stated he had promised to upgrade Malerkotla as a district during his previous tenure in 2005 but it could not materialise then for some reasons.
- He had made a formal announcement about this decision on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr on May 14 this year.

Punjab became 1st state to roll out NFC-based "eIDs"

- **Electronic Identity Cards (eIDs)** have been introduced in numerous countries.
- **Punjab Government** has also initiated the usage of eIDs equipped with **Near Field Communication (NFC)** technology for their officers/employees through one of its prominent entities viz. Punjab Mandi Board.
- **Chairman Punjab Mandi Board Lal Singh** stated that these eIDs are equipped with **NFC technology-a standard-based wireless communication technology**, allows data exchange between devices that are a few centimeters apart and will be used as a primary authentication tool.
- The NFC operates at 13.66 MHz and transfers data at up to 424 Kbits/ seconds.

Punjab's Rana Gurmit Singh Sodhi launches a special Mobile App "Khedo Punjab"

- Punjab Sports and Youth Services Minister Rana Gurmit Singh Sodhi launched a **special Mobile App "Khedo Punjab"** for putting the Sports Department and all the Sports persons of State of Punjab on Digital platform.
- Rana Sodhi informed that this is the first time in the **history of the Sports Department** that the department has launched a mobile app.
- He stated that with the launch of **Mobile App**, the current sports persons and the budding players will be in a position to register online and can choose any game of their interest besides identifying their International, National and State goals, which will finally help in building competitive enthusiasm.

About Khedo Punjab:

- After the "Padho Punjab" initiative, the **state education board** is all set for "Khedo Punjab" to **promote sports among the students at government schools**.
- The **aim of the project** is to involve students into sports to keep them away from drug abuse and to encourage them towards fitness.
- As per the guidelines, the schools shall start their day by conducting morning assembly with drum, yoga and PT.

Rajasthan

Rajasthan govt introduced CM Anuprati Coaching scheme for underprivileged students

- Rajasthan has launched **Chief Minister Anuprati Coaching Scheme** to **help underprivileged students** prepare for entrance examinations to civil services and professional courses, with an aim to give them equal opportunity.
- **Students belonging to** scheduled caste, scheduled tribe, other backward classes (OBC), extremely backward castes, minority and economically weaker sections with annual family income less than Rs.8 lakhs per annum will be **able to avail the scheme** run by the tribal area development, minority affairs, and social justice and empowerment departments.
- Under the scheme, **free coaching will be provided** for preparation for civil services examination, conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

Rajasthan govt will set Vedic Education and Sanskar Board

- The **Rajasthan government** will soon set up a **Vedic Education and Sanskar Board** to revive the knowledge of Sanskrit scriptures and Vedas.
- The board is likely to be formed in the next **four to five months**.
- A **committee**, formed to define **aims, objectives and functioning of the board**, has submitted its report to the state government, Minister of State (MoS) for Sanskrit Education **Subhash Garg** mentioned, adding modules will be presented before the board based on the report.
- He stated the Vedic board would come into function after approval from Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot.

Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu govt launched new plans on Kaliagnar's 97th birthday

- **Tamil Nadu** Govt has introduced **new plans for the celebration of Kaliagnar's 97th birthday**.
- A slew of new techniques had been declared and **Chief Minister Stalin** inaugurated distribution of welfare strategies in the course of Covid-19.
- The **Government mentioned that a 500 bedded multi speciality medical center** for the reward of the people living in South Chennai will be designed at a value of **Rs. 250 crore**.
- A **library** will be built in memory of Kalaignar at **Madurai**.
- Award winning Tamil writers will be supplied a residence in their individual districts.
- Chief Minister **Stalin** distributed ten kilogram rice with **15 grocery merchandise** alongside with the next installment of **2000 Rs compensation throughout Covid time period for ration card holders**.
- He also gave **Rs.4000 alongwith provisions and rice** to the priests who are doing the job at temples underneath the State Hindu spiritual and Charitable Endowments Ministry.
- The Chief Minister started the scheme of Rs **Rs.5000/- bonus for a single lakh 12 thousand 184 law enforcement personnel** who are functioning in the forefront of battling Covid-19.

Tamilnadu CM launches Minnagam consumer grievance redressal centre in Chennai

- **Tamilnadu Chief Minister M.K.Stalin** inaugurated **Minnagam**, a consumer grievance redressal centre in Chennai.
- The State Government said that consumers of electricity in the **State can report their grievances** to the Centre **through mobile phones**.
- The Chief Minister **also launched** an exclusive **customer care** mobile number **9498794987** through which the consumers can make their complaints and clarify their doubts about the electricity bills.
- The centre will be **functional 24 hours, to handle complaints**.
- All the complaints would be passed on to the related executive engineers in the districts.
- Action taken on every complaint would be d in the Social media.
- It may be noted that the State has over **three crore ten lakh consumers** of electricity.

Telangana

Telangana govt focused to do digital survey of agriculture lands in state

- **Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao** ordered a digital survey of agriculture lands in **27 select villages** across the state on a pilot basis **from June 11**.
- He directed officials to select three villages from his home constituency Gajwel and select the **remaining 24 villages from other 24 districts**.
- Based on the outcome of the pilot survey, the digital survey will be extended later to the entire state.
- After the completion of the digital survey of agricultural lands, the survey will be undertaken in all urban areas.

Telangana AI Mission launched 'Revv Up'

- **Telangana government** had launched the **Telangana AI Mission (T-AIM)** powered by **Nasscom** and as part of the T-AIM an **accelerator programme** called **Revv Up** has been launched to enable and empower AI startups.
- The programme that will begin its first cohort in July is another step towards making **Telangana and Hyderabad** as a global destination for AI and other emerging technologies.
- The accelerator programme, exclusively designed for growth-stage AI startups, will cover various sectors.
- **Telangana Industries and IT principal secretary Jayesh Ranjan** stated, "Telangana is committed to its vision of positioning the State as the leader in AI.
- After becoming the **first State in India to launch an actionable policy framework for Artificial Intelligence** in **June 2020**, now set in motion the **first edition of the Revv Up accelerator programme** to hone innovative AI ideas under T-AIM.

Telangana CM Announced Rs 10 lakh financial assistance to Dalit families

- **CM K Chandrasekhar Rao** called for an all-party meeting, June 27 to **discuss** and finalize the guidelines of the **CM Dalit Empowerment Programme** that is being **initiated by the state government**.
- A decision was taken in the meeting to provide **Rs 10 lakh financial assistance** each directly to the bank accounts of eligible beneficiaries from the Dalit community.
- It was also decided to earmark **Rs 1200 crore** for the empowerment programme.

About the programme:

- **CM Dalit Empowerment Programme** aims to make members of the **community financially self-sufficient**.
- In the **first phase**, from the **total 119 assembly constituencies**, **100 families** from each constituency across the state will be provided with assistance.
- This means, as per the government's plan, a **total of 11,900 people** will benefit from the programme in the first phase.
- The money would be transferred **directly to the bank accounts** of the eligible beneficiaries.

West Bengal

West Bengal CM relaunches scheme doubling farmers' aid to Rs 10,000

- **West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee** relaunched her government's **Krishak Bandhu scheme**, doubling the assistance to **farmer- beneficiaries to Rs 10,000 a year**.
- She stated that **day labourers in farmlands** and **sharecroppers** in possession of at least one katha (0.0165 acre) of land will **now receive Rs 4,000 a year, instead of Rs 2,000** they used to get earlier.
- Banerjee also mentioned that the respective boards of the state will announce the evaluation process for examinations of classes 10 and 12, that have been cancelled because of the Covid-19 pandemic situation.

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	Bhagat Singh Koshyari
Gujarat	Vijaybhai R. Rupani	Acharya Dev Vrat
Haryana	Manohar Lal	Satyadeo Narain Arya
Himachal Pradesh	Jairam Thakur	Bandaru Dattatraya
Jharkhand	Hemant Soren	Droupadi Murmu
Karnataka	B. S. Yediyurappa	Vajubhai Vala
Kerala	Pinarayi Vijayan	Arif Mohammed Khan
Madhya Pradesh	Shivraj Singh Chouhan	Anandiben Patel
Maharashtra	Uddhav Thackeray	Bhagat Singh Koshyari
Manipur	N. Biren Singh	Najma Heptulla
Meghalaya	Conrad Kongkal Sangma	Satya Pal Malik
Mizoram	Pu Zoramthanga	P.S. Sreedharan Pillai
Nagaland	Neiphiu Rio	R. N. Ravi
Odisha	Naveen Patnaik	Ganeshi Lal
Punjab	Capt. Amarinder Singh	V.P. Singh Badnore
Rajasthan	Ashok Gehlot	Kalraj Mishra
Sikkim	PS Golay	Ganga Prasad
Tamil Nadu	M.K.Stalin	Banwarilal Purohit
Telangana	K Chandrasekhar Rao	Tamilisai Soundararajan
Tripura	Biplab Kumar Deb	Ramesh Bais
Uttar Pradesh	Yogi Aditya Nath	Anandiben Patel
Uttarakhand	Trivendra Singh Rawat	Baby Rani Maurya
West Bengal	Mamata Banerjee	Jagdeep Dhankhar
Puducherry (UT)	N Rangaswamy	

List of Governors & Administrators

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

Important National News

Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar introduces Horticulture Cluster Development Programme

- In a **pilot phase**, the programme will be implemented in **12 horticulture clusters** out of the **total 53 clusters** selected for the programme.
- A central sector programme implemented by the **National Horticulture Board (NHB)** of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, **CDP** aims at growing and developing identified horticulture clusters to make them globally competitive.
- Tomar, in his speech, highlighted that the programme will address all major issues related to the **Indian horticulture sector** including pre-production, production, post-harvest management, logistics, marketing and branding.

NCPCR devises 'Bal Swaraj' for children affected due to COVID-19

- In view of the growing problem related to children affected by COVID-19, The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development stated the **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)** has devised an online tracking portal "**Bal Swaraj (COVID-Care link)**" for children in need of care and protection.
- The portal has been created with the purpose of tracking and monitoring children who need care and protection in real-time, digitally.
- The portal will also be used to track children who have lost both their parents during COVID-19.
- The "**COVID-Care**" link on the portal has been provided for the concerned officer or department to upload the data of such children.

Agri Services E-Marketplace Launches CSC SPV

- **Aimed at empowering small and marginal farmers**, who constitute 86 per cent of India's farming community, the **Common Services Centres (CSC)** has unveiled a unique **Agri Services Portal** that will act as a one-stop destination and marketplace for them.
- The portal will enable small and marginal farmers, who do not have easy access to the digital world, to avail essential agri services with ease and at an affordable cost.
- **CSC CEO Sanjay Rakesh** stated, "Newly launched portal can be accessed by farmers with support from local CSCs for buying agri-input products, renting and hiring of agriculture implements and machinery, soil testing, sale of farm produce, tele-consultations, loan and insurance facility".
- The CSC, a **Special Purpose Vehicle** under the Ministry of Electronics and IT, plans to reach out to **6,000 Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs)**, one in each block of the country, this year.

Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya initiates floating jetty at Old Goa

- **Union Minister of State (I/C) for Ports, Shipping & Waterways Shri Mansukh Mandaviya** in the presence of **Chief Minister of Goa Shri Pramod Sawant** inaugurated the second floating jetty at Old Goa virtually on the occasion of Goa statehood day.
- **Shri Mandaviya** expressed hope that the floating jetty at **Old Goa** will prove a game changer for the tourism sector of Goa.
- He also announced that Panjim and Old Goa will be connected by ferry and cruise services.
- The Minister stated the jetty will **offer safe, hassle free transportation to the tourists**.
- The Minister lauded the work done by Government of Goa in making tourism sector a growth engine of the state.

Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan launches digitized versions of NHA's IT platform

- The **Health Minister** has launched the revamped **Central Government Health Scheme, CGHS and the Umbrella schemes** of Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi, RAN and Health Minister's Discretionary Grant, HMDG on NHA's platform, making them cashless, paperless and the citizen centric.
- **Dr Harsh Vardhan** stated, the initiative will enable seamless delivery of healthcare services to eligible beneficiaries under these schemes by making the whole process paperless.
- This is a solid step towards **digitalization of healthcare services**.

About NHA:

- **National Health Authority (NHA)** is the **apex body** responsible for implementing India's flagship **public health insurance/assurance scheme** called "**Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana**" & has been entrusted with the **role of designing strategy**, building technological infrastructure and implementation of "**National Digital Health Mission**" to create a National Digital Health Ecosystem.

- National Health Authority is the successor of the National Health Agency, which has been functioning as a registered society since 23rd May, 2018.

GST Council forms 8 member panel under to examine GST exemption on Covid material

- The **group of ministers** was constituted after several member states of the council, such as West Bengal and Punjab asked for exempting GST on all Covid-essential materials.
- **Other members of the group of ministers (GoM) are** – Gujarat deputy chief minister Nitinbhai Patel, Maharashtra deputy CM Ajit Pawar, Goa transport minister Mauvin Godinho, Kerala finance minister KN Balagopal, Odisha finance minister Niranjan Pujari, Telangana finance minister T Harish Rao and UP finance minister Suresh Kr Khanna.
- **Vaccines and cotton masks** attract **5% GST**, most of these items fall in the **12% tax slab**.
- Testing kits, drugs, medical oxygen, oxygen concentrators and ventilators fall under the **12% tax bracket**.
- Alcohol-based sanitizers, hand wash gels, disinfectants and thermometers attract **18% GST**.

WHO labelled Two Covid-19 Variants in India as 'Kappa' and 'Delta'

- The **WHO** has advised against using location-based terms for variants, and has designated an **official name** for the **variant first detected in India: B.1.617**.
- The organization took six weeks to announce the name **"COVID-19"** after cases of the corona virus infection were first reported in Wuhan, China.
- WHO renames COVID-19 variants with Greek letters to avoid stigma; Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta.
- The **B.1.617.1 and B.1.617.2 variants of the Covid-19, first identified in India**, has been named as **'Kappa'** and **'Delta'** respectively, the World Health Organisation (WHO) announced as it named various variants of the corona virus using Greek alphabets.

Union Cabinet approved draft of Model Tenancy Act

- The **Union Cabinet** has approved the draft of **Model Tenancy Act (MTA)** for adoption and enactment by **States and Union Territories** to promote rental housing in the country.
- MTA envisages balancing the interests and rights of both, the owner and tenant, in an accountable and transparent manner.
- A **digital platform** will be set up in the local vernacular language or the language of the State and Union Territory for this purpose.
- The MTA also provides for a time-bound and robust **grievance redressal mechanism**.
- The Centre has said that the Model Tenancy Act will make vacant houses available on rent as well as repose confidence of investors in the sector.

Union Agriculture Minister launches Seed Minikit Programme

- **Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar** launched **Seed Minikit Programme** by distributing Seed Minikits, higher yielding varieties of seeds to farmers.

- The **mini kits** are being provided by the **Central Agencies, National Seeds Corporation, NSC, NAFED and Gujarat State Seeds Corporation** and it is fully funded by the Government of India through the National Food Security Mission.
- The distribution of seeds **will continue till 15th of this month** so that the seeds reach the farmers before the Kharif sowing commences.

Union Minister Thaawarchand Gehlot to launch SAGE project

- The **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** will launch **Senior care Ageing Growth Engine (SAGE)** project to select, support and create a **"one-stop access"** of elderly care products and services by credible start-ups.
- The initiative was launched by **Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot** in the presence of MoS, MSJE, Shri Rattan Lal Kataria in New Delhi.
- **Start-ups can apply** for being a part of SAGE through a **dedicated portal**.
- As per surveys, the share of elders, as a percentage of the total population in the country, is expected to increase from **around 7.5 per cent in 2001 to almost 12.5 per cent by 2026**.

CEC suggested to link Aadhaar with Voter ID card

- In a bid to **ensure free and fair elections** in the country and maximize the electoral coverage, the Election Commission of India has made a series of recommendations to the **Law Ministry** including cancellation of candidature & increasing the imprisonment to **2 years in case of false affidavit by poll candidates**.
- Currently the statute allows inclusion of names of only those **people who have turned 18 years old** as on 1st January of the year.
- In another major reform, the Central poll body has also suggested **linking the Aadhar Card with the Voter ID card in order to prevent duplicity of EPIC cards**.
- **Current Chief Election Commissioner:** Shri Sushil Chandra

Govt announced the Target year to Achieve '20% Ethanol-Blending to Petrol' to 2023 from 2025

- **India's government** will bring **forward to 2023 from 2025** the possibility of fuel companies selling gasoline containing up to **20% of ethanol (E20)**, according to brokers and a publication in the country's official gazette.
- It is the second time India's government anticipates sales of the **E20 fuel**, which originally would **happen only in 2030**, as the country seeks to cut its oil import bill and reduce carbon dioxide pollution in cities.
- Most of the additional ethanol production in the country will come from sugar cane processing, so less cane will likely be used to make sugar.
- India has also been giving **soft loans to sugar mills to increase ethanol production capacity** by adding distillation infrastructure to existing plants.

National AI Portal celebrated its first anniversary

- The **'National AI Portal'** celebrated its first anniversary on **May 28, 2021**.

About National AI Portal:

- **Firstly**, the National AI Portal was launched in May 2020.

- It is a **joint initiative** by the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY), National e-Governance Division (NeGD) and NASSCOM.
- **Second Purpose:** The portal works as a one-stop digital platform for sharing of resources.
- Such as articles, startups, investment funds in AI, resources, companies and educational institutions related to AI in India.
- **Third Purpose:** The portal also shares documents, case studies, research reports etc.
- It also has a section about learning and **new job roles** related to AI.

Responsible AI for Youth Programme:

- **Launched by:** The programme has been launched by the National e-Governance Division, MeitY.
- It is in collaboration with Intel India with support from the Ministry of Education.

Union Minister Giriraj Singh Announced the Integration of e-Gopala app with UMANG platform

- **Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying** announced integration of **e Gopala App** with **UMANG platform** so that 3.1 Crore users of Umang platform will get access to App.
- **e-GOPALA app (Generation of wealth through Productive Livestock)**, a comprehensive breed improvement marketplace and information portal for direct use of farmers, was launched by Hon'ble PM on 10th September 2020.
- The Minister stated that India is a global leader amongst dairying nations and produced 198.4 million tonnes of milk during 2019-20.
- Value of output of milk is more than Rs 7.72 lakh crore during 2018-19 at current prices which is more than the value of output of wheat and paddy together.
- The **Minister announced** the launch of the **National Awards** for the Cattle and Dairy sector, the **Gopal Ratna Awards**.
- **The award has three categories** – i) Best Dairy farmer, ii) Best Artificial Insemination Technician (AIT) and Best Dairy Cooperative/ Milk producer Company/ FPO.
- He mentioned that eligible farmers/dairy cooperative societies/ AI technicians can apply for the award online and the portal for award will open from 15th July 2021.
- **Winners** for the award will be announced on **31st October 2021**.

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Initiated List of Initiatives to Enhance SATAT Scheme

- **Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel Shri Dharmendra Pradhan** presided over a virtual ceremony in which a number of initiatives were launched to provide major fillip to the **SATAT initiative**, and **help India leap ahead towards a greener**.
- This included signing of a **Cooperation Agreement** by Oil and Gas majors including IndianOil, HPCL, BPCL, GAIL and IGL, for the promotion and development of the **SATAT (Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation) scheme**.
- The SATAT scheme **aims** to set up Compressed Biogas production plants and make CBG available in the market for use as a green fuel.

- GAIL shall serve as the coordinator for the implementation of the **CBG-CGD synchronization scheme**.

Centre launches new system for Insurance claims under PMGKP

- The Centre has introduced a new system for processing of the Insurance claims provided under **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP) Insurance Scheme** for the **Health Workers Fighting COVID-19**.
- The Union Ministry of Health mentioned that states and other stakeholders had been raising the matter that the processing of the insurance claims was getting delayed.
- With a view to streamline and simplify the processing of the insurance claims, it has been decided to start a new system for approval of claims.
- As per the system, the due diligence will be **done by State Governments** at the level of District Collector.

Centre include Tamil language in CoWIN app

- The Centre has assured to include **Tamil language** in the **CoWIN app facility** after an appeal from **Tamilnadu Chief Minister M.K.Stalin**.
- The Tamilnadu Government stated that along with the **nine existing languages** included in the CoWIN app, the facility in Tamil language will be available in a day or two according to the **Principal Health Secretary**.

Govt extended the validity of TET from 7 years to lifetime

- The **Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** announced that the government has decided to extend the validity period of the **Teachers Eligibility Test (TET)** qualifying certificate from **7 years to lifetime with retrospective effect from 2011**.
- In 2020, the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) in its **50th meeting** of the general body had approved the extension of the TET certificate validity from **7 years to a lifetime**.
- For a career in the elementary teaching profession in India, passing a relevant TET is mandatory.

Union Minister Anurag Singh Thakur launches IEPFA's 6 modules of short films titled "Hisab Ki Kitaab"

- **Union Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs Shri Anurag Singh Thakur** launched the **six modules of short films** of Investor Education & Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) titled **"Hisaab Ki Kitaab"**.
- "Hisaab ki kitab" is a series of 6 short films, **developed by CSC eGov** as a part of their training tool.
- There are 6 short films/ modules of **5 minutes duration each**.
- The various modules **highlight** the importance of budget, saving, importance of Insurance schemes, various social security schemes of the government etc.
- Shri Thakur stated that financial inclusion is one of the **top-most policy priorities** of the Government of India
- Financial literacy and education plays a crucial role in financial inclusion, inclusive growth and sustainable prosperity.
- In financial inclusion, a number of steps have been taken by the Government.

Defence Minister noted that, motto of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan is to Make in India and Make for World

- The motto of 'Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan' is 'Make in India' and 'Make for the World', Defence Minister **mentioned**, adding that the campaign envisages the **defence** sector to play a major role in **India's** economic growth and focuses on manufacturing cost-effective quality products for **India** and for the **world**.
- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** mentioned several procedural reforms undertaken by the Government, have transformed the defence industry to meet domestic as well as global demand.
- Addressing a webinar on **India-Sweden Defence Industry cooperation**, Mr Singh stated the motto of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan is Make in India and Make for the World.
- He stated, the campaign envisages the **defence sector** to play a major role in India's economic growth and focuses on manufacturing cost-effective quality products for India and for the world.

GMB setup India's first International Maritime Cluster at GIFT City

- **Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB)** will set-up the **country's first international maritime services** cluster at GIFT City.
- The maritime cluster will be developed as a dedicated ecosystem comprising ports, shipping, logistics services providers and government regulators, all present in the same geographic vicinity — GIFT City.
- The **cluster** will further leverage the **proximity and accessibility** of these stakeholders to enable a synergetic collaboration.
- **Tapan Ray, MD and Group CEO, GIFT City** mentioned, "Establishing a maritime cluster is a much-needed step towards advancing India's credentials and economic viability in this sector".

Environment Minister launches awareness campaign on single use plastic 2021

- **Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Prakash Javadekar** launched an awareness campaign on **single use plastic 2021** on the occasion of **World Ocean Day**.
- Mr Javadekar stated that uncollected **plastic waste is a major problem**.
- In India two-third was getting collected and one-third was not getting collected.
- Under the plastic waste management rules, there is a mechanism of collection and recycling of plastic.
- After the ban of single use plastic in the country, the government had also put a ban on plastic waste import.

Govt prepared guidelines in Special e-content for the Divyang

- For the first time, an attempt was made to prepare guidelines for CwD also referred to as **Children with Special Needs (CWSN)** children so that the goal of inclusive education is fulfilled.
- The Committee submitted a report titled "**Guidelines for the Development of e-Content for Children with Disabilities**" comprising of eleven Sections and two Appendices.
- This report was shared, presented, discussed and accepted by the MoE.

The salient highlights of the e-content guidelines in the report are:

- e-Content for CwDs should be developed based on the four principles namely: **perceivable, operable, understandable and robust**.

- e-Content including text, tables, diagrams, visuals, audios, videos etc. should comply with accessibility standards: **national standards (GIGW 2.0) and international standards (WCAG 2.1, E-Pub, DAISY etc).**
- Distribution platforms on which content is uploaded (**e.g. DIKSHA**) and Reading platforms/devices on which content is accessed and interacted (**e.g. e-pathshala**) must comply with technical standards
- Reasonable pedagogical accommodations have been recommended to meet the specific needs of CwDs
- The technical standards and guidelines have been detailed out in Section 4 of the report.
- The Committee has also recommended that in a phased manner textbooks may be adapted into Accessible Digital Textbooks (ADTs).
- The content of ADTs should be provided in multiple formats (text, audio, video, sign language etc) with turn-on and turn-off features.

Govt increases kharif MSP of kharif crops by an average 3.7 per cent

- The **Central government** increased the **Minimum Support Price (MSP) of kharif crops** for the 2021-21 crop season (July-June) by an **average 3.7 per cent** as compared to the previous year with the maximum hike reserved for **pulses and oilseeds** to encourage farmers to shift from paddy.
- The **MSP of tur and urad** has been increased by **Rs 300 per quintal** in absolute terms for 2021-22 to **Rs 6300 per quintal** while the MSP of groundnut seed has **been increased by Rs 275 per quintal** in 2021-21 to **Rs 5550 per quintal**.

India's 1st center for Digital Health Launched by IIT-Bombay with KCDH

- **Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay** has **launched** its **new Centre for Digital Health** – the first-of-its-kind in India.
- The '**Koita Centre for Digital Health**' (KCDH) was **launched** with a generous contribution received from its alumni Rekha and Rizwan Koita, under the aegis of the Koita Foundation.
- KCDH will be the first of its kind in India, focussed on driving academic programmes, research and industry collaboration in Digital Health.
- **Improving the quality, accessibility and affordability of healthcare is one of the world's biggest priorities.**
- Digital Health, including healthcare informatics, has a profound impact on the quality of care and efficiency of healthcare delivery.
- Consequently, there is substantial focus globally on enhancing Digital Health and Informatics.

Foreign secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla released stamp to mark 70th Anniversary of India-Germany Ties

- **India** attended the **G7 summit as a guest country** along with Australia, South Africa and South Korea.
- All four countries are seen as **critical partners** of the G7 (the US, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, UK and Japan).
- The **focus** is one way and another pandemic – through fighting for the recovery of health and also of economic health.
- On both fronts, India is a key player.
- A **new postage stamp** has been released to mark the **70th anniversary** of the **establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Germany**.

- Both Germany and India are releasing stamps to **mark the occasion**.
- The Indian stamp was **released** by **Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla**, with Vineet Pandey, Secretary, Posts and Walter Lindner, German Ambassador to India.
- Shringla spoke about the longstanding collaboration in health, research and development, and higher education.

Union Education Minister released AISHE 2019-20 report

- **Union Education Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** announced the release of the report of **All India Survey on Higher Education 2019-20**.
- This **Report** provides key performance indicators on the current status of Higher education in the country.
- Shri Pokhriyal noted that in the last five years from 2015-16 to 2019-20, there has been a growth of **11.4%** in the student enrolment.
- The **rise in female enrolment in higher education** during the period is **18.2%**.
- He emphasized that the continuous focus given by the government under the leadership of **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** on education of girls, women empowerment and empowerment of socially backward classes are well reflected by the **increased participation of women, SCs and STs population in Higher Education** as shown by the Report.

