Monthly GK Digest

September 2021

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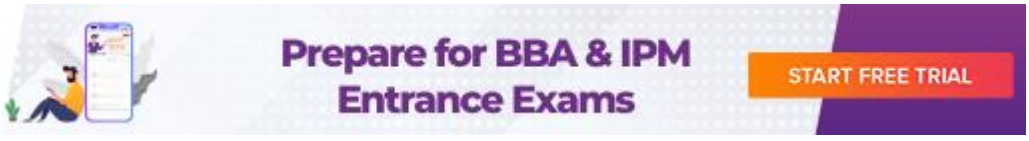
Dear readers,

This **Monthly GK Digest** is a **complete docket** of important news and events that occurred in a month of **'September-2021'**. This file is important for**, BBA & Hotel Management** exams.

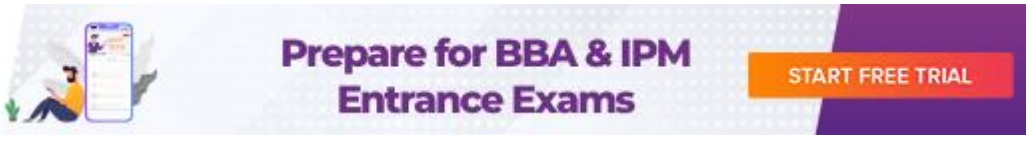
Economic & Financial Awareness

1. Fintech firm, **PayU** is set to acquire India's earliest payment gateway BillDesk in an all-cash transaction of $4.7 billion.
   Note: This will be the largest acquisition in India's digital payments space. The deal will also give exit to investors General Atlantic, TA Associates, Temasek, Clearstone Ventures, and Visa.
2. According to Morgan Stanley **10.5 per cent** will be the India's GDP growth rate for FY2022.
   Note: GDP growth is expected to move into positive territory on a two-year CAGR basis from QE September. GDP grew 20.1 per cent year-on-year in the quarter ending June. On a two-year CAGR basis, real GDP contracted 4.7 per cent in QE June versus plus 2.3 per cent in QE March.
3. **Equitas Small Finance Bank** has launched a new initiative enabling Google Pay users to book fixed deposits (FDs).
   Note: Initially, this functionality will be available for Google Pay users who are accessing the app from Android. The deposits in Equitas are covered by a deposit guarantee upto ₹5 lakh per depositor. On maturity, principal and interest of the FD go directly to the Google Pay user's existing bank account.
4. BharatPe announced a strategic partnership with **Axis Bank** under which the bank will act as the acquiring bank for BharatPe's point of sale (PoS) business BharatSwipe.
   Note: This association will help BharatPe enhance the merchant experience by leveraging best-in-class technology platform offered by Axis Bank. Axis Bank is the third largest PoS acquiring bank in the payments acceptance business in India.
5. **State Bank of India** has opened a floating ATM on a Houseboat at Dal Lake in Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar for the convenience of locals and tourists.
   Note: The floating ATM was inaugurated by SBI Chairman Dinesh Khare. This is not the first time that SBI has launched a floating ATM as back in 2004, the bank took this initiative in Kerala.
6. Under the chairmanship of **P Vasudevan** the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up a committee to scrutinize applications and give recommendations on new umbrella entity (NUE) licences.
   Note: The five-member committee will be headed by RBI chief general manager P Vasudevan. NUEs will establish their own payment infrastructure to compete with National Payments Corp. of India (NPCI). The system will be focussed on small and medium enterprises, merchants and consumers
7. The New Development Bank (NDB) has approved **Bangladesh** as its new member.
   Note: The NDB Board of Governors initiated the negotiation to expand its membership in 2020. It has now approved the United Arab Emirates, Uruguay and Bangladesh as its first new member countries. Since the beginning of its operations, NDB has approved about 80 projects totaling a portfolio of USD 30 billion.
8. **HDFC Life Insurance** will acquire Exide Life Insurance from Exide Industries in a deal worth ₹6,687 crore.
   Note: HDFC Life will acquire 100% stake in Exide Life Insurance from Exide Industries via issuance of 8,70,22,222 shares at an issue price of ₹685 per share and a cash payout of ₹726 crore aggregating to ₹6,687 crore. The process for merger of Exide Life into HDFC Life will be initiated on completion of the acquisition.
9. HDFC Life Insurance has acquired Exide Life Insurance from Exide Industries in **Rs. 6,687 crores.**
   Note: HDFC Life will acquire 100% stake in Exide Life Insurance from Exide Industries via issuance of 8,70,22,222 shares at an issue price of ₹685 per share and a cash payout of ₹726 crore aggregating to ₹6,687 crore. The process for merger of Exide Life into HDFC Life will be initiated on completion of the acquisition.

10. **Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN)** has been conferred with prestigious Dun & Bradstreet – Corporate Award 2021 in the category of Best Growth Performance-Power.
    Note: The award has been presented in a virtual conference titled India's Top 500 Companies 2021. For more than two decades, Dun & Bradstreet has been compiling the list of India's Top 500 Companies, which represent the leaders among Corporate India, and the driving force of the Indian economy.
11. According to RBI, India's holding of IMF's special drawing rights has risen to **USD 19.41 billion.**
    Note: The Reserve Bank said India's holding of IMF's Special Drawing Rights (SDR) has gone up to SDR 13.66 billion which is equivalent to USD 19.41 billion as per exchange rate.
12. **Federal Bank** has launched credit card in partnership with Visa.
    Note: The private sector lender has partnered with the global card network Visa for issuing its credit card to its existing customers. Federal Bank has launched three variants of the new credit card - Celesta, Imperio and Signet. All three variants offer various benefits to customers. Each card caters to a different set of customers.
13. **USD 40 million** amount of Line of credit has been extended to Maldives by EXIM Bank.
    Note: With this, Exim Bank till date has extended five LOCs to Maldives, on behalf of the Indian government, taking the total value of LOCs to USD 1.33 billion
14. **PhonePe** announced the launch of 'Pulse Platform' an interactive geospatial website, which provides insights and granular data on digital payment trends in India.
    Note: At present, the data on the platform is from the PhonePe's network, which currently owns 45% market share in India's unified payments interface (UPI) landscape.
15. In September 2021, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has bought 3.9 per cent equity shares in **Bank of India.**
    Note: LIC has picked up nearly 3.9 per cent (15,90,07,791 shares) of the bank through open market acquisition on September 2, 2021. Before the latest acquisition of shares in the bank, LIC held over a 3.17 per cent stake in the state-owned bank.
16. **Equitas Small Finance Bank** has roped in Indian women hockey player, Rani Rampal and cricketer Smriti Mandhana as the brand ambassadors of the company.
    Note: The announcement was made during the 5th anniversary of the ESFB on September 5, 2021. Equitas Small Finance Bank (ESFB) headquarter – Chennai.
17. **HPCL** has unveiled its branded store 'Happy Shop' in Mumbai marking its foray into non-fuel retailing.
    Note: This is the HPCL's latest offering at its Club HP retail outlet. Store will provide home utility products including food, toiletries, healthcare products, bakery products, groceries, medicines and more. Apart from this, customer will be able to browse the merchandise on HPCL's HP-Pay App (available on Play store/App Store).
18. **ICICI Lombard General Insurance** has received the final nod from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) for its acquisition of Bharti Axa General Insurance.
    Note: The insurance regulator IRDAI's final approval for the merger of the two general insurance businesses comes over a year after ICICI Lombard bought out Bharti Axa in an all-stocks deal that reportedly valued the latter at over Rs 2,500 crore.
19. **Clix Housing Finance** partnered with Indian Mortgage Guarantee Corporation for mortgage guarantee-backed home loans.
    Note: Mortgage Guarantee backed home loans will broaden Clix HFL's coverage of home loan products and customer segments enabling more business while also supporting the flagship mission of Government of India of "Housing for All by 2022.
20. The **Asian Development Bank** (ADB) has approved a $150 million loan to provide access to inclusive, resilient and sustainable housing for the urban poor in **Tamil Nadu.**
    Note: The state is vital to India's economic growth, contributing 8.54 per cent to the country's gross domestic product. Economic opportunities have increased rural-urban migration in the state, which already has one of the highest urbanisation rates in India. With the help of $150 million loan approved by the ABD, through the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board, poor housing project will aid the construction of housing units at 9 different locations.
21. **Karnataka Bank** has launched an all-in-one Point-of-Sales (POS) swiping machine titled as 'WisePOSGo' for its merchant customers to process business payments.
    Note: It has been launched in collaboration with Mswipe Technologies Pvt Ltd. WisePOSGo: compact, lightweight, and user-friendly device, designed keeping in view the specific cost-centric requirements of the bank's MSME customers. Apart from processing payments, merchants can also make calls using the WisePOSGo swiping machine.



22. **HDFC Bank** has signed MoU with National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) for providing credit support to the micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) sector.
    Note: HDFC bank branches will extend support to the MSME projects in the areas they are located and to other important industrial sectors across the country. NSIC is an ISO 9001:2015 certified Government of India Enterprise under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).
23. In bid to develop water supply infrastructure and strengthen capacities of urban local bodies for improved service delivery in **Jharkhand** the Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a $112 million loan agreement.
    Note: The project will be ADB's first urban project in the state and help establish a model for continuous water supply combined with policy reforms for sustainable operation which can be replicated by other low-income states for providing safe drinking water to urban households as envisaged under national Jal Jeevan Mission. ADB is committed to achieve a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty.
24. Indian government and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed a $300 million loan as additional financing to scale up improvement of rural connectivity to help boost rural economy in **Maharashtra.**
    Note: The additional financing for the ongoing Maharashtra Rural Connectivity Improvement Project will help improve an additional 1,100 rural roads and 230 bridges for a total length of 2,900 kilometers in 34 districts.
25. In September 2021, the Reserve Bank of India has taken **UCO Bank** out of Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework (PCA) on improvement in financial and credit profile.
    Note: This decision gives the bank more freedom for lending, especially to corporations and grow the network, subject to presribed norms. The Kolkata-based lender was placed under PCA in May 2017 on account of high Net Net-Performing Assets (NPAs) and negative Return on Assets (RoAs).
26. **Bank of Baroda** has launched the digital banking platform to provide all banking services under one roof.
    Note: Bank of Baroda has launched its digital banking platform named 'bob World' to provide all banking services under one roof. Pilot test of this platform began on August 23, 2021. It will converge more than 220 services with an all-inclusive and seamless virtual banking experience, encompassing all digital banking services under one roof for the convenience of customers.
27. **Ten** merchant bankers have been appointed by the Government of India for managing Initial Public Offering (IPO) of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), which is likely to be launched in January-March quarter 2022.
    Note: Role of merchant bankers in the case of IPO is of Issue management, Promotional activities, Credit syndication, Project counselling, and Portfolio management, etc. Name of these merchant bankers are Goldman Sachs (India) Securities, Citigroup Global Markets India, Nomura Financial Advisory and Securities India, SBI Capital Market, JM Financial, Axis Capital, BofA Securities, JP Morgan India, ICICI Securities, and Kotak Mahindra Capital Co Ltd.
28. Central government has approved the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for the textiles sector worth **Rs 10,683 crore.**
    Note: This PLI scheme was approved in order to boost domestic manufacturing and exports. Scheme will help in creating direct additional employment of more than 7.5 lakh people and several supporting activities. As a part of incentives approved for textiles sector, the payout will be spread over a period of five years.
29. **DBS Bank** became the first bank in India and Asia-Pacific to launch real-time online tracking for cross-border collections for businesses in India in partnership with SWIFT Global Payments Innovation (GPI).
    Note: DBS is the first bank in India and Asia-Pacific to offer this service to clients, which is expected to benefit close to 4000 corporate and SME clients in India, with numbers expected to grow further. The new DBS SWIFT gpi incoming tracking will arm corporate treasures with better cash forecasting by receiving the end-to-end tracking information, which was not possible a few years ago.
30. **Paytm Payments Bank Ltd** has enabled India's first FASTag based metro parking facility in partnership with the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC).
    Note: PPBL, the acquiring bank for the parking facility at Kashmere Gate Metro Station, will facilitate the processing of all FASTag based transactions for cars with valid FASTag stickers. Additionally, PPBL has also enabled a UPI based payment solution for 2 wheelers, that enters the parking facility. At present, the facility is available at the metro station's gate



number 6 and it offers parking space for 55 four-wheelers and 174 two-wheelers.

31. The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has partnered with payments and financial services technology provider **Fiserv Inc** to launch the plug-and-play RuPay credit card stack, nFiNi.
Note: nFiNi: ready stack of services required for fintechs and banks to issue RuPay credit cards and will enable fintech to co-create bank-sponsored credit cards. It is a BaaS (banking-as-a-service) programme. It will power RuPay cards including National Common Mobility Card by offering access to needed services through NPCI network.
32. Union Cabinet approved government guarantee up to **₹30,600 crore** amount to back Security Receipts to be issued by National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL).
Note: The National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL) would be operational soon, and it had to ensure resolving bad loans within five years, beyond which the guarantee to be issued by the government would expire. The NARCL will acquire stressed assets of about Rs 2 trillion in phases, and these soured loans would be transferred by paying 15 per cent cash to lenders and the remaining 85 per cent would be paid through security receipts.
33. Recently Escorts tied up with **IndusInd Bank** to provide financial solutions to farmers.
Note: IndusInd Bank will offer farmers easy access to financial assistance in the form of loans in a seamless manner. Given its deep understanding of rural markets and wider penetration, IndusInd Bank will bring forth better accessibility to innovative financial solutions which, in turn, will help Escorts attain its larger goal of fostering the dreams of farmers
34. **Punjab and Sind Bank** has entered into a strategic co-lending alliance with Indiabulls Commercial Credit and Indiabulls Housing Finance (IHFL) for MSME and Priority Sector Housing Loans respectively**.**
Note: The co-lending model will improve the flow of credit to the unserved and underserved sector of the economy. It will make available funds to the ultimate beneficiary at an affordable cost, considering the lower cost of funds from banks and greater reach of the NBFCs/ HFLs.
35. According to a joint study conducted by ASSOCHAM and CRISIL the gross non-performing assets (GNPAs) of commercial banks are expected to exceed **Rs 10 lakh crore.**
Note: The report says that NPAs are expected to rise to 8.5-9% by March 2022, driven by slippages in retail, micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) accounts, besides some restructured assets.
36. PayNow is a payment system of **Singapore** with that the **Reserve Bank of India** has announced to link its Unified Payments Interface (UPI) to enable users to make instant, low-cost fund transfers on a reciprocal basis**.**
Note: The RBI and the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) announced the project to link the fast payment systems. The linkage is targeted for operationalisation by July 2022. The linkage builds upon the earlier efforts of NPCI International Private Limited (NIPL) and Network for Electronic Transfers (NETS) to foster cross-border interoperability of payments using cards and QR codes, between India and Singapore.
37. The theme of the third Cohort under Regulatory Sandbox (RS) announced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
Note: Third Cohort application will be kept open from October 1 to November 14, 2021.Prior to this, RBI has launched 2 cohort under regulatory sandbox. These are: First Cohort: It was launched in November 2019, with the theme as 'Retail Payments'. Six entities have completed the testing phase of the cohort.
38. **Fino Payments Bank** has appointed Indian actor Pankaj Tripathi as its first brand ambassador.
Note: During the two-year engagement effective 1st September 2021, Pankaj Tripathi will be the face of Fino Payments Bank's marketing campaigns across various platforms. He will work with the brand in promoting its products and services representing through Fino's ever-present and friendly neighbourhood local banker – Hamesha available!
39. According to the **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development** (UNCTAD) **7.2 per cent** will the growth rate of Indian economy in FY 2021-22.
Note: At this rate, India would be the fastest growing economy after China, which is projected to grow by 8.3 per cent. Calculations are based on GDP at constant dollars in 2015. The report said India's economy, which shrank by seven per cent in 2020, showed strong growth of 1.9 per cent in the first quarter of Calendar 2021, on the back of the momentum of the second half of 2020 and supported by government spending in goods and services.
40. **Power Finance Corporation** has launched its maiden €300 million 7-year Euro Bond issuance.
Note: It is the first ever Euro denominated green-bond issuance from India.It is also the first ever Euro issuance by an Indian NBFC and the first Euro bond

issuance from India since 2017.It is an Indian financial institution under Ministry of Power.

41. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the Telecom sector under the automatic route **-- 100%.**
Note: Govt has approved 9 structural and 5 process reforms in Telecom sector to provide relief to ailing telecom service providers, struggling with high levels of debt. They are: Definition of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) has been changed and now all non-telecom revenue will be removed from AGR
42. According to **All India Debt & Investment Survey** conducted by National Statistical Office (NSO) **84%** is average debt shooting in rural India 2012 and 2018**.**
Note: Number of indebted households: It has risen sharply in rural India with average debt shooting up by 84% between 2012 and 2018, and COVID-19 has likely further doubled all households' borrowings by 2021. Rural households' average debt grew from ₹32,522 in 2012 to ₹59,748 by June 2018, while urban households' average debt increased by 42% in the same period to little more than ₹1.20 lakh.
43. Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has declared **Kushinagar Airport, Uttar Pradesh** airport as a Customs notified airport**.**
Note: It will facilitate international passenger movements including that of Buddhist pilgrims.Kushinagar: Town in Kushinagar district of Uttar Pradesh.It is an important Buddhist pilgrimage site, where Buddhists believe Gautama Buddha attained Mahaparinirvana after his death.
44. **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (SFB)** has got approval from Reserve Bank of India to form a special committee of directors to oversee operations in the absence of an MD and CEO.
Note: The RBI in a letter has approved the constitution of 'Special Committee of Directors' with three independent directors as its members.The committee will "oversee the operations and administration of the bank in the absence of the Managing Director and CEO with effect from September 16, 2021.
45. In September 2021, **HDFC Bank** and Paytm announced plans for launching a comprehensive range of credit cards powered by VISA**.**
Note: In a first-of-its-kind alliance, the partnership aims to provide one of the widest range of offerings across customer segments, with special focus on millennials, business owners and merchants.The credit card will offer, EMIs and Buy Now Pay Later options, with the full suite of products to be on offer by the end of December 2021
46. **Kotak Mahindra Bank** has agreed to acquire 9.9% stake in KFin Technologies, a leading investor and issuer servicing platform, at an investment of ₹310 crore**.**
Note: Fin provides financial technology solutions across a broad spectrum of asset classes spanning mutual funds, alternatives, insurance, and pension. It serves 25 out of the 44 Indian mutual fund AMCs, which have over $148 billion in AUM and 35% market share in equity AUM (up from 27% in March 2019).
47. According to latest Global Trade Outlook issued by the UK's Department of International Trade, by **2050** India will become the world's third largest importer**.**
Note: Increasing middle class spending will help the country have a share of 5.9% of global imports. At present, India is ranked eighth among largest importing nations with a 2.8% import share and is set to become the fourth largest importer by 2030.
48. In partnership with **Kotak Mahindra Bank,** the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) announced to to set up a state-of-the-art Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning (AI-ML) Centre at the IISc campus in Bengaluru**.**
Note: The Centre will offer Bachelor's, Masters and short-term courses in areas such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, deep learning, fintech, reinforcement learning, image processing, computer vision, natural language processing, speech understanding, robotics, computational finance and risk management, cyber security, fraud analytics, blockchain, biomedical engineering and technology, healthcare, etc.
49. **Tata Capital Financial Services Ltd** has launched first of its kind digital banking scheme called 'Loan Against Mutual Funds' (LAMF)**.**
Note: Customers can avail of quick and hassle-free loans ranging from ₹5 lakh and ₹2 crore. Tata Capital's digital loan offering is provided against a wide range of equity and debt schemes across mutual funds. The loan amount is customized based on the value of the units in the mutual fund folio and tenure.
50. Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has launched new mobile app named as 'PRAGATI **for Development Officers.**
Note: PRAGATI stands for Performance Review Application, Growth and Trend Indicator. Pragati app will help Development Officers to get near real-time information about the performance of their agency force in critical areas of business performance like premium collection, agency activisation, prospective outperformers, etc apart from monitoring their team

on activities such as usage of agents mobile app and NACH validation.

51. The IIFL Home Finance Limited (IIFL HFL) has signed a co-lending agreement with **Punjab National Bank.**
Note: Objective of the agreement is to increase the penetration of affordable housing loans and secured MSME (Micro Small and Medium Enterprises) loans.The co-lending agreement with the PNB, India's 2nd largest public sector bank where 80 percent of loan will be provided by PNB and IIFL HFL will manage the loan sourcing, documentation collection and servicing work
52. Global motor company **Ford Motor** has announced to close manufacturing plants in India due to the loss of more than USD 2 billion over the past 10 years.
Note: Ford has two integrated manufacturing facilities in India one at Chennai, Tamil Nadu, and another at Sanand, Gujarat. Manufacturing of vehicles for exports in Sanand, Gujarat will be shut by fourth quarter of 2021 and vehicle and engine manufacturing in Chennai will be stopped by the second quarter of 2022. Ford will now only offer high-end cars via Completely Built-Up (CBU) Route.
53. **Power Finance Corp. Ltd.** is set to become the 11th Maharatna central public sector enterprise (CPSE).
Note: The Maharatna dispensation was ushered in by the Union government for mega CPSEs to become global giants. PFC, India's largest non-banking financial company (NBFC) and among the 14 Navratna CPSEs, can invest up to ₹5,000 crore, or 15% of its net worth, in a single project apart from being granted enhanced powers by the government for undertaking mergers and acquisitions once it gets the Maharatna status. Navratna and Miniratna CPSEs can invest up to ₹1,000 crore and ₹500 crore, respectively.
54. **India Post Payments Bank** has announced a strategic alliance with Bajaj Allianz General Insurance to distribute their non-life insurance products across the country.
Note: The scope of products will include healthcare and medical products, personal accidents, and motor insurance, amongst other innovative tailor-made products to address the protection needs of Bharat.The Gramin Dak Sevaks or postmen have been certified for Point of Sales Person or POSP (under POSP Model) and trained for products allowed for sale through point of sale.
55. **Bharti AXA Life Insurance** has announced the launch of a single premium group credit protection plan that offers customers the opportunity to safeguard their loved ones against a loan liability.
Note: This plan acts as a flexible, convenient and affordable risk solution that offers multiple coverage options. Level cover: Under this option, the sum assured will remain constant throughout the coverage term
56. According to the Agricultural minister **Narendra Singh Tomar**, **₹14 lakh crore** amount of loans have been given under Kisan Credit Card**.**
Note: While addressing the conference of Lt Governors/Administrator of all the Union Territories, Narendra Singh Tomar, emphasizing on KCC drive, said that the Kisan Credit Card cover has been provided to the farmers even under the shadow of Covid.
57. The **Asian Development Bank (ADB**) has cut India's growth projection for financial year 2021-22 to **10 per cent.**
Note: The downward revision in growth forecast has been a result of India's economic recovery getting impacted due to spike in Covid-19 cases in May. Because consumption will recover only gradually, government spending and exports will contribute more to FY2021's growth than they did in the previous fiscal year.
58. **Piyush Goyal** has launched 'National Single Window System (NSWS)' for the investors and businesses.
Note: NSWS: single window portal that will act as a one-stop-shop for investors or entrepreneur, to get approvals and clearances needed from Government. It shall give freedom from legacy of running to government offices for approvals and registrations needed by investors, entrepreneurs, and businesses in India. Currently, portal hosts approvals across 18 Central Departments and 9 States.
59. As per the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), **9.7 per cent** will be the growth rate of Indian Economy the current financial year (2021-22)**.**
Note: For financial year 2022-23 (FY23), OECD has projected Indian economy to grow by 7.9%, as compared to 8.2% pegged earlier. Global economy: OECD has projected strong growth rate of 5.7% in 2021 and 4.5% in 2022, as compared to 5.8% and 4.4%, respectively, estimated earlier.
60. **Yes Bank** has partnered with Visa to offer credit cards to its customers on the payment platform**.**
Note: Visa co-branded cards come with 9 credit card variants covering all segments, consumer cards, business cards, and corporate cards across YES First, YES Premia and YES Prosperity. Yes Bank has achieved transition to Visa as payment network

within a record time of less than 60 days, post the bank imposed on Mastercard.

61. BLS International Services has been selected as National Business Correspondent for India's largest bank, State Bank of India to deliver banking services in urban, semi-urban and rural areas across the country.
Note: It would deliver last mile banking services to support the financial inclusion mission of Indian government. BLS will soon initiate banking services like savings bank deposits, fixed deposit, recurring deposit, remittances, micro pension, micro insurance, account open with e-KYC, AEPS mini statement, passbook printing for SBI account holders spread across India.

62. PayPoint ties up with BoB to **Bank of Baroda** bank's network
Note: Commercial banks have been finding it unviable to set up owned branches at remote locations and smaller centres, but with PayPoint India's proven expertise in taking financial and payment products to the remotest locations through its vast and ever-expanding distribution network. Almost all essential banking services can be delivered through BC customer service points. Besides commercial banks, many renowned service providers, including insurance companies, Telcos, Electricity boards, and even IRCTC, use the PayPoint India network to reach out to their customers across India.

63. **Bank of Baroda** and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) have launched an international co-branded RuPay NCMC Platinum contactless debit card**.**
Note: This personalised RuPay platinum international debit card comes with various benefits including 5 per cent cashback up to ₹50 on the first 2 transactions at BPCL outlets. The BoB BPCL RuPay co-branded debit card is powered with the "National Common Mobility Card (NCMC)" feature that enables contactless transactions across all the public transport systems in the country such as metros, buses, cabs suburban railways, toll, parking, and topping-up FASTags and for retail purchases.

64. TRIFED has entered an MoU with e-grocery platform **BigBasket** for the promotion and sale of natural Van Dhan products**.**
Note: With this, Big Basket will be able to enrich its portfolio through the of hand-made authentic forest products sourced by the tribal population. These strategic collaborations of TRIFED – TRIBES INDIA will help Van Dhan tribal beneficiaries in remote areas to overcome challenges restricting their access to domestic and international markets.

65. The government imposed a limit on the total entitlement under the Services Export from India Scheme (SEIS) for shipments made during 2019-20, at Rs 5 crore per exporter.
Note: The move is expected to benefit small businesses in the services sector. SEIS was rolled out six years ago, as part of the foreign trade policy 2015-2020, to promote export of services from India. Under the scheme, the government gives 3-5 per cent incentive on net foreign exchange earned in the form of duty-credit scrips. Scrips can be used for payment of basic and additional Customs duties on goods imported.

66. The authorized capital of the India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL), set up the government of India to clean up bad loans -- **Rs 50 crore.**
Note: IDRCL will work in collaboration with National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL) to clean up bad loans. Shareholders of IDRCL: Bank of Baroda, Punjab National Bank, Bank of India, Bank of Maharashtra, SBI, Union Bank of India, Canara Bank, Indian Bank and IDBI Bank.

67. As per the new guidelines issued by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI**) regarding Securitization of Standard Assets and loan transfer, **Rs 1 crore** will be the minimum ticket size for issuance of securitization notes**.**
Note: As per the guidelines of RBI, minimum ticket size for issuance of securitization notes will be Rs.1 crore. Minimum holding period for different categories of loans after which they shall become eligible for transfer has been prescribed in it.

68. According to ICRA , India's real GDP growth for India in financial year 2021-22 will be **9.0 percent.**
Note: It can be noted that after the 7.3 per cent contraction in 2020-21, there were expectations of a higher growth number in 2021-22. However, the second wave of COVID-19 infections early into the fiscal year, which spread even in the hinterland, made analysts more circumspect. The RBI expects the economy to grow at 9.5 per cent.

69. The **Reserve Bank of India** (RBI) has set the limit for Ways and Means Advances (WMA) for the second half of financial year 2021-22 at **Rs 50,000 crores.**
Note: RBI may trigger fresh floatation of market loans when the Government of India utilizes 75% of the WMA limit.

70. **Federal Bank** has partnered with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to launch the 'RuPay Signet Contactless Credit Card'**.**

Note: It comes with the lowest Annual Percentage Rate (APR) starting from just 5.88 per cent per annum. The Federal Bank RuPay Signet credit cardholders will gain access to a wide variety of offers and deals across categories including travel, food and dining, shopping, sports, entertainment, lifestyle and much more.

71. E-commerce company **Amazon** has launched a future engineer program in India, its global computer science education programme**.**
Note: According to the company, the programme will enable access to quality computer science education and career opportunities for students from underrepresented and underserved communities. In the first year of its launch, Amazon aims to enable and deliver learning opportunities to more than 1 lakh students from 900 government and aided schools across seven states in India.
72. **Around Rs. 4,400 crores** has been approved by the union cabinet in ECGC Ltd. (formerly known as Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Ltd.) in five years to provide support to exporters as well as banks**.**
Note: Capital Infusion and planned IPO are to increase ECGC's underwriting capacity up to 88,000 crore and propel additional exports of 5.28 lakh crore over a five-year period. It will help create 59 lakh new jobs including 2.6 lakh in formal sector. This decision is part of a series export related schemes and initiatives taken by the Government over the last few years.These measures will provide a boost to the exports sector.
73. **Federal Bank** has tied-up with OneCard for a mobile-first credit card that targets the country's young, tech-savvy population**.**
Note: It will target young working professionals aged 23-35, primarily representing the millennials and Gen Z.The mobile-first credit card offers in-app on-boarding, whereby the virtual card can be activated and used instantly, while the metal card is delivered to the customer in three to five days. The cards will be powered by Visa.
74. **RBL Bank** and Mastercard announced the launch of a new festive campaign, #UseBefikar, which rewards existing cardholders with exciting shopping offers and rewards**.**
Note: Backed by renowned personalities including Riteish Deshmukh, Mirabai Chanu and Vikrant Massey, the campaign is running through a video series that aims to strike a chord with cardholders at the start of the festive season. These videos will highlight the card's versatile offerings for every family member, focusing on categories such as health and fitness, e-commerce, online bill payments and food delivery.
75. **Telangana** has entered into an agreement with Wingsure, an insurtech venture spin-out of SRI International.
Note: As a part of the agreement, Wingsure will provide deep-tech-based personalised crop insurance products and advisory services to small, underserved farmers in the State. The alliance is among the first in the global farming ecosystem and will help Telangana to promote social inclusion and digital transformation in Indian agriculture.
76. According to the data released by the **Reserve Bank of India** (RBI), bank deposits grew by what on a year-on-year basis during the financial year 2020-21 **-- 11.9 per cent.**
Note: The share of CASA deposits increased to 43.7 per cent in March 2021 from 41.7 per cent a year ago.Individuals were the major constituent of the household sector and contributed 55.8 per cent in aggregate deposits. Bank deposits of non-financial corporations surged by 18.8 percent during 2020-21 and their share in total deposits increased to 16.2 percent in March-2021.

Obituaries

1. Veteran sportsman Vasudeo Paranjape passed away recently he was associated with **Cricket.**
Note: He played a crucial role in shaping the careers of numerous Indian cricket players. He was popularly known as Vasoo. He had played in 29 first-class matches for Mumbai and Baroda cricket team, with 785 runs.
2. Renowned personality Sidharth Shukla passed away recently, he was a veteran **Actor.**
Note: Well known for being the winner of popular reality show Bigg Boss season 13, Sidharth Shukla started his career with the show Babul Ka Aangann Chootey Na. In 2014, Sidharth Shukla also made his Bollywood debut. He featured in Karan Johar-produced and Varun Dhawan-Alia Bhatt starrer, Humpty Sharma Ki Dulhania. He played a supporting role in the film.

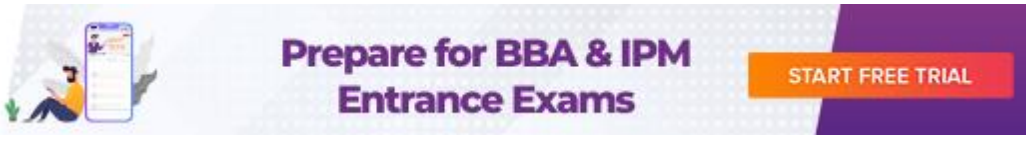
3. Two-term Rajya Sabha MP Chandan Mitra passed away recently, he was also a veteran **Journalist.**
Note: Editor and managing director of The Pioneer newspaper, Mitra had been unwell for the past one year. Considered a prominent right-wing intellectual he was first nominated to the Rajya Sabha by the BJP in 2003. Mitra started his journalism career with The Statesman in Kolkata.
4. Separatist leader and pro-Pakistan supporter Syed Ali Shah Geelani passed away recently, he belonged to separatist group **Tehreek-e-Hurriyat.**
Note: He was well known for spearheaded the separatist movement in Jammu and Kashmir for over three decades. A three-time MLA in the erstwhile state from Sopore, Geelani had virtually become the face of agitation in the 2008 Amarnath land row, 2010 agitation sparked by killing of a youth in Srinagar.
5. Renowned personality Keshav Desiraju passed away recently he was former **Union Health Secretary.**
Note: He was a retired IAS officer and grandson of former President Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. Desiraju was an IAS officer from the 1978 batch of Uttarakhand cadre. He had a Masters degree in Economics from the University of Cambridge and a Masters degree in Public Administration from the John F Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.
6. Renowned footballer Jean-Pierre Adams held from **France,** who had been in a coma for 39 years, has passed away.
Note: Jean-Pierre Adams was injured during a match with Chalon. Operated under anaesthesia at the Hospital de Lyon on March 17, 1982, Jean-Pierre Adams fell into a coma. In a state of coma for more than 39 years, Jean-Pierre Adams lived in the suburbs of Nimes, his wife Bernadette watching by his side.
7. Renowned personality Aziz Hajini passed away recently he was a veteran **Writer.**
Note: Hajini hailed from Hajin Sonawari area of north Kashmir's Bandipora district. He held several positions in academic and literary circles, including as secretary of the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, and authored several books.
8. Renowned personality Oscar Fernandes passed away recently, he was a veteran **Actor.**
Note: He was the senior Congress leader and served as the Union Cabinet Minister for Transport, Road and Highways and Labour and Employment, in Manmohan Singh's UPA government. He was five-time Lok Sabha MP from Udupi in Karanatka He also served two terms as a member of the Council of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.
9. Renowned personality Rajni Kaul passed away recently, she was veteran **News Broadcaster.**
Note: Rajni Kaul who was the first News Broadcaster for BBC Hindi passed away in Faridabad. She was well-known for her programme Indradhanush. Born in Peshawar in undivided India Kaul worked with All India Radio (AIR) in New Delhi before joining the Voice of America (VOA) in Washington subsequently she moved to BBC in London. She was married to well-known broadcast journalist Mahendra Kaul and worked together at the VOA and the BBC.
10. Renowned personality Yuriy Sedykh passed away recently, he was related to **Sports** field.
Note: Sedykh won gold at the 1976 and 1980 Olympics, but missed the 1984 Games because of a Soviet boycott. He claimed silver at the 1988 Seoul Olympics and won a world title in 1991. Sedykh threw a world record 86.74m at the European Championships in Stuttgart, a mark which still stands.
11. Eminent personality Professor **Thanu Padmanabhan** (64) passed away due to a massive cardiac arrest, he was a veteran **Physicist.**
Note: A distinguished professor at the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Prof Padmanabhan had authored over 300 research papers and several books, with important contributions in areas of gravitation, quantum gravity, and structure and formation of the universe. His research in theoretical physics had the Stanford University name him among the top scientists in the world, with a rank of 24.
12. Jimmy Greaves of England was associated with **Football.**
Note: He scored 266 goals for Tottenham between 1961-1970 & his 37 league goals in the 1962-63 season remains a club record. He began his career with **Chelsea** and netted 124 league goals for the **London club(1957-61).**
13. Renowned journalist and writer Manorama Mohapatra passed away recently, she used to write in **Odia** language**.**
Note: She was a former editor of Odia daily **'The Samaja'.** She had won the Sahitya Academy Award in 1984, Soviet Nehru Award in 1988, Critic Circle of India Award in 1990, Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar Samman in 1991 and Rupambara Award in 1994.
14. Renowned **Footballer** Bhabani Roy passed away recently
Note: He represented India in the 1969 Merdeka Cup and played in three matches. Bhabani Roy helped Mohun Bagan win the Rovers Cup in 1968, 1970, 1971 and 1972 (Joint Winner). At the domestic level,

he was part of the West Bengal team that won the Santosh Trophy in 1968 and 1971.