Defence Minister inaugurated two centres of excellence of BRO

- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** inaugurated **two centers** of excellence established by the **Border Roads Organization (BRO)** at **Seema Sadak Bhawan in New Delhi**.
- Mr. Singh also flagged off the **first-ever solo women motorcycle expedition** by Kanchan Ugursandi to Umling La Pass, Ladakh and back.
- The aim of the Centre of Excellence for Road Safety & Awareness (CoERSA) is to create awareness about road safety.
- This will be done through analysis sharing of the accidents on the road as well as suggesting various methods that would help in saving lives.
- The focus of **Centre of Excellence for Roads, Bridges, Air Fields and Tunnels (CoERBAT)** is on institutionalizing the knowledge which it has gained over years during the development of **56,000 meters of bridges, 19 airfields, of around 60,000 kms of roads and four tunnels** in the eastern and north-western part of the country.

The recent connectivity projects in remote areas include:

- State-of-the-art construction of '**Atal Tunnel; Rohtang**', **Kailash Mansarovar Road and Zojila pass**.
- **On the budget allotment for BRO**, the minister stated that it has been increased and approval has been given for special clothing for the personnel working in high-altitude areas.
- **Four software** which have been developed for **optimizing the work efficiency** of BRO personnel, their HR management, recruitment management, enrolment and works management was also launched.
- These were created by BRO which would help in reducing the paperwork and cutting down carbon footprint, and **modernizing the organization**.

Central Govt launched "Project O2 for India" initiative

- Centre has launched '**Project O2 for India**' to step up production of medical oxygen to meet the potential increase in demand due to further waves of the pandemic.
- '**Project O2 for India**', an initiative of the **Office of Principal Scientific Adviser, Government of India (Gol)**, aims to help stakeholders working to augment the country's ability to meet the rise in demand for medical oxygen.
- Under the project, a '**National Consortium of Oxygen**' is enabling supply of critical raw materials such as zeolites, setting up of small oxygen plants, manufacturing compressors, final products such as oxygen plants, concentrators, and ventilators.
- Besides, the consortium is also working to strengthen the manufacturing ecosystem for long-term preparedness.

PM Modi addresses Europe's largest digital and start-up event, VivaTech

- **PM Narendra Modi** invited the **world to invest in India** while addressing the **5th edition of global tech event VivaTech** via video conferencing.
- He stated, "India offers what innovators and investors need."
- He invites the **world to invest in India based on the five pillars of: Talent, Market, Capital, Eco-system, And, culture of openness**".
- PM talked about how technology and digital have become the emerging areas of cooperation among the wide range of subjects that India and France have been working together for.
- **VivaTech** is one of the **largest digital and startup** events in Europe, held in **Paris** every year since 2016.
- **India is committed to digital partnerships** including collaborations within startup ecosystems and quantum technology with **France and other European countries**.

Union Tribal Affairs Minister launches 'Sankalp Se Siddhi-Mission Van Dhan' & several other initiatives

- **Shri Arjun Munda, Minister for Tribal Affairs** launches the tribal livelihoods initiative "**Sankalp Se Siddhi – Mission Van Dhan**". Seven new Tribes India Outlets inaugurated virtually at Jagdalpur, Ranchi, Jamshedpur and Sarnath Immunity boosting hampers, Tribes India Coffee table book, new **TRIFED** Head Office among other highlights of the mega-launch event '**Sankalp Se Siddhi – Mission Van Dhan**', was launched by Shri Arjun Munda, Minister for Tribal Affairs at the new premises of TRIFED Head Office in New Delhi.

Main Objective:

- The Minister stated "The **goal of TRIFED** is to **connect the entire tribal community** of the country with the employment-oriented program and surely we will achieve success in this program.
- For this, we have to bring our products on the **e-commerce platform**.
- Without digitization we cannot move forward in the market.
- In this era we cannot ignore technology.
- If we move forward with technology, then our market potential will increase even more.
- **TRIFED should market natural products by natural means**.
- The **biggest strength of TRIFED is the natural products**".

- The other initiatives launched include the Van Dhan Software Application.
- Designed to receive and process the Van Dhan proposals online, the software application has GIS integration, can **monitor Van Dhan Project implementation activities** and can generate related reports.
- A **Digital Connect programme** under which a two way communication process is proposed to be established was also launched.

MHA introduced National Helpline a reporting platform to Prevent Cyber Fraud

- The **Union Home Ministry** has **operationalized** the **national helpline 155260** and reporting platform for **preventing financial loss due to cyber fraud**.
- The national helpline and reporting platform provide a mechanism for persons cheated in **cyber frauds to report such cases to prevent loss of their hard-earned money**.
- Reinforcing the commitment of the Modi government to provide a safe **and secure digital payments ecosystem**, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) under the leadership of Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** has operationalized the national helpline 155260 and reporting platform for preventing financial loss due to cyber fraud.
- The helpline was soft launched on April 1, 2021.
- The helpline 155260 and its reporting platform has been made operational by the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) under the home ministry, with active support and cooperation from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), all major banks, payment banks, wallets and online merchants.

Fraud in cyber crime:

- **Cybercrime, or computer crime**, is a crime that involves a computer and a network.
- The computer may have been used in the commission of a crime, or it may be the target.
- Cybercrime may **harm someone's security and financial health**.
- **Computer fraud** is a **cybercrime** and the act of using a computer to take or alter electronic data, or to gain unlawful use of a computer or system.
- In the **United States**, computer fraud is specifically proscribed by the **Computer Fraud and Abuse Act**, which criminalizes computer-related acts under federal jurisdiction.

Ministry of Home Affairs:

- The Ministry of Home Affairs is a ministry of the Government of India.
- As an **interior ministry of India**, it is mainly responsible for the maintenance of internal security and domestic policy.
- The **Home Ministry** is **headed by** Union Minister of Home Affairs **Amit Shah**.
- Ministry executive: **Ajay Kumar Bhalla**, IAS, **Home Secretary**

Centre unveils 14 disability early intervention centres across the nation

- The **Union Social Justice and Empowerment (SJE) Ministry** launched **14 cross disability early intervention centres** throughout the nation to **offer assistance to infants and younger youngsters prone to or with disabilities**.
- **Union SJE Minister Thaawarchand Gehlot** nearly inaugurated the centres which are positioned at seven nationwide institutes and **7 composite regional centres** of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.

- **Through the centres**, which have been begun as a pilot, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal are coated.
- The DEPwD mentioned **all its 21 composite regional centres** would have early intervention centres step by step.

Early Intervention Centers:

- **Early intervention** can provide specialized support and services for infants and young children at-risk or with disability and/or developmental delay and for their **families to help them** in their overall development, well-being and participation in family and community life".

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment:

- The **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** is a Government of India ministry.
- It is **responsible for welfare**, social justice and empowerment of disadvantaged and **marginalized sections** of society, including scheduled castes (SC), Other Backward Classes (OBC), trans-people and LGBTQ people, the disabled, the elderly, and the victims of drug abuse.
- The Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment holds cabinet rank as a member of the Council of Ministers.
- The **current minister is Thawar Chand Gehlot**, who is assisted by a Minister of State, Rattan Lal Kataria, Krishan Pal Gujar and Ramdas Athavale.

PM Modi initiates crash course to train one lakh 'Covid warriors'

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched a custom crash course programme that aims to skill and upskill over one lakh **"Covid warriors"** across the country.
- Mr Modi urged the people to remain cautious, stressing that the virus is **"still amongst us"** and the possibility of it mutating is also there.
- He stated that the central government is committed to provide **Covid vaccination free to everyone, starting June 21**.
- "In the second wave of coronavirus, we saw what kind of challenges the ever-changing form of this virus can bring before us".

Customised Crash Course programme:

- The **'Customised Crash Course programme for COVID-19 Frontline workers'** aims to skill and upskill over one lakh **"Covid warriors"** across the country.
- The training will be imparted to them in **six customised job roles** namely home care support, basic care support, advanced care support, emergency care support, sample collection support, and medical equipment support.
- The course has been designed as a special programme under the central component of the **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0**, with total financial outlay of Rs.276 crore.

ECI unveiled 'General Election 2019 India – An Atlas'

- **Chief Election Commissioner, Shri Sushil Chandra** along with Election Commissioner Shri Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioner Shri Anup Chandra Pandey **released 'General Elections 2019 - An Atlas'** on June 15, 2021.

About the Atlas:

- It has **42 thematic maps and 90 tables** depicting various facets of the elections.
- The **Atlas brings out salient features** such as data of the 23 States and UTs where women voting percentage was more than the male voting percentage; information about the largest & smallest parliamentary constituency in terms of electors, candidates and performance of political parties amongst other parameters.
- The **Atlas depicts** the electors data in different categories and through various comparison charts like Elector Gender Ratio and electors in different age categories.
- The 2019 General Elections witnessed the lowest gender gap in the history of Indian elections.
- The **Atlas also compares** the average number of electors per polling station in different states during 2014 & 2019 General Elections.
- The Election Commission of India set up over **10 lakh polling stations in General Elections 2019** with the **lowest number of electors per polling station (365) in Arunachal Pradesh**.

MoS for Education, Sanjay Dhotre initiates NIOS Diploma course in Yogic Science

- **Minister of State for Education Shri Sanjay Dhotre** launched **NIOS Diploma course in Yogic Science** on the occasion of International Day of Yoga.
- The Minister released the **self-instructional material** of the course.

About the course:

- The Minister mentioned that NIOS offers **such vocational courses** to the learners.
- Shri Dhotre stated it has resulted in **creating many employment opportunities**.
- The course in **Yogic science** launched will help **those who pass out** of the course to **become a job provider rather than a job seeker**.
- The Minister also reiterated the laudable effort of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in declaring June 21st as the International Day of Yoga.

Union Minister for Minority Affairs launched “JaanHaiToJahaanHai” Campaign across India

- The Minority Affairs Minister Shri **Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi** launched a nationwide **“JaanHaiToJahaanHai”** awareness campaign **to create awareness on Corona vaccination** in rural and remote areas of the country and also to **“Crush and Curb”** the rumours and apprehensions, being spread by some vested interests regarding the on-going vaccination drive.
- Launching the campaign from the Primary Health Centre, Chamraua in Rampur, Uttar Pradesh, Shri Naqvi said that **“Hesitation to Vaccination is Corona Invitation”**.

About the Campaign:

- Under the **campaign** various religious leaders, prominent people from social, educational, cultural, medical, science and other fields are giving effective messages to the people to get vaccinated and street plays will also be organized across the country.
- Shri Naqvi stated that some vested interests are **trying to spread rumours** and apprehensions regarding Corona vaccines in some areas of the country.

- Such elements are **enemies of the health and well-being of the people**.
- The Minister mentioned that the Ministry of Minority Affairs along with various socio-educational organizations, **NGOs and Women Self Help Groups** has launched the awareness campaign which will be organized across the country in the coming days.

Union Govt introduces 'green tariff' policy

- The **union government** is working on a '**green tariff** policy that will help electricity distribution companies (discoms) supply electricity generated from **clean energy projects** at a cheaper rate as compared to power from conventional fuel sources such as coal.
- This was announced by **power and new and renewable energy minister Raj Kumar Singh** who said the government was in the process of formulating a set of rules and guidelines to enable such a mechanism.
- Once the mechanism is in place, **discoms** can exclusively buy green electricity and supply it at 'green tariff', which will be the weighted average tariff of green energy that the consumer will pay.
- This comes in the backdrop of India's solar and wind power tariffs hitting an **all-time low of Rs.1.99 per unit and Rs.2.43 per unit respectively**.
- India is running the **world's largest clean energy programme** to achieve **175 gigawatt(GW)** of renewable capacity, including **100GW of solar power by 2022**.

Union Cabinet approved merger of Central Railside Warehouse Company Ltd with Central Warehousing Corporation

- Taking another step towards **implementing** the direction of "**Minimum Government Maximum Governance**" given by Prime Minister, **promoting ease of doing business** and bringing private sector efficiencies in Public Sector Undertakings, the **Union Cabinet chaired by** the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved to merge and transfer all assets, liabilities, rights and obligations of '**Central Rail side Warehouse Company Limited**' (CRWC), a Mini-Ratna Category-II Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) incorporated under the **Companies Act, 1956 in 2007** with its holding enterprise '**Central Warehousing Corporation**' (CWC).
- The **merger** will unify similar functions of both the companies (i.e., warehousing, handling, transportation) through a single administration to promote efficiency, optimum capacity utilization, transparency, accountability, ensure financial savings and leverage railway siding for new warehousing capacities.

Central Govt employees can claim HBA benefit

- With an aim to help **central government employees who want to construct their own house**, the center is offering **House Building Advance (HBA)** benefits to all central government servants (CGS).
- The **basic interest rate charged** on this HBA is **7.9 percent** and the benefit will remain available **till 31st March 2022**.
- Keeping **7th pay commission** pay matrix and 7th CPC approval provisions in focus, the center has already updated the HBA guidelines for the central government servants.

About House Building Advance:

- The **Central Government employees**, who wish to construct their own home, **can avail the House Building Advance (HBA)**.

- The HBA amount for expansion of the house is **capped at Rs.10 lakh or 34 months of basic pay** or cost of the expansion of the house or amount according to repaying capacity, whichever is the least.
- The total amount that a **central government employee** can avail of under House Building Advance is up to his or her **34 month basic monthly salary or Rs 25 lakh or cost of the house** or the amount as per the repaying ability of the employee, whichever is lower for new construction or purchase of new house or flat.

Interest calculated in HBA:

- The interest amount is **calculated based on the outstanding balance on the last day of the month**.
- The **interest rate on HBA is between 6% and 9.5%**, and is based on the loan amount.
- A higher interest rate is stipulated in the sanctions, at 2.5% above the prescribed rates.

MoTA and NCERT jointly initiates NISHTHA Capacity Building Programme

- **MoTA and NCERT** join hands for **NISHTHA Capacity Building Programme**.
- **The Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA)** and the **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)**, recently collaborated on a joint mission for the **NISHTHA** capacity-building programme for Eklavya school teachers and principals.
- Under the programme, teachers and principals from **120 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs)** from 3 States (Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh) participated in the first batch of the programme.

About NISHTHA Programme:

- **NISHTHA** stands for **National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement**.
- **NISHTHA** is a capacity-building programme for improving the quality of school education through integrated teacher training.
- It **aims to build competencies** among all the teachers and school principals at the elementary stage.
- It was **launched by the Department of School Education and Literacy** as a national mission under the Samagra Shiksha Scheme in 2019-20.
- It is also the world's largest teachers' training programme of its kind.

Law Minister Launches 'itat e-dwar' E-Filing Portal of ITAT

- **Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad**, Union Minister for Law & Justice, Communications and Electronics & IT, formally launched the **e-filing portal** of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT), '**itat e-dwar**'.
- Launching the Portal, the Minister explained the power of Digital India.
- He mentioned **Digital India** means empowering an ordinary Indian with the power of technology – To bridge the **digital divide between the digital haves and the digital have nots** leading to **digital inclusion** achieved by technology, which is low cost, home grown and developmental.
- Digital India means a framework for transforming India with the power of technology.
- He **highlighted** that nearly **129 crore of the Indian population** are **enrolled** for **Aadhar** which is the **digital identity** to supplement one's physical identity.

- Nearly **40 crore bank accounts** have been opened for the poor and **linked to Aadhar**.
- Using the power of Digital India about **Rs.16.7 lakh crore** has been transferred to the account of the poor as Direct Benefit Transfer, saving **Rs.1.78 lakh crores** which was, otherwise, being siphoned off by middlemen.
- Digital India has positioned our country as a world leader in digital payments.

About 'itat e-dwar':

- The newly developed **e-Filing Portal** would **enable** the parties to file their Appeals, Miscellaneous Applications, documents, paper books, etc., electronically.
- Portal will **enable online filing** of Appeals, Applications, documents etc. by various parties
- It will enhance the accessibility, accountability and transparency in the **day to day working of the ITAT**.
- It would **not only result in economization** of the use of paper, savings in costs but also rationalization of the fixation of cases leading to quicker disposal of cases.

PM virtually interacts with Toycathon 2021 participants

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will interact with participants of **Toycathon 2021** via video conference.
- Around **1.2 lakh participants** from **across India** registered and submitted more than 17,000 ideas for the **Toycathon 2021**, out of which 1,567 ideas have been shortlisted for the **three-day online Toycathon Grand Finale**, being held from **June 22 to June 24**.
- For this purpose, the Ministry of Education Innovation Cell has engaged 645 mentors and evaluators for 1567 participating teams.
- **85 Nodal centres** have been selected to support the Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell and the All India Council for Technical Education, which are the organizing agencies for this **Inter-ministerial Toycathon**.

About Toycathon:

- **India**, despite being a home of many globally **popular games** like Chess, Ludo, Snakes and Ladders, is not among leading developers and manufacturers of toys.
- Under the '**AatmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**' initiated by our Hon'ble Prime Minister, **Shri. Narendra Modi**, **Toycathon-2021** is conceived to challenge India's innovative minds to conceptualize novel Toy and Games based on Bharatiya civilization, history, culture, mythology and ethos.
- **Toycathon 2021** is a **unique opportunity** for Students, Teachers, Start-ups and Toy experts/professionals in India to submit their innovative toys/games concepts and win a large number of **prizes worth Rs. 50 lakhs**.
- **Winning Teams** efforts will be made to commercialize the exceptional toy concepts with support from Industry and investors.

Union Minister Prakash Javadekar launches LiDAR Survey of Forest Areas for 10 States

- **Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Prakash Javadekar** in a virtual event released the **Detailed Project Reports (DPRs)** of LiDAR based survey of forest areas in **ten states namely** Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland, and Tripura.

- Shri Javadekar informed that **the project** which was **awarded to WAPCOS**, a PSU under the aegis of **Ministry of Jal Shakti**, Government of India is a first of its kind and a **unique experiment using LiDAR technology** which will help augment water and fodder in jungles areas thereby reducing human-animal conflict, help in **groundwater recharge**, help **local communities** and also asked state forest departments to use **CAMPA funds** towards implementation of these projects in right earnest and in accordance with the '**Ridge to Valley**' approach of watershed management.

About LiDAR survey:

- **Lidar — Light Detection and Ranging** — is a remote sensing method used to **examine the surface of the Earth**.
- Topographic lidar typically **uses a near-infrared laser** to map the land, while bathymetric lidar uses water-penetrating green light to also measure seafloor and riverbed elevations.
- The surface reflects the light back to the **LiDAR equipment**, and the sensor records the reflected light to measure the distance traveled.

About WAPCO:

- **WAPCOS** has prepared these **DPR's using LiDAR technology** in which the **3-D**(three dimensional) **DEM (Digital Elevation Model)**, imagery and layers of the project areas are used for recommending different types of Soil & Water conservation structures **such as** Anicut, Gabion, Gully Plug, Mini percolation tank, Percolation Tank, Field bund, Sunken pond, Farm pond etc.
- These structures will help in **catching the rain water** and **prevent stream run off**, which will help in recharging of Groundwater.
- **WAPCOS** with the participation of **State Forest Departments** identified one major ridge inside a forest block in these states with an average area of **10,000** has been selected in each State for preparation of Detailed Project Reports.

Union Govt announced the Scheme FAME II extended till 2024

- The **scheme** has increased the demand incentive by 50 percent to **Rs 15,000 per kWh** compared to **Rs 10,000 per kWh** earlier.
- The **maximum cap** is also increased at 40 percent of the e-two-wheeler cost compared to **20 percent** earlier.
- The **FAME II scheme**, introduced to drive greater adoption of EVs in India, was launched with a massive budget outlay of Rs 10,000 crore in April 2019, to support **7,000 e-buses, 500,000 e-three-wheelers, 55,000 e-passenger vehicles and a million e-two-wheelers**.
- However, it seems to have missed its desired outcome by a huge count.
- The Union government has announced the extension of the **second phase of FAME India scheme** by two years till **March 31, 2024**.

About FAME India scheme:

- The **FAME India (Faster Adoption and Manufacture of (Hybrid and) Electric Vehicles) Scheme** is an **incentive scheme** for the promotion of electric and hybrid vehicles in the country.
- **Ultimate objective of the scheme** is to promote electric mobility and it gives financial incentives for enhancing electric vehicle production and creation of electric transportation infrastructure.

- The incentives are provided in the form of **subsidies** to manufacturers of electric vehicles and infrastructure providers of electric vehicles.
- Launched by the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises in 2015, the **first phase of the scheme** started in 2015 and was completed on **March 31st, 2019**.
- Phase I of the FAME-India Scheme was implemented with an outlay of INR 895 Cr. Approximately 2,18,625 Electric Vehicles were promoted by **FAME I till July 2018**.
- The **allocations for the scheme** during the periods 2019-20 and 2020-21 were approximately INR 1500 Cr and INR 5000 Cr, respectively.
- For the year 2021-22, the amount is **estimated** to be INR 3500 Cr.

Rajnath Singh inaugurates 63 bridges built by BRO in 8 states

- With an aim to **strengthen the road connectivity in the border areas**, Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** inaugurated **63 bridges in six states** and two Union Territories built by **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)**.
- Among the **63 bridges**, **11 are** in Ladakh, four in Jammu & Kashmir, three in Himachal Pradesh, **six in** Uttarakhand, eight in Sikkim, one each in Nagaland and Manipur, and **29 in** Arunachal Pradesh.
- The **combined cost** of the projects is **Rs 240 crores**.
- With the inauguration of 63 bridges in one go, BRO has surpassed its own record of 44 bridges launched in **2020**.
- These **63 bridges**, combined with **12 roads** dedicated to the nation by Shri Rajnath Singh on June 17, 2021, form a bouquet of **75 infrastructure projects** completed by BRO when the nation is celebrating the 75th anniversary of its Independence.

All High Court websites initiated to introduce captchas for physically disabled access

- **All websites of the high courts** now have captchas that are **accessible to people with disabilities**, the law ministry.
- The task of making the **digital infrastructure of the Indian judicial system** more accessible to people with disabilities has been a core component of the work of the **e-Committee of the Supreme Court** in the last few months.
- "A significant milestone that the **e-Committee's efforts towards this objective** have yielded has been to ensure that all high court websites now have captchas which are accessible to **Persons with Disabilities (PwDs)**".
- **The e-Committee of the Supreme Court is headed by Justice D Y Chandrachud**

About Captcha:

- **Captcha** is a **programme** that **protects websites against bots** by generating and grading tests that humans can pass but current computer programmes cannot.
- These **captchas serve as entry points to access several essential facets of a court website**, such as judgments and orders, cause-lists and checking the status of cases.

IFSCA constituted Panel to Examine Best Practices in Ship Financing, Leasing Chaired by Vandana Aggarwal

- The **International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA)** has **constituted a committee** to **examine** global best practices in financing and leasing of ships, identify opportunities and devise a roadmap to enable **such activities from GIFT IFSC**.

- **Gujarat International Finance Tec (GIFT) City** is a business district near **Ahmedabad in Gujarat**.
- It is the country's **first operational greenfield smart city** and international financial services centre.
- This **committee**, to be **chaired by Vandana Aggarwal**, former Senior Economic Advisor, and Government of India will include representatives from the Government of India, Gujarat Maritime Board and industry experts possessing domain knowledge.

Union Govt extends Atmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana deadline till March 2022

- The government extended the **Atmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana**, which was launched in October last year to encourage employment generation, **by nine months till March 31, 2022**.
- Around 21.42 lakh people have **benefited** from the **scheme till June 18, 2021**, with a total outgo of **Rs. 902 crore**.
- Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** stated while announcing a slew of measures to revive the economy, "This scheme now, which was **valid till June 30, 2021**, is being **extended till March 31, 2022**".

About the Scheme:

- Launched on October 1, last year, the approved outlay under the **Atmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana (ABRY)**, which is **aimed** at incentivizing employers for creation of new employment, restoration of loss of employment through EPFO, is **Rs. 22,810 crore** for 58.50 lakh estimated beneficiaries.
- The **beneficiaries** are spread around 79,577 establishments.
- The scheme is being implemented **through the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** and reduces the financial burden of the employers of various sectors/ industries and encourages them to hire more workers.

Income Tax Department initiates its new e-filing portal

- **New e-filing website** (www.incometax.gov.in) **launch**:The **IncomeTax** Department **launched** its **new e-filing portal** www.incometax.gov.in.
- The Income Tax Department will launch a new **e-filing portal** to further ease the **filing** of income tax returns (ITRs).
- The **e-portal**, which, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) mentioned, it will provide a **"modern, seamless"** experience to taxpayers, will be available at www.incometax.gov.in.

Govt continues Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana till diwali

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** announced the extension of the **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)** till Diwali this year to ensure free ration is provided to those in need.
- As part of the central scheme, **80 crore Indians** will receive a fixed quantity of food grains per month till November.
- PM Modi stated, "In this time of pandemic, the government is standing by the poor in their every need, as their partner".

About Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana:

- Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana is a **food security welfare scheme** announced by the Government of India in March 2020, **during the COVID-19 pandemic** in India.
- The program is operated by the Department of Food and Public Distribution under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar releases Model Panchayat Citizens Charter

- A **Model Panchayat Citizens Charter**/ framework for **delivery of the services** across the 29 sectors, aligning actions with localized **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** as prepared by **Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR)** in collaboration with National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) was released by **Union Minister of Rural Development, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare & Panchayati Raj Shri Narendra Singh Tomar** through virtual program for the Panchayats to adopt & customize.
- The **Citizen Charter** would ensure transparent and **effective delivery of public services** for sustainable development and enhanced citizen service experiences; deepening inclusive and accountable Local Self Governments by incorporating diverse views while designing and delivering services.
- Gram Panchayat Citizen Charter is **to empower the citizens** in relation to public services and to **improve the quality of services** without any prejudice, and in accordance with the expectations of the citizens.

Govt moderates pension norms for families of deceased staff

- Central government has raised **upper ceiling for family pension** from **Rs 45,000 to Rs 1, 25,000 per month** to provide '**ease of living**' for the family members of the deceased employees and would provide adequate financial security to them.
- In case of death of both parents of a child, he/she is eligible to draw two family pensions.
- Now this amount has been hike and clarifications in this regard have been issued too.