15. Military general of **Egypt** Hussein Tantawi was passed away**.**
Note: Field Marshal Tantawi was Mubarak's loyal defense minister for some 20 years. But it was Tantawi who led the country after the then-chief spy Omar Suliman announced on state television on February 11, 2011, that Mubarak was stepping down after the 18 days of protest against his government. Tantawi went on to chair the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces, which took power.
16. Renowned personality Ramanuj Prasad Singh passed away recently, he was a veteran **News Reader.**
Note: Former Hindi Newsreader of All India Radio Ramanuj Prasad Singh (86 years) passed away in Gurugram. He served AIR for 3 decades and became a well-known name among the common people for his news reading for years
17. Former Commissioner of Delhi Police, Yudhvir Singh Dadwal passed away recently, he also served as governor of **Arunachal Pradesh.**
Note: He is a 1974-batch IPS officer and served as the 16th police commissioner of Delhi from July 2007 to November 2010. After retirement, he was appointed as the Director-General of Central Paramilitary Force, Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) in November 2010. He was appointed as the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh in 2016.
18. Veteran **Author** Kamla Bhasin passed away.
Note: She has authored several books, especially on gender theory and feminism, many of which have been translated into more than 30 languages. She started working on developmental issues in 1970s. She was best known for her work with Sangat - A Feminist Network and for her poem Kyunki main ladki hoon, mujhe padhna hai.

Important Days

1. World Coconut Day is observed every year on **2nd September.**
Note: The day is especially observed in Asian and Pacific nations, which are home to most of the world's coconut producing areas and production centers. World Coconut Day is observed by increasing public awareness about the health and commercial benefits of coconut. Coconut is being planted in tropical places for millions of years and has benefited humanity in a variety of ways.
2. **Mother Teresa**'s death anniversary is celebrated as the International Day of Charity on 05th September every year.
Note: After her death, Mother Teresa was granted a state funeral by the government in recognition of her services to the poor of all religions in India. She was sanctified by Saint John Paul II in 2003. Pope Francis canonised her on the eve of her death anniversary on September 4, 2016. Widely known during her lifetime as the 'living saint,' Mother Teresa founded the Missionaries of Charity in 1950.
3. As a part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' the Ministry of Food Processing Industries is observing 'Food Processing Week' from**6th to 12th September 2021.**
Note: The Ministry launched the 'Food Processing Week' 6th September, 2021, through an official video on social media platforms. The success story of the beneficiary of the PMFME scheme, Smt. Radhika Kamat was also published on the Ministry's website in the 'Atmanirbhar Enterprises' series.
4. **Healthy Air, Healthy Planet** is the theme of the International Day of Clean Air for blue skies 2021.
Note: The International Day of Clean Air for blue skies is observed globally on 7th September. The day aims to raise public awareness at all levels individual, community, corporate and government that clean air is important for health, productivity, the economy and the environment. The very first International Day of Clean Air for blue skies was held on September 7th, 2020.
5. In India the Teachers Day is celebrated every year on **5th September.**
Note: This day is celebrated as the teacher's day to mark the birthday of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan who was the former president of our country. He was a philosopher, a scholar, and the Bharat Ratna Awardee. He was the second President of India (1962 to 1967) and the first Vice President of India (1952–1962).
6. International Literacy Day is observed every year on **7th September.**
Note: The day was declared by UNESCO on 26 October 1966 during 14th session of UNESCO's General conference. It was observed for the first time in 1967. Theme of 55th International Literacy Day: Literacy for a human-centred recovery: Narrowing the digital divide.



7. **Quality and Sustainable Schools: Learnings from Schools in India** is the theme of this year's 'Shikshak Parv 2021' conclave being celebrated from September 5 to 17, 2021.
   Note: Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched key initiatives in the education sector while speaking at 'Shikshak Parv 2021' conclave. 'Shikshak Parv 2021' is being celebrated to honour the contribution of teachers, learning during pandemics, new initiatives under NEP 2020 among others. The Shiksha Parv is being celebrated by the Ministry of Education.
8. World Suicide Prevention Day is observed every year on **10th September.**
   Note: It was first introduced in 2003. Theme 2021: Creating hope through action. It is hosted by International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP), World Health Organization (WHO) and World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH).
9. International Day to Protect Education from Attack is observed globally on **9th September.**
   Note: In proclaiming the International Day to Protect Education from Attack to be celebrated for the first time in 2020**.** The purpose of the day is to raise awareness regarding the importance of safeguarding schools as places of protection and safety for students and educators and the need to keep education at the top of the public agenda.
10. The National Mission for Clean Ganga organized Himalayan Diwas on **9th September.**
    Note: This year's theme is 'Contribution of Himalayas and our responsibilities'. The event was part of the ongoing celebration of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'. Himalaya Diwas is celebrated every year on 9th September in the state of Uttarakhand. It is celebrated with the aim to conserve the Himalayan ecosystem and region. It was officially declared as Himalaya Day in 2015 by the then Chief Minister.
11. International Day for South-South Cooperation is observed globally every year on **12th September.**
    Note: The day celebrates the economic, social and political developments made in recent years by regions and countries in the south. It also highlights the UN's efforts to work on technical cooperation among developing countries.
12. World First Aid Day 2021 is observed on **11th September (Second Saturday of September every year)**
    Note: In 2021 the day is being observed on **September 11, 2021.** The day is an annual campaign aimed at promoting the importance of first aid training and increasing its accessibility to save more lives in a crisis. The theme for World First Aid Day 2021 is 'First aid and road safety', according to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).
13. Hindi Diwas or Hindi Day is observed every year on **14th September.**
    Note: The language was adopted under Article 343 of the Indian Constitution. The first Hindi day was celebrated on 14th September 1953. Hindi Divas is celebrated on 14 September because, on this day in 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India had adopted Hindi written in Devanagari script as the official language of the Republic of India.
14. International Day of Democracy is observed globally every year on **15th September.**
    Note: The theme for 2021 International Day of Democracy is "Strengthening democratic resilience in the face of future crises". The Day was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly through a resolution in 2007 to strengthen national programmes devoted to the promotion and consolidation of democracy.
15. The World Lymphoma Awareness Day (WLAD) is observed globally every year on **15th September.**
    Note: The day is dedicated to raising awareness about lymphoma and the particular emotional and psychosocial challenges facing patients and caregivers suffering from different forms of lymphoma. World Lymphoma Day was initiated in 2002 by the Lymphoma Coalition(link is external), a worldwide network of 83 lymphoma patient groups based in Ontario, Canada, whose mission is enabling global impact by fostering a lymphoma ecosystem that ensures local change and evidence-based action.

16. The theme of the National Engineer's Day 2021 **-- Engineering for A Healthy Planet- Celebrating the UNESCO Engineering Report.**
    Note: National Engineer's Day is observed every year on September 15 to recognise the contribution of engineers in the development of our nation. The day marks the birth anniversary of India's engineering pioneer, Sir Mokshagundam Vishweshvaraya, who was regarded as the Father of Modern Mysore
17. International Day for the Prevention of the Ozone Layer is observed every year on **16th September.**
    Note: The Ozone layer, also known as the Ozone shield, is a delicate layer of gas in the Earth's stratosphere that absorbs most of the Sun's ultraviolet rays, which is harmful to human life and other life forms. The layer absorbs about 97 to 99 percent of ultraviolet rays and maintains the ozone-oxygen cycle. This year's theme for the International Day for the Prevention of the Ozone Layer is

'Montreal Protocol Keeping us, our food, and vaccines cool.'

18. World Patient Safety Day (WPSD) is observed every year on **17th September.**
Note: It was first observed in 2019 by World Health Organization (WHO). The day was adopted at 72nd World Health Assembly on 25 May 2019. Theme for 2021 WPSD: 'Safe maternal and newborn care'.
19. World Bamboo Day is observed every year on **18th September.**
Note: The theme for the 12th edition of WBD 2021 is '#PlantBamboo: It Is Time To Plant Bamboo'. World Bamboo Organisation (WBO) declared the day officially on September 18 at the 8th World Bamboo Congress held in Bangkok in 2009.
20. International Equal Pay Day is observed every year on **18th September.**
Note: This day draws attention to the gender pay gap- the difference between what a woman earns as compared to a man, for work of equal value. The first-ever (IEPD) was celebrated by United Nations in 2020.
21. The International Red Panda Day (IRPD) 2021 was celebrated on **18th September (third Saturday of September every year.**
Note: In 2021, the IRPD is being observed on 18 September 2021. The day was launched by the Red Panda Network in 2010. The first international red Panda day was celebrated on 18th September 2010.
22. The World Water Monitoring Day is observed every year on **18th September.**
Note: This day is celebrated to increase public awareness and involvement in water monitoring and protecting water resources around the world. The theme of World Water Day 2021 is valuing water.
23. International Day of Peace (World Peace Day) is observed every year on **21st September.**
Note: This day was established by UN General Assembly in 1981 and was formally designated in 2001.Theme 2021: Recovering Better for an Equitable and Sustainable World. **Aim:** to spread awareness and preach peace and harmony across the globe.
24. The theme of the International Week of the Deaf (IWD) being observed every year in the full week ending on the last Sunday of September **-- Celebrating Thriving Deaf Communities.**
Note: International Week of the Deaf (IWD) is observed every year in the full week ending on the last Sunday of September. This year, IWD is being observed from September 20 to 26, 2021
25. World Alzheimer's Day is observed globally every year on **21st September.**
Note: The day aims to raise awareness about the stigma that runs around Alzheimer disease and related dementia. World Alzheimer's Day was launched at the opening of ADI's annual conference in Edinburgh on 21 September 1994 to celebrate our 10th anniversary.
26. International Car-Free Day is celebrated every year on **22nd September.**
Note: World Car-Free Day is the perfect time to take the heat off the planet and put it on the city planners and politicians to give priority to cycling, walking and public transport instead of an automobile.
27. World Rhino Day is observed every year on **22nd September.**
Note: The day aims to raise awareness about the African and Asian species of rhinos. World Rhino Day was announced by World Wildlife Fund -South Africa in 2010. Both African species and the Sumatran rhinoceros have two horns, while the Indian and Javan rhinoceros have a single horn. The theme of World Rhino Day 2021 is 'Keep the Five Alive'.
28. The theme of the **International Day of Sign Languages** (IDSL) being observed annually on **23rd September** across the world to raise awareness on sign languages and strengthen the status about sign languages.
Note: The date of 23 September has been chosen to mark IDSL as it commemorates establishment of the World Federation of the Deaf on 23 September 1951. It was first celebrated in 2018 as the International Week of the Deaf.
29. Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has decided to observe National Pension System Diwas (NPS Diwas) on **1st October.**
Note: PFRDA also started pension awareness campaign under 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' to promote pension and retirement planning for a carefree 'azad' retirement. PFRDA is promoting this campaign on its social media platforms with #npsdiwas. PFRDA is the regulatory body under jurisdiction of Ministry of Finance for overall supervision and regulation of pension in India.
30. 99th Military Engineer Services Raising Day was observed on **26th September.**
Note: On this occasion Lt Gen Harpal Singh Engineer-in-Chief, urged all the Military Engineer Services personnel to continue dedicating themselves to the Military Engineering Services. MES is a premier construction agency and an important pillar of Corps of Engineers of the Indian Army. It provides rear line engineering support to the Armed Forces and other

associated organisations of the Ministry of Defence (MoD).

31. The theme of the World Tourism Day 2021 -- **Tourism for Inclusive Growth.**
Note: It was first observed in 1980. Theme for WTD 2021: Tourism for Inclusive Growth. This date was chosen by United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) to commemorate the adoption of Statutes of UNWTO in 1970
32. International Day for the Universal Access to Information (Access to Information Day) is observed every year on **28th September.**
Note: Universal access to information: everyone has the right to seek, receive and impart information for healthy and inclusive knowledge societies.Initially, it was designated by UNESCO in November 2015 and was first held on 28 September 2016.
33. The theme of the World Rabies Day 2021 **-- Rabies: Facts, not Fear.**
Note: 2021 is the 15th edition of World Rabies Day. The day marks the death anniversary of the French chemist and microbiologist, Louis Pasteur', who developed the first rabies vaccine.
34. The theme of the World Heart Day (WHD) 2021 **-- USE HEART to connect.**
Note: World Heart Day (WHD) is observed every year on 29 September to draw people's attention to heart illness and the range of associated health issues. WHD was created by World Heart Federation in 1999 to raise awareness about cardiovascular disease, including heart disease and stroke. It was originally celebrated on the last Sunday in September till 2011.
35. International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste is observed every year on **29th September** to promote and implement global efforts to resolve the issue of food wastage**.**
Note: Theme for 2021: Stop food loss and waste. For the people. For the planet. 29 September is being designated as International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste in 2019 by UN General Assembly. It was first observed in 2020
36. The theme of International Translation Day 2021 -- **United in translation.**
Note: The day is organized by International Federation of Translators (FIT). Theme 2021: United in translation
37. The World Pharmacist Day is observed every year on -- **25th September.**
Note: The Day is celebrated to ncourage activities that promote and advocate for the role of the pharmacist in improving health in every corner of the world. 2021 theme: "Pharmacy: Always trusted for your health". The day was designated in 2009 by the FIP Council (International Pharmaceutical Federation or Federation Internationale Pharmaceutique) at the World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in Istanbul.

New Appointments

1. **Pankaj Kumar Singh** took over as the new Director General (DG) of the Border Security Force.
Note: He is considered as the architect of police reforms in the country. He replaced SS Deswal, who was holding the DG post since Rakesh Asthana moved to Delhi Police. Apart from him, Sanjay Arora assumed charge of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).
2. **Dorje Angchuk** has been inducted as an Honorary Member of the International Astronomical Union (IAU).
Note: He is an Engineer in charge at the Indian Astronomical Observatory of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) at Hanle in Ladakh region. He is the first and only Indian to be inducted in IAU, among 10 members around the world.
3. For the first time in the history of the Supreme Court, how many judges took oath of office **_____Nine.**
Note: This was the greatest number of judges of the top court taking oath in one single day. With the latest appointments, the working strength of the top court has risen to 33 judges, against the sanctioned strength of 34.
4. **Parasaram Pattabhi Kesava Ramacharyulu** has been appointed as the as the new secretary general of Rajya Sabha, the Upper House of Indian Parliament.
Note: Ramacharyulu has been working as secretary in the Rajya Sabha Secretariat since 2018 and succeeds Desh Dipak Verma. A Bachelor of Laws and Master of Arts (Political Science) degree holder, Ramacharyulu was awarded Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) by the Jawaharlal Nehru University for his work on 'Committee Systems of Indian Parliament and the US Congress: A Comparative Study' in 2005.
5. **J B Mohapatra** has been appointed the chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).
Note: He is a 1985-batch Indian Revenue Service (Income Tax) officer. He is currently a member in the board that frames the policy for the Income Tax

department. He has been holding the additional charge of CBDT chairman since May31.