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	Amit Shah	Gandhinagar
Ministry of Road Transport and Highways & Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium enterprises	Nitin Gadkari	Nagpur
Ministry of Chemical and Fertilizers	DV Sadananda Gowda	Bangalore North
Ministry of Finance & Ministry of Corporate Affairs	Nirmala Sitharaman	Rajya Sabha
Ministry of Consumer affairs, food and public distribution	Piyush Goyal (Additional charge)	Rajya Sabha
Ministry of agriculture and farmers welfare, Ministry of Rural Development	Narendra Singh Tomar	Morena

& Ministry of Panchayati Raj		
Ministry of Law and Justice, Ministry of communications & Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology	Ravi Shankar Prasad	Patna Sahib
Ministry of Food Processing Industries	Narendra Singh Tomar (Additional charge)	Morena
Ministry of Social justice and empowerment	Thaawar Chand Gehlot	RS
Ministry of External Affairs	Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar	RS (Gujarat)
Ministry of Education	Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'	Haridwar
Ministry of Tribal Affairs	Arjun Munda	Khunti
Ministry of Women and child Development & Ministry of Textiles	Smriti Zubin Irani	Amethi
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Science and Technology & Ministry of Earth Sciences	Dr Harsh Vardhan	Chandni Chowk
Ministry of environment, forest and climate change & Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprise	Prakash Javadekar	Rajya Sabha
Ministry of Railways & Ministry of Commerce and Industry	Piyush Goyal	Rajya Sabha
Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Ministry of Steel	Dharmendra Pradhan	Rajya Sabha
Ministry of Minority Affairs	Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi	Rajya Sabha
Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Ministry of coal & Ministry of Mines	Prahlad Joshi	Dharwad
Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship	Dr Mahendra Nath Pandey	Chandauli
Ministry of Animal Husbandry, dairying and fisheries	Giriraj Singh	Begusarai

Ministry of Jal Shakti	Gajendra Singh Shekhawat	Jodhpur
------------------------	--------------------------	---------

Important International News

WHO gave approval to China's SINOVAC Covid vaccine for Emergency Use Listing

- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has approved **China's Sinovac Covid vaccine** for emergency use.
- It is the second Chinese vaccine to receive the **green light** from the WHO, after Sinopharm.
- WHO stated that the **emergency approval means** the vaccine "**meets international standards for safety, efficacy and manufacturing**".
- Vaccine efficacy results showed that the vaccine prevented symptomatic disease in **51% of those vaccinated and prevented severe COVID-19 and hospitalization in 100% of the studied population**.
- Few older adults (over 60 years) were enrolled in clinical trials, so efficacy could not be estimated in this age group.

China's 'artificial sun' sets new world record

- The core of the Sun burns at 15 million degrees Celsius by nuclear fusion of hydrogen nuclei into helium, but now scientists have designed an '**Artificial Sun**' on Earth that has sustained a temperature of **120 million degrees Celsius**.
- The **Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST)** fusion reactor designed by China burns at eight times the Sun's core temperature.
- The reactor broke the record by reaching a plasma **temperature of 120 million degree Celsius for 101 seconds and 160 million Celsius for 20 seconds**.

Heidelberg Cement announced world's first CO2 neutral cement plant in Sweden

- **Heidelberg Cement** announced its intention to upgrade its plant on the **Swedish island of Gotland** to become the **world's first carbon-neutral cement plant**.
- The installation at the State plant of **Heidelberg Cement's subsidiary Cementsa** will be scaled to capture up to **1.8 million tonnes of CO2 annually**, which corresponds to the plant's total emissions.
- Additionally, the use of bio based fuels in the cement production at Slite will be increased in line with the Group's commitment to significantly raise the share of biomass in the fuel mix.
- The full-scale capturing of the plant's **CO2 emissions is targeted by 2030**.

About Heidelberg Cement:

- **Heidelberg Cement** is **one of the world's largest integrated manufacturers of building materials and solutions**, with leading market positions in aggregates, cement, and ready-mixed concrete.
- Around **53,000 employees at more than 3,000 locations in over 50 countries** deliver long-term financial performance through operational excellence and openness for change.
- At the center of actions lies the responsibility for the environment.
- As a forerunner on the path to carbon neutrality, Heidelberg Cement crafts material solutions for the future.

El Salvador became 1st country to adopt bitcoin as legal tender

- **El Salvador** will adopt **Bitcoin** as a **legal tender** in the country, becoming the first in the world to formally embrace the **volatile cryptocurrency**.
- The Latin American country's congress voted overwhelmingly in favor of the law, pushing forward Salvadoran **President Nayib Bukele's** proposal.
- The **39-year-old politician's party** holds a supermajority in El Salvador's congress.

India to be elected in UN Economic and Social Council for term 2022-24

- India was elected to the **Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**, one of the six main organs of the **United Nations**, for the 2022-24 term.
- **Indian Ambassador to the United Nations TS Tirumurti** thanked all UN member states for their 'vote of confidence in India' shortly after the country made it to the council.
- India was elected in the Asia-Pacific States category alongside Afghanistan, Kazakhstan and Oman in the elections.

Solar-Powered Bitcoin Mining facility introduced in U.S

- **Blockchain technology company Blockstream Mining** stated that Square Inc will invest **\$5 million** to build an open-source, solar-powered bitcoin mining facility at **one of Blockstream's U.S. sites**.
- **Blockstream**, in an announcement on its blog, mentioned the "facility will be a proof-of-concept for a **100% renewable energy Bitcoin mine** at scale."

To identify missing persons the Interpol launches 'I-Familia' database

- The **Interpol** has **launched** a new global **database** named "**I-Familia**" to **identify missing persons** through family DNA and help the police solve cold cases in member countries.
- **More than 12,000 active Yellow Notices**, which are international police alerts for **missing persons**, had been issued by the **Interpol** by late 2020.

About I-Familia:

- **I-Familia** is a global database launched to identify missing persons through family **DNA**.
- It will help the police to solve cases in member countries.
- Interpol applies cutting-edge scientific research and uses the DNA of relatives to identify missing persons or unidentified human remains around the world.
- **DNA kinship matching** is used mostly in cases where a direct sample of the missing person is not available.

US Senate named first Muslim-American as federal judge

- The **US Senate** has approved the historic nomination of **Pakistani-American Zahid Quraishi** to the District Court in New Jersey, making him the **first Muslim federal judge in the country's history**.
- The Senate voted 81-16 to confirm Quraishi, 46.
- As many as **34 Republicans** joined the Democrats in confirming the **first-ever Muslim-American** as a federal judge.

Indian Mango Promotion Programme inaugurated in Bahrain

- A week-long Indian mango promotion programme began in **Bahrain** where **16 varieties of the fruit**, including the three **Geographical Indication(GI)** certified '**Khirsapati**' and '**Lakshman Bhog**' from West Bengal and Zardalu from Bihar are being displayed.
- "The varieties of mangoes are currently being sold through **13 stores of the group in Bahrain**.
- The mangoes were sourced from farmers in Bengal and Bihar by **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export and Development Authority (APEDA)**-registered exporter".

G7 leaders initiates Build Back Better World (B3W) to counter China's Belt and Road Initiative

- The **Group of Seven richest democracies** has sought to counter China's growing influence by offering developing nations an infrastructure plan that could rival **President Xi Jinping's** multi-trillion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative.
- The G7, whose leaders are meeting in south-west England, has been searching for a **coherent response** to the growing assertiveness of Mr Xi after China's surging economic and military rise over the past 40 years.
- The **G7 and its allies will use the B3W initiative** to mobilize private-sector capital in areas such as climate, health and health security, digital technology, and gender equity and equality, the White House added.
- **China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**, which Mr Xi launched in 2013, involves development and investment initiatives that would stretch from Asia to Europe and beyond.
- **More than 100 countries** have signed agreements with China to cooperate in **BRI projects** like railways, ports, highways and other infrastructure.

UAE, Brazil, Albania, Gabon, Ghana elected as non permanent members of UN Security Council

- **Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana and the United Arab Emirates** were elected unopposed to the powerful **UN Security Council** as non-permanent members for the 2022-23 term.
- The **193-member** UN General Assembly held elections to elect five non-permanent members who will take their seats on the **15-nation Council** for a two-year term beginning January 1, 2022.
- **All the five countries** won the elections unopposed as they were the only candidates from their respective regional groups vying for the allotted seats on the Council.

UK and Australia agreed on historic free trade agreement

- A new free trade agreement with the **UK** will deliver more **Australian jobs and business opportunities** for exporters, bringing both countries closer together in a changing strategic environment.
- **Prime Ministers Scott Morrison and Boris Johnson** have agreed on the broad outlines of an **Australia-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA)**.
- The FTA is the right deal for Australia and the United Kingdom, with greater access to a range of high-quality products made in both countries as well as greater access for businesses and workers, all of which will drive economic growth and job creation in both countries.
- Australian producers and farmers will **receive a significant boost** by getting greater access to the UK market.

ADB sanctioned USD 250 million loan to Bangladesh

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** approved a **\$250 million** policy-based loan to the **Government of Bangladesh** to **help finance reforms** aimed at improving the inclusiveness and responsiveness of the country's social development and resilience program.
- **Bangladesh** has made remarkable progress in reducing poverty over the past 2 decades.
- The **poverty** incidence declined from **48.9% in 2000 to 20.5% in 2019**.
- However, while many people were lifted from extreme poverty, a considerable number continue to live at a subsistence level.
- The corona virus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has **significantly affected the socio economic situation of Bangladesh** with the decline of the country's gross domestic product to an estimated 5.2 % in fiscal year (FY) 2020 from 8.2% in FY 2019.

Japan to launch vaccine passport for travel abroad

- Japan stated it will make a **vaccine passport** available from next month **for Japanese travellers**, as governments around the world experiment with ways to **relaunch tourism and business trips**.
- The **certificate** will be **paper-based rather than digital** and will be issued by local governments from sometime next month.
- The **European Union** is working on a **digital vaccine passport** for this summer so it can welcome back badly needed tourists, and some EU countries plan to introduce certificates at the national level.
- The **EU version** will feature information on whether a person has been vaccinated, or had the virus, tested negative, and recovered.

Vaccine Passport:

- An **immunity passport or vaccine passport**, also known as an **immunity certificate**, recovery certificate or release certificate is a document, in **both paper and digital format**, attesting that its bearer is immune to a contagious disease.

World's Third-Largest Diamond discovered in Botswana

- The **diamond firm Debswana** has announced the **discovery in Botswana** of a **1,098-carat stone** that it described as the third largest of its kind in the world.
- The company's acting managing director, Lynette Armstrong, presented the stone, which was found on 1 June, to the **country's president, Mokgweetsi Masisi**.
- It is the **third largest in the world**, behind the 3,106-carat Cullinan found in South Africa in 1905 and the 1,109-carat Lesedi La Rona discovered in Botswana in 2015.

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan won Armenian General Election

- **Nikol Pashinyan, the acting prime minister of Armenia**, has claimed victory in a snap **parliamentary election** he had called in an effort to defuse a political crisis following a disastrous war with Azerbaijan.
- With **75 percent of results declared**, Pashinyan's Civil Contract party had 55.61 percent of the vote.

- The electoral alliance of his top rival, former President Robert Kocharyan, had 20 percent of the vote, according to the Central Election Commission (CEC).
- Voter turnout was about 50 percent, with some 2.6 million people eligible to vote.

India-Bhutan introduced joint initiative: Tax Inspectors without Borders

- **Tax Inspectors without Borders (TIWB)**, a joint initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), launched its programme in Bhutan.
- India was chosen as the Partner Jurisdiction and has provided the **Tax Expert** for this programme.
- This programme is expected to be of **about 24 months' duration** through which India in collaboration with the **UNDP and the TIWB Secretariat aims to** aid Bhutan in strengthening its tax administration by transferring technical know-how and skills to its tax auditors, and through sharing of best audit practices.
- The focus of the programme will be in the area of **International Taxation and Transfer Pricing**.

UNODC Report: 275mn People used Drugs Worldwide in 2020

- The **World Drug Report** released on June 24 by the **U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna** Around **275 million people** used drugs worldwide **last year**, while **over 36 million people** suffered from drug use disorders.
- The **report also stated** many countries saw a **rise in the use of cannabis** during the **coronavirus pandemic**.
- In surveys of health professionals across 77 countries, 42% mentioned **cannabis use had increased**.
- A rise in the non-medical use of pharmaceutical drugs was also observed in the same period.
- The report further noted that in the last 24 years, cannabis potency had increased as much as four times in some parts, even as the percentage of adolescents who perceived the drug as harmful fell by as much as 40%.

Ashgabat world's most expensive city for foreign workers

- **Turkmenistan's capital city Ashgabat** has become the **world's most expensive city** for foreign workers, according to this year's Mercer Cost of Living Survey.
- The **annual report has ranked 209 cities** across five continents **by measuring** the comparative cost of more than 200 items, including housing, transportation, food, clothing, household goods, and entertainment.
- The survey used **New York City, ranked 14 on the list**, as the base city and currency movements were measured against the US dollar.
- **List of top 10 expensive cities** mostly features global financial hubs like Hong Kong, which was the priciest last year, Tokyo, Shanghai, Zurich and Singapore.
- **Mumbai** remains **India's most expensive city at 78th rank** but has **dropped 18 places** in this year's ranking "due to a relatively weak Indian rupee in comparison with other cities in the ranking."
- **Other Indian cities** on the list are New Delhi (117), Chennai (158), Bengaluru (170), and Kolkata (181).

China replaced UAE became the 2nd Largest Export Destination of India in FY21

- **China overtook the UAE** to emerge as India's second-largest export destination in FY21, behind only the US, for the **first time in recent memory**, despite the onslaught of the Covid-19 pandemic and a deadly border clash with outbound shipments to the neighbouring country rising **27.53% to \$21.18 billion in the pandemic year**.

- The **US remained the country's top export partner**, according to government data, but shipments declined 2.78% to \$51.63 billion in a year when India's merchandise trade —**both exports and imports** — fell amid global lockdowns and disruption to logistics due to the pandemic.

India and UK launch new work stream

- **India along with the Govt. of United Kingdom** launched a new **work stream** to promote industrial energy efficiency under the **Clean Energy Ministerial's (CEM)** – Industrial Deep Decarbonization Initiative (IDDI) coordinated by UNIDO, at the 12th Chief Energy Ministerial (CEM).
- The **12th CEM** is ongoing from May 31st and will continue till 6th June 2021.
- The **IDDI initiative** has been supported by **Germany and Canada**, with more countries expected to join soon.
- The **objective** is to infuse green technologies and stimulate demand for low-carbon industrial material.
- Mr. Alok Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Power **highlighted** that India is committed to cut emissions intensity per unit of **GDP by 33 to 35% by 2030**.

Revision Points

Country	Capital	Currency	Head
Bangladesh	Dhaka	Taka	Sheikh Hasina
Japan	Tokyo	Yen	Yoshihide Suga
China	Beijing	Renminbi	Xi Jinping
UK	London	Pound Sterling	Boris Johnson
Botswana	Gaborone	Pula	Mokgweetsi Masisi
Nepal	Kathmandu	Rupee	K.P.Sharma Oli
Bhutan	Thimphu	Ngultrum	Lotay Tshering
Sri Lanka	Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte	Rupee	Mahinda Rajapaksa
Mali	Bamako	CFA Franc	Choguel Kokalla Maiga
Iran	Tehran	Rial	Hassan Rouhani
Mongolia	Ulaanbaatar	Togrog	Ukhnaa Khurelsukh
Azerbaijan	Baku	Manat	Ilham Aliyev
Russia	Moscow	Ruble	Vladimir Putin
France	Paris	Euro	Emmanuel Macron
Netherlands	Amsterdam	Euro	Mark Rutte
Israel	Jerusalem	Shekel	Reuven Rivlin
Kazakhstan	Nur-Sultan	Tenge	Kassym-Jomart Tokayev

Australia	Canberra	Dollar	Scott Morrison
Italy	Rome	Euro	Sergio Mattarella
USA	Washington, D.C.	Dollar	Joe Biden
Pakistan	Islamabad	Rupee	Arif Alvi
Germany	Berlin	Euro	Frank-Walter Steinmeier
New Zealand	Wellington	Dollar	Jacinda Ardern
Brazil	Brasilia	Real	Jair Bolsonaro
Portugal	Libson	Euro	Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa
Ireland	Dublin	Euro	Micheál Martin
Sweden	Stockholm	Krona	Stefan Löfven
Spain	Madrid	Euro	Pedro Sánchez
Austria	Vienna	Euro	Alexander Van der Bellen
Finland	Helsinki	Euro	Sauli Niinistö
Switzerland	Bern	Franc	Guy Parmelin
South Africa	Cape Town	Rand	Cyril Ramaphosa
North Korea	Pyongyang	Won	Kim Tok-hun
Czech Republic	Prague	Koruna	Miloš Zeman
Serbia	Belgrade	Dinar	Aleksandar Vucic
Mauritius	Port Louis	Rupee	Pravind Jugnauth
Argentina	Buenos Aires	Peso	Alberto Fernández
Canada	Ottawa	Dollar	Justin Trudeau
Philippines	Manila	Peso	Rodrigo Duterte
Denmark	Copenhagen	Krone	Mette Frederiksen
Belgium	Brussels	Euro	Roberto Martínez
Singapore	Singapore City	Dollar	Halimah Yacob
Greece	Athens	Euro	Katerina Sakellaropoulou
UAE	Abu Dhabi	Dirham	Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan
Maldives	Male	Rufiyaa	Ibrahim Mohamed Solih
Uzbekistan	Tashkent	So'm	Shavkat Mirziyoyev
Argentina	Buenos Aires	Peso	Alberto Fernández
Fiji	Suva	Dollar	Jioji Konrote
Tajikistan	Dushanbe	Somoni	Emomali Rahmon
Kyrgyz Republic	Bishkek	Som	Sadyr Japarov
El Salvador			Nayib Bukele

Central African Republic	Bangui	CFA Franc	Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa
Gabon	Libreville	CFA Franc	Ali Bongo Ondimba
Albania	Tirana	Lek	Ilir Meta
Ghana	Accra	Sedi	Nana Akufo-Addo
Turkmenistan	Ashgabat	Manat	Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow
Kuwait	Kuwait City	Dinar	Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

Important Appointments

National Appointments

Name of the Person	Designation	Predecessor/Others
Harsh Kumar Bhanwala	Senior Advisor, Omnivore	He is the Former Chairman of NABARD
Adar Poonawalla	Chairman, Magma Fincorp Ltd	
Vijay Deshwal	Chief Executive Officer, Magma Fincorp Ltd	
Abhay Bhutada	Managing Director, Magma Fincorp Ltd	
J.B. Mohapatra	Interim chief, Central Board of Direct Taxes (three month)	P.C. Mody
S K Majumdar	Chief Financial Officer, Canara Bank	V Ramachandra
Alapan Bandyopadhyay	Chief Advisor to West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee	
Rear Admiral IB Uthaiiah	Admiral Superintendent, Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam	RearAdmiral Sreekumar Nair
Vice Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi	Chief of Personnel, India Navy	
T V Narendran (CEO and MD, Tata Steel)	President, Confederation of Indian Industry	Uday Kotak
Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari	Vice Chief of Air Staff	
Ballabha Radha Krishna	Western Command in Delhi	Vivek Ram Chaudhari

Shabnam Syed	Executive vice president of post-paid marketing, Vodafone-Idea	
Arun Kumar Mishra	Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission	Panel included Narendra Modi, Amit Shah, and Harivansh, Om Birla, and, Mallikarjun Kharge
A K Vinod	Nominated Chief Compliance Officer, Union Bank of India	K L Raju (Vinod Nominated for a minimum period of t3 years)
Paresh B Lal	Grievance officer for India, WhatsApp	
V Bhoopal Reddy	Pro-tem Chairman for the Telangana Legislative Council	Appointed by Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan
G R Arun Kumar	Group CFO for Ola and CFO for Ola Electric	
Swayam Saurabh	CFO for Ola's mobility	
Amit Malhotra	Managing Director for HBO Max in Southeast Asia and India	
Ranjitsinh Disale (Primary teacher from Maharashtra's Solapur)	World Bank Education Advisor	For the period June 2021 to June 2024.
R S Sodhi	Board Director, International Dairy Federation	He is th managing director of Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd
Pradeep Chandran Nair	21st Director General of the Assam Rifles	
B Sankar	General Manager, Chennai circle of SBI	
Vishwavir Ahuja	Managing director and CEO, RBL Bank	Reappointed for a period of one year
Ramprasad Sridharan	CEO and Managing Director,	Sundeep Chugh

	Benetton India	
Judge Vidya Prakash	Registrar General of the National Green Tribunal	
R Kishore Kumar	President, Sterlite Copper	
Richa Arora	Managing Partner and CEO, ECube	
M R Kumar	Chairman, Life Insurance Corporation of India	Extended till March 13, 2022
Mahesh Kumar Jain	Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India	Extended for two years
Girish Chandra Chaturvedi	Chairman, ICICI Bank	For a period of 3 years
Sanjay Bambalkar	Equity fund manager, Union Asset Management Company	
RS Dhondkar	Liquidator of Shivajirao Bhosale Bank	
Anup Chandra Pandey	Election Commissioner of India	Sunil Arora
Chandra Shekhar Ghosh	MD and CEO, Bandhan Bank	For a period of 3 years
Arti Singh	Vice president, Hyperspace	
Rashmi Vikram	Chief equity officer for APAC region, Dentsu International	
Anup Purohit	Chief information officer, Wipro Ltd	
Kedar Lele (Chairman and managing director Unilever Bangladesh)	Executive director, HUL Management Committee	Srinandan Sundaram
Pratap Bose	Executive Vice President and Chief Design Officer, Mahindra Group	
Anand Mohan Bajaj	Member of the Board of Securities and Exchange Board of India	He is an Additional Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs
Dr Mukesh Sharma of IIT Kanpur	Honorary member of WHO's Global Air Pollution and Health Technical Advisory Group	Sharma has been associated with WHO, International Council for Clean Transport, Clean Air

		Asia United National Environmental Program, Bangkok, and the World Bank.
Nagraj Adiga	Elected in International Association of Ultrarunners Council	
Girish Koppad	Vice President and Head of Technology, Snapdeal	He was serving as the former Samsung executive
Ajai Puri	Chairman, Cellular Operators' Association of India (re-elected)	He is the Chief Operating Officer of Bharti Airtel
Ravi Kumar	Chief Executive Officer of udChalo	Varun Jain
Ankit Fitkariwala	Chief Business Officer & Head of Products, 5Paisa.com	He worked with Paytm Money as the Head of Investment Products
Manoj Juneja	Vice President Sales & Marketing, Timex Group India	
Aashish Chandorkar	Director at India's WTO Permanent mission	
Montek Singh Ahluwalia	A member of a High-Level Advisory Group (By the World Bank and the IMF)	
Vijay Deshwal	Group CEO, Poonawalla group acquired Magma Fincorp Ltd	
Dr Pratima Murthy	Head of Department of Psychiatry, National Institute of Mental Health & Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru	
Rupesh Patel	Senior Fund Manager, Nippon India Mutual Fund	He was associated with Tata Mutual Fund as a senior fund manager
Ananta Barua & Santosh Kumar Mohanty	Whole-time Member, Securities and Exchange Board of India	Extended the tenour for 2 years
Upasana Kamineni (Director, Apollo Hospitals)	Ambassador of Forest Frontline Heroes, WWF-India	

Dr. Tadang Minu (Arunachal Pradesh)	Member of the Coaches Committee of the International Boxing Association.	
Amit Kumar	Executive Director, Symphony Ltd	
Amrita Padda	Chief People Officer, Bharti Airtel	
Karnam Malleswari (Weightlifter)	First Vice Chancellor of Sports University	Appointed by Delhi government
Meenesh Shah	Chairman, National Dairy Development Committee	
Suresh N Patel	Central vigilance commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission	Sanjay Kothari
Manesh Mahatme	Head of Payments in India, WhatsApp	
Aditya Nath Das	Andhra Pradesh Chief Secretary	Extended for 3 months
Praveen Sinha (CBI Additional Director)	Special Director of CBI	Rakesh Asthana
Jeremy Kessel	New grievance redressal officer for India, Twitter	
Dr C Sylendra Babu	Tamil Nadu's new Director General of Police and head of police force	JK Tripathy
Nikhil Sahni	Country Corporate Officer in India, Mastercard	
Shambhu Nath Srivastava	Chairman, IFUNA	He is former judge of Allahabad High Court and former chief Lokayukta of Chhattisgarh
Chandan Sinha & Manjeev Singh Puri	Board of Directors, RBL Bank	
Spoorthi Priya	Grievance officer for India, Facebook	
KK Maheshwari	President, Association of National Exchanges Members of India	Anup Khandelwal
Ashish Saraf	Vice-President and Country Director for India - Thales	Emmanuel de Roquefeuil

Arun Raste	Managing Director and CEO, National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange.	
Rajesh Pendharkar	Director General Naval Operations	
Sanjeev Nandan Sahai	Chairman, PNGRB	Search Committee headed by V K Saraswat picked Sahai
Alok Kumar	Chief secretary of Tripura	
Hitendra Dave	Chief executive officer, HSBC India	Surendra Rosha
Husain Al-Musallam	President of FINA Bureau	
Virendra Nanavati	Member of FINA Bureau	

International Appointments

Name of the Person	Designation	Predecessor/Others
Assimi Goita	New interim president, Mali	Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta
Nagraj Adiga	Asia-Oceania Representative	Elected at the International Association of Ultrarunners Congress
Isaac Herzog	11 th President, Israel	Reuven Rivlin
Dr Patrick Patrick Amoth (Kenya)	Chairman, World Health Organization (WHO) Executive Board	Vardhan.
Ukhnaa Khurelsukh	6 th elected President, Mongolia	He is the former PM of Mongolia
Choguel Kokalla Maiga	Prime Minister, Mali	
Antonio Guterres	Recommended Secretary General, UN Security Council	It would be his 2 nd term
General SM Shafiuddin Ahmed	Next Army Chief, Bangladesh	General Aziz Ahmed
Benedetto Vigna	CEO, Ferrari	First all-electric Ferrari to debut in 2025
Debbie Hewitt	Chairperson, Football Association	
K. Nagaraj Naidu	Chef de Cabinet, Maldives	India's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN

		Ambassador
Arjan Kumar Sikri	Chairman, Internet and Mobile Association of India	
Naftali Bennett	13 th Prime Minister, Israel	Benjamin Netanyahu
Henri Marie Dondra	Prime Minister, Central African Republic	
Rebecca Grynspan of Costa Rica	1st Woman Secretary General, UNGA	
Amit Jain	Global CEO, Sterling and Wilson Solar Ltd	Bikesh Ogra
Ajay Simha	Marketing director, Nivea India	
Raghu Narula	Head, Wealth and Personal Banking - HSBC India	Ramakrishnan S
Satya Nadella	Chairman, Microsoft	
John W Thompson	Independent director, Microsoft	
Karim Khan	New chief prosecutor for the International Criminal Court	Fatou Bensouda of Gambia
Ebrahim Raisi (Sayyid Ebrahim Raisol-Sadati)	Elected President, Iran	
Darren Sammy	Board Director, Cricket West Indies Board	He is Two-time T20 World Cup-winning former West Indies captain
Ricky Kapur	Head of Asia-Pacific business, Zoom Video Communications	He is the former Microsoft executive
Abdulla Shahid	76th session of the United Nations General Assembly	

Resignation/Retirement

Name of the Person	Designation
Pankaj Kumar	CEO, Sterlite Copper
Ramachandra Galla	Amara Raja Batteries founder-Chairman
Guenter Butschek	CEO, Tata Motors
Stefan Löfven	Prime Minister, Sweden

The IBF appointed Former Justice Vikramjit Sen as the Chairman

- The **Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF)**, renamed as **Indian Broadcasting & Digital Foundation (IBDF)**, the apex body of broadcasters and OTT operators, has announced the appointment of **Justice (Retd.) Vikramjit Sen as the Chairman**, along with six other eminent industry members for the newly formed **Digital Media Content Regulatory Council (DMCRC)**.
- The Council constitutes prominent personalities from the Media & Entertainment industry and **Online Curated Content Providers (OCCPs)**, with experience in IPR, programming and content creation.
- The Council includes national award-winning filmmaker Nikkhil Advani; Deepak Dhar, CEO and founder, Banijay Group; prominent artist, filmmaker and writer Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari; and creative writer and innovative director, Tigmanshu Dhulia.
- The other two members from the OCCPs include Ashok Nambisan, General Counsel, Sony Pictures Pvt. Ltd, and Mihir Rale, Chief Regional Counsel, Star and Disney India.

TN Govt Constituted Economic Advisory Council

- The **Tamil Nadu government** stated it **constituted** an **Economic Advisory Council** to the chief minister, which **includes** Nobel laureate **Esther Duflo**, former RBI governor **Raghuram Rajan**, former chief economic advisor to the Union government **Arvind Subramanian**, development economist **Prof Jean Dreze**, and former Union finance Secretary **S Narayan**.
- This was **revealed by Governor Banwarilal Purohit** during his address to the 16th Assembly.
- The **five-member team** was put together by **finance minister Palanivel Thiaga Rajan**, who was an **investment banker in the US and Singapore** before he entered politics.
- Minister stated that, "The chief minister was keen that we must get the best minds in the world to help us and our priority is that growth should be inclusive".

Odisha state govt appointed 41 Honorary Wildlife Wardens

- The **State government** appointed **41 Honorary Wildlife Wardens (HWWs)** across all the districts as per the provision of **Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972**.
- They have been appointed for a **period of two years till June 2023**.
- **Wildlife conservationist** Aditya Chandra Panda along with Pradeep Kumar Sahoo has been appointed as the HWWs for Angul district.
- **Snake Helpline general secretary** Subhendu Mallik is the new HWW for Khurda district.
- Apart from Mallik, Speak for Animal founder Kusal Biswas and Jyotirmaya Barik will also serve as HWWs of Khurda.
- Pradipta Kabi, Akshay Kumar Mohanty and Bibekananda Pattnaik have been appointed as the HWWs for Mayurbhanj district, while Sibaram Sahoo and Hrudananda Naik will look into Sambalpur district.
- Suresh Chandra Tripathy will be the HWW for Cuttack, while Bijay Kumar Dash and Surya Narayan Lenka would look into Dhenkanal and Kendrapara respectively.

- The **appointments were delayed** for around a year as terms of the HWWs appointment in the State had expired in July 2020.

About Honorary Wildlife Wardens:

- The **Government of India appoints** private citizens as **Honorary Wildlife Wardens (HWWs)**, on the basis of their commitment to the cause of conservation.
- These Wardens liaise with the **State's Forest Departments** and contribute their expertise to the government's conservation efforts.

Former Infosys CEO SD Shibu Lal appointed as head task force for bureaucratic reforms

- The government appointed former Infosys **CEO SD Shibu Lal** as **chairperson of a three-member task force** which will assist in bringing major bureaucratic reforms through "**Mission Karmayogi**".
- The **personnel ministry order** confirmed the **three-member task force** will include Govind Iyer, consultant at global management consulting group Egon Zehnder, and Pankaj Bansal, co-founder and Group CEO of HR tech company PeopleStrong.
- **Additionally**, Adil Zainulbhai, chairman designate, Capacity Building Commission, Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) will be a **special invitee** to the discussions of the task force.

Important Awards and Honours

Winner	Prize	Awarded By/Theme/Purpose
Valeria Luiselli (Mexican Author)	2021 DUBLIN Literary Award	Sponsored by Dublin City Council, for her novel Lost Children Archive
David Diop	International Booker Prize with At Night All Blood Is Black.	Diop is the first French author to win the award
Thomas Vijayan	Nature TTL Photographer of the Year 2021	He shot the picture titled 'The World is Going Upside Down', in Borneo.
QX Global Group	Outsourcing Service Provider of the Year award at the 19th Edition of the Asian Leadership Awards	under the Asian Outsourcing Leadership Awards category
R S Sodhi	Regional award as Asia	He is the Managing director of

	Pacific Productivity Champion from Asian Productivity Organization	Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation
Tsitsi Dangarembga	PEN Pinter Prize in 2021.	She is the Booker-shortlisted Zimbabwean writer
M R Jayadevan Nair	Prestigious award for best original score at the Hollywood North Film Awards	For his work in the documentary film F.E.A.R (Face Everything And Rise) directed by Manny Bains and Serge Velbovets
Tillotama Shome	Best Actor award at the latest edition of the UK Asian Film Festival.	For Raahgir: The Wayfarers at UK Asian Film Festival. (Goutam Ghose has also won the award for Best Director)
KL Deemed to be University	One District One Green Champion Award	contribution to the Swachh Bharat initiative by the Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Education
Sumita Mitra	European Inventor Award 2021 in the “Non-EPO countries” category	For her new composite filling material, called Filtek Supreme Universal Restorative
The Art of Life	Outstanding Achievement Award	It was written and Directed by Santosh Panda
Larsen & Toubro Infotech	Global Innovation Partner of the Year	By Snowflake, the Data Cloud Company
K.K. Shailaja	2021 Central European University (CEU) Open Society Prize	Determined leadership and community-based public health work, saving lives during the pandemic
RK Sabharwal (C&MD, Engineers India Ltd)	The Order of Polar Star	Given by Mongolia government
Ishan Kapur (15-years old Delhi student)	Diana Award	For going above and beyond in his daily life to create and sustain a positive change.

Delhi Metro	Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Award' for 2020	From the Japan Society of Civil Engineers (JSCE) for its "High-Quality" infrastructure development projects
Journalist Palagummi Sainath	Fukuoka Grand Prize for 2021	Given by Japan's Fukuoka city and the Fukuoka City International

Arunachal Pradesh's Water Burial won best film National Award

- **Water Burial** has won the **best film award on environment conservation** at the **67th National Films Awards 2021**.
- Inspired by the popular Assamese novel **Saba Kota Manuh**, which is **written by Yeshe Dorjee Thongchi**, **Water Burial** is in Monpa dialect and has an intriguing storyline around a dark ritual of a local tribe in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The film, which is **directed by independent filmmaker Shantanu Sen** in Monpa dialect, has garnered positive reviews for its uniqueness in portraying the rituals of the tribals of the Northeast and bringing the attention of the mainstream media towards it.

Bollywood actor Sanjay Dutt bags UAE's Golden Visa

- **Bollywood actor Sanjay Dutt** was thrilled to receive a golden visa for the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**.
- The **61-year-old actor** mentioned that he was honoured to receive the prestigious visa "in the presence of Major **General Mohammed Al Marri**, Director General of General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs (GDRFA) - Dubai".
- The **UAE government** has introduced the **Golden Visa initiative** for **long-term residents** to **encourage** foreigners to **work, live**, study and conduct business in the country without requiring national sponsors.
- Through this initiative, foreign investors and businessmen get complete ownership of their businesses in the country.
- These golden visas are issued for five or 10 years, which automatically get renewed.

Notion Press authors Nitin Rakesh and Jerry Wind bags International Business Book of the Year Award 2021

- The **authors made history** by winning the prestigious **International Business Book of the Year Award for 2021** for their recently launched book **Transformation in Times of Crisis**, published by Notion Press.
- The Business Book Awards is one of the biggest and most prestigious events in the calendar for business book writers all over the world.

About Nitin Rakesh

- **Nitin Rakesh**, a **distinguished leader in Technology and Financial services industries**, has been **CEO** of **Mphasis**, a leading global software services firm, since 2017.

- His career spans over two decades leading large transnational operations and delivering transformative digital solutions to **Fortune 500 companies**.
- He won the Gold Stevie for Tech Innovator of the Year – Services at the 2019 American Business Awards & International Business Awards.

About Jerry Wind

- **Jerry Wind, an internationally renowned academician**, is currently Lauder Professor Emeritus and Professor of Marketing at the **Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania**.
- His pioneering research on organizational buying behavior, market segmentation, conjoint analysis, and marketing strategy has made him one of the most cited authors in marketing.
- He was a 2017 inductee into the Marketing Hall of Fame.

WHO honours Dr Harsh Vardhan with special recognition for tobacco control

- On May 31, 2021, The World Health Organization (WHO) honoured **Union health minister Harsh Vardhan** with Director-General **Special award for his efforts to control tobacco consumption in India on World No Tobacco Day**.
- WHO Director-General stated that Dr Harsh Vardhan's leadership was instrumental in the 2019 national legislation to ban e-cigarettes and heated tobacco products.
- The World Health Organization has set this year's theme for no tobacco day as 'commit to quit'.
- WHO has also designated **31st May as 'World No Tobacco Day'** with an aim to abolish the toxic material from the environment.

The day was first observed by WHO in **1988**.

Hyderabad International Airport bags green award

- For the **fourth** consecutive year, **Hyderabad International Airport** has been awarded the **Gold Recognition** by the **Airports Council International (ACI) Asia-Pacific Green Airports Recognition 2021**, in the below 25 million passengers per annum (MPPA) category.
- GMR-led Hyderabad International Airport Ltd (GHIAL), the ACI's Green Airports Recognition programme promotes best environmental practices to minimize the aviation industry's impact on the environment.

Bengaluru international airport bags net energy neutral status

- On World Environment Day, **Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL)** announced that the **Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru** has **achieved** net energy neutral status in the fiscal year 2020-21.
- BIAL considers this one of its ambitious goals as it has already set the target to become **Net Energy Neutral by 2020-21**.
- It claims to begin 2021-22 promisingly by addressing **98 percent of its energy requirement** of 21-22 through renewable sources.
- The airport corporation claims to have **saved up to 22 lakh units of electricity** in FY 2020-21, **enough to power nearly 9,000 houses for a month**.

- BIAL saved nearly 5 lakh units (KWH) from lighting and has implemented chiller plant optimization in Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC), which has resulted in **saving of over 17 lakh units (KWH) of power**.

12 institutes from Bihar nominated for central government's green awards

- The **Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Education of the Union Ministry of Education** has announced the **"One District - One Green Champion" awards** for 2020-21 to **400 higher educational institutions of the country**, including 12 from Bihar under the **Swachhata Action Plan**.
- The **12 higher educational institutions** selected for the prestigious "One District-One Green Champion Awards" are **St. Xavier's College of Management and Technology** from Patna and other institutions from Begusarai, Darbhanga, Gaya, Purnia, Bhagalpur, Nalanda, Sitamarhi, Gopalganj, East Champaran, Khagaria, Gopalganj and Madhubani.
- This award is given for the contribution of selected higher educational institutions to the **Swachhtha Education and Practices**.

Delhi, Hyderabad Airports bags ACI Asia-Pacific Green airports recognition

- The **Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL)**, a GMR Group led consortium, has been awarded the Platinum Recognition in the over **25 Million Passengers Per Annum (MPPA) category**, while the **GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited (GHIAL)** received the Gold Recognition by the ACI in the below **25 Million Passengers Per Annum (MPPA) category**.
- **ACI's Green Airports Recognition programme** promotes environmental best practices to minimize the aviation industry's impact on the environment and recognizes ACI Asia-Pacific members for outstanding environmental initiatives and projects.
- Each year, a different theme is chosen from the environmental aspects and the theme for 2021 was Air Quality Management specifically emphasizing the benefit of local air quality management.
- The **award was decided by** a distinguished global panel that highly praised **DIAL's Green taxiing initiatives** at IGI Airport based on TaxiBots.

Indian peacekeepers in Sudan honoured with UN medals for outstanding performance

- **About 130 Indian peacekeepers** deployed with the **United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)** have been honoured with UN medals for their **"outstanding performance"**.
- **India is among the largest troop** contributing countries to UN peacekeeping missions.
- About **135 Indian and 103 Sri Lankan peacekeepers** serving in the mission were awarded for their service.

Assam to institute own versions of Bharat Ratna and Padma awards from next year

- The **Assam government** will **present** its own versions of the **Bharat Ratna and the Padma awards** from next year.
- The weekly cabinet meeting, chaired by chief minister **Himanta Biswa Sarma** decided to institute the **Asom Ratna Award** to be presented every year to one person who has made significant contribution to the society.
- The cabinet also instituted other **civilian honours** such as the **Asom Bibhushan Award** to be presented to three persons, the **Assam Bhushan** to five and the **Asom Shree** to **10 people every year**.

- These **four awards will carry cash prizes of Rs 5 lakh, Rs 3 lakh, Rs 2 lakh and Rs 1 lakh respectively** with other benefits like free medical treatment for critical illness, free stay at Assam Bhawans and free travel in ASTC buses, among others.

Indian Environment Organization 'Family Forestry' bags UNCCD's 2021 Land for Life Award

- This year's **Land for Life Award** goes to **Familial Forestry of Rajasthan**, India, a unique concept of Shyam Sunder Jyani, Associate Professor for Sociology at in Rajasthan that relates a tree with a family, making it a green **"family member."**
- **Placing a family** at the cornerstone of society, the concept ensures the success of any social campaign.
- The **Land for Life Award ceremony** will take place in **August** at the Eighth Kubuqi International Desert Forum in **China**.
- The award winner will also have an opportunity to present their work at the **UNCCD Fifteenth Conference of the Parties UNCCD COP15**.

Family Forestry:

- **Familial Forestry** means transferring the care of trees and environment in the family so that a tree becomes a part of the family's consciousness.
- More than a million families from **more than 15,000 villages of desert-prone northwest Rajasthan** in over **2.5 million saplings** have been **planted in the past 15 years**, with active participation of students and desert dwellers.

Gandhi documentary bags top award at New York Indian Film Festival

- A **documentary on Mahatma Gandhi** produced by **internationally-renowned South African filmmaker Anant Singh** has won the **Best Documentary Feature Award at the 21st New York Indian Film Festival**.
- The film, titled **'Ahimsa – Gandhi: The Power of the Powerless'**, written and directed by Ramesh Sharma, was produced by Singh's company Videovision to commemorate the **150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's birth in 2019**.
- These include Gandhi's granddaughter Ila Gandhi and her grandsons Arun Gandhi and Rajmohan Gandhi living in America.
- The song 'Ahimsa' in this film is sung by U2 and AR Rahman and lyrics are penned by Bono and Rahman.

About New York Indian Film Festival:

- The New York Indian Film Festival is an **annual film festival that takes place in New York City, and screens films relating to India, the Indian Diaspora, and the work of Indian filmmakers**.
- The festival **began** in November 2001 and was founded by Aroon Shivdasani and the Indo-American Arts Council.

Indian Navy's Sahyadri awarded as 'best ship' title at Fleet Awards

- Indian Navy organized the **Fleet Award Function (FAF)** at **Visakhapatnam** this year to mark the successful performance of the **Operational Cycle of the Eastern Fleet**.

- FAF 2020 was **hosted by** Rear Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan, NM Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet, and the Chief Guest for the event was Vice Admiral Atul Kumar Jain, PVSM, AVSM, VSM, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command (ENC).
- The Fleet Award Function is **held every year to mark the resilience and perseverance of Indian Navy personnel appointed onboard ships of 'Poorvi Beda' or colloquially called the 'Sword Arm' of ENC.**
- At the event, the Fleet Operations Officer presented the Annual Report of activities and achievements of the Fleet for 01 Apr 19 to 31 Mar 20.
- The occasion was a commendable affirmation of the ships which under the Operation '**Samudra Setu**' successfully rescued Indian Diaspora from nations across the world at an unprecedented scale in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Centre unveiled full list of Smart Cities Awards 2020 winners

- The **Central government declared Smart City awards 2020** in which Indore (Madhya Pradesh) and Surat (Gujarat) won the **award** jointly for their overall development.
- Whereas **Uttar Pradesh** emerged on the **top among all states**, followed by Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu under the **Smart City award, 2020.**
- The **Smart City awards** were given across the **themes** of Social Aspects, Governance, Culture, Urban Environment, Sanitation, Economy, Built Environment, Water, Urban Mobility, the Ministry of Housing Affairs said.
- Surat, Indore, Ahmedabad, Pune, Vijayawada, Rajkot, Visakhapatnam, Pimpri-Chinchwad, and Vadodara were **awarded 4 star rating under Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework.**
- **Chandigarh** bagged the **award for union territories**, while Indore won the **"Innovative Idea Award".**
- **Ahmedabad** bagged the **'Smart Cities Leadership Award'**, followed by Varanasi and Ranchi in the second and third spots respectively.
- On **Governance aspect**-Vadodara, Thane and Bhubaneswar stood as **the top-3 cities in the country.**

List of winning Smart Cities under the different categories:

Social Aspects

- **Tirupati:** Health Benchmark for Municipal Schools
- **Bhubaneswar:** Socially Smart Bhubaneswar
- **Tumakuru:** Digital Library Solution

Governance

- **Vadodara:** GIS
- **Thane:** Digi Thane
- **Bhubaneswar:** ME app

Culture

- **Indore:** Conservation of Heritage
- **Chandigarh:** Capitol Complex, Heritage Project

- **Gwalior:** Digital Museum

Urban Environment:

- **Bhopal:** Clean energy
- **Chennai:** Restoration of water bodies
- **Tirupati:** Renewable Energy Generation

Sanitation:

- **Tirupati:** Bioremediation & Bio-Mining
- **Indore:** Municipal Waste Management System
- **Surat:** Conservation through Treated Wastewater

Economy:

- **Indore:** Carbon Credit Financing Mechanism
- **Tirupati:** Boost Local Identity & Economy through Design Studio
- **Agra:** Micro Skill Development Centre

Built Environment:

- **Indore:** Chappan Dukan
- **Surat:** Canal Corridor

Water:

- **Dehradun:** Smart Water Metering Water ATM
- **Varanasi:** Eco-Restoration of Assi River
- **Surat:** Integrated and Sustainable Water Supply System

Urban Mobility:

- **Aurangabad:** Majhi Smart Buses
- **Surat:** Dynamic Scheduling Buses
- **Ahmedabad:** Manless parking system and automatic ticket dispensing machines AMDA Park

Innovative Idea Award:

- **Indore:** Carbon Credit Financing Mechanism

Covid Innovation Award:

- Kalyan-Dombivali and Varanasi

Cochin International Airport bags honour in airport service quality

- The **Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL)** won the **Airport Council International's (ACI)** Director General's Roll of Excellence honour for Airport Service Quality.
- The ACI, a **global body of airport operators** established the Roll of Excellence recognition to those airports which, in the opinion of the passengers, have consistently delivered excellent services in the Airport Service Quality Survey.
- The Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL) has **won a global award** for quality of service.

- Airport Council International (ACI) **Director-General Luis Felipe de Oliveira** stated the CIAL consistently delivered excellence in customer service by winning multiple **ASQ awards** over five years during the **past 10 years**.

Important MOU's

PJTSAU signs MoU with Wadhwani Institute

- To empower farmers with advance information about the possible pink bollworm infestation in cotton fields so that they could take preventive and control measures, **Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University (PJTSAU)** has signed a memorandum of understanding with **Wadhwani Institute for Artificial Learning, Mumbai**, for providing **AI-based interventions**.
- The **Agriculture Department, Krishi Vignan Kendras of the Agriculture University**, Information Technology department and Wadhwani Institute would participate in the project.

BSE signs ink pact with ESC

- **Leading stock exchange BSE** stated it has **joined hands with Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC)** to create awareness about the benefits of listing among small businesses and startups.
- BSE has signed a memorandum of understanding (**MoU**) with ESC, the exchange said in a statement.
- Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC) is an organization sponsored by the Government of India with a mandate to promote the export of **Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector** from the country and works as a bridge between the government and the industry on policy and promotional matters.
- **Ajay Thakur, Head of BSE SME and startup**, mentioned that, "This **MoU** will help in reaching out to ESC's pan India network of Electronics and IT exporters and create greater awareness amongst the SMEs and startups about benefits of listing on the **BSE SME & Startup platform**'.

Fintech start-up Boxop ties up with Mahindra Insurance

- **Boxop**, a Kerala-based **start-up** has **tied up with Mahindra Insurance Brokers Ltd (MIBL)** to provide low-cost **insurance** protection for the **Covid-19 treatment**.
- **Boxop** is providing this comprehensive service across the State through Akshaya Kendras and support from MIBL.
- **BOXOP** has introduced a Group Covid plan in which individuals will get a lump sum benefit plan of **Rs.25000**, who have tested positive for Covid in which 24hr of hospitalization is mandatory.

Cabinet approves MoC between India, Japan

- The **Union Cabinet** approved a **memorandum of cooperation** with **Japan** in the field of sustainable urban development which is expected to create employment opportunities.
- The **memorandum of cooperation (MoC)** will be signed between the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** and the **Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan** in supersession of an existing MoU of 2007 on urban development.

- The agreement will promote strong, deep and long-term bilateral cooperation in the field of sustainable urban development between the two countries.

Cabinet approves MoU between India & Maldives

- The **Union Cabinet** was apprised of the **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** signed between the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**, Government of India and **Ministry of National Planning, Housing and Infrastructure**, Government of Maldives on cooperation in the field of Sustainable Urban Development.
- The **MoU** was signed in February 2021.
- A **Joint Working Group (JWG)** will be constituted to strategize and implement programmes on cooperation under the framework of the MoU.
- The **Joint Working Group** will meet once in a year, alternately in Maldives and in India.

MoU inked for Water Metro project

- The **Kochi Metro Rail Ltd (KMRL)** and the **state government** signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for forming a special purpose vehicle (SPV) for the operation and maintenance of the **Rs 747-crore Water Metro project**.
- The SPV, Kochi Water Metro Ltd (KWML), shall be a joint venture with equity of **74% for the government and 26% for KMRL**.
- As per the MoU signed by Chief Secretary V P Joy and KMRL MD K R Jyothilal in Thiruvananthapuram, KWML will undertake the operation and maintenance of the project.

Add Engg signed MoU with UAE firm

- **Add Engineering Gmbh**, the parent company of **ADD Engineering (India) Private Limited**, has signed an MoU with the **UAE-based defence sector EDGE Group PUSC** to share crucial technology to enhance production and improve efficiency of maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) in the defence aviation sector.
- ADD Engineering has been allotted land by KIADB at **Tumakuru Machine Tools Park** to set up its unit.
- KIADB authorities handed over the letter of allotment to **Girish Linganna**.

CII- IGBC inks MoU with Indian Institute of Architects

- On the Occasion of **World Environment Day** celebrated on June 5, **CII's Indian Green Building Council (IGBC)** and **Indian Institute of Architects (IIA)** signed a **MoU** to give a fillip to the Green Building Movement and sustainable development in architectural design and planning.
- **V Suresh**, chairman, IGBC, **Architect C R Raju**, IIA national president, exchanged the MoU in the virtual platform in the august presence of supporting organisations.
- **MoU** will go a long way in development of a built **environment** that is aligned with the green building concepts and practices.

New Zealand became latest nation to sign space agreement with NASA

- **New Zealand** announced it was the latest country to sign a **space agreement with NASA**, just as New Zealand's nascent space industry begins to take off.

- New Zealand became the **eleventh signatory** to the Artemis Accords, a blueprint for space cooperation and supporting the **U.S. space agency's plans to return humans to the moon by 2024** and to launch a historic **human mission to Mars**.
- NASA Administrator Bill Nelson mentioned in a statement that New Zealand was one of seven nations that helped craft the principles in the accords and he was delighted they had signed up.

Cabinet approves ratifying SCO agreement

- The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has given its ex-post facto **approval for signing and ratification of an agreement on 'Cooperation in the field of Mass Media' between all the member states of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation**.
- The Agreement was **signed in June, 2019**.
- The agreement shall **promote equal and mutually beneficial cooperation among associations in the field of Mass Media**.
- Shanghai Cooperation Organization consists of **eight countries: India, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Russia, and Uzbekistan**.

BharatPe signed a strategic partnership with ICC

- Merchant payment and lending service provider **BharatPe** mentioned it has entered into a **strategic partnership with International Cricket Council (ICC)**.
- The **agreement will ensure BharatPe's involvement and integration at all ICC events** throughout the term, including the ICC Men's T20 World Cup (India, 2021), ICC Men's T20 World Cup (Australia, 2022), ICC Women's World Cup (New Zealand, 2022) and ICC Men's Cricket World Cup (India, 2023) among others.

CESL signed MOU with Ladakh and Meghalaya

- To promote clean, affordable and reliable energy solutions, **Meghalaya** government and **Ladakh** union territory have signed memorandum of understanding (**MoU**) separately with **Convergence Energy Services Ltd**, a **wholly-owned subsidiary of Energy Efficiency Services Ltd** to generate around **65MW of decentralized solar**.
- In the **first MoU with Meghalaya Power Distribution Corporation Ltd (MePDCL)**, CESL has signed an MoU worth **60MW**, which will also entail finding synergies in business development to implement various sustainable solutions like pump sets, LED lighting and solar power stations for agriculture.
- **With Ladakh**, CESL will implement various clean energy and energy efficiency programmes, including decentralized solar power in Zaskar region worth **5MW**

DIC signed MoU with ICAR to provide 'Demand Based Tele Agriculture Advisories' to farmers

- In order to facilitate farmers by providing location specific '**Demand Based Tele Agriculture Advisories**', the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** and **Digital India Corporation (DIC)** has signed an initial pact to provide location specific farm tele-advisories.

- "The **objective of the MoU** is to integrate the existing Interactive Information Dissemination System (IIDS) platform of DIC with the proposed **KisanSarathi program of ICAR** and its implementation through ICAR network to reach a large number of farmers across the country".

KIADB and HDFC Bank signed MOU to offer Banking solutions to investors

- **Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with **HDFC Bank** to provide a wide range of financial products and services to its customers.
- As part of the MoU, HDFC Bank will **provide a wide range of financial products and services** to its customers through an extensive network of branches across the country.
- In addition, KIADB, in its efforts to make the land acquisition for industrial purposes more affordable and attract investments into Karnataka, **has agreed to collaborate** with HDFC bank so that eligible investor/customer of KIADB can avail of credit facilities from HDFC Bank as per Bank process and policies.

NHPC Limited ink E-Mobility Agreements with CESL

- State-run hydro power giant **NHPC** signed pacts with **Convergence Energy Services Ltd (CESL)** to procure **25 electric vehicles** on lease and **three fast EV chargers**.
- **NHPC Ltd** has signed e-mobility agreements with **Convergence Energy Services Ltd (CESL)**, a wholly owned subsidiary of **Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL)**, for leasing of 25 electric vehicles and supply of three electric vehicle (EV) fast chargers to NHPC including its installation and commissioning.
- The **agreements** were signed by Rajesh Kumar, GM (Mechanical) on behalf of NHPC; and Rajneesh Rana, CGM & Cluster Head (North) EESL/ CESL on behalf of CESL.

India and Kuwait sign MoU for cooperation on recruitment of domestic workers

- **India and Kuwait** have signed a **MoU** that brings Indian domestic workers in the Gulf nation within the ambit of a legal framework that streamlines their recruitment and provides them with the protection of the law.
- The **MoU** was signed by **Indian Ambassador Sibi George** and **Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kuwait Majdi Ahmad Al-Dhafiri** in the presence of visiting External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Kuwaiti counterpart Sheikh Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah.
- Jaishankar arrived here on his first bilateral visit to the oil-rich Gulf nation early.