6. **Mirabai Chanu** has been roped in as the face of 'Stay in Play'' campaign of German footwear and accessories major Adidas.
   Note: The new TechFit Period Proof tights, featuring an absorbent layer to help protect against leaks when worn with a tampon or pad. Such innovations showcase Adidas' commitment to encourage and support women in sport. Adidas found that teenage girls are dropping out of sport at an alarming rate, with one of the key reasons being fear of period leakage.
7. **Vartika Shukla** took charges as the first woman Chairperson and Managing Director of Engineers India Ltd.
   Note: She is graduate in Chemical Engineering from the IIT-Kanpur. She joined EIL in 1988 and has extensive consulting experience comprising design, engineering, and implementation of complexes in refining, gas processing, petrochemicals and fertilisers.
8. **Cyrus Poncha** has been unanimously elected as Vice-President of the Asian Squash Federation (ASF), during the 41st annual general meeting of ASF.
   Note: His tenure will be of 4 years. He is current serving as the Secretary-General of Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRFI). David Mui of Hong Kong was elected as President of ASF for 2nd term.
9. **Suman Sharma** has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) of Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI).
   Note: She is currently serving as the Additional Directorate General of Foreign Trade of Department of Commerce. She will succeed Jatindra Nath Swain.
   SECI: It is the only Central Public Sector Undertaking dedicated to solar energy sector.
10. **SL Tripathy** has been appointed as the Chairman-cum-Managing Director of United India Insurance Company Limited (UIICL.
    Note: He will hold the office of the CMD, UIICL with effect from the date of assumption of charge of the office and up to the date of his attaining the age of superannuation (i.e. 29.02.2024), or until further orders, whichever is earlier. The appointment of SL Tripathy was proposed by the Department of Financial Services (DFS) on the recommendation of the Banks Board Bureau (BBB) as a candidate for the Reserve List for the vacancy of CMD, UIICL.
11. **Harsha Bhupendra Bangari** has been appointed as the as the new Managing Director (MD) of Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank).
    Note: Prior to this, she was posted as deputy managing director at EXIM Bank. She has been appointed for a period of three years or until further orders of the government. She will replace the incumbent MD David Rasquinha, who was holding the office of MD since July 20, 2014.
12. **Piyush Goyal** has been appointed as India's Sherpa for the G20 which is an influential grouping that brings together the world's major economies.
    Note: He replaced former Union Minister Suresh Prabhu. G20 Summit is scheduled to take place from 30th to 31st October under Italian Presidency. India will be holding the G20 Presidency from 1st December 2022 and will convene the G20 Leaders' Summit in 2023 for the first time.
13. **Andhra Pradesh** state government has appointed former SBI chairman, Rajnish Kumar as its economic advisor.
    Note: A former SBI chairman, Rajnish Kumar's tenure in the cabinet rank position is for two years. The appointment comes amid the growing concerns over the state's financial situation which has been badly hit by the Covid pandemic, even as the opposition has been critical over the sops and freebies being distributed by the Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy-led state government.
14. V. Vaidyanathan has been appointed as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of **IDFC First Bank.**
    Note: His appointment is approved by RBI for a further period of three years. He first took charge as the MD & CEO of IDFC FIRST Bank in December 2018, after the merger of IDFC Bank and Capital First.
15. **Jim Lanzone** has been appointed as new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Yahoo.
    Note: Currently he is the CEO of Tinder, Lanzone will succeed Guru Gowrappan, who has been named Senior Advisor to Apollo's private equity business. The move comes around four months after Verizon had announced that it would sell Yahoo to Apollo Management Group for $5 billion. Apollo completed the acquisition of Yahoo, formerly Verizon Media on September 1.
16. Billionaire Aziz Akhannouch was appointed as the new Prime Minister of **Morocco.**
    Note: King Mohammed VI has appointed the businessman "head of the government and tasked him with forming a new government. Akhannouch is the leader of the liberal National Rally of Moroccan Independents (RNI) party which won 102 of parliament's 395 seats. He previously served as

Morocco's minister of Agriculture from 2007 to 2021 and is the CEO of Akwa Group.

17. **Justice M. Venugopal** has been appointed as the new Acting Chairperson of National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) with effect from September 11, 2021.
    Note: He is a former judge of the High Court of Madras and was appointed as a Judicial Member of the NCLAT on October 23, 2019. This is the third time in a row that an Acting Chairperson is at the helm of the NCLAT, after the retirement of permanent Chairperson Justice S, J .Mukhopadhaya in 2020. NCLAT is a tribunal established under Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013.
18. **Bhupendra Patel** has been sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Gujarat.
    Note: He is the first-time sitting MLA who has been named for the post of Chief Minister. He is a BJP MLA from Ghatlodiya assembly constituency. The move was taken after the resignation of Vijay Rupani from the post of CM. He has served as the President of Memnagar Municipality in Ahmedabad and standing committee chairman of AMC.
19. **Sanjeev Barnwal** has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (USFB).
    Note: Prior to him, Carol Furtado was serving as the interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank, after the outgoing CEO Nitin Chugh resigned last month citing personal reasons. USFB was originally incorporated as Ujjivan Financial Services Pvt Ltd on December 28 2004.
20. **G C Murmu** has been elected as the Chairman of Asian Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI) for the period from 2024 to 2027.
    Note: India will host 16th Assembly of ASOSAI in 2024. India will focus on the areas of environmental audit and leveraging emerging technologies for audit. ASOSAI is one of the Regional Groups of International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI). ASOSAI was established in 1979.
21. **Iqbal Singh Lalpura** has been appointed as the Chairman of National Commission for Minorities (NCM).
    Note: He replaced Ghayorul Hasan. Prior to this, he was serving as the national spokesperson of Bharatiya Janata Party from Punjab. NCM was set up under National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992. NCM shall consist of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Five Members to be nominated by the Central Government.
22. **R. N. Ravi** has been appointed as the governor of Tamil Nadu by President Ram Nath Kovind.
    Note: Earlier he was governor of Nagaland. Jagdish Mukhi, at present governor of Assam, has been appointed to discharge the functions of the governor of Nagaland in addition to his charge till a fresh appointment is made.
23. **Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh** has been appointed as the governor of Uttarakhand.
    Note: Lieutenant General Gurmit Singh is retired as the deputy chief of Army. A graduate from the Defence Services Staff Course and National Defence College, Lt Gen Singh has done two M.Phils from Chennai and Indore universities besides being a research scholar on India-China Boundary Issue in the Institute of Chinese Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, during his study leave from the Indian Army.
24. Banwarilal Purohit has been appointed as the new governor of **Punjab.**
    Note: He served as a governor of Tamil Nadu for almost four years. He is one of the highly visible and controversial Governors. In October 2017, Banwarilal Purohit was appointed the 14th Governor of Tamil Nadu when the state was reeling under a political crisis following J Jayalalithaa's death.
25. Ravindra Narayan Ravi has sworn-in as the governor of **Tamil Nadu.**
    Note: He succeeded Banwarilal Purohit who has since been shifted to Punjab. Sanjib Banerjee (Chief Justice of the Madras High Court) administered the oath of office to Ravi at an official ceremony held at the Raj Bhavan in Chennai.
26. **Raninder Singh** has been re-elected as the president of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI).
    Note: Kunwar Sultan Singh was elected unopposed as the secretary-general. The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) was founded in 1951 with a view to promote and popularize the shooting sports in India.
27. **Indu Malhotra** has been appointed as the Ombudsman cum Ethics Officer of Delhi and District Cricket Association**.**
    Note: Malhotra was designated senior advocate by the Supreme Court in 2007. She has been appointed amicus curiae by different benches of the Supreme Court in some matters. The DDCA's general body, headed by its president Rohan Jaitley.
28. **Pawan Goenka** has been appointed as the Chairperson of Indian National Space Promotion Authorization Centre (In-SPACe)**.**
    Note: He was the former managing director of Mahindra & Mahindra. IN-SPACe: It is an independent

nodal agency under Department of Space (DOS), ISRO, set up in 2020, for allowing space activities, like developing launch vehicles and satellites, and usage of DOS owned facilities to build them to both public and private firms in India.

29. **Charanjit Singh Channi** has been sworn-in as the 16th chief minister of Punjab**.**
Note: Channi became the first individual from the Dalit community in Punjab to take charge of CM. The 58-year-old leader was administered the oath of office and secrecy by governor Banwarilal Purohit. Channi is a three-time MLA from Rupnagar's Chamkaur Sahib.
30. **Rajiv Aggarwal** has been appointed as the Director of Public Policy of Facebook India.
Note: Rajiv Aggarwal succeeds Ankhi Das, who quit in October last year. Aggarwal, in this role, will define and lead important policy development initiatives for Facebook in India on an agenda that covers user safety, data protection and privacy, inclusion and internet governance.
31. **Alka Nangia Arora** has been appointed as Chairman cum Managing Director (CMD) of the National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC)**.**
Note: She is a Joint Secretary in Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises. NSIC is a Mini Ratna company established in 1955. It falls under Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises of India and serves as a nodal agency for several schemes of Ministry of MSME.
32. **Vivek Ram Chaudhari** has been appointed as the next Chief of the Air Staff (CoAS), with effect from 1st October 2021.
Note: Presently, he is serving as the Vice Chief of Air Staff.He will succeed incumbent Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria, whose tenure will come to end on September 30, 2021. He was the chief of Western Air Comma from August 1, 2020.
33. **Kailash Satyarthi** has been appointed as the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Advocates by United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres.
Note: Four newly appointed advocates are: Nobel Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi, STEM activist Valentina Muñoz Rabanal, Microsoft President Brad Smith and K-pop superstars BLACKPINK (South Korean girl group).With this, UN now has total 16 SDG Advocates.SDG Advocates are prominent leaders in the world who work to mobilize action to deliver the 17 SDGs by 2030, using their considerable spheres of influence.
34. **Gurbirpal Singh** took over as the 34th Director General of National Cadet Corps (NCC).
Note: He succeeded Tarun Kumar Aich. He was commissioned into the Parachute Regiment in 1987. He has commanded a Special Forces Battalion in the intense counter-terrorism environment of the Valley Sector in Kashmir and also in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.
35. **Magnus Carlsen** has been appointed as the global brand ambassador of Mastercard Inc.
Note: This step is part of move by Mastercard for adding chess in its coveted list of sports sponsorship. It has joined Meltwater Champions Chess Tour as an official partner, in its first sponsorship move into chess.
36. **G C Murmu** has been appointed as the external auditor of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).
Note: His tenure will be valid for six years from 2022 to 2027. He was selected as the next external auditor of the IAEA at General Conference of the IAEA in Vienna.
37. **C K Ranganathan** has been appointed as the President of All India Management Association (AIMA).
Note: C K Ranganathan has been appointed as the new President of All India Management Association (AIMA) for one year till September 2022. He is the Chairman & Managing Director of CavinKare.He succeeded Harsh Pati Singhania (JK Paper Vice Chairman & Managing Director).

Important News – India

1. Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla inaugurated a parliamentary outreach programme in **Jammu and Kashmir** for the empowerment of Panchayati Raj Institution**.**
Note: The programme was also attended by lieutenant governor Manoj Sinha and Union ministers. Empowered panchayats under the programme will help in making democracy stronger and increase confidence of people. Parliamentary Outreach Programme for Empowerment of PRIs is a unique initiative of Lok Sabha Speaker, Om Birla.
2. **Parshottam Rupala** has launched E-GOPALA web version to aid dairy farmers.

Note: It has been developed by National Dairy Development Board (NDDB). Alon with this, i-MAP web portal has also been launched that provides real-time information to dairy farmers for better productivity of dairy animals.

3. **18th** is the rank of Amul in the Rabobank's 2021 Global Top 20 Dairy Companies.
   Note: Amul was placed at 16th spot in 2020. French-based dairy company Lactalis has topped the list as the world's largest dairy company with turnover of US $23.0 billion, followed by Nestle. Rabobank's Global Diary Top 20 Report is released annually to rank the dairy industry upon their sales data and financial statements.
4. The Central government has launched POSHAN Abhiyan in **2018** to improve nutritional outcomes for children, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers, since then, the month of September is observed as POSHAN Maah.
   Note: She urged all aspirational districts of the country to make a commitment to establish a 'Poshan Vatika'. Irani held a consultation with states and union territories on three key areas – Poshan 2.0, Vatsalya mission and Shakti mission. Centre had launched POSHAN Abhiyan in 2018 to combat malnutrition. Since then, the month of September is observed as POSHAN Maah.
5. **FICCI** institution has organized the first ever BRICS Film Technology Symposium along with Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and FTII.
   Note: It is being jointly organized by FICCI, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and FTII. It is a step in this direction to bring the people from all member states together. The focus of the BRICS Film Technology symposium is to acknowledge the service sector.
6. Under the chairmanship of **Ashok Kumar Tandon** the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting constituted a committee to review the existing guidelines of Journalist Welfare Scheme and make appropriate recommendations for changes to the guidelines.
   Note: The committee will be headed by Prasar Bharati Board Member Ashok Kumar Tandon. The committee will have nine Members from different print and electronics media and an Additional Director General of PIB as members. Director (IP) in the Ministry will be Convener of the committee.
7. **Nirmala Sitharaman** chaired the 24th meeting of the Financial Stability and development Council in New Delhi.
   Note: The meeting deliberated on the various mandates of the FSDC, Financial Stability, Financial Sector Development, Inter-regulatory Coordination, Financial Literacy and Financial Inclusion. FSDC is an apex-level body that was set by the government of India in order to create a super regulatory body.
8. **Chandigarh Railway Station** became the fifth one to get 5- star 'Eat Right Station' certification from Food Safety and Standards Authority of India for providing high-quality, nutritious food to passengers.
   Note: The certification was awarded by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India. The 5-star rating indicates exemplary efforts by stations to ensure safe and hygienic food is available to passengers. Others are: Anand Vihar; Delhi, Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus; Mumbai, Mumbai Central, and Vadodara Railway Station.
9. **Third** is India's position as a startup ecosystem in the world.
   Note: Over the last year, India has added three unicorns every month taking the total count to 51, ahead of the UK (32) and Germany (18). A privately held startup company valued at over $1 billion is called a unicorn. The US tops the list with 396 unicorns, while China is at the second spot with 277, showed data from Hurun Research Institute.
10. **University of Oxford** tops in the Times World University Rankings 2022 for the sixth consecutive year.
    Note: In the overall category, UK's University of Oxford has topped the list, while California Institute of Technology, Harvard University and Stanford University stand at 2nd, 3rd and 4th positions, respectively. IISc Bengaluru, at 301-350 position, is the only Indian institute in the top 350, followed by IIT Ropar, JS Academy of Higher Education and Research, IIT Indore, Allagappa University and Thapar University.
11. **Indian School of Science, Bengaluru** institution emerged as the best institutions in India in the Times World University Rankings 2022.
    Note: In the overall category, UK's University of Oxford has topped the list, while California Institute of Technology, Harvard University and Stanford University stand at 2nd, 3rd and 4th positions, respectively. IISc Bengaluru, at 301-350 position, is the only Indian institute in the top 350, followed by IIT Ropar, JS Academy of Higher Education and Research, IIT Indore, Allagappa University and Thapar University.
12. **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** joined hands with World-Wide Fund for Nature-India (WWF India)

to develop a platform, 'India Plastic Pact,' to promote a circular system for plastics _____.
Note: The new platform called, the 'India Plastic Pact,' was launched by British High Commissioner to India, Alexander Ellis. The pact works to create a world where Plastic is respected and does not contaminate the environment. India generates 9.46 million tonnes of plastic waste annually, of which 40% is not collected.

13. **Smriti Zubin Irani** inaugurated Nurti Garden at All India Institute of Ayurveda.
Note: Plantation of Shigru (Sahijan) and Amla, saplings were also carried out by the both Ministers. All India Institute of Ayurveda, New Delhi (AIIA) under the direction of the Ministry of Ayush initiated the celebration of Poshan Maah - 2021.
14. **Ayush Ministry** has launched AYUSH AAPKE DWAR campaign from more than 45 locations across country.
Note: The campaign aims to distribute medicinal plant saplings to 75 lakh households in one year. The medicinal plants include Tejpatta, Stevia, Ashoka, Giloy, Ashwagandha, Lemongrass, Tulsi, Sarpagandha and Amla.
15. **Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)** has launched a lab to design and develop a pan-India integrated alert system for disaster management.
Note: It is being administered by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). C-DOT has been running a pilot to send alerts to people at the time of Cyclone Yaas in affected areas as well as for Covid-19 to manage isolation zones in selected states. C-DOT was established in August 1984.
16. **IIT Hyderabad** gets India's first building made of bio-bricks from agro-waste to counter the air pollution caused by stubble burning.
Note: Sample building is made up of bio-bricks supported by a metal framework, along with roof over PVC sheets to reduce heat. It is part of Bold Unique Idea Lead Development (BUILD) project to demonstrate the strength and versatility of the material.
17. **TRIFED** in collaboration with Ministry of External Affairs will setup an Atmanirbhar Bharat corner in 75 Indian Missions/ Embassies across the world.
Note: First Atma Nirbhar Bharat corner was successfully inaugurated at Indian Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand on August 15, 2021. Purpose: It will be an exclusive space to promote GI-tagged tribal art and craft products besides natural and organic products.
18. **G Kishan Reddy** launched the programme 'Bujurgon ki Baat-Desh Ke Saath' to enhance the interaction between the youth and the elder people who are 95 years and above and have spent around 18 years in India before independence.
Note: Aim: At enhancing the interaction between the youth and elder people who are 95 years and above and have spent around 18 years in India before independence. The video of the programme should preferably be kept below 60 seconds and can be uploaded at www.rashtragaan.in
19. The government of India has constituted an expert committee to Prepare Road Map for Coal based Hydrogen Production under **R.K. Malhotra.**
Note: The Task Force will be headed by Additional Secretary in the Ministry. Its broad terms and reference include identification of role to be played by each stakeholder Ministry, monitoring of activities towards achieving coal based Hydrogen production and setting up sub committees to achieve the objective. On the other hand, the Expert Committee will be headed by Director General of the Federation of Indian Petroleum Industry, R.K. Malhotra.
20. The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of a MoU with **USA** for cooperation in the field of geosciences.
Note: The decision was taken at a meeting of the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The main objective of this MoU is to extend mutual cooperation for technological collaboration on exploration for deep-seated and/or concealed mineral deposits, analysis and interpretation of the aero-geophysical data and joint development of the Indian Geoscience Data repository with the Russian state-of-the-art information technology.
21. **Bhupender Yadav** has launched a portal titled as 'PRANA' for regulation of air pollution in 132 cities across India.
Note: PRANA stands for Portal for Regulation of Air-pollution in Non-Attainment cities. It can be accessed at prana.cpcb.gov.in. It will cover cities that comes under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).
22. Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav has launched the first functional Smog Tower in **New Delhi.**
Note: Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav virtually inaugurated the smog tower at Anand Vihar.The smog tower is a structure designed as large-scale air purifiers to reduce pollution particles in surrounding areas. Built by Tata Company, the tower has a capacity of 1,000 cubic metres per second.

23. **IIT Madras** topped in the India Rankings 2021 instituted by the National Institutional Ranking Framework in the overall category.

Note: The Rankings have been released under various categories, including, Engineering, Pharmacy, Management, Overall, Research etc. IIT Madras has topped the Rankings in the overall category, while IISc Bengaluru has come second, which is followed by IIT Bombay at the third place. This year NIRF has released the sixth annual ranking list of higher educational institutes of the country.

24. **VG Somani** will chair the 8-member committee constituted by the ministry health and family welfare for framing new laws for drugs, cosmetics and medical devices.
Note: The new law will replace existing Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 that regulates only import, manufacture, distribution and sale of drugs and cosmetics. The new Drugs, Cosmetics and Medical Devices Act will incorporate regulation of medical devices as well. It will be chaired by Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) Dr VG Somani.
25. India has launched the 'Centre of Excellence on Offshore Wind' with **Denmark** as part of the green strategic partnership between the two nations.
Note: It may help provide a push to India's offshore wind power generation plans. This assumes significance, given that the ministry of new and renewable energy (MNRE) has set a target of adding 30 gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind energy projects by 2030. India plans to leverage scale to lower offshore energy tariffs by harnessing the enormous wind power potential along its 7,600km coastline.
26. Union Minister for Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia has launched the Medicines from the Sky project to send medicines to Primary Health Care Centres using drones. It is an initiative **Telangana.**
Note: The project was launched at Vikarabad in Telangana. Drones carry a payload of vaccines and other medicines to Public Health Centers under the project. The first sortie was carried out by a drone built by SkyAir Mobility for its Consortium partner Blue Dart Express and delivered a five-kg box of vaccines to a community Health Care Center located 3 kms away. The 'Medicine from the Sky' project is an initiative of the Government of Telangana led by the emerging technologies wing of state IT department in association with World Economic Forum, NITI Aayog, and HealthNet Global.
27. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Sardardham Bhavan through video conferencing at **Ahmedabad, Gujarat.**
Note: He also laid the foundation stone of Sardardham Phase-II Kanya Chhatralay on this occasion. The Sardardham has been constructed at the cost of 200 crore rupees. It has modern facilities like a hostel, library, career guidance and training center for boys and girls coming from rural areas and a multipurpose auditorium.
28. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the setting up of chair in memory of Tamil poet Subramania Bharati at **Banaras Hindu University (BHU)** for Tamil studies.
Note: The Chair will be established in the faculty of arts at the BHU. PM Modi made the announcement on the 100th death anniversary of Subramania Bharati. The Tamil poet passed away on 11 September 1921. The great Tamil poet fondly called Mahakavi (great poet) has a connection with Varanasi. He had obtained his early education from the city.
29. **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** would be responsible for the implementation of the Prdhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojna to be started in 36000 villages of India.
Note: Under the scheme, villages having 50 percent tribal population would be given priority. This scheme would be started by Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Around 1700 tribal villages in Assam will be converted into model village under the scheme. Apart from model villages, 184 new Van Dhan Kendra will also be set up in Assam in order to benefit 60 thousand people.
30. Union government has revised Transport and Marketing Assistance scheme for specified agriculture products and included dairy products in its purview and increases the rates of assistance. The scheme has been administered by **Ministry of Commerce and Industry.**
Note: It included dairy products in its purview and increases the rates of assistance. Enhanced assistance under the revised scheme is expected to help Indian exporters of agricultural products to meet rising freight and logistics costs. The scheme has been extended till March 31, 2022.
31. **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting** has organised a webinar on POSHAN Abhiyaan– Sahi Poshan Desh Roshan.
Note: POSHAN (Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition) Abhiyaan is Government's flagship programme to improve nutritional outcomes for children, adolescent Girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers.
32. Central Institute of Tool Design (CITD) is located in **Hyderabad** has obtained patent for the invention entitled Automatic Machine for Production of Conical Shaped Fireworks (Anaar) for 20 years.
Note: CITD signed an MOU with Standard Fireworks Pvt Ltd (SFPL) for automation processes. As a first

project, CITD has taken up for Module-1 for flower pot chemical filling-packing. It consists of 10 different stations like paper cutting, pasting, chemical filling, etc.

33. According to G. Kishan Reddy, Union Minister of Tourism, Culture and DoNER, **Rs 200 crore** amount has been sanctioned by the union government under PRASHAD scheme to boost tourism in North-East Region.
Note: G. Kishan Reddy said that under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme, which focuses on integrated development of theme-based tourist circuits, the Ministry has sanctioned 16 projects in the North Eastern region. Under the PRASHAD schemes the ministry has sanctioned number of projects in the region. Approximately Rs 200 crore has been sanctioned for these projects
34. **BLS International** has partnered with National Health Authority as service provider for processing the cards issued under Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) scheme**.**
Note: BLS will start processing Ayushman Bharat cards across India for the people to avail healthcare services at any of the empanelled hospitals in their respective regions, effective immediately. The cover includes cashless and paperless access to healthcare services for the beneficiary at the point of service in any of the empanelled hospitals. The AB-PMJAY scheme offers financial security against medical treatment costs, medicines, diagnostics, and pre-hospitalization expenses.
35. **NITI Aayog** has tie-up with ISRO, to launched 'Space Challenge' for CBSE.
Note: This challenge has been designed for all the school students, mentors and teachers across the country who not only are associated with schools having Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) labs but for all the non-ATL schools as well. This is to ensure that students of classes 6 to 12 are given an open platform where they can innovate and enable themselves to solve digital age space technology problems.
36. PM Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone of Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh State University in **Aligarh** Uttar Pradesh.
Note: Uttar Pradesh govt is establishing the university in the memory and honor of noted Jat figure, Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh, who was a great freedom fighter, educationist and social reformer. University will be spread over an area of over 92 acres at Lodha village and Musepur Kareem Jarouli village of Kol tehsil in Aligarh. It will provide affiliation to 395 colleges of the Aligarh division.
37. In collaboration with US-based Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) and RMI, **NITI Aayog** has launched a campaign named Shoonya, to promote zero-pollution delivery vehicles by working with consumers and industry.
Note: The campaign aims to accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) in the urban delivery segment and raise consumer awareness of the benefits of pollution-free delivery. Industry stakeholders such as e-commerce companies, fleet aggregators, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), and logistics companies are expanding their efforts to electrify last mile deliveries.
38. Union Cabinet has approved the production linked incentive scheme for auto, auto-component, and drone industries worth **₹26,058 crores.**
Note: The PLI scheme will incentivise the emergence of advanced automotive technologies' global supply chain in India. Incentives worth Rs. 26,058 crore will be provided to industry over five years. The PLI scheme for automobile and drone industries is part of the overall announcement of PLI schemes for 13 sectors made earlier during the Union Budget 2021-22, with an outlay of Rs. 1.97 lakh crore.
39. India will host the first-ever Global Buddhist Conference in November 2021 **-- Nalanda, Bihar.**
Note: It is being organized by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). It focuses on making India the center of Buddhism, by promoting Buddhist activities, like academic, cultural, seminars, people traveling for festival like Buddha Purnima, Vesak.
Theme: **Buddhism in Literature**
40. **Tata Steel** has commissioned India's first carbon capture plant that extracts CO2 directly from the blast furnace gas.
Note: With this, Tata Steel has become country's first steel company to adopt such a carbon capture technology. It can capture 5 tonnes of CO2 per day (5-tonne per day (TPD)). The company will reuse the captured CO2 on site to promote circular carbon economy.
41. Union Minister, Nitin Gadkari has launched an Artificial Intelligence-powered project, titled as 'iRASTE' to help reduce road accidents.
Note: iRASTE has been launched on a pilot basis in Nagpur, Maharashtra with the aim of reducing accidents by 50 percent in the city. The project is launched jointly by the Centre, Intel, INAI, IIIT-Hyderabad, CSIR-CRRI (Central Road Research

Institute), Mahindra & Mahindra and Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC).

42. Under chairmanship the Ministry of Defence **Baijayant Panda** has constituted a 15 member High-Level Expert Committee for a comprehensive review of National Cadet Corps (NCC).
Note: Chairperson of the committee: Former MP Baijayant Panda. It will also include Cricketer MS Dhoni and Mahindra Group Chairman Anand Mahindra as members. Committee will suggest measures to empower NCC cadets to contribute more effectively towards nation building

43. Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog has signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) with **Dassault Systèmes** to support various current and future initiatives of AIM programs and AIM beneficiaries in India that will rave up the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem across the country.
Note: Under this SoI, Dassault Systèmes will support and promote AIM beneficiaries including Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs), AIM incubators (AICs and EICs), Atal Community Innovation Centres (ACIC), grantees under Atal New India Challenge (ANIC), and Atal Research & Innovation for Small Enterprise (ARISE).It will open a new window for select Indian startups as they get access to the Dassault Systèmes global start up ecosystem.

44. As a part of "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav" **Ministry of Law and Justice** has launched "Ek Pahal" drive across the country **Note:** The initiative will encourage mass registration under Tele-Law. The medium of Tele Law effectively provides pre-litigation advice / consultation to beneficiaries by Panel Lawyers through a huge network.

45. NITI Aayog has partnered with education firm **Byju's** to provide free education to children in 112 Aspirational Districts.
Note: Under this, dedicated working group will be established that will create knowledge, innovation, and strategy support system, as well as actively monitor and evaluate programme implementation to enable efficacy and ensure better scope of delivery. It will empower the children from underserved communities and locations with tech-enabled learning and access to quality education.

46. **MyGov** has launched Planetarium Innovation Challenge for Indian start-ups and tech entrepreneurs**.**
Note: Aim: to bring together the Indian Startups and tech entrepreneurs to develop state-of-the-art technology for Planetariums. It will build an indigenous planetariums system software using the latest technologies including Augmented Reality (A.R.), Virtual Reality (V.R.) and Merged Reality (M.R.).

47. **Rajnath Singh** will chair the group of ministers (GoM) constituted by the central government to look into better implementation of various welfare schemes meant for Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), Other Backward Classes (OBC), minorities and women**.**
Note: It will improve their implementation and effectiveness. Aim: to work for empowerment and prosperity of backward classes and minorities. Panel comprises of Home Minister Amit Shah, FM Nirmala Sitharaman, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and other Union ministers.

48. India's rank in the Global Innovation Index 2021 rankings published by World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) **-- 46th.**
Note: India was ranked 48th in GII 2020. Switzerland topped in the Global Innovation Index 2021 rankings, followed by Sweden, the US, UK and South Korea. Among Asian economies, South Korea jumped to the fifth position, up from 10 last year. China was in the 12th position.

49. The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has launched the country's first indigenous cruise liner in partnership with private company **Cordelia Cruises.**
Note: This luxurious cruise will take the passengers on-boards to tourist destinations like Goa, Diu, Kochi, the Lakshadweep islands, and Sri Lanka.Cruise will have its base from Mumbai, and will sail to the Indian destinations only in Phase I. Phase II will start from May 2022, whose base will be shifted to Chennai and it will sail to Sri Lanka

50. **NITI Aayog** has released a report titled 'Reforms in Urban Planning Capacity in India', on measures to ramp up urban planning capacity in India, recommending 'Healthy City for All' by 2030.
Note: The report has been developed by NITI Aayog, in consultation with concerned ministries and eminent experts in the domain of urban and regional planning. It presents a condensed outcome of the extensive deliberations and consultations conducted over a period of 9 months.The report recommends a Central Sector Scheme '500 Healthy Cities Programme', for a period of 5 years, wherein priority cities and towns would be selected jointly by the states and local bodies.

51. Larger states in the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)'s 3rd State Food Safety

Index (SFSI) to measure the performance of States across five parameters of food safety **-- Gujarat.**
Note: Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Shri Mansukh Mandaviya released Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)'s 3rd State Food Safety Index (SFSI) to measure the performance of States across five parameters of food safety. Among the smaller states, Goa stood first followed by Meghalaya and Manipur. Among UTs, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and New Delhi secured top ranks.

52. **Ajay Seth** will head the task force constituted by the central government to firm up recommendations to further strengthen the resilience of the country's financial sector against risks emanating from various climate and environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues**.**
Note: It will be headed by Economic Affairs Secretary, Ajay Seth. The panel will look out at ways to further strengthen the resilience of the country's financial sector against risks emanating from various climate and environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues. It will also look after sustainable finance in India.
53. Two more beaches in India have been accorded the coveted 'Blue Flag' certification by Foundation for Environment Education (FEE), taking the total number of such beaches in the country to **ten.**
Note: Foundation for Environment Education (FEE) in Denmark awarded the certification to Kovalam in Tamil Nadu and Eden in Puducherry beaches. The foundation also given re-certification for 8 beaches that were awarded the Blue Flag certificate last year, namely Shivrajpur in Gujarat, Ghoghla in Diu, Kasarkod and Padubidri in Karnataka, Kappad in Kerala, Rushikonda in Andhra Pradesh, Golden in Odisha, and Radhanagar in Andaman and Nicobar.
54. Under chairmanship of **K Kasturirangan** the union education ministry constituted a 12-member committee to develop new curriculums for school, early childhood, teacher and adult education**.**
Note: The panel tasked with developing four national curriculum frameworks (NCFs) will be headed by National Education Policy-2020 (NEP-2020) drafting committee chairperson K Kasturirangan. Kasturirangan is also a former chief of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
55. Union Minister, Sarbananda Sonowal has virtually flagged off dwarf container train service from **Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT)** port**.**
Note: This is the first consignment of laden dwarf containers from Mumbai-based JNPT port, biggest container port in India. Consignment was moved by train to Inland Container Depot (ICD) Kanpur. Main benefit of dwarf containers are that they are shorter in size due to which they can be double-stacked, as well as easily run on electrified tracks.
56. The 45th Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council meeting was held in **Lucknow.**
Note: A GoM led by Karnataka chief minister Basavaraj S. Bommai has been tasked to propose rationalisation of tax rates and considering the merger of different tax slabs within two months. This marks the first steps taken by the government towards a complete overhaul of the indirect tax regime to augment revenue.The GoM's terms of reference on rate rationalization said that it would be reviewing inverted duty structure in all items except where the Council has already announced its decision to fix the inverted structure.
57. **Narendra Modi** launched Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission through video conferencing**.**
Note: "This Mission has potential to bring revolutionary changes in our health facilities. Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission will play a big role in eliminating problems in medical treatment of poor and middle class.
58. **National Commission for Women** has launched a country-wide training and capacity building programme for women in dairy farming**.**
Note: NCW is collaborating with agricultural universities all across India to identify and train women associated with dairy farming and allied activities in different aspects such as value addition, quality enhancement, packaging and marketing of dairy products among others.
59. Under '**People First theme'** the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched the seventh consecutive edition of Swachh Survekshan (SS) 2022**.**
Note: Designed with 'People First' as its driving philosophy, Swachh Survekshan 2022 is curated towards capturing the initiatives of cities for the overall welfare and well-being of frontline sanitation workers. With this launch, MoHUA also kicks off the week-long celebrations of 'Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
60. Along with **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs,** the Ministry of Food Processing Industries has virtually launched Seed Capital Module under Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme.
Note: It was launched on Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) MIS Portal to members of urban Self-Help

Groups working in the food processing sector. The portal can be accessed at https://nulm.gov.in/Auth/Login.aspx to avail seed capital assistance of Rs 40,000 per SHG member under PMFME Scheme.PMFME Scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme to enhance the competitiveness and promote formalization of the unorganized micro-food processing enterprises in India.