Bihar signed MoU for mega hydropower project initiation with NHPCL

- A **MoU** for Bihar's **mega Dagmara hydroelectric project**, initiated with an **aim** to a new era of growth in the power sector, was **signed between** the **Bihar State Power Holding Corporation** and the **National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited (NHPC)**.
- The **MoU** was signed for setting up **Bihar's biggest hydroelectric power generation plant** called the 'Dagmara multipurpose hydropower project over the **Kosi River** in Supaul district.

Emirates Group Security, GMR Aviation Academy jointly signed MoU for aviation training

- The **Emirates Group Security (EGS)** and the **GMR Aviation Academy (GMRAA)** signed a **MoU** to promote cooperation for development and exchange of **information, technical expertise, and experiences in aviation security**.

- The **GMRAA is part of the GMR Group**, India's leading infrastructure development company and **the 4th largest private airport company in the world**.
- **Dubai-based EGS is a multi-faceted organization** that develops and implements security strategies and measures across the Emirates Airline network.
- Through this MoU, the GMRAA and the EGS will **jointly offer more than 75 aviation and security courses** in both online and conventional classroom settings - certificates, diplomas, undergraduate and postgraduate - to thousands of professionals in India as well as in the Middle East and Asian regions.

MoU signed between two ministries for development of National Maritime Heritage Complex at Lothal in Gujarat

- An **MoU** has been signed **between the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and Ministry of Culture and Tourism for Cooperation** in Development of National Maritime Heritage Complex at Lothal in Gujarat.
- Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister **Mansukh Mandaviya** mentioned that this complex would be dedicated to the legacy of maritime heritage to showcase India's rich and diverse maritime glory.
- He stated, **MoU** would help in exhibiting the robust maritime history as well as the vibrant coastal tradition of our country.
- He noted, this would uplift the image of India's Maritime Heritage in the international forum.

SJVN signed an inks pact with National Institute of Wind Energy for energy projects

- **State-owned SJVN Ltd** has signed a pact with **National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE)** to develop solar and wind energy projects.
- SJVN has entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Institute for 'technical **consultancy services**' for development of solar, wind, hybrid (wind and solar) and hybrid (wind, solar and battery storage) energy projects of SJVN.
- NIWE **will support** SJVN to assess the feasibility and **techno-commercial aspects of the projects** and preparation of detailed project reports, estimates and bid documents covering all relevant aspects from the concept to the commissioning of these projects.

H-Energy signed an ink pact MoU for supply of re-gasified LNG to Petrobangla

- **H-Energy** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Petrobangla** recently to supply re-gasified liquefied natural gas (R-LNG) from **India to Bangladesh**.
- "The companies will soon finalize a long-term supply agreement to commence the supply of regasified LNG to Bangladesh through a **cross border natural gas pipeline**".
- H-Energy has received permission from the Petroleum and Natural gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) to build, own and **operate Kanai Chhata-Shrirampur natural gas pipeline** connecting its LNG terminal in West Bengal to Bangladesh, to enable cross border supply of regasified LNG.

Shipping Ministry and MoCA sign pact to develop seaplane services in India

- **India's ministry of state for ports, shipping, and waterways** has signed a pact with the ministry of civil aviation to develop seaplane services across the country.

- The ministry of state for ports, shipping, and waterways stated, “MoU for development of seaplanes services **under RCS-UDAN scheme** signed between the ministry of state for ports, shipping, and waterways and ministry of civil aviation.
- “**Seaplane operations** will result in enhanced connectivity of remote places and boost religious tourism.”
- Both the ministries will jointly workout operating routes.

IIM Nagpur signed MOU with CIRT

- The **Indian Institute of Management Nagpur (IIMN)** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Central Institute of Road Transport (CIRT)** for generating industry-oriented knowledge in transport management and boosting work capacity.
- The MoU was signed in the presence of **Union Minister Nitin Gadkari**.
- The **MoU** paves way for collaboration in the areas of training, research, consulting and outreach in the domain of transport management and skill development.
- The **IIMN** has been appointed for **carrying out this job**.
- The MoU contains goals for increasing capacity in the transport sector and enhancement of production.
- The **MoU signing programme** was also **attended by** Tech Mahindra’s Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director C P Gurnani, IIMN Director Dr Bhimaraya Metri, CIRT Director Dr Rajendra B Saner Patil and NHAI Consultant Vaibhav Dange.

India signed MOU with Bhutan

- **India and Bhutan** inked an **MoU** for **developing cooperation** between **two countries in the area of environment**.
- The **MoU** was signed virtually by Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar from the Indian side and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Chairperson of the National Environment Commission Lyonpo Dr. Tandi Dorji from the Bhutanese side.
- Shri Javadekar stated, the MoU will **open new vistas of bilateral cooperation** in the area of climate change, waste management etc and Describing the **relationship between the two countries** as symbolic, he said, India wants to engage with Bhutan on environmental related issues including climate change.
- The **MoU** is a platform to further enhance Indian and Bhutanese partnership and support, and exchange best practices in areas like prevention of Air Pollution, Waste Management, Chemical Management, Climate Change, etc.

Union Bank of India signed MOU with NSIC to support MSMEs

- **Union Bank** of India has entered into an MOU with **The National Small Industries Corporation Ltd (NSIC)** under “**NSIC Bank Credit Facilitation Scheme**” to **support MSMEs** with credit requirements.
- Under the arrangement the **MSME Unit can approach directly to any of NSIC branch offices** which are also operating as **Finance Facilitation Centre (FFC)** and submit their **request for loan requirement** from Union Bank of India.
- The official sitting at the NSIC Branch will provide hand holding support to the **MSME unit** by assisting them in completing all documentation as required for further submission to the Bank.

India signed MOU with Fiji

- Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, **Narendra Singh Tomar** and Fiji's Minister of Agriculture, Waterways & Environment, **Dr. Mahendra Reddy** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) for **cooperation in the field of Agriculture and allied sectors between India and Fiji in a virtual meeting**.
- Tomar stated that India believes in the spirit of '**Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam**'.
- India has helped all the countries in the same spirit even during the Corona pandemic under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The **MoU provides for cooperation in the fields of** Dairy Industry Development, Rice Industry Development, Root crop diversification, Water Resources Management, Coconut Industry Development, Food Processing Industry Development, Agriculture Mechanization, Horticulture Industry Development, Agricultural Research, Animal Husbandry, Pest and Disease, Cultivation, Value Addition and Marketing, Post-Harvest and Milling, Breeding and Agronomy.

NSG signed MOU with RRU

- With focus on a dual mission, the **National Security Guard (NSG)** and the **Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU)** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) for cooperation and collaboration aimed at strengthening the core competencies of the NSG, which **are counter-terrorism, counter-IEDs, and anti-hijacking**.
- DG NSG M A Ganapathy and Prof (Dr) Bimal N Patel, Vice-Chancellor RRU signed the **MoU** at the Manesar campus of NSG.
- The **MoU also aims to contribute to capacity-building and providing assistance to Indian start-ups** focused on security by helping them to understand the specific requirements and the problem statements formulated by NSG for design and research projects.
- The **aim of the MoU is to synergise the expertise of NSG & RRU** to embolden innovation, incubation, training, research, and distance education in the field of security through the '**Security and Scientific-Technical Research Association**' (SASTRA) and RRU's **Integrated Space for e-Education (RISE) platform** and tie-ups with Indian start-ups dealing with security-related products.

IFFCO, INAES and Cooperar jointly signed MOU to setup Nano Urea Plant in Argentina

- Leading fertilizer cooperative **IFFCO** stated it will set up a **nano urea liquid manufacturing plant** in Argentina in partnership with two agencies – **Instituto Nacional de Asociativismo Y Economia Social (INAES)** and **Cooperative Confederation of Argentina 'Cooperar'**.
- IFFCO, INAES and Cooperar – entered into a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** for the same.
- According to IFFCO, the three will together analyze the feasibility of setting up a nano urea fertiliser manufacturing plant in Argentina with mutual collaboration.
- The **scope of MoU will be offering opportunities to exchange ideas and develop business relationships**, to carry out joint research and training activities along with educational visits for better understanding and opportunities.

Denmark signed Framework Agreement in ISA with India

- **Denmark** signed the **framework agreement** of the **International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement (ISA FA)** and Instrument of Ratification with India, informed **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** spokesperson Arindam Bagchi.
- "On 22 June, Freddy Svane, Ambassador, **Royal Danish Embassy**, deposited signed copies of the ISA Framework Agreement and Instrument of Ratification with MEA India.
- Signed copies of ISA FA were handed over to the Additional **Secretary (ER)**".
- Meanwhile, Denmark became the first country to ratify **International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement (ISA FA)** after amendments to it entered into force on January 8.
- "Kingdom of **Denmark becomes 1st country to ratify International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement (ISA FA)** after amendments to it entered into force on 8 January this year, opening its Membership to all Member States of the United Nations.
- **ISA is an alliance of over 120 countries initiated by India**, most of them being sunshine countries which lie either completely or partly between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.

Indian Oil Corporation Limited signs MoU with Gujarat

- State run Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOC) **inked pacts with Gujarat government** for implementing projects totaling around **Rs. 24,000 crore** in the western state.
- "**IndianOil's Gujarat Refinery** will be implementing **India's first Hydrogen Dispensing Facility** as a clean fuel initiative".
- Expanding refining capacity by **4.3 million tonnes per annum** to 18 million tonnes and adding plants to produce 5,00,000 tonnes per annum of polypropylene and 2, 35,000 tonnes of lube oil base stock at the site would see a total investment of about Rs 24,000 crore.
- "**Chief Minister of Gujarat Vijaybhai Rupani and Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel Dharmendra Pradhan** presided over an **MOU** signing ceremony for 'Investment Promotion' between the **Government of Gujarat and IndianOil** for setting up a Petrochemical and Lube Integration (LuPech) Project and Acrylics / Oxo Alcohol Project along with other infrastructure projects at Gujarat Refinery".

NMPB and CSIR-NBRI signed MOU

- The **National Medicinal Plant Board (NMPB)** and the **National Botanical Research Institute (CSIR-NBRI)** have signed an agreement to boost cultivation and production of medicinal plants and herbs in India.
- The **AYUSH ministry** stated the MoU will facilitate the development of **Quality Planting Material (QPM)** of medicinal plants and herbs identified by the **NMPB**, help in establishment of their nurseries for QPM, development, promotion, conservation and cultivation of the appropriate medicinal plants in different agro-climatic zones, including the threatened medicinal plant species and plants for the high-altitude regions.
- "Through this collaboration, **NMPB will support CSIR-NBRI** in carrying out the potential medicinal plant species with high commercial value for the **Germplasm collection**/conservation and establishment of nursery and seed banks/gene banks".

BSE STAR MF signed MOU with GUMCCSL

- BSE-led mutual funds distributor platform, BSE STAR MF, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Godavari Urban Multi State Credit Co-Op Society Ltd., Nanded (GUMCCSL) to deepen its network of over 70,000 registered distributors.
- Sameer Patil, CBO of BSE stated “via this MoU, Godavari Urban Multi-State Co-Op Society Ltd. would strive to leverage its reach and capacity for delivery of a wider range of financial products such as mutual funds and so on.
- This partnership with BSE STAR MF will ensure that customers will be on boarded through an easy and hassle-free digital process and the efforts are aligned towards a **less-paper ecosystem.**”
- MoU aims to facilitate cooperation between BSE STAR MF and rural markets in areas such as financial inclusion, investment goals, and wealth creation.

Important Summit & Conference

2nd UN Global Sustainable Transport Conference hosted by Beijing in October

- The second United Nations (UN) Global Sustainable Transport Conference will take place from October 14 to 16 in Beijing, China.
- Theme of the Conference : **sustainable transport, sustainable development**
- It provides an opportunity to focus attention on the opportunities, challenges and solutions towards achieving sustainable transport worldwide.

Aim :

- To advance sustainable transport globally and underscores its importance for the achievement of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, according to the organizers.

Note :

- The first Global Sustainable Transport Conference was held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, in 2016.
- It is Organized by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.
- It is expected to indicate a way forward for sustainable transport to help achieve the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change.

First edition of Arab-India Energy Forum held Virtually

- From June 08 to June 09, 2021, the first edition of the 2 day Arab-India Energy Forum was held Virtually.
- It was under the co-chairship of India and the Kingdom of Morocco.
- The inaugural session of the forum was addressed by R K Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Power, Aziz Rabbah, Minister of Energy and Mines of Morocco, and Kamal Hasan Ali, Assistant Secretary -General for Economic Affairs of the League of Arab States (LAS).
- In this Forum a range of issues on **boosting two-way energy cooperation and intra-regional power trading dominated were discussed.**

- The forum witnessed exchange of knowledge, expertise and best practices in the fields of energy efficiency programmes for different economic sectors, accelerated development of new and renewable energy, fostering regional power-sharing arrangements, enhanced oil recovery, tight gas extraction and safe nuclear power generation etc.
- The discussion was also held on respective national regulatory policies governing these sectors, training collaboration possibilities, Research & Development, and investment opportunities.

2021 NATO Summit Held in Brussels, Belgium

- **On June 14, 2021**, The yearly meeting of **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** held a face-to-face summit at **NATO headquarters in Brussels, Belgium**.
- It was the **31st formal meeting of the heads of state and heads of government of the alliance**.

About the Summit :

- The summit of the **30-member NATO group** was held as a part of **U.S. President Joe Biden's first foreign trip**.
- All the leaders agreed on the "NATO 2030" agenda, a comprehensive initiative to make sure that the alliance remains ready to face future challenges.
- The agenda also states that NATO will **strengthen political consultation and the resilience of society, reinforce defense and deterrence, sharpen the technological edge, and develop its next Strategic Concept in time for the summit in 2022**.

IIT Bombay Hosts Conference of BRICS Network Universities

- **On June 16, 2021**, The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay hosted a **three-day virtual conference of BRICS Network Universities on electric mobility**.
- The **theme** of the Conference of BRICS Network Universities is "**Electric Mobility**".
- The conference is **part of the engagements that India is hosting under the education stream during its 13th BRICS Summit this year**.
- More than 100 students, researchers, and faculty from the BRICS Network Universities of the five-member countries are expected to participate in the conference.
- The Conference deals with **Eighteen experts from Brazil, Russia, India, China and S. Africa who will talk about various aspects of electric mobility like traffic management, hydrogen technology, hybrid vehicles, lithium-ion batteries and linkage between e-mobility and livelihoods over the next three days**.

About BRICS Network Universities :

- BRICS Network University is a **union of higher education institutions of the five BRICS member countries**.

Objective :

- **Enhancing educational cooperation, especially in the field of research and innovation.**
- **IIT-Bombay is the leading institution of India for the BRICS Network University.**

9th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable Hosted by India in 2022

- On June 22, 2021, the International Energy Forum (IEF) informed India that it has agreed to host the 9th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable (AMER9) in 2022.
- It will take forward the understandings reached in the previous meeting in Abu Dhabi during 2018.
- The Summit was co-hosted by India.
- The Summit Focusing on global energy security in the age of change.

India Organize BRICS Green Hydrogen Summit

- Under the Ministry of Power, NTPC Limited, organised a two-day workshop on Green Hydrogen.
- The event will be anchored by India's state-run power major NTPC.
- The online event will be held through a video conference from June 22, 2021 to 23, 2021.
- Experts from Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa (BRICS) countries participated.
- In addition to that, the Central government also launched a National Hydrogen Mission this year.

Benefits of Green Hydrogen :

- Green Hydrogen has no carbon footprint.
- Green Hydrogen is one of the most popular and demanding fields in the current times and considered to be the next carrier of energy.
- Green hydrogen has a great amount of potential to ensure sustainable energy supply.
- It would increase the level of energy available at the same time and minimize the negative impact on the environment.

About National Hydrogen Mission :

- This Mission is to introduce hydrogen purchase obligations for fertilizers, refineries.

Aim :

- To develop India into a global hub for the manufacturing of hydrogen and fuel cells technologies across the value chain.

Andhra Pradesh Governor inaugurates International Education e-Conference

- On June 26, 2021, Andhra Pradesh Governor Biswa Bhusan Harichandan inaugurated the two-day International Education e-Conference.
- The two-day conference was held in virtual mode.
- The Conference held on the theme of Holistic Education for Excellence in Life.
- It has been organised by Prajapita Brahma Kumari Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya.

Purpose :

- Through holistic development children will be equipped with intellectual, mental, physical, emotional and spiritual capabilities to face the demands and challenges of everyday life and real-world education helps every child find his or her unique place in the world in alignment with their innate values.

Note :

- **Governor of Chattisgarh Anasuiya Uikey** also presented this event.

Revision Points

Conference/Summits	Venue/Host Country	Chaired By/Theme/Addressed By/Others
2nd UN Global Sustainable Transport Conference	Beijing, China	Theme: Sustainable transport, sustainable development
1 st edition of the 2 day Arab-India Energy Forum		Co-chaired by India and the Kingdom of Morocco
North Atlantic Treaty Organization	Brussels, Belgium	
BRICS Network Universities on electric mobility	IIT Bombay	Electric Mobility
9th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable	India	
Two-day workshop on Green Hydrogen.		Organized by NTPC
International Education e-Conference		Holistic Education for Excellence in Life

Important Defence News

NSA Ajit Doval commissions Indian Coast Guard's offshore Patrol Vessel Sajag

- On May 29, 2021, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) 'Sajag' was commissioned by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval.
- It has been constructed by Goa Shipyard Limited.
- Sajag is the third in a series of five offshore patrol vessels indigenously designed.
- The ship is fitted with advanced technology equipment, weapons and sensors capable of carrying a twin engine helicopter and four high speed boats.

India Obtains 8 new Flying Training Academies

- India will get eight new Flying Training Academies under the liberalised Flying Training Organisation (FTO) policy of the Airports Authority of India (AAI), the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

- These academies will be set up at **five airports across the country Belagavi, Jalgaon, Kalaburagi, Khajuraho and Lilabari.**

Aim :

- To make **India a global flying training hub** and to prevent the exodus of Indian cadets to foreign FTOs.
- These FTOs will also be designed to cater the flying training requirements of cadets in India's neighbouring countries.
- This initiative will **help the Indian flying training sector in becoming more self-sustaining under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat initiative.**

Navies of Indo - Thai - begins three-day coordinated patrol in Andaman Sea

- **From 09 to 11 June 2021, the three day coordinated patrol between the Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy was conducted.**
- It was the **31st edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT) in the Andaman Sea.**
- The Indian Navy's offshore patrol vessel INS Saryu and Thai ship Krabi along with Dornier maritime patrol aircraft from both navies.

About CORPAT :

- Since **2005**, the two navies have been **bi-annually undertaking CORPAT along their international maritime boundary line (IMBL).**
- The CORPAT builds up understanding and interoperability between navies and facilitates institution of measures to prevent and suppress unlawful activities like illegal unreported unregulated (IUU) fishing, drug trafficking, maritime terrorism, armed robbery and piracy.

Indian Navy to receive three MH-60 Romeo Multi role helicopters from the US in July 2022

1. **Indian Navy will receive the first set of three of the 24 MH-60 'Romeo' multirole helicopters from the US in July 2022.**
2. In **February 2020, India had signed a Rs 15,157 crore (\$2.13 billion) contract with the US for Lockheed Martin .**
3. The first batch of Indian pilots has reached the US for training on the helicopters .

Key Features of MH-60 Romeo :

- The MH-60 Romeo helicopters would be **equipped with multimode radars and night vision devices, Hellfire missiles, torpedoes, and precision-guided weapons.**
- The MH-60 helicopters have been **designed to operate from cruisers, aircraft carriers, destroyers, and frigates.**
- The choppers are designed for hunting submarines as well as knocking out ships and conducting search-and-rescue.

ARDE & HEMRL develops State-of-the-Art Canopy Severance System

- **State-of-the-art CSS** has been developed **ab-initio at Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE), Pune** in association with **High Energy Material Research Laboratory (HEMRL), Pune**, for the indigenously developed **LCA Tejas and Trainer Aircraft, HJT-36 Aircraft and HTT-40 Aircraft.**
- It provides **safe passage by pre-weakening/severing the canopy to facilitate the smooth escape of the pilot in the shortest possible time.**
- All modern aircraft are equipped with a **Canopy Severance System (CSS).**

- It is an escape path clearance system for the pilot in case of emergencies occurring on the aircraft.
- The CSS design has been cleared by Certifying Agency RCMA (AA), Pune and CEMILAC, Bangalore has issued **Type Approval**.
- CSS has two independent subsystems.
- The first one is the **In-flight Egress System (IES)** for in-flight emergencies, which is integrated with the seat ejection operation
- Second one is the **Ground Egress System (GES)** for on-ground emergencies, which is independent of seat ejection.
- ARDE and HEMRL are now capable of developing CSS for any Military Aircraft as required by Indian Air Force.

Indian Navy and European Naval Force Exercise held in Gulf of Aden

- On June 18, 2021, The maiden Indian Navy and European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR) exercise began in the **Gulf of Aden**.
- A total of **five warships** from four navies were participating in the two-day exercise.
- It will **enhance and hone their war-fighting skills and their ability as an integrated force to promote peace, security and stability in the maritime domain**.
- For anti-piracy operations, **INS Trikand**, is participating in the exercise.
- Italy's ITS Carabinieri, the Spanish Navy's ESPS Navarra, and FS Tonnerre and FS Surcouf of France.

MoD & Goa Shipyard Ltd signs contract for construction of two Pollution Control Vessels for Indian Coast Guard

- On June 22, 2021, The Ministry of Defence has signed a contract with Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL) for the construction of **two Pollution Control Vessels (PCVs)** for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) at a cost of about **Rs 583 crore**.
- These Special Role ships will be **indigenously designed and will be developed & built by GSL**.
- The acquisition is under 'Buy Indian Indigenously Designed Developed & Manufactured (Buy Indian-IDDM)', the highest priority category for defence capital procurements.
- The acquisition will augment the capability of ICG to respond to oil spill disasters at sea and also will enhance Pollution Response (PR) efficiency.
- Both vessels are **scheduled for delivery by November 2024 and May 2025 respectively**.
- The new PCVs planned are for pollution response requirements in Eastern and the ecologically sensitive Andaman & Nicobar Regions.

IAF & Indian Navy begin 2-day passage exercise with US Carrier Strike Group in Indian Ocean

- On June 23, 2021, Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Indian Navy commenced two-day Passage exercise.
- The exercise will be **held two days, June 23, 2021 and June 24, 2021**.
- It is the **joint operational passage exercise** with the US Navy Carrier Strike Group in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- It will be carried out **south of Thiruvananthapuram, on the western seaboard**.

Aim of the Exercise :

- To **strengthen the bilateral relationship and cooperation by demonstrating the ability to integrate and coordinate comprehensively in maritime operations**.

- As part of the exercise, Sukhoi, Jaguars, IAF refuelling aircraft and warships and maritime patrol aircraft of the Navy will participate in the exercise.
- **INS Kochi and Teg**, along with **P8I and MiG-29K aircraft** will participate in a '**Passage Exercise**' with US Navy CSG Ronald Reagan.

Ministry of Defence, DRDO Successfully Test fires Subsonic Cruise Missile 'Nirbhay'

- On June 24, 2021, The subsonic cruise missile '**Nirbhay**' was successfully test-fired off the Odisha coast.
- Nirbhay is a subsonic cruise missile **designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) under the Ministry of Defence.**
- The missile having a **range of 1500 KM**, it was fired from **launchpad no.3 of the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur of Balasore district.**
- The missile is capable of **carrying nuclear warheads upto 200 kg.**

Note :

- The **first test flight** of Nirbhay was held on **12 March 2013.**
- This was the **eighth test flight** of the missile.

About the Missile 'Nirbhay' :

- Nirbhay is a **long-range, all-weather, subsonic cruise missile.**
- The missile can be **launched from multiple platforms** and is capable of carrying conventional and nuclear warheads.
- The missile has a **length of 6 metres, a width of 0.52 metres, a wingspan of 2.7 metres** and weighs about **1500 kg.**
- The missile **can reach speeds of 0.6-0.7 Mach.**

INS Tabar Utilized for naval exercises in Africa, Europe

- To **enhance military cooperation with friendly nations**, Indian Naval Ship (INS) Tabar, which commenced its prolonged deployment on June 13, will **visit a number of ports in Africa and Europe till September end, 2021.**
- INS Tabar, is a **Talwar-class stealth Frigate** built for Indian Navy in Russia.
- The ship is commanded **by Captain M Mahesh** and has a complement of **300 personnel.**
- Tabar will transit across the Gulf of Aden, Red Sea, Suez Canal, Mediterranean Sea, North Sea and Baltic Sea while making port calls at Djibouti, Egypt, Italy, France, UK, Russia, Netherlands, Morocco, and Arctic Council countries like Sweden and Norway.
- The ship is also **scheduled to participate in bilateral exercises** like Ex Konkan with the Royal Navy, Ex Varuna with French Navy and Ex Indra with Russian Federation Navy.
- The deployment will also see participation by the ship in the **Russian Navy Day celebrations** from July 22 to 27.
- This is to **further strengthen maritime security in the region** and to **consolidate combined operations against maritime threats.**

DRDO successfully test-fires Agni series' off Odisha coast - Agni-P

- On May 28, 2021, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight-tested a **New Generation Nuclear Capable Ballistic Missile "Agni P"** from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam island off the coast of Odisha, Balasore.

About Agni - P :

- Agni P is a **new generation advanced variant** of the Agni class of missiles.
- The new ballistic missile, which has a **range capability between 1,000 and 2,000 kilometres**.
- The new nuclear-capable missile is **fully made up of composite material** and it was a **textbook launch**.

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk 2021 - Turkey & Azerbaijan Joint Military Drills Started in Baku

- On June 28, 2021, Turkey & Azerbaijan armies started joint military exercises **Mustafa Kemal Atatürk – 2021** in Baku.
- The **three day drill** will run until June 30, 2021.
- The drill name is a reference to **modern Turkey's founder Mustafa Kemal Atatürk**.
- It Involves **600 soldiers, 40 tanks and armored vehicles, 20 cannons, seven war helicopters, unmanned aerial vehicles and 50 other vehicles**

Purpose :

- To improve the interaction between the two countries' army units during combat operations, to develop the commanders' military decision-making skills and their ability to manage military units

Note :

- On June 15, Turkey and Azerbaijan signed the **Shusha Declaration**, a pact that focuses on defense cooperation and establishing new transportation routes.

Important Science and Technology News

IFFCO introduces world's first Nano Urea Liquid Globally

- On May 31, 2021, Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) introduced the world's first Nano Urea for the farmers.
- This Nano Urea will be in **liquid form**.
- It is **easy on the pocket of farmers** and will be effective in increasing farmers' income.
- The **production** of the urea will **begin from June 2021**.
- IFFCO has **priced Nano Urea at Rs 240 per 500 ml bottle** for the farmers, it is 10 per cent cheaper than the cost of a **bag of conventional Urea**.
- It will be **primarily available to farmers through its cooperative sales and marketing channel** apart from its sale on **IFFCO's e-commerce platform www.iffcobazar.in**

AI-based Solution XraySetu Developed to Detect Covid-19 in Rural Population Through WhatsApp

- A new AI-driven platform called '**XraySetu**' has been developed with the help of Chest X-ray, to help in **early detection of COVID 19**.