61. **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** has launched the Planetarium Innovation Challenge for Indian start-ups and tech entrepreneurs**.**
Note: The challenge aims to bring together the tech firms and Start-ups (based out of India) with the potential to build an indigenous planetariums system software using latest technologies including Augmented Reality (A.R.), Virtual Reality (V.R.) and Merged Reality (M.R.).
62. **Narendra Singh Tomar** has launched 'Amul Honey', product of Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd. under active cooperation with National Bee Board.
Note: It launch saw the importance of National Beekeeping and Honey Mission for doubling income of farmers and beekeepers through beekeeping with the budgetary allocation of Rs 500 crores.Quality of honey is a major concern in the country for which 5 large scale Regional Honey Testing Labs and 100 Mini Honey Testing Labs are being set up all over the country.
63. Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju inaugurated country's first "Sports Arbitration Centre of India" **in Gujarat** that will serve as an independent body to fast-track disputes in the sports sector.
Note: This centre will have "a far-reaching impact" and play an important role in expanding the country's sports sector. The SACI is promoted by Ahmedabad-based SE TransStadia Pvt Ltd as an independent body to fast track disputes in the sports sector.
64. The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** has approved the continuation of the national scheme of "PM POSHAN in schools", earlier known as 'National Programme for Mid-Day Meal in Schools till **2025-26.**
Note: The Union Cabinet approved the roll-out of the 'PM POSHAN in Schools' scheme that will provide hot cooked meal to students of elementary classes in government and government-aided schools across the country. This is a centrally-sponsored scheme which covers all school children studying in classes 1 to 8 in government, government-aided schools.

Important News – State

1. **Jammu & Kashmir** has launched Rural Enterprises Acceleration Programme titled 'Saath' for Self Help Group (SHG) women.
Note: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha launched Rural Enterprises Acceleration Programme titled 'Saath' for Self Help Group (SHG) women. This Saath initiative will stress on mentoring and market linkages of products created by these women. This will transform the lives of these women and make them independent and strong in social and financial aspects.
2. **Assam** has decided to rename Rajiv Gandhi National Park as Orang National Park.
Note: The Assam cabinet passed a resolution regarding this. Covering an area of 79.28 sq km, it was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1985, and a national park in 1999. The Orang National Park is often referred to as mini Kaziranga of Assam is also a Tiger reserve.
3. **Ladakh** has declared the black-necked crane and snow leopard as their state bird and animal respectively.
Note: Black-necked crane, only found in Ladakh region was previously the state bird of the former state of J&K, along with Hangul as the state animal. The crane was chosen as the state bird since it is only found in the eastern region of Ladakh. The snow leopards are mainly found in the western and eastern regions of the Himalayas, including Ladakh, J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand.
4. **Arunachal Pradesh** govt has launched two ambitious schemes; 'AtmaNirbhar Krishi Yojna' and 'AtmaNirbhar Bagwani Yojna'.
Note: A total amount of 120 cr – 60 crore rupees for each scheme – has been allocated to the two concerned departments of Agriculture and Horticulture. These 2 schemes are unique as these are both based on front-ended subsidies. Credit link will be provided to the beneficiaries by SBI, Arunachal

Pradesh Rural Bank and Arunachal Pradesh Cooperative Apex Bank.

5. **Sikkim** has launched an e-ILP platform to regulate entry and exit.
   Note: The e-ILP platform will play a vital role in regulating the entry, exit and tracking of visitors who are overstaying beyond the permitted duration. The e-ILP tracking system had been developed to mend the loopholes in the procedures adopted to issue the permit and its tracking system.
6. **Tamil Nadu** state government plan to set up India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve.
   Note: The reserve will span the northern part of the Palk Bay from Adiramapattinam to Amapattinam. Marine biologists and conservationists have long demanded a reserve as the population of dugongs, as known as sea cows, in Indian waters has been dropping to dangerous levels.
7. **Gujarat** state government has launched Vatan Prem Yojana.
   Note: The governing body of the Vatan Prem Yojana's society had met in Gandhinagar under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Vijay Rupani. A presentation of details of the scheme was made before Rupani. A project management unit has been formed for the smooth implementation of the scheme
8. **Haryana** state government to set up International Education Department.
   Note: The State Government will fulfill the dream of the youth of the state to study and get job abroad. The International Haryana Education Society has been founded by Rohit Ahlawat a youth from London.
9. **Tamil Nadu** state govt has decided to celebrate 17th September as Social Justice Day every year the birth anniversary of reformist leader E V Ramasamy Periyar.
   Note: Periyar's ideology was all about social justice, self-respect, rationalism and equality, which laid the foundation stone for the Tamil society's growth during the last century and it would also pave the way for the future
10. India's tallest air purification tower has been inaugurated in **Chandigarh.**
    Note: The tower has been installed at the initiative of the Chandigarh Pollution Control Committee (CPCC) at Transport Chowk, Sector 26, by Pious Air Pvt Limited. This is the highest air purifier tower of the country and covers an area of around 500-metre radius and is 24-metre-high. The purification tower will clean 3.88 crore cubic ft of air from the surrounding environment.
11. **Delhi** state government has launched the 'Business Blasters' programme for developing young entrepreneurs at the school-level.
    Note: The programme that will be implemented in all Delhi government schools under the "entrepreneurship mindset curriculum", is aimed at developing young entrepreneurs at the school-level. As part of the programme that was "successful as a pilot project", students of classes 11 and 12 will be provided seed money of Rs 2,000 to start a business.
12. Global port operator DP World has signed a facilitation MoU with **Tamil Nadu** government for a slew of projects it is establishing in the State at an investment of ₹2,000 crore.
    Note: DP World signed an MoU in UAE with the Tamil Nadu Government in September 2019 to invest ₹1,000 crore in establishing a Free Trade Warehousing Zone (FTWZ) and subsequently, Integrated Chennai Business Park (ICBP) in Vallur, Ponneri Taluk, Tiruvallur District was established over an area of 125 acres. DP World's FTWZ was inaugurated on July 20, 2021. These projects are expected to create employment opportunities for 4,500 people (1,500 direct and 3,000 indirect).
13. **Haryana** state has been ranked as the first state of India in installation of off-grid solar pumps under PM-KUSUM, as per the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy data.
    Note: The state has installed 14,418 pumps against 15,000 sanctioned pumps for the year 2020-21. PM-KUSUM scheme: It is a centrally-sponsored scheme, that was launched in 2019 with target to install 20 lakh standalone solar pumps. Haryana was given a target of 15,000 pumps for the year 2020-21 with a total cost of Rs 520 crore.
14. **Chhattisgarh** state government has launched 'Millet Mission' to provide proper price rate to farmers for minor cereal crops.
    Note: The step is in line with Chief Minister's vision for the state becoming India's millet hub. Other important benefits under Millet Mission to includes input assistance for millet, procurement arrangements, aid farmers in the processing of crops and ensure that the farmers get benefit of the expertise of experts.
15. **Skyroot Aerospace** has become the first private company to formally enter into an agreement with ISRO to get access of their facilities and expertise for the development and testing of subsystems and systems of space launch vehicles.

Note: Skyroot Aerospace is building Vikram series of rockets to carry small satellites into space. First launch vehicle in the series, Vikram-1 is scheduled to be launch in 2022. The agreement will enable Skyroot to undertake multiple tests and access facilities at various ISRO centres and get all help in building the launch vehicle.

16. India's largest open-air fernery has been inaugurated in **Uttarakhand.**
Note: It will serve the dual objective of conservation of fern species as well as creating awareness about their ecological role, promoting further research. It has around 120 different types of ferns, covering an area of over 4 acres of land at an altitude of 1,800m. Fernery has been developed under Govt's Compensatory Afforestation Management Funds Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) scheme.
17. Recently SIDBI collaborated with **Assam** government for development of MSMEs**.**
Note: SIDBI has been dovetailing its promotion and development initiatives on soft side with hard infrastructure through its latest offerings such as cluster development fund. SIDBI looks forward to deepening its footprint in the state of Assam by contributing to livelihood and micro enterprise value chain as also innovation and startup ecosystem
18. **Tamil Nadu** government is celebrating the 143rd birthday of E.V. Ramasamy as Social Justice Day on September 17,2021**.**
Note: Tamil Nadu government celebrated the birthday of reformist leader E V Ramasamy Periyar as 'Social Justice Day' in the state. Periyar laid the foundation for the growth of Tamil society in the last century and his teachings will continue to pave the way for the future.
19. **Tamil Nadu** State Assembly passed a bill making the encroachment of properties belonging to religious institutions a cognisable and non-bailable offence.
Note: The Bill that seeks to amend the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959 was tabled in the Assembly and was passed unanimously. The law empowers anyone who is having interest in the affairs of the religious institution matters to lodge a complaint against encroachers and temple land encroachment.
20. Union territories **Jammu and Kashmir** has launched new mission titled as 'One Gram Panchayat-One DIGI-Pay Sakhi'.
Note: Aim: to promote door-to-door digital banking and financial services in remote areas of the Union Territory.Initially, it will be provided in 2,000 remote villages of the UT. First phase will cover 80 women from Self Help Group (SHG) from across Jammu and Kashmir division to promote financial inclusion within UT's SHG ecosystem, and create financial access points with greater transparency even in the remotest of the areas.
21. Sirarakhong chilly and Tamenglong Orange are two agricultural product of **Manipur** state have been awarded Geographical Index (GI) tag recently**.**
Note: GI tag is a name given to certain products that have a specific geographical location or origin and gets global recognition. Hathei chilly: It is a good anti-oxidant and possesses high calcium and Vitamin C levels. Tamenglong mandarin orange: It is bigger in size, weighing 232.76 grams on average. It is a unique sweet and sour flavour.
22. Uttar Pradesh govt. has cleared proposal to develop **'Electronic Park'** in **Noida** to promote electronics industry.
Note: Park is proposed to be developed in an area of 250 acres near Jewar Airport. It will be built at an investment of around Rs 50,000 crore as well as generate employment for thousands of local youths. National and international companies manufacturing mobile phones, TVs and other electronic devices and accessories will establish their units in the park.
23. **Delhi** government has launched a mobile music classroom and recording studio which aims to assist children of government schools in pursuing their passion for music**.**
Note: The Delhi government claimed that it is India's first 'Mobile Music Bus' and aims to train children through a media-based curriculum, including audio production and film production, to help them build sustainable careers in these fields. The project is likely to benefit 5,000 children. Under this project, a bus has been transformed into a moving music class, a high-quality music recording studio and a performing stage.
24. **Odisha** government roped in UNICEF and Centre for Policy Research (CPR) for urban-rural convergence on Faecal Sludge and Septage Management (FSSM) and Plastic Waste Management (PWM)**.**
Note: A Letter of Understanding (LoU) was signed between the departments of Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) and the Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water (PR&DW) and Unicef and CPR. The initiative aimed at strengthening the efforts of both departments to ensure district-wide FSSM and PWM through urban-rural convergence will be piloted in seven districts in the first phase. The Gram Panchayats will now be tagged to urban facilities like

faecal sludge treatment plants (FSTPs) and material recovery facilities for effective faecal sludge and plastic waste management.

25. Sweet Cucumber from **Nagaland** has officially been certified by India's Registrar of Geographical Indications (GI) as an agricultural good unique to the state.
Note: It is the third agricultural products and fourth overall to be granted GI tag from Nagaland. GI tag has been granted under Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999. Naga cucumber are mostly cultivated in Mon, Mokokchung, Peren and Wokha districts of the state.
26. Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has recently set up a 'Tussar Silk Yarn Production Centre' in **Odisha.**
Note: This silk yarn production centre will ensure local availability of Tussar Silk yarn, create local employment and reduce the silk production cost. Tussar silk is one of the finest varieties of Silk that is distinguished by its coarseness and porous weave that give it a rugged and rustic appearance.
27. Judima rice wine from **Assam** has been awarded geographical indication (GI) tag.
Note: Judima: Local fermented drink made with rice, brewed by Dimasa community in Assam. It derives its name from words ju which means wine and Dima means 'belonging to the Dimasa'. It is the first traditional brew of northeast to bag GI tag.
28. Sojat Mehndi (Henna) from **Rajasthan** has been awarded geographical indication (GI) tag.
Note: Sojat tehsil of Pali district, Rajasthan has suitable geological structure, topography and drainage system, climate, and soil for naturally cultivating the mehndi leave crop.

Important News – World

1. **India** hosted the 8th Meeting of Agricultural Experts of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) countries.
Note: Experts of Agricultural Ministries from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand participated in the meeting. The Chairman highlighted the UN Food System Summit 2021 and the transformations that are happening in the agriculture and food systems globally.

2. **Sri Lanka** has declared a state of emergency over food shortages as private banks run out of foreign exchange to finance imports.
Note: Sri Lanka is suffering from a hard-hitting economic crisis. Following the crisis, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa ordered emergency regulations to counter the hoarding of sugar, rice and other such essential foods. President also named a top army officer as "Commissioner General of Essential Services to coordinate the supply of paddy, rice, sugar and other consumer goods".
3. **USA** became the largest startup ecosystem in the world.
Note: Over the last year, India has added three unicorns every month taking the total count to 51, ahead of the UK (32) and Germany (18). A privately held startup company valued at over $1 billion is called a unicorn. The US tops the list with 396 unicorns, while China is at the second spot with 277, showed data from Hurun Research Institute.
4. Global major, **Amazon India** has announced the launch of Kisan Store that will enable farmers across India to get access to more than 8,000 agriculture inputs such as seeds, farm tools and accessories, plant protection, nutrition, and more.
Note: It is an online platform that will enable farmers across India to get access to more than 8,000 agriculture inputs such as seeds, farm tools and accessories, plant protection, nutrition, and more. Listed by small and medium businesses (SMBs) these products will be available at competitive prices on Amazon India.
5. Pacific Air Chiefs Symposium 2021 (PACS-21) was held in **Hawaii.**
Note: It provided an opportunity for enhancing mutual understanding and deepening of relationships among participating nations. Participants of PACS-21 included Air Chiefs of countries in Indo-Pacific region. From India, Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria, Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) attended PACS-21. He was nominated as the Dean for the Symposium.
6. World's largest plant designed to suck carbon dioxide (CO_2) out of the air and turning it into rock started commenced its operation in **Iceland.**
Note: The plan is named as Orca or orka meaning energy. It has been developed by Swiss startup Climeworks AG and Icelandic carbon storage firm Carbfix**.** It consists of four units, each made up of two metal boxes, similar in appearance to the containers used for maritime transport.

7. In association with Denmark, **Tamil Nadu** planned to create an energy island.
   Note: This plan was made as Tamil Nadu is looking to expand its footprint in the green energy sector. To achieve this target, Denmark is likely to invest $5-10 billion in the renewable energy sector in the state. It also includes investment for an energy island in the Gulf of Mannar. With this investment, island would be able to produce 4-10 GW of energy.
8. In September 2021, India holds inaugural 'Two-Plus-Two Dialogue' with **Australia.**
   Note: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar held the talks with their Australian counterparts Peter Dutton and Marise Payne. In the 'two-plus-two' talks, the two sides vowed to work towards a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific, a region that has been witnessing increasing Chinese assertiveness. India holds such talks with Australia, Japan, USA and Russia.
9. North Korea has tested new long-range cruise missile, which is capable of hitting **Japan.**
   Note: During the test, the missile travelled up to 1,500 kms, suggesting that North Korea is still capable of developing weapons despite food shortages and economic crisis. It is first long-range cruise missile of Korea that could possibly carry a nuclear warhead.
10. India has launched Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue (CAFMD) with **USA** to strengthen bilateral cooperation on climate and environment.
    Note: AFMD is one of the two tracks of the India-U.S. Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 partnership launched at Leaders' Summit on Climate in April 2021. It will demonstrate how the world can align swift climate action with inclusive and resilient economic development, taking into account national circumstances and sustainable development priorities.
11. Inspiration4, an ongoing human spaceflight mission of **SpaceX** was launched carrying four amateurs on its first ever private flight to Space on "Earth-circling trip".
    Note: It was the first time a rocket streaked toward orbit with an all-amateur crew — no professional astronauts. Jared Isaacman is leading the flight. He was joined by Hayley Arceneaux, 29, a childhood cancer survivor who works as a physician assistant. Chris Sembroski, 42, a data engineer in Everett, Washington, and Sian Proctor, 51, a community college educator in Tempe, Arizona are also part of it.
12. India has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** (MoU) with **Italy** for Cooperation in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management.
    Note: The MoU on Cooperation in the Field of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management which was signed between the NDMA of the Republic of India and the Department of Civil Protection of the Presidency of the Council Ministers of the Italian Republic. The MoU seeks to put in place a system, whereby both India and Italy will benefit from the Disaster Management mechanisms of each other and it will help in strengthening the areas of preparedness, response and capacity building in the field of Disaster Management.
13. Group of countries is a part of recently announced new trilateral security partnership called 'AUKUS' for the Indo-pacific **-- USA, UK, Australia.**
    Note: The partnership AUKUS is to further strengthen the existing and strong security cooperation between the three members of the grouping, and deepen ties in Indo-Pacific region. With the development of nuclear-powered submarines, Australia will join an elite group of only 6 countries (India, US, UK, France, Russia and China) that currently operate nuclear-powered submarines.
14. The theme of the 15th East Asia Summit Energy Ministers Meeting 2021 held virtually **-- We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper.**
    Note: 15th East Asia Summit Energy Ministers Meeting was held virtually. Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar, Union Minister of State for Power, attended the meeting alongwith other senior officials of the Ministry from the Indian side. The Minister provided a brief status of the Indian energy transition plans, policies, challenges and efforts towards decarbonisation.
15. **Iran** became the 9th member of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).
    Note: Iran was holding the observer status for the past 15 years.The technical and legal process could take up to two years to conclude. Full member of SCO: China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan
16. Justin Trudeau is the prime minister of **Canada.**
    Note: His Liberal Party only manage to win minority seats in the election, leading in 155 of 338 seats in the House of Commons, compared with 123 seats for Conservatives under Erin O'Toole.A party needs 170 seats to form a majority in the House of Commons. Justin Trudeau is in power since 2015.
17. **Bangladesh** has decided to set up an e-commerce regulatory body to monitor the sector properly**.**

Note: The step has been taken after major e-commerce company of Bangladesh allegedly cheated consumers worth hundreds of crores. Other proposals include formation of a central complaint management cell, mandatory registration, action against schemers and amending the Digital Security Act and Money Laundering Prevention Act.