- It can work with **low-resolution images sent via mobiles**, is quick and easy to use, and can facilitate detection in rural **areas**.
- It is useful for RT-PCR tests and CT-Scans are not easily available.
- X-Ray Setu, **Can be operates through Whatsapp**,
- It has been **developed by ARTPARK (AI & Robotics Technology Park)**, with support from the Department of Science & Technology (DST), GOI, in collaboration with Bangalore based HealthTech startup Niramai and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

Working Procedure of 'XraySetu' :

- Doctor needs to visit **www.xraysetu.com** and click on the **'Try the Free X-Ray Setu Beta'** button.
- The platform will then redirect to another page, in that they can choose to engage with the WhatsApp-based chatbot via web or smartphone application.
- Otherwise doctors can simply send a WhatsApp message to the phone number **+91 8046163838** to **start the X-Ray Setu service**.
- Then they just need to click the picture of the patient's X-ray and obtain the 2-page automated diagnostics with annotated images in a few minutes.

About AI & Robotics Technology Park :

- It is a not-for-profit foundation established by the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru**.
- It will promote technology innovations in AI (Artificial Intelligence)& Robotics leading to societal impact by executing ambitious mission mode R&D projects in healthcare, education, mobility, infrastructure, agriculture, retail and cyber-security focusing.

Artificial Synaptic Network that Mimics Human Brain Developed by Scientists

- Scientists have **fabricated a device that can mimic human brain cognitive actions** and is more efficient than conventional techniques in simulating artificial intelligence, thus **enhancing the computational speed and power consumption efficiency**.
- It has been **devised by Scientists from Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bengaluru**, an **autonomous institute of the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India**.
- It has been recently **published in the journal 'Materials Horizons'**.

Aim :

- To **develop a synaptic device for neuromorphic applications with a humble fabrication method**.
- Artificial synaptic network (ASN) **resembling the biological neural network via a simple self-forming method**

IIT-Ropar launched AmbiTAG, India's first indigenous temperature data logger

- **Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar (IIT Ropar) in Punjab** has developed a first-of-its-kind **IoT device – AmbiTag** that records **real-time ambient temperature** during the transportation of perishable products, vaccines and even body organs and blood.
- That recorded temperature further helps to know whether that particular item transported from anywhere in the world is still usable or perished because of temperature variation.
- This **information** is particularly critical for vaccines including Covid-19 vaccine, organs and blood transportation.

Bharti backed OneWeb successfully launches 36 New LEO satellites

- On May 28, 2021, Bharti group backed OneWeb, the Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite communications company, Co-owned by Bharati Global and the UK Government launched the next successful 36 satellites.
- It was done by Arianespace from the Vostochny Cosmodrome.
- It will form part of OneWeb's 648 LEO satellite fleet that will deliver high-speed, low-latency global connectivity.
- It brings OneWeb's total in-orbit constellation to 218 satellites.
- It is a part of **Five to 50' service**, enabling OneWeb to offer connectivity across the United Kingdom, Alaska, Northern Europe, Greenland, the Arctic Seas and Canada.
- The company was also able to back an investment of almost **\$550 million** from a Company named **Eutelsat Communications**, which is based in Paris, France, in April 2021.
- It has the acquisition of a **total of 24% stakes** of the company

China successfully launches cargo spacecraft Tianzhou-2

- On May 29, 2021, China successfully launched an automated cargo resupply spacecraft named Tianzhou-2, or **Heavenly Vessel**.
- It was **blasted off via a Long March-7 Y3 rocket** from the **Wenchang Space Launch Centre** on the southern island of Hainan in the South China Sea.
- Tianzhou-2 is the **second of 11 missions** needed to complete China's first self-developed space station around 2022.
- It is the **third and largest orbital station** launched by China's increasingly ambitious space programme.

SpaceX launches tiny critters, solar panels to space station

- On June 03, 2021, SpaceX launched **thousands of tiny sea creatures** to the International Space Station, along with a **plaque-fighting toothpaste experiment** and **powerful solar panels**.
- This is **7,300-pound (3,300-kilogram)** which also includes **fresh lemons, onions, avocados and cherry tomatoes** for the station's seven astronauts.
- The Dragon cargo capsule, also brand new, is delivering the first of three sets of high-tech solar panels designed to bolster the space station's aging power grid.

Indian Navy Decommissioned oldest Hydrographic Survey Ship INS Sandhayak

- On June 04, 2021, INS Sandhayak, the Indian Navy's oldest Hydrographic Survey Vessel was decommissioned at Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam.

- The Ship Served the nation for **40 glorious years**.
- INS Sandhayak undertook over 200 major hydrographic surveys.
- The ship took part in important operations :
 1. Op Pawan in Sri Lanka, 1987
 2. Op Rainbow for Humanitarian Assistance in the aftermath of the Tsunami in 2004
 3. Maiden Indo-US HADR Exercise Tiger-Triumph in 2019.

To Treat Post Covid - Fungal Infections Researchers From IIT Hyderabad develops Oral Amphotericin

- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad has developed **nano-fibre based** controlled-release **oral tablets of Amphotericin B (AmB)** to treat fungal infections arising out of COVID-19.
- Presently, **AmB is an injectable drug**.
- Professor Saptarshi Majumdar and Dr Chandra Shekhar Sharma from the Department of Chemical Engineering have made a proven study about oral nanofibrous AMB to be effective for black fungus (visceral leishmaniasis).
- The oral tablets used in the **treatment of kala-azar or black fever have come to the aid of black fungus patients**.
- In 2019, researchers from IIT- H's Creative and Advanced Research Based on Nanomaterials (CARBON) lab reported using gelatin nanofibers to manufacture Amphotericin B in a sustained-release tablet form.

India's first CAR-T cell therapy conducted at ACTREC, in Mumbai

- On June 4, the country's first CAR-T cell therapy was done at the Bone Marrow Transplant unit at ACTREC, Tata Memorial Centre in Mumbai.
- This trial is the **joint effort of the IIT bombay and Tata Memorial Centre**.
- It was **Supported by the Department of Biotechnology through the National Biopharma Mission-BIRAC**.
- The central government's **National Biopharma Mission-BIRAC** has approved Rs 19.15 crore to the team for **conducting a first-in-human phase-1/2 clinical trial of the CAR-T cells**.
- Clinical trials conducted globally have shown promising results in end-stage patients, especially in patients suffering from acute lymphocytic leukemia.
- Each patient's CAR-T cell therapy **costs Rs 3-4 crore, and currently this technology is not available in India**.

About CAR-T :

- The CAR-T cells were **designed and manufactured at the Bioscience and Bioengineering (BSBE) department of IIT, Bombay**.
- This work is **partly supported by the BIRAC-PACE scheme**.
- The clinical trials are being **done by Dr Gaurav Narula, professor of paediatric oncology and health sciences**.

ISRO develops 3 types of ventilators, to transfer technology to industry for clinical Usage

- The Indian Space Research Organisation has developed three types of ventilators, and has come forward to transfer the technology to industry for **clinical usage as the country battles the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic**.
- It is a **low-cost and portable critical care ventilator, 'PRANA' ("Programmable Respiratory Assistance for the Needy Aid")** is based on the automated compression of an AMBU (Artificial Manual Breathing unit) bag.

- The ICU grade positive pressure mechanical ventilator is titled 'VaU' (abbreviation of Ventilation assist Unit).

India's first Power free CPAP device Jivan Vayu Developed By IIT Ropar

- **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar** has developed a device called '**Jivan Vayu**.
- It can be used as a **substitute for a CPAP machine**.
- **Khushboo Rakha**, Assistant Professor, Metallurgical and Materials Engineering, has developed the device at the Advanced Materials and Design Lab of IIT Ropar.

About Jivan Vayu :

- The device **has been manufactured using 3D printing and has also been tested mechanically**.
- It has an **inbuilt viral filter at the air entrainment end which has a viral efficacy of 99.99%**.
- The **device is designed to maintain an FiO2 of above 40% with a PEEP (positive end -expiratory pressure) of 5-20 cm H2O**.
- Jivan Vayu can deliver **high flow oxygen up to 60 Litres Per Minute (LPM)**
- The new device is the "**first to be designed in India that functions even without electricity**" and is adapted to both kinds of oxygen generation units like CO2 cylinders and oxygen pipelines .

IIT Ropar in recent news (June 1):

- Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar (IIT Ropar) in Punjab has **developed a first-of-its-kind IoT device AmbiTag that records real-time ambient temperature during the transportation of perishable products, vaccines and even body organs and blood**.
- That recorded temperature further **helps to know whether that particular item transported from anywhere in the world is still usable or perished because of temperature variation**.
- This information is particularly critical for vaccines including Covid-19 vaccine, organs and blood transportation.

European Space Agency's EnVision mission to Venus in 2030

- **To Study Venus the European Space Agency (ESA) has announced the launching of its probe EnVision**.
- It will probably be **launched to the planet in early 2030**.
- The spacecraft will **carry a range of instruments to study the planet's atmosphere and surface, monitor trace gases in the atmosphere and analyse its surface composition**.

About EnVision :

- EnVision is an **ESA led mission with contributions from NASA**.
- The EnVision probe of ESA will **determine how and why Venus and Earth evolved so differently, even while being in the habitable zone to the Sun**.
- EnVision launched on an **Ariane 6 rocket, the spacecraft will take about 15 months to reach Venus and will take 16 more months to achieve orbit circularisation**.
- Recently **NASA selected two missions to the planet Venus, called DAVINCI+ and VERITAS**.
- Early **ESA-led mission to Venus called 'Venus Express' (2005-2014) that focussed on atmospheric research and pointed to volcanic hotspots on the planet's surface**.

- Other than this, Japan's Akatsuki spacecraft has also been studying the planet's atmosphere since 2015.

HAL manufactured ALH Mk-III helicopters inducted into ICG

- On June 12, 2021, The Indian Coast Guard inducted the first three of 16 Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) Mk-III designed and manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

About ALH Mk-III helicopters :

- The ALH Mk-III marine version has been designed and developed with in-house customisation of 19 additional equipment by HAL to meet Coast Guard requirements.
- The HAL will supply 16 ALH Mk-III to the ICG by mid next year 2022.
- On induction, the 16 ALH Mk-III will be positioned at four Coast Guard squadrons at Bhubaneswar, Porbandar, Kochi and Chennai.

World's first wooden satellite WISA Woodsat to be launched from New Zealand

- The European Space Agency (ESA) has planned to launch the world's first wooden satellite, WISA Woodsat, on Earth's orbit by the end of 2021.
- It will be launched with a Rocket Lab Electron rocket from the Mahia Peninsula launch complex in New Zealand.
- According to ESA, the mission was initiated by Jari Mäkinen.

China launches first human spaceflight Since 2016

- On June 17, 2021, The Shenzhou 12 mission launched from Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China.
- China successfully launched the first three men crew to its new space station in its first crewed mission in five years.
- A Chinese spacecraft will blast off from the Gobi Desert on a Long March rocket in the coming days, ferrying three men onboard.
- Shenzhou-12, meaning 'Divine Vessel'.
- It will be the third of 11 missions needed to complete China's space station by 2022. Among them, four will be missions with people on board, potentially propelling up to 12 Chinese astronauts into space.

Note :

- The launch is a gift to the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party.
- China, aims to become a major spacefaring power by 2030, in May became the second country to put a rover on Mars.

IIT & YIC Developed a new technique to detect cyclones earlier than satellites

- Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur and Yantai Institute of Coastal Zone Research in China have developed a technique that can detect the formation of cyclones in the North Indian Ocean region.
- The research team for this study included Jia Albert, Bishnupriya Sahu and Prasad K Bhaskaran from IIT Kharagpur.
- It is published in the journal Atmospheric Research.
- The study was conducted under the Climate Change Program with support from the Centre's Department of Science and Technology.

- The research team **analysed four post-monsoon severe cyclones** that developed over the North Indian Ocean, came out with a threshold value of a parameter called **Okubo-Weiss Zeta Parameter**.
- When the parameter crossed the threshold value, it resulted in the formation of a cyclone.

International collaborative sky surveying project : PASIPHAE

- **Polar-Areas Stellar-Imaging in Polarisation High-Accuracy Experiment (PASIPHAE)** is an international collaborative sky surveying project.
- PASIPHAE is an instrument used in **sky surveys to study stars**.
- The PASIPHAE survey will **measure starlight polarisation over large areas of the sky**.
- Scientists from the University of Crete, Greece, Caltech, USA, Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), India, the South African Astronomical Observatory and the University of Oslo, Norway, are involved in this project.
- The Project, which **will be used in upcoming sky surveys to study stars, is being led by an Indian astronomer**.

About the Project Funds :

- The Project had been **funded with \$1 million**
- 1. **The Infosys Foundation, India,**
- 2. **Stavros Niarchos Foundation, Greece**
- 3. **USA's National Science Foundation**
- This was combined with contributions from the **European Research Council and the National Research Foundation in South Africa**.
- The survey will use **two high-tech optical polarimeters to observe the northern and southern skies**.
- It will **focus on capturing starlight polarisation of very faint stars that are so far away that polarisation signals from there have not been systematically studied**.
- The distances will be obtained from measurements of the **GAIA satellite**.
- It will help to understand the mysteries surrounding the origin of the universe and continue to draw human curiosity.

New Way of Imaging Through Fog Developed by Indo-French Researchers

- A workforce of **Indo-French researchers** has developed a brand new imaging technique to make clear images of objects in foggy weather conditions.

Researchers Team :

1. Raman Analysis Institute (RRI) in Bengaluru
 2. Isro's Area Software Centre (SAC) in Ahmedabad
 3. Université Paris-Saclay
 4. CNRS, France
- The work was **partially funded by the Division of Science and Know-how (DST) and the Indo-French Centre for the Promotion of Superior Analysis**.

IIT Madras inaugurates Research Centre On Start-ups And Risk Financing

- The Indian Institute of Technology Madras, has launched a 'Centre for Research on Start-Ups and Risk Financing' (CREST).

Aim :

- To provide academic and thought leadership in innovation, entrepreneurship and risk capital.
- To create a unique world-class data repository on Indian start-ups and ventures to address a major hurdle for engaging in high-quality research.

Key mission & Vision of CREST :

- CREST is to be globally recognized as a leading centre of research engaged in scholarly research in the areas of creation, development, and financing of innovation, start-ups, and entrepreneurship.
- To engage in scholarly research encompassing the areas of innovation, entrepreneurship, and risk capital.

China plans to launch its first crewed mission to Mars in 2033

- China plans to send its first crewed mission to Mars in 2033.
- It is a long-term plan to build a permanently inhabited base on the Red Planet and extract its resources.
- It will intensify a race with the United States to plant humans on Mars.
- Crewed launches to Mars are planned for 2033, 2035, 2037, 2041.
- Before the crewed mission, China will send robots to Mars to study possible sites for the base and to build systems to extract resources there.
- Meanwhile, China is also studying Sky Ladder, a new space transportation system for the Mars missions.

DRDO successfully test fires enhanced Pinaka Rocket in Odisha

- On June 25, 2021, The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test fired an extended range version of indigenously developed "Pinaka".
- It was carried at Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.
- The 122 mm Caliber rockets were launched from a Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher (MBRL).
- 25 enhanced Pinaka Rockets were launched in quick succession against targets at different ranges.
- The enhanced range version of Pinaka Rocket System can destroy targets at distances up to 45 kms.
- The rocket system has been developed jointly by Pune based Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE) and High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL).
- The development of the Enhanced Pinaka system was taken up to achieve longer range performance.

National Institute Of Immunology Receives Trademark for India's First Indigenous Tumour Antigen SPAG9

- The SPAG9 antigen developed by the National Institute of Immunology (NII) has received the ASPAGNIITM trademark, from the Department of Biotechnology (DBT).
- India's first indigenous tumour antigen SPAG9 was discovered in 1998 by Dr Anil Suri.
- He heads the Cancer Research Programme at the NII, a DBT institute.

- ASPAGNIITM is being used in **dendritic cell (DC) based immunotherapy** in cervical, ovarian cancer and will also be used in breast cancer.
- Immunotherapy is a **new approach** that exploits the body's inner capability to put up a fight against cancer.

Important Environment News

New Species of Spider Cricket - Jayanti Found in Chhattisgarh

- The Zoology Department of Panjab University, Chandigarh, in April 2021 by a team of zoologists headed by Dr **Ranjana Jaiswara** discovered a new species of Spider Cricket named **Indimimus jayanti**.
- It was found in the Kurra caves of Chhattisgarh.
- It has been published in the reputed journal **Zootaxa**.
- The new species was named after **Professor Jayant Biswas**, one of the leading cave explorers in the country.
- It was identified under the genus **Arachnomimus Saussure, 1897**.

About jayanti :

- The newly discovered subgenus, **Indimimus**.
- It has a **lock-and-key model genitalia structure**.
- Crickets are noticeable for their loud calls, the new Jayanti subgenus cannot produce sound and their females don't have ears and may be **communicating by beating their abdomen or any other body part on the cave wall**. (**Unique way of Vibrational Communication**).
- Vibrational communication is **one of the softest but fastest modes of signal transmission**.

A New Species *Cyrtodactylus bengkhuaiai* of Gecko Discovered from Meghalaya and Mizoram

- A new species of ***Cyrtodactylus bengkhuaiai***, was discovered from **Mizoram and Meghalaya**.
- In 4 new species of gecko, **2 from Meghalaya and 2 from Mizoram**.
- The Study about the new species was published in ***Zootaxa***
- It is a peer-reviewed clinical mega magazine for animal taxonomists printed from New Zealand.
- The second one new lizard in Mizoram, ***Cyrtodactylus aaronbaueri***, **used to be recorded in and round Aizawl the city**.
- The other 2 new species recorded in Meghalaya are the **karst-dwelling bent-toed gecko (*Cyrtodactylus karsticola*) and Agarwal's bent-toed gecko (*Cyrtodactylus agarwali*)**.
- Both species are from **limestone caves close to Siju village in South Garo Hills district**

Black carbon deposits accelerates glaciers and snow melt in Himalayan ranges by World Bank

- **On June 03, 2021**, According to the **World Bank Study Black carbon deposits** accelerated glaciers and snow melt in the fragile **Himalayan ranges and are changing temperatures and precipitation patterns, due to human activities**.
- It is **generated by human activity both inside and outside South Asia**.
- Changing temperatures and precipitation patterns, anthropogenic black carbon (BC) deposits soot are further accelerating glaciers and snow melt in these mountain ranges.

New Species of Coffee Planted Discovered in Kerala

- A New Species of **Coffee Plant Argostemma quarantena** Discovered in Wagamon hills, Kerala.
- The New Species **belongs to the family Rubiaceae**.
- Argostemma quarantena to **commemorate the lives lost in Pandemic**.

About the Research Team :

- The plant was recognized by an analysis group consisting of Anoop P. Balan and A.J. Robi, school of the Division of Botany, Bishop Abraham Memorial School, Thuruthicad, Pathanamthitta district; and N. Sasidharan, former Chief Scientist, Kerala Forest Analysis Institute (KFRI), Peechi.

About Argostemma quarantena :

- Argostemma quarantena is a **perennial herb** which grows to a top of 3-7cm and is characterised by putting white flowers.

15-metre tree of Coffee discovered in Andaman & Nicobar Islands

- A new **15-meter-tall tree Pyrostria laljii**, that belongs to the **genus of the coffee family** has recently been discovered.
- It was **discovered from the Andaman Islands by a team of researchers from India and the Philippines**.

About Pyrostria laljii :

- The tree has an **umbellate inflorescence with 8-12 flowers**.
- The colour of the flowers varies from white to cream, and turns brown after pollination.
- The tree is distinguished by a long stem with a whitish coating on the trunk, and oblong-ovate leaves with a cuneate base, and was first reported from South Andaman's Wandoor forest.
- Pyrostria laljii, is also the **first record of the genus Pyrostria in India**.

Note :

- Pyrostria laljii has been **assessed as 'Critically Endangered'** based on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List criteria.
- The new species has been named **Pyrostria laljii** after Lal Ji Singh, Joint Director and Head of Office, Andaman and Nicobar Regional Centre, Botanical Survey of India.
- Dr. Singh and Mr. Naik has also **discovered a new species of pokeweed named Rivina and amanensis**.
- It represents the **first record of the pokeweed family Petiveriaceae** in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

New Species of Skittering frog : Euphlyctis Kerala discovered from surroundings of Thattekkad bird sanctuary

- A new species of **skittering frog Euphlyctis Kerala** has been **identified from the surroundings of the Thattekkad bird sanctuary**.

About Researchers Team :

- A team of researchers from the **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Mount Carmel Faculty (MCC), Bengaluru, and Nationwide Institute of Science Training and Analysis (NISER), Bhubaneswar**.
- The new species is **named in honour of the exceptional biodiversity of the State**.

- The new species **Published in the Worldwide Journal Zootaxa printed from New Zealand**.
- The research is a part of an “**Integrative Taxonomic Strategy (ITA)**” whereby scientists utilise morphological characters, genetic research and different parameters to substantiate their findings of latest species.
- This discovery was **part of the Zoological Survey of India's (WGRC, Kozhikode)** faunal exploratory and documentation programme within the Thattekad hen sanctuary.

About Euphlyctis Kerala :

- New species Euphlyctis Kerala to be discovered within the **contemporary water bodies of the foothills of the Western Ghats, south of the Palakkad Hole**.
- These frogs live in **freshwater bodies, conservation of these freshwater systems plays a crucial role in conservation**.
- Members of the genus Euphlyctis (skittering frogs) have their distribution vary from Arabian Peninsula, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, and Thailand.

Sida keralensis - New Plant Species Found in Kerala

- A new Plant Species **Sida keralensis** found on the **roadsides and wastelands in Thiruvananthapuram district of Kerala**.
- Their findings have been revealed in the **journal Phytotaxa**.

About the Research Team :

- A crew of researchers from the **Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGRI)**, Palode, consisting of E.S. Santhosh Kumar, S. Shailajakumari, A.K. Sreekala and R. Prakash Kumar (director, JNTBGRI) and Parthipan B. of S.T. Puccho College, Nagercoil.

About Sida keralensis :

- Sida keralensis is an **erect branched subshrub, rising to a top of 40-80 cm**.
- The **stems are greenish or barely purple-tinged**.
- It has **2 mm-long, brownish-black seeds and hanging yellow flowers**.
- The **species is called after the State of Kerala**.

Note :

- The genus Sida has about **250 species distributed within the tropical and sub-tropical areas, of which 22 will be present in India**.

Important Rankings and Indexes

SDG India Index for 2020-21 : Kerala Tops; Released by NITI Aayog

- On June 03, 2021, NITI Aayog launched the **third edition of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index and Dashboard 2020-21**.
- **Kerala retained the top spot in 2021 SDG India Index**
- In Union Territories **Chandigarh Topped Followed by Delhi & Puducherry**.
- The theme of SDG India Index and Dashboard 2020–21 : **Partnerships in the Decade of Action**.

Aim of the Index :

- The index is to **comprehensively monitor and rank the progress made by States and Union Territories towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).**

Top 5 States in SDG India Index for 2020-21 :

- Kerala - 75
- Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu - 74
- Andhra Pradesh - 72
- Sikkim - 71
- Maharashtra - 70
- **Bihar and Jharkhand were the worst-performing states** on the SDG India Index with scores of 52 and 56 respectively.

About SDG Index :

- The SDG India Index is tabulated **annually by NITI Aayog.**
- To **evaluate the progress of states and union territories on the basis of social, economic and environmental criteria.**

Cognizant ranked 185th on “2021 Fortune 500 List”

- **Cognizant** climbed to **No. 185** on the **2021 Fortune 500 list** with a digital focus driving the advancement of the **annual ranking of America’s largest companies.**
- The US-based IT company with a strong offshore presence in India, debuted on the list in **2011 at 484.**
- It entered the **top 200** in 2018 and **rose nine spots** on this year’s list.
- Fortune 500 companies are ranked based on their total revenue for their respective fiscal years.
- Cognizant’s 2020 revenue of \$ 16.7 billion raised the company to its **current rank of 194** on the 2020 Fortune 500 ranking.

US became 2nd largest Source of FDI to India

- The **US replaced Mauritius** as the **second largest source of foreign direct investment** into India during **2020-21** with inflows of USD 13.82 billion, according to government data.
- **Singapore** remained the **top source of foreign direct investment (FDI)** into the country for the third consecutive fiscal year at **USD 17.41 billion.**
- During the last financial year, India attracted **USD 5.64 billion** in FDI from Mauritius, according to the data by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- Total FDI, including equity, re-invested earnings and capital, rose **10 per cent** to the highest-ever USD 81.72 billion, as against USD 74.39 billion in 2019-20.

EIU Report 2021: New Zealand’s Auckland named as World’s Most Liveable city

- **Auckland in New Zealand** has been **named the world's most liveable city**, in an annual ranking that has been shifted by the corona virus pandemic.

- The **Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)** survey **ranked 140 cities** on factors including stability, infrastructure, education and access to healthcare.
- Auckland in New Zealand has been named the **world's most liveable city**, in an annual ranking that has been shifted by the coronavirus pandemic.
- But the pandemic proved to be the defining factor in this year's list.
- It meant European cities fell while those in **Australia, Japan and New Zealand** rose up the rankings.

Asia University Rankings 2021 : IISc, Bengaluru Ranked Best Indian University

- On June 02, 2021, in the top 100 list of Times Higher Education (THE) Asia University Rankings 2021 Released.
- In that, **three Indian universities** secured positions in the top 100 list.
- **IISc Bangalore, IIT Ropar and IIT Indore** have secured ranks among the **top 100 universities in Asia**.
- **IISc Bangalore** ranked at **37th position**, It was the **highest ranked university from India for the seventh year in a row**.
- The other two Universities are **Indian Institute of Technology Ropar** ranked **55th Position** and **Indian Institute of Technology Indore** **78th Position**.
- **Tsinghua University, China** has gained the **first position** in the **Asia university rankings 2021** Followed by China's Peking University.

Top 5 Universities :

1. Tsinghua University, China
2. Peking University, China
3. National University of Singapore
4. Hong Kong's University of Hong Kong
5. Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

About Times Higher Education Asia University Rankings :

- THE assessed performance of **551 universities** across the continent under **13 performance indicators or parameters**.

Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' releases Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2019

- On June 06, 2021, Union Education Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' approved the release of **Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2019-20 for States and Union Territories**.

About PGI Index :

- The PGI for States and Union Territories was **first published in 2019 with reference year 2017-18**.
 - The PGI index measures the performance of states in **school education, based on data drawn from several sources, like Unified District Information System for Education Plus, National Achievement Survey, and Mid-Day Meal**.
 - The PGI States/UTs for 2019-20 is the third publication in this series.
 - These parameters are grouped under five broad categories
1. Access (eg. enrolment ratio, transition rate and retention rate);
 2. Governance and management;
 3. Infrastructure;

4. Equity (difference in performance between scheduled caste students and general category students)
 5. Learning outcomes (average score in mathematics, science, languages and social science).
- In PGI grading system There are **10 levels**,
 - **Level I (951-1000) is the highest grade while Level X, also known as Grade VII (0-550) is the lowest grade.**
 - In 2021 PGI, **none of the state or Union Territory could achieve the highest grade, that is Level I .**
 - Chandigarh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Andaman and Nicobar and Kerala have obtained Grade 1++ (or Level II), which makes them the best performing states.
 - **Ladakh** has obtained the **lowest grade, Grade VII.**

IMD's World Competitiveness Index : Switzerland tops & India retains 43rd rank

- India maintained **43rd rank** on an annual World Competitiveness Index compiled by the Institute for Management Development (IMD).
- World Competitiveness Rankings List **comprises a total of 64 nations.**

Rank	Country
1	Switzerland
2	Sweden
3	Denmark
4	Netherlands
5	Singapore

The countries were ranked based on four key factors:

1. Economic Performance
 2. Government Efficiency
 3. Business Efficiency
 4. Infrastructure
- The top- Performing Asian Countries are Hong Kong (7th), Taiwan (8th) & China (16th).

Note :

- **Taiwan** entered the **top 10 rankings for the first time** since the ranking began 33 years ago.

BRICS Nations Ranking :

1. China (16th)
2. India (43rd)

3. Russia (45th)
4. Brazil (57th)
5. South Africa (62nd)

2021 Global Peace Index released by the Institute for Economics and Peace

- On **June 17, 2021**, **Institute for Economics and Peace** released the **15th edition of the Global Peace Index**.
- This index presents the most comprehensive data-driven analysis to-date on trends in peace, its economic value, and how to develop peaceful societies.
- **Iceland** remains the **most peaceful country in the world & Afghanistan is the least peaceful country** in the world for the fourth consecutive year.
- New Zealand, Denmark, Portugal, and Slovenia ranked 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th Positions.
- **India ranked 135th** most peaceful country in the world.
- In **South Asia Bhutan** ranked as the **most peaceful nation** followed by **Nepal, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka**.
- In Global Peace Index 2021 for South Asia, India and Pakistan have been placed on the 5th and 6th positions respectively.

About Global Peace Index :

- **GPI measures the peacefulness of 163 countries and territories, covering 99.7 percent of the world's population.**
- It comprises **23 qualitative and quantitative indicators** from highly respected sources.
- These indicators are grouped into three key domains: **ongoing conflict, safety and security, and militarization.**

India ranked 2nd in share of central bank surplus transfers

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** was **second** in terms of **reserves transferred to the government as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) for the fiscal year 2020-21.**
- **Turkey** has been ranked **first followed by India.**
- Recently, **RBI** has **transferred Rs 99,122-crore surplus** to the government for FY21 which is 73% higher than the Rs 57,128 crore paid out in 2019-20.
- The **surplus transferred by RBI constitutes 0.44% of GDP**, while that of the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey constitutes 0.5% of GDP.

Ease of living Index 2020 : Bengaluru ranks as most liveable city in India

- On **June 16, 2021**, **The Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)**, released the **Ease of living index 2020.**

Top 5 Livable Cities :

Rank	Country
1	Bengaluru
2	Chennai

3	Shimla
4	Bhubaneshwar
5	Mumbai

- In that Index, **Bengaluru** scored high on the parameter of economic ability (78.82), Chennai scored highest in the parameter quality of life (60.84).
- The city with the **highest citizen perception score** was Bhubaneshwar at 94.8.
- Meanwhile, **Delhi** was ranked the worst capital city, with a score of 69.4
- It focused on four parameters: **quality of life, economic ability, sustainability and citizens' perceptions.**
- This is the **second edition of the index**, the first one was launched in 2018.

India Obtains \$64 bn FDI in 2020 : UN Report

- According to the **World Investment Report 2021** by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), India received **\$64 billion** in Foreign Direct Investment in 2020.
- In that **India was the fifth largest recipient of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows.**
- The inflow was **boosted by acquisitions in the information and communication technology (ICT) industry.**
- In India, FDI increased 27% to \$64 billion in 2020 from \$51 billion in 2019.
- The **United States remained the largest recipient of FDI** with \$156 billion followed by China with USD 149 billion.
- In 2019, The global FDI flows decreased by 35 percent in 2020 to USD 1 trillion from USD 1.5 trillion.

SIPRI Yearbook 2021 : US Tops, India Ranked 6th Position

- **On June 14, 2021**, Swedish think tank **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)** released the **SIPRI Yearbook 2021.**
- The SIPRI Yearbook **assesses the current state of armaments, disarmament and international security.**
- In that, SIPRI Yearbook 2021 **US remains the top position** with the highest nuclear warheads, having **5550 in January 2021**, Compared to January 2020 this is a decrease from 5800.
- According to the yearbook, **India possessed 156 nuclear warheads** at the start of 2021 compared to 150 at the start of 2020.
- **India Ranked Sixth Position** in the list.
- The nine nuclear armed states - the U.S, Russia, the U.K, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea - together possessed an estimated 13,080 nuclear weapons at the start of 2021.
- Russia and the U.S. together possessed over 90% of global nuclear weapons and have extensive and expensive modernisation programmes under way.

Founder of the Tata Group Jamsetji Tata tops inaugural list of Top Philanthropists of the Century

- **Founder of the Tata Group, Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata (\$102.4 billion) has topped the EdelGive Hurun Philanthropists of the Century.**
- The list prepared by EdelGive Foundation and Hurun Report.
- **Tata is the only Indian in the top 10 list.**
- The other Indian among the **top 50 is Azim Premji, former chairman of Wipro, he is ranked 12th.**
- Bill Gates & Melinda French Gates (\$74.6 billion) ranked second position followed by Henry Wellcome (\$56.7 billion), Howard Hughes (\$38.6 billion) and Warren Buffett (\$37.4 billion).
- The ranking is based on **Total Philanthropic Value, calculated as the value of the assets adjusted for inflation, together with the sum of gifts or distributions to date.**
- According to the EdelGive Hurun report, The world's 50 most generous individuals came from five countries, led by the US with 39, followed by 5 from the UK, China (3), India (2) and Portugal & Switzerland (1 each).

The Reuters Institute Digital News Report, 2021, India Ranks 31

- **Out of 46 countries, India ranked 31 in the Reuters Institute Digital News Report, 2021.**
- **Finland had the highest levels of overall trust in news (65%) while the US had the lowest levels of trust (29%).**
- Only 38% of the respondents from India informed they trust the news overall.
- The **Asian College of Journalism (ACJ) provided logistical support for surveying the Indian market.**
- The survey shows **India is one of the strongest mobile-focused markets.**
- The **10th edition of the Digital News Report featured India for the first time** in the main report.
- The report is based on an **online survey of 46 media markets to understand how news is consumed in different countries.**
- The 2021 report **focuses on trust in news, the pandemic induced economic pressure on news publishers, misinformation and COVID-19.**

NTPC bags recognition of India's best employers among Nation-Builders 2021

- **"NTPC is the only PSU to consistently feature in India's Top 50 Best Workplaces.**
- This year **NTPC ranked 38th up from 47th position last year.**
- It also **won its first-ever recognition of India's Best Employers among Nation-Builders 2021".**
- The **Maharatna Community and Public Sector Unit (CPSU) have once again featured in India's top 50 'Best Workplaces'.**

Important Schemes

RDSO enhance First Standards Body to Join 'One Nation, One Standard' Scheme

- **Lucknow - based RDSO, which sets standards for the railway sector, has become the first standards body in the country to join the central government's 'One Nation, One Standard' scheme that aims to ensure quality products to Indian consumers.**

- The **Research Design and Standards Organization (RDSO)** has now been recognized as a '**Standard Developing Organization**' by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), which is implementing the scheme.
- The partnership will help RDSO, the sole R&D wing of the railways ministry, to realign its standard formulation procedures as per the code of good practices mentioned under the WTO-Technical Barriers to Trade (WTO-TBT).
- The recognition will be valid for three years.

About 'One Nation, One Standard' Scheme:

- The **objective** of the government's 'One Nation, One Standard' scheme, launched in **2019**, is to ensure there is a synergy and no overlap in the standardization work in the country, thereby building a '**Brand India**' identity in the long run.

Haryana CM launched Pran Vayu Devta Pension Scheme

- **Haryana Pran Vayu Devta Pension Scheme (PVDPS) 2021 & Oxy Van (Oxygen Forest)** launched Rs. 2500 per year in Prana Vayu Devta Pension Yojana for **maintenance of trees older than 75 years**.
- Haryana government led by **CM Manohar Lal Khattar** has launched Pran Vayu Devta Pension Scheme **2021**.
- This Life Air God Pension scheme aims to ensure adequate supply of natural oxygen in the state.
- This Prana Vayu Devta Pension Yojna is a major step towards ensuring clean air to breathe amid the **ongoing COVID-19 pandemic outbreak**.
- Oxy Van is a piece of land identified by the Haryana govt.
- On which as many as **3 crore trees** would be planted.
- The Oxy Vans will **occupy 10% of the 8 lakh hectares** of land across the state.

AP CM Launches Jagananna Thodu Scheme

- **Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy** will be launching **Jagananna Thodu scheme**, which **aims at providing a helping hand to small and petty vendors** across the State.
- Under the scheme, an **interest-free loan of Rs 10,000** will be provided to 3.7 lakh small and petty vendors at an expenditure of Rs 370 crore.
- The scheme was launched by Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy on November 25, 2020 and **this is the second consecutive year the scheme** is being extended to benefit the small and petty vendors.
- The **main objective** of the scheme is to free vendors from paying heavy interest to the loans taken from private parties.

Bihar CM launches 2 schemes for Youth & Women

- Bihar Chief Minister **Nitish Kumar** launched **two ambitious schemes** christened as **the 'Mukhya Mantri Yuva Udyaymi Yojna' and the 'Mukhya Mantri Mahila Udyami Yojna'** to promote entrepreneurship among youth and women of all sections under the state's 'Mukhaya Mantri Udyami Yojna' scheme.
- The **schemes** were promised by the chief minister during the **2020 Bihar elections** in a bid to counter the RJD's poll plank on unemployment.

'Mukhya Mantri Mahila Udyami Yojana (MMUY):

- In this scheme, an unemployed woman will be provided an amount of **Rs 10 lakh** to start a new business or small industry.
- **Rs. 10 Lakh, Rs.5 Lakh** will be a **subsidy amount** that does not need to be returned to the woman, while the remaining **Rs. 5 Lakh will be an interest free loan**.
- The amount can be refunded in several installments over the next 7 years after the start of the new venture.

'Mukhya Mantri Yuva Udyami Yojana (MYUY):

- In this scheme, unemployed youth will be provided an amount of **Rs 10 lakh** to start a new enterprise or industry.
- **Rs. 10 Lakh, Rs.5 Lakh** will be the **subsidy amount** (which they don't need to refund), the balance **Rs. 5 Lakh will be the loan simple interest of 1%** to be refunded in several installments.

Odisha CM inaugurated scheme for COVID-19 Orphan Children – 'Ashirbad'

- **Odisha CM** inaugurated scheme for COVID-19 **Orphan Children – 'Ashirbad'**
- The Covid-19 pandemic has **orphaned many children**.
- Governments are trying their level best for the upbringing of these children.
- The states were asked by the Center to pay attention to **such children, take care of them** and make arrangements for their protection.

About the scheme:

- **Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik** has launched the **Ashirbad scheme on Father's Day**.
- Under this scheme, the government will give **Rs 2,500 per month to every child** who has lost one or both of his parents.
- This money will be **sent to the bank account of the guardian or caregiver** of the beneficiaries **till they turn 18**.
- If such children are **sent to a children's home** in the absence of a caregiver, they will be given an **additional Rs 1,000 every month**.

Gujarat CM e-launches Agricultural Diversification Scheme-2021

- **Gujarat Chief Minister Mr. Vijay Rupani** e-launched the **Agricultural Diversification Scheme-2021** for benefitting vanbandhu-farmers in the tribal areas of the state.
- He stated that the state government is working to make agriculture sustainable and profitable in the tribal areas.
- Inaugurating the **Agricultural Diversification Scheme-2021** through video conferencing from Gandhinagar Mr. Rupani noted that, this scheme will **benefit more than 126000 Vanbandhu farmers** of 14 tribal districts from Ambaji to Umargam in Gujarat.

About the scheme:

- **Under this scheme** tribal farmers will get **fertilizer-seed assistance of Rs. 31 crores** in which 45 kg of urea, 50 kg of NPK and 50 kg of ammonium sulphate will be provided.
- The **CM added that, assistance of Rs. 250 crore** has been provided to 10 lakh tribal farmers under this scheme in the last ten years.

- **Seeds of crops** like maize, Bitter Melon (karela), Calabash (dudhi), tomato, millet, etc. are provided under this scheme.

Delhi initiates new scheme named Covid-19 Pariwar Aarthik Sahayata Yojana

- The **Delhi government** has **developed a portal** through which **families of COVID19 victims** will apply for Mukhyamantri COVID19 **Pariwar Aarthik Sahayata Yojana** to avail financial assistance.
- Under the scheme, an ex gratia of **Rs 50,000** will be provided to **those who have lost a family member to coronavirus**.
- The government's **Social Welfare Department** notified the scheme earlier this week under which **Rs.50, 000** ex-gratia will be given to every family that lost a member to COVID-19 and an additional **Rs.2, 500 pension per month** if the deceased was the sole breadwinner.

About the scheme:

- "Each family in which **death** has occurred **due to Covid**, an ex-gratia of **Rs.50, 000** will be provided."
- **Children** who **lost their both parents or single parent** to **COVID-19** will also be provided **Rs.2, 500 per month till they achieve 25 years of age**.
- The Delhi government will **also provide free education to them**.

Important Books and Authors

Authors	Books
Ravi Shastri (Co-authored by Shastri and Ayaz Memon)	Stargazing: The Players in My Life (Published by HarperCollins India)
Salman Rushdie	Languages of Truth: Essays 2003-2020 (Published by Random House)
Ronnie Screwvala	Skill it , kill it (Published by Penguin Random House)
Vijay Gokhale	Tiananmen square the making of protest (Published by HarperCollins Publishers)
Amartya Sen	Home in the World (Published by Penguin Random House)
Amitav Ghosh	The Nutmeg's Curse: Parables for a Planet in Crisis (Published by John Murray)
Ruskin Bond	It's a Wonderful Life (Published by Aleph Book Company)
Tahmima Anam	The startup wife
N V Ramana	Anomalies in Law and Justice Virtually
Kaushik Basu	Policymaker's Journal: From New Delhi to Washington D.C

Important Peoples' in News

Indian-origin girl bags Apple 'WWDC21 Swift Student Challenge'

- **Abinaya Dinesh**, a 15-year-old Indian-origin girl, is among three winners of the annual **tech giant Apple WWDC21 Swift Student Challenge**, a platform for the young brains willing to demonstrate their coding and problem-solving skills.
- Passionate about the intersection of medicine and technology, something that became personal for her last year, **Dinesh created an app called Gastro at Home**, which she plans to launch on the App Store this summer.
- **Apple** has selected **350 Swift Student Challenge winners** from 35 different countries and regions, as it opens all-virtual **Worldwide Developers Conference (WWDC) 2021** from June 7-11.

Inter Milan appointed Simone Inzaghi as coach on 2-year contract

- **Inter Milan** appointed **Simone Inzaghi** as coach, signing him to a **two-year contract**.
- Inzaghi replaces Antonio Conte, who left Inter last month after leading the club to its first Series A title in more than a decade.
- The 45-year-old Inzaghi has been **coaching** Lazio and led the club to the **Italian Cup title in 2019**.
- He also won two Italian Super Cups in his five seasons.
- Inzaghi had been expected to extend his contract with Lazio last week but opted not to after Conte left Inter.
- Inzaghi is the younger **brother of former AC Milan player and Coach Filippo Inzaghi**.

Rhea Chakraborty topped 'The Times 50 Most Desirable Women 2020'

- Rhea Chakraborty topped '**The Times 50 Most Desirable Women 2020**' list.
- **Rhea Chakraborty** has bagged the number **1 spot on Times Most Desirable Women 2020** list.
- Rhea Chakraborty was in the news for most of last year due to the sudden **demise of Sushant Singh Rajput** and the **controversy around his death**.

Sunil Chhetri become 2nd highest active international goalscorer

- On **June 07, 2021**, Captain of the Indian football team, **Sunil Chhetri** became the **second-highest active international goalscorer with 74 goals**.
- **Cristiano Ronaldo** (103) in the list of active footballers with the most international goals.

Tokyo Paralympics: Aruna Tanwar becomes India's first-ever Taekwondo Qualify

- **Aruna Tanwar** has been awarded a wild card entry for the upcoming **Tokyo Paralympic Games**, which will make her the first Indian to compete in the global multi-para sport event, the national federation.
- **Indian Taekwondo president Namdev Shirgaonkar** informed Aruna received the wild card based on her exemplary past performances.
- She is the **first Taekwondo athlete from India to qualify for the Paralympics**.
- Aruna is the **current World No. 4 in the women's U-49 category**.
- A **five time national champion**, she has finished on the podium in the last four years at **both Asian Para Taekwondo Championships and World Para Taekwondo Championships**.

- The **Tokyo Paralympics** will be held from **August 24 to September 5**.

Akshay Kumar appointed as Brand Ambassador of Mylab Discovery Solutions

- **Bollywood superstar Akshay Kumar** has been appointed as the **new brand ambassador** of biotechnology company **Mylab Discovery Solutions**.
- This announcement comes days after the **Pune-based firm** launched the **country's first COVID-19 self-test kit - CoviSelf**.
- The partnership with Akshay is aimed at creating awareness for Mylab's products and kits such as CoviSelf and also to share educational content, according to the firm.
- On May 20, 201, MyLab Discovery Solutions had launched CoviSelf after receiving approval from the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR).

Vinoo Mankad and 9 others conferred into ICC Hall of Fame

- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** announced a special edition **intake of 10 cricket icons** including former **India cricketer Vinoo Mankad into the ICC Hall of Fame** to celebrate the prestigious history of Test cricket, coinciding with this month's maiden **World Test Championship (WTC) final between India and New Zealand**.

The **stalwarts, who have made great contribution** to the game and were inducted into the **ICC Hall of Fame are:**

- Aubrey Faulkner of South Africa and Monty Noble of Australia (Early Cricket Era, prior to 1918)
- Sir Learie Constantine of West Indies and Stan McCabe of Australia (Inter-War Era, 1918-1945)
- Ted Dexter of England and Vinoo Mankad of India (Post-War Era, 1946-1970)
- Desmond Haynes of West Indie and Bob Willis of England (ODI Era, 1971-1995)
- Andy Flower of Zimbabwe and Kumar Sangakkara of Sri Lanka (Modern Cricket Era, 1996-2015).
- **These 10 legends** have all made a significant contribution to the **history of Test cricket**, and join an illustrious list of ICC Hall of Famers, taking the **total number to 103** as a result of this intake.

ICC Hall Of Fame Vinoo Mankad, Kumar Sangakkara Inducted

- On June 13, 2021, The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced **list of 10 cricket legends who have been inducted to the prestigious list of the ICC Hall of Fame**
- The **total number of inductees in the list of ICC Hall of Famers have reached to 103**.
- The 10 new ICC Hall of Famers are listed below:
 1. South Africa's Aubrey Faulkner
 2. Australia's Monty Noble
 3. West Indies' Sir Learie Constantine,
 4. Australia's Stan McCabe
 5. England's Ted Dexter
 6. India's Vinoo Mankad
 7. West Indies' Desmond Haynes\
 8. England's Bob Willis

9. Sri Lanka's Kumar Sangakkara

10. Zimbabwe's Andy Flower

Yuvraj Singh appointed as Brand Ambassador of PUMA Motorsport in India

- **Global sports brand PUMA** has extended partnership with former Indian cricketer **Yuvraj Singh**.
- Singh has been associated with the **brand for over a decade**.
- He will now be seen in a new avatar as the face of **PUMA Motorsport in India**, showcasing his passion for fast cars and sports-inspired fashion.
- With this, Singh also joins the brand's global league of legends like Thierry Henry, Boris Becker and Usain Bolt.
- **Abhishek Ganguly, managing director, PUMA India and Southeast Asia** stated, "PUMA and Yuvraj share a deep emotional bond that only grew stronger over the years."

Sumant Sinha honoured with SDG Pioneers by UNGC

- **United Nations Global Compact** has recognized **Sumant Sinha, Chairman& MD of ReNew Power**, as **one of the ten SDG Pioneers 2021**, for his work to advance access to clean and affordable energy.
- SDG Pioneers are business leaders selected by the UN Global Compact for doing an exceptional job to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the implementation of the **UN Global Compact Ten Principles** on human rights, environment, labor, and anti-corruption.
- This **honor comes** in recognition of **Sumant's work to advance access to clean and affordable energy (SDG 7)**.

OnePlus named in Jasprit Bumrah as brand ambassador for wearables

- **Premium smartphone brand OnePlus** stated it has named **cricketer Jasprit Bumrah** as the **brand ambassador for its wearables category**.
- "The partnership with Bumrah reiterates the brand philosophy of 'Never Settle' and the company's pursuit towards perfection."
- For young India, **Bumrah represents a passion for a healthy, fit, and an active lifestyle** while believing in constantly becoming better, a philosophy that truly resonates with what OnePlus stands for."
- The **OnePlus wearables category** includes the **OnePlus Watch and OnePlus Band**.

Ireland all-rounder Kevin O'Brien announces retirement from ODI cricket

- **Ireland all-rounder Kevin O'Brien** has announced his **retirement from one-day internationals Cricket**.
- It was Informed after playing his **final match for the country against the Netherlands on June 7, 2021**

About Kevin O'Brien :

- The 37-year-old Dubliner, will be **available for Tests and T20Is**.
- Kevin O'Brien picked **114 ODI wickets, which is the highest by any Irish player**.
- Kevin will be remembered for his **record-breaking 113 in the ICC World Cup 2011 against England in Bangalore**.
- The star all-rounder represented the nation in **153 ODI matches**.
- He won **153 caps in the 50-over format, scoring over 3,000 runs**.
- He **Scored 3619 runs, the third highest from his country behind Stirling and Porterfield**.

- Also, he is Ireland's leading wicket-taker with 114 scalps in one-day internationals.
- In May, Kevin became the **first Test centurion** for Ireland, after making 118 in the nation's maiden Test against **Pakistan at Malahide**.

Mawya Sudan - IAF's 1st woman fighter pilot from J&K

- **Mawya Sudan**, a resident of **Jammu and Kashmir**, has become the **first woman fighter pilot** in the Indian Air Force (IAF) from Rajouri district.
- Hailing from the village of Lamberi, of Border Tehsil of Nowshera in Rajouri, she was commissioned into the IAF as Flying Officer.
- Mawya has become the **12th woman officer** and **first from Rajouri** to be inducted as a fighter pilot in the IAF.
- Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria reviewed the combined graduation passing out parade at the Air Force Academy, Dundigal, Hyderabad.

Shafali Verma Becomes the Youngest Indian Cricketer in all formats

- On **June 27, 2021**, **Opener Shafali Verma** became the **youngest Indian cricketer** to make debut across **all the formats** after being picked for the **first ODI against England Women**.
- The others are followed by former England women's team wicketkeeper Sarah Taylor, Australia Women all-rounder Ellyse Perry is third in the list, followed by Pakistan Mohammad Amir.
- Verma, on her ODI debut, **scored 15 runs off 14 balls before being dismissed by England's Katherine Brunt**.
- The Haryana girl took 17 years and 150 days to make her debut across all formats, making her the **fifth-youngest cricketer overall in the list**, headed by Afghanistan's Mujeeb Ur Rahman.

'TechHalli': Anand Mahindra, Nandan Nilekani honours Bengaluru with new title

- **Mahindra Group Chairman Anand Mahindra** and **Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani** have chosen **"TechHalli"** as an **alternative name** for **Bengaluru**, instead of India's **Silicon Valley**.
- The name includes the word **"halli"** which means **"village"** in Kannada.
- Mahindra had conducted a caption competition, calling for a new title for the country's tech capital.

Important Acquisitions & Mergers

Canara Bank fund for bad bank with 12% stake

- **State-owned Canara Bank** mentioned it will be the lead sponsor of **National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL)** or bad bank with **12 per cent stake in the entity**.
- Bad bank refers to a financial institution that takes over bad assets of lenders and undertakes resolution.
- **"The Indian Banks' Association (IBA)** vides their letter dated May 13, 2021 requested Canara Bank to participate in NARCL as sponsor.
- The board of **Canara Bank** has given **in-principle approval** for taking stake in NARCL".
- Banks have identified around **22 bad loans worth Rs 89,000 crore** to be transferred to the NARCL in the initial phase.

CCI Cleared proposed deal to acquire stake in Magma HDI General Insurance

- On June 17, 2021, The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the proposed acquisition of a stake in Magma HDI General Insurance Company by two entities, Under the transaction, India Advantage Fund S4 I & Dynamic India Fund S4 US I, and NHPEA Trisul Holding B.V.
- The transaction involves acquisition of less than 25% of Magma HDI by India Advantage Fund S4 I and Dynamic India Fund S4 US I on a fully diluted basis.
- The deal also involves acquisition of less than 10% of the share capital of Magma HDI on a fully diluted basis by NTH.
- NTH is an investment holding firm that belongs to a fund managed or controlled by an affiliate of Morgan Stanley.

HDFC Bank to buy stake worth over ₹1,906 cr in ERGO General Insurance & Borderless Softtech

- HDFC Bank has given its approval to 3,55,67,724 crore shares in group firm HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company for over ₹1,906 crore from the parent company Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC).
- The board of directors of HDFC Bank has approved equity shares of ₹10 each.
- The aggregate consideration for purchase of 3,55,67,724 shares of HDFC ERGO is ₹1,906.43 crore, i.e. ₹536 per share.

CCI Accepts acquisition of Zuari Agro Chemicals plant by Paradeep Phosphates

- On June 25, 2021, The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved acquisition of the Zuarinagar plant of Zuari Agro Chemicals Limited by Paradeep Phosphates Limited.

About PPL :

- PPL, part of the Adventz Group.
- It is mainly in the manufacture and sale of non-Urea fertilizers, namely, di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) and NPK fertilizers.
- It also imports and sells Muriate of Potash (MoP).

About ZACL :

- ZACL is also a part of the Adventz Group.
- It is engaged in the development and manufacturing of fertilizers in India.
- It has manufacturing facilities at Zuarinagar, Goa where it produces Urea and non-Urea fertilizers.

Important Web Portals and Mobile Apps

NCPCR Launches online portal 'Bal Swaraj'

- The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) under the Ministry of Women and Child Development has devised an online tracking portal Bal Swaraj (COVID-Care link).

Purpose of the Portal :

- The portal has been **created with the purpose of tracking and monitoring children who need care and protection in real-time, digitally.**
- The portal will also be used to **track children who have lost both their parents during COVID-19.**
- The COVID-Care link on the portal has been **provided for the concerned officer or department to upload the data of such children.**

Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot Launches SAGE initiative and SAGE portal

- **On June 04, 2021, The Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot** virtually launched the **SAGE (Seniorcare Aging Growth Engine) initiative and SAGE portal for elderly persons.**
- The SAGE portal will be a **one-stop access** of elderly care products and services by credible start-ups.