18. India and **Australia** hold the first Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting with on Coal and Mines through Video conferencing**.**
Note: It is a precursor to the upcoming India-Australia Energy Dialogue scheduled to be held next month. The meeting was co-chaired by Additional Secretary in Ministry of Coal Vinod Kumar Tiwari from the Indian side and Head of Resources Division Paul Trotman from the Australian side. The discussions focused on Indian coal resources in the present and future scenario, critical and strategic minerals-demand and supply scenario and engagements with Australian counterpart.
19. United Nations **World Food Programme** (WFP) has signed an MoU with **ICRISAT** institution to improve food, nutrition security and livelihoods in India against the impacts of climate change**.**
Note: WFP and ICRISAT will work jointly to promote research, advocacy and raising awareness on traditional nutritious crops, undertaking food and nutritional security analysis and adaptation strategies, among other engagements.
20. In September 2021, **Switzerland** becomes the world's 30th country to adopt same-sex marriages, and one of the last remaining western European nations to do so**.**
Note: According to results provided by the Swiss federal chancellery, 64.1 percent of voters voted in favour of same-sex marriage in Sunday's nationwide referendum. Switzerland is the world's 30th country to adopt same-sex marriages, and one of the last remaining western European nations to do so. The Netherlands was the first in 2001.
21. In September 2021, India has signed a White Shipping Agreement with **Oman.**
Note: The MoU was signed at the Maritime Security Center (MSC) in Muscat during the Indian Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Karambir Singh's ongoing three-day visit to Oman.The MoU on exchange of white shipping information is expected to contribute to enhanced maritime safety and security, mutual collaboration, exchange of information and understanding the concerns and threats which are prevalent in the entire region.
22. **Russia** is planning to launch manned spacecraft as well as cargo spacecraft to the International Space Station (ISS) in the year 2022**.**
Note: The information was obtained from the flight program. The program hints that Russia is planning to launch the Soyuz MS-21 spacecraft with astronauts Oleg Artemyev, Denis Matveyev and Sergey Korsakov on March 18, 2022. The Soyuz MS-22 spacecraft is scheduled to launch in September 21 with astronauts Sergey Prokopyev, Anna Kikina and Dmitry Petelin.

Honour & Awards

1. Dr. Firdausi Qadri won Ramon Magsaysay Award 2021 she is noted **Vaccine scientist.**
Note: Dr Qadri is an emeritus scientist at the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh. Other winners are Muhammad Amjad Saqib (Microfinance pioneer, Pakistan), Roberto Ballon (fisher and community environmentalist, Philippines), Steven Muncy for humanitarian work and refugee assistance (America) and Indonesian torch bearer for investigative journalism, Watchdoc. Known as Nobel Prize in Asia Ramon Magsaysay award was established in April 1957.
2. Muhammad Amjad Saqib a microfinance pioneer belong to **Pakistan**, who won Ramon Magsaysay award 2021.
Note: Dr. Amjad Saqib has been chosen for outstanding efforts in restoring human dignity, alleviating poverty and helping over 3 million families to come out of poverty through zero-interest lending model.
3. Alejandro Prieto held from **Mexico** has won the Bird Photographer of the Year award 2021.
Note: His photo features a roadrunner at a new section of the border wall between Mexico and the USA. Prieto wins the top prize of £5,000 and the prestigious title. His image also won Gold Award in the Birds in the Environment category.
4. Global leader **Narendra Damodar Modi**'s approval rating is the highest among 13 global leaders polled in the survey conducted by The Morning Consult.

Note: In the survey, PM Modi is ahead of Mexican president Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, US President Joe Biden. The list also includes Australian PM Scott Morrison, Canada PM Trudeau, UK Prime Minister Boris Jonson, Brazilian President Jaire Bolsonaro etc.

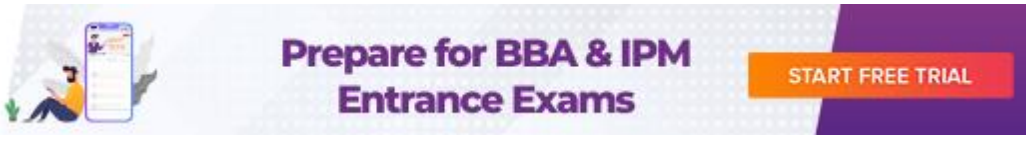
5. An anonymous photographer from **Myanmar** won the top award at "Visa Pour L'Image" festival the biggest annual festival for photojournalism for his coverage in troubled nation.
   Note: The photographer, who remained unnamed for security reasons, scooped the Visa d'Or for News, the most prestigious award handed out at the "Visa Pour L'Image" festival in Perpignan, southwestern France. Mikko Takkunen, the Asia photo editor for The New York Times, collected the prize on behalf of the photographer.
6. **Ayaan Shankta** has been named as the 2021 International Young Eco-Hero for his project Conservation and Rehabilitation of Powai Lake.
   Note: He is one of the 25 young environmental activists from across the world honoured as 2021 International Young Eco-Hero by Action For Nature (AFN). He stood third in the 8-14 age category. The award recognizes eco-conscious youth aged 8 to 16 who are taking crucial steps to solve tough environmental problems.
7. **ICRISAT** has been awarded 2021 Africa Food Prize for improved food security across 13 countries in sub-Saharan Africa at Africa Forum for Green Revolution (AGRF)-2021 Summit.
   Note: ICRISAT: It is a non-profit, non-political public agricultural research for development in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa with a wide array of partners**.** ICRISAT led a collaboration of partners to deliver the Tropical Legumes Project between 2007 and 2019.
8. **Bhanumati Gheewala** has been selected for Florence Nightingale Award 2021.
   Note: The nurse works at Sir Sayajirao General Hospital in Vadodara. She has been handling the delivery of COVID-19 positive pregnant women as well as taking care of newborns. The Florence Nightingale Award recognizes exceptional courage and devotion to victims of armed conflict or natural disaster.
9. **National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)** institution has bagged King Sejong Literacy Prize, a global recognition from UNESCO for its innovative approach towards education.
   Note: The recognition is for educating differently-abled people through technology-enabled inclusive learning material. The NIOS move has a specific focus on Indian sign language-based content. By awarding NIOS the King Sejong Literacy Prize, the jury has recognized the value of providing for the unique educational and language needs of PwD learners by developing teaching content in sign language through digital mode.
10. **Anand Kumar** has been conferred with the Swami Brahmanand Award 2021**.**
    Note: He received the award from professor Roop Kishore Shastri, the vice-chancellor of Haridwar's Gurukula Kangri deemed university, at a function in the Rath area of Hamirpur district of Uttar Pradesh.The award carrying Rs 10,000 in cash, a bronze medal, a bronze statue of Swami Brahmanand and a certificate is given every year to people who have done special work in the education sector or for the welfare of the cow.
11. **Susanna Clarke** has won the has 2021 Women's Prize for Fiction for her second novel 'Piranesi'.
    Note: Women's Prize for Fiction: It is one of the United Kingdom's most prestigious literary prizes. It is awarded annually to a female author of any nationality for the best original full-length novel written in English, since 1996. Piranesi is a mystery about a man living alone in a labyrinthine house.
12. Indian President Ram Nath Kovind conferred the National Florence Nightingale Awards 2020. The award in given in **Healthcare** field**.**
    Note: The Award was instituted by Indian Government in 1973 and are named after Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. World Health Organisation (WHO) declared 2020 as the Year of the Nurse and Mid-wife. 2020 also marked 200th birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale.
13. National Mineral Development Corporation works under **Ministry of Steel** won highest and most prestigious award, Rajbhasha Keerthi Puraskar 2021.
    Note: Award was received by Shiva Shanmuganathan, Executive Director (Corporate Affairs) on behalf of NMDC. NMDC has been winning this award for the last 3 years in a row, which goes on to show its dedication towards the implementation of Hindi as the Official Language.
14. Narendra Modi, Mamata Banerjee and **Adar Poonawalla** included in the Time Magazine's list of '100 most influential people of 2021'**.**
    Note: The 100 Most Influential People of 2021', a global list of leaders that includes US President Joe Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Duke and Duchess of Sussex Prince Harry and Meghan, and former US President

Donald Trump. Co-founder of the Taliban Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar is also on the list. The Time Magazine 100 most influential people list is considered as one of the most powerful and trustworthy lists.

15. Quality Council of India (QCI) comes under ambit of **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** has launched country's first-of-its- kind Prof. S.K. Joshi Laboratory Excellence Award**.**
Note: Award has been instituted to promote Laboratory Quality and performance improvement in India.S.K. Joshi made a significant contribution by serving as President-INSA, DG-CSIR, Director-NPL and Chairman-NABL. QCI is a non-profit organization registered under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860.
16. **The Crow** has been conferred with the Outstanding Drama Series award at the 73rd Primetime Emmy Awards 2021.
Note: The 73rd Primetime Emmy Awards ceremony was held in Los Angeles, California to honor the best in U.S. prime time television programming, as chosen by Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.
    - List of winners:
        - Outstanding Drama Series: The Crown
        - Outstanding Comedy Series: Ted Lasso
        - Outstanding Variety Talk Show: Last Week Tonight with John Oliver
        - Outstanding Limited Series: The Queen's Gambit
        - Outstanding Actor – Comedy: Jason Sudeikis – Ted Lasso
        - Outstanding Actor – Drama: Josh O'Connor
        - Outstanding Director – Comedy: Lucia Aniello – Hacks
        - Outstanding Director – Drama: Jessica Hobbs – The Crown
        - Outstanding Writing – Limited Series, Movie Or Dramatic Special: Michaela Coel – I May Destroy You
17. **Government e Marketplace (GeM)** has won the Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply (CIPS) Excellence in Procurement Awards 2021 in the 'Best Use of Digital Technology'**.**
Note: The GeM portal—a public procurement platform—has served about 7.61 million orders worth ₹1,39,884 crore from over 2.7 million registered sellers and service providers for more than 54,600 government buyers since its inception in August 2017. More than 56.9% of the total order value catered to over 723,000 small enterprises.
18. **Ministry of Rural Development** has conferred Hunarbaaz Awards to 75 diyangjan candidates from 15 states.
Note: The virtual award ceremony was organised by NIRDPR with MoRD, in association with State Rural Livelihood Missions (SRLMs) and Rural Self-employment Training Institutes. CEOs of SRLMs and Directors of RSETIs handed over the awards at the respective states to the specially-abled achievers.
19. **Accra, Ghana** has been named as UNESCO World Book Capital for 2023, following the evaluation of the World Book Capital Advisory Committee**.**
Note: After Guadalajara (Mexico) in 2022, the city of Accra was selected for its strong focus on young people and their potential to contribute to the culture and wealth of Ghana. Accra's proposed programme seeks to use the power of books to engage these young people, as an effective way of skilling up the next generation.

Sports News

1. Renowned cricketer Dale Steyn from **South Africa** has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.
Note: He is regarded as one of the greatest fast bowlers of all time and is fondly known as 'Steyn Gun' among fans for his express pace**.** He made his international debut in 2004 and played 93 Tests, 125 ODIs and 47 T20Is.
2. Para Olympian Mariyappan Thangavelu associated with **High Jump** won silver medal at Tokyo Paralympics 2020.
Note: In the same event, Sharad Kumar won the bronze medal, clearing 1.83m mark. Sam Grewe of United States won the gold medal with 1.88m mark. With the two new medals, India's medal tally at the Tokyo Paralympics has now reached to 10.
3. Praveen Kumar associated with **High Jump** won a silver medal at Tokyo Para Olympic 2020.
Note: Praveen jumped 2.07 metre while Great Britain's Jonathan Broom-Edwards took the gold with a season-best of 2.10 metre in the event. With the win, India's medal tally at Tokyo Paralympics has risen to 11 with two Gold medals, six Silver and three Bronze medals.
4. Manish Narwal associated with **Shooting** won a gold medal in Tokyo Olympic 2020.



Note: The 19-year-old Narwal shot a total of 218.2, a Paralympic record, to claim the gold. Shooter Manish Narwal clinched India's third gold at the ongoing Paralympics while compatriot Singhraj Adana bagged the silver in the P4 Mixed 50m Pistol SH1 event.

5. **Max Verstappen** won the Dutch Grand Prix 2021 title.
   Note: The Red Bull driver's leading seventh win of the season and 17th of his career. Championship leader Lewis Hamilton could only manage second place in his Mercedes F1. Hamilton's Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas was third.
6. Para-Olympian Suhas Lalinakere Yathiraj associated with **Badminton** has scripted history by becoming first IAS officer to win Paralympics silver medal.
   Note: He lost gold medal match to the top seeded Lucas Mazur of France. The 38-year-old Suhas is currently the District Magistrate (DM) of Noida and became the first-ever IAS officer to win a medal at the Paralympics. Suhas had lost to Mazur, who has won three gold medals in European Championships as well.
7. **Avani Lekhara** lead India's contingent at the Closing Ceremony of Tokyo Paralympics as the flag-bearer.
   Note: 19-year-old shooter won gold and bronze medals at the Paralympic Games. A total of 54 para-athletes from India across nine sports disciplines participated in the event. Indian contingent finished their campaign at the Paralympic Games at an all-time high by securing a total of 19 medals which includes 5 gold, 8 silver, and 6 bronze medals.
8. **Badminton and Taekwondo** two sports made their debut in Tokyo Paralympic 2020.
   Note: Taekwondo will be the first full-contact Paralympic sport ever. Developed in 2006, Para taekwondo has the same rules as its Olympic counterpart with some changes for safety. Most of the rules for Para badminton are the same as the able-bodied version of the sport.
9. **Pramod Bhagat** has won Men's Singles SL3 event badminton gold medal match against Great Britain's Daniell Bethell at Tokyo Paralympics.
   Note: He defeated Daniell Bethe of Great Britain. He is one of the best para-shuttlers of India with 45 international medals under his belt. This is India's first medal in badminton at the Paralympics Games.
10. The 130th edition of Durand Cup, the oldest football tournament being hosted by **Kolkata.**
    Note: 16 teams will be participated in this edition of the oldest club football tournament in Asia while two clubs East Bengal and Mohun Bagan are not participating. Mohammedan Sporting Club started their campaign in the tournament with an emphatic win against the Indian Air Force Football team.
11. Emma Raducanu held from **Britain** has won Women's Singles title at 2021 US Open Tennis tournament by defeating Leylah Fernandez of Canada.
    Note: Rising British sensation Emma defeated her Canadian opponent in straight sets 6-4, 6-3 in the summit clash held at the Arthur Ashe Stadium in New York. She has become the first British woman to win the title in 53 years. Raducanu has also become the first British woman in 44 years to win a Grand Slam singles title.
12. **Daniil Medvedev** has won 2021 US Open men's singles Tennis Title.
    Note: Medvedev, the 2019 US Open runner-up, captured his first Grand Slam title in his third Slam final. Medvedev became the third Russian man to win a Grand Slam title after Yevgeny Kafelnikov at the 1996 French Open and 1999 Australian Open and Marat Safin at the 2000 US Open and 2005 Australian Open.
13. **Daniel Ricciardo** has won the won Formula One Italian Grand Prix 2021 title held at Autodromo Nazionale Monza.
    Note: This is the first victory for McLaren in 9 years. Lando Norris (McLaren-Mercedes) came second, followed by Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes). Lewis Hamilton and Max Verstappen crash out of Italian Grand Prix 2021 due to collision. It was the 14th round of 2021 F1 World Championship and second Grand Prix in Italy of the season.
14. International Olympic Committee (IOC) has formally suspended **North Korea** from the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics.
    Note: IOC president Thomas Bach said the North Korean national Olympic body will also now forfeit money it was due from the previous Olympics. The unspecified amount — potentially millions of dollars — had been withheld because of international sanctions.
15. **MS Dhoni** has been appointed as the Team India's mentor for the upcoming ICC T20 World Cup 2021 by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).
    Note: MD Dhoni has announced his retirement from international limited-overs cricket on August 15, 2020. Dhoni had last played for India in the 2019 ICC World Cup semi-final against New Zealand. Dhoni, who leads Chennai Super Kings, is a three-time IPL-winning captain and has brought home three major ICC trophies — World T20, Champions Trophy and World Cup.