Aim :

- To involve **youth for elderly care by way of start-ups and their innovative ideas to make the elderly care.**
- This will help to **make the programmes for elderly care a national movement rather than just a government programme.**
- The start-ups will be selected on the basis of innovative products and services, which they should be able to provide across sectors such as health, housing, care centers, apart from technological access linked to finances, food and wealth management, and legal guidance.
- The SAGE project is shaped on the **recommendations of the empowered expert committee (EEC) report on start-ups for elderly.**

Sehwag launches experiential cricket learning app – CRICURU

- India's star cricketer and opener **Virender Sehwag** has launched **CRICURU, an experiential learning app.**

Aim :

- Redefining and revolutionising the cricket coaching experience in the country.
- It is **India's first AI-enabled coaching website, to offer a personalised learning experience for the younger players.**
- The app is available on **both iOS and Android devices.**
- It can be accessed at **www.cricuru.com**
- The curriculum for each player is **developed personally by Virender Sehwag along with Sanjay Bangar, former Indian player and batting coach of the Indian cricket team (2015-19).**
- CRICURU is designed to **help youngsters learn playing cricket through master classes of 30 handpicked player-coaches** from across the globe like AB de Villiers, Brett Lee, Brian Lara, Chris Gayle, Dwayne Bravo, Harbhajan Singh, Jonty Rhodes.

Income Tax Department to launch new e-filing portal

- **On June 07, 2021, The Income Tax Department launched a new e-filing portal.**

Aim of the Portal :

- Providing the **taxpayer convenience and a modern, seamless experience to taxpayers.**
- It is an **Initiative by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).**

- The portal can be accessed through the address **www.incometax.gov.in**.

About e-filing Portal :

- The portal has been **integrated with immediate processing of Income Tax Returns (ITRs) to issue quick refunds to taxpayers.**
- New call centre for taxpayer assistance and prompt response to taxpayer queries.
- The portal will have functionalities for filing Income Tax forms, to add tax professionals and for submitting responses to notices in faceless scrutiny or appeals.

Ministry of Ayush Launches 'Namaste Yoga' App

- **On June 11, 2021, a mobile application called Namaste Yoga Launched by the Ministry of Ayush .**
- On June 11, 2021, The Ministry of Ayush organised a **curtain raiser event for the 7th International Day of Yoga, virtually.**
- The event was **organised by the Ministry of Ayush in association with Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY).**

Aim :

- **Raise Awareness about yoga** and make it accessible for the larger community.
- Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Shri Prakash Javadekar and Union Minister of State (IC) for Ayush Shri Kiren Rijiju underlined the importance of the central theme of IDY 2021 "Be With Yoga, Be At Home" .
- The curtain raiser event also **marked the beginning of a 10-episode series on various aspects of Common Yoga Protocol to be telecast on DD India.**
- The series is **produced by Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY).**

International Yoga Day 2021: PM Modi launches mYoga App

- **On June 21, 2021, International Day of Yoga, Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the mYoga app.**
- It has been **developed in collaboration with WHO, and the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (Ministry of AYUSH), Government of India.**

About the app :

- WHO mYoga is an app for the **general public to use regularly, providing Yoga learning and practice sessions of varying durations.**
- The app was developed through review of **scientific literature and extensive international expert consultation processes.**
- The app is safe and secure, collecting no data from users at all, and can be used as a daily yoga companion for persons aged **12-65 years.**
- M-Yoga app, will have yoga training videos in different languages for people across the world.
- This will help us in our **'One World, One Health' motto."**
- The app available on the Google play store.

- M- Yoga app is currently available in English, Hindi and French. It will be available in other UN languages in the upcoming months.

LIC Launches Technology Platform 'e-PGS'

- Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has launched a centralized web-based workflow-based IT platform, "e-PGS".
- The new technology platform, e-PGS, is designed to provide a centralized collection and payment accounting with a high level of bank integration.
- It is designed to provide very innovative features of seamless and integrated banking with automatic matching.
- The system is capable of providing comprehensive **self-service capability** through the customer portal.
- On this portal, **corporate customers** will be able to view their data, initiate actionable processes and register and track claims.

Revision Points

Applications/Web portals	Launched By/Developed By
Bal Swaraj	National Commission for Protection of Child Rights
SAGE portal	Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot
CRICURU	Virender Sehwag
Namaste Yoga	Ministry of Ayush .
mYoga app	WHO, Ministry of AYUSH
e-PGS	Life Insurance Corporation

Important Sports News

Cricket

ICC Expands Men's ODI World Cup To 14 Teams For 2027 & 2031 Editions

- On June 01, 2021, The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced the men's ODI World Cup will once again become a 14-team tournament in 2027 and 2031.
- These 14 teams will split into two groups of seven, with the top three in each group progressing to a Super Six stage, followed by semi-finals and final.
- Earlier in the 2019 World Cup, only 10 teams contested.
- The ICC Men's T20 World Cup will be expanded to a 20-team.
- The tournament will take place every two years from 2024-2030.

Shafali Verma remains to top ICC women's T20I batting rankings

- On June 01, 2021, Teenage India batswoman Shafali Verma continued to top the ICC women's T20I batting rankings.
- The 17-year-old player, being touted as the successor to Smriti Mandhana, has 776 points.
- India's T20 vice-captain, Smriti, is fourth with 693 points.

Rank	Player
1	Shafali Verma (India) - 776 Points
2	Beth Mooney (Australia)
3	Jemimah Rodrigues (India) - 640 Points
4	Smriti (India) - 693 Points

- Scotland all-rounder Kathryn Bryce, has become the first batswoman from her country to make it into the top 10.

BharatPe becomes ICC's official partner till 2023

- Digital payments startup BharatPe announced it has inked a three-year long deal to become an official partner with International Cricket Council (ICC).
- As per the agreement, BharatPe will promote the association across broadcast and digital platforms, as well as execute in-venue brand activations at all the ICC events until 2023.
- The key tournaments include the upcoming
 6. ICC World Test Championship (Southampton, UK 2021),
 7. Men's T20 World Cup (India, 2021),
 8. Men's T20 World Cup (Australia, 2022),
 9. Women's World Cup (New Zealand, 2022),
 10. U19 Cricket World Cup (West Indies, 2022),
 11. Women's T20 World Cup (South Africa, 2022),
 12. Men's Cricket World Cup (India, 2023)
 13. World Test Championship (2023).

IPL 2021 Remaining matches to be held in UAE Between Sep - Oct 2021

- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced that the remainder of Indian Premier League (IPL) 2021 will be played in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in the months of Sep - Oct 2021.
- The decision was taken at BCCI's Special General Meeting (SGM) which was held virtually.

- IPL 2021 had been postponed in may after several players and support staff across teams tested positive for COVID-19.
- As many as **29 matches** were held this season before the tournament came to a halt.

ICC Players of the month for May - Mushfiquir Rahim, Kathryn Bryce

- **Scotland's Kathryn Bryce and Mushfiquir Rahim of Bangladesh** have been named the **International Cricket Council (ICC) Players of the Month for May**.
- **Bryce** secured the **women's prize** after becoming the **first Scottish player**, male or female, to make it into the **top 10 of the ICC rankings**.
- She is third on the T20 all-rounder standings and 10th on the bowling list.
- Bryce played four T20 internationals in Scotland's series with Ireland in May, where she scored 96 runs and took five wickets.
- The 23-year-old was a standout performer despite her side losing the series.
- Bryce beat off competition from Ireland duo Gaby Lewis and Leah Paul to land the monthly award.
- **Rahim** took the **men's prize** after helping **Bangladesh** to a **one-day international series win over Sri Lanka**.
- He scored 125 in the second match and hit an unbeaten 68 in his side's drawn Test against the same opponents.
- Hasan Ali of Pakistan and Praveen Jayawickrama of Sri Lanka were also nominated.

Others

2021 Asian Amateur Boxing Championships - Sanjeet Kumar wins 91kg Gold Medal

- **Indian heavyweight boxer Sanjeet Kumar** won a **gold medal in the 91 kg weight category** at the **ASBC Asian Boxing Championships**.
- The 2021 Asian Amateur Boxing Championships was **held from 24 to 31 May 2021 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates**.
- Sanjeet Kumar defeated **five-time Asian Championships medallist and Rio Olympic silver medalist Vassiliy Levit of Kazakhstan** in a 3-2 split decision in the final of Asian Championships.
- The 19-member Indian contingent, including both men and women, secured **15 medals comprising 2 gold, 5 silver and 8 bronze**.

In Men's Category :

1. Sanjeet Kumar - 91 kg - Gold Medal
2. Amit Panghal - 52 kg - Silver Medal
3. Shiva Thapa - 64 kg - Silver Medal
4. Vikas Krishan Yadav - 69 kg - Bronze Medal
5. Varinder Singh - 60 kg - Bronze Medal

In Women's Category :

1. Pooja Rani - 75 kg - Gold Medal

2. Mary Kom – 51 kg - Silver Medal
3. Lal Buat Saihi – 64 kg - Silver Medal
4. Anupama Kundu – 81 kg - Silver Medal
5. Monika – 48 kg - Bronze Medal
6. Sakshi Chaudhary – 54 kg - Bronze Medal
7. Jasmine – 57 kg - Bronze Medal
8. Simranjit Kaur – 60 kg - Bronze Medal
9. Lovlina Borgohain – 69 - Bronze Medal
10. Saweety Boora – 81 kg - Bronze Medal

Brazil to host Copa America for 2nd consecutive time

- **Brazil will host Copa America** for the second consecutive time after Colombia and Argentina were stripped of **hosting rights for the Football tournament**.
- It has been **announced by South American soccer body CONMEBOL**.
- The tournament is confirmed to take **place between June 13 and July 10**.
- Colombia was removed as co-host on May 20 as street protests against President Iván Duque rocked the nation.
- Copa America was **initially scheduled for 2020, but the COVID-19 pandemic**.

Djokovic Wins 2021 Belgrade Open Tennis Tournament 83rd Career Title

- **World No. 1 Novak Djokovic** captured the **83rd title in the 2021 Belgrade Open Tennis Tournament**.
- The Belgrade Open was held from **May 23**.
- Novak Djokovic **defeated world No. 255 Alex Molcan 6-4, 6-3** in the final of the Belgrade Open tournament.
- This was the **first edition of the tournament**.
- With 83 career titles, Djokovic is the fifth-most successful player of all time, only behind Rafael Nadal (88), Ivan Lendl (94), Roger Federer (103) and Jimmy Connors (109).

2021 FIH world rankings: Indian men's team maintain 4th position, women's team at 9th

- The latest **International Hockey Federation world rankings 2021**, In Hockey, **Indian men's team** maintained their **fourth position** while women's team held ninth position.

Rank	Men's Team
1	Belgium
2	Australia
3	Netherlands
4	India

Rank	Women's Team
1	Netherlands
2	Argentina
3	Australia
9	India

- Despite missing the European leg of the FIH Hockey Pro- League series in Great Britain, Spain and Germany in April and May, the Indian men's team maintained its fourth spot with **2223.458 points**.
- In the **women's category**, got **1643 Points**.

Inaugural FIH Hockey 5s World Hosted By Oman in January 2024

- The **International Hockey Federation (FIH)** has appointed **Oman as the host country for the inaugural FIH Hockey 5s World Cups (Men and Women)**
- It will be **played in January 2024**.
- The Hockey5s' flagship event is a **brand-new FIH competition**.
- 16 teams per gender (3 per continent + Oman, as hosts) will take part in this very first edition.

French Open Tennis Title 2021 - Novak Djokovic and Barbora Krejckova wins

- **Novak Djokovic and Barbora Krejckova win in The French Open Tennis Tournament 2021.**
- List of Winners in French Open Tennis Title 2021 :
 1. Men's Singles- Novak Djokovic (Serbia)
 2. Women's Singles- Barbora Krejčíková (Czech Republic)
 3. Men's Doubles- Pierre-Hugues Herbert (France) and Nicolas Mahut (France)
 4. Women's Doubles- Barbora Krejčíková (Czech Republic) and Kateřina Siniaková (Czech Republic)
 5. Mixed Doubles- Desirae Krawczyk (United States) and Joe Salisbury (United Kingdom)

Note :

- In **Europe**, this tournament is known as the **Roland Garros Tennis Tournament**.

Achievements of Djokovic :

- Djokovic has also become the **first man in the Open Era to complete the career Grand Slam twice**.
- He now has nine Australian Open, five Wimbledon, and three US Open titles to his name.
- This is Djokovic's third title of the year.

Achievements of Krejckova :

- Krejckova has become the **first player to win both the women's singles and doubles event**.

- Krejčíková has also **become the first woman to win both the singles and doubles events at a Grand Slam since Serena Williams in 2016.**
- She is the **first woman from her country to clinch the French Open singles title since Hana Mandlíková in 1981.**

Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu qualifies for Tokyo Olympics

- **India's Mirabai Chanu, the 2017 world champion in weightlifting, has qualified for the Tokyo Olympics in the women's 49-kg category** announced by the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF).
- The International Weightlifting Federation announced that **Mirabai has qualified on the basis of her world ranking points.**
- The **Indian Manipur lifter is ranked second in the women's 49kg category with 4133,6172 points.**
- As per rules of the IWF, **top eight lifters in each of the 14 weight categories, including seven in the women's group, are eligible to compete in Tokyo Olympic Games.**
- In the **men's 67 kg category, India's teenage weightlifter Jeremy Lalrinnunga is ranked 12th.**

Gelfand Challenge Chess Title : Grandmaster D. Gukesh wins

- **On June 13, 2021, world's second youngest Grandmaster D. Gukesh** sensationally won the \$15,000 Gelfand Challenge chess title.
- He **secured a 'wild card' for the elite Meltwaters Champions Chess Tour.**
- Gukesh, 15, **won all four rounds, including the key battle against Praggnanandhaa.**
- Gukesh and Praggnanandhaa **aggregated 14 points from 19 rounds.**
- Gukesh took the title due to his 17th-round win over Praggnanandhaa.

Neeraj Chopra wins gold medal in Meeting Cidade de Lisboa in Lisbon

- **India's Neeraj Chopra won the javelin gold medal in the Meeting Cidade de Lisboa in Lisbon, Portugal.**
- His **fifth attempt** too was no throw while the **last and sixth throw was 83.18m.**
- In **January 2020, a throw of 87.86m in South Africa he had qualified for Tokyo Olympic 2020.**

French Grand Prix 2021 : F1 leader Max Verstappen wins

- **On June 20, 2021, Formula One championship leader Max Verstappen won the 2021 French Grand Prix.**
- **Lewis Hamilton [Britain-Mercedes] stood second in the 2021 French Grand Prix and Sergio Perez [Mexico- Red Bull] stood third.**
- Verstappen has **131 points to Hamilton's 119 after seven races.**
- This race is the **seventh round of the 2021 FIA Formula One World Championship.**

2021 Tokyo Olympics : Manpreet Singh & Rani Rampal named captains of Indian hockey teams

- **India's men's and women's hockey teams will be captained by Manpreet Singh and Indian forward Rani Rampal respectively at next month's Tokyo Olympics.**
- 2021 Tokyo Olympics **will begin in July 2021.**
- For Both teams, **two vice-captains were also appointed namely Deep Grace Ekka and Savita.**
- **Both teams** are composed of **16 members each.**

Sports Minister launched India's Olympic theme song 'Lakshya Tera Samne Hai'

- On June 23, 2021, Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju launched India's Official Olympic Theme Song 'Lakshya Tera Samne Hai' for the **Summer Games in July-August**.
- **Mohit Chauhan** has composed and sung the song.
- The event was **organised by Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** and attended by its President, Secretary General, Deputy Chef De Mission, Sports Secretary and DG Sports Authority of India (SAI).
- The **Games will open on July 23** and over **100 Indian athletes** have qualified for the event so far.

ISSF World Cup : Olympic-bound shooter Saurabh Chaudhary Wins bronze medal

- On June 24, 2021, Tokyo-bound shooter Saurabh Chaudhary won a **bronze medal** at the 10m air pistol event at the ISSF World Cup in Osijek.
- Saurabh is 19 year old, he scored 220 in the final after qualifying with a score of 581.
- The event is the **Indian shooting team's final competitive outing before the Olympics in Tokyo**.
- Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar **finished seventh in the men's 10m air rifle final**.
- **Manu Bhakrer** finished seventh in the **women's 10m air pistol event with a score of 137.3**.

About Saurabh Chaudhary :

- Saurabh Chaudhary was the **youngest Indian gold medalist at the Asian Games**.
- He **won the gold medal at the 2018 Asian Games in 10 m Air Pistol**.
- He set a **new junior world record in the ISSF Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany**.

Kaylee McKeown breaks 100-meter backstroke world record

- Australian Swimmer Kaylee McKeown broke the 100-meter backstroke world record at the Australian Olympic trials.
- The 19-year-old McKeown had a **time of 57.45 seconds** at the South Australian Aquatic Centre.
- **Emily Seebohm** came **second to qualify for her fourth Olympic Games**.
- McKeown beat the previous world record held by the **United States swimmer Regan Smith** who made the record **within a time of 57:57**.

Kuortane Games : Neeraj Chopra wins bronze medal

- On June 26, 2021, Tokyo-bound javelin thrower from India, **Neeraj Chopra** won the **bronze medal** at the Kuortane Games in Finland.
- Neeraj Chopra threw his javelin at the **86.79m mark**.
- This was **Chopra's third best performance this season**.
- He finished third behind world no. 1 Johannes Vetter of Germany and former Olympic gold medallist Keshorn Walcott of Trinidad and Tobago.
- **Johannes Vetter** clinched gold with a massive **93.59m** throw, while **Walcott's silver-winning effort** measured **89.12m**.

Tokyo Olympics : Sajan Prakash becomes first ever Indian swimmer to qualify

- **Sajan Prakash** became the **first Indian swimmer to qualify for the upcoming Tokyo Olympics**.
- This is the first time an Indian swimmer managed to breach the Olympic qualification mark.

- Sajan **achieved the feat** as he clocked 1:56:38 in the men's 200m butterfly at the Sette Colli Trophy in Rome.
- The 27-year-old swimmer from Kerala clocked a time of 1:56.96s
- Tokyo Olympics 2021 will **begin on July 23** and the Games will run up to August 8 2021.

F1 Styrian Grand Prix 2021 : Red Bull's Max Verstappen Wins

- **Red Bull driver Max Verstappen** has won the Styrian Grand Prix 2021 held at Spielberg, Austria.
- Followed by **Mercedes drivers Lewis Hamilton & Valtteri Bottas** finished 2nd & 3rd Place.
- F1 Styrian Grand Prix 2021 **Organised by FIA.**
- Verstappen has **won three of the last four races.**

Achievements of Max Verstappen :

- For the Hungarian Grand Prix, Verstappen became the first Dutch F1 driver in 2019.
- On 23 May 2021, Verstappen became the first Dutch F1 driver to lead the World Championship, after winning the Monaco Grand Prix.

ISSF Shooting World Cup : Rahi Sarnobat Clinches Gold In 25m Pistol

- On June 28, 2021, Indian shooter Rahi Sarnobat won a gold medal in the women's 25M pistol event at the 2021 International Shooting Sport Federation World Cup being held in Osijek, Croatia.
- It is being held from June 22 to July 03, 2021.
- Rahi **shot 39 out of 50** in the 25m pistol final to win & It was India's first gold at the ongoing edition of the tournament.
- The **silver** went to France's Mathilde Lamolle, who scored 31 out of 50.

About Rahi Sarnobat Achievements :

- Sarnobat became India's first pistol shooter to win a gold medal in the 25m pistol event in the ISSF World Cup in Changwon.
- She won her first gold medal at the 2008 Commonwealth Youth Games in Pune, India.
- She had won two gold medals in 2010 Commonwealth Games in New Delhi.

Archery World Cup Stage 3: India's Deepika Kumari completes hat-trick of gold medals in Paris

- On June 27, 2021, India's Deepika Kumari completed a hat-trick of gold medals at the Archery World Cup Stage 3 in Paris.
- Deepika Kumari **beat Elena Osipova of Russia 6-0** in the final.
- It is her **third gold medal** at the tournament.
- Deepika has also won the top prize in the mixed team and women's individual recurve events.
- In the **mixed recurve team event**, husband-wife duo Atanu Das and Deepika Kumari bagged Gold with 5-3 win over the Netherlands.
- This was their **second successive gold medal** in the World Cup this year, and sixth overall (Shanghai-2011, Medellin-2013, Wroclaw-2013, Wroclaw-2014, Guatemala City-2021).

Azerbaijan Grand Prix Sergio Perez wins

- **Red Bull's Sergio Perez** won a chaotic Azerbaijan Grand Prix 2021 held at Baku, Azerbaijan.

- Sebastian Vettel for Aston Martin and Pierre Gasly for Alpha Tauri finished 2nd & 3rd in the race.
- It was the **6th round of the 2021 Formula One World Championship**.
- The F1 Championship **Organized by Federation International de l'Automobile**.

Revision Points

Organizations	Headquarters	President/CEO/Head
Magma Fincorp Ltd	West Bengal	Adar Poonawalla
Central Board of Direct Taxes	New Delhi	J.B. Mohapatra
Canara Bank	Bengaluru	Lingam Venkat Prabhakar
Confederation of Indian Industry	New Delhi	T V Narendran
Vodafone-Idea	Gandhinagar	Ravinder Takkar
National Human Rights Commission	New Delhi	HL Dattu
Union Bank of India	Mumbai	Rajkiran Rai
Ola Electric	Bengaluru	Bhavish Aggarwal
HBO Max	United States	Jason Kilar
International Dairy Federation	Brussels, Belgium	Piercristiano Brazzale
RBL Bank	Mumbai	Vishwavir Ahuja
United Nations World Food Programme	Rome, Italy	David Beasley
National Commission for Protection of Child Rights	New Delhi	Priyank kanongoo
Common Services Centres	New Delhi	Ajay Prakash Sawhney
World Health Organization	Geneva, Switzerland	Tedros Adhanom
Border Roads Organization	New Delhi	Rajeev Chaudhary
National Council of Educational Research and Training	New Delhi	R. S. Sharma
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime	Vienna, Australia	Ghada Waly
Sterlite Copper	Thoothukudi	R Kishore Kumar
ECube	Seoul, South Korea	Richa Arora
Bandhan Bank	Kolkata	Chandra Shekhar Ghosh
Wipro Ltd	Bengaluru	Thierry Delaporte
Securities and Exchange Board of India	Mumbai	Ajay Tyagi
Snapdeal	New Delhi	Kunal Bahl

Nippon India Mutual Fund	Mumbai	Sundeep Sikka
International Boxing Association	Lausanne, Switzerland	Umar Kremlyov
Bharti Airtel	New Delhi	Gopal Vittal
Mastercard	New York	Michael Miebach
Tata Motors	Mumbai	Guenter Butschek
Zoom Video Communications	California	Eric Yuan
International Criminal Court	The Hague, Netherlands	Judge Piotr Hofmański
Microsoft	Washington, USA	Satya Nadella
Sterling and Wilson Solar Ltd	Mumbai	Amit Jain
United Nations General Assembly	New York	Rebecca Grynspan
NASA	Washington D.C	Bill Nelson
BharatPe	New Delhi	Ashneer Grover
Convergence Energy Services Ltd	New Delhi	Mahua
Indian Council of Agricultural Research	New Delhi	Trilochan Mohapatra
Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board	Bengaluru	Dr. N. Shivashankara
Energy Efficiency Services Ltd	New Delhi	RK Sud
National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited	Faridabad	Abhay Kumar Singh
National Institute of Wind Energy	Chennai	Balaraman Kannan
Central Institute of Road Transport	Pune	Rajkumar
National Small Industries Corporation	New Delhi	Vijayendra
National Security Guard	New Delhi	M.A. Ganapathy
Goa Shipyard Limited	Goa	Bharat Bhushan Nagpal
Armament Research and Development Establishment	Pune	Dr V Venkateswara Rao
High Energy Material Research Laboratory	Pune	K P S Murthy
Defence Research and Development Organization	New Delhi	Ajay Kumar Singh
SpaceX	California	Elon Musk
Indian Space Research Organization	Bengaluru	K Sivan
European Space Agency	Paris	Johann-Dietrich Wörner
Economist Intelligence Unit	London	Robin

Institute for Economics and Peace	Sydney, Australia	Steve Killelea
NTPC	New Delhi	Gurdeep Singh
RDSO	Lucknow	Virendra Kumar
International Cricket Council	Dubai	Manu Sawhney
Board of Control for Cricket in India	Mumbai	Sourav Ganguly
International Hockey Federation	Lusanne, Switzerland	Leandro Negre
International Weightlifting Federation	Lausanne, Switzerland	Dr. Michael Sheriar Irani (Interim)
Indian Banks' Association	Mumbai	Rajkiran Rai G
Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited	New Delhi	B.S.Nakai
National Commission for Protection of Child Rights	New Delhi	Priyank kanongoo
Facebook	Massachusetts, United States	Mark Zuckerberg
Association of National Exchanges Members of India	New Delhi	KK Maheshwari
National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange	Mumbai	Arun Raste
Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board	New Delhi	Sanjeev Nandan Sahai
HSBC India	Mumbai	Hitendra Dave
FINA Bureau	Lausanne, Switzerland	Husain Al-Musallam
Internet and Mobile Association of India	Mumbai	Arjan Kumar Sikri
Football Association	London, United Kingdom	Debbie Hewitt
Ferrari	Maranello, Italy	Benedetto Vigna
National Institute of Immunology	New Delhi	M. G. K. Menon
National Medicinal Plant Board	New Delhi	Dr. J.L.N Sastry
National Botanical Research Institute	Lucknow	S.K. Barik is
Indian Oil Corporation Ltd	Mumbai	Shrikant Madhav Vaidya
OnePlus	Shenzhen, China	Pete Lau

Important Obituaries

Name	Field
Lee Evans	Sprinter & Olympic activist
Sir Anerood Jugnauth	Former President and Prime Minister of Mauritius
Narinder Bragta	The Chief Whip in Himachal Pradesh Assembly and senior BJP MLA
Buddhadeb Dasgupta	Bengali filmmaker
N. Dingko Singh (Arjuna Award (1998), Padma Shri Award (2013))	Former Asian Games gold medallist, boxer
Radha Mohan	Padma Shri awardee environmentalist and Odisha's former information commissioner Professor
Surat Singh Mathur	Asian Games marathon bronze medal winner and 1952 Olympian
Dr Ashok Panagariya	Neurologist and Padma Shri recipient
Siddalingaiah	Kannada poet, playwright and Dalit activist
Sanchari Vijay	Kannada Actor
CR Viswanathan	Former All India Football Federation (AIFF) vice-president
Brig Raghubir Singh Rajawat	Mahavir Chakra (MVC) recipient
Kenneth Kaunda	Zambia's founding president and a champion of African nationalism
Dr Lakshmi Nandan Bora	Assamese litterateur
Milkha Singh	Indian Sporting icon (Flying Sikh)
Guruprasad Mohapatra	Department of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) secretary
Gottfried Böhm	Pritzker Prize winner (1 st German Architect)
Benigno Aquino	Former Philippine President
John McAfee	Founder of the antivirus software
Parassala Ponnammal of Kerala	Carnatic musician
Sivan	Malayalam Filmmaker & Cinematographer