16. **Jeev Milkha Singh** has become the first professional golfer in the world to receive the prestigious 10-year Dubai Golden Visa in recognition of his outstanding achievements in the sport.
    Note: The 49-year-old Jeev has had a long association with Dubai, having featured in several tournaments and making many friends in the city. Jeev, winner of four titles on the European Tour, four on Japan Golf Tour and six on the Asian Tour, has received the 10-year 'Gold card' for being an elite professional athlete.
17. Harmilan Kaur Bains associated with **Sprint** sports.
    Note: Harmilan, undefeated in eight national-level 1,500 metres races since January 2020. With this achievement, the 23-year-old athlete broke the 19-year-old record held by Sunita Rani in 1500m at the 2002 Asian Games in Busan by clocking 4:06.03.
18. **Pankaj Advani** has won 'Asian Snooker Championship 2021' at Al Messila in Doha, Qatar**.**
    Note: He emerged victorious in the best of 11 frames final.He has won this title for a second consecutive time. He is also the winner of the last Asian Snooker Championship held in 2019.
19. R Raja Rithvik held from **Telangana** state has become India's 70th and newest chess Grandmaster (GM)**.**
    Note: He has achieved his third and final norm at First Saturday Chess Tournaments in Budapest, Hungary, to enter the GM club. Rithvik earned his first GM norm in 2019. He touched the magical 2500 Elo mark in the fourth round of the tournament after beating Vaclav Finek.
20. 2022 Winter Olympics and Paralympics games scheduled to be held in **China.**
    Note: Three sets of official posters and 11 promotional pieces featuring elements of winter sports and Chinese culture highlighting Beijing 2022 motto Together for a Shared Future. The slogan reflects power of Games to overcome global challenges as a community, with a shared future for humankind and work together towards a better tomorrow, especially given the difficulties faced throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.
21. The moto the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics **-- Together for a Shared Future.**
    Note: This motto embodies the Olympic spirit, the Chinese way of revealing the Olympic spirit. That's because 'together' embodies a type of unity, cohesion and way of overcoming difficulties. The Games will be held from Feb. 4-20, with Beijing set to become the first city to host both the Summer and Winter Olympics.
22. **Odisha** state will host junior men's World Cup Hockey tournament to be held in November 2021**.**
    Note: Chief minister Naveen Patnaik announced this in capital Bhubaneswar. He also unveiled the logo and trophy for the tournament. As many as 16 countries will take part in the event that will be held in the Kalinga stadium in Bhubaneswar from the 24th November 5th December 2021. Odisha had hosted the 2018 men's hockey world cup.
23. **Lewis Hamilton** has won Formula 1 Russian Grand Prix 2021.
    Note: Max Verstappen (Red Bull – Netherlands) came second, followed by Carlos Sainz (Ferrari-Spain) in the Russian Grand Prix 2021.Carlos Sainz got his first podium in Russia. Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes-Finland) stood at 5th position. This was the 15th round of the 2021 Formula One World Championship.
24. Jyothi Surekha Vennam is associated with **Archery** sports**.**
    Note: Sara Lopez of Colombia bagged the gold medal by defeating Jyothi by 146-144 in the finals. Indian mixed pair duo of Abhishek Verma and Jyothi Surekha Vennam lost to the Colombian pair in the summit clash as well.Jyothi Surekha won two bronze medals at 2011 Asian Archery Championships.
25. Partnering with whom Indian tennis star Sania Mirza won women's doubles final of the Ostrava Open 2021 **-- Shuai Zhang.**
    Note: They won the title by 6-3, 6-2 against third seeds Kaitlyn Christian (US) and Erin Routliffe (New Zealand).This is the 43rd WTA doubles title victory for former World No.1 Sania Mirza. 2021 Ostrava Open Women's single title: Anett Kontaveit won her maiden WTA 500 title, after defeating Maria Sakkari in the final by 6–2, 7–5.
26. **United States** has won the 2021 Ryder Cup, which is a biennial men's golf competition**.**
    Note: This is the largest margin of victory in the history of Ryder Cup. Ryder Cup is a biennial men's golf competition held between teams from Europe and United States.

Books and Authors

1. **Vir Sanghvi** has authored the book tilted 'A Rude Life: The Memoir'.
   Note: Through this book, the author has shared his views and experience of the most eventful careers in Indian journalism, including his personal life, stories of and about celebrities and politicians, middlemen and behind-the-scene actors.
2. **Angelina Jolie** has authored the book titled "Know Your Rights and Claim Them: A Guide for Youth".
   Note: Angelina Jolie recently took to her official Instagram handle and informed everyone about the release of her upcoming book, Know Your Rights and Claim Them: A Guide for Youth. She further added pictures of people from different parts of the world with whom she will be interacting with on a Zoom call.
3. **Tamanna Bhatia** has authored the book titled 'Back to the Roots'.
   Note: The book is based on intensive research and mentions India's ancient secrets of health and wellness. All the chapters in 'Back To the Roots' are complete with tried-and-tested secrets that have served generations of this country."
4. **Subramanian Swamy** has authored the book titled 'Human Rights and Terrorism in India'.
   Note: He has come out with a book "Human Rights and Terrorism in India" which traces how the combating of terrorism can be harmonised with human and fundamental rights within reasonable restrictions that are permitted by the Constitution and upheld by the Supreme Court.
5. **Uday Bhatia** has authored the book titled "Bullets Over Bombay: Satya and the Hindi Film Gangster".
   Note: The Book deals with the testimonies from Ram Gopal Varma, Anurag Kashyap, Manoj Bajpayee, Vishal Bhardwaj, Saurabh Shukla. Uday Bhatia is a film critic with Mint Lounge in Delhi. He has previously worked with Time Out Delhi and The Sunday Guardian. His writing has appeared in The Caravan, GQ, The Indian Quarterly, The Indian Express and The Hindu Business Line.

6. **Dr Utpal K. Banerjee** has authored the book titled "Gita Govinda: Jaydeva's Divine Odyssey".
   Note: The book is the first-ever fully-rhymed translation of the book GeetaGovindam by great 12th-century poet Jayadeva. Union Minister also launched a programme named 'BujurgonkiBaat–DeshKeSaath' that aims at enhancing the interaction between the youth and the elder persons who are 95 years and above and thus have spent around 18 years in India before independence.
7. **Subramanian Swamy** has authored the book titled 'Human Rights and Terrorism in India'**.**
   Note: He has come out with a book "Human Rights and Terrorism in India" which traces how the combating of terrorism can be harmonised with human and fundamental rights within reasonable restrictions that are permitted by the Constitution and upheld by the Supreme Court.
8. **Jhumpa Lahiri** is the author of the book titled 'Translating Myself and Others'**.**
   Note: This book is planned to be out in Spring 2022.It will be a collection of essays that reflect Lahiri's experiences on the meaning of translation, translating her own writing, and writing across languages.She won Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for her debut collection of short-stories Interpreter of Maladies (1999).
9. The author of the book titled 'Dancing with Dreams,' **-- Adityanath Das.**
   Note: The poems reflect the inner journey of the poet. They assert that whatever may be the tensions and turbulence, inside or outside, one can still remain humane.
10. The author of the book titled '400 Days' **-- Chetan Bhagat.**
    Note: It is the third novel in Keshav-Saurabh series, after 'The Girl in Room 105' and 'One Arranged Murder'.400 Days is a tale of suspense, human relationships, love, friendship, the crazy world we live in and, above all, a mother's determination to never give up. It will be published by Westland.
11. **Kulpreet Yadav** has authored the book titled "The Battle of Rezang La"**.**
    Note: The book was published under Penguin Random House's "Veer" imprint. A new book tells the story of 120 Indian soldiers who put up a valiant fight against the 5,000-strong Chinese military troops in the 1962 Indo-China war, preventing a possible occupation of the entire Ladakh region.
12. The book titled 'My Life in Full: Work, Family and our Future' is a memoir of business-women **Indira Nooyi.**
    Note: In her book Indra Nooyi focusses on the importance that organisational support plays in working women's lives.She tells that how did a middle-class girl from Chennai who went to business school "with men, was taught by men and studied the work of men to enter industries dominated by men" become the global chief executive of PepsiCo in 2006 and only the 11th woman to lead a Fortune 500 company.
13. **Amitav Ghosh** has authored the audiobook 'Jungle Nama'**.**

Note: This is an exclusive collaboration among three of the most influential figures from the world of arts.It is the story of the avaricious rich merchant. Dhona, the poor lad Dukhey, and his mother. "Jungle Nama" is a free adaptation of the legend, told entirely in a poyar-like meter of 24 syllable couplets that replicate the cadence of the original.

Science and Defence

1. **IIT Madras** is in process of developing an online platform called e-Source that will be used to tackle electronic wastes (e-waste).
   Note: This initiative can become a critical resource by enabling reverse logistics supply chains and can help recycle 53.6 million tonnes of e-waste generated annually around the world and is potentially a $50 billion market. 'e-Source' will be an exchange platform that will serve as an online marketplace for waste electrical and electronic equipment and facilitate a formal supply chain between various stakeholders (buyers and sellers).
2. In a joint venture with National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), **IIT Roorkee** has built an app that can predict natural disasters.
   Note: App will alert about possible natural calamities in advance. Uttarakhand cabinet has also formed an expert committee that will tell us about the quantum of rainfall in each area in order to make arrangements in advance.According to minister, Doppler Radar has started functioning at Mukteshwar.
3. The Indian Navy has signed a contract with **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)** for the supply of the first indigenously developed Naval Anti Drone System (NADS).
   Note: The NADS, developed by the DRDO and manufactured by BEL. It is the first indigenously developed anti-drone system to be inducted into the Indian armed forces. The NADS can instantly detect micro drones and uses a laser-based "kill mechanism" to terminate the targets.
4. The Scientists at **IIT Ropar and IIT Kanpur** and the Faculty of Management Studies of Delhi University have developed a living plant-based air purifier, "Ubreathe Life", that amplifies the air purification process in indoor spaces.
   Note: These indoor spaces can either be hospitals, schools, offices or homes. IIT Ropar''s startup company, Urban Air Laboratory, has developed the product and claims it to be the world''s first state-of-the art ''smart bio-filter'' that can make breathing fresh. It has been incubated at IIT Ropar, which is a designated iHub - AWaDH (Agriculture and Water Technology Development Hub) by the Department of Science and Technology.
5. Indian Navy Offshore Patrol Vessel, INS Savitri delivered two Mobile Oxygen Plants (MOP) to **Bangladesh** to support its effort to fight the COVID 19 pandemic.
   Note: Each of the MOPs has the capacity to generate 960 litres of Oxygen per minute. The MOPS have been developed and manufactured by DRDO in India. One MOP is to be set up at the Dhaka Medical College and Hospital and the other plant is for the Bangladesh Navy to be set up at the BNS Patenga.
6. Indian Army participate in the Multi Nation 'Exercise ZAPAD 2021' that was held in **Russia.**
   Note: The 14-day-long activity is aimed at enhancing military and strategic ties amongst the participating nations. The ZAPAD is one of the theatre level exercises of the Russian Armed Forces and will focus primarily on operations against terrorists, according to the Ministry of Defence.
7. India has recently signed an agreement for cooperation in development of Air-Launched Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (ALUAV) with USA.
   Note: The Project Agreement (PA) for ALUAV was signed under the overall framework of the Defence Tech and Trade Initiative. The pact falls under the ambit of the Research, Development, Testing and Evaluation (RDT&E) agreement between the two sides that was first signed in 2006.
8. Indian conducted the 28th edition of bilateral Maritime Exercise (SIMBEX) 2021 with **Singapore** in the southern fringes of South China Sea.
   Note: It took place from September 2 to 4, 2021.SIMBEX-2021 is an annual bilateral maritime exercise and was hosted by Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) in the southern fringes of South China Sea. Indian Navy was represented by Guided Missile Destroyer INS Ranvijay with a ship borne helicopter, ASW Corvette INS Kiltan and Guided Missile Corvette INS Kora and one P8I Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft.
9. DRDO has handed over the first deliverable Firing Unit (FU) of Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) System to Indian Air Force (IAF). The missile has been

jointly developed by DRDO and **Israel Aerospace Industries.**

Note: MRSAM is an advanced network centric combat Air Defence System. It was jointly developed by DRDO and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) in collaboration with Indian industry consisting of private and public sectors as well as MSMEs. It is a surface-to-air-missile, 4.5m in length. Contract for MRSAM programme was signed in February 2009. Under the contract, IAF was to buy 450 MRSAMs and 18 firing units at the value of $2bn.

10. Defense Minister Rajnath Singh and Nitin Gadkari have inaugurated an emergency landing facility for the first time in a National Highway in **Rajasthan.**

    Note: On the occasion, C-130J Super Hercules transport aircraft of Indian Air Force (IAF) landed at the emergency field landing at the National Highway in Jalore, Rajasthan. This is the first time; a National Highway will be used for emergency landing of IAF aircraft. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) developed a three kilometres section of the Satta-Gandhav stretch on NH-925A, under the supervision of IAF. It is a part of newly developed two-lane stretch of Satta-Gandhav and Gagariya-Bakhasar section in Barmer (Rajasthan).
11. India's first indigenously designed high ash coal gasification based Methanol Production Plant has been inaugurated in **Hyderabad.**

    Note: The plant was funded by Dept of Science and Technology at the initiative of NITI Aayog, PMO-India and Ministry of Coal. It can create 0.25 ton per day (TPD) Methanol from high ash Indian coal using 1.2 TPD Fluidized bed gasifier. Purity of the crude methanol produced is between 98 and 99.5%.
12. IIT **Bombay** researchers have launched an **artificial intelligence** (AI)-based software ecosystem 'Project Udan', that translates scientific and technical content from English to Hindi and several other Indian languages.

    Note: Project Udaan enables the translation of textbooks and other study material of the engineering and other streams from English to Hindi & other Indian Languages. This project was envisaged by Prof. Ganesh Ramakrishnan from Department of Computer Science & Engineering in IIT Bombay.
13. The sixth edition of the military exercise 'Peaceful Mission-2021' organised by the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was hosted by **Russia.**

    Note: Also, India participated in the exercise organised by the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).The aim of the exercise is to foster close relations between SCO member states and to enhance abilities of the military leaders to command multi-national military contingents.
14. India conducted 15th edition joint military exercise "Surya Kiran" **-- Nepal**

    Note: The 14th edition of Exercise Surya Kiran was conducted in Nepal in 2019.During the exercise, Indian Army and Nepali Army would share their experiences of various counter-insurgency operations, and familiarise themselves with each other's weapons, etc
15. **IIT Delhi** researchers have designed and fabricated an innovative device, titled as 'Liquid-solid Interface Triboelectric Nanogenerator' that can generate electricity from water drops, raindrops, water streams, and ocean waves.

    Note: It can generate electricity from water drops, raindrops, water streams, and ocean waves. It produces power using Triboelectric Effect and Electrostatic Induction, and further stores the energy in batteries for consumption. It can generate power of only a few Milliwatt (mW), which is sufficient to power small electronic devices like healthcare sensors, digital thermometers, watches, radio frequency transmitters, pedometers.
16. Third edition of bilateral maritime exercise 'Samudra Shakti 2021' was conducted between India and **Indonesia.**

    Note: Recently, India and Indonesia have carried out the bilateral maritime exercise "Samudra Shakti" in Sunda Strait, in reflection of their growing maritime cooperation. Indian Navy deployed its two frontline warships Shivalik and Kadmatt for the third edition of the exercise 'Samudra Shakti'. The exercise aims to strengthen the bilateral relationship, enhance mutual understanding and interoperability in maritime operations between the two navies.
17. **IIT Delhi** has established a 'Centre of Excellence (CoE) on Quantum Technologies' to conduct research activities in the related field.

    Note: It will bring synergy and coherence in the activities being carried out at IIT Delhi and support the principal investigators to pitch in for more significant projects from the DST and other funding agencies, claims the institute. The centre will focus on select thrust areas, such as quantum computing, quantum communication, quantum sensing, and metrology, and quantum materials and devices.
18. Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has successfully conducted maiden test flight of **Akash Prime** missile equipped with an indigenous active Radio Frequency (RF).

    Note: Akash Prime is equipped with an indigenous active Radio Frequency (RF) seeker for improved

accuracy, as compared to the existing Akash System. Improved version of the missile will also ensure more reliable performance under low temperature environments at higher altitudes

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